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- New Agriculture section run by Steve Westin—Learn how to clean up pollution naturally.
- US military officers speak out about 9/11.
- New sound coming to stories that can be heard on dial up connections.

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Who Benefits From Our Tax Dollars? By Pat Foster

How does a government agency like HUD (Dept. of Housing and Urban Development) help the citizens of our country? First, they designate a blighted area like Benton Harbor where the people are having trouble making it on an average of \$9,000/year, and their congressman, Fred Upton gets a law passed to help these people. The whole process is completely above board, because after HUD writes the check to the City of Benton Harbor, all expenditures from this specified money must be open to public inspection.

Benton Harbor is completely controlled by the Whirlpool Corporation by using Diebold voting machines that can be hacked. Their people largely control the City of Benton Harbor. Now the check arrives at the city, but they don't get to spend it, because they just might spend it on housing for the poor residents. That of course is not

what Fred Upton of the Whirlpool family that founded the corporation wants for this money.

Whirlpool Corporation has created a nonprofit called the Cornerstone Alliance to handle just this function. Well that may be OK because after all the HUD rules say that all expenditures from this HUD money must be open to public inspection. It is our tax money, so we wanted to know exactly how this money is being spent.

One of our investigators went to Cornerstone Alliance and asked to see the actual records of what this money was spent on. You would expect that Cornerstone Alliance would just say "yes" and make an appointment for him to come in and look at those records. That is not what happened. They refused to allow him to see the records, and hired a very expensive attorney from a major law firm that special-



Investigators collating evidence

izes in "crisis management" to keep him from seeing these records.

The question at this point is simple. If the HUD money did not go for housing for the people of Benton Harbor, where exactly did it end up? The parties to this charade are Congressman Fred Upton, Cornerstone Alliance, and the City of Benton Harbor. Someone needs to come up with some answers, the taxpayer/citizens want you to show your records under HUD regulations.

Media Monopoly by Ben Bagdikian

The *New Media Monopoly* describes the cartel of five giant media conglomerates who now control the media on which a majority of Americans say they most rely. These five are not just large — though they are all among the 325 largest corporations in the world — they are unique among all huge

corporations: they are a major factor in changing the politics of the United States and they condition the social values of children and adults alike.

These five huge corporations — Time Warner, Disney, Murdoch's News Corporation, Bertelsmann of Germany, and Viacom (formerly

CBS) —own most of the newspapers, magazines, books, radio and TV stations, and movie studios of the United States.

These Big Five (with General Electric's NBC a close sixth) do not manufacture automobiles, or clothing, or nuts and bolts. They manufacture politics and social values.

Continued page 3

June 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

Jun 4th —Stonewall Democrats at the Elbow Room on the north side of Saugatuck. 7-9 pm Free Pizza

Jun 9th — South County Democratic Club 7-9 pm Moose Lodge 101 S Red Bud Trail Buchanan

Jun 9th —Saugatuck City Hall 7 pm Meeting to protect Tallmadge Woods from development

Jun 10th — Ottawa County Democratic Party meeting— Administration Bldg Main Conference Rm Filmore St near 120th 7-9 pm

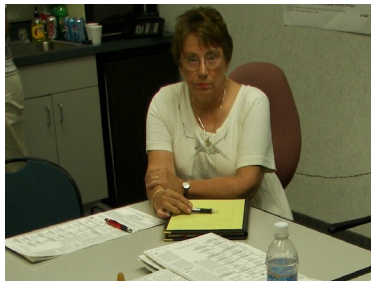
Jun 11th — Allegan County Democratic Party 7-9 pm Tech Center City of Allegan

Jun 14th— Berrien County Republican Party 10 to 11:30— North Lincoln Senior Center 3271Lincoln Ave, St. Joseph

Jun 19th —Saugatuck Dunes Coastal Alliance presents Dance for the Dunes 7-10 pm at the Fenn Valley Winery. Tickets at Journeyman Café and Uncommon Grounds in Saugatuck.

Jun 24th —Cass County Democratic Party, 6-8 pm Cassopolis 804 E. State St

2008 County Clerk for Allegan County by Pat Foster



Joyce Watts
Candidate for County Clerk

You remember Joyce Watts (R), the Allegan County Clerk who was instrumental in denying us the application of the law to see the ballots during a recount for a Recall Election in Lee Township. (Refer to video under "Elections" on WMNC.biz.) She is running again for that position.

You might ask if the local Democratic Party had someone else they planned to run against her, but the answer would be no. Once myself and other concerned citizens found that the Allegan County Democrats were not going to put anybody in to run against Ms. Watts, I, Pat Foster (D), close to the deadline, registered to run for County Clerk .

Voter Verified Elections by Pat Foster

Why do we feel that democracy is the right form of government? Throughout the history of the world, the power of government was enforced by the few over the many. Democracy was the first form of government that allowed the many to share in that power through elections. A strong democracy consists of a free, independent, diversified press, and a strong, verifiable system of elections open to the public.

In the United States, we

have neither. To create a strong democracy, the first step is taking back our election system.

VVE's or Voter Verified Elections in their simplest form is having an audit trail such as ballots that are open to public inspection immediately after the election. With our current technology, we could make voting as simple as using a credit card. Once you turned of age, you would register to vote and get a card. You could only vote once and

that would be where you lived. Voting would done on computers from anywhere you were in the world, and you would create a pseudonym on your vote that would be placed into the database using a random shuffle. You could immediately go to that database and look up your pseudonym that only you would know and verify that the vote you are looking at is your vote. It would put the power of government back into the hands of the people.



United States
House of Representatives

Media Monopoly continued

The media conglomerates have been a major force in creating conservative and far right politics in the country. They have almost single-handedly as a group, in their radio and television dominance, produced a coarse and vulgar culture that celebrates the most demeaning characteristics in the human psyche—greed, deceit, and cheating as a legitimate way to win (as in the various "reality" shows).

It is not just national economics that is at stake—though their power has led to the government's

somnolence of anti-trust action. Nor is it just the neglect of broadcast media giantism by the government agencies that by law are still required to operate "in the public interest." The public interest is to have the country's largest broadcasting system in the world provide diversity in news, opinion, and commentary that serves all Americans, right, left, and independent, as well as access to their local stations as well as true choices in national programs.

What is at stake is American

democracy itself. A country without all the significant news, points of view, and information its citizens need to be informed voters is risking the loss of democratic rights. Voters without genuine choices and without the information they need to choose what meets their own needs and wishes has produced something alarming: on Election Day our voters are forced to vote for what is the narrowest political choices among all industrial democracies of the world.

"five giant media conglomerates who now control the media on which a majority of Americans say they most rely."

Pollution by Steve Westin

Pollution is when an element or compound becomes imbalanced in an environment.

Generally water is becoming very polluted. In nature there is a natural purifier to help control this problem. It is calcium (CaCO₃). The simple act of spreading calcium (lime) on the lawn or field helps nature to start the process of purifying

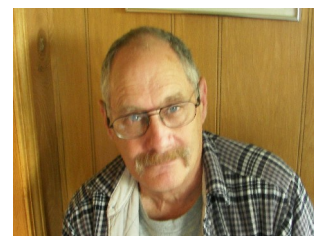
and restructuring the water molecules to perform it's task in the upper part of the earth's crust.

Calcium also helps control pathogenic bacteria, molds, and fungus which can be harmful to higher life forms.

Calcium also lowers the conductivity of the soil which will

help the stray voltage and static electricity in the area. The electrical pollution is much more of a problem than most people recognize.

Editor's note: Steve will be running our "agriculture section" on the website. He has an extensive background in pollution control using natural substances.



Steve Westin
Agriculture Editor



Otsego and Plainwell Memorial Day Parades. I participated with my signs: “Pat Foster for Honest, Verifiable Elections— County Clerk”

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Without light, there is no Democracy



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Spanish-American War excerpted from Howard Zinn's A Peoples History of the US

Strange how the U.S. has always had these tragedies like the mysterious blowing up of the USS Maine with 167 sailors on board in Havana Harbor giving us the reason to go to war against Spain. To this day it remains a mystery.

A spokesman for the *Lumbermen's Review* said in the midst of this war: “The moment Spain drops the reins of government in Cuba...the moment will arrive for American lumber interests to move into the island for the products of Cuban forests. Cuba still possesses 10,000,000 acres of virgin forest abounding in valuable timber...nearly every foot of which would be saleable in the United States and bring high prices.”

Americans began taking over railroad, mine, and sugar properties when the war ended. In a few years, \$30 million of American capital was invested. United Fruit moved into the Cuban sugar industry. It bought 1,900,000 acres of land for about twenty cents an acre. The American Tobacco Company arrived. By the end of the occupation, in 1901, it was estimated that at least 80 percent of the export of Cuba's minerals were in American hands, mostly Bethlehem Steel.

The United States did not annex Cuba. But a Cuban Constitutional Convention was told that the United States army would not leave Cuba until the Platt Amendment, passed by Con-

gress in February 1901, was incorporated into the new Cuban Constitution. A mass meeting of the American Anti-Imperialist League at Faneuil Hall in Boston denounced it, ex-governor George Boutwell saying: “In disregard of our pledge of freedom and sovereignty to Cuba we are imposing on that island conditions of colonial vassalage.”

Here we are over 100 years later, the names have changed, it is now oil instead of lumber, Iraq instead of Cuba, 9/11 instead of the Maine, but it's still business as usual.



USS Maine Mysteriously blew up in Havana Harbor