



Yavapai County DEMOCRAT

June, 2011

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Theme of the Month **Dispelling the Distortions**

This month our Newsletter will feature articles that respond to the distortions, hypocrisies, and outright lies perpetrated on the electorate by the Republican right.



Fair and Simple Flat Tax? Maybe Not!

By Bob Lynne

J.J. Casserly's op-ed in the Prescott Daily Courier on April 14th attempted to make the case for a flat tax, "simple, fair, and overdue." There are three major reasons to reject his argument.

First, a flat tax is not a simple solution. It may make doing your taxes easier, but one must ask why conservatives like Michelle Bachman are pushing the idea. Overall it will radically reduce revenues. Less revenue means more budget cuts and thus fewer jobs for the poor and middle class. A flat tax is simply irresponsible.

Second, it is not a fair tax. In the flat tax scenario, investment income, dividends, and estates are not taxed. This is clearly another huge tax break for the rich. The folks with lots of investments will pay no taxes. Thus, those whose income is mainly a salary will pay a higher percentage of income for taxes than the wealthy, so this is anything but fair.

Third, a flat tax is not overdue. In fact, the idea has been rejected since the 1950's because it goes against our basic principle of fairness... tax Americans according to their ability to pay. This equalizing effect is good for society and promotes the general welfare. After all, the idea of general welfare is a founding principle in the Preamble to the Constitution.

A flat tax would be a disaster for our economy by further burdening the middle class and poor while benefiting corporations and the wealthy. This familiar conservative mantra is hidden in the flat tax proposals. They make it sound simple and fair. While it will save you time and seems fair on the face of it with everyone paying the same percentage, it fleeces 80-90% of the population. Don't listen to the oversimplification of Casserly and other radical conservatives.



This Teacher Is “Mad as Hell”

By Angela Beeley

Education Week, Vol. 30, Issue 29, Page 33

I am a public school teacher and a member of a union. Contrary to popular political rhetoric at play in Wisconsin and elsewhere, I am not, however, a leech on society, nor am I a lazy incompetent who shows up to collect a paycheck, not caring whether my students learn. I am a teacher and, in the words of Howard Beale in the film “Network”: “I’m as mad as hell, and I’m not going to take this anymore!”

I am an English teacher who wakes up in the middle of the night, puzzling over how to engage 37 students in my third-period in an upcoming lesson. I am a teacher who gives up part of almost every evening and weekend to grade the never-ending deluge of papers. I am a teacher whose job performance is judged on scores from a test that counts for nothing for the students and their parents. I am a teacher of children who have been coldly molested, beaten, ignored, neglected, left hungry, and might not know where they are going to sleep that night. I am a teacher who cries at the end of every school year because, as they leave me, I am reminded of the basic goodness of the students I teach.

I am also a mother, a mother who shops for her family’s clothes, including her own, at Target. I have a coupon file that embarrasses my older daughter. I drive a 10-year-old car that my parents helped me purchase. We coexist with termites eating away at the foundation of our house because we don’t have the thousands of dollars it would take to rid ourselves of them. My husband and I aren’t wearing Prada sunglasses or jetting to St. Tropez on this outrageous salary my union has negotiated for me.

This misdirected anger at unions and public employees is a sad, cynical manipulation. Are there waste and hypocrisy in unions and public administration? Of course there are! Please name for me one sector of society that doesn’t have these problems. These are human failings, not union failings. And can states spend money they don’t have? No, they can’t and shouldn’t, and hard times call for sacrifice from all in both the public and private

sectors. We must contribute, but we must never give up the right of the American worker to bargain collectively.

The outcry against unions and collective bargaining is a complete red herring. The unspoken message is: Let’s make the average American forget that Wall Street crooks set up our economy for a meltdown and that, not only are they not in jail, they made money on the deal. Let’s make them forget that the richest 400 people in the United States make more than the entire bottom half of all earners. Let’s hide the fact that CEOs today make several hundred times what their employees make, rather than the 20 to 30 times more they used to earn. Let’s snicker as the workers rip each other’s throats out, scrabbling for the privilege of going to the doctor when they’re sick.

I have a bachelor’s degree from the University of California, Los Angeles, a master’s degree from the Claremont Graduate University, and I am a National Board Certified Teacher. I am a professional. And I don’t think it’s too much to ask to make a salary commensurate with my education, to be able to take my daughters to the doctor, and to retire with a small measure of security after choosing to devote my life to educating America’s children.

I love my students, but who on earth does the public—which is accepting these political shenanigans—think will choose to become a teacher now? No one in his or her right mind would go into this profession. After seeing teachers beaten up in the media for our society’s failings and being portrayed by our elected officials as lazy fat cats when we are working our butts off to having to “teach” to a test, no student with two brain cells to rub together is going to want to become a teacher. I would challenge anyone—including Wisconsin’s governor—who thinks that teaching requires little effort, no summer break, or no decent salary to spend a year in the classroom. Get in there, Governor Walker. You wouldn’t last a week.

Angela Beeley has taught at Alta Loma (Calif.) High School for 18 years. She currently teaches 10th grade English. She earned certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards for the first time in 1999 and for the second time in 2009.

History? Or Not?

By: Glenn Miller

One cannot in my opinion understand U.S. politics unless one understands our nation's history and its founding document. Fundamentally misunderstanding the reality of that history and the real life application and evolving interpretation of our Constitution will leave one with an inadequate understanding of how our system works and how we got to where we are today.

I believe there are today well-publicized individuals and organizations who are deliberately distorting the meaning and sometimes the facts of our history, including how our Constitution was shaped, in order to advance their political agendas. Some people are however, unwittingly advancing these messages as what they believe to be true, and thus should not be called liars. One can even see this in very recent history regarding our current financial crisis. The message being advanced by the conservative right is that too much government interference and regulation and deficit spending brought us to where we are today. This statement is made without any analysis backed up by facts. If people can be convinced to believe this narrative, then they can be persuaded of a particular

set of policy options to deal with this crisis, instead of alternatives tailored around the reality of how we got where we are.

If your doctor posits a completely inaccurate diagnosis of your health problem, then that will dictate a faulty therapy and you'll likely either not get any better or just fall back into the same illness down the road. Very simply, how you see the past dictates how you interpret the present, and that perception of reality determines political opinion. Control history and you control politics. We see the Glenn Becks, David Bartons and others relating their interpretations of history and their facts as simply the gospel truth, which is of course framed as "common sense". The historical academics are framed as out of touch elites who are not to be trusted because of their presumed and suspect liberal ideology.

This exactly parallels the mistrust of overwhelming scientific consensus from the science community on important and intensely researched issues like global warming. I can tell you that both of the above mentioned sources have been discredited factually regarding their claims by those who care about the truth. As they say, you can have your own opinions but you can't have your own facts.

Yavapai County
DEMOCRAT
 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
June 9, 2011	5:30-8:30PM	Yavapai County Democratic Party County Committee Meeting- Redistricting-State and County Pot Luck Dinner - \$10.00	Prescott Adult Center Rosser Street; Prescott
June 15, 2011	11-1:00PM	DWPA-- Speaker - Felecia Rotellini Luncheon - \$13.00	Wyndham Garden Hotel Rte. 69, Prescott
June 16, 2011	8-10:00AM	DORR-Breakfast Meeting "Putting Some Muscle into Letter Writing" with Harriet Young Cost: \$11.00	Olde Sedona Bar & Grille 1407 W. SR 89A, Sedona
June 23, 2011	6:30PM	DOVV-Monthly Meeting Program to be Announced	Randall's Restaurant 891 S. Main St., Cottonwood



From the Chair

By: Lindsay Bell



to radically reduce the Medicare benefit for America's seniors, than an "independent" group backed by the Koch brothers flooded the district with slick postcards that thanked Gosar for "voting to protect Medicare". Give me a break! The Ryan plan scraps Medicare as we know it and would replace it with a voucher that seniors would use to purchase health insurance on the open market. The value of the voucher is projected to be approximately \$6000 a year, and folks who couldn't find private insurance at that price would have to make up the difference in cost out of pocket. And it's not just Representative Gosar that thinks this is a good idea, all of the GOP members of Arizona's congressional delegation have voted in favor of the Ryan budget and Medicare plan.

Just evaluating this option against my own situation, it's clearly neither a good deal nor an improvement over the current system. Although I am

retired and a senior by most definitions, I won't be eligible for Medicare for a few more years, so for now I am purchasing my insurance on the open market. My current insurance, a basic major medical policy, costs a little more than \$6,000 year, and I feel lucky to get it at that price. Now, I'm fortunate to be in reasonably good health; I've had no major illnesses for several years, and I haven't been hospitalized for over 30 years. But, realistically, can I count on similar experience going forward? I don't think so. Does the GOP really believe that my health care needs and the associated health insurance costs will go down as I age? Again, I don't think so. Frankly I'm counting the days until I'm eligible to enroll in Medicare. In the meantime I'll be voting for Democratic candidates who will truly protect Medicare and honor the promise made to America's seniors more than four decades ago. I suggest you do the same.

Talk about distortions of the facts! No sooner had CD1 Representative Paul Gosar voted for the Ryan budget, with its provisions

June meeting of the Yavapai County Democratic Party County Committee

Fellow Democrats – this is a very important meeting that will discuss the upcoming redistricting processes for the state of Arizona and for Yavapai County!

- The redistricting processes will have major impact on the 2012 election
- Arizona will add a ninth Congressional District and the 30 Legislative Districts will be redrawn.
- Yavapai County will go from three Supervisory Districts to five.

Mark your calendar and make your reservations at 928- 541- 0413!

Date: Thursday, June 9, 2011
Time: Potluck Dinner at 5:30 PM
 Presentations from 6:15 PM – 7:00 PM, Q and A from 7:00 – 7:45 PM
Place: Prescott Adult Center, 1280 E. Rosser Road, Prescott

Speakers:

- Congressional and Legislative Redistricting – Justin Unga, Director of Political Services, Arizona Democratic Party
- Yavapai County Redistricting – Julie Ayers, Yavapai County Administrator

Also, click on either of these links to see a schedule of Open Houses on Yavapai County Redistricting.

<http://www.co.yavapai.az.us/WorkArea/showcontent.aspx?id=63018> <http://redistricting.co.yavapai.az.us/index.php/calendar/>



YAVAPAI BLUE MEMBERSHIP FORM

I would like to invest in the Democratic Party activities in Yavapai County by joining **YAVAPAI BLUE** at the level of:

Clinton: ___ \$300 Carter ___ \$600

Johnson: ___ \$1200 Kennedy ___ \$2,400

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

OR

Please bill my credit card ___ Annually ___ Monthly

In the amount of \$ _____

Credit Card #

Visa or MasterCard (Please circle one)

Signature _____

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone (____) _____

E-Mail _____

Occupation _____ Employer _____

Please return this form to Yavapai County Democratic Party/P. O. Box 1644/Prescott, AZ 86302
Attn: Ms. Fran Chadwick, Treasurer

Arizona law requires that political contributions report the name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer for each individual whose aggregate contribution exceeds \$25.00 in a calendar year. Paid for by the Yavapai County Democratic Party/P. O. Box 1644/ Prescott, AZ 86302/928-541-0413
WEB <http://www.yavdem.org>. Contributions are not tax deductible for income tax purposes.