

# THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER

*The Voice of Benton County Democrats*

October 2004 Issue

Matt Kizerian, Editor

## Contacts

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## From the Chair

This is it. There won't be time to get out another newsletter before the November election. I want to thank all of you who have put in so many hours and done so much already. When I worry about how this country is going to come back after the Bush administration, it makes me feel better to think about all of those who are willing to pitch in.

For those of you who have been thinking about getting involved in this election, the time is now. Work like the fate of America hangs in the balance. Work like the rest of your life will be affected by it.

Candidates and Precinct Committee Officers (PCOs) can use help walking their precincts. Candidates would love members who can stand and wave campaign signs for a couple of days before the election. We can use more callers at our Headquarters to contact voters in precincts without PCOs. We can use Democrats to be observers at the polls on election day and to phone those who haven't voted by the afternoon hours. We can use drivers in each city to assist those who are having trouble getting to the polls. I am asking you to step forward to volunteer for an hour or more a week through November 2nd. I wouldn't ask if it weren't important. I can't call each of you individually to ask you so I'm asking here and now.

This is a good year to be a Democrat. It's a good year to be an American voter with the chance to turn the country back from a dark future where citizens can be locked up with no charges

filed against them, no chance to speak to an attorney, no way to notify family. It's our chance to say America isn't an aggressor nation that begins wars in sovereign countries. We can strengthen security, retain our values and freedoms under the Constitution and keep America strong and safe. It's patriotic to voice dissent when those values are gutted.

Please pledge to remind 4 others to vote. Offer to drive them if they need a ride. So many fought and died for the right to vote—please vote to validate their sacrifice.

Mimi Latta, Chair

## Upcoming Events

### Free Showings: *Fahrenheit 9/11*



Edwin (Ed) Hoff will be sponsoring free showings of *Fahrenheit 9/11* at the TRAC in Pasco on October 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. He does not represent any political party and is sponsoring these showings because he feels *Fahrenheit 9/11* is a summary of what is happening in politics today, pointing out faults in both political parties. Mr. Hoff's daughter, Ruth Mertz, has organized the event; Ford Audio is donating their time and equipment.

Ms. Mertz said that she called both Democratic and Republican parties in the Tri-Cities to ask if they would put this event in their newsletters. The Benton County Republican Committee Chairman, Mr. Gene Astley, refused; the Franklin County Republican Committee Chairman, Mr. Ben Bennett did not return her call. The Benton County Democratic Central Committee is proud to announce these showings to encourage thoughtful discourse on the state of na-

tional politics.

The guest speaker will be Vicky Monk of *Military Families Speak Out*, an organization that is featured in the movie. Vicky has spoken in Japan, Canada, and Washington, D.C.

Ms. Mertz has expressly wished to accept donations for a nonprofit organization, "Homes for Our Troops", which builds homes for disabled soldiers.

Edwin Hoff is 88 years old and resides in Pasco. His can be contacted at 547-7274. Ruth Mertz resides in Kennewick. Her phone number is 735-1716, her email address is [rmertz@charter.net](mailto:rmertz@charter.net). Vicky Monk is from Seattle and can be reached at 206-550-8255.

Please invite friends who may not have seen this movie to see it with you this weekend.

Free Showings Of *Fahrenheit 9/11*  
at the TRAC in Pasco  
Sports Hall of Fame Room  
October 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm  
October 10<sup>th</sup> at Noon  
Guest Speaker, Vicky Monk  
"Military Families Speak Out"

Donations Gladly Accepted For Nonprofit Organization  
"Homes For Our Troops"

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month. Calendar items and brief event information may be submitted up to the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday.

Please send submissions to:

[bencodems\\_newsletter@earthlink.net](mailto: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

### Tri-Cities Democrats

The Tri-City Democrats met on Friday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, at the Labor Hall in Richland. After enjoying the potluck, the group was updated with county reports from Mimi Latta (Benton County) and Norma DeHart (Franklin County). Several announcements regarding upcoming county and state political events were shared. Action was taken to provide money from our treasury to be divided among local candidates. The remainder of the evening was spent reviewing the 4 initiatives and 1 referendum that will appear on the November 2<sup>nd</sup> ballot. Discussed were: Initiatives I-884 (1% tax to support Education Trust Fund), I-297 (Hanford clean-up), I-872 (replace 2004 Primary with Top-Two system), I-892 (non-tribal gambling establishments) and R-55 (charter schools).

The November meeting will be at the Richland Labor Hall, 1305 Knight Street with Judi Knutzen as the host.

Leona Hassing, President, Tri-City Democrats

### BCDCC Reorganization

According to the Washington State Democratic party, December 1<sup>st</sup> is the effective date for PCOs who were elected in the September 14<sup>th</sup> primary. Until that time, current PCOs will retain their seat and voting status.

The State Party is recommending that County and Legislative District reorganization meetings be held 45 days after the September 24<sup>th</sup> certification date of the Primary. That would mean that we would hold our reorganization meeting around December 15<sup>th</sup>. We will discuss this in our October 20<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting among other things. Because we don't normally have a December business meeting, this will be a first.

### October BCDCC Meeting

The October Central Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, at BCDCC HQ. Come early and enjoy light snacks—the social begins at 6:00 pm; the meeting follows at 7:00.

### 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, Margaret Munro and Leona Hassing shared 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 the Chair at: BenCoDem@verizon.net to submit your nominee or call Headquarters at 585-7682 before November 10<sup>th</sup> with your pick.

### John Kerry Rally at John Dam Plaza

The Tri-Cities Chapter of Moms For Kerry is hosting a Kerry/Edwards rally on Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> at the John Dam Plaza, 12-1 pm. Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> is the National Rally Day for Moms For Kerry. There will be local candidates and speakers on topics pertinent to this area, including health care, local economy, environmental issues, and education. For more information, call Dana Sprenkle at 308-2856 or mostly-sunnymom@hotmail.com.



Of all tyrannies, a tyranny sincerely exercised for the good of its victims may be the most oppressive. It may be better to live under robber barons than under omnipotent moral busybodies. The robber baron's cruelty may sometimes sleep, his cupidity may at some point be satiated; but those who torment us for our own good will torment us without end, for they do so with the approval of their own conscience.

—C.S. Lewis

### Post Election Party

If you have volunteered to help with the November 6<sup>th</sup> post election party or if you'd like to work on setting up, decorating, etc., please call Mimi Latta, 627-2679 or the BCDCC Headquarters at 585-7682 to let us know.

## Event Reports

### Primary Election Results

Was the new partisan style primary election system the disaster some feared? The Secretary of State, Sam Reed, predicted a low voter turnout due to voter confusion and dissatisfaction with the new primary system. The fact is voters turned out in greater numbers for the September 14, 2004, primary than they did for the blanket-style primary held during the Presidential election in 2000. Of the 1,260,754 party-affiliated ballots cast statewide, 58.2% were cast for Democrats, 40.7% for Republicans, and 1.1% for the Libertarians.

In Benton County, 32,014 ballots were cast (39.27% of the 81,513 registered voters). The division of ballots cast was 63.3% for Republicans, 32.4% for Democrats, 0.7% for Libertarians, and 3.6% for non-partisan. The percentage of absentee votes cast was 69.4% vs. 30.6% (9,793 votes) at the polls.

Of the 10,370 Democratic votes, Patty Murray received 9,007; Sandy Matheson 6,149; Richard Wright 918; Craig Mason 1,368, Christine Gregoire 7,186; and Ron Sims 1,875. A total of 38 Democratic precinct committee officers (PCOs) were elected at the September 14<sup>th</sup> primary election to serve a two-year term starting December 14, 2004.

If you wish to find out how the voting went in your precinct, call the Democratic Headquarters 505-7682.

Bob Bowersock, State Committeeman



### Web Resources

★ [www.law.ou.edu/hist/federalist](http://www.law.ou.edu/hist/federalist) On-line version of Hamilton's, Madison's and Jay's *Federalist Papers*. These articles were written before the Constitution was ratified and served to explain and rally support for its passage.

★ [www.clintonpresidentialcenter.org](http://www.clintonpresidentialcenter.org) Website for Bill Clinton's presidential library, which opens this coming November.

★ [memory.loc.gov/ammem/mjthtml/mjtjhome.html](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/mjthtml/mjtjhome.html) The complete Thomas Jefferson Papers from the Manuscript Division at the Library of Congress consisting of approx. 27,000 documents.



### Book List

★ *Bushworld: Enter At Your Own Risk* by Maureen Dowd

★ *Intelligence Matters: The CIA, the FBI, Saudi Arabia, and the Failure of America's War on Terror* by Senator

Bob Graham

★ *Chain of Command: The Road from 9/11 to Abu Ghraib* by Seymour M. Hersh

★ *The Great Unraveling: Losing Our Way in the New Century* by Paul Krugman

## Local News

### **Norm & Shirley Miller**

We send our sympathy to Norm & Shirley Miller on the loss of their house in a fire. We're happy you are all safe and able to look forward to a time when your home will be rebuilt and a haven once again. We hope that time is soon.

### **Local Elections**

Please help elect John Kerry, Patty Murray, Christine Gregoire, Laura Ruderman, Deborah Senn, Mike Cooper, Brian Sontaag, Mike Kreidler, judges Terry Sebring & Mary Kay Becker, Sandy Matheson, John David, Jerad Koepp & Rick Dillender in the 8<sup>th</sup> LD OR Rebecca Francik, Jim Barnett, & Bill Grant in the 16<sup>th</sup> LD.

These are good candidates—some of the best ever! I know many Democrats vote for Shirley Hankins, but Rick Dillender is energetic, smart and serious about changing the balance of Democrats in the WA State House. Shirley is backing the Cajun primary system that benefits only Republicans in the 8<sup>th</sup> District. Send her a message.

Jerad Koepp has worked hard all year to reach voters. He has an agenda that benefits working families. He won't be facing Sean McGrath, anointed of the Republican party, but Larry Halder whose agenda is all for business. Vote Democratic and elect Jerad, not Larry. Send Republicans a message.

Please take a look at the following regarding this year's Initiatives and Referenda.

Benton County is asking you to vote No on I-872 which would give us the Louisiana primary. If this primary form is approved by the voters, it will mean the end to candidates from minority parties and will probably mean that it would be exceedingly rare for Democrats to even make it to the General Election. You can read more about it on the website <http://www.no872.org/> to get more info.

We also are against Referendum 55 to allow Charter schools in Washington. We think it's better to improve local public schools than to depend on gimmicks. A recent study showed that students from Charter schools in Washington

State didn't score as well as students from public schools on standardized tests.

We are asking you to vote against Heart of America NW's I-297 that would prohibit all out-of-state nuclear waste from coming into Hanford. It would also negate agreements that the Hanford area has with other states to take some of our waste. Additionally, it would take voter dollars to fund Heart of America NW, thus turning a private organization into a publicly-funded entity and giving this fringe group more clout.

Mimi Latta, BCDCC Chair

### **From the 8<sup>th</sup>**

You are invited to come and talk politics on Columbus Day. Let's talk about ballot issues and more at the next 8<sup>th</sup> LD general meeting to be held October 12<sup>th</sup> at the Benton County Democratic Headquarters, 115 West 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. in Kennewick (7:00 pm). The Washington State Trial Lawyers are sending a representative to tell us about Initiative 336 to the Legislature. I-336 proposes solutions for affordable medical malpractice accountability. And we will hear from WEA Southeast Council President Michael Ragan about Referendum 55, the latest attempt to authorize charter schools in the state. Come to the meeting and we'll learn about these and other issues. We can ask the hard questions and get answers from the experts.

Also at the meeting, I want to go over our plans for the rest of the season and discuss some ideas about the next one. The LD Committee will be reorganizing soon after the election, so be thinking about whether it will be YOUR TURN to serve as an officer in the 2005–2006 season. (None of the positions are "paid", but the rewards are better than money, and probably last longer, too!)

John Latta, 8<sup>th</sup> LD Chair

### **Headquarters**

Franklin County, 1834 West Court St., Pasco, 544–0164

Walla Walla County, 102 E Main, Walla Walla, 522–2983

Benton County, 115 West 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, Kennewick, 585–7682

## Letters to the Editor

### **Thank you for you votes!**

Thanks to everyone who voted in the primary! Yesterday was the last day for counties to certify their ballots, and we now know that I received **612,104 votes**, while my Republican opponent received **448,936 votes**. The numbers are looking great, but we still have a lot of work to do in the coming weeks! My strong showing has Republicans worried because **they know we can win this race**, and now they will start putting money and support into my opponent's campaign.

Laura Ruderman

### **National Rifle Association**

The National Rifle Association (NRA) was founded in 1871 and currently has approximately 2.8 million members. I have been told that the founders of the NRA proposed to the Congress that a citizenry proficient in the use of firearms would serve as a deterrent to Foreign aggression, such as the minutemen did in the War of Independence. The NRA contends that the Second Amendment to the Constitution: "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed" is the basis for their right to own arms. The NRA has over the years had access to certain ammunitions and firearms being exsessed from our military and these are made available to its members as one of the perks of NRA membership.

Today with our military reserves as well as many of the National Guard units being called up to assist our armed forces in Iraq and other locations throughout the world, maybe now is the time to seriously consider calling up the NRA.

Bob Bowersock, Richland



*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.*

# October 2004

## Democratic Candidates

If you are aware of other candidates, please send names and positions to [bencodems\\_newsletter@earthlink.net](mailto:bencodems_newsletter@earthlink.net).

- Governor: Christine Gregoire
- Lt. Governor: Brad Owen
- Senator: Patty Murray
- Secretary of State: Laura Ruderman
- State Treasurer: Mike Murphy
- State Auditor: Brian Sonntag
- State Insurance Commissioner: Mike Kreidler
- Public Lands Commissioner: Mike Cooper
- Attorney General: Deborah Senn
- State Supreme Court Justice: Mary Kay Becker
- 4th CD Congressperson: Sandy Matheson
- 8th LD Representative: Jerad Koepp, Rick Dillender
- 8th LD Senator: John David
- 16th LD Representative, Pos. 1: Jim Barnett
- 16th LD Senator: Becky Francik

## Events

- October**
- 2 Deadline to register for General Election
  - 5 Kerry Meetup, Headquarters, 7 pm  
Vice Presidential Debate, 6 pm.
  - 6 Democracy for American Meeting  
Mid-Columbia Library at 7 pm
  - 8 Presidential Debate, (watch with us at the Mid-Columbia Library, on Union St. at 6 pm)
  - 9 *Fabrenheit 9/11*, 7 pm at TRAC
  - 10 *Fabrenheit 9/11*, 12 pm at TRAC
  - 13 Absentee Ballots mailed  
Exec. Board Meeting  
Last Presidential Debate, (watch with us at the Mid-Columbia Library on Union St., 6 pm)
  - 20 BCDCC Meeting, Headquarters. 6 pm light snacks, 7 pm meeting
  - 21 Kerry Meetup, Headquarters, 7 pm
  - 30 National Rally Day for Moms For Kerry, John Dam Plaza, 12-1 pm
- November**
- 2 Election Day
  - 6 Post-Election Party
  - 10 Exec Board Meeting
  - 17 BCDCC Meeting

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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3	4	5★	6★	7	8★	9★
10★	11	12	13★	14	15	16
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31						



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