

THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER

The Voice of Benton County Democrats

August 2004 Issue

Matt Kizerian, Editor

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From the Chair

Wow, we really had a good turnout for the Independence Day parade in Pasco. The entry turned out really well thanks to the planning by Laurel Piippo and Rick Gleitsman, hard work by John David, our 8th LD senate candidate and all around good guy, Dean Burrows, who lent us his truck and trailer, Kendall Miller who supplied us with hay, music and muscle, Jim Dillman, Cynthia Dillman, John Latta, Bob Parazin, Margaret Munro, Heather and Rick Dillender, and William Bradt, aka Thomas Jefferson, who all worked on the decorations and then donned 1776 costumes to ride or walk in the parade. Margery Dickinson walked as our drill team, Bob Bowersock, Kristin Eby, Leona Hassing, Anne & Matt Kizerian, Skip Yelding, Jerad Koepp, Regina Amadeo and others who joined us as part of the general merriment. A special thanks goes to the Richland Light Opera for the loan of the costumes.

We'll reprise our entry for the Benton/Franklin Fair parade on August 21st, 10:00 am in Kennewick. We have invited local Labor organizations to walk with us wearing their union T-shirts. We've had some positive responses and hope to have a great group to show our solidarity this election year.

We signed up new voters on July 4th at our table in Columbia Park, spent time with Gabriel Portugal, Franklin County Chair and his daughters and enjoyed the day and the fireworks that night.

The biggest announcement is the choice of our campaign headquarters at 115 W. 1st Ave. in Kennewick. We don't

have a phone number as of this newsletter, but we hope to have it soon. Stop by and see us or, better yet, call me to schedule some time to work at the headquarters. If you already volunteered to work at the headquarters and I haven't called you yet, please give me a ring. There is much to be done if we're going to win this presidential race and elect senators and representatives at the State, 8th LD and 4th CD levels.

I hope you all watched the Democratic Convention. It's heartening to see a few thousand Democrats who represent the millions of us galvanized by the wrong direction this administration has taken us.

Mimi Latta, BCDCC Chair

Upcoming Events

Summer Picnic

Our annual summer picnic will be on Friday, August 20, 5:30 pm at the southern-most gazebo in Howard Amon Park, Richland near the new Community Center. We will furnish hot dogs, hamburgers or vegetarian equivalent, buns, condiments, sodas, beer, wine. Those attending are asked to bring a side dish to share.

If your last name begins with:

A-I, please bring a dessert.

J-R, please bring a salad (potato, Caesar, garden, pasta)

S-Z, please bring a side dish—spaghetti, baked beans, corn bread, etc.

Many candidates will be at the picnic to speak and answer your questions.

Benton County Fair

Fair Booth Update—Our Fair Booth has been removed from storage and assembled. The counters are now patriot blue and the columns have been scrubbed and repainted. It will be stored at our Headquarters until Fair time. If you'd like to sign up for assembling, decorating and dismantling duties, PLEASE sign-up at one of our meetings or call Michele Levenite directly at 375-0392.

Congratulations!

We read with pride about Madison Storm in the *Tri-City Herald*. He was elected as one of 2 "senators" to represent the state of Washington at the American Legion Boy's Nation training camp in Washington D.C. We aren't surprised that Madison was selected, but we are impressed to note that he is one of only 96 in the nation to go to the camp.

Carry on, Madison. We'll be happy to watch your progress and we're pleased to have you on our side!

August BCDCC Meeting

The August Central Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 18th, at the Richland Library. Come early and enjoy light snacks with fellow Democrats. The social begins at 6:00 pm; the meeting follows at 7:00.

Candidate Appearances

Leona Hassing is in the process of scheduling state and local Democratic candidate appearances at our booth. The list isn't finalized yet, but it WILL be published in the Herald on Friday, August 20th or Monday, August 23rd.

Newsletter Submission Policy

Everyone is invited to submit material to the newsletter. Personally written material should be kept to 125 words or less. Submissions of excessive length will be returned, and a shorter revision requested. Reference articles will be summarized, or edited to an appropriate length.

The submission deadline for letters and reference articles is the 3rd Sunday of each month. Calendar items and brief event information may be submitted up to the 4th Sunday.

Due to limited space, material received earliest will receive priority consideration. Reference articles without publication name, date, and author will not be considered. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions. Edited submissions will be returned for review by the 4th Wednesday.

Please send submissions to:

bencodems_newsletter@earthlink.net

E-mail text is preferred. To mail submissions, or for questions, please call Matt at 509-585-4900.

Upcoming Events—Con't

8th Legislative District

Lately, I've seen some letters to the *Tri-City Herald* from citizens endorsing Republican candidates for 8th LD positions, but I haven't yet noticed any supporting our own Democratic Candidates! The people living in Washington's Eighth Legislative District (most of you!) are really fortunate to have a full slate of serious Democratic candidates this election season. Let the community know you think so by writing letters to endorse them. In case you've forgotten who they are, the 8th LD candidates deserving your Democratic vote are:

State Senate: John David (web:

www.johndavid4statesenate.com)

Leg. Pos 1: Rick Dillender (email: hrdillender@earthlink.net)

Leg. Pos 2: Jerad Koepp (web: www.jeradkoepp.com)

Please support these candidates. Lend a hand in their campaigns. They will represent you in State government, and they represent our hope for a better future. Learn more by visiting BCDCC Headquarters at 115 W. 1st Ave. in Kennewick, or meet the candidates at local Democrat gatherings (see the calendar in this newsletter), or contact them by phone, email, or just visit their websites. They are all capable leaders worthy of your support, and each is the only D running in their respective races. (There will be Rs running against them, so please help them win!)

As a big part of the effort, don't forget to VOTE in the Primary Election on September 14th, and in the General Election on November 2nd.

Have a good and happy summer!

John Latta, 8th LD Chair

Bumper Sticker Ad Campaign

The MoveOn bumper stickers we purchased saying:

~~Mission~~ Nothing
Accomplished
Beat Bush in 2004 • moveon.org

are selling well. If we raise approximately \$1000, we can buy a half page ad in the *Tri-City Herald*. If we can raise more, we'll purchase a larger ad. We have nearly 500 bumper stickers to sell, can we interest you in one or more? Don't you have friends who really need to help us get the message out?

Event Reports

Yakima Cheney Protest

We had a blast! 15 rabid, anti-Cheney democrats ... on a serious road trip to declare their dissatisfaction with the current administration!

We coordinated our arrival, etc. with Richard Gaulke and Tony Landreau in Yakima. It worked out perfectly. Richard met our bus as planned. He directed us to a location that was on Cheney's route to the speaking venue; a high school.

We brought our signs, water, etc. and marched and yelled as much as we could. Some of our protesters even claim to have had eye contact with Cheney himself, his wife and or Dino Rossi. But it could have been the heat too.

The police split us up into two distinct groups. One to the north and east of the venue. But it worked out fine. We stopped for lunch on the way back. A big THANKYOU to the local Operating Engineers in defraying the cost of the trip!

Bob Parazin

Local News

Democratic Party MeetUp

The next Democratic MeetUp will tackle the issue of Tort Reform. 7 pm sharp, Tues, Aug. 10th at DS Watkins, Auburn & Canal in Kennewick. Guests speakers will include George Fearing, a public protection attorney, who in the past has brought suit against businesses, governments and professionals for the unfair, illegal and unlawful treatment of citizens. We're also expecting additional speakers to round out this most timely issue.

Tri-Cities Democrats

Even though it was the Fourth Of July weekend, many gathered in Leslie Groves Park, Richland, for the monthly meeting of the Tri-City Democrats. After enjoying the picnic/potluck, hosted by Brenda and Stan Stave, the group was updated with reports from the chairs of Benton County, Franklin County and the 8th Legislative District, a campaign message from Sandy Matheson and a variety of other announcements.

The speaker for the evening was Zona Lenhart, Franklin County Auditor, talking about the new election procedures for the Primary and General Elections.

Our next meeting will be at the home of Scott and Beverly Jennings, 324 Casey, Richland. Join us, Friday, August 6th, for a potluck meal at 6:00 and the program at 7:00. Along with your food and beverage to share, Beverly, our hostess, is asking everyone to bring a chair. The speaker for the evening will be Cindy Laws, with a presentation entitled, "Full Frontal Politics".

Leona Hassing, President, Tri-City Democrats

Web Resources



★ <http://kendallmiller.blogspot.com> Into the Breach, Excellent blog by one of our own: Kendall Miller.

★ www.johndwards.com Kerry-Edwards campaign website—includes detailed policy issues, a campaign blog, and more.

★ www.buzzflash.com Up-to-the-minute compendium of progressive issues in the news (mostly links to other sites).

★ www.cspan.org On-line version of the cable channels which broadcast live House and Senate coverage.

★ www.bushorchimp.com Humorous website comparing Dubya with the simian sort. Says the site's creator, "I'm not a member of any political party, and I have nothing in particular against the man. I just think he kind of looks like a chimpanzee."



Book List

★ *What's The Matter With Kansas? : How Conservatives Won The Heart of America* by Thomas Frank

★ *Robbing Us Blind* by Steve Brouwer

★ *The 9/11 Commission Report: The Final Report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United*

States by National Commission on Terrorist Attacks

★ *Crimes Against Nature* by Robert F. Kennedy

★ *Losing America: Confronting a Reckless and Arrogant Presidency* by Senator Robert C. Byrd

★ *Civil Disobedience* by Henry David Thoreau

★ *Our Plan for America: Stronger at Home, Respected in the World* by John Kerry and John Edwards

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor may be submitted concerning local, national, or international issues, or as a forum for commentary on the newsletter. Please keep letters to 125 words or less. See submission information on the front page.

How to Win

The task before the Democrats is how to recapture the center of the national debate. How do we rebuild our ties with decent respectable folks who have been led to believe that the Democratic Party does not have their best interest at heart. We need to first understand that the desertion is not necessarily rational and that by misbehaving many Democrats have played into the hands of the rhetoric masters on the right.

We need to also understand that we can not regain these folks by engaging in irrationality in a different direction. Instead we need to be brutally sober about the realities of our proposed policies. In time, our goal is to have the image as a realist party that is pushed into activism by high ideals. If there is to be a difference between Republican and Democrat let it be a difference between out-of-touch, selfish crazies and rational, public spirited servants of the people.

1. Be absolutely scrupulous with the truth. Every exaggeration plays into the hands of the opposition and gives the people in the middle no real choice. A proper choice is what we want to give them.
2. Democrats need to find their power in virtue instead of the technical prowess of manipulation. Manipulation may win elections in the short run but good leadership is not only better for the country but wins elections repeatedly.
3. The best defense for an apparent weakness is to admit the weakness and frame it yourself before the other side gets a chance to frame it. Do not presume for a minute that you can hide it. The cover-up is always worse than the crime.
4. Don't over-reach when you criticize the opposition. It may make a good sound bite and it may feel good at the moment. It may even be a great crowd-pleaser. But in the end it

leaves a tremendous vulnerability that puts the weapon of truth into the hands of the opposition.

5. Keep landing on universal values that have broad appeal. You may have to say no to a vocal but narrow party segment. But if you have strong, broad support the narrow group will either come along or not be missed.
6. Be realistic about the role of business and commerce in our society. Fair and competitive business practices provide a good standard of living. But by their nature businesses are amoral. Not immoral or evil but just lacking in any desire that does not contribute to the bottom line. One effective method of enhancing that bottom line is to destroy competition and the efficiency it enforces. That's why appropriate regulation is necessary, to protect citizens from businesses running wild and, in the end, to protect businesses from each other.
7. When leadership is ineffective or deceitful the best tool is its own empty promises. We should leave no child behind, really! We should have clear skies and clean water, really. Our forests should be healthy, really.

Kendall Miller

Event Reports—Con't

Tri-Cities Cheney Protest

The following is an excerpt from a July 27th article in the *Tri-City Herald*:

Bob Anderson stood stoically Monday as drivers honked and yelled what they thought of his cardboard sign, which read, "Cheney Sold Us Out."

Anderson, a state support enforcement officer and longtime Democrat, said he doesn't usually rally against politicians but had to voice his dissatisfaction with Vice President Dick Cheney, who was in the Tri-Cities for a Republican fund-raiser.

"I couldn't let him leave here without knowing there are people who disagree with him very strongly," the 48-year-old said.

Anderson and about 50 other demonstrators lined a block of North Columbia Center Boulevard in Kennewick

to show their dissatisfaction with the Bush administration and particularly Cheney.

The vice president stopped briefly in Kennewick to help raise money for Republican Dino Rossi, who is vying to be Washington's next governor.

Armed with picket signs and American flags, the demonstrators waved at passers-by and aired what they think is wrong with the current administration. The war in Iraq appeared to be one of the group's main concerns.

"We don't have any business invading and conquering a sovereign country," said Julie Nelson, 45, of West Richland. "We have people who can" help themselves living in the states, yet we're fighting a war in Iraq."

Richland Democrat Rick Dillender, who is running for an 8th District legislative seat in the state House, said the Bush administration's decisions won't benefit the country.

"What it really boils down to is they have a policy of giving up long-term needs and long-term goals for the short term," he said.

John David, another Richland Democrat seeking an 8th District seat, argued that Bush administration policies don't benefit the common person who toils away at work every day.

"They're forgetting about the people who work for them," said David, a sheet metal worker who has lived in the Tri-Cities for 25 years.

State Committee Woman

We'll hold the election in the August 18th meeting at the Richland Public Library. If you'd like to run, be prepared with a 3-minute speech. You may have another member nominate you or have two members split the 3-minute time period.

Mimi Latta, BCDCC Chair

Attention All Candidates

The Democratic Reporter is inviting any Democratic candidates to include campaign fliers inside the newsletter mailings. Copies (840) must be provided by the candidate, and must be printed on 8½×11 paper. The deadline is the first Tuesday of the month; please contact Chair Mimi Latta (627-2679) or Editor Matt Kizerian (585-1122) for arrangements.

August 2004

Democratic Candidates

If you are aware of other candidates, please send names and positions to bencodem_s_newsletter@earthlink.net.

Governor: Christine Gregoire,
Ron Sims

Lt. Governor: Brad Owen

Senator: Patty Murray

Secretary of State: Laura Ruderman

State Treasurer: Michael (Mike) J. Murphy

State Auditor: Brian Sonntag

State Insurance Commissioner:
Mike Kreidler

Public Lands Commissioner: Mike Cooper

Attorney General:

Deborah Senn, Mark Sidran

State Supreme Court Justice:

Robert Alsdorf, Mary Kay Becker

4th CD Congressperson:

Craig Mason, Sandy Matheson,
Richard Wright

8th LD Representative: Jerad Koepp,

Rick Dillender

16th LD Representative, Pos. 1:

Jim Barnett, Tom Schmerer,

16th LD Senator: Becky Francik

Events

August

- 4 Democracy for America meeting, Richland Public Library, 7:00 pm
- 7 4th CD Committee meeting, Mid-Columbia Library, 1620 S. Union, 1:00 pm
- 10 Democratic Party MeetUp, DS Watkins on corner of Auburn and Canal, 7:00 pm
- 11 Exec. Board meeting, BCDCC Headquarters, 7:00 pm
- 14 Deadline to register for Primary Election
- 18
- 20 Annual Summer Picnic, 5:30 pm
- 21 Benton-Franklin County Fair Parade, Kennewick
- 22 Assemble County Fair Booth, 8:30 am
- 24-28 Staff Fair Booth

September

- 14 Primary Election

October

- 2 Deadline to register for General Election

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1	2	3	4★	5	6	7★
8	9	10★	11★	12	13	14★
15	16	17	18★	19	20★	21★
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

13 Absentee Ballots mailed

November

- 2 Election Day
- 6 Post-Election Party



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