

# THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER

*The Voice of Benton County Democrats*

May 2006 Issue

www.bencodems.org

Matt Kizerian, Editor

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<i>Man</i>	Dann Lewis	969-0277

## From the Chair

Our county convention was terrific. We had a good turnout for an off-year and much discussion on the issues and platform. Our delegates to the State Convention should have a firm background for platform discussion there.

At our April 19th meeting, we voted to endorse Richard Wright and Maria Cantwell. Though no one credible has come forward to challenge either one, we can always co-endorse another candidate if anyone viable steps up. The speakers at the meeting gave us both sides of the argument for moving the county seat to Kennewick. Judge Staples also said that he thinks Max Benitz doesn't represent all of the people of the county, but only those in Prosser. He and Craig Bestebreuer think the seat should remain in place, but this could make them vulnerable. Do you know of a good candidate for Benton County Commissioner, position 2? They'd have to live in Benton City, Prosser or the rural county area. If you know of anyone, we could possibly put a Democrat in office again to represent all of the county.

Mimi Latta, BCDCC Chair

## Committee Chairs Needed

Benton County Democratic Central Committee is looking for people to fill vacancies as Finance Committee Chair and as Newsletter Committee Chair. If you're interested in either position, please call Mimi Latta at 627-2679 or email to: BenCoDem@verizon.net. These vacancies are only for the rest of 2006. If you'd like to try your hand, but

aren't sure if you'd want to do either job for 2 years, the next 6 months could give you an idea of whether you're right for the job.

We need to keep BCDCC vibrant and active and both positions are extremely important to the organization.

Mimi Latta, BCDCC Chair

## Upcoming Events

### May BCDCC Meeting

Our May BCDCC Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 17th at 7:00 in the Richland Library Conference Room.

### Gala Banquet

The Washington State Democratic Committee invites you to attend the 2006 State Democratic Convention Gala Banquet, June 2nd at 6:30 pm at the Yakima Convention Center, 10 N 8th St in Yakima.

Please join special guests, Senator Maria Cantwell and Governor Christine Gregoire, along with convention delegates and alternates, state and federal elected officials, and other VIPs. Tickets are \$65 and can be purchased online at [www.wa-democrats.org](http://www.wa-democrats.org).

### Drinking Liberally

Drinking Liberally has had a venue change. Many of the folks wanting to attend have expressed the difficulty of attending at the earlier time of 5:30 and/or not liking the dark quarters of the Tuscan Lounge. So in response, I took the liberty of talking with the manager of Atomic Ale. He was very warm to the idea of having the group move to Atomic and the politics fit as well. So join us at our new location and new time! Atomic Ale, 1015 Lee Blvd in Richland from 7:00 pm until...?

## Columbia County Dems

We down here in Columbia County have just started our Democratic organization as of mid-February, 2006. As you all know, there has not been an official Democratic organization here for many years. We would like to host an old-fashioned political summer picnic here in Dayton for the counties in the 5th CD and the 16th LD. We would invite candidates—Peter Goldmark, Cantwell, George Fearing, others? Potluck picnic food, live music, some rousing political speeches. Either in our city park or the nearby Lewis and Clark Trail State Park. What do you all think of the idea? We are suggesting Sunday, July 2, as the date. We get into harvest activities if we get much later in the summer than that. How does that date sound? Please respond with your reactions so we can get going on our plans. I have already extended an invitation to Goldmark. So let me know; hope you like the idea and can attend.

Cathy Lee-Haight, Chair  
Columbia County Democrats

*Ed. Note: Email your suggestions to our Chair, [chair@bencodems.org](mailto:chair@bencodems.org)*

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## 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.

Please submit material for consideration by the date listed in the calendar for each month. 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.

Please send submissions to Matt Kizerian at [editor@bencodems.org](mailto:editor@bencodems.org)  
E-mail text is preferred. To mail submissions, or for questions, please call Matt at 585-4900.

# May 2006

## Cantwell on Gas Prices

“We learned today that there is evidence of anomalies occurring in our oil and gas markets,” said Cantwell, a member of the Senate Commerce and Energy Committees. “That’s of grave concern when we’ve seen gas prices skyrocket over the past year. Of course the forces of supply and demand play a role here, but we have to look deeper. It is more than evident from today’s testimony from industry representatives, former regulators and state officials that we need to keep history from repeating itself and make sure oil and gas markets function the way they’re supposed to. Consumers have no confidence that the prices they are paying at the pump are in fact valid and borne out by market fundamentals. Today we heard clear bipartisan calls for congressional action and far more vigorous market monitoring and enforcement by federal watchdogs.”

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## Events

### May

- 17 May BCDCC Meeting, Richland Library Conference Room, 7:00 pm
- 26 Last day to submit material for the June newsletter

### June

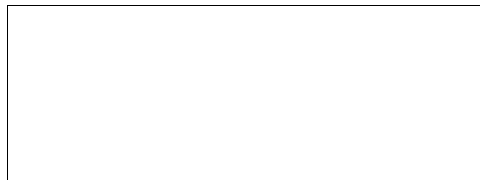
- 13 June Exec. Committee Meeting, Kennewick Union St. Library, Room B, 7:00 pm
- 21 June BCDCC Mtg., Kennewick Union St. Library, Room A, 7:00 pm
- 26 Last day to submit material for the July newsletter

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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28	29	30	31			



BCDCC Parade entry for 2006 Cinco de Mayo parade in Pasco, May 6th.



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