

THE DEMOCRATIC REPORTER

The Voice of Benton County Democrats

October 2005 Issue

www.bencodems.org

Matt Kizerian, Editor

Contacts

<i>Chair</i>	Mimi Latta	627-2679
<i>Vice Chair</i>	Bob Parazin	946-6363
<i>Secretary</i>	Anne Kizerian	585-1122
<i>Treasurer</i>	Richard Wright	735-0412
<i>State Committee</i>		
<i>Woman</i>	Phyllis Bowersock	943-4559
<i>State Committee</i>		
<i>Man</i>	Dann Lewis	969-0277

From the Chair

We want to remind our readers to get out and support candidates of your choice for city council and school board positions. These local races impact us even more than the high-visibility federal races in our everyday living.

With the Primary Election out of the way, it's time to focus on the Initiatives and issues that'll appear on the November ballot. I've asked Bob Parazin to set up our October 19th meeting to review them. I hope you'll bring your questions for discussion.

On another note, the Auditor's office has notified me that three Benton County precincts have been eliminated and the voters moved into other precincts. The affected precincts are: **Carol** – moved into **W1-P655** (your PCO is Sue Carlstrom), **Cleveland** – moved into **W1-P656**, and **Highlands South** – moved into **W1-P650**. We don't have a PCO for either W1-P656 or W1-P650. If you'd like to be appointed PCO to either precinct, please call Mimi Latta at 6272679.

Have you heard that Democrats have more fun? Our finance committee has come up with an idea I hope you'll all love. We haven't done this for many years and everything old is new again. We'll have our Autumn Festival on November 5th at the Red Lion Hanford House. There will be music and good food and a wine and art auction for collectors. Look for the article in this month's newsletter and for your invitation in the mail!

In other news, we have a new

DNC representative from WA State. Her name is Pat Notter, she's the Chelan county Chair and she brings real energy and enthusiasm to the position. Pat is relatively new to party politics, but she jumped in with both feet and got Wenatchee and Chelan County charged up for last year's election. It's good we kept our voice from Eastern Washington on the DNC Board and I hope we'll see great reports back to us from "the other Washington".

Mimi Latta, Chair

Upcoming Events

October BCDCC Meeting

October's meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 21st at 7:00 pm at the Mid-Columbia Library in Kennewick on Union Street.

Sidewalk Demonstrations

Benton County Democrats, have you had enough of Bush's war on Iraqi yet? Are 1,918 US military fatalities, 96 UK military fatalities, and 14,265 US wounded (wounded according to DoD data September 8, 2005—<http://icasualties.org/oif/>) enough for you? When you have had enough, make a peace sign or bring a flag and come and show it!

Sidewalk Schedule, 4:00-5:00 pm:

Sunday, Oct. 2
Monday, Oct. 10
Tuesday, Oct. 18
Wednesday, Oct. 26
Thursday, Nov. 3
Friday, Nov. 11
Saturday, Nov. 19
Sunday, Nov. 27
Monday, Dec. 5
Tuesday, Dec. 13
Wednesday, Dec. 21
Thursday, Dec. 29

Margaret Munro

Michael Brown's Qualifications

Released December 3, 2001 by the White House Office of the Press Secretary

The President intends to nominate Michael D. Brown to be Deputy Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Brown was appointed FEMA General Counsel in February, and Acting Deputy Director in September, where he has served as the Chairman of the Consequences Management Working Group. From 1991 to 2001, Brown was the Commissioner of the International Arabian Horse Association, an international subsidiary of the national governing organization of the U.S. Olympic Committee. From 1988 to 1991, Brown was General Counsel to Dillingham Insurance, Suits Drilling, Suits Rig, Latigo Energy, Dillingham Ranch and Dillingham Enterprises, and from 1980 to 1988, he was an attorney in private practice. In 1978 to 1980, he worked for the Oklahoma State Senate Finance Committee, and from 1975 to 1978, Brown worked for the City of Edmond, Oklahoma, overseeing the emergency services divisions. Brown is a graduate of Central State University and Oklahoma City University Law School.

Thanks to Roger Briggs for pointing this out.

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

Event Reports

Tri-City Democrats

Members of the Tri-City Democrats met for their monthly meeting at the Richland Labor Temple on Friday, September 2nd. After enjoying the potluck meal, the group listened to Bruce Nordgren, chair; Andy Miller and Jim Egan, members; of a self-selected citizen's advisory committee established in early June. This 34-member committee spent the summer studying how an increasing number of criminal cases, most related to methamphetamine, affect law enforcement, the jail and court system. The committee was also asked to suggest ways to fix the problem and recommend the tax increase measure. The committee estimated that a 0.3 percent proposal would cost a household of four about \$52 annually, or \$13 per county resident. The money would fund special programs such as the Metro Drug Task Force and the Adult and Juvenile Drug Courts. It is expected that these programs will have their Federal funding reduced or taken away in the next year.

Last week, the advisory committee's recommended tax increase was placed before the Benton County Commissioners: Claude Oliver, Max Benitz Jr, and Leo Bowmen, who with a count of 2-1 tabled the request for a variety of reasons. If placed on the ballot, it would require more than 50 percent of the votes to pass.

The next meeting of the Tri-City Democrats will be at the Richland Labor Hall on Friday, October 7. The evening will be hosted by John and Mimi Latta.

Leona Hassing, President
Tri-City Democrats

Democracy for America

Sept Meeting Report: We had a fine turnout; a good mix of familiar and new faces. We actually signed up four new members for the year. We led off the meeting with the announcement that we will no longer keep our MeetUp.com web site, but rather switch to our new DFA-Link web-site. There are a few bugs in the software (like it won't recognize zip 99354) but I'm sure it will improve with age. We're asking members to sign-up for the group at the following web site. <http://tools.democracyforamerica.com/link/>

The core of the program was the viewing and discussion of a video prepared by LeaveMyChildAlone.org. It covered the 'darker' side of military recruiter conduct in dealing with high school students and as it applies to the rights of privacy of both parents and students. Some pretty dramatic scenarios were shown, including a segment by Cindy Sheehan.

The discussion that followed was equally interesting. We happened to have a few folks in attendance who well remembered the recruiters on campus ... and attested to the validity of the techniques, etc. that the recruiters had used. We also concluded in general that the presentation had little to do with being anti-military, but had a lot to do with recruiters taking advantage of high schoolers.

Folks who felt strongly that students and parents weren't being told sufficient information about how to avoid military recruiters, were given the tools and options necessary to deal with the issue. A lot of the methodology is provided at leavemychildalone.org.

The planned premier of the Wal-Mart move was discussed...noting that a final venue for the showing hasn't been

finalized yet, and we're continuing to seek sponsorship for the event. It's tentatively planned for November 15th, possibly at a local theater near you! Stay tuned! We're hoping to get a trailer for our next meeting.

Bob Parazin
Chair, Tri-Cities DFA

Letters to the Editor

Acts of God or sins of humanity?

by Wes Granberg-Michaelson,
in *Sojourners e-magazine*

From a vacation cottage Karin and I watched on TV as the desolation unfolded in New Orleans and the Gulf coast. Through that agonizing week we sat helpless with millions, while the world's most technologically powerful nation could not provide food, water, and rescue to fellow citizens whose desperate faces filled our screen and haunted our consciences.

Commentators described Hurricane Katrina as a "natural disaster," or at times as an "act of God," like language used in some insurance policies describing events beyond human control. It means no one is liable. Except, of course, God. And that's what troubles me. How can a God of love, Creator of all that is, be responsible for such terrible, destructive disasters?

But as I listened, reflected, and prayed during that week, another question emerged. Just how "natural" was this disaster? Consider this, for instance. When Katrina left the Florida coast, it was classified as a "tropical storm"—not even a hurricane. It picked up tremendous power as it passed through the Gulf of Mexico, in part, experts think, because the waters of the Gulf were two degrees warmer than normal. So by the

(Continued on page 3)



Web Resources

This month's websites are from the Presidential Libraries of several US presidents:

- ★ www.trumanlibrary.org Harry S. Truman
- ★ www.jfklibrary.org John F. Kennedy

- ★ www.lbjlib.utexas.edu Lyndon Johnson
- ★ www.jimmycarterlibrary.org Jimmy Carter
- ★ www.clintonlibrary.gov Bill Clinton

Each of these sites contains speeches, timelines, interesting facts, and research materials regarding their respective president. Very interesting information for children and adults alike.



Book List

- ★ *Night Drums Near: Iraq's People in the Shadow of America's War* by Anthony Shadid
- ★ *Resurrecting Empire: Western Footprints and America's Perilous Path in the Middle East* by Rashid Khalidi
- ★ *Active Liberty: Interpreting Our Democratic Constitution* by Justice Stephen G. Breyer
- ★ *The Shame of the Nation: The Restoration of Apartheid Schooling in America* by Jonathan Kozol
- ★ *Bait and Switch: The (Futile) Pursuit of the American Dream* By Barbara Ehrenreich

(Continued from page 2)

time it reached New Orleans, it was a category four hurricane.

Years before becoming general secretary of the Reformed Church in America, I led a group studying global warming and the responsibility of the churches for preserving the environment when I served as director of Church and Society for the World Council of Churches. Even then (1990), a clear global scientific consensus warned that global warming due to human causes - especially the accelerated use of fossil fuels - was causing disruptive climate changes. And I clearly remember listening to scientists say that one effect could be that storms such as hurricanes would increase in their intensity and destructive effects because of warmer waters and changing sea levels. So a part of Katrina's fury was not completely "natural."

And there's more. New Orleans was built between the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico, with much of the city below sea level. Its vulnerability to flooding from hurricanes was partly protected by the wetlands between the city and the Gulf. These act like a "speed bump," absorbing and lowering some of a hurricane's force. But they've been disappearing, making way for shopping malls, condos, and roads, so 25 square miles are lost each year - an area the size of Manhattan. And the city has kept moving closer to the Gulf.

Moreover, the levees and dams constructed to protect the city and "control" the Mississippi deprive the wetlands from the sediments and nutrients that naturally would replenish its life. There's a lot "unnatural" about this "act of God."

And then, consider the victims. Those who have suffered the most are the poorest, and most of them are black. Twenty-seven percent of New Orleans residents lived below the poverty line, and many of those simply had no cars, or no money, and no way to leave. That also isn't "natural." The poverty rate, and the gap between rich and poor, continues to increase in this nation, and that is a national disgrace. More to our point, that's a sin, condemned by literally hundreds of verses of scripture. Those most vulnerable to Katrina have been kept on

society's margins by persistent economic injustice and racism.

I celebrate the tides of compassion flowing in the wake of Katrina. Organizations such as Church World Service and the Salvation Army bear the compassion of Christ to the desolate, homeless, and hopeless. And I still don't fully understand why, in the providence of a loving and all-powerful God of creation, things like hurricanes and earthquakes happen.

But I do know this. When I see the devastating effects of Katrina, I don't simply regard these as an inexplicable "act of God." I also focus on the sins of humanity. We've disobeyed God's clear biblical instructions to preserve the integrity of God's good creation, and to overcome the scourge of poverty. In the aftermath of Katrina, we desperately need not only compassion, but also repentance.

I-330 Fact Check #7

From www.TruthInTheFinePrint.org:

"No one will lose their day in court. I-330 allows for voluntary arbitration and quicker settlements agreeable to everyone."

Paid Television Advertisement for I-330, September 21, 2005

CLAIM: "No one will lose their day in court."

FACT: People will lose their right to trial by jury.

Within the 20 pages of fine print in Initiative 330 (I-330), it states that before you can get medical care, health insurance or a prescription, HMOs, insurance companies, and hospitals can require you to sign a mandatory binding arbitration contract. Section 8, paragraph 2, of the initiative directs that the following specific contract language be used. It also instructs that it must appear in "at least ten-point bold red type." This waiver will also apply to nursing and veterans homes admissions.

"Notice: By signing this contract you are agreeing to have any issue of malpractice decided by neutral arbitration and you are giving up your right to a jury or court trial."

CLAIM: "No one will lose their day in court."

FACT: People will lose their right to trial by jury.

Voluntary arbitration of medical negligence issues already exists under current Washington state law. A recent study by the Washington State Insurance Commissioner [Medical Malpractice Closed Claim Study, Mar. 2005] details the prevalent use of arbitration over the last 10 years. It is voluntary—and it works. Under I-330, anyone receiving medical care can be required to sign a waiver as a condition of receiving care, forcing them into mandatory binding arbitration. Section 8, paragraph 1, of I-330 clearly states the people: "...are giving up their constitutional right to have such a dispute decided in a court of law before a jury, and instead are accepting the use of arbitration."

CLAIM: "I-330 allows for voluntary arbitration..."

FACT: I-330 will require mandatory binding arbitration.

A quick and fair settlement is beneficial, however a quick settlement is not likely to be fair if it has been forced and if there is no opportunity to exercise the constitutional right to a trial by jury. Section 8, paragraph 1, of I-330 reads: "It is understood that any dispute as to medical malpractice... will be determined by submission to arbitration... and not by a lawsuit or... court process."

Vote No on I-330

Don't Let the Insurance Industry Take Away Your Rights
www.TruthInTheFinePrint.org



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.

October 2005

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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					

Events

October

- 7 Tri-City Democrats Meeting, Richland Labor Hall, 6:00 pm
- 11 October Exec Committee Meeting, Mid-Columbia Library, Dayton St. in Kennewick, 7:00 pm
- 14-15 Eastern Washington Conference, Moses Lake, ATEC Center
- 19 October BCDCC Meeting, Mid-Columbia Meeting, Dayton St. in Kennewick, 7:00 pm
- 20 Blood Drive, Richland Red Cross Center, 447 Wellsian Way, 2:00–7:00 pm
- 28 Last day to submit material for the November newsletter

November

- 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

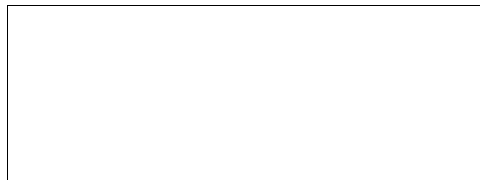
- 8 General Election
- 8 November Exec Committee Meeting, Richland Fire Station Meeting Room, Geo. Washington Way, 7:00 pm
- 11-12 Fall State Central Committee Meeting, Ocean Shores
- 16 November BCDCC Meeting, Richland Library, Conference Room, 7:00 pm
- 25 Last day to submit material for the December newsletter



Quote

“As President, I know that women have an interest in the welfare of the Government that goes far beyond job holding or partisanship. I know that women are not misled by political slogans. They have learned that the real issues in political activity are the well-being of the country and the future of their families. Women look beneath the labels and see the facts. It is my firm conviction that the Democratic Party offers more for the welfare of the country—and therefore more for the women of the country—than any other party or political group.”

President Harry S. Truman, excerpt from national address on Democratic Women’s Day, 1949, www.trumanlibrary.org/educ/women2.



PRRST STD
US POSTAGE PAID
RICHLAND WA 99352
PERMIT NO. 75

Return Service Requested
Benton County Democratic Party
P.O. Box 636
Richland, WA 99352



Autumn Festival

~ An Evening Of Elegance ~

- Local Art & Wine Auction!
- Exquisite Dinner!
- Dancing To A Live Band!

November 5, 2005

Social Hour Starts at 6:00 pm – No Host Bar

Dinner at 7:00 pm

At the Richland Red Lion Inn

Tickets \$65.00 per person

Tickets Will Not Be Sold At The Door

Make your check payable to BCDCC and mail to: Autumn Festival

Or call: 509-946-8140

**In care of: Hassing
504 Cottonwood Drive
Richland, WA 99352**



Sponsored by the Benton County Democratic Central Committee

Semi-formal attire suggested.

