



YosemiteDems.net

The Mountain Democrat  
Newsletter Editor  
PO Box 760  
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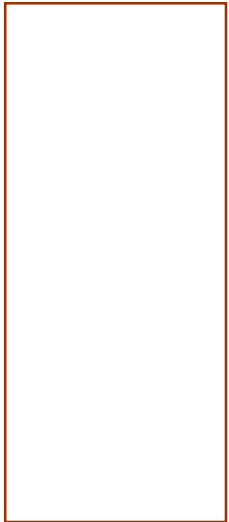


# The Mountain Democrat

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The Mountain Democrat is published bimonthly by the Democratic Clubs of Eastern Madera and Mariposa Counties which are affiliated with the California Democratic Council, and is distributed to all current members of those clubs. For a membership application see the inside back cover of this newsletter.

### COMING EVENTS

#### April 2006

Apr 1: Oakhurst Club Meeting

Apr 1: Mariposa Club Meeting

Apr 8: Jefferson Dinner  
*See page 3*

#### May 2006

May 6: Oakhurst Club Meeting

May 7: T. J. Cox Meet-N-Greet  
*See page 12*

May 13 Mariposa Club Meeting

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For more information about our Democratic Clubs and Democratic happenings around the state and nation open your trusty web browser and visit our web page at:

**YosemiteDems.net**



*“A warm mountain gathering of Democratic friends . . .”*

That’s how one of our community described this event, but it can be described in many ways.

It is casually elegant in the Sierra tradition . . . .

It’s a gourmet delight made with much love and care . . . .

It’s a chance to get somebody out of the kitchen . . . .

And enjoy a feast somebody else will prepare.

So join with us then for a night filled with magic . . . .

Inspiring speakers who won’t talk too long . . . .

Share music and laughter with friends who are jolly . . . .

And all of this can now be yours for a song!

### ***The Jefferson Dinner***

Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM

Best Western Banquet Room, Mariposa

\$25.00 per person 209-742-7891

\$35 per person at the door

## **CDC Convention Report**

By Jery Lacayo

WHAT A WONDERFUL WEEKEND! The CDC convention was everything one could want in a convention. Good facility, good food, informative workshops, and great debates and presentations by many candidates. Congratulations to the many hard working folks who made it all possible.

The first workshop took place on Friday afternoon and drew a good participation. Gerald Hill, former president of CDC, and wife Kathleen led the workshop. The Friday night debate among the three candidates for Lt. Governor was very informative, giving everyone a chance to ask questions, and providing an opportunity for the candidates to question each other. All three, Jackie Speier, John Garamendi and Liz Figueroa, were seeking a CDC endorsement, though that vote would not take place until Sunday.

Saturday featured a plenary session but was largely devoted to workshops. There were 24 workshops during three time slots, allowing everyone to attend up to three sessions. Members of our area attended several different trainings, and reports and information will be coming back to our local clubs in the next little while.

The Saturday evening dinner included a chance for many candidates running for statewide offices to speak to the delegates. We were treated to presentations by Debra Bowen, candidate for Secretary of State, Bill Lockyear, candidate for Treasurer, John Chiang and Joe Dunn, candidates for Controller, Rocky Delgadillo and Jerry Brown, candidates for Attorney General. It was a wonderful opportunity to become better acquainted with the candidates before we voted on endorsements on Sunday.

Sunday was devoted to discussion of resolutions, initiatives and candidate endorsement.

## **California Democratic Council Report (continued)**

After a discussion of the proposed proposition 82, preschool for all, the delegates directed CDC not to endorse the proposed legislation. While there is great support for the concept, many delegates felt that this legislation is poorly constructed and needs to be defeated.

CDC did vote to endorse Jackie Speier, Debra Bowen, Bill Lockyear, Joe Dunn, Jerry Brown, and Jack O'Connell.

Hopefully, many more of our local Democrats will be moved to attend the convention next year. Looking forward to this election year – we have lots of work to do.



On the first evening of the CDC convention, March 24, Jery Lacayo was presented with the CDC Compass Award for her activities in setting the direction of the CDC. The plaque reads as follows:

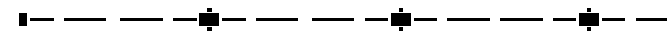
**Jery Lacayo**

**CDC Compass Award**

**Thank you for your dedication to  
grassroots organizing!**

**March 24, 2006**

**CDC Convention at Santa Clara**



## **Oakhurst Club Wins CDC “Club of the Year”**

By Ginny Terrell

What a great CDC convention! I'm so sorry that so many more of our members couldn't attend. Still, we had a great turnout from the Yosemite Gateway Region. There were so many high points and so much to do! However, my favorite part of the whole event came on Friday night, just before the Lt. Governor's debate. CDC has established some new awards, including "Club of the Year", and our very own Oakhurst Club was the winner!

You can't imagine the pride I felt for all of our members' hard work and efforts over the past years. But I especially want to single out some people who helped make it all possible: Scott and Ellie for their tireless efforts to keep everything on track, find good speakers, keep impeccable records, edit and publish this newsletter, send out club reminders, and hundreds of other little details most people aren't even aware of; Billie Cavin and her superb efforts with GOTV, stepping up to the plate to offer assistance with any phone campaign or anything else she can do; the work of our various committees, especially our fund raisers - Jamie Blair and Monika Moulin - and every club member who shows up on the first Saturday to take part in a small slice of democracy.

You've all helped in your own unique ways to build our club from the ground up, to over 90 members today. We're out there becoming known in the community, and giving haven to other Democrats who still believe they're the only ones up here in the hills! Congratulations to you all! And thank you so much for the privilege of serving as your president!

The plaque Ginny is holding below reads:

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**California Democratic Council**

**Club of the Year**

**Oakhurst Democratic Club**

**CDC Appreciates Your Substantial Efforts  
To Elect Democrats  
And To Build A Strong Community**

**March 24, 2006**  
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Ginny Terrell with Oakhurst Award

## More on the CDC Convention

By Ellie Schermerhorn

### Lieutenant Governor Debate

In the Friday night debate, Lieutenant Governor Candidates Jackie Speier, John Garamendi, and Liz Figueroa addressed issues ranging from greater transparency for decisions made by the UC Board of Regents, reassessing business properties when sold, raising taxes for pre-school education, and the state budget.

Speier found it ironic that the Governor who campaigned as a fiscal conservative was now proposing to spend the current projected budget surplus on new programs, and not to fund commitments which have already been made. While there was a consensus among the candidates to look at all possible efficiencies and revenue sources, Garamendi does not support budgeting by proposition; he believes state government needs more flexibility to direct resources as needs change. Figueroa seemed most concerned about supporting programs for health care and K – 12 education.

All of the candidates supported the “Clean Money” financing approach for elections whereby public funds are used to finance campaigns, similar to the approach currently used in Arizona. They agreed that the electorate needed to be educated as to why public financing is, in fact, in the public’s best interest.

### Dr. Katherine Forrest – The Commonweal Institute

The plenary session Saturday morning was on how to talk politics with people who are different from us. First, don’t expect a conversion experience with your brother-in-law over Thanksgiving dinner. The change process is slow, and people will only dig in their heels if you push them.

## More on the CDC Convention (continued)

Dr. Forrest identified 6 stages of change for political action, beginning with the “Precontemplation Stage” and ending with the change-stable “Termination Stage”. Our task is to be patient and encourage the change by validating their feelings and offering specific action tips, but the key is it has to be done slowly.

### Congresswoman Barbara Lee

California **Congresswoman Barbara Lee** was the lunch speaker on March 25<sup>th</sup>. Lee’s willingness to stand on principle earned her international attention when she was the **only** member of Congress to vote against the resolution authorizing President Bush to “use all necessary and appropriate force” after September 11<sup>th</sup>. She sponsored legislation disavowing the doctrine of preemptive war, and has led the bipartisan effort in Congress to end the ongoing genocide in Darfur, Sudan. In 2005, she was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize along with women from 150 countries as part of the international project, 1000 Women for Peace.



State Senator Joe Dunn with  
Madera Central Committee Chair Susan Rowe

## The Impeachment of George W. Bush: A Patriotic Necessity

By Les Marsden

Editor's Note: Because of the importance of this issue Les and I agreed that it was critical to present his entire article, which is, unfortunately, too long for the format of our newsletter. Les has consented, therefore, to put the article on our web page instead. So please go to **YosemiteDems.net**, then click on the "Hot Issues" button on the left side of the page, and then click on the title of the article. A few tidbits from his article are shown here to whet your appetite for the full course dinner.

"I respectfully but absolutely disagree with those who argue in favor of the impeachment of George W. Bush for all the wrong reasons. Those who explain we MUST impeach Bush because they hate him, or hate what he's done to America - or most important - because the GOP did it to Clinton and now it MUST be our turn as soon as we regain control of the House."

- - - - -  
"Has Bush broken the law? I believe so, ... If he's guilty of impeachable offenses and the evidence is presented compellingly, let the wheel turn."

- - - - -  
"Some say Democrats don't impeach Democrats and Republicans don't impeach Republicans. Absolute nonsense. In 1974 as the noose was drawing 'round Nixon's neck, his party members saw the writing on the wall and pressured him to resign..."

- - - - -  
"I don't seek impeachment because I despise Bush -- I want him impeached because that man, whatever his party - has broken the law, and we are a nation founded upon the upholding of law."

Please go to **YosemiteDems.net** and read the rest of this important statement.

## Cut Health Care Costs

By Jim Archer

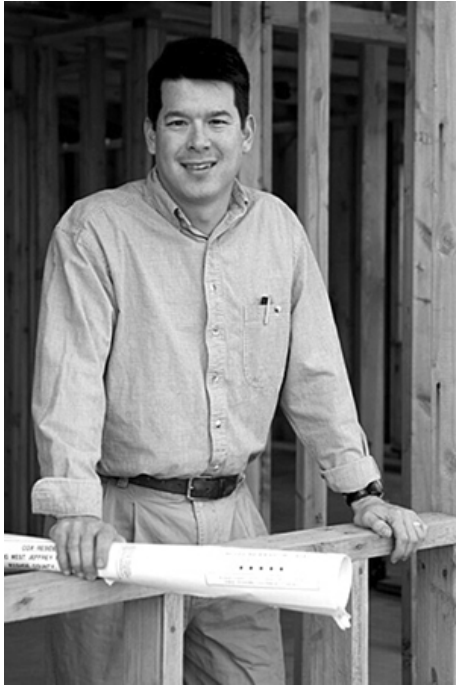
If you are interested in reducing the costs of prescription drugs and health care there are a couple of things citizens can do to improve the current situation. The first is to participate in an online survey at the Federal website [Citizenshealthcare.gov](http://Citizenshealthcare.gov). You will find that, in the recent Medicare reform laws, Congress is to gather input about health care from the citizens. The survey at this website will ask four questions and is very quick and easy to do. The more citizens that participate the more Congress will be able to put an affordable and reasonable program together.

The second way to help improve our Health Care programs is to contact your State Assemblyman and/or Senator and ask them to support SB 840. SB 840 is the California version of a Universal Health Care program that would cover all California citizens. It is designed to pay for itself through reductions in existing programs and administration without adding to our current tax structure.

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At the CDC Convention



Lt. Governor Candidate John Garamendi with Fresno Delegate Hal Hynds



**T. J. COX**

**Meet and Greet our next  
U. S. Representative**

**2:00 – 4:00 PM  
Sunday May 7, 2006**

**At the home of Billie and Jerry Cavin  
45430 Dillon Drive in Ahwahnee**

Call 559-692-2374 or 559-658-2342  
for information or directions.

**CDC ENDORSEMENTS  
for June 2006**

- Governor..... Phil Angelides**
- Lt. Governor.....Jackie Speier**
- Attorney General .....Jerry Brown**
- Secretary of State..... Debra Bowen**
- Insurance Commissioner..... Cruz Bustamante**
- Controller..... Joe Dunn**
- Treasurer ..... Bill Lockyer**
- State Superintendent of Schools .....Jack O'Connell**

*Mortimer Mouse Sez...*

**I had a lot of fun at the  
convention!!  
And the food was sooo good.**



**CLUB MEMBER AND NEW SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER  
TAKES ON ADDITIONAL EDUCATION-RELATED  
CHALLENGE**

Monika Moulin, Ahwahnee, one of the new trustees elected to the governing board of the newly created Yosemite Unified School District, is enthusiastically spreading the word throughout the Eastern Madera County community about an upcoming ballot measure. Moulin, along with Beverly Scott of Oakhurst, is co-chairing the Yes on Measure R committee.

Measure R will ask community members to “step up to the plate,” as Moulin terms it, to make possible needed building improvements for schools in the Bass Lake Union Elementary School District, including Oakhurst Elementary and Oak Creek Intermediate in Oakhurst, Wasuma Elementary in Ahwahnee, Bass Lake Elementary and even the Wawona School. The ballot measure, when passed, will bring into being \$15 million in bonds.

Moulin and Scott are working closely with current Bass Lake school superintendent Michael MacChesney (who will retire in August) as well as with incoming interim superintendent Glenn Reid.

According to MacChesney, “Over the years, the people of Bass Lake and Yosemite High School Districts have joined together to support needed improvements of facilities at the High School to maintain and enhance quality education for children of our community. Now that the High School is near completion it is time to turn our focus on the elementary schools.”

Moulin agrees, indicating that, “This smart investment will provide our students with an appropriate learning environment while maintaining strong property values and the quality of our community.”

Education Related Challenge (continued)

A preliminary project list includes these needed improvements, Moulin said.

- Update water and sewer/septic systems at all of the schools.
- Construct new classrooms at Oakhurst Elementary to replace antiquated portables
- Build an adequate sized cafeteria at Oakhurst Elementary.
- Convert the current cafeteria to a computer lab/library.
- Add a performing arts stage to the Oak Creek multiuse room.
- Construct a joint use facility gym at Wasuma.

The “Pro Measure R” arguments that will appear on the ballot specify that the cost will be about \$29 per \$100,000 of assessed value (not market value) and will be fully tax deductible. This type of bond financing will spread the cost among present and future homeowners and builds in mandatory fiscal oversight with a Citizen's Oversight Committee monitoring how Measure R funds will be spent. No funds are slated to go to salaries or district office facilities, Moulin added.



## KFPT Director Addresses Oakhurst Club

By Ellie Schermerhorn

July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2005 was an Independence Day for progressives in the Central Valley and mountain areas when **KFPT 790** broadcasts began. **Erin Deis, Marketing and Promotions Director for the station**, joined the Oakhurst club in March to report on the station's progress.

Erin asked the membership to “Do your best to get the word out there. Right now, we have about 8,000 listeners according to Arbitron (the rating agency) and have been able to make a little bit of money.” She found it interesting (and amusing) that the station has “almost as many listeners who hate us as love us” and they get lots of calls from “KKKMJ” folks complaining about the content. But it doesn't matter! The point is, they are listening.

CBS Infinity Radio is giving the station some time to develop an audience and enlist sponsors, but their main focus is making money. The station has received very little in marketing funds, and has to rely on word of mouth to grow the station.

*Stephanie Miller*, the sharp-witted host of the 6 AM – 9 AM morning show, will broadcast her show live from Cal State – Fresno on **Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>**. Tickets are free and locations for getting them will be listed on the station's web site ([www.790KFPT.com](http://www.790KFPT.com)). *Al Franken* also broadcast live on Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. “We get a lot of free advertising through press coverage of these appearances”, Erin stated.

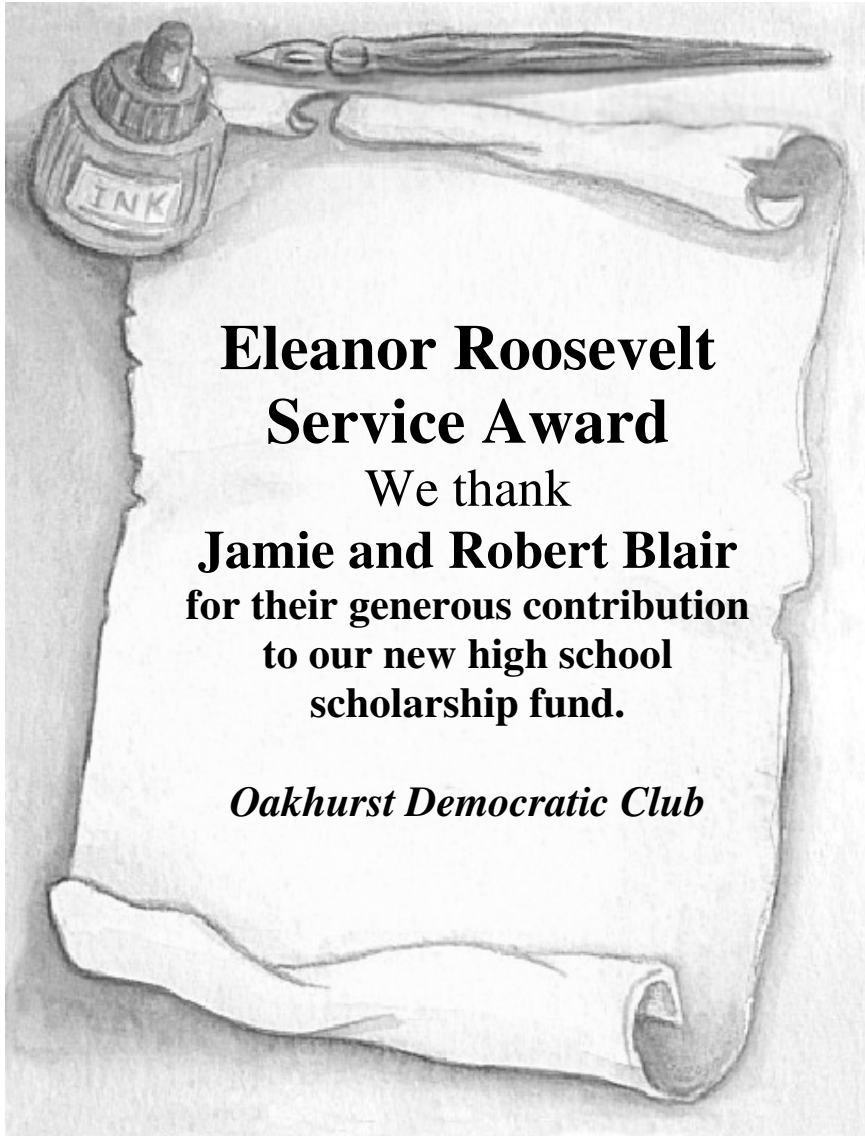
Some members complained that the station's signal fades at 5 PM. “The FCC makes us ‘power down’ at 5 PM because we're an AM station.” However, the station plans to begin streaming over the Internet sometime within the next few months, providing another option for the listening audience.

## KFPT Director Addresses Oakhurst Club (continued)

**KFPT** is working hard to get sponsors and Erin asked that we support them. Sponsors are listed on their web site; two are **A & M Carpet** and **Unlimited Solar Power**. “Unlimited Solar Power used to be on KMJ and got very few customers from there. They've had great success with our audience”. She asked that we be sure to tell sponsors that we heard about them on **KFPT**. Also, *advertising spots are very cheap now on the station, and can be had for as little as \$20 - \$30.*



Erin Deis from KFPT 790 speaking to the Oakhurst Club



**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Annual Dues are \$5.00 per person  
(Mariposa lifetime membership is \$100)

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mariposa Club: \_\_\_\_\_ or Oakhurst Club: \_\_\_\_\_

New Member: \_\_\_\_\_ or Renewal: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you find out about us? \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisorial District (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisorial District (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail form and check payable to:

Mariposa Democratic Club	or	Oakhurst Democratic Club
5409 Tip Top Road		PO Box 760
Mariposa, CA 95338		Oakhurst, CA 93644
(209) 966-3367		(559) 658-2342