



PHOTO GALLERY
Crowd cheers Gilbert victory



Democrats appoint two to new county Board of Elections & Registration

In accordance with the new legislation creating the Morgan County Board of Elections and Registration, the Morgan County Democratic Party has appointed two members.

Ted Arnold and Patsy Harris will serve as two of the five members of the new board which will oversee county elections and office of registration. Two other members will be appointed by the local Republican party, and the fifth by the Morgan County Board of Commissioners.

Work by this board will begin in 2007, the date to be decided by the Commissioners. The board will perform duties now in the hands of the Board of Registrars and the Probate Judge, who also serves as the Elections Superintendent.

"Ted and I have both worked the polls as managers and assistant managers for several election cycles," said Harris, "and so bring pragmatic knowledge of the process and equipment. We're looking forward to the training and to working with the rest of the team in maintaining our county as a model in elections and registration."

Becky Vaughn has *The Voice*



Democratic Candidate for Georgia House District 113

My community service started early with a desire to make my community better. I have secured resources for drug prevention; I serve on PTO and Foundation Boards, county-wide committees; I have coached youth soccer, and am an active member at First Baptist Church Athens.

A UGA graduate, teaching fueled my continued commitment to education, particularly when it comes to my four children.

After starting a family, I left teaching, directed a summer camp, and worked with non-profits, eventually becoming the voice of substance abuse as President/CEO of the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse. I have successfully pushed major bills, new funding, and served on many statewide committees. I speak across the state and have taken the Council budget from \$50,000 to almost \$2,000,000.

After 14 years at the Capitol, advocacy is my passion - collaborations my specialty. I continue to bring people to the table on many issues. I am thrilled to live here and be able to offer these same skills to such a dynamic region of the state.

(Editor's note: Her website: www.beckyvaughn.org. GA House Dist. 113 consists of Oconee Co., northern Morgan, western Oglethorpe, Winterville, and Clarke's southern & western edges.)



Mary McGill (above, center) and her niece Mels Thompson (left) happily receive payment for items at the June multi-family yard sale. All proceeds were donated to the Morgan County Democratic Party.

(Photo by Karen Strebecki)



Ted Arnold

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

A few days ago, the U.S. House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly to renew the 1965 Voting Rights Act. The Voting Rights Act requires that States with a history of discrimination against minority voters seek Justice Department approval when making changes in voting requirements. If a voting district is changed, Federal officials must insure that the changes do not weaken the vote of minority communities. The vote to renew the Voting Rights Act received overwhelming endorsement of both Democrats and Republicans... and every President (including both Bushes) since 1965. But our Congressman, Charlie Norwood, and all but one of the other Georgia Republican congressmen actively worked to defeat the VRA.

Our Georgia Legislature, which is controlled by Republicans, also voted to change the current law to require a picture identification for all voters. Obviously, those folks without current drivers licenses or passports are the older and poorest among us... and typically minority voters. The law is currently "on-hold" due to a Fulton County judge's charge that it violates the state constitution. But this issue is far from over.

Congressman Lynn Westmoreland of Sharpsburg led the attack on the Voting Rights Act. He claims that Georgia has made much progress in including minority voters since 1965. He's right. But Westmoreland fails to acknowledge that a main reason Georgia has made such progress is because of the Voting Rights Act, and he wants to kill it. So does Charlie Norwood.

See MESSAGE..... page 2

Thank you for calling the White House switchboard

Our new voice activated system will help direct you to the proper office.

If you are calling to complain about the mishandling of the war in Iraq, press 1.

If you are calling to complain about the abuse of prisoners and the White House's endorsement of torture, press 2, and then say the name of the torture site that you wish to complain about (and please note for the sake of the voice mail system that it is pronounced Abu GRABE, not Abu grabh).

If you are calling to complain about illegal spying on American citizens and the abuse of FISA laws, press 3, but do know that these calls will be recorded.

If you are calling to complain about the See SWITCHBOARD.....page 2

Morgan Co. Tax Commissioner
Becky Astin has *The Voice*



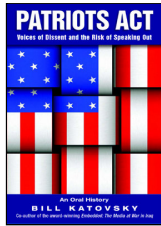
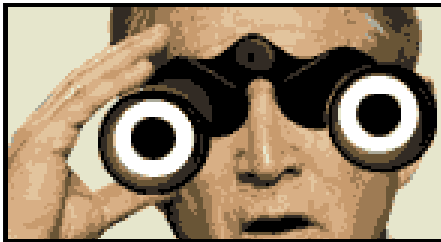
We had a busy month at the Tax Commissioner's office. Janett and I visited some businesses to collect personal property taxes that were delinquent. The bigger the county grows the more important it is to get staff out in the field to collect this money so we won't lose the tax dollars.

Karyn and I have been chasing mobile homes - literally. Mobile homes were being moved without having permits, usually meaning taxes had been not paid on the home. If we can catch the home before it leaves the county, we have a good chance of collecting our money. Once it leaves the county, it is hard to locate for collection.

We just finished our 2006 Tax Sale. We started with 154 properties, sent out letters, made phone calls, visited the properties and posted them. With all this said and done, we only had to sell one property on the Courthouse steps.

I want to leave you with one last piece of information from the tag department (the other hat we wear). Our office is now issuing handicap placards. If you know of someone who needs to renew or purchase this placard, tell them to contact Melinda in our office. She will be glad to assist.

Yours to serve, *Becky Astin Morgan County Tax Commissioner*



Book Review

Patriots Act:
Voices of Dissent and
the Risk of Speaking Out
by Bill Katovsky

In this new book, Bill Katovsky interviews 20 Americans who have dared to speak out. A wildly varied group, they include federal whistle-blowers, peace activists, military veterans, members of the media, former government officials and practitioners of nonviolent civil disobedience.

What they share is a dedication to defending this nation's civil liberties, a passion for justice - and a dogged streak that is as American as apple pie. See Salon.com for its five excerpts from "Patriots Act" starting with a profile of Ruckus Society leader John Sellers.
www.Salon.com

MESSAGE from page 1

We hear lip service from Republicans about wanting to attract minority voters to their party. We've seen it locally. But when the chips are down, they want to take the vote away from those who don't agree with them. All but one of our Republican Congressmen voted against renewal of the VRA.

Atlanta Congressman John Lewis pushed back against Westmoreland and Norwood, et al. He surely knows how hard it was to pass the original VRA in 1965. He has seen the same progress that Westmoreland says Georgia has made, indeed he may have personally benefited from it... as has ALL of Georgia. He also knows these Republican shenanigans usually show their true hypocrisy.

Democrats stand for inclusion of EVERYONE in the political process. Republicans are showing what they really stand for; minority voters see the same hypocrisy.

This November let's not forget the recent vote on the Voting Rights Act.

CAMPAIGN www.brucegilbertforsenate.com
WEBSITES www.terryholley.us

Pledge or contribute to your Morgan County Democratic Party

Write or email:
Treasurer Emmie Smock
642 Billups Av, Madison, GA 30650
nsmock@bellsouth.net

**Check out the website of the
Morgan County Democratic Party**
www.geocities.com/morgancodems
It's full of local, state, and national
information and links.

**If you are not
receiving emails
from the
Morgan Co. Democratic Party,
please send us an email at
morgancodems@yahoo.com
and we will
add you to our list!**

CURL UP with a good borrowed book

THESE FRIENDS
HAVE SOME TO LEND!

*Patriots Act: voices of dissent
and the risk of speaking out*, Bill Katovsky

*The Mighty and the Almighty:
Reflections on America, God,
and World Affairs*, Madeleine Albright
Morgan County Library

Declining Moral Values, Jimmy Carter
*Don't think of an elephant! Know your
values and frame the debate*, George Lakoff
Terry Blum 342-1217

American Theocracy, Kevin Phillips
The Good Fight, Peter Beinart
Babs Johnston 342-9136

Living Faith, Jimmy Carter
Patsy Harris 342-1011

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Patsy Harris Corresponding Sec'y
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Georgia State Convention delegates elected

Morgan County Democrats will send four delegates to the Democratic Party of Georgia (DPG) Convention in College Park September 16. The number of delegates is based on county population and will include Ruth Bracewell of Madison, the county's member of the State Committee. Elected by the Morgan County Democratic Committee are delegate Chris Hodges of Madison and alternate delegate Patsy Harris of Buckhead. Elected by public caucus on July 22, in accordance with DPG bylaws, is delegate Mary McGill of Apalachee.

SWITCHBOARD from page 1

President's efforts to 'privatize' social security, please press Star 1 and your call will be redirected to representatives at Merrill Lynch, who will explain the virtues of putting all your savings in the stock market.

If you are Jack Abramoff or any Saudi prince, please call the private line - it is always open.

If you are calling about the Medicare prescription debacle, please press 6. If you are having a medical emergency, you should proceed directly to your local emergency room, although please understand that your health coverage may not pay for the visit and you can no longer get out from under the bill by declaring bankruptcy.

If you are calling about the ballooning federal deficit or the recent hike in the debt ceiling to \$9 trillion, please press 7, unless you are Bill Clinton calling to brag about the surpluses under his administration, in which case we don't want to hear about it.

Press zero at any time if you would like to hear these options again.

Thank you for calling the White House. It is our pleasure to serve you.

Pathetic defense of vote

Dear Senator Chambliss,

The arrogant attitude of yourself and your fellow Georgia congressmen is not winning support from "middle class" constituents in your home state.

I responded to your email about your vote on the minimum wage, but my response was returned. Perhaps you don't really want to read about our concerns.

However, I will make another attempt 'the old-fashioned way' and enclose a sample of an opinion similar to mine which appeared in our local paper.

Your voting record is appalling. It's all about 'support big business for short term gain at the expense of the working poor and the environment.' I'm surprised you and those who support you can sleep at night. You ought to be ashamed of yourselves.

Your attempt to defend your vote on the minimum wage issue was pathetic. "Increasing the minimum wage would have an adverse effect on the unskilled, low-income workers who need economic assistance the most." What a load of gobbly-gook and double speak!

Shame on you, Mr. Chambliss! You do not represent me or any Georgian who has to actually work for a living!

Appalled in Madison, *B. K. Johnston*