

# THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER

*The Voice of Benton County Democrats*

November 2005 Issue

www.bencodems.org

Matt Kizerian, Editor

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## From the Chair

On the state level, vote 'No' on I-330 and I-912 and 'Yes' on I-901 and I-336. You can find more information on all the initiatives at [www.wademocrats.org](http://www.wademocrats.org) or [www.lwvwa.org](http://www.lwvwa.org)—the League of Women Voters WA State website.

There's so much going on it's hard to stay focused. The Valerie Plame case, Tom DeLay's arrest, Bill Frist's investigation, the attack on Davis-Bacon in the Gulf states, the attempt to pass oil drilling in the ANWR via the budget to avoid a filibuster, Harriett Miers, logging in protected areas...is there any part of America that isn't under attack by the Bush administration?

Though the media claim that Democrats don't have a message, they're the ones missing the writing on the wall. Our message is the same as it was five years ago. We believe in a fair shake and civil rights for all—not just when it's easy, family wage jobs, graduated taxes, and lower deficit spending. We believe in family farms, small business, privacy to make decisions about our bodies, conservation of the Earth, and a sense of community. We don't all have exactly the same values, but we know this administration doesn't represent us or traditional American beliefs. Keep emailing Patty Murray, Maria Cantwell & Doc. They'll get the message.

I hope we'll see you at our November 5th Autumn Festival at the Richland Red Lion Hanford House. It's our only fundraising event this year and will raise money needed for the February caucuses. We were all asked for a lot of

money last year so we laid off as much as possible. If you can't attend the dinner dance, I hope you'll consider supporting Benton County Democrats with a contribution. We're working hard to find candidates, represent you at the state level, improve our voter database for candidates, bring you a good newsletter, etc.

Also, if you've visited our website, you may have noticed that we had to change the date of our Red Cross blood drive. We now have scheduled the drive for January 24, 2006 from 3:00-7:00 pm. We'll have more information on it in our December newsletter.

Speaking of December, our holiday party has been set for Saturday, December 17th from 1:00-6:00 pm in the Clipper Ridge Clubhouse. If you can help on the party planning committee, please call me to volunteer. It's a nice way to "wrap up" a busy year and doesn't take long to plan.

Mimi Latta, BCDCC Chair

## Upcoming Events

### Autumn Festival

Don't Miss the Autumn Festival, "An Evening of Elegance", on Saturday, November 5th at the Richland Red Lion. The evening will begin at 6:00 pm with a Social Hour; dinner will be served at 7:00 pm.

Along with the 4-course dinner, the evening's events will include a local wine and art auction (both live and silent, and dancing.

### Artists

Tom McClelland  
Dan McCool  
Barb Chen  
Deborah Watkins  
Judith Loomis  
Mike Rastovich  
Bobi Wilson  
Jenny Johnson  
Luann Ostergaard

### Wineries

Bookwalter  
Hogue

Hedges  
Columbia Crest  
Alexandria-Nicole  
Vine Heart

Tickets are \$65.00; proceeds from the evening go to funding the February caucuses, as well as supporting Democratic candidates as an alternative to the Republican mess we currently have.

People need to know they have an alternative to the present day political woes. Entrée Selection:

🍷 *Chicken Oscar*: Boneless breast of chicken topped with Chilean crab and asparagus.

🍷 *Marinated Beef Tenderloin*: Choice beef tenderloin marinated in red wine, garlic, and herbs. Slow roasted and finished with a rich port wine sauce.

🍷 *Vegetarian entrée*.

For tickets, call: 946-8140 or send your check and entrée selection to:

Autumn Festival  
% Hassing  
504 Cottonwood Dr.  
Richland, WA 99352

### November BCDCC Meeting

November's meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 16th at 7:00 pm at the Richland Library, Conference Room.

### 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 509-585-4900.



## Upcoming Events—Con'd

### Tri-City Democrats

Tri-City Democrats meeting will be at the Labor Hall on Friday, November 4. Social hour begins at 6:00 pm, meeting at 7:00 pm.

### Democracy for America

We'll be finalizing our plans for the showing of the Wal-Mart film AND going over a review the specifics of the Washington Initiatives voted on in November, and of course all the regular features...including some insight into the activities planned for the film showing.

See you at the Kennewick Library on Union, Thursday, November 10th at 7:00 pm!

Please sign up there if you haven't done so already, please! It's our KEY way of scheduling our meetings.

<http://dfalink.com/tri-cities>

Bob Parazin

### US Sec. of Ag. In Eastern WA

Secretary of U.S. Department of Agriculture will speak at the forum on November 3rd in Showalter Hall, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at Eastern Washington University in Cheney, Washington. Topics range from renewal of the Farm Bill in 2007 and all other agricultural programs (including the Food Stamp Program).

The visit is one of a series of forums being held across the United States relating to federal programs that aid U.S. farmers.

The Secretary, Mr. Mike Johanns, wants "to listen firsthand to farmers about their concerns and needs."

This is a viable opportunity for Agriculture and Rural Caucus members as well as all Democrats on the East Side to present their views and concerns relating

to rural and agricultural issues/problems to the administration in Washington, DC.

*Compiled from emails and online articles*

### Witness for Peace Continues

Witness for peace continues weekly

WCP's public peace witness is continuing on a weekly basis, with the day of the week rotating according to the following schedule.

Please join us from 4:00–5:00 pm on George Washington Way near Richland City Hall.

Sidewalk Schedule, 4:00–5:00 pm

Thursday, Nov. 3

Friday, Nov. 11

Saturday, Nov. 19

Sunday, Nov. 27

## Event Reports

### Tri-City Democrats

Members of the Tri-City Democrats met for their monthly meeting at the Richland Labor Temple on Friday, October 7th. In the absence of President Leona Hassing, Bob Parazin presided. After hearing reports from Franklin and Benton counties, signing a get well card for Betty King, and reporting that we collected \$142 for Hurricane Relief, Roy DeHart introduced the speaker for the evening, Mark Wilson.

Mark is planning a campaign as a Democrat for the position that MARIA CANTWELL presently holds. Mark came from a blue-collar background, is a veteran, has been a Bering Sea fisherman, and union member. His four main points were: Put an end to the war, Repeal the Patriot Act, End the costly war on drugs, Stop corporate welfare. His website is [votemark.org](http://votemark.org). He is founder of Vets for Peace.

The November 4th meeting will be hosted by Shirley and Norm Miller. Thanks to John and Mimi Latta for hosting this meeting.

Leona Hassing, President Tri-City Democrats

### Eastern WA Democratic Conference

The 2005 Eastern Washington Democratic Conference "Winning Eastern Washington," held October 14th & 15th, was an overwhelming success. The time is ripe for Democrats to gain ground in Eastern Washington. Republicans have grown too powerful in Eastern Washington and citizens have little to show for their votes. Throughout the weekend, necessary trainings, message and outreach strategies were discussed to prepare Eastern Washington for this opportunity.

Montana Governor Brian Schweitzer's Saturday morning address via videoconference was the perfect start to the power-packed day. The Montana Governor's positive message and down-to-earth nature captivated the audience. He noted that as Eastern Washington Democrats, we need to tailor our approach to fit the ways of our neighbors who surround us. Schweitzer believes the best way to win is to target the middle and make alternative energy our number one issue.

State Senate Majority Leader Lisa Brown's luncheon speech was memorable; she relayed her personal story on why and how she became a Democrat and encouraged the audience to share their personal stories with others as a means to bring more to the Party. Much of Eastern Washington was introduced for the first time to 4th Congressional District Candidate Richard Wright in his speech that followed.

*(Continued on page 3)*



### Web Resources

★ [www.dnc.org/blog.html](http://www.dnc.org/blog.html) The official DNC blog—discusses many different current topics

★ [www.ydwa.org](http://www.ydwa.org) Website of the Young Democrats of Washington

★ [www.horsesass.org](http://www.horsesass.org) Blog discussing Washington politics

★ [thinkprogress.org](http://thinkprogress.org) Discussions on a variety of current political and social topics

★ [www.tpmcafe.com](http://www.tpmcafe.com) A relatively new site by progressive blogger Joshua Micah Marshall. Guest bloggers host discussion on a variety of current political issues.



### Book List

★ *A Little History of the World* by E.H. Gombrich

★ *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* by Doris Kearns Goodwin

★ *The Truth (with Jokes)* by Al Franken

★ *Our Endangered Values: America's Moral Crisis* by Jimmy Carter

★ *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America* by Barbara Ehrenreich

★ *The Survivor: Bill Clinton in the White House* by John F. Harris

★ *The United States Constitution: What It Says, What It Means* by Eds. Caroline Kennedy & David Eisenhower

(Continued from page 2)

Two Congressmen brought the day to a close, Eastern Washington was ecstatic to be joined by US House Representatives Rick Larsen and Jay Inslee. Congressman Inslee encouraged any Democrats contemplating running for office to do it in '06.

The conference was a defining moment for Eastern Washington and Western Washington Democrats alike. Drawing resources from across the state to a central meeting point created a situation where connections were made, relationships were strengthened, and the people received the necessary tools for future success.

Jaxon Ravens  
Executive Director, WA State Dems

### **Institute for a Democratic Future**

I wanted to let you know of an upcoming, seven-month long political training for young people ages 21–35.

The Institute for a Democratic Future (IDF) is now accepting applications for the Class of 2006, its 9th class.

IDF was founded in 1997 by young people seeking to educate, motivate and inspire future Democratic and civic leaders in Washington state. Since graduating its first class in 1998, IDF has emerged as a forward thinking institute dedicated to assisting 25 emerging leaders each year expand their skill and knowledge of critical issues and the political process. Graduates of the program include State Representative Derek Kilmer '02, WashTech Founder Marcus Courtney '98, former Seattle City Councilmember Judy Nicastro '99, current Brier City Councilmember Sasha Doolittle '01, State Representative Aaron Peterson '00 (MN), and numerous legislative assistants, party activists, young professionals, non-profit organization executives and political campaigners.

Applications for the program must be postmarked on or prior to November 8th, and applications will be considered on a rolling basis.

For more information, visit the link below:  
<http://www.democraticfuture.org>

Dean M. Nielsen  
Washington State Director

## **Letters to the Editor**

### **Vote 'No' on I-330**

As a nurse, the best interest of my patients guides everything that I do. That's why I'm voting NO on I-330 this November—and I urge you to join me.

Any true medical malpractice reform measure must put patient safety first. That means preventing injuries from occurring in the first place by improving healthcare safety. And that means when patients are injured, they must have the right to their day in court.

I-330 fails to address critical patient safety needs. What's more, I-330 does nothing to reduce the costs of medical liability insurance. In fact, insurance rates aren't even mentioned anywhere in the initiative text!

I-330 does nothing for making our healthcare system safer for patients -- and that's the wrong solution for Washington. That's why I'm voting NO on 330 on November 8th—and I hope you'll join me.

But don't just take my word for it. Organizations representing more than 15,000 nurses across Washington state have already joined the effort to defeat I-330 this November, including:

- Washington State Nurses Association
- ARNPs United of Washington State
- Washington Association of Nurse Anesthetists
- Washington Chapter of American College of Nurse Midwives
- The Association of Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nurses

So when you hear I-330's proponents say that nurses are on their side, don't believe them. That's simply not true.

I'm proud to be standing with thousands of other nurses across Washington state who are voting NO on 330 this Election Day.

For the sake of our patients and all Washingtonians, I urge you to stand with us.

Sign the "NO on 330" online petition today at <http://ga3.org/campaign/no330>—and remember to vote NO on I-330 on November 8th!

Maggie Flanagan, RN

★★★

### **DNC Kickoff Day**

The Democratic National Committee is holding a national organization kick off day November 15, 2005.

This is Eastern Washington's opportunity to join in the Democratic nationwide effort to organize for Election Day 2006! Each party is invited to a national conference call with Governor Howard Dean that begins at 6:45 pm Pacific.

We currently have four organizing parties scheduled in Eastern Washington on the National website. Together we can do better. Every Democrat in Eastern Washington deserves to be welcomed to a party in their community. To ensure this happens, every one of us needs to take responsibility for the Democratic organization in our neighborhoods.

This is a prime opportunity to encourage your County/District PCOs to engage area precincts by inviting their neighbors to come together on this special day to move forward.

This is also an opportunity to ambitiously bring in new people to the Party. At the Eastern Washington Democratic Conference it was suggested to invite like-minded organizations to come and join our cause. I encourage you to contact and welcome your local Audubon Society, unions, and other such organizations to become active on November 15th.

To sign up to host a party, please visit: [www.democrats.org/events/create](http://www.democrats.org/events/create)  
To access materials for your party, please visit: [http://a9.gakamai.net/7/9/8082/v001/democratic1.download.akamai.com/8082/pdfs/20051024\\_nov15tips.pdf](http://a9.gakamai.net/7/9/8082/v001/democratic1.download.akamai.com/8082/pdfs/20051024_nov15tips.pdf)

Please do not hesitate to call me if you have questions putting your party together (509) 764-8578.

Keep it BLUE!

Autumn Sample  
Eastern Washington Field Manager  
Washington State Democrats

★★★

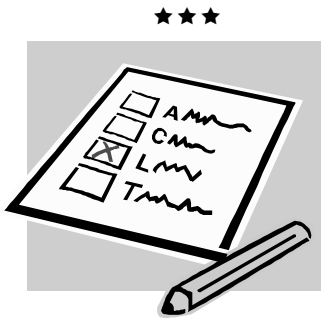
*Letters to the editor may be submitted concerning local, national, or international issues, or as a forum for commentary on the newsletter. Please keep letters to 125 words or less. Submission information on the front page.*

# November 2005

## Benton County Democrat of the Year

It's time, once again, to begin to consider who should be our Benton County Democrat of the Year. Last year, Bob Parazin was awarded the honor. It's our way of acknowledging the hard work and talents of the Democrat or Democrats who most exemplify what we'd like our members to be.

You can email Mimi Latta at: [chair@bencodem.org](mailto:chair@bencodem.org) to submit your nominee or call our voicemail service at 585-7682 before December 10th with your pick.



### Vote !!!

And if you've already voted—THANK YOU.

## Events

### November

- 3 US Sec. Of Agriculture speaks at Eastern Washington University in Cheney, 1:00–4:00 pm. See article on page 2 for further information.
- 4 Tri-City Democrats, Richland Labor Hall, 6:00 social, 7:00 meeting
- 5 4th CD Meeting, 10:00 am, place TBD
- 5 Autumn Festival, “An Evening of Elegance”, Red Lion Richland, starts 6:00 pm with social hour
- 8 General Election—Mail in your ballots!
- 8 November Exec Committee Meeting, Richland Fire Station Meeting Room, Geo. Washington Way, 7:00 pm
- 10 DFA, Mid-Columbia Library, Union Street, Kennewick, 7:00 pm
- 11-12 Fall State Central Committee Meeting, Ocean Shores
- 16 November BCDCC Meeting, Richland Library, Conference Room, 7:00 pm
- 25 Last day to submit material for the December newsletter

### 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			

### December

- 4 State Central Committee Annual Holiday Party, Seattle, Rainier Club
- 17 BCDCC Annual Holiday Party, Clipper Ridge Clubhouse, 1:00–6:00 pm
- 13 December Exec Committee Meeting, 7:00 pm
- 23 Last day to submit material for the January newsletter



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