



BLUE NOTES

County Democratic Convention is April 2



The Douglas County Democratic Convention is just around the corner. It will be held at Douglas High School on April 2. Doors open at 8 a.m., call to order at 10 a.m.

“The convention is vital,” said Douglas Democrats chair Kimi Cole. “Besides the all-important business, it’s a chance to meet your fellow Douglas County Democrats.”

Delegates to the Nevada Democratic State Convention will be selected. Those candidates then become eligible to be elected to represent the Silver State at the National Convention in Philadelphia, when we’ll elect our candidate for President.

The April 2 agenda also includes naming Democrats to our Douglas County Central Committee for two-year terms.

Delegates to the County Convention were selected at the Caucuses, held last month.

According to the Nevada State Democratic Party, “(We fight) for progress in the Silver State. We believe that we are stronger together than we are on our own, and that our country succeeds when everyone gets a fair shot, everyone does their fair share, and everyone plays by the same rules.”

This is our opportunity to do just that at the county level.

REMINDER:



DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 24

6:30 p.m. social

7 p.m. business meeting

Dem headquarters

1315 Hwy 395 N. (Gardnerville)

Three Dems file for CD2 seat



Chip Evans

Chip Evans...

Northern Nevada Congressional hopeful Chip Evans says, “Make Washington work for families, protect our seniors, and honor our veterans.”

The Reno businessman and radio personality recently gained the endorsement of U.S. Sen. Harry Reid.

“Chip Evans is a champion for the middle class and a powerful advocate for fairness and equality,” the U.S. Senate Minority Leader said.

He went on to describe Evans as a man who knows how to get things done. “It’s time to send Congressman Amodei home,” Reid said of the Republican incumbent.

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Vance Alm

Vance Alm...

Health care, education and jobs are listed as key issues by Vance Alm, who is seeking the CD2 seat.

“We must provide actual health care for every American, not a piece of paper promising health care, or the U.S. paying inflated costs generated by a for-profit industry,” said Alm, who is family practice physician.

He said education is not getting the priority it needs. “We must invest money to recruit and retain the best teachers and build better and safer schools where students can learn,” he said.

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Rick Shepherd

Rick Shepherd...

“I’m very interested in making the world a better place,” said Rick Shepherd, who has been an activist for more than a decade. “Now rather than shout at the incumbent, I want to become him.”

The native of Crescent City, CA, moved to Nevada at age 18. Shepherd grew up in a Republican household, but says as he matured he began to realize that’s not the party of his liking, citing environmental concerns in particular.

“When it comes to climate change, unless we do something about it, nothing is going to change,” he said. “We have only one planet, and

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CD2 candidates *(continued from Page 2)*

Chip Evans

Evans' political experience includes serving on Reno's Ward Three Neighborhood Advisory Board. He is a member of the NAACP and was board treasurer of Acting Together in Organizing Northern Nevada,

"Out of college I embarked on a successful career in Silicon Valley," he said. "In 2004, I decided to pursue my entrepreneurial aspirations here in the land of opportunity — northern Nevada."

Evans and his wife of 40 years, Laynette, have three adult children: Daniel, Amy and Annie.



Vance Alm

Alm called for employment to mean having a meaningful job that provides a real standard of living.

He expressed concern that the party is becoming polarized.

And, citing "a difficult and confusing process," he called for the state to return to the primary election process and end caucuses.

Alm served in the U.S. Army and later the U.S. Air Force, from which he retired in 1994.

In addition to his private practice, he teaches medicine at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), where he attained his medical degree.

Rick Shepherd

these guys (conservatives) are doing absolutely nothing about it."

He said issues such as climate change can't be addressed at the local level. "We need federal change."

Shepherd credits Presidential candidate Bernie Sanders with sparking his interest to seek office.

"I am invested in this community as a small business owner," he said. "Aside from my years teaching at UNR, this has been my primary source of income. I have no ties to special interests."



Douglas County Democratic Headquarter was packed Feb. 25.

Photos by Pat Stanley



Andrew Zaninovich

A lively, constructive DCDCC meeting held in February

Democratic headquarters was packed for the February Douglas County Central Committee meeting.

Members discussed the weekend Caucus and how to improve the process.

They also heard from Andrew Zaninovich about the Campaign for Sustainable Rx Pricing.

The audience included several teenagers. Also, two attendees were converts from Republican ... one changing her registration that night.

The next DCDCC meeting is set for Thursday, March 24.



From the Chair ...

By Kimi Cole

Why participate?



Why Should I Participate?

I will openly admit that many years ago (well maybe not so many years ago) that it would have frustrated me immensely if the current me had known me then. For the longest time, I lived like I was taking my cues right out of Alfred E. Neuman's playbook- "What? Me worry?"

After all, what good did worrying do? Worrying gave me headaches, upset stomachs, and no matter how often I did it, I never realized solutions to what was bothering me at the time. Just headaches. And upset stomachs.

Looking back, in too many cases, I was confusing worry with conscientious concern. And although I had decided to give up worrying, that did not save me from feeling concern about local, national, and global situations that I observed as I got older. Never being one who believed in complaining or blaming others to stimulate solutions, the more unfairness and downright wrongness occurring in way too many aspects of society simply would not let me rest without at least putting forth the effort to make a difference.

But could I? Could I *actually make a difference* anywhere?

Did I *really* need to participate?

As an integral ingredient in starting a new life in my mid-50s, I just had to find out.

I would like to say attending my first caucus in early 2012 was a life-changing eye-opener, but the fact is the day only counted for one sentence in my journal (which now exceeds 1,700 pages since late 2009). The sentence reads, "The caucus was an informal organizational event — I'm now a delegate to the Democratic Committee for Douglas County."

My first County Convention in 2012 rated a slightly longer sentence, "Just because the numbers of volunteers for the

state convention were not as many as we are allowed, I'm a confirmed representative to go to the Democratic State Convention in Las Vegas in June. How exciting!"

I'm sure the question, "What in the heck am I doing?" entered my mind more than once during these several months!

Then there was the Nevada State Convention that rated an entire paragraph, punctuated with my extreme disappointment at failing to complete the final form to be considered as a delegate to the National Convention.

"Apparently the signup yesterday or today was also mandatory in order to be considered. I guess the process has to be lived in order to learn what to do. The other point that intimidated me a little was thinking there would be so many vying for the positions; surely a newcomer didn't have much chance. As it was, I'm sure I could have at least presented a case for my consideration that would have been as good or better than some I heard. Learning experience!"

Did I want to go? You bet! Did I actually think I was ready at the time? Not a chance! Did my stumble discourage me from continuing on? Not hardly — in fact, quite the opposite!

Being willing to step up to the plate and give it my best shot opened doors for me to participate in getting Barack Obama reelected. Those doors opened even wider, allowing me to be elected to a position with the county central committee.

I've since had the opportunity to meet many legislators and candidates, right on up to the presidential races. The halls of the Nevada Legislature are no longer a mysterious place where "those people" do "whatever they do." I've participated in helping laws to get passed. I've participated in helping legislation to get stopped.

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Edmund James

Democrat Profile:

Meet Edmund James

Editor's note: Blue Notes regularly profiles an area Democrat

Edmund James is passionate about getting Democrats elected.

The Douglas County Democrat been politically active for about 14 years, particularly with the Washoe Tribe. He firmly believes only Democrats can fix “a broken system.”

The journeyman electrician was born in Carson City and has lived his entire life in the Silver State. He has studied at Truckee Meadows Community College and is close to earning an AA degree.

James comes from a family of Democrats, but admits he once voted Republican — “years and years and years ago.”

Why is he now a committed Democrat? “I like the platform,” he said. “And my family always voted Democratic. I just grew up that way.”

He recalled working hard for President Obama. “I was an organizer, a community council representative for the Washoe Tribe, and did a lot of legwork for the tribe concerning his campaign,” he said. “It was pretty intense and I really enjoyed that.”

He proudly said the vast majority in his tribe vote Democratic.

James doesn't like the current direction of much of the national political scene: “backroom deals, corporations in control, no civility, no togetherness,” he said. “It's horrible what's going on.” If he had a “magic wand,” those are the things he'd fix.

He'd also like to see the new President do more to help Native Americans. He said major issues facing his tribe include a broken health care system in which many Native Americans are forced to travel hundreds of miles for adequate medical care.

“America is not living up to the promise of taking care of Native people in this country,” he said.

He hopes to help get more Democrats involved. An effective platform, he said, is not enough. It takes work to implement it. He said too many people stay home then complain. “You've got to be involved.”

Edmund is a Douglas County Democratic convention delegate and is looking forward to participating in the April 2 County Convention.

From the chair *(continued from Page 5)*

And, looking back, I wonder what couldn't have happened if my answer to the question, “Did I really need to participate?” had been anything other than a resounding “YES!”

If any delegate or alternate asks me if they really need to participate in the upcoming convention, I'll encourage them to look in the mirror and ask themselves two questions:

- 1. Do I really need to participate?**
- 2. Do I want my life to make a difference in the world?**

The answers to both those questions are yours to decide, and yours alone.



Leaning a bit to the left

Rise and fall of the 4th Estate

By Pat Stanley

Proud. Prouder. Proudest. That summarizes my career as a journalist.

But the demise of America's newspapers leaves me feeling like a relic.

I was proud when in the late 1960s I graduated from Fresno State College with a degree in journalism. I'd worked hard for four years to attain it.

I was even prouder when, virtually the day after graduating, I was offered a job as an on-air reporter for the local CBS television station.

And years later, after migrating from broadcasting to my true love — newspapers — I was proudest when honored by the Napa, California, community on my retirement.

That was barely over a decade ago. Little did anybody realize that was the brink of the virtual demise of newspapers.

I just read a "Nation" article by Dale Maharidge that reflected on "...downsized journalists — men and women who had gotten hooked on the profession as young, ink-stained idealists, only to find themselves cast out in mid- or later life."

Today many get their daily dose of news via the Internet. Often in "blogs" written by wanna-be journalists who don't know the first thing about journalistic integrity, work ethics, or even rudimentary fact checking.

Young, computer-savvy consumers often read something "published" solely on rumor. "Ain't it awful," they say, not realizing what they just read may not have

a grain of truth in it.

I was taught that journalists must be outsiders with no bias. That's not always easy, but that's why I didn't delve into anything political until after I retired.

According to the "Nation" article, there were 55,000 full-time journalists working at just under 1,400 daily newspapers in 2007. A scant eight years later that number shrank to 32,900. That's according to the American Society of News Editors and the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Florida International University.

There have been more in the past year. Some periodicals have downsized while others have ceased to publish. Weeklies are also affected. Even the National Geographic has downsized!

I'm saddened. And concerned not just for the profession but for America itself. Newspapers have long been considered an unofficial partner in a checks-and-balance system, along with the trio of official and Constitution-created branches of government: legislative, executive and judicial. Thus the term "Fourth Estate."

I shed a tear for my younger colleagues who face an unknown future and for a vital yet vanishing cornerstone of democracy.

Filmmaker Milos Forman once said, "...the cornerstone of democracy is a free press." I hate to see that once rock-solid institution fade away.



Your DCDCC Officers ...

Chair of DCDCC:	Kimi Cole (kimimcole@gmail.com)
First Vice Chair:	Brian Dempsey
Second Vice Chair:	Susan Minor
Secretary:	Melanie Meehan-Crossley
Treasurer:	Jan Walls
Member-at-large:	Peggy Wozniak
Member-at-large:	Eric Griffin

Chairs of Standing Committees:

Administration	Katherine Winans
Programs/Policy:	Kimi Cole
Membership:	Katherine Winans
Candidate Recruitment:	Nancy Epstein
Publicity/Public Relations:	Pat Stanley
Fundraising/Finance:	(Your name here)

Timely Ticklers



Thursday, March 24
Douglas County Central
Committee
6:30 p.m. social
7:00 p.m. meeting
Dem Headquarters
1513 Hwy 395 N.,
Gardnerville

Saturday, April 2
Douglas County Convention
Douglas High School
8:00 a.m.- Doors open
10:00 a.m.- Call to order

Tuesday, April 12
6:00 p.m.
DCDCC Executive Committee
Dem Headquarters
1513 Hwy 395 N., Gardnerville

Thursday, April 28
Douglas County Central
Committee
6:30 p.m. social
7:00 p.m. meeting
Dem Headquarters
1513 Hwy 395 N., Gardnerville