

Saturday, February 26, 2005

War on Terror

I am sad that good people died on 911 but this is the price we pay for the freedom of living in an open society. I am pleased that our armed forces have avenged the deaths of the innocents. Good people and bad people both have to die if we are to preserve freedom. Thomas Jefferson said it best. "The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants."--Thomas Jefferson to William Stephens Smith, 1787. War on Terror? What of us who refuse to be scared or terrorized? Some of us believe what Franklin Delano Roosevelt said: "We have nothing to fear, but fear itself". The reason that good people are willing to die for their God and their country is a simple one. They have more faith in their country, and their God, than they have fear. Fear and faith are diametric opposites. If ten million Americans died in a terrorist attack, Old Glory would still fly over our land, because the principles of freedom are greater than anything our foes can do to us. Why be scared? I refuse to participate in a "war on terror" simply by refusing to be terrorized. I decline! It takes more than Bin Ladin to force a patriot live in fear. My faith in my country is greater than that. If my countrymen wish to engage in a war on terror, then they should fight that battle within themselves. The founders of this country gave us the Second Amendment to protect us from the terrorism of thugs and tyrants. It is very hard to terrorize an armed populace with a 229 year tradition of liberty. Stephanie Heck Huntington Cabell County West Virginia 25701 Send email to: webmaster at sheck dot com

Posted by Huntington West Virginia in National Politics at 11:15

Global Warming

President Bush appears to be worried about the long term future of Social Security. I am more worried about the long term impact of global warming due to greenhouse effect. The polar icecaps are gradually receding at an alarming rate. Weird things are starting to happen with the weather. Global warming has the potential to turn the frozen wastelands of Siberia into amber waves of grain, and also to decimate the tropical rainforests that produce much of the breathable oxygen in Earth's atmosphere. I too share the president's concern for longterm health of the Social Security system, however a large number of options are on the table to effect a fix. However, the longterm impact of unabated global warming, due to greenhouse gas emissions, constitute a longterm threat to the very future of humanity. The potential for a disaster on a global scale has far more implications than economic issues, and yet it is ignored as being too far in the future to merit concern. Americans do not care to stand up to meet a tough challenge once they are presented with the challenge. It seems that global warming has been swept from the agenda as American's are led into an uncertain future with blinders on. Stephanie Heck Huntington Cabell County West Virginia 25701

Posted by Huntington West Virginia in Global Politics at 09:08

Thursday, February 24, 2005

West Virginia Politics

I grew up in West Virginia Politics. My Father was a West Virginia Political Leader in the Legislature. West Virginia Politics is strange by national political standards. There are numerous political leaders in the State of West Virginia who are registered democrats, but would be republicans in any other state but West Virginia. There are some liberal Democrats in West Virginia who refer to ultra conservative Democrats as "Closet Case Republicans" or D.I.N.O.'s (Democrat in Name Only) The History of the religious evangelical movement has much to do with the excessive conservatism of the democratic party in West Virginia Politics. In 1976 Jimmy Carter was running for president, Jimmy Carter was a devoutly religious man and the church people thought very highly of him. Mr. Carter was not the greatest president but he was highly respected for his humility and his humanity. Thousands of "church people" became active in West Virginia Politics. Jimmy Carter catered to a christian philosophy but he never tried to use his religion to enforce a political agenda because he respected the separation of church and state as mandated by the constitution. This had a tremendous impact on West Virginia Politics as Mr. Carter easily won the state and the presidency in 1976. However Mr. Carters religion was not translated into a social agenda and as a result certain ultra conservative clergymen were disappointed with Mr. Carters performance on issues such as abortion. Ronald Reagan began to cater to the social agenda of the religious conservatives in 1980 when he ran for president as a means of undermining the Carter camps core constituency that consisted of southern religious people. Carter was the former governor of Georgia and had a large share of southern religious people among his core supporters. Ronald Reagan won the election, and there was a huge migration of southern religious voter out of the democratic party into the republican party on the national level. In West Virginia Politics , that migration from the democratic to the republican party never happened as the evangelical voters stayed put, and became firmly entrenched in the Democratic hierarchy. Thus West Virginia Politics is quite odd in that we have a huge number of democrats but liberals are a rare commodity. Stephanie Heck Huntington Cabell County West Virginia 25701 Send email to: webmaster at sheck dot com

Posted by Huntington West Virginia in West Virginia Politics at 13:12

Wednesday, February 23, 2005

Eisenhower Prayer

"We pray that peoples of all faiths, all races, all nations, may have their great human needs satisfied; that those now denied opportunity shall come to enjoy it to the full; that all who yearn for freedom may experience its spiritual blessings; that those who have freedom will understand, also, its heavy responsibilities; that all who are insensitive to the needs of others will learn charity; that the scourges of poverty, disease and ignorance will be made to disappear from the earth, and that, in the goodness of time, all peoples will come to live together in a peace guaranteed by the binding force of mutual respect and love. "Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1961

Posted by Huntington West Virginia in Historical Quotes at 07:12

Blogging Software Recommendation

For those of you who do not have a blogging application on your web site, I highly advise to get one. RSS blog feeds are really big right now, and thus blogs are a search engine magnet. I use a blogging program called Serendipity available for linux servers at www.s9y.org Good stuff for those who wish to use blogging to enhance your web presense. You do need root access to install this if your server is running in safe mode. Several of my customers have this software and they all love it as I run a small hosting ISP for a living. The Serendipity software has a WYSIWYG HTML editor built into it. It is PHP - MySQL driven and it has one little Java applet built in to it. The editor. The rest is PHP. I do Highly recommend that you try blogging. It is fun in addition to the technical benifits. Stephanie Sys Admin/ Sheck.com Send email to: webmaster@sheck.com

Posted by Huntington West Virginia in Computer Technology at 05:58

Sunday, February 20, 2005

Articles List

Here is a list of some of the articles that I have written. Feedback would be nice.

Robin on my Window Sill was in the kitchen today and A Robin landed on my window sill. An early arrival for spring in West Virginia. Just to think that crazy bird flew home early just to stop by my window and brighten my day with the anticipation of spring.

Stephanie From Stephanie Heck's Blog from Huntington WV Cabell County Metro Government Cabell County needs Metro Government badly, When I was a child thirty years ago, Lexington Ky. was just a wee bit bigger than Huntington, However the Lexington and Fayette County government merged into a metro government and the elimination of redundant. Iraq Election It bothers me a lot that U.S. Servicemen have died in Iraq, merely to facilitate an election that for the most part has been a beauty contest between Shiite and Sunni politicians in Iraq . If we allow the election of a theocratic Moslem government to Cost of medication Every time I turn on the television I am seeing a commercial for some sort of pharmaceutical medication or drug. The cost of medicine is much too high in the U.S.A. and frequently seniors are forced to choose between food and drugs that they need to stay healthy.

Linux Thoughts about Linux: The newest Macintosh / Apple machines have the traditional Apple/Mac desktop interface but the OS is a Linux Kernel ported to the Motorola processor. That's right folks the newest Mac's are an Apple version of Linux that differs Spring Fashion I have been looking at some of the new spring fashion selections in the department stores. Pastels are big along with bright colors, hemlines are up just a wee bit in spring fashion for the younger set and anything goes for mature women. Heel heights. Good Computer Advice Good Computer Advice By Stephanie Heck There are too many people opening infected e mail attachments, and getting virus infected machines as a result. Too many young children are using computers without proper supervision. The rules and guidelines for.. Yahoo Users You can now add this blog as a news feed to your personalized MyYahoo web page. You need to be signed into yahoo when you click on the link below. A page from yahoo will come up and ask. Huntington WVI was born and raised in Huntington WV and attended school in Huntington and Ceredo-Kenova. I have been working on computers and websites for a long time and can do almost anything web related. I am in Huntington for the purpose of supporting my... Iraq Election President Bush is patting himself on the back as the result of a successful election in Iraq. 44 people are dead yesterday as the result of Iraqi election violence. Some success! I wish to note for the historical record that the Hatfield and McCoy.. Is free web hosting really free? The purpose of this posting is to bluntly present the facts as it relates to "FREE" web hosting services. I am in the web hosting business and the point of my blog is to articulate rather than make money. I am out to make a point or two, offer A Picture of Stephanie Well I have had a few friends inquire as to what I look like! This is me. Inauguration The Presidential Inauguration is costing several million dollars. I am deeply concerned for the security of the event as I understand that several thousand federal and local officials are involved in security to abate any potential threat. It pleases me. Poem: Marks Upon The Wall Marks Upon The Wall There is an older lady On the other side of town. The outside of her house is pretty. The inside is run down. I wanted to hire a painter. Momma would not hear of it at all Nobody is painting over, Momma's marks upon the wall. It.. Stephanie Heck Send email to: webmaster at sheck dot com

Posted by Huntington West Virginia in Personal Blogs at 08:51

Saturday, February 19, 2005

Robin on my Window Sill

I was in the kitchen today and A Robin landed on my window sill. An early arrival for spring in West Virginia. Just to think tha crazy bird flew home early just to stop by my window and brighten my day with the anticipation of spring. Stephanie / huntington WV Send email to: webmaster at sheck dot com

Posted by Huntington West Virginia in Personal Blogs at 05:45

Cabell County Metro Government

Cabell County needs Metro Government badly, When I was a child thirty years ago, Lexington Ky was just a wee bit bigger than Huntington. However, the Lexington and Fayette County government merged into a metro government and the elimination of redundant service resulted in such a de facto tax break for the citizens that there was enough money left over for job development, and Lexington grew like Wildfire. Under a metro type government in Cabell County the residents of Ona and Milton would have an equal right to services with residents of Huntington. There goes the blasted municpal parking meters down the drain. Barboursville would no longer be able to run a speed trap on U.S. 60.

Culloden and Milton residents could have lower insurance bills due to better fire and ambulance services. This in theory would result in political autonomy for the citizens of Westmoreland in the Wayne county section of Huntington but the legislature could be petitioned to change that If Cabell County had metro government, all municipal police would be brought under the authority of the sherriff as deputies and an expanded Cabell County Commission would take the place of the city council in political authority. The state constitution mandates that the sherriff is the chief law enforcement officer in each county. There is really no need for a chief of police in a municipality as the state constitution mandates that position to the sherriff in a county wide status. All fire department and ambulance services within Cabell County would be brought under the authority of the Cabell County Commission and subject to equal funding so that those who live in the rural regions of Cabell County would receive equal service with those who live in the cities. Is tha not what good Cabell County government is all about, equality for all citizens under the rule of law? It is high time for Cabell County West Virginia to enter the 21th century. The citizens deserve better. Stephanie Heck Cabell County Huntington West Virginia

Posted by Huntington West Virginia in Cabell County West Virginia at 04:07

Monday, February 14, 2005

Iraq Election

It bothers me a lot that U.S. Servicemen have died in Iraq, merely to facilitate an election that for the most part has been a beauty contest between Shiite and Sunni politicians in Iraq . If we allow the election of a theocratic Muslim government to rise up in Iraq, the women of Iraq will pay the price. We may have given democracy to the Men of Iraq if successful, but what about the women of Iraq who are potentially left to suffer under Muslim laws that lessen the status of women in Iraq? We did not go there to liberate half the population of Iraq. or did we? Remember that women are a powerful voting block among our European allies. If we leave Iraq in a theocratic mess to the great detriment of the women and girls of Iraq, the political ramifications are staggering to the global prestige of the United States among our allies in Europe. If we share any value with the people of Iraq, perhaps we might share the American value of the separation of church and state being equally applicable to the mosque as well as a church. It scares me that U.S. officials have engaged religious leaders and factions in Iraq for the purpose of achieving a political goal. This is dangerous. We exploited religious extremists in Afghanistan when they were fighting invasion by the Russians 25 years ago, and the mistakes of that time came back to haunt us. I am a firm believer that the best way to promote respect for democracy in Iraq is to make the U.S. Constitution applicable to U.S. policy abroad, as well as to domestic policy within the U.S. I firmly support the troops, however I reserve the right to question the wisdom of those who command them. It would please me greatly if the U.S. Government would refrain from religious intrigues with religious factions overseas. Today the Shiites of Iraq are working with us while many of the Sunni's of Iraq are supporting the insurgents. In 1979, the Shiite clergyman Ayatollah Khomeini of Iran was our enemy, while the mild mannered Sunni people of Egypt were seeking peace with Israel through the Camp David accords via Anwar Sadat. It seems that over a 25 year period of time, the U.S. Government's religious position has conveniently inverted itself as to its relationship with Sunni and Shiite sects of Islam. The U.S. Constitution says the government shall have no right to a religious position. The Muslims do not trust us for the fact that our government manipulates religious factions for political ends, when the Muslims are well aware that our constitution requires the government to refrain from religion of any type. It is human nature to detest any government that forsakes its core principles. They hate hypocrisy for the same reasons we do. Stephanie Heck Huntington West Virginia USA

Posted by Huntington West Virginia in National Politics at 07:19

Cost of medication

Every time I turn on the television I am seeing a commercial for some sort of pharmaceutical medication or drug. The cost of medicine is much too high in the U.S.A. and frequently seniors are forced to choose between food and drugs that they need to stay alive. I am not normally one for federal regulation as an answer, but we need some sort of advertising restrictions on the drug industry, to keep the cost of these mega million dollar ad campaigns from driving the cost of medication up so high as to stop grandma from getting what she needs to stay healthy. I recently heard about a busload of seniors crossing the border just to save money on drugs. This is America and we need to keep the advertising industry from running up the cost of medicine if for no other reason than to show our respect for the needs of our elders. Some say an advertising ban or restriction on drugs is unconstitutional, but I remember that tobacco ads were removed from the radio and television many years ago...and nicotine is a drug is it not? Precedents have been established to justify restrictions. The money and elderly relatives that are saved may well be our own. As for protecting grandparents from corporate greed, I am all for it. Stephanie Heck

Posted by Huntington West Virginia in West Virginia Politics at 06:55

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Linux

Thoughts about Linux: The newest Macintosh / Apple machines have the traditional Apple/Mac desktop interface but the OS is a Linux Kernel ported to the Motorola processor. That's right folks the newest Mac's are an Apple version of Linux that differs little from other flavors of Linux except that it is configured for the Motorola processor as opposed to the Intel X86 chipset architecture. If you add a 32 bit Windows emulator this means the machine can run Windows, Macintosh, and Linux software on the same machine. Read up on this and learn more before deciding the future of information technology. If you remember a few years back, understand that the original windows 3.1 OS ran the Windows GUI (Graphic User Interface) as a PROGRAM running ON TOP of a DOS operating system. Windows 95 was the first version of windows that Integrated the proprietary GUI with the OS. Windows is the only OS that does this integration. With other Operating systems the GUI is not integrated but merely an application running on top of the OS much like Windows 3.1 was structured years ago.. This is why Linux offers a choice of several Desktop interfaces and a multitude of browser choices.. There is one interface that is similar to Windows in its look and feel. Many new Linux users make the mistake of treating a Linux machine like a windows machine or expecting it to behave like a windows machine. The primary theory behind Linux is To hell with Bill Gates, I want choices. DOS was an OS and Windows is basically an interactive television. It has been the intention of Microsoft to make windows machines a node on an interactive television network since the beginning. Why do you think NBC became MS-NBC ? Why did AOL merge with Time Warner. Bill gates is greedy but he is not stupid. DVD's are desktop digital TV, and as bandwidth speed goes up in the future Windows will become even more "multimedia capable" A.K.A. Interactive television. It has ben planned out that way since Windows 95 first hit the market. The purpose of Windows is to restrict your choices to those that Microsoft thinks best for you, Linux has no restrictions and is designed to fit the needs of the user as the user defines them, and therefore the Linux user does not need training wheels in the use of the machine. Linux is way beyond the control of the conglomerates and the agenda that motivates them. Linux is much less prone to crash than a Windows machine, because it is much more stable than Windows. I have a Windows machine that I call the Blue Screen Express because it crashes frequently right before I save my work....I have nicknamed that Machine The Kamikaze The best way to describe the debate between Linux and Windows is to compare the capitalism of the Wall Street Software Vendors who treat data as a legal commodity to be sold, in contrast to the digital intellectual socialism of the open source Linux community who collaborate on digital projects in the style of a Networked programmers kibbutz and treat data like food, each person has a right to as much as they need to consume. Windows is a proprietary system managed by corporate lawyers, and Linux is a collective compilation managed by programmers collaborating along a socialist model in the style of an intellectual Both systems are viable, but it is digital capitalism vs. digital socialism, and it has created a remake of the digital cold war online....COLD WAR II Wall street software vendors play an active role in Windows Ware but are merely limited to the software market in Linux because they cannot control the operating system. A linux machine is a computer that is happy to be a computer for its owner, Window's in contrast is merely a primitive interactive TV. A high tech rehash of old technology. Stephanie Heckwebmaster@sheck.com

Posted by Huntington West Virginia in Computer Technology at 22:24

Spring Fashion

I have been looking at some of the new spring fashion selections in the department stores. Pastels are big along with bright colors, hemlines are up just a wee bit in spring fashion for the younger set and anything goes for mature women. Heel heights are up a wee bit in footware but there are many sandals and slides available in the stores. I like the idea of bright colors and pastels to shed the doldrums of a long winter. Stephanie

Posted by Huntington West Virginia in Fashion at 02:47

Blog Export: Huntington West Virginia Blog, <http://www.sheck.com/serendipity/>

Friday, February 4, 2005

Yahoo Users

You can now add this blog as a newsfeed to your personalized MyYahoo web page. You need to be signed into yahoo when you click on the link below. <http://add.my.yahoo.com/rss?url=http://sheck.com/serendipity/rss.php> A page from yahoo will come up and ask you to click ok to add the feed.

Posted by Huntington West Virginia in Personal Blogs at 21:15

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Huntington Human Relations Commission

The Huntington Human Relations Commission announced yesterday its intention to lay off three employees unless it can secure emergency funding in short order, to avoid having the commission temporarily closing its office. The Huntington Human Relations Commission is what seems to be wrong with Huntington Government in general. It gives the appearance that department heads in municipal government think they can spend like there is no tomorrow and simply ask for more when the well runs dry. This situation gives the entire Huntington City Government a black eye. The fiscal year ends June 30th and the Huntington Human Relations Commission is already broke, and its 240,000-dollar budget for this year is gone. There is much to be said for the old clich'e "A fool and his money are soon parted". Sally Lind, in her capacity of executive director of the Human Relations Commission has a ethical and a professional responsibility to see to it that her subordinates conform to municipal standards of account management to the satisfaction of the city finance director. It is Sally Lind's responsibility to manage the commissions funding in such a professional manner that there is sufficient money to pay salaries and expenses throughout the entire fiscal year. She has failed to do so. If Huntington Human Relations Commission employees failed to notify or get approval from the city for purchases, then it is Sally Linds responsibility to ask the Mayor to fire the irresponsible employees who culpably fail to conform to the finance directors requisition procedures. She has failed to do so. The reason that the City of Huntington has established financial requisition controls is to make nonconformity a culpable act. I am certain the state auditor would agree. Failure to budget the money to last throughout the fiscal year when the city requires just that is a form of administrative negligence that well justifies termination of employment. She is responsible to keep her agency within budget as a professional, but far be it from me to accuse city hall of professionalism. There are only five employees within that office. Managing the budget is tantamount to managing a small business account. Not a hard job. Sally Lind claims this is a miscommunication with the cities finance department but in reality Mrs. Lind could have called the city finance director at any time to verify the balance of the commissions account and did not do so. The problem partially lies in the fact that Lind waited to the point of financial crisis to remind everyone who would listen that she was not capable of controlling the spending of her subordinates as though it was anyones fault but her own. Mrs. Lind has proven that she cannot stay within annual budget constraints; perhaps it is time for city council to put her on a weekly allowance. Why should the taxpayers pay a large salary to Sally Lind to run the budget into the dirt when there is no shortage of volunteers to do it for free. There is an office of the state human rights commission in Huntington; a redundant replication of services is a luxury the taxpayers cannot condone in austere times. I think perhaps I should apply for Sally Lind's job. I am not a bigot, nor am I a spendthrift, and I know how to manage a budget, and balance a checkbook. Am I over-qualified? Stephanie Heck

Posted by Huntington West Virginia in Huntington WV at 21:06

25701

I grew up in the 25701 Area. Huntingto WV and I will soon be starting a blogging service for those in Huntington West Virginia. 25701 is the Zip Code for Huntington West Virginia. I run a web hosting and web site design company in the Huntington WV area called Sheck Web Site Hosting. Stephanie Heck Huntington West Virginia

Posted by Huntington West Virginia in 25701 at 18:15

Huntington WV

I was born and raised in Huntington WV and attended school in Huntington and Ceredo-Kenova. I have been working on computers and websites for a long time and can do almost anything web related. I am in Huntington for the purpose of supporting my family here. stephanie@sheck.com

Posted by Huntington West Virginia in Huntington WV at 12:23