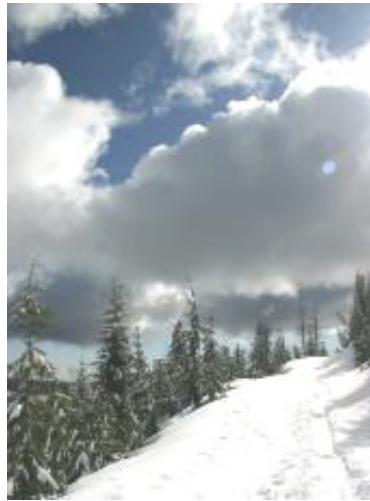




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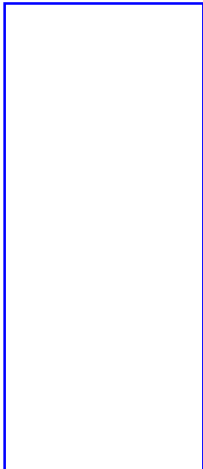


The Mountain Democrat

**Dec. - Jan.
06 - 07**

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The Mountain Democrat is published bimonthly by the Democratic Clubs of Mariposa, California, and Oakhurst, California, and is distributed to all current members of those clubs. For a membership application see the inside back cover of this newsletter.

COMING EVENTS

December 2006

Dec 2: Oakhurst Club Meeting

Dec 2: Mariposa Club Meeting

Dec: Happy Holidays!

January 2007

Jan 6: **NO**
Oakhurst Club meeting

Jan 9: Mariposa Club Meeting

Jan: Happy New Year!

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Oakhurst Democratic Club

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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 HOLIDAY GIFT TO DUBYA



from ALL OF US
for a
HAPPY 2007

DREAMS, DEMOCRATS AND DEDICATION

Jery Lacayo

Election night provided us with many gifts this holiday season. We didn't get everything we asked for, but we certainly have to admit that Santa did not leave us with a lump of coal. This time it was the Republicans who apparently were not considered to have been good little boys and girls.

We did a lot of good things this past year and I want to mention just a few. Club members had house parties for TJ, and many worked on his campaign. The mountain area clubs were more visible than ever before. Both Mariposa and Oakhurst did some form of slate mailer, phoning or both just before the election. The Mariposa parade had over 60 Democrats on the float, and the Fair Booth was beautifully done. Oakhurst participated in the Chocolate Festival. Our newsletters continue to go out on a regular basis, our phone line remains available to anyone looking for Democrats in the area, and we continue to have regular meetings in several locations throughout our mountain area.

As you do your holiday shopping, please consider adding your Democratic Club to your gift list. Our clubs used all available resources to work on this election, and that is as it should be, however, we are now seriously in need of support to keep the phone on, the newsletters coming, the insurance paid and more. I'm hoping that everyone will give whatever they can to help restore the coffers. We have kept our dues at \$5.00 a year. That does not fully pay for the newsletter, much less the rest of the operation, but we do not want to create a hardship for anyone. When I ask that everyone help out, I am asking that everyone do whatever they can to support the club. I believe a Democratic presence is very important in our communities. If you agree with me, please help us out.

DREAMS, DEMOCRATS AND DEDICATION (continued)

I wish you all a happy holiday season and I look forward to pursuing our Democratic dreams and dedication as we move into 2007.



TJ delivering his election night speech

From the Wilds of Mariposa

By Les Marsden

What's New from the Wilds of Mariposa?

We're all catching our breath after months of work which preceded the mid-term elections. While the national results were fantastic for our Democrats, certainly the number one issue for us in Mariposa was to end the embarrassment which our county has foisted upon the rest of the 19th Congressional District: George Radanovich. Sadly, and despite an effective campaign and a great candidate, TJ Cox was not able to overcome the huge deck stacked against him: a district drawn as an overwhelming haven for the GOP, which went for Radanovich, albeit by the lowest margin in recent memory. TJ managed a VERY respectable 40.9% of the vote—tied with Fresno County's portion of the 19th for the highest support for a Democrat in the race. I'm glad that at least in these two areas, we were able to keep Radanovich out of the 6th percentile of total vote!

In lieu of our usual monthly breakfast meeting in December, Jery Lacayo generously offered the use of her large (stand-alone) TV viewing room—which normally also doubles as our official Club office—for a FIRST-Saturday-of-the-month (December 2) combination end-of-the-year Holiday Luncheon Pot-Luck Club meeting! In addition to seriously compromising the diets (and schedules—sorry!) of our members who also belong to the Oakhurst Club, the meeting also served as the official election for our officers for 2007. Press deadlines being what they are, I can only give you the Club's proposed slate here—but not the actual results because I'm writing this piece on November 22!

The Slate: Our volunteer Nominating Committee was headed graciously and effectively by Sally Punte and the entire "great group"—(her words)—also included Betty Boykin, Katie Heth, Shirley Schmelzer and Larry Jones. Please accept my thanks—each of you—for your offer to step up and help out, and for

From the Wilds of Mariposa (continued)

carrying out your duties wisely and well. The slate as proposed by the Nominating Committee is: Assistant Treasurer: Jery Lacayo (inc.), Treasurer: Jane Jones (inc.), Corresponding Secretary: Katie Heth, Recording Secretary: Ingrid Hudak, Second Vice President: Jim Cousland (inc.), First Vice President: Laura Lee and President, myself (inc.) Thanks to all of you who have offered to run and serve in these positions; good luck on the elections—and by the time you hold this in your hands, you'll know the names of our new officers. Good Luck!

One last (somewhat personal) note: I've just been appointed Central (California) Trustee of the California Democratic Council. Just wanted you to hear it from me instead of wondering why I didn't tell you! And lastly: owner and publisher of the Mariposa Gazette Dan Tucker recently asked Neil Stonum and me to begin writing a weekly series of editorials in the paper, representing the two sides of current issues of politics and government. Neil—(current—as of this writing) head of the Mariposa County Republican Central Committee—and I are friends; as a matter of fact he's the principal French Horn player in my Mariposa Symphony Orchestra. As I told Dan (and Neil shares this opinion)—even though controversial head-butting will sell papers, I aim to show the ways in which we are all on common ground—and the first example of my attitude in that respect hit the stands on Thursday, November 30—look for our column which—as of this writing—still has not received its official banner name. Happy Holidays and let's all look forward to an end to Bush's war(s), and much prosperity, peace, happiness and Democracy for All in 2007!



Mountain Area Get-Out-the-Vote Efforts

Ginny Terrell

Now that the election is over, it's time to take stock of all we did to get out the vote and other activities that made our presence known here in the mountains.

Mariposa mailed out about 5000 postcards to everyone in the county who was not registered as Republican, American Independent or Libertarian. Their office received many calls because of this, and made a big impact on voter turnout.

Oakhurst also did a mailout this year to residents in Oakhurst, Ahwahnee and Bass Lake. The Oakhurst club mailed about 1000 postcards with local recommendations, but the club decided to hit only the Democrats and Decline-to-States who had not voted in the primary last June. In addition, they made about 100 phone calls to people in the same category. There will be a post mortem to determine whether or not one way or the other produced better results.

In Coarsegold, the club held voter registrations at the Coarsegold Pow Wow, and in front of the Hillside Market. They had an afternoon of phone-banking at Sandy and Ruth Stairs' home, contacting over 400 people. In addition, several members made calls from home. They managed to get four new club members because of their activity.

Mariposa had their beautiful float in the Labor Day parade, and voter registration at the fair; Oakhurst also had a booth at the Chocolate Festival and did TJ Cox tabling in front of Raley's on several occasions.

As we all know, it's all about "face time", making people aware we're here. It can't happen with one effort by one club. We all need to pull together to make it work, and it means working year round. Whether it's a bumper sticker or a button on your T shirt, every

Mountain Area Get-Out-the-Vote Efforts (continued)

little bit helps. My one wish would be that all the mountain area clubs start a coordinated effort to find and groom candidates, support each other's club activities, and be on the lookout for new and innovative ways to get our message across.

One last thought: Now that we've taken back Congress, perhaps we can start a more civil dialog with one another. That was one of the things I so appreciated about TJ's campaign. He stuck to the issues. He ran a clean and ethical campaign, and I hope we can all do the same in our own small way.



TJ shooting a television commercial

TJ's Campaign - A View from the Inside

By Heather Bernikoff, Campaign Volunteer Coordinator

The short story is that the campaign ran a good, positive race. TJ offered an intelligent, progressive option to advance solutions we face for very complicated problems. It was clear to me that a vote for the incumbent was a vote to go backwards, a vote to say, "Fine, corruption is just OK," yet we lost.

The mood in Fresno was generally upbeat. The office was equipped with 4 phone-banking areas, computers, supplies and a children's play room—which got a lot of use. It was a pleasure to meet the many wonderful people in the district who shared the belief that we could help make a positive change for the benefit of our district and families.

It was difficult to be away from home so long, especially since David was away on business the first three weeks. Nancy Griesser, a volunteer who ran the office with me the entire time, was amazing. It would have been impossible without her. Willie and Gina, two of my 4-dog pack, came with me and functioned as the office welcome committee. Gina became famous for lying on her back with legs in air, and Willie was known as a speed bump. They made the 12-hour (on average) days tolerable.

Special recognition goes to all the volunteers in Mariposa County and Eastern Madera County. While there were some excellent volunteers everywhere, it was rare to see such dedication. In fact, all of your work up here fueled me with pride. Mariposa County was the first to have all their 4x8s allocated long before they came in and then up for viewing. Eastern Madera took the prize for the most innovative TJ marketing...having put TJ info on Halloween candy! (*Editor's Note: Thanks go to Alison Butler for this idea!*) Democrats in Coarsegold, led by Sandy and Ruth Stairs, called close to 800 people. Both groups came to the Farm Bureau debate in significant numbers. You cannot know what it meant to me to

TJ's Campaign - A View from the Inside (continued)

see familiar faces and such strong support for TJ. I am proud to be from the mountain community!

I learned much from this experience. Were there mistakes made? Yes. Was everything done as well as we could afford? You bet. The largest problem was that Democrats did not show up to vote. There were not enough volunteers in Fresno to do any meaningful "Get Out the Vote" effort. Essentially, work for a campaign must start two years prior to the election using various tactics to move your message and candidate forward. In January, I will be asking to initiate a 2008 Election Committee. I hope to serve with you all!



TJ with volunteers Leo Barshell and Nancy Griesser

Election Report from Rebecca Martinez

Madera County Clerk-Recorder

(We appreciate Ms. Martinez providing the following report for our newsletter):

Election day has passed and our job of reconciling the records has begun. This process is called the "official canvass," which is required by law. The law allows twenty-eight (28) days to complete, but I am making every effort to complete the canvass and certify results before Thanksgiving.

For this election, of 50,066 registered voters eligible to vote, 23,786 absentee ballots were issued (47.5% of our registered voters). On Election night, precinct ballots cast accounted for 26% of the registered voters, and absentee ballots cast accounted for 26.1% of registration, for an election night "total ballots cast" of 52.1%. Still outstanding are 4,431 ballots to be processed - the majority are absentee ballots dropped off at the polls on election day and picked up at the post offices in the county, and provisional ballots cast on election day make up the balance. For District 5 alone, approximately 1,083 ballots remain to be counted. I expect that once the outstanding ballots are tabulated, our voter turnout will exceed 60%.

Since the laws were changed allowing permanent absentees, the numbers have increased significantly. For this last election, we will probably end up with approximately 33% of our ballots cast by absentee. That percentage is greater than was cast in the 2002 Gubernatorial election where 22% of the ballots cast were by absentee.

All in all, the election went well. My dedicated staff came through with flying colors, working tirelessly through countless hours, in order that Madera County could have an election that we could all be proud to be a part of.

CONGRATULATIONS

MONIKA!



**Monika Moulin was re-elected to the
Yosemite School District Board of Trustees**



A call for help went out to Oakhurst Democratic Club members and friends to sponsor a first-class ad in the Sierra Star for TJ Cox. Within days, the funding was there because of your generosity and dedication. Thank you for heeding the call!

*Alan and Carol Rodely
Bernice Stiner
Beth Carver
Billie & Jerry Cavin
Bob and Ginny Odell
Bob and Mary Pope
Bob Orazem
Carol George
Clariss Cassin
Dave & Ann Marie Smart
Ed Koehler & Peg Sullivan
Joanne Wagers
Joe and Ingrid Fox
Laura Zabicki
Leslie Stephens
Mary Herrmann
Merylyn Whited
Nancy McPherson & Tom Burdette
Scott Hill & Ellie Schermerhorn
Stan and June Dean
Terri Anderson
Trish Coman*

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: _____

Supervisory District (if known): _____

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____

E-Mail: _____ Fax: _____

Supervisory District (if known): _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$_____

Please mail form and check payable to:

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