

# PETTIS COUNTY REPUBLICAN

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### *Governor Blunt* *To address* ANNUAL JOHN C. RYAN PICNIC

**The** Pettis County Republican Party will sponsor the 64<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL JOHN C. RYAN Picnic on Monday, September 26, 2005, at 6:00 p.m. In light of the anticipated large crowd, the event will be held at the State Fair Best Western, 3120 South Limit Avenue. Governor Matt Blunt will be the honored guest and keynote speaker. This event traces its original to a picnic begun in 1942 hosted by the late Senator John C. Ryan. This event has become an important event for Republicans in our community. The price of the tickets is \$25.00 per person or \$40.00 for two. Tickets may be obtained from any member of the Republican Central Committee, or by calling Chairman Carla Young.

## CANDIDATE RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE To organize

The Pettis County Republican Candidate Recruitment Committee will have their organizational meeting on September 20, 2005 at 5:15 p.m. at 202 West Fourth Street, Sedalia, Missouri. The purpose of this Committee will be to find candidates for the general election in 2006. Committee Chair Terry Kelley has vowed to find qualified candidates for all offices. The following positions to be elected in 2006 are currently held by Democrats; Clerk of the Circuit Court, County Clerk, Recorder of Deeds and Collector of Revenue. Republicans currently hold the offices of Senator from the 28<sup>th</sup> District (Delbert Scott); Representative from the 116<sup>th</sup> District (Tom Self); Representative from the 117<sup>th</sup> District (Kenny Jones); Representative from the 118<sup>th</sup> District (Todd Smith); Representative from the 119<sup>th</sup> District (Shannon Cooper); Presiding Commissioner (Rusty Kahrs); Prosecuting Attorney (Jeff Mittelhauser); Auditor (Connie Purchase); Assessor (Dean Dohrman); Circuit Judge - Division Four (Robert Koffman); Circuit Judge - Division Five (R. Paul Beard); and Circuit Judge - Division Six (Robert Liston). Terry Kelley is seeking volunteers to assist in this effort. Please plan to come to the organizational meeting. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to call Terry Kelley .

## *Pettis County Republican Party Plan*

On April 19, 2005, the Pettis County Republican Committee and a number of local interested individuals met to adopt the Pettis County Republican Plan. This Plan is the basic outline of work to be done over the next nineteen months. All Congressmen and approximately one third of all Senators will be seeking election in 2006, including our Junior Senator James Talent. A candidate recruitment committee has been organized for the purpose of recruiting candidates for that election and the TARGET Committee (The Association of Republicans Getting Everyone Together) has agreed to continue fund raising efforts. The TARGET Committee has raised approximately \$7,000 over the last two year period. The County Committee has agreed to participate in the Missouri 72-Hour Task Force. Several people have agreed to help in this effort, but an overall coordinator has not yet been found. If you are willing to assist in the grass roots effort, please telephone Chairman Carla Young. Working together, the Pettis County Republican Committee will be successful in 2006.

# Appointments

*Most everyone understands the importance of electing a capable, honest and energetic governor. Little thought is normally given to another important function of the governor, because it doesn't often directly impact our lives. That is, the gubernatorial appointment process. Under our system of government, the governor appoints individuals to fill vacancies which may occur for various reasons. Indeed, Governor Matt Blunt has recently exercised this important function in appointing Judge Robert L. Koffman as the Presiding Circuit Judge, in March; appointing R. Paul Beard as Circuit Judge - Division Five in April; and recently appointed Dean Dohrman as Pettis County Assessor. As is customary, the Governor had the Pettis County Republican Central Committee participate in the appointment process relating to County Assessors position. Although the Governor often exercises this authority, it is quite unusual to have three appointments in one county within such a short period of time.*

## *Pettis County Republican Women*

The Pettis County Republican Women have scheduled their next meeting for Thursday, October

**13, 2005, at the home of Marsha Boeschen, 1505 Shady Lane, Sedalia, Missouri. For more information, please call Barbara Hagebusch, PCRW President,**

## COMMENTARY

*This year has been a difficult one for the judicial branch of government. Conservative citizens, frustrated by the decisions of some judges in individual cases, have called for numerous sanctions on judges who make the wrong decision in a case. However, I think a careful review of history will show first, that putting pressure on judges so that they are no longer able to make their best judgment of the facts and the law would end our experiment in free government and second, that we are not so impotent against judicial errors as we make ourselves out to be.*

*Judicial independence was a key point in the minds of our founding fathers when our constitutional foundations were being created. Not only was European history rife with stories of sham trials by corrupt judges in the pay of the king who would render whatever verdict was requested, but the American colonies were still stinging from the enforcement provisions of the Stamp Act which stripped their rights to be tried by an impartial jury and put all cases in front of English Admiralty judges, who held their positions, and thus entered their judgments, at the whim of King George. For that reason, great efforts were made to create a judicial branch for the new nation that was not beholden to the executive, to the passions of the people, or to any other influence, other than a desire to see justice done.*

*Eliminating the independence of the judiciary because of our disagreement with the findings of one or two or ten particular cases is absurd, as absurd as eliminating the executive branch because the President has made an error of judgment in a particular matter. Throwing the baby out with the bath water is the phrase used to highlight this kind of rash response to problems. If we eliminate the independence of the judiciary, what will exist in its place? The answer is a judiciary so afraid of removal and public disgrace that it cannot make a decision on a particular case until a poll of Congress has been taken; justice that changes hats every time a new set of politics assumes power in Washington. Well-heeled litigants could affect the outcome of a case as much by supporting the right congressional races as making arguments to a court. Legislators and executive branch members would become obligated as public servants to apply political muscle to cases that were important to their campaign supporters. Losing judicial independence will subject us to corruption of medieval proportions. On the other hand, we are not helpless in the face of poor constitutional interpretations by the independent Judicial Branch. The Constitution was carefully crafted to contain checks and balances on the powers of each of the branches of government, including checks on the power of the Judicial Branch. The Supreme Court web-site states When the Supreme Court rules on a constitutional issue its decision is virtually final [because] its decision can only be altered by the rarely used procedure of constitutional amendment. If we feel helpless in the face of poor judicial interpretation, it is only because we fail to use the check and balance available to us in our Constitution. We as a people can overrule any Supreme Court decision by constitutional amendment. In fact the very first amendment after the bill of rights was an amendment whose purpose was to overrule what the public felt was a bad Supreme Court decision. In the case of Chisholm v. Georgia, two Tories whose land had been confiscated during the war sued Georgia in Federal Court to get their land back. The Supreme Court found for the Tories and ordered Georgia to return their land. The public was outraged and promptly passed the 11<sup>th</sup> Amendment ending the power of individuals to sue states in Federal court. That power continues to be available for use today. However, rights like hammers have no value unless they are used.*

*We, as a people, should put the power to check the Judicial Branch into more active use in our nation. When an interpretation of the Constitution is seen by the people to be significantly wrong, Congress should immediately propose an amendment correcting that interpretation. The citizens of each state should then debate the issue as their legislatures prepare to vote on the amendment. The result would be healthy political discussion about constitutional interpretation at all levels of society resulting in meaningful decisions made by the people as a whole, while retaining, on the other hand, an independent judiciary whose on motive is to do justice.*

*Paul Beard. Judge*