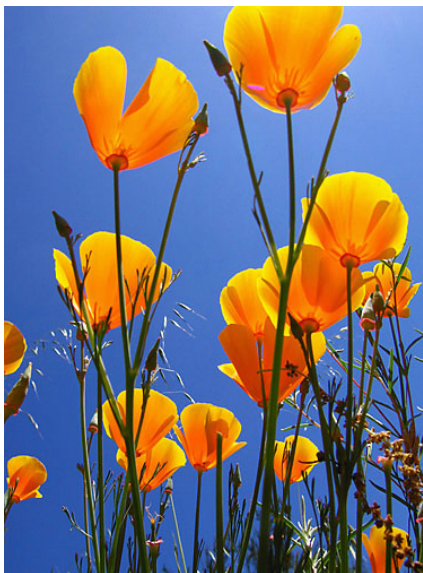




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The Mountain Democrat
Newsletter Editor
PO Box 760
Oakhurst, CA 93644

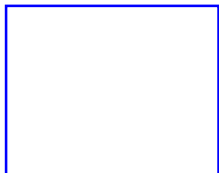


The Mountain Democrat

June – July 2010

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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

June 2010

Jun 5: Oakhurst Club Meeting

Jun 12: Mariposa Club Meeting

July 2010

Jul 3: Oakhurst Club Meeting

Jul 10: Mariposa Club Meeting

**August 7: Debra Bowen
Breakfast Reception**
(page 3)

CONTACT US

CDC Yosemite Gateway
(Vacant)

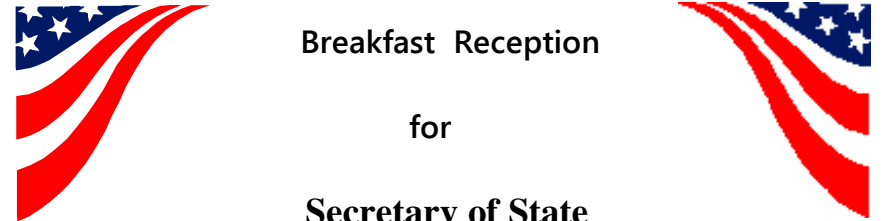
Mariposa Democratic Club
John Stewart: 209-742-1010

Oakhurst Democratic Club
Scott Hill: 559-658-2342

Newsletter/Web Page Editor
Scott Hill: 559-658-2342

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



Breakfast Reception

for

**Secretary of State
Debra Bowen**

Saturday, August 7, 2010

9:00AM - 12:00PM

Oakhurst Community Center

39800 Rd 425B

Breakfast Tickets - 1st 70 tickets: \$10 (then \$15)

(Come for free if you don't want breakfast)

Catered by Yosemite Catering (Crab Cakes)

Entertainment by Ragtime Pianist Nan Bostick

*** * * Great Door Prizes * * ***

**Tickets: Call 559-658-2342 or
e-mail Ellie at mizzes12@yahoo.com**

**Sponsored by
The Oakhurst Democratic Club**

From the Campaign Trail...

By Les Marsden

I've been participating in Candidate Forums with my Democratic and Republican competitors in the race for the 19th Congressional seat. Patterson and Pombo, Westerlund and Denham...and every so often, Loraine Goodwin actually shows up, but rarely on time. We've had several events in various places throughout the district from Sonora to downtown Fresno (that one was actually OUTSIDE the district) to Mariposa and North Fork. And I've been marveling at how the Republicans just love to re-invent their own versions of our American history. Just the other day, former Fresno Mayor Jim Patterson (R) regaled the organization Fresno's Leading Young Professionals with a terrible tale of woe, all about how he bought his first radio station in 1975 and spent all of 1975 and 1976 dealing with the horrible "Carter malaise" that had ruined the economy. Imagine how terrible I felt when I had to point out to Jim (and to the entire audience) the fact that Jimmy Carter wasn't inaugurated until January 20, 1977--and that the dreadful economy that had nearly done poor Patterson in was in fact: the Gerald Ford disaster. Remember "Whip Inflation Now (WIN!)" buttons?

Every joint campaign forum is much the same: they all throw out the same tired lines: "Less government! I'll lower YOUR taxes!" I chuckle of course and then point out the fact that the largest expansion of our government and budget occurred under (that's right, you guessed it!) George Walker Bush. That the "conservative" approach to 'trickle-down economics' under Reagan resulted in an explosion of our national debt from \$700 billion to \$3 trillion, and that Reagan turned us from the world's largest creditor to the world's largest debtor. And that the restoration of Republican control of both Congress and the White House from 2001 to 2007 brought us: the record Bush (again!) massive deficit. And glory be: in between the two Bushes we had Clinton, but: surprise, surprise? Our Democratic President actually adopted pay-as-you-go (no new programs unless the money is in

From the Campaign Trail (continued)

place) and eliminated the deficit, creating a budget SURPLUS. The problem for Republicans: facts. Data. They HATE those things--the Republican modus is to play on emotions, and ignore reality. They decry the "socialist Obamacare" and I calmly point out that it ain't socialism (which actually means the government owns the means of production) and that in the first decade of implementation, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will actually save us some \$130 billion -- and in its second decade, \$1.2 trillion.

But--the battle for hearts and minds of the voters is really one for their hearts, and never-mind their minds. The Republicans have excelled in playing to fears and anger and unfortunately, that's what today's electorate responds to, thanks to Fox 'news', Frank Luntz and Karl Rove. And so I will try more and more to remind folks that WE Democrats didn't allow terrorists to attack America on September 11--but the sleeping Republicans DID. WE Democrats have worked hard to help you keep your health insurance--it's the Republicans who want the insurance companies to be able to drop you like hot potatoes when you need them. WE Democrats are the party of small business, while the Republicans kowtow to corporations. And on it goes.

Please visit MarsdenForCongress.com and see what's new--and perhaps by the time you read this, this multiple-candidate race will be down to just one on either side. And let's hope, for the sake of this District, that the guy in our corner is me.



2010 Eleanor Roosevelt Service Award Winners

by Cheryce Chartier

This year we had 26 applications to read through and after a long meeting we came to the agreement that our winners are:

Brittany Elsman and AshlyJon Yates.

Being that this is a Service award, it was imperative that both winners had given back to the community and we are still trying to figure out where they found the time!

Brittany Elsman is quite the go getter; she lets nothing stand in her way to achieve what she sets out to do. Brittany has helped tutor children at the boys and girls club of Oakhurst, worked with four and six year olds teaching the concepts of soccer, helps in the Yosemite High School cafeteria at lunchtime, and still finds the time to volunteer at the high school in the conflict resolution program, helping her peers work through their conflicts with one another in a peaceful manner.

One thing that really stood out about Brittany is that she lives on her own. Working to take care of herself, she even rode her bike 11 miles to work a summer job in Bass Lake, 2.5 hours each way!

Brittany is looking forward to attending a 2 year college where she can then transfer to UCSD at which time she would like to double major in Art and Zoology and work towards her bachelor's degree.

AshlyJon Yates is persistent in her goal to get a good education and continues to give back to the community even with the limited time she has. AshlyJon has a passion for volunteering at Valley Children's Hospital. Because of having to work two jobs to help her family, she has had to cut her time there to one day a week. AshlyJon also has given her time to the Student Conservation

2010 Eleanor Roosevelt Service Award Winners (continued)

Association, Crab Feed and serving Thanksgiving dinners for the elderly.

AshlyJon is planning to complete her general education at the community college and then transfer to Humboldt State University or Fresno State where she will receive her bachelor's degree in Nursing. She would like to go on to become a pediatric nurse.

Each of these young ladies has received a \$500 award to help them on their path. We are certain they will put it to good use.

I would like to thank Joanne Wagers and Sandy Stairs for all of your help and patience in getting together to finalize our decisions. It is never easy to choose just two. I hope to work with more of you in the future.



Brittany Elsman & AshlyJon Yates with Sandy Stairs

All in The Family

By Peter Cavanaugh

If there was a shred of doubt in anyone's mind that sinister forces are at work in the world, one only needs to review the appalling "Remembering the Brave" campaign launched in support of State Senator Jeff Denham with an extensive paid schedule dominating our mountain airwaves on every major Fresno TV station in days leading up to the June 8th Primary.

In late March, Denham probably violated federal election law when he traveled on a corporate aircraft owned by a prominent west-side farming company from Fresno to the Bay Area with Karl Rove, Presidential Advisor to George W. Bush.

Rove, long overdue for serious time in the slammer, had just addressed a major Republican rally at the Fresno Convention Center. Karl should have advised Jeff about the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act George signed in September of 2007 making it illegal for House candidates to fly on corporate jets. But this is nickel and dime stuff.

How about over \$150,000 in funds mysteriously launched in support of a "Public Service Campaign" as we witness Jeff Denham climbing to long sought Congressional heights over the bodies of American war dead?

The following is an example of our correspondence with KGPE, KFSN, KSEE, KMPH and KFRE which summarizes the issue:

"TO: Linda Danna, Vice President/General Manager, WGPE-TV Fresno, CA 93726

Dear Ms. Danna:

By way of brief self introduction, my name is Peter Cavanaugh. I am Media Manager for Les Marsden, running for Congress in the 19th District on the Democratic ticket.

All in the Family (continued)

Noting that today's Fresno Bee (5/17/10) references a certain broadcast announcement promoting a benefit concert for 'Remembering the Brave, Inc.' featuring Jeff Denham, also a candidate in the 19th District Congressional Primary, and having been informed that KGPE-TV has been running a significant schedule for said announcement, please consider this a formal request that Mr. Marsden be provided with similar air time and frequency prior to the June 8th Primary to express his thoughts and observations in this important race.

My understanding of still extant FCC Equal Time rules would indicate this request is appropriate, even though the announcements are alleged to be 'paid for by a nonprofit organization.' Your broadcast of same constitutes free airtime used by a candidate for Federal Office, ignoring the fact that the entire campaign appears to be a cynical, flag-waving attempt to circumvent election laws by forces unknown 'saluting' the parents of dead soldiers.

Should my understanding of FCC policy in this area seem incorrect, please provide me with applicable citations. Otherwise, Mr. Marsden looks forward to reaching your important audience with parity against opposing Federal candidates.

Sincerely,

Peter Cavanaugh, The Committee to Elect Les Marsden"

\$150,000 is a whole lotta loot. It looks like Fresno TV stations took the money and ran with it without meaningful review. Surprise! Surprise! Veterans' groups are justifiably in an uproar. And we once again see our darkest suspicions blatantly verified by the actions of a powerful few against the many with total disregard for true honor, proper respect and common decency.

Family values at their finest.

2010 Mariposa Jefferson Dinner



2010 Mariposa Jefferson Dinner



Advice from a Deceased Ex-Convict

by John Stewart

Dostoyevsky was a nineteenth century Russian author who had many personal foibles (don't we all) brought on or made worse by years of incarceration in a Siberian prison. Regardless, he is considered one of the greatest psychologists in world literature. His perspective on society is keen and downright insightful (although somewhat morose) which probably comes from that very incarceration by Tsar Nicholas I as an over reaction to the European revolutions of 1848. One of his most famous quotes is: "The degree of civilization in a society can be judged by entering its prisons."

I would like to propose a Dostoyevsky II. The degree of civilization in a society can be judged by how it cares for its most vulnerable. Approximately forty years ago this state cleared out a lot of its mentally ill (and many of them became our homeless) to save the state some money.

Now our state is proposing that we gut our spending on Home Health Care, Schools, Emergency Services, Welfare to Work, Healthy Children, and a myriad of other programs that are in existence to help our less fortunate, our youth, and, of course, our seniors. I would ask what kind of message does this send regarding our society? We can bailout AIG, but if you're not a huge corporation or a CEO you're on your own.

One argument put forth by some for cutting these programs is that we are an over-taxed society, which is a bogus statement if you look at the last sixty years. According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, in 2009 Federal, State, and Local taxes—including income, property, sales and other taxes—consumed 9.2% of all personal income, the lowest rate since 1950. That is far below the historic 12% over the last half century.

Taxes are the price of society and I would say that it is time to invest in ours.

Advice from a Deceased Ex-Convict (continued)

Another argument comes from the Social Darwinism, Survival of the Fittest, Rugged Individualism crowd. Some pretty bad behavior has come from this mind-set. Stephen Hawking isn't the most physically fit individual, but I am sure glad that he is around.

The other argument against social spending is that, although the intent was good, it didn't always work. As Dostoyevsky would say: "A just cause is not ruined by a few mistakes." If the intent is good then let us find a way that works better. If at first you don't succeed.....

Finally, we have to be more than a society that just accepts hard-hearted, let-them-eat-cake statistics as the final arbiter for our direction as a nation. Our decisions need to be balanced as, once again, Dostoyevsky would say: "It is not brains that matter most, but that which guides them—the character, the heart, generous qualities, progressive ideas."

Lastly, years ago I saw a news story where an individual ended up as a quadriplegic. The town invested in some equipment that allowed him to operate their graveyard shift dispatcher system for their emergency services. The town said they never had a better dispatcher. The individual, when asked how he felt, said that he was so happy to be working and contributing to society as the tears flowed down his face.

I want to end with yet another Dostoyevsky quote: "The secret of man's being is not only to live, but to have something to live for."



“Capitalism: A Love Story”

by Peter Cavanaugh

The Fresno Bee

fresnobee.com

The Fresno Bee reported 65 Tea Party Protesters rallied in the center of Oakhurst on Tax Day (Thursday, April 15th), a major turnout for this little California mountain community of a few thousand.

But then, at an event sponsored by the Oakhurst Democratic Club, more than 100 Americans celebrated Patriots Day (Monday, April 19th) at The Grind on Highway 41, assembled wall to wall for a free showing of "Capitalism: A Love Story," followed by an hour-long question and answer session with the film's director, Michael Moore, via speakerphone with his home in Northern Michigan.



Part of the crowd at “The Grind” in Oakhurst



CONGRATULATIONS, JAMIE BLAIR!



On May 21st, Club Member **Jamie Blair** completed her studies and graduated from California State University, Fresno, receiving her **Master's in Social Work** degree.

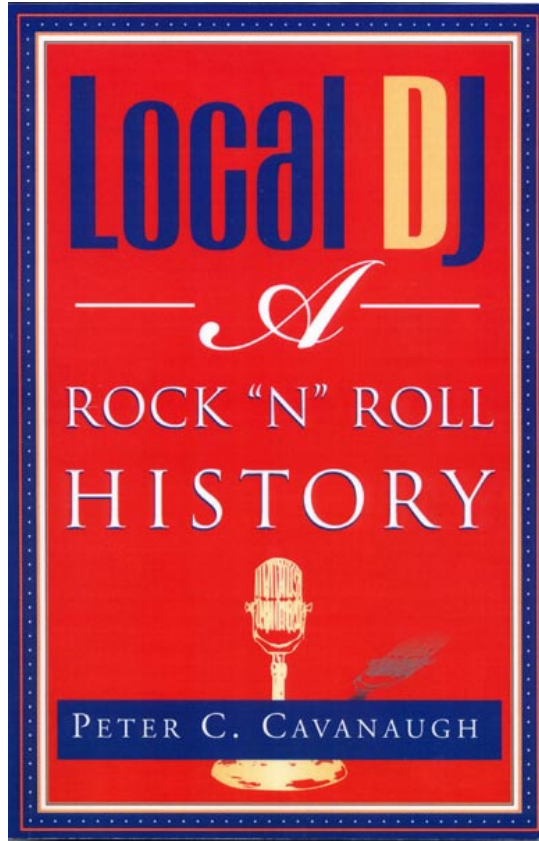
Jamie is quite the accomplished scholar! She has a **Bachelor of Arts** degree from the *University of California, Santa Barbara* with a concentration in Speech Pathology and Audiology. She also has a **Bachelor of Arts Degree** from *California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo* in Recreation Administration with a concentration in Therapeutics.

Many of you may not know this, but Jamie provided the initial "seed money" to start the Club's ***Eleanor Roosevelt Service Award*** which is given every year to worthy YHS students. Many students have benefited from her early vision and commitment to this award.

Jamie's taking a well-deserved summer off at the beach to ponder her next plans.

WAY TO GO, JAMIE!!!!!!!!!!!!

Oakhurst Club Member to Hold Book Signing



Peter Cavanaugh tells it like it was (or as best as he can remember under the circumstances) in his book Local DJ. He will do a book signing of Local DJ over the Fourth of July Weekend at the Willow Bridge Book Store on Saturday, July 3rd, at 2 PM. The Willow Bridge Book Store is in the Vons shopping center next to Vons.

Get the book, get it signed by the author, and find out what your childhood was *really* about.

The Big Push is On

Les Marsden for Congress!



Easy Choice

by John Stewart

Mariposa District One is having an election in June that is hotly contested. I do not reside in District One, but I do reside in Mariposa, so the victor will help govern our county which will affect me personally.

I have spoken with both candidates and I have found their styles and modus operandi to be diametrically miles apart.

Mr. Aborn spent most of our interview criticizing Lee Stetson and his term as supervisor while spending very little time explaining his vision for our county. I have found that many of his supporters' letters to the editor to be negative to the point of vitriol as well. Quite frankly, I want to know what you want this county to look like in four years, not your dubious interpretation of Lee Stetson's record as a supervisor.

On the other hand, my interview with Lee Stetson was positive, upbeat, and I walked away with a clear vision of the Mariposa he would like to see in four years.

I have found Lee Stetson to be very intelligent, articulate, analytic, creative, decisive, eloquent, empathetic, observant, and a good listener. These are all attributes that are necessary for an effective leader.

I believe adding Lee Stetson to our current board would create the nucleus for an extremely successful governing body. That is why I hope that District One will vote for Lee Stetson and transform a decent board into a great one.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Today's Date: _____

___ Mariposa: Annual Dues are \$10.00 per person
\$15.00 family
Lifetime membership \$150.00

or

___ Oakhurst: Annual Dues are \$5.00 per person

___ New Member or ___ Renewal:

How did you find out about us? _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: ___ ZIP: _____

Physical 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
PO Box 5008-268		PO Box 760
Mariposa, CA 95338		Oakhurst, CA 93644
(209) 742-1010		(559) 658-2342