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June, 2013

Common Sense

July Meeting Scheduled For Monday, July 1, 2013

Turn Texas Blue Preview

If you are interested in what the Texas Democratic Party proposes to do about many significant issues in our state, join us on Monday, July 1st at the San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts. We will hear from special guest, **Will Hailer**, the new **Executive Director of the Texas Democratic Party**. Will comes to Texas from Minnesota, a state that has led the nation in voter turnout. His experience will be invaluable to us in Texas, which ranks dead last in turnout. In Minnesota, Will was chosen to lead the effort to defeat a voter ID law that would have been the strictest of all the states. Pollsters thought the law was guaranteed to pass, but Will organized seniors, students, veterans, actively serving military members, and those with disabilities. The pollsters were wrong and the law was defeated. Will also worked as Director of Development for the Virginia Senate Democrats. He began his organizing career working for the late Sen. Paul Wellstone in Minnesota.

We will be holding a Pre-Meeting Social from 6:30 to 7:00 at the Museum to give you a chance to meet Will, we hope that you will join us.

Members who are due to renew in July should pay \$7.50 for the remainder of 2013. Send pmt to TGDCDC, PO Box 450, San Angelo, TX 76902 or at the July Meeting.. Thanks from your Treasurer.....Mitch Krasny

From Your County Chair.....Linda Shoemaker

When Governor Perry added abortion regulations to the list of topics for the special session of the Legislature, he said, "In Texas, we value all life, and we've worked to cultivate a culture that supports the birth of every child." □ Someone needed to shout out, "You are not speaking the truth, Rick Perry. You refuse to expand Medicaid even though it would provide a financial windfall for our state plus access to health care for millions of women and children. You vetoed the bipartisan bill known as the Lilly Ledbetter Act, that provided for equal pay for women." □ The Texas culture that Perry has cultivated is one that loves the unborn and pregnant women. After birth, the message to mothers and their babies is: You're on your own. Accept responsibility for your actions and don't expect any help from the state of Texas. I don't know when an unborn baby feels pain, but I am positive that an empty stomach hurts. Not having a roof over their head or their own bed to sleep in hurts a child. The director of the so-called Texas Alliance for Life expresses his gratitude to Governor Perry "for adding protection of mothers and unborn babies to the special session." Such groups would have more credibility if they did not oppose every piece of social welfare legislation for children, seniors, single mothers, and the poor. For people who live in areas like drought-stricken West Texas, there is another message to the governor. Stop encouraging more companies and people to come to Texas. We don't provide equitable funding for a high-quality education for the children already here and millions of children have no health insurance. Our infrastructure is in a crisis condition and our need for more water is extremely urgent. I also wonder how much it costs the taxpayers to provide security for our governor as he scurries all over the country in what is a thinly disguised second run for president. Our guest speaker on July 1st, Will Hailer, is the new Executive Director of the Texas Democratic Party. Will is an expert in voter turnout, and his knowledge is desperately needed in our county. We must rise up and combine our passions to work on the situation here. The powers that be have made it more inconvenient, not just to minority voters, but all voters, to exercise this precious right. If the county and city are trying to save taxpayer dollars at the expense of having familiar polling places, their sense of priority is skewed. We are role models for the world. If you want to help by serving as a precinct chair or election worker, call me at (325) 224-2944. GET YOUR MOTOR RUNNING!

Mark your Calander

July

- July 1– Monthly Club Meeting; Museum of Fine Arts, I Love Street
- July 8–Executive Meeting at Los Panchitos Restaurant 34 E. Ave D
- July 4– Independence Day

August

- August 5- Monthly Club Meeting; Museum of Fine Arts, I Love Street
- August 12–Executive Meeting at Los Panchitos Restaurant 34 E. Ave D
- August 26– First Day of School

Announcements

Last month's donations for two memorials totaled \$100.

\$50 was donated to the American Cancer Society in memory of Millie Hohman, long-time Democrat.

\$50 will be given to a charity supported by Judge Royal Hart, long-time District Judge, and a faithful Democrat.

Thanks for your caring.

Tom Green County Democratic Club
P.O. Box 450
San Angelo, TX 76902

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Common Sense by Ben Quiet

This week's "scandal" is like the others, a tempest in a teapot. I am referring to the Chicken Little's running around yelling that our privacy is being invaded by the government harvesting electronic transmissions related to telephone and internet traffic by private citizens.

Well, for starters, let us get one thing clear. It is legal; it is not illegal. You don't like the law? OK, but law enforcement agencies have the legal right to do what they are doing. That is a different issue to it being the right thing to do and that is the issue that should be debated. If that is more important than jobs, fair taxation, immigration, public health, equal employment opportunities and women's rights, then by all means go ahead. I see it as another distraction to the real work that Congress should be doing.

This whole thing got started after 9-11 when the Bush administration started this eavesdropping without any authority to do so. That all got sorted out and a "court" was established to hear factual reasons why such action was reasonable and necessary, and if, in the opinion of the court it was, then a search warrant authorizing the activity was issued. That procedure is being followed and my information is that it has been done almost 1800 times. The President has laid out the limited nature of the information sought and it doesn't include actual conversations.

Now, media officials whine that the proceedings are done in secrecy and are not available to them. Well, duh. So we go into an open forum and lay out the situation so that the bad guys know what is happening? Come on, Fox, get real.

The privacy we once enjoyed was lost whenever the information highway was opened and when telephones became wireless. Our Constitutional rights are not, nor have they ever been absolute. They have limits and conditions and changing times sometime require us to change our attitudes and perspectives. What is happening is that our preoccupation with a false problem is demonstrating once again how much we enjoy exercising our primary inalienable right-----to make complete fools of ourselves.