



WIKINEWS

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29 killed in Algerian floods

Floods in the Algerian town of Ghardaïa, a UN world heritage site, have killed at least 29 people according to local officials including Ali Belkhir, the head of public health for the north African country. Belkhir confirmed that "following these floods, we can sadly declare that 29 people have died." He also said that 84 people were injured, although the Algerian interior ministry has since lowered the toll to 48. Six hundred homes were also flooded in the incident, and several hundred people were evacuated by helicopter.

SpaceX rocket successfully orbits on fourth attempt

Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (SpaceX) successfully launched and sent into orbit a Falcon 1 rocket, which was launched yesterday at 23:15 UTC from the Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site at Kwajalein Atoll in the Pacific Ocean.

University of Calgary scientist Keith cracks carbon capture conundrum

A University of Calgary research team developed a new method for extracting carbon dioxide (CO2) directly from the air — a fundamental shift in carbon capture technology enabling capture of the most common greenhouse gas from so-called diffuse sources like aircraft, trucks and automobiles that

Top Stories

represent half of the greenhouse gases emitted globally.

Wikinews interviews Donald K. Allen, independent candidate for US presidency

While nearly all mainstream coverage of the 2008 Presidential election has focused on the Democratic and Republican candidates, the race for the White House also includes independents and third-party candidates. These prospects represent a variety of views that may not be acknowledged by the major party platforms. Wikinews has reached out to these candidates throughout the campaign and now presents an interview with Donald K. Allen of Youngstown, Ohio, an independent presidential candidate who registered with the Federal Election Committee in January 2007.

Wikipedia Current Events

on September 3, 2007. No human remains were found at the site.

- The United States Securities and Exchange Commission says it would extend the short-sale ban to as long as October 17 or up to three business days after the passage of the proposed bailout plan, but will not make it permanent.
- The Wall Street Journal reports that the short-sale ban fails to prevent stock-price declines, increases the volatility in the stock market and makes trading more expensive for investors.
- U.S. House of Representatives Majority Leader Steny Hoyer says that no Democrats who opposed the proposed bailout plan earlier this week have pledged to back it.

Wikipedia Current Events

The commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service and the most senior policeman in the United Kingdom, Sir Ian Blair announces that he will stand down from his post in December of this year, citing a lack of support from London Mayor Boris Johnson.

- A search team has found the wreckage of the airplane flown by adventurer Steve Fossett in the mountains of Madera County, California, and what appears to be some of his personal effects nearby. Fossett had disappeared

29 killed in Algerian floods

Floods in the Algerian town of Ghardaïa which is in the M'zab Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, have killed at least 29 people according to local officials and Ali Belkhir, the head of public health for the north African country.

Belkhir confirmed that "following these floods, we can sadly declare that 29 people have died." He also said that 84 people were injured, although the Algerian interior ministry has since lowered the toll to 48. Six hundred homes were also flooded in the incident, and several hundred people were evacuated by helicopter.

According to reports on Algerian national radio, there may also be undiscovered damage in towns nearby Ghardaïa, which is approximately 600 kilometres from the Algerian capital, Algiers.

The flooding was caused by storms that flooded a seasonal river, known locally as a wadi, which can rise quickly by around 8 metres.

Ghardaïa is the capital of the Ghardaïa Province, located on the edge of the Sahara desert, and it has a population of approximately 100,000. The city was founded in the 11th century and has a pyramid-style mosque at its center.

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Wikinews has reached out to these candidates throughout the campaign and now presents an interview with Donald K. Allen of Youngstown, Ohio, an independent presidential candidate who registered with the Federal Election Committee in January 2007. He says that his three major policies are "1. Take care of America and Americans first. 2. Turn our economy around. 3. Secure our borders."

Allen was previously interviewed by Wikinews, although the previous interview was only five questions long, and did not go into

the candidate's policy in much detail. As a result, Wikinews has decided to do a more in depth interview, which is available below.

Interview

Wikinews: For our readers who did not read the previous interview, could you please explain why you have decided to run for President?

Donald K. Allen: The vast majority of Americans are furious with their government, disappointed with their elected officials, and afraid of the direction our country has taken. After 150 years of Republican and Democratic control of Washington, they are looking for someone who will truly bring about a new course and return respect and accountability to our Nation. With Edmund Burke's "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing" encouraging me, I chose to challenge the two Goliath political parties and run as an independent, unaffiliated candidate for President of the United States of America.

On the economy

Wikinews: For many voters, the government's proposed \$700 billion dollar bail out of banks is a very important issue. What is your opinion on the bail out?

Donald K. Allen: If our government decides to bail out a private corporation's failure it will set a precedent for other bailouts, which will surely ruin our economy. Where will the money come from? Just print more Federal Reserve Notes that have nothing backing them up, or borrow it from China and the Middle East? I hope Congress rejects this proposal, because if it is passed our great grandchildren will inherit the debt, and inflation in this country will increase from the dilution of \$700 billion into the economy.

Wikinews: What do you think is the best way to address the current economic crisis?

Donald K. Allen: Let the private sector do the rescue, not the government. There is nothing in the Constitution that allows for or even hints at this action, and national security is not a justification.

On taxation

Wikinews: What will taxes be like if you become president?

Donald K. Allen: Both Senators Obama and McCain are talking about tax breaks. The Tax Code is already 67,000 pages thick and nobody understands it. Just dump it in favor of The Fair Tax Bill, which will repeal the 16th Amendment and do away with federal income tax. In its place will be a National Sales Tax of roughly 18 to 23 percent on all new products, but I would not tax food or medicine and not give out a monthly "prebate," which is included in the current Fair Tax structure. With wage earners keeping 25 to 35 percent of their income instead of the government taking it in income tax, the 18 to 23 percent will be more than affordable.

On immigration

Wikinews: What do you believe should happen to illegal immigrants in the United States?

Donald K. Allen: Regardless of what country they come from, they should return to their home countries. There are thousands of people around the world who are waiting for their legal immigration procedures to be finalized. Why should they have to wait sometimes years before being allowed into the USA when others just walk in? Return home and file for immigration the legal way. No amnesty.

Wikinews: What do you believe should be done to secure the borders with Canada and Mexico?

Donald K. Allen: We should complete a secure border fence on our southern border. It will not be 100 percent effective, but people who live on our borders where there are fences will tell you that they do work. Supplement the fence with unmanned aerial surveillance, infrared and motion detectors, and increased security personnel, and it will cut illegal immigration 95 plus percent.

Wikinews: What do you believe the guidelines on allowing immigrants into the US should be?

Donald K. Allen: Our immigration laws are sufficient. They simply need to be enforced. Follow the laws we have; they've worked for over 230 years. They worked for my maternal grandparents, who immigrated from Lithuania around 1900.

On foreign policy

Wikinews: What do you believe the government policy on war should be?

Donald K. Allen: Declaration of war should reside solely with Congress. The President is allowed some leeway in small conflicts that require immediate action. We should primarily be noninterventionist, but not isolationist. In nearly every foreign conflict, it should be up to the United Nations to decide on military intervention, but we all know how ineffective the UN has been. Why did the UN allow Idi Amin to slaughter his people, or the genocide in Darfur? The whole world looks upon the UN as a paper tiger.

Wikinews: What is your opinion on the war in Iraq?

Donald K. Allen: I believe it is coming to a resolution with both

the Iraqi government seeking a timetable and both Iraqi and US military forces finding success in quelling hostility. I cannot change what is in the past, but I can shape the future. I would seek total drawdown in Iraq within two years.

Wikinews: What is your opinion on the war in Afghanistan?

Donald K. Allen: The real focus of our "war on terror" should be where al Qaeda is, and that is primarily in eastern Afghanistan. The war against bin Laden and his group will continue, as will the war against the Taliban. It will not be an easy task, as we have already seen. More troops will be needed and more international cooperation to wipe out this societal cancer.

Wikinews: What is your opinion on the creation of a North American Union?

Donald K. Allen: I am totally against the formation of a North American Union. This is a goal of the Council on Foreign Relations, which you could call America's "shadow government." Both Obama and McCain are members of the CFR, as are many of President Bush's administrative staff. Who needs foreign affairs experience when the CFR is going to tell you what to do? I will investigate all work to date on this effort to create the NAU, including the NAFTA superhighway and Rudi Giuliani's law firm's involvement in it. There is a lot of "quiet" work that has already been done on the NAU project without the American public's knowledge. This will make the Teapot Dome scandal look like kids' play.

On other issues

Wikinews: Is there anything else you would like to say to people reading this article?

Donald K. Allen: If you think the

safe thing to do Nov. 4 is vote for the Republican or Democratic candidate of your "choice," then you are sadly mistaken. Both will continue to lead this country down the road to a North American Union and the New World (socialist) Order. The only way "we the people" can shake up Washington and bring about revolutionary change in our government is through the election of a true independent President - our first since George Washington! Following is a list of my intentions. As President I Will:

1. Complete a secure border fence on our southern border.
2. Sign The Fair Tax Bill to rejuvenate economy.
3. Establish "loser pays" litigation reform and work tirelessly for real tort reform.
4. Transition our monetary system to a specie-backed currency and close the Federal Reserve System.
5. Seek to overturn Roe vs. Wade and return the decision to the States.
6. Work to establish term limits for Congress.
7. Promote oil drilling everywhere in the USA and its territories while encouraging development of all other energy providing systems.
8. Use increased oil royalty revenues from 7. to fund Social Security, while removing SS funds from Treasury to a real trust.
9. Close the UN Headquarters in New York and move it to Geneva.
10. Revoke Most Favored Nation status from China.
11. Withdraw from the North American Free Trade Agreement and renegotiate all trade agreements.
12. With respect to the First Amendment's law to not establish a National Religion, allow coexistence of religion and education throughout the Nation.
13. Establish compulsory National Service to include a Civilian

Conservation Corps and other non-military and military options.

14. Strictly enforce Article II to "preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States." This will include preventing the Supreme Court from usurping legislative powers and the legislature from overstepping its authority through misinterpretation or expanding on the Constitution's written word.

15. Privatize all Foreign Aid

16. Require initial and random drug testing of all federally-elected officials.

17. Ban access to Congressional offices and grounds of all professional lobbyists, political action committees, corporate representatives, and special interest groups. Allow individual citizens continued access to their elected representatives and senators.

Wikinews: Thanks for agreeing to be interviewed by Wikinews.

CanadaVOTES: Animal Alliance (AAEVPC) candidate Marie Crawford running in Toronto—Danforth

On October 14, 2008, Canadians will be heading to the polls for the federal election. Animal Alliance Environment Voters Party of Canada candidate Marie Crawford is standing for election in the riding of Toronto—Centre.

Marie is a Director of Animal Alliance of Canada, a separate but related organization. She volunteers her time for Animal Alliance, but unlike party leader Liz White, does not work out of their office.

Wikinews contacted Marie, to talk about the issues facing Canadians, and what they and their party would do to address them. Wikinews is in the process of

contacting every candidate, in every riding across the country, no matter their political stripe. All interviews are conducted over e-mail, and interviews are published unedited, allowing candidates to impart their full message to our readers, uninterrupted.

The incumbent in this riding is National Democratic Party (NDP) leader Jack Layton. Other than Crawford, trying for the riding are Liberal Andrew Lang, Sharon Howarth (Green), and Christina Perreault (Conservative), Marcell Rodden (Marxist-Leninist), and Bahman Yazdanfar (Canadian Action Party), and independent John Richardson. The riding has existed federally since 1979, and has the seat has been occupied by Bob Rae (NDP, 1979–1982), Lynn McDonald (NDP, 1982–1988), Dennis Mills (Liberal, 1988–2004), and Layton (NDP, 2004 to present).

For more information, visit the campaign's official website, listed below.

Interview

Why are you running for political office, why at the federal level, why this party, and why in this riding?

I am running for political office because I am confident that I can represent the positive ideals that many people in this riding share. I have lived in Toronto-Danforth for 16 years, and have owned and operated a restaurant in the area for 9 years. There are many people here that appreciate and respect other animals and and to see more done to reduce humans' impact on the environemt [sic] and have a safe, respectful future for their children. Things like banning plastic bags and eliminating takeout cups and packaging would be welcome ways

to help people reduce their impact on the environment.

Running at a Federal Level cannot address all of those issues mentioned above, but other issues can, like amending the Criminal Code to increase penalties for animal abusers, ending the Canadian seal hunt and shedding light on the fact that animal factory farming practices are the number one contributing factor to climate change - a fact that is repeatedly swept under the rug. I have been a part of Animal Alliance - the founder of the AAEVPC - for 15 years. The manner in which we have been trying to change laws to protect animals (years and years of lobbying and empty promises from politicians) has not been effective, so I was eager to be a candidate once the party was formed so I could make real change for animals if elected, and certainly raise awareness in the meantime.

Previous to this campaign, have you been politically involved? How will you apply your previous work/volunteer/life experience to serving your constituents?

I have worked on several election campaigns for a couple of notable [sic] politicians, and Aimal Alliance in itself is a legislative organization that I have been a part of for many years. I firmly believe that government reps are not "us or them", but people who should ultimately care about what is best for the people who have elected and put their faith in them to do what is best for all. These days, government has become more about greed, and many politicians have compromised their own ethics to simply get votes. I believe I am capable of leading by positive example and truly bringing a compassionate and respectful type of representation in this riding.

As you campaign around your riding, it's likely that some issues are mentioned more often by voters, than other issues. What would you say are the three hottest topics this election, in your riding? What would you and your party do to address these issues? Part of my campaigning is to ultimately embrace positive activities and foster a greater sense of compassion in people. By doing so, compassion for other animals and respect for each other [sic] and the environment will surely follow. Ultimately, this form of representation has no boundaries. In this riding we have many people opposed to the "big box" stores moving in to the area, of which I would actively attempt to allow only smaller family or entrepreneur-owned businesses [sic] to move in to the area. We also have the Leslie Spit, which includes a bird sanctuary that must continue to be protected.

Is there any misconceptions about you, your leader, or your party and platform? Strangely, some people still react to the "Animal Protection" platform like it's a scary term. - I even get suggestions that we should change the name so that the "Animal" part gets dropped. But once I continue to speak further with people, and they largely agree that the current Criminal Code is too weak when it comes to animal abusers, and agree that animals used for food must be treated humanely, and their own cat or dog is twirling around their feet and I can remind them that they probably care about other animals just as much as our party does and that we're just trying to work on their behalf, well, they become interested listeners and agree that animals are largely forgotten on a government level

There are more ways than ever to get your message out, from the traditional campaign fliers and lawn signs, to new media like websites, Facebook, and YouTube. The tried-and-true routes get the message out to the masses much easier, but digital alternatives are much more measurable in how many are seeing or interacting with your campaign. What seems to be the most effective, from your experience?

With such little time to really get media and material going in this election, I can't say for sure at this time. Perhaps we will see what's been most effective after the election!

University of Calgary scientist Keith cracks carbon capture conundrum

A University of Calgary research team developed a new method for extracting carbon dioxide (CO₂) directly from the air — a fundamental shift in carbon capture technology enabling capture of the most common greenhouse gas from so-called diffuse sources like aircraft, trucks and automobiles that represent half of the greenhouse gases emitted globally.

Professor David Keith, Director of University of Calgary's (UofC) Institute for Sustainable Energy, Environment and Economy (ISEEE) and a team of researchers from UofC's Energy and Environmental Systems Group built and operated a prototype system this summer producing results that compared favourably with commercial carbon capture systems. Two 'provisional' patents have been filed on the technology but Keith warns there are still "many pitfalls along the path to commercialization."

Using a process adapted from the

pulp-and-paper industry that halves the cost of CO₂ air capture in their custom-built tower, Professor Keith and his team captured the equivalent of about 20 tonnes per year of CO₂ (approximately equal to the yearly output of one person in North America) directly from the air with less than 100 kilowatt-hours of electricity per tonne of carbon dioxide on a single square metre of scrubbing material.

"This means that if you used electricity from a coal-fired power plant, for every unit of electricity you used to operate the capture machine, you'd be capturing 10 times as much CO₂ as the power plant emitted making that much electricity," explains Professor Keith.

A report co-authored by Keith in the American Chemical Society's journal *Environmental Science & Technology* explains "nearly all current research on carbon capture and storage (CCS) focuses on capturing CO₂ from large, stationary sources such as power plants. Such plans usually entail separating CO₂ from flue gas, compressing it, and transporting it via pipeline to be [stored] underground."

Using CO₂ air capture technology, "a company could, in principle, contract with an oil sands plant near Fort McMurray to remove CO₂ from the air and could build its air capture plant wherever it's cheapest — China, for example — and the same amount of CO₂ would be removed," says Professor Keith in a UofC press release.

"While it's important to get started doing things we know how to do, like wind power, nuclear power, and 'regular' carbon capture and storage," Professor Keith

continues, "it's also vital to start thinking about radical new ideas and approaches to solving this problem."

ISEEE's Executive Director David Layzell points out that "energy-efficient and cost-effective air capture could play a valuable role in complementing other approaches for reducing emissions from the transportation sector, such as biofuels or electric vehicles."

Today in History

1283 – Dafydd ap Gruffydd the Prince of Wales, the last native ruler of Wales to resist English domination, was executed by drawing and quartering.

1908 – The original incarnation of the Pravda newspaper was founded by Leon Trotsky, Adolph Joffe, Matvey Skobelev and other Russian exiles in Vienna.

1918 – World War I: Following his armed forces' defeat to the Allied Powers, Tsar Ferdinand I of Bulgaria abdicated in favor of his son Boris III.

1981 – The Hunger Strike by Irish Republican Army prisoners at the Maze jail in Belfast ended after seven months and 10 deaths.

1993 – Soldiers from Malaysian, Pakistani and U.S. armed forces attempted to capture Somali warlord Mohamed Farrah Aidid in the Battle of Mogadishu.

October 03 is German Unity Day; National Foundation Day in South Korea

Quote of the Day

As societies grow decadent, the language grows decadent, too. Words are used to disguise, not to illuminate, action: you liberate a city by destroying it. Words are to confuse, so that at election time people will solemnly vote against their own interests. ~ Gore Vidal

Word of the Day

dally v

1. To waste time in voluptuous pleasures, or in idleness; to trifle.
2. To interchange caresses, especially of a sexual nature.
3. To delay unnecessarily; to while away.

About Wikinews

We are a group of volunteer journalists whose mission is to create a diverse community where citizens from around the globe (including **you**) can collaborate to report the news on a wide variety of current events. By making our content perpetually available for free redistribution and use, we hope to contribute to a global digital commons.

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