

February 2011

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*..continue coffee hours in Davis*

*...not an in-box job...*

*..anticipate issues that matter..*

*Agriculture is not a boutique....active industry needs infrastructure..*

*Economic development for Yolo is a key...*

*..shared service..every governmental jurisdiction..doing the best they can..better way to share...*

*Shared service is kind of exciting to me.*

*Maintain and preserve what we can of the safety net.*

*..alignment of responsibility, accountability, authority, resources*

*..suicide prevention struggling... to find additional funding*



**Don Saylor sets his priorities as a Yolo County Supervisor by Tim Fenton**

Describing his new job as a Yolo County supervisor, Davis's former mayor Don Saylor (photo r.) says, "This is not an in-box job," meaning that supervisors can't wait for issues to come to them but must articulate the issues and prepare to meet them on an ongoing basis. Your reporter met with Saylor on his third day in office and was almost immediately apprised of the issues that will get priority attention from him. He detailed them - there are three - in a virtually non-stop hour-long mind dump.

First mentioned was economic development, and Saylor promised to continue his work with Designing a Sustainable and Innovative Davis Economy (D.S.I.D.E.), the development think tank jointly founded this past fall by the Davis City Council, the Davis Chamber of Commerce and UC Davis. He cited as a key resource, the county's unique knowledge base of which UCD is the most important contributor. He talked about our county as a "destination" noting such attractions as Yolo's unique history and identity with its agricultural, open spaces heritage, its wine making, its wealth of out-



door activities, and its diverse population of creative people who live here.

Focusing on agriculture, he noted Yolo's favorable climate, soil and water resources which he says makes our county the "breadbasket to the world." Saylor doesn't regard ag. as something for Yolo to "preserve" but as a key industry that needs support to thrive, support that includes, most importantly, improvements to the county's transportation infrastructure to get what we grow to market.

Supervisor Saylor then moved on to talk about the need to share services among the county and the communities within it. He commended the leaders of our four city councils and five school districts and other elected and staff officials of the county for a series of recent meetings to plot how services can be consolidated for efficiency. An example he held up is the merger of the administra-

tions of the Davis city fire department with the UCD department, moving toward the complete merger of the two. Saylor also cited Davis's and Woodland's agreement for joint development of water resources to save millions of dollars. And, he cited the fact that Yolo and all of its communities need to maintain roads making paving services an opportunity to cooperate.

A third focus for Saylor as a supervisor will be maintaining as much as possible the safety net of social services Yolo has provided its less fortunate and neediest citizens. "The budget crisis has starved the safety net," Saylor lamented, leaving many in the county suffering for loss of life sustaining services. "Government can no longer do many things all by itself. One example he mentioned was a \$30,000 cut for suicide prevention. (continued p 2)

Davis Democratic Club Board

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## Calendar of Events

**Friday, Jan. 28, 6:00-9:00 pm Soups On** Fundraising event for Suicide Prevention Services of Yolo County (Annual fundraising event organized by Don Saylor-see the article below.) **Davis Flight Support, Yolo County Airport by Aviation Road**, contact Don 530-341-2250 soupson@donsaylor.org

**Tuesday, Feb. 1, 7:00-9:00 pm DDC Board Meeting.** Regularly scheduled Board business meeting members and general public welcomed. **Blanchard Room, Davis Library on 14th St.**

**Sunday, Feb. 13, 6:00-9:00 "Love your Electeds"** Annual Valentine party featuring buffet dinner, beverage and presentations by virtually all local elected officials (state, county, city, school board), **International House, 10 College Park Dr.**, contact Arun Sen 756-7093.

## Thank You Pam - Welcome Brandon



Pam staffing the Club's July 4th booth at Davis Community Park

After several years of service on the DDC Board in addition to her leadership in the local chapter of the Sierra Club, Pam Nieberg (photo l.) has announced her retirement from the Board. Her guidance and good sense in our deliberations will be greatly missed

Brandon Craig (photo on p.3) was unanimously appointed as a member of the DDC Board at its February meeting. Brandon, an active member of the Davis College Democrats and a member of the YCDCC, has been recently elected as a delegate from the 8th Assembly District to the California Democratic Party (see p3.) His presence on the Board will further enhance the excellent collaboration between the Club and our affiliated student group. You are invited to join the DDC Board.

**(Saylor interview, cont'd from p.1)**

The suicide hotline, which also functions as a school violence hotline, now has to train a cadre of volunteers to man the phone lines and find ways to replace some of the lost state funding. Toward that end, Don Saylor is devoting his annual **"Soup's On" fundraising event for Suicide Prevention and Crisis Services of Yolo County** with all proceeds going to the agency. This dinner event, now in its seventh year, features delicious specialty soups of some 40 local cooks and will occur **Friday, January 28 from 6 to 9 p.m. at Davis Flight Support at Yolo County Airport just off Aviation Avenue** to the right. Suggested donations for adults range from \$25 up to \$500. Kids are \$10 and students \$15. Saylor invites all Yoloites, especially the Davis Democratic Club members, to attend.

Saylor says his approach to championing his three priorities won't be to get on a soap box but rather to nurture, nudge, cajole and sometimes lead in moving them along with his fellow supervisors. Your reporter urges his fellow Davis Democratic Club members to throw their hearty support behind him as Don Saylor launches on this newest phase of his outstanding public service career. We thank him for all he's done.

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(Please add your name to this list by completing the form on p.4)



**FINAL RESULTS: COMPLETE SWEEP; HIGHER TURNOUT** by Bob Schelen

The official, final vote for the November 2, 2010, was released by the California Secretary of State on December 4th. When I reported the results of the California election in the November Newsletter, there were still a few races in doubt in California and, we did not know the official results of Democratic turnout. For instance, one race that remained up in the air was the California Attorney General's race.

Throughout the month of November, as the count of late absentee and provisional votes were counted, the lead between Republican Steve Cooley and Democrat Kamala Harris changed hands innumerable times. In the final count, Kamala Harris won, making it a clean sweep for Democrats on the statewide ticket. Every statewide office holder in California is now a Democrat.

There were also two Congressional races in California that had yet to be determined. The 11th Congressional District and the 20th Congressional District had incumbents Jerry McNerney and Jim Costa in tight races. In fact, the morning after the election saw McNerney ahead by only a few hundred votes and Costa login by a few thousand. The official statement of the vote, after all the votes have been counted, they both won. Unlike the nation, Democrats held every Congressional seat in California.

They key was the adoption of the California Democratic Party motto for 2010 and beyond, "When Democrats vote, Democrats win!"

As I stated, in the previous article, we had an unprecedented get out the vote effort where the state party coordinated with the local parties in determining the best way to get out local Democrats. It was this effort that saw these races end up in the Democratic column.

What we saw in Yolo was that Democrats turned out, putting Yolo County in the top ten of California counties in Democratic turnout. Republicans turned out as well, but we saw a bit of a swing, at least, in the Governor's race, to Republicans vote in slightly larger numbers than they have in the past for the Democratic candidate. This was not the case with Democrats. It appears that over 95 percent of the Democrats in Yolo County stayed with the Democratic ticket.

Where there were drops in turnout, at least in Yolo County, it appeared to be the Decline to State and minor party voters that did not vote in high percentages. One of our goals in 2010 will be to educate Decline to State voters that the Democratic agenda better suits their political views and get them to vote for Democrats, and even to re-register as Democrats.

Overall turnout of voters in California was higher than it has been in any non-presidential year since 1994. In Yolo County, slightly less than 60 percent of those registered voted. Similarly, about 60% of the Democrats in Yolo County voted.

An interesting side note is that turnout among Democrats appeared to be much larger in the vote-by-mail phase of the election, with a significant drop-off on election day. This fits the research that shows those who apply for mail ballots are twice as likely to vote compared to those who do not.

While, clearly, there were a number of factors contributing to this rise in the turnout, it has to be said that the Yolo Democratic Party's GOTV efforts, coordinated with the California Democratic Party, were a major factor in this success.

**384 Democrats voted in the recent caucus to select delegates from the 8th Assembly District to the State Party Convention.** The well-attended caucus was convened by Cecilia Escamilla Greenwald (photo below) on the UCD campus. A very active, young student group largely swept the vote electing DDC members, Sam Mahood, Brandon Craig (photo below) and Jim Provenza as delegates. Davis Democrats are fortunate to benefit from an active group of dedicated young people.



Tim Fenton, Carl Schmid, Richard Yamagata, Cecilia Greenwald and Mike Syvanen at the caucus



Sam Mahood, Brandon Craig (p.2) and Matt Gagnon were elected as Delegates

Democracy in Action: Elly Fairclough (r.) found a secluded corner to cast her ballot for 8th AD Delegates.



**Sheila, Jim, Donna, Don & Gina (l.-r.) invite you to join them at DDC's Annual "Love your Elected Valentine Party."** The evening (Sunday, Feb. 13, 6:00 pm, International House) features a buffet dinner with refreshments and informal presentations by virtually all local elected officials serving on the school board, city council, county and state government including Sen Wolk. This is an opportunity for them to acknowledge your support and for us to thank them for their service. Join them for a most pleasant informative evening.

**Democratic Newsletter**

*Sunday, Feb. 13th,  
Valentine Party:  
Love your electeds  
(mark your calendar)*

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To JOIN or RENEW (circle one) membership in the Davis Democratic Club, fill out this form and send a check to the following address: Davis Democratic Club, P.O. Box 73014, Davis, CA 95617

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