



**MOUNTAIN DEMOCRAT**

Aug – Sep, 2006

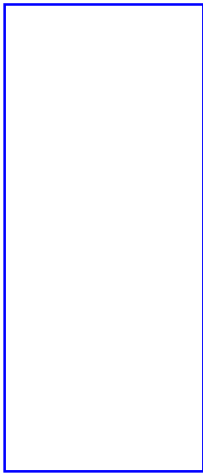
**VOTE**

NOVEMBER 7, 2006

- T J COX** ..... US Assembly District 19
- LEX BUFFORD** .....CA Assembly District 25
- DIANNE FEINSTEIN**.....US Senate
- PHIL ANGELIDES**..... Governor
- JOHN GARAMENDI** ... Lieutenant Governor
- DEBRA BOWEN**..... Secretary Of State
- JOHN CHIANG** ..... Controller
- BILL LOCKYER** .....Treasurer
- JERRY BROWN** .....Attorney General
- CRUZ BUSTAMANTE** .....Insurance Commissioner
- JACK O’CONNELL** Superintendent of Public Instruction
- TIM RABOY**.....Board of Equalization 2

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

**YosemiteDems.net**



*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

#### August 2006

- Aug 5: Oakhurst Club Meeting  
Aug 12: Mariposa Club Meeting  
Aug 26: Mountain Area Picnic  
(see page 13)

#### September 2006

- Sep 2: Mariposa Parade and  
County Fair  
(see page 3)  
Sep 10: 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**

# WE NEED YOU TO RIDE THE FLOAT



## SHOW THEM THERE ARE DEMOCRATS IN THE MOUNTAINS

**MARIPOSA  
SAT. SEPT. 2nd**  
Call 209-742-7891

**Bring your  
FRIENDS, FAMILY, DOGS, FLAGS & SIGNS!  
EVERYONE WELCOME!**

## The Record Speaks For Itself

By Jerry Lacayo, California Democratic Council

And it is a pretty impressive record at that! As we sit in the shade and complain about Congress, let us try to envision what life was like in this country before the DEMOCRATS passed the Social Security Act, child labor laws, education, women's rights, FDIC protections, veterans benefits, environmental guidelines, and many other pieces of legislation that have shaped our society in ways we accept, but don't always appreciate. All that and more has been brought to us by the DEMOCRATS!

I remember my grandparents' references to 'the poor house', but as a child I didn't realize what that really meant in the lives of people before Social Security. Now I recognize the importance of that legislation. That was DEMOCRATIC legislation, fought for by our elected representatives. Through the years their actions have, many times, changed our lives for the better. Not every legislator is a treasure, but many caring, intelligent and courageous people have worked hard to make the American Dream a reality. We are facing a tough time right now, but we need to remember that there are still some very committed, honest, hard working Representatives showing up for work every day. They are facing a hostile, non-compassionate, self-serving, manipulative and powerful opposition to legislation that would make life easier and more fair for the general population.

How long could you work under that pressure and continue to carry the passion and dedication needed? Since we want good representation, it is up to us to REPLACE the bad guys and SUPPORT the good guys. They need us more than ever, and we certainly need them. It has always been the DEMOCRATS who have led the way to a more fair and compassionate society. It is the DEMOCRATS who have provided a safety net for the disabled, elderly, infirm, children, families in need. It is the current administration which is attempting to undo all the good work done over several decades by the DEMOCRATS.

## The Record Speaks for Itself (continued)

The only way we can hope to turn this around is to make sure this administration loses its total control of our government in this upcoming election. If you are not currently a member of a Democratic Club, please join one. If you would like to know more about the candidates and issues, please tell us how to reach you. If you are not a registered Democrat, but are concerned about the direction this country is taking, please talk to us, study the issues, and always ask, "Who will really benefit from this legislation?" Your informed answer will make your vote clear.

I don't ask anyone to follow blindly. If you have the time and interest to do your own research, please do so and share your expertise with others. However, if you are too busy, confused by the TV ads, which provide lots of heat and virtually no light, or just haven't been able to find the information you are seeking, please ask for help. There are good, responsible people who study the issues and candidates and are happy to share their knowledge. Sometimes you just have to trust somebody. I would love to see everyone vote, but I hope they will be casting an informed vote, not just guessing at their choices. Voting is not a finger exercise. When the votes are counted we have chosen our Representatives and set our direction for the next few years. Those ballot initiatives can have major impacts on our lives. Please pay attention. I don't know when we will face an election more important than this one. Please participate. There are many things you can do to help influence the future. Call us at 209-966-3367 or email [yosemitedems@yahoo.com](mailto:yosemitedems@yahoo.com). We would love to hear from you.



## From the Wilds of Mariposa: The Midsummer Doldrums

By Les Marsden

We're gearing up for the September 2nd Mariposa County Fair Parade, and this year 19th Congressional District Candidate TJ Cox will be aboard our impressive float. I've also invited other area candidates and our great friend TJ is the first to confirm. I do ask everyone, Club members, friends and family, to participate by simply riding the float; the more people the more visually imposing AND merrier. If you'd like to help with set-up, all the better. For more information please call our Mariposa Democratic Club Office at (209) 966-3367. Set-up will begin (specific location to be announced) in downtown Mariposa at 8:30AM and for those wishing to ride, please arrive by 10:00AM for an 11:00AM go.

We are truly making important inroads here in the mountains. Every year the cheering grows louder from folks proud to verbally ally themselves with us along the parade route. Pity the poor Republicans; it's certainly not a very good time to be one of those. I certainly don't think it's very nice of us to gloat, but then 'nice' isn't always required behavior. Let's show everyone the fact that Democrats are truly the party of the people and the family; I always encourage children and domestic animals to ride the float, particularly if both have had their shots. Dogs, cockatoos, cats, goats - anyone have an actual donkey? The young, the not-so-young, all are welcome.

And then the fun continues. The Fair itself officially begins Friday, September 1st at 4:00PM in the afternoon although it really takes off at the conclusion of Saturday's parade. The Fair hours are Friday (September 1st) from 4:00PM - 10:00PM, Saturday and Sunday from 10:00AM - 10:00PM and Monday, Labor Day, from 10:00AM to the official closing at 8:30PM. And don't forget: there's the wonderful annual 'Closing Night of the Fair' outdoor concert of the Mariposa Symphony Orchestra from 7:00PM to 8:30PM at the Amigo Stage; admission is free to Fairgoers. Our

From the Wilds of Mariposa (continued)

big, Democratic Club double booth in Building A is always a popular destination and I ask for volunteers to help us booth-sit. Again: this will be an especially fun year to do so. TJ has already committed to being a presence at the Fair and in our booth. Will you please do so, too? Please call (209) 966-3367 to commit a little time to the cause of Democrats in the Mountains. We'd truly love to have you.

### Upcoming dates for your calendars:

Saturday, November 4th: our second annual Cajun Feast and Costume Ball - a BIG success last year and yes, that fantastic band 'Mo Munny' will be back!

Tuesday, November 7th: ELECTION DAY! A very important mid-term election; let's turn Mariposa BLUE by sending Lex to Sacramento and TJ to Washington!



*Mortimer Mouse Sez...*

**You don't know what fun is  
until you've gone to a parade  
on the  
GREAT Democratic Float!**



## **A View from a Poll Worker**

By Sally Jeans, Oakhurst Democratic Club

I'd always wanted to participate more directly in the election process and decided to work the polls in June.

After contacting the county and volunteering, I received a notice that proclaimed me to be one of the 3 "judges" per precinct (each precinct also has an "inspector"). Training consisted of a three hour workshop at the Bass Lake Courthouse the Saturday before the election. County Clerk-Recorder Rebecca Martinez and her staff conducted the training for about 30 volunteers.

Each of us received a handbook of procedures that was used as the "text" for the class. Ms. Martinez's staff was really good, went through the handbook, and answered any and all questions.

My inspector requested I help set up the tables in the Oakhurst Community Center on Monday night before the election, and I did, along with others.

Election Day started at 6:15 a.m. My precinct was one of 8 operating out of the Community Center. The county provided all the supplies we needed. The ballots (in English and Spanish) included Democrat, Republican, Non-Partisan, American Independent Party, Green Party, absentee ballots, and provisional ballots. We were instructed not to refuse any person the right to vote. If there was any irregularity the voter was to be given a provisional ballot, and the Madera County Elections Department would decide if the vote was valid or not.

Our duties were divided. Someone checked the voter in, and crossed the voter's name off the list. Someone gathered the correct ballot to hand to the voter and another kept track of the voter so the ballot didn't wind up in another precinct box. We brought lunches and snacks and ate between votes.

## **A View from a Poll Worker (continued)**

At 8:00pm, the polls closed. We had to account for every ballot, used and unused. We opened the ballot box and separated the absentee, provisional, and spoiled ballots. We all had to sign seals for the ballot boxes.

The inspectors guarded the ballots until the Sheriff arrived to collect and deliver them to the County Elections Office. By 9:30pm we were done, and everything had gone smoothly. No hanging chads, no challenges. No voter was turned away. All in all, it was a very efficient system. While the day was long, it was a rewarding experience.



## **Sneak Attack by Credit Reporting Agencies**

By Ellie Schermerhorn

Californian consumers are now able to freeze their credit information BEFORE their identity is stolen. The credit reporting industry, however, is trying to dismantle this fraud prevention tool by enacting the Republican-sponsored "Financial Data Protection Act of 2006" (H.R. 3997), a deceptively titled bill which would take away this right. The bill will likely come before the full House for a vote by the end of the month. Please contact our Congressman George Radanovich and urge him to vote AGAINST H.R. 3997. You can write to him at 2350 W. Shaw Avenue, #137, Fresno, Ca. 93711.



## The Comeback

By Laare Rowan

Asked by Katie Couric what Democrats stand for, DNC Chairman Howard Dean replied:

**One:** American jobs that will stay in America, using energy independence to generate those jobs.

**Two:** A strong national defense based on telling the truth to our citizens, our soldiers and our allies.

**Three:** Honesty and integrity to be restored to government.

**Four:** A health care system that works for everybody just like they have in 36 other countries.

**Five:** A strong public education system so we can have optimism and opportunity back in America.

Let's talk about American jobs and energy independence. Democrats have a track record in creating new jobs. Since 2000, there has been a net loss of over 1 million American jobs. Jobs lost as companies close or downsize. Jobs lost as corporations outsource American jobs to less expensive labor markets abroad.

Today, many companies that ship jobs to other countries receive federal tax breaks. The current tax code, supported by the Administration, actually encourages companies to move their production centers out of the U.S. to cut costs.

Congressional Republicans have voted to expand tax breaks for companies shipping jobs overseas. In contrast, Democrats want to end those tax breaks and instead, cut taxes for companies that keep American jobs here in the U.S. These cuts will encourage companies to keep factories and jobs here, and give them the capital they need to grow and fuel our economy.

## The Comeback (continued)

Besides keeping good paying jobs here in the U.S., Democrats believe in creating new jobs with good benefits. Under Republican policies, there aren't enough jobs for those who want to work. Most of jobs that were created in the past year or so are low-paying jobs, jobs that earn below the national average, and are less likely to offer retirement benefits or health insurance.

To reduce the number of unemployed, Democrats want to create incentives for companies to hire out-of-work and underemployed Americans. They want a tax credit of \$3,000 to companies for every new job created. This credit will aid expanding companies that hire Americans, and the individuals who are most in need of work.

In his 2006 State of the Union speech in January, President Bush called for "an energy independent America." Unfortunately, his budget does not match his ambitious rhetoric. And more recently, he has proposed importing ethanol from other countries as the answer to our energy crisis. Depending on foreign sources of energy got us into this situation – do we really want to go down that road again with biofuels?

The Congressional Democratic Rural Working Group has put forward a comprehensive plan to provide tax incentives to increase biofuels production, to increase the number of flex fuel vehicles on the road, and expand the ethanol and biodiesel pumps at gas stations. The Democratic proposal would increase research and development to create cutting-edge technologies for biofuels, including new refining processes and new vehicle technologies -- with the goal that this emerging renewable energy source will be the springboard to finally, successfully truly ending our dependence on foreign gas and oil.



## STAND UP FOR PEACE:

From Jim Landis

“Strike against war, for without you no battles can be fought! Strike against manufacturing shrapnel and gas bombs and all other tools of murder! Strike against preparedness that means death and misery to millions of human beings! Be not dumb, obedient slaves in an army of destruction! Be heroes in an army of construction!”  
(Helen Keller, Speech at Carnegie Hall, New York City, January 5, 1916)

**MARIPOSA PEACE VIGIL:** Every Wednesday, 5:30---6:00pm corner of Hwy 140 and 5th Street. Rain or shine. Limited number of signs available or bring your own.

**MERCED PEACE VIGIL :** Every Friday, 4:30---5:30pm, Merced Court House at 21st and M Streets.

**EL PORTAL PEACE VIGIL:** Hwy 140 just outside Yosemite Park entrance. Sundays at 5:00pm. Bring your flags, signs, etc.



### Congratulations to Nancy McPherson

**Nancy McPherson**, Oakhurst Democratic Club and Community Outreach Committee member, was a recipient of the "Compassion in Action Award" from the *Eastern Madera County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals*. She was recognized at an awards dinner held June 2nd at the Sierra Sky Ranch. The awards are given to people who take the extra step to help needy animals.

We're proud of Nancy and honored to have her as a member of our club.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

for the

**SECOND ANNUAL**

## MOUNTAIN DEMOCRATS

**CELEBRATE SUMMER**

## PICNIC

**SATURDAY AUGUST 26<sup>TH</sup>**

**3 – 6 PM**

**Oakhurst Community Park**

Call 559-658-2648 for more information

Map at [yosemitedems.net](http://yosemitedems.net)

## Candidate TJ Cox - Who He Is and Where He Stands

### Biography

Born in California and raised in rural Nevada, TJ Cox is a self-made businessman who has spent a career in engineering and construction. He has built several successful businesses and runs a management firm that oversees projects nationally.

As a community leader, TJ builds homes for the poor in central California and Armenia. A conservationist and outdoorsman, TJ is a strong advocate for smart growth and comprehensive regional planning.

TJ is married to Kathy Murphy, a pediatrician in the intensive care unit at Children's Hospital Central California. They have four children and make their home in Fresno.



## TJ Cox (continued) Stands on Issues

We must create and *fund vocational and technical training* throughout our district. It is through education that people are able to achieve the American dream.

We must provide *accessible, affordable healthcare* to every child and every citizen of this country.

We must *protect the quality of life* for our seniors. They deserve a secure future.

I *oppose unfunded mandates* that burden our state and local governments and congressional spending that burdens our children and grandchildren.

I will bring local and regional leaders to the table to find a *balance between growth and conservation*.

We must invest in research and development so that Americans can *end their dependency on limited natural resources and foreign oil*.

I will *support our soldiers* before we put them in harm's way, while they are on active duty and when they come home.

(For more information, go to [www.tjcox.com](http://www.tjcox.com))



## PEOPLE POWER

by Jim Landis

The American people stopped the Viet Nam War. The German people tore down the Berlin Wall. The South African people put an end to apartheid. The civil rights movement in the U.S. destroyed the segregationist strangle-hold on black Americans. No force on earth can withstand the power of a people's movement.

Once again it is time for the American people to use their power; to stand up for peace and justice; it is time to end the Iraq war. Despite Bush's illusory pronouncements of progress, success, and democracy in Iraq, the fact is that the situation in Iraq deteriorates on a daily basis. Whether it is an insurgency, sectarian violence, or a civil war, is just a matter of semantics. What we do have is an unmitigated disaster; 2600 dead American troops, 19,000 wounded, tens of thousands of dead Iraqis, a country totally destroyed, and after 41 months, increasing numbers of attacks and killings each day.

Bush says that we have to stay (and kill more people) in order to honor those who have already been killed. I say that this is the ranting of a lunatic.

We can end the war tomorrow; we have the power. Our power is irresistible. Is our collective conscience equal to the task?



## WE NEED YOU TO HELP GET OUT THE VOTE (GOTV)!!!

By Billie Cavin, Vice President, Oakhurst Democratic Club

You are aware that the elections in November are extremely critical. We have many Democrats running for office including TJ Cox and Phil Angelides. I could use your help in telephoning mountain Democrats to get them out to vote. This work requires commitment but is a rewarding undertaking.

This calling effort serves several important functions. First, it provides us an opportunity to speak with local Democrats and let them know we have active Democratic groups in the mountains. This is big news to a lot of people! We're also able to encourage people to sign up as Permanent Absentee Voters. Most important, we're able to encourage them to vote.

We will begin calling Oakhurst, North Fork, Ahwahnee, and Coarsegold Democrats as soon as the absentee ballots are mailed out to the voters. We had several great callers last year but need additional callers this year so that the Democrats will be successful in their bid for office.

You will have a packet with instructions and a custom script to follow to facilitate your conversation with each person. If you are willing and able to help us, please contact me at (559) 692-2374 or send an email message to me at [jbcavin@sti.net](mailto:jbcavin@sti.net).



**ACTION ITEMS:**

By Jim Landis

**MINIMUM WAGE:**

Congress (both Democrats and Republicans) need a good swift kick in the butt on this one. They have given themselves pay raises totalling more then \$30,000 during the last nine years, and during each one of those years, they have voted against raising the minimum wage above \$5.15 per hour. Tell them to fix it, or we will fix it on November 7<sup>th</sup>.

**REGISTER VOTERS:**

It is a fact that a voter who registers with someone in person is much more likely to cast a vote on election day. Get involved in a voter registration effort this year. There are thousands of eligible citizens (in every county) who are not registered. Carry blank voter registration forms with you wherever you go; talk to people you know, and to others.

**SOCIAL SECURITY**

Just because it has been "quiet" on the Social Security front lately, don't think that Bush and his Wall Street cronies have given up on their plans to privatize the program. Republicans in Congress are working on several legislative programs but they are keeping them quiet until after the November elections. Keep the pressure on Feinstein, Boxer, and Radanovich.

**BACK LIKE A BAD PENNY:**

The Bush administration is once again seeking to place the Pentagon's top lawyer, William Haynes II on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Stalled by the Senate for the past two years, Bush's right wing base is pushing Haynes again. Haynes is noted for developing the Pentagon's military tribunal plans, proposing ways in which the U.S. could circumvent international treaties banning torture, supporting indefinite detention of American citizens, and various anti-environmental proposals.

**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