OMNI CENTER --- UPCOMING EVENTS, MEETINGS and CALENDAR
-- October 29, Monday, 6:00 p.m., (Refreshments at 5:30 p.m.), Ann Wright at the Bentonville Public Library, Walton Community Room, 405 S Main, Bentonville, AR - Coming straight from work? Refreshments will be provided. Former Bentonville Mayor Terry Coberly will be on hand to introduce Colonel (Ret.) Ann Wright who served as a Colonel in the United States Army and as in the U.S. Diplomatic Corps before becoming a peace activist. Col. Wright will read from her new book, Dissent: Voices of Conscience, co-authored with Susan Dixon and Dr. Daniel Ellsberg. She will also speak and autograph copies. You don’t want to miss hearing and visiting with this dynamic woman.

This event is co-sponsored by Omni Center for Peace, Justice and Ecology. We look forward to folks from Fayetteville coming to hear Col. Wright. For more information, contact Gladys Tiffany gladystiffany@yahoo.com or visit: http://bentonvilles-ann-wright-speaks-out.blogspot.com/

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Omni/Community Access Television (C.A.T.) Connections

www.catfayetteville.com

How You Can Use the Community Media Center:

1) Produce a TV Show! Let your creativity reign and watch your own show air on CAT television.
2) Take a class! Learn how to use a video camera, work the studio equipment and edit projects.
3) Be on TV! With your own short takes or star in someone else’s show.
4) Save a special day in your life! Have the professional CAT crew shoot and edit your event.
5) Sponsor a show! Send in footage from other Community Access stations to air locally here in Fayetteville.
6) Get involved! Join the community access community. Use the electronic Community Message Board.

Omni C.A.T. Forum Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesdays</th>
<th>Thursdays</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tr>
<td>10/30</td>
<td>11/01</td>
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<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
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Democracy NOW!
Free Speech TV (FSTV) sponsored by Omni - 3:00a.m. - 9:00a.m. - FSTV: the world’s largest collection of alternative TV and numerous ideas for organizing, protesting, celebrating, researching, investigating, speaking, raising hell.  www.freespeechtv.com

FSTV broadcast schedule:
3:00 am Daily

Amy Goodman Online - You can listen/watch previous Democracy Now programs by internet streaming from Democracy Now website http://democracynow.org Previous programs (going back many years) are archived there. You can watch the current program (after they post it about noon) by going to http://democracynow.org/streampage.pl

Omni Book Samplers: Book Samplers give a five minute book report or read a five minute excerpt from a book. Omni Book Samplers include Dick Bennett, Jon Zimmer, Tom Kennedy

Short Takes: Taping at C.A.T.

Taping Schedule:
Every Monday night, from 5:00p.m.-6:00p.m., C.A.T. will be doing Short Takes live. This will be a great opportunity for time sensitive material, live entertainment, or anything else that is expressive.

For the folks who don't want to go on camera live, you can still record your short take from 6:00p.m.-6:30p.m Mondays, and on Tuesdays from 12 noon - 1:30p.m. Both the live and recorded short takes will air the following week as usual. If anyone has any comments or questions, please feel free to contact C.A.T.

Viewing Times: 11:00a.m., 5:00p.m., 11:00p.m.

Omni News and Current Events featured on Short Takes:
Presented by Cliff Hughes, Dick Bennett

Other Viewing Opportunities:
Cat Community News: October 29, 9:00 pm - Replay of October 17th
Bill Moyers Journal on PBS, Fridays, 9:00p.m. http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/index-_flash.html
For More Information about the US/Iran status, you can visit http://www.buzzflash.com/search/?Query=iran or BBC at http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/default.stm

OMNI CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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http://bentonvilles-ann-wright-speaks-out.blogspot.com/

--November 3, Saturday, 10:30a.m., Fayetteville Public Library, Omni Rapid Responders Letter Writers meeting. For more information, contact Larry Woodall la_wood@earthlink.net

--November 4, Sunday, 7:00p.m., Open Mic for Peace, United Campus Ministries, 902 W. Maple, Fayetteville

--November 11, Sunday, 7:00p.m. Video Underground, United Campus Ministries, 902 W. Maple, Fayetteville - *Ghosts of Abu Ghraib* gives a firsthand account of Iraq’s most notorious prison. Won 2007 Sundance Official Selection Award. Interviews with perpetrators, victims, and witnesses of torture during the fall of 2003. How could our leaders and ordinary US citizens order or commit these crimes? How could our government reject Geneva Conventions we had traditionally supported?

VIDEO UNDERGROUND shows free political, social, and current event videos every second and fourth Sunday of the month. These movies are shown at the OMNI CENTER FOR PEACE, JUSTICE, AND ECOLOGY located at 902 W. Maple in Fayetteville, on the main floor of the Presbyterian and Disciples United Campus Ministry. Visit us: http://www.northwest-ark.com/vu/

--November 18, Sunday, 6:30P.M. HOWL: Women’s Open Mic at Nightbird Books, Old Mill Building, Corner of School and 6th Streets, Fayetteville - 2007 HOWL SOMETHING NEW: You haven’t been in a while and you know you miss it . . . so come back to HOWL. (We miss you.) The November Challenge: WRITE something BRAND NEW and share it with HOWL! HOWL happens the third Sunday of each month at Nightbird Bookstore. At HOWL, women are invited to read poems (their own or another woman writer’s), share short prose or sing at an open mic forum hosted by Mendy Knott. So come read, sing or play your work to a really receptive audience. It’s a great place to "try out" new work, share your masterpieces, or read for the very first time. Men and women are warmly invited to attend this celebration of women’s words. Nightbird Books is located in the old mill buildings at the corner of School and 6th ST. Their phone number is 443-2080. Reading starts at 6:30 but come early to sign up to read, browse the books and enjoy the good company. For HOWL questions or to join our mailing list, email howl@herwords.org. HOWL is a collaboration between Herwords and Omni, supported Nightbird Books in Fayetteville, AR.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS---UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

--October 29, Monday, 1:30p.m., "America's Kingdom: the Saudi Oil Frontier" -
Robert Vitalis will speak in Giffels Auditorium, Old Main, U of A.

Robert Vitalis, Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania, is the author of "When Capitalists Collide: Business Conflict and the End of Empire in Egypt" (1995) and "America's Kingdom: Mythmaking on the Saudi Oil Frontier" (2006).

This lecture is sponsored by the UA's Center for Middle East Studies and Islamic Studies and the Department of Political Science, and is free and open to the public. For more information, contact: Ted Swedenburg, 283-0306

--October 30, Tuesday, 3:30-4:30p.m., "Accountability, International Law, and Impeachment", a Seminar led by Col. Ann Wright, Giffels Auditorium, Old Main – Retired Colonel and Bentonville native Ann Wright is a 29-year veteran of the US Army and 16-year veteran of the U.S. State Department Diplomatic Corps, serving in Nicaragua, Grenada, Somalia, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Sierra Leone, Micronesia and Mongolia. She is also a recipient of the prestigious US State Department Award for Heroism during the dangerous evacuation of 2,500 people from the 1997 civil war in Sierra Leone.

Under the leadership of Secretary of State Colin Powell, Colonel Wright worked with a team to reopen the US Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan in December 2001 after the invasion. However, she resigned in March 2003 in opposition to the invasion of Iraq, among other policy and legal disagreements. After resigning, she became a fulltime activist against the Iraq war, and was recently denied entry to Canada because she appears on an FBI watch list due to her activism. Interestingly, she is also a former graduate from the University of Arkansas Law and Graduate Schools.

She recently authored a book titled Dissent in a Democracy (see book signing notice in the Omni upcoming events).

The seminar will be a discussion of the value of impeachment as a vital and necessary tool for Constitutional accountability. Legal breaches of the Geneva Conventions and US Constitution by the George W. Bush administration will be examined in this context. Additionally, the long-term consequences of failing to conduct oversight of this lawbreaking executive branch will be discussed.

This event is sponsored and organized by the University of Arkansas registered student organization Impeach for Peace UA.

--Nov 2 - Nov 4, Friday thru Sunday, FALL DIVERSITY WEEKEND, Eureka Springs, AR

On Sat. Nov. 3 from 3-6 pm at Fall Diversity in Eureka Springs, there will be a Poetry Cafe upstairs at Henry’s, 19 1/2 Spring St., Eureka Springs. Mendy Knott, Randi Romo, and Doug Shields will be some of the featured poets. There will be an open mic between features. Come and bring a poem to share--it’s our time to shine! For more information, visit www.diversitypride.com

--November 5 and 6, Monday and Tuesday, Economic Development and Justice Conference, Pine Bluff, AR

The Arkansas Public Policy Panel is cosponsoring an economic security conference on November 5 and 6 in Pine Bluff with many of our allies. This conference is an opportunity to discuss how working together can help us create more economic success for everyone. It will offer discussions on a range of issues, including:
* Homeownership
* Earned Income Tax Credit
* Consumer rights
* Energy assistance programs
* Tax filing
* Arkansas 211
* Credit rehabilitation
* Delta initiatives
* Latino issues
* Future state policy efforts
* The right role for government in economic development

Speakers include a wide range of activists and policy groups working on economic development and justice issues in Arkansas plus folks like: former Secretary of Transportation Rodney Slater; speakers from the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities in Washington DC; Miriam Shark from the Annie E. Casey Foundation; Abby Hughes Holsclaw from the Institute for Youth, Education and Families of the National League of Cities; Judith Phillips from the John C. Stennis Institute of Government at Mississippi State; and others. Don’t miss it!

A full agenda and registration form is attached, or visit www.aradvocates.org

The Panel is providing scholarships to cover the $35 registration fee for up to 20 people to attend who are from grassroots groups we are organizing with, or who are from Citizens First Congress member groups. If you would like to attend and need a scholarship, please contact Brett Miracle at brett@arpanel.org or 501-376-7913 x 10.

Please register soon, the registration deadline is about to pass, but I’m sure it will be extended by a few days. For more information, contact Bill Kopsy, Executive Director The Arkansas Public Policy Panel, 501-376-7913 x 12, www.ARPanel.org

--November 16-18, Vigil and Nonviolent Direct Action to Close the School of the Americas (SOA/ WHINSEC) - On the weekend of November 16-18, thousands will gather at the gates of Fort Benning, Georgia for the Vigil and the Nonviolent Direct Action to Close the School of the Americas. Take a Stand for Justice! The weekend will include a massive rally, nonviolent direct action training, workshops, benefit concerts, puppet shows, teach-ins and more! Reservations need to made now for lodging. For more information, visit www.soawatch.org

WHAT'S GOING ON?---CURRENT EVENTS and INFORMATION

LOCALLY:

NWA SUSTAINABILITY CENTER ORGANIZES NATIONAL DAY OF CLIMATE ACTION

A local nonprofit, the NWA Sustainability Center, invites others to participate in a day of interactive education in downtown Fayetteville. One of more than seventy events across the nation, the event will feature exhibits on the knowledge and initiative needed to transition our area to sustainability.
NWASC and others are gathering in front of the Fayetteville Town Center on Saturday, November 3, 2007 during the Fayetteville Farmer’s Market to participate in a National Day of Climate Action. The project called Step It Up (www.stepitup2007.org), will bring many regional businesses and civic groups to educate the public about sustainability, including basic information on how to handle our population growth, energy and water supply, and transportation needs.

The most important part of the morning is the sustainability video pledges. Each person will be given the opportunity to tell everyone how they pledge to help NWA be sustainable. We encourage everyone to demand action to protect our climate. Participate in a documentary of our region’s transition, and, at 11:00a.m., hear some short messages about sustainability in our area.

Leading scientists have said that if we do not reduce our emissions 80% by 2050 and 30% by 2020, conditions on Earth will reach a tipping point that causes widespread catastrophe. Matthew Petty, the founder of the Center, says that "planning strategies for our region should be inclusive," and "groups should promote action on all levels and in all sectors: government, media, big business, civic groups, the financial community, youth, teachers, higher education, professional organizations, and citizens."

Mr. Petty has given several presentations on sustainable strategies to local groups and has developed a framework for regional success in NWA’s transition to sustainability. He emphasizes "the state of everything is a call to action. For each person, the imperative is real, whether it be morality, economics, or convenience. It is time to realize that everyone in Northwest Arkansas has a vested interest in this movement: business, colleges, state boards, the investment community, school systems, civic groups, youth, and the news and entertainment media."

For additional information on NWA Sustainability Center’s National Day of Climate Action, contact Matthew Petty or visit www.nwasc.org.

ABOUT NWA SUSTAINABILITY CENTER - NWASC is a local nonprofit dedicated to helping communities and regions in their transitions to sustainability. They see Northwest Arkansas as a perfect pilot for creating and testing transition models. They have a clear vision and are promoting the necessary strategies for raising awareness, spreading motivation, and utilizing education by creating agendas, offering educational series, and promoting strategy for the creation of a local sustainability institute.

ADVERTISE YOUR EVENTS ON THE OMNI WEBSITE

The OMNI website is an untapped resource for Omni volunteers. We’d really like to advertise what you’re doing. The more OMNI is known in the community, the more visits we get from members of the press gathering information about projects and upcoming events, and we want yours to be there.

Omni has an interactive calendar where you can self-post your information. Click on the calendar link, and it walks you through the simple posting process. Please use it whenever you have an event or project that you think will be of interest to Omni members.

If you are working on an Omni-Sponsored event, we’d like to put a front-page link to your poster or flyer, and more detailed information.
To post Omni-sponsored events, email your flyers, posters and press releases to Melanie melaniedietzel@cox.net, Gladys gladystiffany@yahoo.com, or Dick jbennet@uark.edu, and we'll help you get it posted.

Once your event is over, please notify us to remove it from the webpage. The webmaster only removes items when we tell him that they need to come off. We hope that you'll take advantage of this resource.

2008 $500 ANNUAL OMNI CRITICAL THINKING AWARDS
For Teachers in Washington and Benton Counties, Arkansas

What is Critical Thinking?
Critical Thinking is the use of knowledge, facts, science, evidence, logic to evaluate and understand ideas and information, to detect falsehood, and to form conclusions, judgments, and inferences.

Why do we need it?
• Today, more than ever before, we are bombarded with commercial and political propaganda. Clear Thinking enables us to decide if what we read and hear is true, factual, biased, or manipulative.
• Clear Thinking also enables us to recognize our own fallacious thinking, biases, and assumptions.
• Reasoning together through knowledge and language is an alternative to violence. The practice of Critical Thinking helps, by creating active, informed citizens, invigorates democracy. “Critical thinking skills” imply an ability to analyze ideas, stories, claims, and assertions both through relevant, factual knowledge and by training in analysis and by being able to think for oneself. Independent mindedness and autonomy have long been considered essential to a democracy since President Jefferson.

These awards are sponsored by OMNI Center for Peace, Justice, and Ecology.
We at OMNI are devoted to the advancement of reasoned contemplation and conversation about issues that affect our community and world. We seek to extend the influence of reason and informed debate. The deadline for nominations in May 1, 2008.

INVITATIONS TO TEACHERS, THE OMNI CRITICAL THINKING AWARDS
Washington and Benton counties public school teachers from all disciplines are invited to fill out an application and submit materials about their teaching of Critical Thinking. The awards recognize both specific teaching units or projects and teachers who incorporate clear thinking into their everyday classes.

County committees of local citizens chosen from various walks of life will evaluate the applications. When the committee has made its decision, OMNI will offer one $500 award to the Washington County teacher and one $500 award to the Benton Country teacher who has been selected as the most outstanding. (More information is available on OMNI’s website [www.omnicenter.org](http://www.omnicenter.org). Also contact the coordinators: Lynda Haley-Brothers, Washington County (teacherhuman@cox.net) and Carole Westby, Benton County (westbyforhouse98@cox.net).
Hi Omni folk. Do you have a teenager in high school this fall? Do you know someone else who does? If so, be sure they know about the dark side of “No Child Left Behind.” Remind your friends that, as part of NCLB Act, the contact information of all 18 year olds is packed up and sent to the Pentagon for military recruiting, UNLESS the teen or his/her parent or guardian sends in a form that opts them out of the system -- an “Opt Out Form”. Prior to this provision, many of the nation’s high schools refused recruiters' requests for students' names or access to campus because they believed it was inappropriate.

Now all high schools that rely on federal funding must aid the Pentagon in targeting minors to coerce them into entering the military. However, if parents or student fill out a written request form, the students name can be removed from the list provided to the Pentagon.

This form is supposed to be available in every high school, but it sometimes “gets lost.” You can find the forms in English and Spanish on Omni’s website at: www.omnicenter.org

There are other sites where you can find versions of the forms, and lots more information about recruiting practices. They include:

- American Friends Service Committee: www.afsc.org/youthmil/
- Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors (CCCO): www.objector.org
- ROOT: www.warresisters.org/Roots/newsite5.html
- Student Environmental Action Coalition (Militarism and the Environment Campaign): www.seac.org/militarism
- Student Peace Action Network: www.studentpeaceaction.org
- Student Press Law Center (student First Amendment rights): www.splc.org

NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY

ECHOING GREEN'S 2008 FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION

Do you want to start a for-profit business, but you want to save the world more? You might be a social entrepreneur.

April Ambrose from Little Rock sent us information about an amazing source of funding for social entrepreneurs who want to work green. She knows two folks in Arkansas that got this grant last funding cycle!

To access the new application, please check our website, www.echoinggreen.org.
The fellowship offers the following benefits to those with an innovative idea for social change and a start-up organization (or the desire to create one):

* Up to $90,000 in seed funding
* Technical support to expedite your launch and growth
* Access to a network of hundreds of experienced social entrepreneurs

If you'd like to apply, look on the easy-to-find Fellowship Application page. www.echoinggreen.org.

LOOK WHAT WE’VE BEEN UP TO – HAPPENINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED

BUSH-VISITS-ROGERS PROTEST
On October 15, President Bush came to Rogers to speak up economic development in Northwest Arkansas. His first stop was at Stirling Packaging. Later in the day, friends of the Stirling family attended our protest, and reported that they were extremely excited about it. The president had lunch at Whole Hog Barbeque with area business leaders, and arrived at the John Q. Hammons center an hour late to address a waiting group of 300 by-invitation-only Northwest Arkansas business leaders and politicians.

Also waiting for the president outside the Hammonds Center were 40-50 Omni members and friends. We carried placards about a variety of important issues, but the main core of the action was Bush’s veto of SCHIP - the children’s health care bill. It was different protesting in Rogers; there were fewer thumbs up, and a few people yelled “shut up” at us as we vigorously greeted Bush and his entourage from the sidewalk. A small cluster of Bush supporters quickly gathered with signs hastily made from cardboard boxes. One of the signs stated “Support Godly Prez.” Somebody on our side of the street responded that, “A Godly prez’ would be a good idea.” Both sides remained cordial.

A number of people came out from the offices and shops behind us to watch for the cavalcade, and that made us look like a bigger group. Some were carrying tiny little American flags, so we may have disagreed with them on some issues.

An interesting aspect of the event was that the Omni folk from Fayetteville were just about balanced out by like-minded folks from Rogers, Bentonville and Bella Vista. Several of them told us how grateful they were that we’d organized the demonstration. I think they felt that Omni was supporting them in something they wanted very much to do, but weren’t sure how to do it. Support for progressive people around Northwest Arkansas was a statement that I’m happy we could make, even if neither Mr. Boozman nor Mr. Bush paid heed to what we were message. One benefit for us was that the president’s long lunch forced the media to cover the protesters during the wait. Thank you Mr. Bush.
FOLLOW-UP VISIT TO BOOZMAN’S OFFICE
The day after the Bush-visit protest, a few Omni friends traveled to Lowell to visit with Rep. John Boozman’s staff, including Director of Communications, Ryan James. SCHIP was again the focus. We were met in the parking lot by the a reporter and photographer from the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette. They asked good questions and took lots of photos. We didn’t expect to change any minds among the staff, and we weren’t disappointed. Mr. James, however, seemed attentive to our position, and gave us an interesting review of the shut-down of communication between the parties in DC since the veto was announced. Omni member Sara Milford, who’s a natural childbirth facilitator, was able to make some important points about the pre-natal care elements in SCHIP. From Mr. James discussion, it appears that for Congressman Boozman, prenatal attention was mostly directed to anti-abortion studies. I saw lights go on in Mr. James eyes when Sara talked about the specific need to expand availability of services, and pre-natal education for young moms. He needed to hear from her; citizen contact like this is never wasted. Slowly working to develop relationships with legislators - whether they agree with us or not - is an important part of being engaged constituents. Thanks to all of the intrepid people who braved the October chill on October 15, and the wonderful ones who met for the follow-up visit on October 16. It may be slow work, but to do nothing is a poor option. We’re the ones who choose to act on our convictions, and, as often as possible, to be effective. Omni folk are GREAT.

Submitted by Gladys Tiffany, co-president of the Omni Center

LOCAL CONNECTIONS

Link Carries Interactive Calendar of Events in Northwest Arkansas--
http://northwestarkansasevents.blogspot.com/
* Farmers’ Market Schedules
* 2007-2008 Razorback Football Schedule
* Fayetteville Society of Friends (a.k.a. the Quaker... 
* Northwest Arkansas Sustainability Center
* Northwest Arkansas Buddhists
* Omni Center for Peace, Justice and Ecology
* Interfaith and Astronomical
* Combined Northwest Arkansas Event Calendar

Original and gathered articles from Dick Bennett are at http://jamesrichardbennett.blogspot.com/

Mike Tramill has an email network (list) on political issues, including the latest developments on possible war or invasion with Iran. You may contact Mike at wheeler65@gmail.com if you want to be on the list.

Richard Drake continues his Fayetteville blog, street jazz, at
http://www.arktimes.com/blogs/streetjazz/
THE COST OF WAR

Casualties in Iraq

The Human Cost of Occupation
Edited by Margaret Griffis :: Contact

American Military Casualties in Iraq

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American Wounded

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Latest Fatality Oct. 25, 2007

IRAQI CIVILIAN BODY COUNT

Civilians reported killed by military intervention in Iraq

MIN.        MAX.
75,900*      82,703*

Source of Iraqi Civilian Body Count: http://www.iraqbodycount.net/

* A body count of Iraqi civilian deaths was published in the medical journal The Lancet last year; its estimate was 600,000 (min) to 650,000 (max).

Cost of the War in Iraq

$464,000,000,000 and counting

Source of Cost of War: http://nationalpriorities.org

OMNI SEEKS A WORLD FREE OF WAR AND THE THREAT OF WAR, A SOCIETY WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL, A COMMUNITY WHERE EVERY PERSON'S POTENTIAL MAY BE FULFILLED, AN EARTH RESTORED. GRASSROOTS NONVIOLENCE, WORLD
PEACE, HUMAN RIGHTS, SOCIAL and ECONOMIC JUSTICE, ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP PROTECTING SPECIES AND THE EARTH.

CONTACT YOUR CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

     Phone: (202) 224-4843 Fax: (202) 228-1371.
   · Fayetteville office: 251-1380

---Senator Mark Pryor: Web Site (see contact link): www.pryor.senate.gov; http://pryor.senate.gov/contact/
     Phone: (202) 224-2353 Fax: (202) 228-0908
   · Main District Office: 500 Pres. Clinton Ave., Suite 401, Little Rock, AR 72201
     Phone: (501) 324-6336 Fax: (501) 324-5320

---Congressman John Boozman, District 3, 12 counties from Benton to Washington
   Lowell office: 479-725-0400. Fax: 479-725-0408, 213 W. Monroe, Suite K, 72745. Stacy McLure, Deputy Chief of Staff (STACEY.McCLURE@MAIL.HOUSE.GOV) Web site (with contact link): http://www.boozman.house.gov/ Boozman’s new office in Lowell is located at 213 West Monroe in Lowell between I 540 and Business 71. To reach that office take Exit 78 off I - 540 and go east. You will be on Hwy 264 which is also West Monroe. The office is in the Puppy Creek Plaza, past the McDonald’s on the right. His suite is in the back of the complex to the left.
   Harrison office: 870-741-6900; 402 N. Walnut, Suite 210, Harrison 72601.
   DC address: 1708 Longworth House Office Bldng., Washington, DC 20515; 202-225-4301.