



News Notes

- ✓ Judge Sonia Sotomayor has been sworn in as the newest Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.
- ✓ Both Texas Senators Hutchinson and Cornyn voted against the appointment of Justice Sotomayor.
- ✓ The new American Clean Energy and Security Act contains tighter controls on construction codes and practices to make new buildings much more energy efficient.
- ✓ Gov. Rick Perry rejected \$555 in federal stimulus money to pay unemployment benefits. Now the state has to borrow up to \$2 billion that will mean raised taxes for employers.
- ✓ The Guadalupe County Elections Voter Registration Office has moved to 215 S. Milam St., two blocks east of Central Park between Donegan and Nolte Streets in Seguin.



**COME HONOR LBJ.
YOUR INVITATION IS
ON PAGE 6.**

Politics Keep Dems Active

2009 may be an off-year between election cycles, but the importance of the problems facing Texas and the United States have kept Democrats in Guadalupe County very busy.

Even during triple-digit temperatures Democrats paced the intersection of Court and Austin Streets in front of Cong. Henry Cuellar's Seguin office with signs supporting a public healthcare option. On at least four other occasions, groups of a dozen or more – organized by JC Dufresne of Cibolo with help from MoveOn.org – have visited Cuellar's office and delivered petitions signed by hundreds of Guadalupe County citizens supporting the American Clean Energy and Security Act and real healthcare reform measures. In addition a few local Democrats have attended protests at the San Antonio offices of both Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchinson and Sen. John Cornyn in favor of a public option.

A few local Democrats were at Cong. Cuellar's coffee in McQueeney in early August where a couple of prominent Republican women introduced shout-down politics to Guadalupe County. According to observers, the two women led a few others in shouting down both the congressman and fellow Republicans who wanted the chance to speak to Mr. Cuellar. The Guadalupe County Democratic Club ran a booth selling ice cream bars and popsicles throughout Freedom Fiesta, where people could take their photos with the club's life-size cutout of Pres. Obama.



Democrats met with Cong. Henry Cuellar's constituent representative Mark Gonzales several times this spring to deliver petitions in favor of renewable energy, healthcare reform, and other current issues of local interest. On the back row from left are Jim Green, Jim Leisner, Harvey Hild, Alicia Helton, Sarah Moser, Estella Hild, Nancy Taylor, Jason Moore, Paul Martin, and County Chair Phil Bennett. Front from left are Denise Crittenden and daughter, Roland James, and Mike Magee.

Even with a few mishaps, like half a day with the freezer unplugged, the club sold lots of cold treats and talked to lots of people. Both sides of the county saw Democrat floats in the July 4th parades: the county club float in Seguin and the new Dem's Café float in Schertz.

Beginning on Sept. 12, the club will run a vendor booth in downtown Seguin on three Saturdays and in the Coliseum for the four days of the County Fair Trade Expo.

The occasion on Sept. 12 is Patrias Familias sponsored by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. The last Saturdays of September and October are Trade Days run by the City of Seguin. At each outdoor event, the booth will be open from 9AM to 4PM.

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Politics ...

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The booth in the Coliseum during the County Fair will be open 3 – 8:30PM Thursday, Oct. 8; 11AM – 9PM Friday, Oct. 9; 9AM – 9PM Saturday, Oct. 10; and 11AM – 5PM Sunday, Oct. 11. The club will have posters and information about candidates and issues to give away. Admission is free to all these events.

The booths and all Democrat public appearances get more important every year as a non-threatening way for people to ask questions and hear the truth about the issues on everyone's minds. Volunteers for any event can sign up at club meetings or by calling (830) 401-4231, 401-0168, or 379-5290.

The club serves lunch at Moore House each fall, and this year the club's day is Thursday, Oct. 1. About a dozen volunteers wear club aprons, set up dining rooms, greet guests, serve two seatings of lunch, and clear the tables afterwards. The catered lunches are available for volunteers, too, after the guests leave.

Club meetings will continue to focus on current issues and events. The meeting coming up on Aug. 27 will be a potluck supper and party to celebrate the 101st birthday of Lyndon B. Johnson. People compare the goals and accomplishments of Pres. Johnson with the proposals and programs of Pres. Obama. The party provides a chance to see information from the LBJ Museum in San Marcos and area individuals.

The meeting on Sept. 24 will focus on the proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution. A panel will use materials from the league of Women voters to interpret the proposals.

Finally, a loose group of like-minded women have lunch together at 1PM on the third Wednesday of every month at ChiroJava in downtown Seguin. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Dem's Café Open For West County

Democrats from the west side of Guadalupe County have formed a new club to provide focus on local and area issues in their fast-growing part of the county.

The group is called the Dem's Café and meets in the third week of each month. Meetings currently alternate between Wednesday dinners and Saturday lunches to accommodate the most number of member schedules.

Officers include JC Dufresne, President; Faye Lecesne, Vice President; Duane McCune, Treasurer, and Julie Iaia, Secretary. Board members are Faye Touve, Candace King, Melissa Dufresne, and Nancy Taylor.

For meeting times and more information, visit the party website at www.guadalupeDemocrats.org.



Gloria Sasser, left, waits with grandchildren Austin Flading, KiKi Elizabeth Creech, and Cassidy Sasser on the club float on July 4th. Sarah Moser made most of the signs and sits facing the other side. Both Paul Castillos, father and son, provided the truck and trailer. The City of Seguin predicted a crowd of more than 10,000 to line Austin Street for the annual Biggest Small Town Parade in Texas.

Pair To Display Photos Of Trip to Inauguration

Barbara Effenberger and Gloria Osborn will share photos and stories about attending the Inauguration of Pres. Barack Obama at a regular meeting of the NAACP.

"It would be nice if some of our Democrats would join us at this presentation," Barbara said. The pair has already appeared before the Guadalupe County Democratic Club, the MLK Day Committee, and several church groups.



The Dem's Café and the Guadalupe County Democratic Party packed a trailer with waving, smiling supporters of renewable energy and a public healthcare option from the Schertz-Cibolo area to ride in the July 4th parade through the city of Schertz.

Greetings from the Chair

We have all read the papers and watched the news reports and it is abundantly clear how low the opposition is willing to go to impede or destroy the current administration.

President Obama has asked for our help. This is the moment our movement was built for.

Home is where we're strongest. We didn't win last year's election together at a committee hearing in D.C. We won it on the doorsteps and the phone lines, at the softball games and the town meetings, and in every part of this great country where people gather to talk about what matters most. If you're willing to step up once again, that's exactly where we're going to win this historic campaign for the guaranteed, affordable health insurance that every American deserves.

There are those who profit from the status quo, or see this debate as a political game, and they will stop at nothing to block reform. They are filling the airwaves and the internet with outrageous falsehoods to scare people into opposing change. And some people, not surprisingly, are getting pretty nervous. So we've got to get out there, fight lies with truth, and set the record straight.

That's why Organizing for America is putting together thousands of events this month where you can reach out to neighbors, show your support, and make certain your members of Congress know that you're counting on them to act.

These canvasses, town halls, and other gatherings only make a difference if you turn up to knock on doors, share your views, and show your support.

Every day we don't act, Americans watch their premiums rise three times faster than wages, small businesses and families are pushed towards bankruptcy, and 14,000 people lose their coverage entirely. The cost of inaction is simply too much for the people of this nation to bear.

Guadalupe County Democratic Voice

So yes, fixing this crisis will not be easy. Our opponents will attack us every day for daring to try. It will require time and hard work, and there will be days when we don't know if we have anything more to give.

There comes a moment when we all have to choose between doing what's easy and doing what's right.

This is one of those times. And moments like this are what this movement was built for. So, are you ready?

Please commit now to taking at least one action in your community this month to build support for health insurance reform.

Let's seize this moment and win this historic victory for our economy, our health and our families. We need your help in Guadalupe County to support President Obama. Let me know how you can help.



County Chair Phil Bennett

Phillip Bennett, Chairman
Guadalupe County Democratic Party
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Ways to Sustain Resources

Paul Martin and Marvel Maddox of Siempre Sustainable Network made a presentation in April suggesting ways to reduce use of the world's resources.

Easy things we can do as individuals:

- Learn to be: (at) "PEACE"
- Conserve, conserve, conserve, ...
- Buy less (*anti-stimulus)
- Walk, bicycle (*anti-stimulus)
- Compost organic matter (none to landfill)
- Garden (Vegetables, fruits, herbs, ...)
- No house expansion/small homes
- Reduce amount of active air conditioning
- Transform to "natural"

the
green
book

Pre-Primary Events of Interest



August 2009

- 26: ___ 1:30PM Anniversary of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote. Film **“Iron Jawed Women”** starring Hilary Swank, Angelica Huston. Seguin-Guadalupe County Public Library. Bipartisan event hosted by the League of Women Voters. Admission is free.
- 27: ___ 6:30 PM Potluck supper and birthday party for Lyndon Johnson, Ezell Gallery, Silver Center, 510 E. Court St., Seguin
- 29: ___ 3PM Rally in support of public healthcare option, First United Methodist Church, 1201 Lavaca (one block west of Capital), Austin. Tickets at www.moveon.org.

September

- 9–13: ___ 6PM Friday, art show and documentary. Saturday panels and speakers, Sunday ceremony at Jacob’s Well. FLOW (For Love of Water), Community Center, Wimberley. Details at 512-847-3822 or peggy@hmitexas.org/.
- 12: ___ 9 AM – 4 PM Booth at Patrias Familias hosted by Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Central Park, Seguin
- 24: ___ 7 PM Regular Club Meeting, Proposed Amendments to Texas Constitution
- 26: ___ 9 AM – 4 PM Booth at Trade Days, Central Park, Seguin

October

- 1: ___ 11AM – 1:30PM Serving two lunches at Moore House, 703 Johnson Ave., Seguin
- 5: ___ Last day to register to vote
- 8: ___ 3 – 8:30PM County Fair booth
- 9: ___ 8AM Meet for Fair Parade at 10AM
___ 11AM – 9PM County Fair booth
- 10: ___ 9AM – 9PM County Fair booth
- 11: ___ 11AM – 5PM County Fair booth
- 19: ___ Early Voting begins
- 22: ___ 7PM Club Meeting
- 30: ___ Early Voting ends
- 31: ___ 9AM – 4PM Booth at Trade Days, Central Park, Seguin

November

- 3: ___ 7AM – 7PM Election on Amendments to Texas Constitution
- 19: ___ 7PM Annual Meeting (by-law changes, selection of Nominating Committee for VP, setting up standing committees)

December

- 29: ___ 6:30PM Holiday Potluck and Party, Ezell Gallery, Silver Center, 510 E. Court St., Seguin

2010

- Jan. 16–17: MLK Days in Seguin
- Jan. 18: ___ Ceremonial MLK Day March from Central Park to TLU
- Jan. 28: ___ 7 PM Regular Club Meeting
- Feb. 25: ___ Proposed fund-raising dinner at TLU with candidates and elected officials
- Mar. 9: ___ Primary Election for State Offices including Governor



Left, Club Secretary Gloria Sasser. Below from left, President Alicia Helton, Vice President Les Sutton, Treasurer Barbara Effenberger, and Democratic Party County Chair Phil Bennett.



Club Elects New Officers

The Guadalupe County Democratic Club elected Alicia Helton president, Les Sutton vice president, Gloria Sasser secretary, and Barbara Effenberger treasurer for 2009-2010. Les is being transferred to Florida next spring, so the club will select a Nominating Committee to fill the post at the Annual Meeting on Nov. 19.

Guadalupe County Democratic Club Membership Form

- Yes! I want to become a new member at \$10 per year.
- Yes! I want to renew my regular membership at \$10 for 2009.
- Yes! I want to become a sustaining member at \$ _____ per year or \$ _____ per month.
- Yes! I want to make an additional contribution of \$ _____.
- Add me to the club's e-mail list for announcements, news, and action alerts.

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

*Occupation: _____

*Employer: _____

Home Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Make checks payable to:
Guadalupe County Democratic Club

Mail your dues and this form to:

Barbara Effenberger
601 Weinert St.
Seguin, TX 78155

* Rules of the Texas Ethics Commission require us to obtain this information for donations of \$50 or more.

8 Ways Health Insurance Reform Provides Security and Stability

From David Axelrod, Senior Adviser to Pres. Barack Obama

Regulating the insurance industry to reform healthcare practices will do the following:

End discrimination for pre-existing conditions:

Insurance companies will be prohibited from refusing you coverage because of your medical history.

End exorbitant out-of-pocket expenses, deductibles or co-pays: Insurance companies will have to abide by yearly caps on how much they can charge for out-of-pocket expenses.

End cost-sharing for preventive care: Insurance companies must fully cover, without charge, regular checkups and tests that help you prevent illness, such as mammograms or eye and foot exams for diabetics.

End dropping of coverage for seriously ill: Insurance companies will be prohibited from dropping or watering down insurance coverage for those who become seriously ill.

End gender discrimination: Insurance companies will be prohibited from charging you more because of your gender.

End annual or lifetime caps on coverage: Insurance companies will be prevented from placing annual or lifetime caps on the coverage you receive.

Extend coverage for young adults: Children would continue to be eligible for family coverage through the age of 26.

Guarantee insurance renewal: Insurance companies will be required to renew any policy as long as the policyholder pays their premium in full. Insurance companies won't be allowed to refuse renewal because someone becomes sick.

Learn more and get details at www.WhiteHouse.gov/health-insurance-consumer-protections/.

Terminology

Public Option: In today's political debate this means an insurance program run by the government as part of health care reform, for no profit, that will insure anyone from birth until age 65 when Medicare takes over. This option would not interfere with any private insurance plans, but would be available for anyone who chooses to be insured by the government rather than a private corporation.

Right now Medicare has from 2 to 6% overhead, depending on who's counting, while private insurance companies have at least 20 to 25% overhead. The idea that efficiency can only be found in private business is nonsense.

Single-Payer: Health care financing with only one source of money for paying health care doctors, hospitals, etc. The payer may be the government or other entity such as an insurance company. The proposed advantages include administrative simplicity for patients and providers and resulting significant savings in overhead costs.

Guadalupe County Democratic Club
816 N. San Marcos St.
Seguin, TX 78155

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Thank Cong. Henry Cuellar
for voting in favor of Clean Energy
and Healthcare Reform!

***The Guadalupe County Democratic Club invites you
to a potluck supper in honor of Central Texan***



Lyndon B. Johnson
on his 101st birthday

Guest Speaker: Virginia Woods
6:30 PM Thursday, Aug. 27
Ezell Gallery, Silver Center
510 E. Court St., Seguin

The club will provide a meat dish, beverages, bread, utensils, games, prizes, and an exhibit about the 36th Presidency from individuals and from the Lyndon Baines Johnson Museum of San Marco