



Welcome Kevin Hrit

Kevin Hrit is the Political Organizing Director of the Michigan Democratic Party. He is responsible for supporting and building the party



organization, constituency and caucus outreach, and organizing political activities. He previously served as the Field Director for Jocelyn Benson for Secretary of State and Political Director for Congressman Gary Peters. Kevin has a degree in Political Theory and Constitutional Democracy from James Madison College at Michigan State University.

Kevin met with a small group of South County members last week and impressed all by his sage comments concerning the upcoming elections. His thrust was that Democrats need to focus on key issues, particularly the destruction of historic American values by the Republicans.

As President Obama so eloquently stated, "put on your marching shoes," Kevin also believes Democrats must begin their campaign early for "Election 2012." To borrow further from President Obama, it is time for all Democrats to "stop complaining" and unite and begin the process of electing Democrats that will reverse recent trends to usurp our traditional values.

Please plan on attending this important meeting Monday, October 10, at the Moose Lodge in downtown Buchanan. Meeting begins at 7:00 PM, social begins at 6:00 PM. Everyone welcome.

South County Democratic Club Salutes the Apple Fest

South County Democratic Club salutes the Niles Apple Festival. South County has participated in the Apple Fest for many years – both with a contingent in the big "Apple Parade" and with a booth at festival grounds.



The Apple Festival began when a group of community-minded volunteers gathered in Niles in 1972. Their goal was to celebrate the annual apple harvest, so important to Berrien County. Over the years, the festival has grown to be a long standing tradition.

If you love caramel apples, apple, apple pies and all-things-apple, you'll love the Apple Fest. If you love the traditional cuisine of county fairs – elephant ears, donuts, buffalo wings, and hot dogs – you'll love the Apple Fest. If you love the thrill of carnival rides, you'll love the Apple Fest.

Young and old will enjoy the many family orientated contests held: a scarecrow contest, apple peeling, apple seed popping, apple pie eating, log sawing, horseshoes, apple pie, pastries and cakes contest, beard and mustache contest and a biggest apple contest.

SCDC salutes the Apple Festival!

SOUTH COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CLUB

A Political Action Committee for the 78th Michigan House District
3135 W US HIGHWAY 12, NILES, MI 49120-8704
Jess Minks, Chair

THEY SAY THEY WANT TO SAVE “US” BY DESTROYING “US.”



Are Governor Snyder and the Republican legislature of Michigan "the wolf in sheep's clothing" of conservatism who are bent on preserving the policies of greed? They say they want to save "us" by destroying "us." "Us" being the working families of Michigan.

- Michigan Earned Income Tax Credit is eliminated.

In reality, the "us" (that the GOP say they are going to save) is hurting.

Seniors, the men and woman who toiled to make American what it is, often can no longer afford to retire. Their retirement plans are in shambles due to policies dictated far away on Wall Street by greedy brokers, money managers and bankers.

These senior workers have paid taxes and supported the churches, communities and nation making our way of life the envy of the world. These were the people who rolled-up their sleeves and labored to produce the goods needed for a World War, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. These were, by in large, the reliable working force that built this country, sacrificing so the next generation might have it better.

The harsh truth is that many seniors have lost their pension plans, retirement savings and face desperate times when they should be enjoying the few years that they have left. Many coming into their retirement years have no job and, because of age-discrimination and out-sourcing, probably will never again find employment worthy of their talents and skills.

Certainly the "us" they refer to also include the "middle" generation: Those with families and children at home to care for, feed, clothe and provide health care. Many of these men and woman go from one part-time job to another part-job just trying to make ends meet. What

Remember these quips by GOP luminaries?

- Newt Gingrich - "We have to destroy the House in order to save it."
- Ronnie's line - "government is the problem." Or
- Grover Norquist - "stave the beast".

Here are just a few of the tactics they claim will save "us":

- The additional \$600 exemption for children under age 19 is eliminated.
- The additional exemption for taxpayers over age 65 is eliminated.
- The city income tax credit is eliminated.
- Homestead property tax credits will be phased out beginning at \$41,000 of "household resources" (essentially "household income" without deduction for net business, rental or royalty losses).

DO YOU WANT YOUR SCHOOLS PRIVATIZED

By William Crandell

Recently the Republicans in Lansing put forward another series of legislation attacking education and Educators in the state of Michigan. Senate bills 619-624 are designed to be passed in one big package and destroying public education by driving it into the private sector and removing the burden from



the taxpayers of the state and well, giving private corporations the ability to make huge profits. It will also eliminate teacher's unions and their ability to bargain collectively. But I ask you this: do we really want corporate America exploiting our children for profit when it comes to shaping the future of our kids?

Let's face it: corporate America is not known for its kind soul or for looking out for the best interests of its consumers. Cigarette companies lied to us about addictive properties and coal companies distort the effect carbon dioxide has on climate change. Other companies have dumped toxic chemicals into our backyards because it was more cost effective to pay EPA fines than properly dispose of such and do the right thing. Do you really want these same people deciding the fate of your children?

This privatization of public education is being done under the guise of charter schools. Charter schools have not proven to be any more effective than public schools and some have proven to be worse because they are not always held to the same academic standards as a public school in terms of state certifications or the treatment of their employees. Charter schools do not have to pay benefits to teachers and often pay far less and their turnover rate is astronomical. I know I don't like the idea of my kid's teachers being disgruntled and teaching with one foot out the door

looking for that better deal. An example of this erroneous thinking is fast food restaurants. Those employees are told how happy they are by corporate bosses but let's face it who would be happy making eight dollars an hour with no benefits. All of those workers are looking for

something better and corporate America is working hard to narrow those options by limiting healthcare and benefit packages to those that are under employed. As a society we should spare our teachers this fate and treat them with the respect that they deserve.

In my opinion the GOP is looking to destroy public education because of their partisan war on unions and our children are going to be the most critical casualty of that. Instead of helping the suffering families of Michigan they are attacking educators

by passing legislation that cuts unemployment benefits, limits the welfare system and chops down nearly every social program when the people of this state need these resources the most. The last thing the people of this state need are corporate tax cuts paid for by taxing the poor, a strategy that has never proven to work. Parents of this state must speak out and tell the Governor and his cronies that

running this state or a public education system is not the same as running a corporation. Think in terms of what is best for our children.

Here is an overview of Senate Bills 619-624

The proposed legislation would:

- Privatize teachers and outlaw collective bargaining agreements
- Remove the cap on charter schools in the state,



“Privatized”

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- Allow 51% of parents or 51% of teachers to petition to transform a traditional school to a charter school allowing for a public school building to lose its certification
- Remove the limits on cyber schools
- Require schools to accept non-resident students under school of choice
- Ensure that charter and similar schools would not be covered by existing collective bargaining agreements

The bills are tie-barred together, which means they must all pass the legislature to take effect.



GET STUBBORN TEA STAINS OUT.

– From Charles Henry

“Us”

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wonderful people: juggling two or more jobs while maintaining a family unit and doing this without complaint. Some are single-parent households.

Working families are being forced to toil longer and harder than ever before. Minority communities are especially hit hard by these harsh economic realities; for example, in the African-American community, one adult in five is out of work. Those fortunate enough to still be working say, "I'm doing the work of two, three or four workers before globalization all began."

It seems that the Republican-controlled legislature has declared war on the working men and women of Michigan. They have eliminated many exemptions and tax breaks that were designed to help seniors and families during bleak times. They have imposed stricter requirements to qualify for unemployment; reduced the time of unemployment insurance to 48 months, forcing people to find and accept any job; loss of health insurance when laid-off; and imposing a COBRA that costs more than the family makes a month. Many good, reliable families are now facing humiliation as their ability to survive in this economy is threatened.

It is time for the working men and woman of Michigan to stand up and vote into office legislators sympathetic to the issues important to their families: issues of necessity, issues of need, issues of economic dignity.

– END –

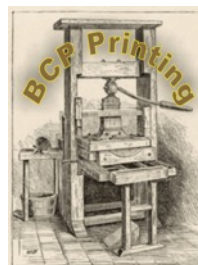
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South County Democratic Club

Next Meeting

Monday, October 10, at the Moose Lodge in downtown Buchanan. Social begins at 6:00 PM; business meeting at 7:00 PM.

Food and beverages available from the Moose

**Free - Everyone
Invited**