

# A COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

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EN ESPAÑOL  
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## Gun Violence in Fresno

By James Mendez

The recent mass killings at a parade in Highland Park, Ill.; an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas; and a supermarket in Buffalo, N.Y., brought increased media and political attention to the long-standing problem of gun violence in America. For the past several years, Fresno has also experienced increased gun violence and gun deaths.

Efforts are under way both nationally and locally to identify why there is so much gun violence and what are the best solutions to the problem.

People and organizations in Fresno want to do something to stop the gun violence and gun deaths. One such group is a multifaith/interfaith community entity called Enough Gun Violence, which meets at St. James Episcopal Cathedral in Fresno.

Their June 29 meeting was informational, with speakers providing some context to the challenge of gun violence, while also encouraging the public to act.

Sam Colley-Toothaker, the dean of St. James Cathedral, paraphrased Edward Everett Hale, saying, "We can't do everything, but we can do something."

The meeting ended with a mass letter signing event addressing Congressional representatives on gun violence.

Their July 16 meeting garnered public input on gun violence and attempted to set strategies to address gun violence—bearing in mind that the way forward will be a marathon rather than a sprint.



People and organizations in Fresno want to do something to stop gun violence and gun deaths, locally and nationally. Photo courtesy of The Commons

A mass killing, the focus of so much media attention, is defined by the National Institute of Justice as an incident in which four or more victims are killed with a firearm in a publicly accessible space. Yet, mass killings make up less than 1% of all gun deaths.

Mass killings can occur at workplaces, places of worship, schools, stores and entertainment venues. According to federal data, however, far more common gun deaths occur daily inside homes, outside bars and on the streets of cities.

### Who Is Affected by Gun Violence in Fresno?

Gun violence does not impact all people equally. No area of Fresno is completely safe from gun violence. Many people in Fresno who are most worried about gun violence and crime actually live in areas that are the least affected by gun violence. Different types of gun violence (e.g., homicide versus suicide) affect different demographic groups in distinct ways.

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## Crucial California Climate Bill Sidelined but Not Stopped

By I. smiley G. Calderon

In mid-June, an important California bill aimed at reducing deadly carbon emissions was single-handedly crushed midair by the chair of the Assembly Committee on Public Employment and Retirement, Assembly Member Jim Cooper (D-Elk Grove).

Current Assembly rules give unilateral authority to the chairs of committees to allow or disallow bills to be considered and voted on. Cooper entirely disallowed Senate Bill 1173, California's Fossil Fuel Divestment Act of 2022, to be heard in his committee and thereby prohibited it from proceeding at all.

This is important news because it keeps California's environment endangered and its future uncertain.

SB 1173, introduced by State Senator Lena Gonzalez (D-Long Beach) in February, would have prohibited the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) and the California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS) from investing in fossil fuel companies. It would have required that they divest any current investments in fossil fuel companies by 2030.

We are talking billions of dollars. And there has been overwhelming public support for such an initiative as Californians learn more about the harmful and long-lasting



From Los Angeles to Kern County to the Bay Area, more than seven million Californians, totaling 18% of the population, live within a mile of at least one oil or gas well. Photo courtesy of The Commons

effects of anthropogenic carbon emissions from fossil fuels and their role in global warming and permanent climate change.

Californians know that we need to aggressively shift away from fossil fuels now to save our planet. Divesting in fossil fuel companies is an important first step. SB 1173 passed the State Senate in May and was on track to becoming law until it was abruptly sidelined by Cooper.

This political move was a shock to the positive momentum and progress that California is making in the protection and conservation of its environment. But it wasn't so surprising after it was revealed that Cooper had received tens of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions from fossil fuel companies.

Sierra Club California disclosed in its Tracking the Dirty Dollars project that "Assemblymember Jim Cooper, a Democratic favorite of the oil and gas industry, reported \$36,350 in contributions from polluters and their friends."

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## Yosemite Logging Halted by Lawsuit over Environmental Concerns

By Vic Bedoian

What's behind the logging in Yosemite National Park? It was announced as a fuel reduction project by park officials to improve fire resistance in the park's forests but has instead ignited controversy and generated a lawsuit.

The logging has been stopped, temporarily at least, because of legal action brought against Yosemite by the John Muir Project and the Earth Island Institute. Here's the way Yosemite describes the project:

This project reduces post-drought and post-fire fuels to protect the Merced and Tuolumne groves of giant sequoias, Yosemite Valley, the communities of Yosemite West, Wawona, El Portal, Foresta, Yosemite Village, significant Pacific fisher and great gray owl habitat, prehistoric and historic archeological sites, and improves safety for the public and first responders. Immediate actions are needed to protect these areas from high severity fire.

Enter Chad Hanson, founder of the John Muir Project. As a forest ecologist, Hanson has been skeptical of some of the forest management practices of the U.S. Forest Service, which has lands designated for multiple use oversight. But he was really taken aback by what was going on, especially in Yosemite Valley.

"The park began a very large commercial logging operation in Yosemite Valley. Logging the forests, logging mature, live trees up to 20 inches in diameter, which are 90 to a hundred years old.

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# Gun Violence in Fresno

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For example, gun suicide, according to Pew Research, accounts for 54% of all gun deaths. Gun suicide generally affects older White men living in rural areas, whereas gun homicide primarily affects younger Black and Brown men living in urban areas.

Gun homicide in Fresno mainly affects areas populated by poor people and young men of color. Nationwide, Black men are 17 times more likely than other Americans to be killed by a gunshot fired by someone else. Conversely, White men are six times more likely to die by suicide than other Americans.

The data show that rather than being killed in a mass killing or by someone they don't know, Americans are more likely to be shot and killed by a family member, an acquaintance or an intimate partner (spouse, domestic partner or dating partner). These intra-community shootings and deaths account for the largest portion of gun homicides. Only about 25% of firearm homicides are committed by a stranger. And less than 1% of firearm homicides are committed in a mass killing.

Data from the 2020 Fresno County Sheriff's Office Coroner Unit statistics (the most recent data available) show that of the 120 homicides in Fresno County, almost 90% were gun homicides and 83% involved African Americans and Hispanics. Almost 30% of gun homicides involved African Americans even though they are less than 5% of Fresno County's population.

Three zip codes accounted for almost half of all homicides in the City of Fresno. All three are poor, historically segregated and suffer from long-term societal disinvestment.

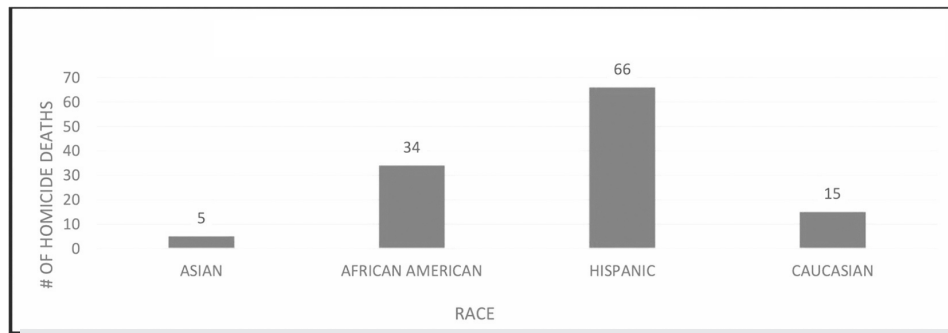
Studies evaluating the root causes of gun violence have shown that gun homicide is more likely to occur not only where there is concentrated poverty but also where there has been long-standing societal disinvestment and segregation in terms of housing, education, healthcare and jobs.

Fresno has a long history of both de facto and de jure segregation (e.g., covenants and redlining) and disinvestment in segregated communities. It also has areas of concentrated poverty.

Disinvestment encourages the downward spiral of concentration of poverty and results in fewer opportunities for people to leave poverty. Disinvestment affects many aspects of the quality of life in poor areas besides education and access to healthcare, for example, access to banks, the availability of grocery stores, the presence of parks and environmental quality.

Some studies have pointed to the large number of guns in the United States as the root cause of the high number of gun deaths. There are more guns in the United States than people. It is commonly reported that as of 2021 there are more than 400 million guns in the United States, more than 20 million of which are AR-15 assault style rifles.

## Homicide by Race Distribution in Fresno County



Fresno County Sheriff/Coroner 2020 Report, Homicide by Race

According to the most recent report (2018) by the Switzerland-based Small Arms Survey, the United States, with less than 5% of the world's population, has 46% of the world's civilian-owned guns.

Although the large number of guns and easy accessibility are major contributors to gun violence and deaths in the United States, those are not considered the root causes of increasing gun violence. The actual root causes of intra-community gun violence are concentrated poverty due to segregation, racial inequities and disinvestment in Black and Brown communities. Per the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence, "Like lynching, gun violence is a racial justice issue."

If not done well, gun violence prevention could actually worsen racial inequity. When developing solutions to gun violence, it is important to remember that no matter how well intentioned those solutions might be, they "can exacerbate or compound upon the harms suffered by impacted communities if they are made without careful analysis and the input of those directly affected by it."

Fresno-based Enough Gun Violence has developed community working groups that seek to welcome and expand community involvement. Enough Gun Violence is committed to working against the policies, practices and laws that have allowed gun violence to flourish.

The National Rifle Association, aka the NRA, invested millions of dollars over the past 30-40 years to fashion the current gun policies in America. Enough Gun Violence hopes it does not take that long to reverse those deadly policies.

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James Mendez, MD, came to Fresno in 1977 for his medical residency training at what was then called the Valley Medical Center. He stayed to practice medicine and raise a family. He is now a retired physician and a community activist.

# Crucial California Climate Bill Sidelined but Not Stopped

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It's unfortunate that a single committee chair has the sole authority to cancel such a crucial bill in our current legislature. But no chairperson can cancel a movement.

"As a leader in the fight against climate change," said Gonzalez back in February, "California must align the investment choices we make with our moral and environmental goals..."

"Investing billions in the fossil fuel companies that are polluting our environment while at the same time trying to meet ambitious emissions-reduction goals is contradictory and incongruous."

Groups such as Fossil Free California rallied behind Gonzalez and are committed to ending financial support for climate-damaging fossil fuel companies. These anti-environment, carbon-producing companies lobby strongly against any legislation that attempts to address the current climate crisis. Which is why the fight is not over.

Next year, advocates for the environment will again introduce legislation for the divestment of fossil fuel companies. There is a commitment to saving our planet while focusing first on saving our state.

Of course, this imperative move away from fossil fuels is backed by good science, not politics.

In April, a group of distinguished California climate change scientists and experts wrote Governor Newsom an urgent letter asking him to take executive action regarding our fossil fuel emergency.

They pleaded: "The oil industry drills in our neighborhoods, pollutes our air, soil and water, and harms public health. It fuels the growing climate crisis that is taking lives, destroying homes and jeopardizing our future—with harms falling on Latinx, Black, Indigenous and low-income communities first and worst."

"We implore you and your administration to use executive authority to lead the state in a rapid and just transition away from fossil fuels, oversee a clean renewable energy build-out, and put public health, safety and a livable future first."

The climate crisis is real. And these Earth scientists know this. Hundreds of leading California climate change scientists are concerned. In the letter to Governor Newsom, they emphasized: "California's oil industry has created a public health and environmental justice crisis in our state."

"From Los Angeles to Kern County to the Bay Area, more than seven million Californians, totaling 18% of the population, live within a mile of at least one oil or gas well."

The social implications are stark.

The scientists explained: "A long history of environmental racism has concentrated oil and gas wells, refineries and other fossil fuel infrastructure—with all their adjacent harms—in Black, Brown and Indigenous communities. In California, the majority of residents living closest to oil and gas extraction sites are people of color."

Section One of the proposed fossil fuel divestment bill was direct in the scope of the problem: "The combustion of coal, oil and natural gas, known as fossil fuels, is the single largest contributor to global climate change" and "climate change affects all parts of the California economy and environment."

The proposed act also clearly emphasized the fact that "the production of fossil fuels and the effects of climate change resulting from the use of fossil fuels all lead to disproportionate adverse impacts on low-income communities and communities of color."

All of which is why it is even more troubling that Assembly Member Cooper, a Black man and active member of California's Legislative Black Caucus, decided to stop SB 1173 in its tracks.

California politicians need to choose people over profits. California voters must ensure this.

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I smiley G. Calderon is a fellow with the Community Alliance newspaper. He is a Gen X Chicano and lifelong educator who spent a career in academia in Southern California but is most proud of being a father.



Monthly meeting the first Tuesday of the Month. Check the web site or Facebook for details.

Fresno, National Women's Political Caucus is a pro-choice, multicultural, intergenerational, and multi-issue grassroots organization dedicated to increasing women's participation in the political process and creating a true women's political power base to achieve equality for all women.

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# Everything Must Change for Everything to Remain the Same

FROM THE EDITOR

Is there electoral apathy? Are young people interested in voting? Perhaps the question should be rephrased: Is it worse to vote? Because the impression is that no matter who you vote for, nothing—or very little—changes.

It's a bipartisan thing: Both political parties work to keep the status quo, a system that's already showing signs of distress, with only two political parties in power, a tax system that openly favors corporations and the rich, endless subsidies to companies, political impunity, lack of accountability and so much more.

The electoral "apathy," particularly among youth, is an expression of social satiation by the citizenry toward a status quo that favors only privilege, corruption and impotence to effect change.

Just before the pandemic, I was summoned for jury duty in Fresno. During the selection process for the 12 jurors, we learned about the case I would judge if selected: Walmart was suing a young Black male for robbery.

The case seemed to me offbeat—a company suing a robber? Aren't the police supposed to take care of such cases? Wouldn't it be simpler to send the young guy to community service? The robber didn't get away with the crime as he obviously was caught.

So what else did the company want and why? To me, this was a case of extreme punishment against a powerless person who was already punished by being caught and humiliated in front of dozens of people in court. To me, without a doubt, the company wanted to send a message to society: Don't touch any of our goodies, or else.

And what did that young guy, with his lost look, rob? Perhaps some merchandise with a value of \$100–\$300? Less than what the company's attorney was charging per hour. So, the company wasn't interested in money but rather punishing the robber, to teach him, and society, a "lesson." It doesn't matter if that show of power costs taxpayers thousands of dollars on an insignificant case.

Fortunately, I was excused from being part of the jury. But this experience showed me clearly and loudly the power that certain companies have, the same entities that are favored by wide tax deductions and government subsidies.

Citizens' power is limited, and politicians are doing their best to limit it even more, particularly in states controlled by Republicans via voter suppression and redistricting to limit the voting potential of minorities.

In the meantime, nothing is really changing for the good. The Senate and the Supreme Court are controlled by Republicans so nothing proposed by Democrats passes, we still have the Electoral College in place and the issue of immigration remains unresolved—where is Kamala Harris, wasn't she appointed by President Biden to come up with a "solution," or at least a plan to tackle the issue?

We are back to the cold war, but now instead of the Soviet Union we have two enemies: Russia and China. This allows the powers that be to instill more fear in the population so that people will approve of an already out-of-control military budget. At the same time, little is being done to control climate change and our daily increase in the planet's temperature, while allowing the oil industry to continue poisoning our air and increasing their profits.

Considering this context, how can we ask young people to vote?



The *Community Alliance* is an independent voice for workers and progressive groups in the Central San Joaquin Valley. The goal of this monthly newspaper is to build a powerful progressive movement that will support social, environmental and economic justice; immigrant rights; and a living wage for all working people. We seek to expose social and political injustices and to link the diverse network of activists working in our community.

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The *Community Alliance* newspaper is looking for a

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## Letters to the Editor

### Another Unhoused Person Dies in Fresno

This is heartbreaking to me because I knew the trauma Jaime went through out there.

I first met Jaime when one of my safe camp residents brought her in off the streets naked, cold and bruised up. For all of those who don't know, I had an acre of land I used to create a safe area for the unhoused because we lack beds in our city. I had it for one and a half years before the City of Fresno told me they would lease it, so they got me out of there, and today it still stands empty.

The amount of trauma women go through out there is inhuman and this causes mental illness, which could lead to addiction. Once that happens, society calls us crazy drug addicts, then more abuse and trauma happens.

The things she went through out there I cannot even mention but it haunts me, and I feel helpless not having the right resources at my camp to help Jaime and so many more women. Maybe if I fought my city harder for resources or maybe if I went to Sacramento more and begged for resources or maybe protested longer we would have them.

I don't know, but to see a human out there lost, afraid, abused and forgotten, hurts so much. I wish I could have had all the resources she needed available to get well and survive out there.

We need safe camps.

We need to protect our women and children.

We need [Fresno Mayor Jerry] Dyer to understand the importance of having safe locations for us is an emergency here in Fresno.

We do not need CARE Court to lock us up because we were left out in these streets too long to endure traumatic conditions and end up with mental illness. We need a safe loving environment with counseling and compassion.

Don't lock us up because we didn't have the resources to get help.

No matter what, Jaime was a daughter and a friend. She made bad choices, but no one deserves to die young.

Dez Martinez  
Fresno

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# Community Alliance Welcomes Cartoonist

By Mike Rhodes

There is a new cartoonist in town and we at the *Community Alliance* newspaper are thrilled that he reached out to us to share his talents. It was the paper's progressive content that caught his eye and led to his contacting us.

Daniel Medina is an internationally published editorial cartoonist with a background in politics and international relations. His cartoons have been published internationally in the Dutch publication, *The Cartoon Movement*; he is currently the staff political cartoonist for Matt Taibbi's online publication, *TK News*; and he is a member of the American Association of Editorial Cartoonists.

Medina worked as a political operative for nearly a decade and has worked with several nonprofit organizations. He has a master's in international relations from the Brussels School of International Studies.

Known for his strong leftist takes on current affairs, Medina has gained a following for his topical, often confrontational, takes. His cartoons do not focus on a particular group of people, whether on the right or left of the political spectrum. Rather, the running theme of his work is standing up for the wants and needs of the many over the greed and desires of the few.

Medina lives in Fresno with his wife and two cats.

The *Community Alliance* team is looking forward to working with Medina as we help build a progressive movement in support of social, economic and environmental justice.



### The Cartoon: Why Are They the Usual Suspects?

In this cartoon, Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims is in the lineup as one of the usual suspects because one or more members of her team stole *Community Alliance* newsstands. This is an undisputed fact admitted to by Mims herself.

Following up on the incident, the *Community Alliance* would like to be compensated for its losses. Moreover, law enforcement needs to acknowledge the value of independent media and the role it plays in a democratic society.

How hard would it be for Mims to say, "Removing and attempting to destroy these newsstands was not our finest moment. The importance of the free press cannot be overstated. With more than 2,500 newspapers in this country shutting



down since 2005, we should cherish and do all we can to help the remaining print media thrive."

It would be nice to take Mims out of the perp lineup, but it appears that she has done nothing to bring justice to this situation. First, Assistant Sheriff Steve McComas told us that because the crime was committed on the sidewalk in front of the Fresno County Jail it was not in the county's jurisdiction. To add injury to insult, McComas said that this was a personnel issue and they would take care of it internally.

We filed a complaint with the Fresno Police Department, which never contacted us about the incident. The fact the newsstand was in their jurisdiction made no difference in the investigation.

We would like this incident to be handled like any other theft in this city. We have video of who did it and the sheriff admitted to the crime, and we demand equal justice under the law.

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Mike Rhodes is the executive director of the *Community Alliance* newspaper and author of the book *Dispatches from the War Zone*, about homelessness in Fresno. His website is [www.mikerhodes.us](http://www.mikerhodes.us). Contact him at [mikerhodes@comcast.net](mailto:mikerhodes@comcast.net).

# United States Rebuked for Violations of Women's Human Rights

By Leni Villagomez Reeves

CEDAW is the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, an international treaty adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly. It is an international bill of human rights for women, including the right to sexual and reproductive health.

CEDAW has been signed and ratified by 189 countries, but the United States has never ratified it. There are only five other countries and the Vatican that have not acceded to this agreement. The most recent signatory was South Sudan in 2015.

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women oversees CEDAW and is often also called by these initials, although it probably should be called the CEDAW Committee. The CEDAW Committee closed its 82nd session on July 1 and issued a statement that highlighted: "Women's access to safe and legal abortion: urgent call for the United States of America to adhere to the Convention."

"The right to health under article 12 of the CEDAW Convention includes the right to bodily autonomy and encompasses women's and girls' sexual and reproductive freedom. In addition, article 16 (e) protects women's rights to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and to have access to the information, education and means to enable them to exercise these rights."

In that regard, the committee endorsed the statement by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, that "access to reproductive rights is at the core of women and girls' autonomy, and ability to make their own choices about their bodies and lives, free of discrimination, violence and coercion."

Given the recent decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* striking down *Roe v. Wade*, a near half century of legal precedent that had protected women's right to choose to have an abortion, the committee expressed its solidarity with women and girls in the United States and urged the United States to adhere to the Convention.

The CEDAW Committee, which monitors countries' compliance with CEDAW, is made up of 23 members who are independent human rights experts from around the world. During this session, Dr. Yanila Gonzalez Ferrer, the Cuban candidate, was elected with 143 votes—the highest vote total recorded—to CEDAW.

This was due to Ferrer's personal qualifications as a distinguished legal expert. She is vice-president of the National Union of Cuban Jurists, a professor at the University of Havana and a member of the Federation of Cuban Women. Moreover, she is a leading member of the Drafting Commission of the Families Code.

It also is a reflection of Cuba's work as a leader in women's rights. Cuba was the first country to sign and the second to ratify CEDAW. Cuban leader Esther Vélez was involved in the drawing up and negotiations of CEDAW and was elected to the first and second committees.

Cuba has a historic presence in the CEDAW Committee. Even more, Cuba has maintained a commitment to the advancement of real, effective equality for women, beginning with the triumph of the Revolution in 1959, so that by the time CEDAW was approved at the end of 1979, Cuba had 20 years of experience in attempting to end discrimination against women, including organization of the Federation of Cuban Women in 1960 and the Family Code of 1975, an advanced document for its time.

In 1965, Cuba legalized abortion, becoming the first country in the Western Hemisphere to allow women autonomy over their own bodies. Women (and men) have the right to six



The librarian at a small community library near Ciénega de Zapata, which had been an area of extreme poverty prior to the Revolution, with a copy of the Cuban Constitution of 2019, and lots of books. Photo courtesy of Leni Villagomez Reeves

weeks maternity/parental leave before giving birth and three months afterward at full salary, with another nine months available at 60% salary and with the right to return automatically to one's job at the end of the year.

Equal pay for equal work is the law. Cuba's parliament (Asamblea Nacional de Poder Popular) has slightly more than 53% women delegates. Women represent about 67% of educational professionals, more than 70% of judges and district attorney equivalents, 62% of doctors and more than half of all scientists.

Cuba is currently updating its entire legal structure of family law in the Families Code—families plural because it establishes rights not recognized until now in the legal system, including the protection of the right of all people of any gender to form a family without discrimination, updating the legal definition of *family institutions* with inclusive rather than strictly heteronormative models.

Some parts of these reforms are controversial for conservative elements in Cuba, but the right to abortion is not under attack. When the Families Code goes to referendum, it is expected to pass by a large majority. Cuba is advancing the rights not only of women but of all people.

Failure to ratify CEDAW, failure to pass the ERA (Equal Rights Amendment), no legal support for parental leave and an ultra-right-wing Supreme Court that eliminates the fundamental human right of body autonomy leads us to the clear conclusion that those who rule the United States are hostile to women's rights, and the rights of all people. In other words, hostile to human rights.

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Leni Villagomez Reeves is a local physician and activist. Contact her at [lenivreeves@gmail.com](mailto:lenivreeves@gmail.com). Check out her news and views about Cuba on Facebook ([fresnosolidarity/](https://www.facebook.com/fresnosolidarity/)).

# Unhoused, Undercounted and Underserved

By Bob McCloskey

On July 14, the Fresno Madera Continuum of Care (FMCoC) held a press conference to announce the results of the 2022 Point in Time (PIT) Count of the unhoused population of the City of Fresno, Fresno County and Madera County. Fresno Mayor Jerry Dyer and Fresno County Supervisor Nathan Magsig were there to speak and answer questions.

Laura Moreno, chair of the FMCoC, and Jody Ketcheside, vice chair, presented the information and data. Two surveys were conducted, the PIT Count and the Housing Inventory Count.

The PIT Count was held on Feb. 23, a particularly cold night. The count was conducted by volunteers to count heads and identify “hot spots” where large concentrations of street family members are. The next day, a second group of volunteers went out to the “hot spots” to conduct detailed interviews.

Ketcheside stated that the count “was probably an undercount.” The count is a snapshot of the unhoused population of the city and counties on a single night, so extrapolation techniques are used to estimate numbers and a demographic breakdown. Other information used to gather data is from database records from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), paper surveys from non-HMIS shelters and electronic surveys from volunteers.

The 2022 PIT Count showed that 2,338 people were experiencing unsheltered homelessness, 1,524 were using emergency shelters and 336 were using transitional housing. This adds up to 4,216 people experiencing homelessness in Fresno, Fresno County and Madera County. The vast majority (3,397) are in the city of Fresno.

Demographic surveys indicate that 60% are male, 39% female and 1% transgender or gender nonconforming; 21% of the unhoused population are families, 25% are chronically homeless, 5% are veterans, 15% are survivors of domestic violence and 19% identified as having a serious mental health issue.

The 2022 Housing Inventory Count showed that 1,795 emergency shelter units, 358 transitional housing units, 389 rapid re-housing units and 2,559 permanent supportive housing units were operational. That is more than double the number of units from 2021. This reflects the large amount of Covid-related emergency funding from the state and federal governments in recent years.

A true accounting of all the recent funding and exactly how it was used is necessary, and the FMCoC should provide that. A Public Records Act information request will be forthcoming for this funding information in our efforts to follow the money. Despite the increase in temporary housing capacity, 4,216 people remain unhoused and 2,338 people are unsheltered every night.

Asked why a recent sweep on county property was carried out without offering shelter to the encampment residents as required by court decisions, Magsig insisted that shelter had been offered. However, interviews with people at the encampment indicated otherwise.

Magsig then brought forward Sonia De La Rosa from the County Administrative Office to explain that outreach workers from the Kingsview outreach team went to the site to do mental health assessments. Some people at the

FRESNO MADERA CONTINUUM OF CARE TOTAL HOMELESS COUNT			
2022			
	Unsheltered	Sheltered	Total
Fresno City	1696	1701	3397
Fresno County	514	27	541
Madera City	73	150	223
Madera County	55	0	55
<b>Total</b>	<b>2338</b>	<b>1878</b>	<b>4216</b>
2020			
	Unsheltered	Sheltered	Total
Fresno City	1674	836	2510
Fresno County	712	29	741
Madera City	250	95	345
Madera County	45	0	45
<b>Total</b>	<b>2681</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>3641</b>
Change from 2020 to 2022			
	Unsheltered	Sheltered	Total
Fresno City	22	865	887
Fresno County	-198	-2	-200
Madera City	-177	55	-122
Madera County	10	0	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>-343</b>	<b>918</b>	<b>575</b>
Percent Change from 2020 to 2022			
	Unsheltered	Sheltered	Total
Fresno City	1.3%	103.4%	35.3%
Fresno County	-27.8%	-6.8%	-26.9%
Madera City	-70.8%	57.8%	-35.3%
Madera County	22.2%	0%	22.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>-12.7%</b>	<b>95.6%</b>	<b>15.7%</b>

The Point in Time Count was held on Feb. 23, a particularly cold night.

## FOLLOW THE MONEY



Elected officials complain about the trash and filth, provide no solutions and cruelly punish those unfortunate enough to be unhoused.  
Photo by Eduardo Stanley

camp told me that 5–10 beds were offered at the Kingsview Manor, a shelter facility that provides mental health services. She did not have an answer to what shelter was offered to those who did not need those services.

Regarding the City, Dyer said “there are no more sweeps in Fresno because there are no more encampments of 10 or more people.”

“There is constant outreach to those on the streets offering shelter and services every day,” Dyer added, implying that shelter beds are actually available when they are not.

“From a safety and health perspective, I am opposed,” Dyer responded when asked about establishing safe camps as an interim, humane solution to the crisis. “You end up with things occurring, females being assaulted, drugs being sold, and there is violence. I am not for sanctioned encampments.”

However, people in encampments often support each other and protect each other, and they are usually safer than solitary camping, especially for women. It’s obvious that Dyer is ignoring successful safe camp results in other cities.

Dyer went on to say that the City intends to purchase more motels for shelter use, build more low-income housing and establish tiny home villages to address the crisis. These words ring hollow when you witness the daily suffering on the streets, witness the inhumane sweeps and hear the stories the street families tell of their encounters with the Fresno Police Department.

The city, county and FMCoC ignore the everyday reality and humanity of street family members, present a positive image of “all they are doing for the homeless” and are still failing to provide adequate services to those in shelters and those who are unsheltered. They are failing to provide permanent, long-term solutions such as Housing First, job training and assistance with job placement.

Until more housing becomes available, temporary safe camps with basic services should be established.

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Bob McCloskey is a prisoner and inmate rights advocate and a homeless advocate. Contact him at bobmccloskey06@gmail.com.

## City Rolls Out Mobile Shower Unit

By Bob McCloskey

In April 2020, the Fresno City Council approved the funding and purchase of a mobile restroom and shower unit meant to serve the unhoused community. The funding was provided by federal CARES Act dollars.

For many years, street family members, advocates and members of the Fresno community that have a heart have lobbied, pleaded and pushed for the city and county to provide some human dignity and meet the basic human needs of people living on the brutal, hot streets of Fresno.

Instead, elected leaders have complained about human feces and the smell of urine on the streets and sidewalks without providing any restrooms. They have pontificated endlessly about the “homeless problem” and pandered to residents and business owners by enforcing endless encampment sweeps, oftentimes violating the *Martin v. Boise* court decision, which requires that shelter is offered to people before a sweep can occur on public property.

Elected leaders complain about the trash and filth, provide no solutions and cruelly punish those unfortunate enough to be unhoused. Finally, after continued lobbying, the city is making a meager attempt to provide some sanitation services by sending one mobile shower unit around the city on a rotating basis.

There are 2,338 people (an undercount) in the City of Fresno, City of Madera and County of Fresno who are unsheltered and have no access to water and sanitation. The vast majority are in the city and one mobile shower/restroom is insufficient albeit a small step in the right direction. Restrooms and water access should be provided throughout the city and county in sufficient numbers.

The City finally rolled out the showers on July 6. The mobile unit has four bathrooms and is equipped with showers, toilets and sinks. It hooks up to a city water connection and runs off a generator.

Fresno City Council Member Miguel Arias said that the “showers and restrooms have been the No. 1 request from the homeless for decades.”

Arias also said that he hopes the restrooms will relieve the need “to clean up human feces and urine from public buildings and from small business storefronts,” a major complaint from the business community.

It stretches credibility to think that one rotating mobile restroom unit will have a major impact on reducing the amount of human excrement on the streets of Fresno. The city only has one mobile unit. A second unit is scheduled to arrive by March 2023.

The City is contracting with Grace Bound Inc. to operate the mobile shower unit in its pilot period, and then the City will issue a request for proposals to operate the units in the future costing \$4,000 a month. Each unit costs \$130,000 to purchase.

The City is reporting that the rollout has been successful, and a City official said that “everybody’s been respectful and clean, and it’s running pretty smooth, so we’re off to a good start.”

Several City Council members have begun identifying locations in which the unit can be parked, he added. For now, the plan will be to rotate the location on a weekly basis. Arias said he hopes that in the future, the City will be able to purchase additional mobile restroom units and create a schedule so people know when and where they can access them.

He said that the showers can be stationed wherever there is a hookup to the main waterline, an access point to the City’s sewer line and an open area for the generator, describing the mobile bathrooms as a “citywide solution” to a “citywide crisis.”

He also said “this is a basic human need we’re finally meeting. This should have happened 20 years ago, but it’s here now, and we’re gonna make the most of it.”

For now, the showers will be open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., rotating weekly on a location schedule to be determined. Advocates are lobbying for more units to be purchased and making suggestions for locations and hours of operation.

It’s a small step that took much effort from advocates to achieve. Although progress is being made, the struggle continues for the basic human right to housing in the Fresno area and we will persevere.

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Bob McCloskey is a prisoner and inmate rights advocate and a homeless advocate. Contact him at bobmccloskey06@gmail.com.

# How We Handle a Controversial Article

By Mike Rhodes

In July 2022, the *Community Alliance* newspaper printed “Smell Their Dairy Ais,” written by Kevin Hall for his “Climate Politics” column. The article was also on our website but was removed because of complaints we received. Those concerns centered on Hall’s comments relative to Beneficial State Bank, Tom Steyer, Kat Taylor and Bill McKibben’s answer to a question raised with him at his talk in Fresno on June 11.

McKibben, a well-known climate change activist and co-founder of 350.org, was in town as the featured speaker at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence 30th anniversary event held at the Universalist Unitarian Church of Fresno. He spoke about his new organization, Third Act, which encourages investment in efforts to stop human caused climate change.

In answer to a question about where people who care about the environment should invest their money, McKibben answered Beneficial State Bank.

In his column, Hall explained why he thought that was a bad answer. Reasonable people can disagree.

Moreover, Beneficial State Bank alleged that there were factual inaccuracies in the column although we were unable to substantiate any. We invited a representative from Beneficial State Bank to respond to the concerns, but the invitation was declined.

We asked Hall to review and rewrite the article. He declined too.

In an interesting twist to this controversy, the San Joaquin Valley Media Alliance, a newly formed 501(c)(3) created to help the *Community Alliance* newspaper and keep independent journalism alive, set up its bank account at Beneficial State Bank.

They have a local branch near Shaw and Blackstone avenues, and here is what they say about their guiding principles: “Beneficial State serves the triple bottom line of people, planet and prosperity for all. The bank’s unique ownership structure supports these strategic priorities.



Independent media can go to where the silence is and break the sound barrier, doing what the corporate networks refuse to do.

— Amy Goodman —

AZ QUOTES

Support local alternative/independent media such as KFCF 88.1 FM and the *Community Alliance* newspaper.

“The bank’s capital is majority-owned by the U.S. Treasury and nonprofit Beneficial State Foundation, both of which are permanently governed in the public interest.

“Beneficial State Bank is a founding signatory of the UN’s Principles for Responsible Banking, a member of the Global Alliance for Banking on Values, a member of Bank.Green’s Fossil Free Banking Alliance, a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) and one of the world’s top-rated Certified B Corporations, awarded B Corp ‘Best for the World’ status every year since 2013.”

Tom Steyer and Kat Taylor are co-founders of Beneficial State Bank. Steyer also is a co-founder of Galvanize Climate Solutions, which gives us insight into the motivation behind his investment principles. This is from a press release issued last year:

Noted investors Katie Hall and Tom Steyer are launching a new investment platform named Galvanize Climate Solutions (“Galvanize”). Galvanize will be a mission-driven investment platform, bringing together the ingenuity of the public and private sectors to support companies that contribute meaningful solutions to securing a livable future. Galvanize believes in the use of Movement Capitalism to accelerate the adoption of clean technology and increase the rate of decarbonization.

“Movement Capitalism is an economic philosophy that employs the foundations of capitalism—innovation, entrepreneurship, competition—and merges those with the power of global activism, in support of a higher public purpose,” said Steyer. “The practice of Movement Capitalism involves not only generating profit, but also successfully addressing global challenges, such as the climate crisis.”

It’s estimated that, over the next 30 years, the global community will need to invest close to \$4 trillion per year in energy transition technologies to secure a livable future. Currently, global investments total just over \$800 billion per year, leaving a \$3 trillion gap annually. Given the magnitude of the crisis and global political constraints, the public sector cannot close this gap without significant private sector investment.

To learn more about Beneficial State Bank, visit [beneficialstatebank.com](http://beneficialstatebank.com). More information about Bill McKibben and his Third Act group can be found at [thirdact.org](http://thirdact.org).

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*Mike Rhodes is the executive director of the Community Alliance newspaper and author of the book Dispatches from the War Zone, about homelessness in Fresno. His website is [www.mikerhodes.us](http://www.mikerhodes.us). Contact him at [mikerhodes@comcast.net](mailto:mikerhodes@comcast.net).*

## SB 911 Would Drive a Stake in the Heart of Ethnic Media

By Sandy Close and Regina Brown Wilson

The California legislature has spent months considering a bill—SB 911 by State Senator Steve Glazer (D–Orinda)—that would dedicate \$25 million in state surplus funds to local and ethnic journalism. It would also stab the independent ethnic media sector in the heart.

That’s why, despite the financial pressures that have disrupted the entire news industry, our two organizations—Ethnic Media Services and California Black Media, which have worked for decades to support and advocate for the ethnic media sector—oppose SB 911. For the moment, our objections have temporarily paused the bill’s progress, but it could reemerge at any point.

Ethnic media pride themselves on being rooted in their communities and serving as an independent advocacy voice. “We wish to plead our own cause; too long have others spoken for us,” was the mission statement of the *Freedom Journal* way back in 1827. That captures ethnic media’s mission today, regardless of what language they publish in or which community they serve.

Among our top concerns—echoed in numerous conversations with practitioners across the sector—is that the bill promotes a nonprofit model as a one-size-fits-all solution to the problems of local and ethnic journalism.

But for decades, most ethnic media have operated as for-profit businesses and that model has allowed them to operate as an advocacy sector for their communities—you hear it in their titles: *Sentinel*, *Informer*, *Voice*, *Guardian*, *Crusader*—and that is precisely why mainstream media has often disparaged their reporting without understanding the unique role they play.

Adopting the nonprofit model would expressly forbid ethnic media from regularly endorsing political candidates or lobbying on behalf of proposed legislation. It would cripple their advocacy voice.

Nor are most ethnic media outlets prepared to shift their revenue base from advertising to foundation and government grants, especially if overseen by a board of political appointees as SB 911 proposes.

Ethnic media create a synergy with the small and micro businesses and community-based organizations that is crucial for neighborhood economies to thrive—ethnic media expand the customer base of local businesses and agencies, while local businesses provide the majority of ad revenues that support ethnic media.

For the sector to become dependent on grants from foundations or government agencies would disempower both ethnic media and their communities.

Finally, we are concerned about how SB 911 proposes to administer funds through a board of political appointees that would be costly and time-consuming to set up and would wind up determining the criteria for how the government doles out support for local journalism for years to come.

Ethnic media might have two representatives on that board. But the majority would have no direct knowledge of the unique role of ethnic media or how it works. The last thing ethnic media need are people with little experience in their communities determining what kind of media those communities need.

And we are concerned that the bill as currently written would allow media start-ups—including many in the nonprofit space—that have operated for only one year to qualify for

### OPINION & ANALYSIS



Ethnic media is rooted in their communities and serves as an independent advocacy voice, reporting in different languages locally spoken. Photo courtesy of Ethnic Media Services

support. This puts them in direct competition with media that have worked for decades to serve their communities and sustain themselves.

SB 911 was intended to spotlight the dire straits many ethnic media find themselves in, especially following the business shutdowns from the pandemic, inflation and a possible recession, let alone the demands of adapting to the digital world. But we’re not prepared to greenlight the bill as currently written for the sake of whatever share the board bestows to individual outlets after their own administrative costs are met.

We urge the legislature to consider far more productive ways of supporting the ethnic news sector much as was done in the 2020 Census when advertising dollars earmarked for ethnic media increased from \$15 million to more than \$85 million, recognizing that only ethnic media could deliver truly inclusive outreach to the diverse communities that now make up the state.

Redirect the \$25 million to advertising or outreach on the many issues these communities now face. Create mandates that steer a fairer share of marketing dollars for issues such as drought, housing, wildfires, climate change or healthcare to our media sector, and that will reach the underserved audiences that the state needs to reach, rather than wasting time and money on a costly administrative process in the name of ethnic media.

The nonprofit model works well for a small number of ethnic media news agencies, including such veteran nonprofits as *Radio Bilingue* and *India Currents*; they are convenors and informers of community, they fit the category of mission-driven journalism, and we applaud them for their work.

But one size does not fit all media, especially the vast majority of ethnic news outlets. Don’t ask ethnic media to transform themselves into a model that reduces their interdependence with the community. “Too long have others spoken for us.” That’s what SB 911 does, and that’s why we oppose it.

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*Sandy Close, director of Ethnic Media Services, was founder and former director of New America Media and Pacific News Service. She’s worked in the ethnic media sector for more than 25 years. Regina Brown Wilson is the executive director of California Black Media, the oldest advocacy organization supporting locally owned Black media.*

# Cities Attempt “C” Cash Grab

By Kevin Hall

The residents of rural Fresno County living outside its 15 cities, including thousands in more than 30 disadvantaged unincorporated communities, were placed on the political chopping block last month.

In a last-minute proposal on how to split the Measure C \$6.8 billion transportation sales tax pie for the years 2027 to 2057, Fresno Mayor Jerry Dyer and Fresno County Supervisor Sal Quintero enticed eight rural mayors and Clovis’s Jose Flores to join them in an 11-4 vote at the Fresno Council of Governments (COG); together, they propose to take \$185 million away from the county’s most impoverished areas and keep it for their cities.

Despite the vote’s overwhelming support, such a split is unprecedented in Measure C history. In the 2002 and 2006 Measure C renewal efforts—the first failed in the face of community opposition led by the League of Women Voters of Fresno—no elected official broke ranks from either party. All were in support every step of the way. With two-thirds voter approval required, such unanimity among elected officials and advocates alike is required to ensure success at the polls.

Although the tax won’t expire until 2027, officials want to begin borrowing now against future revenue to continue their massive road-building projects for leapfrog developments west of Highway 99; north up Highway 41, Friant Road and Highway 168 with new freeway interchanges for Clovis; and east along Highway 180 into the foothills and wildfire zones as 168 has already done.

Planned “communities” for white-collar flight are going in along the length of the Fresno and Madera county foothills, and the developers want bigger roads and bridges in every direction. The Measure C expenditure plan calls these expansions “road repair.”

Absorption of the 119-acre unincorporated section of Calwa by the City of Fresno emerged from behind closed door negotiations as the surprise compromise between city and county officials in the push to place Measure C renewal on the ballot this November. It includes portions of Church and Jensen avenues that have industrial uses immediately adjacent to residential neighborhoods suffering from increasing diesel truck traffic and crumbling roads.

Gregory Weaver and Danielle Bergstrom reported in the *Fresno Bee* on July 8 that “the county would get \$185 million less [in Measure C funds] in the city’s plan, but Dyer said that



Gateway to Sprawl: Measure C subsidies continue to fund sprawl west of Highway 99. The \$140 million Grantland Avenue crossing, renamed Veterans Boulevard for public relations purposes, leveraged millions in local sales tax dollars to secure state and federal funds. Now developers want taxpayers to subsidize expansion of two-lane rural streets to five-lane arterials under the guise of “road repair,” “gaps” and “neighborhood streets” in this region of highly profitable leapfrog development. Photo by Joey Hall

annexing the largely residential sections of Calwa into the city of Fresno would help soften this deficit for the county.”

When the Fresno mayor dropped the new plan just an hour before the Fresno COG’s big vote on July 7, another surprise emerged: four rural mayors in the role of advocates for a better public process. Rolando Castro of Mendota, Julia Hernandez of San Joaquin, Mary Fast of Reedley and Scott Robertson of Selma all voted against moving the plan forward to voters.

The proposal next moved to the Fresno County Board of Supervisors for the first of two votes by that body; their final vote to place Measure C on the ballot is slated for Aug. 8. The supervisors split their July 12 vote 4-1, with Supervisor Steve Brandau dissenting, presumably because his political patrons at Granville Homes are negotiating behind the scenes for more road subsidies. His full support is anticipated by August.

At press time, votes were upcoming at the Fresno County Transportation Authority and the Fresno City Council. Both bodies are anticipated to announce their satisfaction with the backroom deals, secret negotiations and the

Measure C renewal committee’s failure to define equity in transportation spending or to receive a single presentation on climate change in 18 months of meetings.

Advocates from the Transportation4All.org coalition, which submitted a letter signed by 36 entities from across the civic spectrum including unions, faith leaders, businesses and community-based organizations, continue to call on elected leaders to do better.

As Veronica Garibay, co-director of Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability, told the *Fresno Bee* after the mayors’ vote, “Tonight demonstrates that decision-makers today have no respect for community engagement and community voices...I don’t think that the public forgets easily.”

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Kevin Hall hosts Climate Politics on KFCF 88.1 FM every second and fourth Friday, 5 p.m.–6 p.m. He tweets as @airfresno and @sjvalleyclimate, coordinates an informal network of climate activists at [www.valleyclimate.org](http://www.valleyclimate.org), and can be contacted at [sjvalleyclimate@gmail.com](mailto:sjvalleyclimate@gmail.com) for presentations and information.

## “C” Saw: Hitting Bottom

By Kevin Hall

Ever experience that painful tailbone landing that follows when your playmate suddenly jumps off their end of the seesaw? To avoid it you had to see it coming, then put your feet down fast. It’s like they say in politics, you can only be surprised if you’re not paying attention.

Fresno County’s inattentive urban leaders and a number of rural ones will soon be hitting bottom, too. Elected officials and business leaders alike are currently riding high, their heels kicking the air.

Boosted by unreliable polling results, developer money and hubris, Clovis Mayor Jose Flores and Fresno County Supervisor Brian Pacheco scornfully told advocates in a pair of July meetings that this is how laws and sausage are made; the public has to watch them decide, and the most important climate debate in Fresno County history comes down to a few weeks of rushed backroom dealmaking among a handful of conservative politicians.

They couldn’t be more wrong and are about to learn why balanced governance works best, a painful lesson that the gravitational force of a plebiscite will soon force upon them. You see, everyone votes this time, not just them, and the public has stepped off the other end of Measure “C” first. Advocates’ feet are on the ground, in the community, continuing to fight for equity in transportation spending embedded in goals of climate resilience.

The public debates at the Fresno Council of Governments (COG) and Fresno County Board of Supervisors meetings in July were a display of arrogance by elected officials accustomed to ignoring the Brown Act prohibition on step meetings and having the final word on significant budget and land-use votes at their city councils. It’s standard operating procedure throughout Fresno County.

Again, they’re used to having the final word, the final vote. But not this time. This time the public votes, and long before they do, advocates will be out demonstrating and protesting, telling the entire community the truth behind the lies coming from the business community; sharing Measure C’s long history of false and broken promises; and adding up the massive subsidies being created for industrial growth in south Fresno and continued white-collar flight to the foothills.

It feels like the 1980s around here again, the corrupt era of Fresno and Clovis politicians

trading rezones for contributions of every kind, assessing low impact fees and ignoring unbridled sprawl’s community-wide impacts.

Consider the words of incoming Fresno City Council Member Annalisa Perea. Her father, Henry R. Perea, came up through the local political ranks back then and now mentors a whole crop of

## CLIMATE POLITICS



Thanks to Measure C money, “planned communities” are flourishing in the rangeland of eastern Madera County along Highway 41. These function as bedroom communities for people working in Fresno and Clovis. More development is sought in the wildfire zones of the foothill chaparral and Sierra forests, and large-scale trucking centers are being approved for Highway 99 at the San Joaquin River. Photo by Peter Maiden

local young officeholders. Son Henry T. works as a Chevron lobbyist, having left the State Assembly a year early to join the ranks of Sacramento lobbyists.

Annalisa Perea best captured the spirit of Fresno’s special brand of subservient politics in her *Fresno Bee* candidate interview in May when she stated that she wants to “cut the red tape and roll out the red carpet” for development of every kind. That’s old school Fresno for a new generation.

Yet, the Fresno City Council has been left out of this debate, sidelined by Council Member Esmeralda Soria’s failure as the Council’s representative on the Fresno County Transportation Authority to act when the Measure C renewal committee was being formed in early 2021. She later attended a committee meeting or two as Mayor Jerry Dyer’s alternate and filled in for him again at a COG meeting, but that was the extent of the City Council’s direct involvement.

Fresno has been represented solely by the conservative former police chief turned politician. A rookie mayor halfway through his second year in office, Dyer’s biggest political backers are the Assemis and their network of residential development corporations and agricultural interests through which they legally sidestep campaign contribution limits. They’re also arguably the biggest beneficiaries of Measure C subsidies.

Madera’s Mini-C. Measure T in Madera County is best regarded as C’s mini-me, a smaller version of the exact same set of problems: the community excluded, industrial and sprawl subsidies prioritized, arrogant officials and no attention to climate change or equity. Both counties seek to slash transit funding and have had no discussions of electrification, climate resiliency or rural high-speed Internet.

Continues on page 10

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Graphic by Lincoln Cushing

## Volunteering in Croatia

WILPF-Fresno member Nancy Hatcher recently joined a team of fellow volunteers in Kostajnica, Croatia, to repair homes that suffered damage in the December 2020 earthquake. Working alongside those who live in the five selected houses, Nancy commented that her hope for peace in the world is enhanced by developing friendships with those living in other cultures and by providing a helping hand to those in need.

The team of volunteers was invited to participate in this project by the mayor of Kostajnica and several other municipalities. Nancy has volunteered in six other countries with the Fuller Center for Housing, Habitat for Humanity and the Fuller Disaster Rebuilders in Florida and Puerto Rico, noting that she truly prefers this kind of "vacation."

Photos by Nancy Hatcher



## The NFL Claims Black Lives Matter

Currently, there is a lawsuit between the NFL and a Black coach who claims the owners of NFL teams are racist. He claims they conducted sham interviews just to meet the league's racial quota, but in reality they already had picked their head coaches. Other White coaches have spoken out to confirm that this is the case, but the owners claim that they are not racist.

Use this as the backdrop for the next topic as we talk about another NFL story everyone is familiar with.

### Colin Kaepernick

For those who don't know, Colin Kaepernick broke NFL rushing records as a quarterback, took his team to the Super Bowl and had one of the highest passer ratings in the league. After seeing Black men and women getting killed repeatedly by the police and the police getting off without punishment, he decided that he would sit through the national anthem because the words in the anthem didn't represent what was happening to Black people.

People didn't know why he sat through the national anthem at first, but one day a reporter asked him and he told them how he felt about Black people being treated unjustly. America had a big problem with this.

On the outside, they said they had a problem with him sitting. They said he was disrespecting the military and that he should shut up and play football.

A former Green Beret then contacted Kaepernick and suggested that instead of sitting through the anthem, he should take a knee because soldiers kneel in respect when they mourn one of their fellow soldiers dying and people kneel in prayer. Kaepernick took the advice and started kneeling. The same people who had a problem with him sitting now had a problem with him kneeling.

Kaepernick was eventually forced out of the league for this stance and has not been allowed back in. This was so blatant that he sued on the basis that the NFL and multiple teams colluded to keep him out of football.

The President himself called out Kaepernick as if he was public enemy No. 1. For what? Not because he stole money or beat up his girlfriends or did drugs or cheated on his taxes.

He was hated for peacefully kneeling and telling the world why. He was hated because he wanted accountability for the unjustified deaths of people who looked like him by those who were paid to serve and protect, and he wanted America to see it.

The NFL was forced to settle the lawsuit because there was proof that teams had colluded to keep Kaepernick out of football. All he wanted to do was play football, and they took that away because he spoke up by kneeling in silence.

Kaepernick has been trying to get back in the league ever since but with no luck. Team owners think that he will be a troublemaker, divide the locker room or, even worse, make their team America's most hated team by half of America and all the people who support Trump.

### Optics Is the Key Word

Does the NFL really take optics that seriously though? After you hear about this next story you can decide for yourself what you think about the league regarding its stance against racism.

DeShaun Watson used to be the quarterback of the Houston Texans. Watson had to sit out last season because there were 24 allegations of sexual misconduct against him. He was a good quarterback.

He also might have to sit out this season as well, but what we find funny is that while in the middle of his legal troubles, the Cleveland Browns decided that they would be willing to trade draft picks to the Houston Texans to acquire Watson and pay him \$230 million as their quarterback. In fact, the Browns already had a decent quarterback. Remember, Watson is currently on suspension and didn't play any of last season.

Understand, at the time of this writing, Kaepernick had not gotten a roster spot even as a third- or fourth-string backup quarterback but Watson, who hasn't played in more than a year, was bought with the Browns future on the line in hopes that he can get through his legal troubles and not get convicted.

Twenty-four potential sexual misconduct charges aren't as offensive to an NFL owner as a player taking a knee for racial justice.

The NFL owners all claim to not have a racist bone in their body and back it up by saying they let the league paint the "Black Lives Matter" slogan somewhere on their fields, all while Black people who actually stand up to racial inequality are literally being denied their chance at success by these same owners.

The sad thing about all of this is that we are the ones to be made to feel like we are the crazy ones. We are the ones who aren't seeing it correctly. We're the ones who don't know what we're talking about and are told that we are making a big deal out of something that isn't true while it's happening in real time right in front of us.

Now we don't know what's worse, the offense itself, or the response to us calling out the offense as we see it. What do we do? Where do we go from here?

— Mouth-peace

Send any comments for writer Mouth-peace to [unpacking\\_racism2022@yahoo.com](mailto:unpacking_racism2022@yahoo.com) or [drjeankennedy@yahoo.com](mailto:drjeankennedy@yahoo.com).

### WILPF MEETING

Aug. 11, Thursday, 7 p.m. online. Watch your e-mail for an announcement with a link and a call-in number! For more information, contact Teresa [taca\\_03@ymail.com](mailto:taca_03@ymail.com) or Leni at [lenivreeves@gmail.com](mailto:lenivreeves@gmail.com).

### MEMBERSHIP

Please renew if you haven't already. Send dues to WILPF Fresno, P.O. Box 5114, Fresno, CA 93755.

For questions and information updates, contact Nancy Hatcher at [nhatcher46@gmail.com](mailto:nhatcher46@gmail.com) or Kyla Mitchell at [kyla.noelle@gmail.com](mailto:kyla.noelle@gmail.com).

WILPF-US membership is \$35/year. WILPF-Fresno sponsors a low-income rate of \$20.

### STIR IT UP-WILPF KFCF 88.1 FM

Aug. 24, 3 p.m. (fourth Wednesday of each month). Jean Hays highlights people and events important to our WILPF community.

### UNPACKING RACISM

Dr. Jean Kennedy will resume these sessions in September. RSVP with your e-mail address to [drjeankennedy@yahoo.com](mailto:drjeankennedy@yahoo.com) or text 559-270-1023.

### WOMEN IN BLACK

Probably on hiatus because of the heat. Check first with Sue Kern at [skern@netptc.net](mailto:skern@netptc.net) or 559-439-3777. (Wednesday, Aug. 3, at noon at the Courthouse, if scheduled.)



# “What Is the Liberal Agenda?” Revisited

By Homer Gee Greene Jr.

In Dr. Malik Simba’s excellent essay, “What Is the Liberal Agenda?,” published in the June edition of the *Community Alliance* newspaper, he states that “the new Democratic Party not only embraced the changing multicultural America but also the class question and how public policy should be used to protect and serve working-class women and men or, to cite the U.S. Constitution, ‘promote the general welfare.’”

“This embrace attained its clearest expression when President Harry S. Truman supported the Democratic platform of 1948, ‘to secure these rights’ for America’s racial minorities.

“In response, the southern wing of the Democratic Party bolted and formed its own party, the Dixiecrats, which was a synonym for the Ku Klux Klan. Upon the collapse of this party, its members moved to the White supremacist party of George Wallace and his American Independent Party in 1968, and eventually to today’s conservative and right-wing Republican Party.”

I would argue that Dr. Simba should have extended his analysis to include the Republican Party transforming into the more racist and White nationalist party that it is today.

He left out the Tea Party, which was an anti-minority party that wanted to limit additional social, economic and political rights to racial minorities, in particular, Black people.

Then came the Birther movement, an anti-Black and racist movement that falsely asserted that Barack Obama was ineligible to run for the presidency because he was not born on American soil. At the front of the movement was Donald J. Trump, who could not accept that a Black man could be this intelligent and accomplished.

So, Trump created his first of many lies and false accusations against Obama and racial minorities. I would say that birtherism was Trump’s initial Big Lie that gathered national acceptance by Republican Party members.

Then came the creation of the Make America Great Again movement, or MAGA. This movement can also be labeled the Make America White Again movement. At the root of their racist political desire is to stop the browning of America.

Again, Trump and the goal of his movement is to take rights away from minorities, or people of color, and people with particular gender identifications and deny women’s reproductive rights.

President Biden clearly sees that the MAGA movement has morphed and now is ultra-MAGA.

Ultra-MAGA is a term originally used by President Joe Biden in reference to a subset of “extreme” Republicans.

This ultra-MAGA movement now has as its political philosophy that of Trumpism: *Trumpism* is a term for the



When the Democratic Party supported a democratic platform in 1948, the southern wing of the Party bolted and formed its own party, the Dixiecrats, which was a synonym for the Ku Klux Klan. Upon the collapse of this party, its members moved to the White supremacist party of George Wallace in 1968, and eventually to today’s conservative and right-wing Republican Party. In the image, members of the Klu Klux Klan during a parade in Northern Virginia in 1922.

Photo courtesy of The Commons

political ideologies, social emotions, style of governance, political movement and set of mechanisms for acquiring and keeping control of power associated with Donald Trump and his political base.

This ultra-MAGA movement will outlive Trump, and he will no longer be needed physically. Another fascist will soon replace him.

With the establishment of the ultra-MAGA Party, we now have an authoritarian, anti-Black, fascist, anti-democratic, anti-women, anti-browning of America and anti-gender equality movement.

We can read from Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas’s opinion that the ultra-MAGA members of this Party would like to reconsider and take away the right to contraception, the right to consensual same-sex intercourse, the right to have same-sex marriages and, by implication, the nullification of mixed-race marriages.

“In a concurring opinion in *Dobbs*, Justice Thomas urged the overruling of decisions that protected constitutional rights to purchase and use contraceptives, to engage in private consensual same-sex activity and to have same-sex marriages.” (*Fresno Bee*, July 8)

The real threat of the ultra-MAGA movement is to have some privacy rights not permitted at the federal level and to have states decide which of these rights will be permitted or prohibited in their states.

Hence, Republicans have now come full circle back to some of the goals and objectives of the racist White nationalist and White supremacist Dixiecrat Party,

Based on my readings, 30% of Republicans are MAGA and ultra-MAGA, 50% are conservatives who just want to win and maintain their economic and political status and 20% are never Trumpers, who realize Trump’s threat to our democracy. A large number of conservatives are Trump sycophants, cowards and unpatriotic in that they will not challenge Trump.

Trumpism is now the MAGA movement’s ideology and is at the foundation of their attack on American democracy. Their primary reason to support Trump is greed and political power. The ancient Greeks would identify Trump sycophants as kleptocrats and they would identify Trump as a kakistocrat.

Vote blue and stop the MAGA Republican Party from further transforming into a truly fascist, racist, White supremacist, misogynistic and anti-democracy party.

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Homer Gee Greene Jr. is a freelance writer and photographer, documentarian for the Clark Bonsai Collection, and founding partner and business manager for ScholarDev LLC, a start-up tech company. He is retired from Fresno City College.

# Fiber Broadband Comes to the Central Valley

By Stan Santos

The story of broadband technology in Central Valley communities follows historic patterns of privilege and neglect, extreme poverty in a region of extreme wealth. Hundreds of towns, such as Firebaugh, Mendota, San Joaquin, Tranquillity, Five Points, Raisin City, Cantua, El Porvenir and Huron, suffer from the state’s worst air and water quality. Children experience the lowest achievement levels in English language arts, math and college entrance exams—foundational indicators of a child’s future quality of life.

In west Fresno County, grassroots organizing has not claimed major victories since the United Farm Workers (UFW) strikes or the struggle for land and basic services waged by farmworker families of Three Rocks in 1980.

Life for farmworker communities ebbs and flows like a river. They work the fields, observe the changing seasons

and raise their children between cycles of man-made and natural crises such as droughts, housing and the economy. Another crisis arrived in 2020, with the gradual, increasingly deadly onslaught of Covid-19.

In December 2020, more than 800,000 farmworkers worked the fields and orchards of California, most of them in the Central Valley, and more than 300,000 were undocumented. With the onset of the pandemic, they were all suddenly classified as “essential workers.”

In 2021, a UC San Francisco research report stated that agricultural workers were almost twice as likely to die from Covid-19 as other working adults in California. They had the highest rate of deaths of any occupational group.

In April 2020, President Trump declared meat and poultry processors as essential industries. In the ensuing months, Foster Farms in Livingston had 400 infections and nine deaths. Seven workers died at Foster Farms plants in Fresno and another 10 in Merced, Tulare and Stanislaus counties. The San Joaquin Valley had arrived at the intersection of greed, economic interests and the lives of poor and working families.

Meanwhile, thousands of children, many of them the sons and daughters of those essential workers, were forced to do online learning.

But the Internet that higher-income neighborhoods take for granted was not there for them. Principal/

Superintendent Baldomero Hernandez of West Side Elementary in Five Points sent surveys to parents and found that only 10% had Internet in their homes. Most pointed to their cell phones as their only access.

Speed tests performed on dozens of Wi-Fi hot-spot devices provided by county schools found that many performed marginally, relying on the weak cell tower signal of low-quality antennas. They were unable to provide a symmetrical data stream for the balanced two-way video that is essential for learning.

Teachers became frustrated and children disengaged. That exposed a glaring injustice: The Valley landscape is in fact a “digital desert.”

How do species survive in the natural world? Nature marshals its forces through communications networks. Living creatures, from microorganisms to trees and the four-legged, communicate through sound, mycelium and electromagnetic frequencies.

Whale songs carry high-amplitude sound across thousands of miles of ocean to communicate with their pod, locate mates and avoid danger. Ants coordinate to cross rushing streams by piling on each other and building a submerged bridge with their bodies. Bees use dance movement and odor to communicate.

Continues on page 10

# “C” Saw: Hitting Bottom

Continued from page 7

Many of the same developers work both sides of the river, and great emphasis is being placed on “planned communities” in the rangeland of eastern Madera County along Highway 41. These function as bedroom communities for people working in Fresno and Clovis. More development is sought in the wildfire zones of the foothill chaparral and Sierra forests, and large-scale trucking centers are being approved for Highway 99 at the San Joaquin River.

The renewal committees in both counties were stacked with conservative interests, including the politicians themselves. The most outspoken rural mayor in the process has been Parlier’s Alma Beltran, a 2016 Trump supporter. True to form, she gaslit the entire audience of more than 200 gathered at Fresno City Hall where the July COG board meeting was held to accommodate the crowd.

An earlier attempt fell apart when the agency’s online meeting setup proved inadequate, perfectly demonstrating the long-standing complaint that the agency does not engage

meaningfully with the public.

“I wish that they would have worked more on being more engaged in the workshops,” Beltran said misleadingly of the outspoken attendees alerted to the crisis by the 36-member Transportation4All.org coalition, according to a *Fresno Bee* story. Right. All two of them.

In the late fall, staff and consultants announced a series of public forums with only one day’s notice during a pandemic wave. Nobody showed. In the spring, the public did turn out in force in Kerman and Clovis. None of their suggestions were incorporated into the executive committee considerations.

Politicians from Clovis to Huron, and business leaders from the Chamber of Commerce to Community Medical Centers, have chosen the worst possible moment to look away from the public. They’re in for a hard landing.

\*\*\*\*\*

Kevin Hall hosts Climate Politics on KFCF 88.1 FM every second and fourth Friday, 5 p.m.–6 p.m. He tweets as @airfresno and @sjvalleyclimate, coordinates an informal network of climate activists at [www.valleyclimate.org](http://www.valleyclimate.org), and can be contacted at [sjvalleyclimate@gmail.com](mailto:sjvalleyclimate@gmail.com) for presentations and information.

# Fiber Broadband Comes to the Central Valley

Continued from page 9

For natural societies, survival of their species is an instinctive function. They process information, communicate and act as one, for the benefit of all.

You would think human beings as higher organisms would do the same, and consider all fellow beings, particularly children, as essential, like the living cells of that organism, which is society.

During the pandemic, higher-income communities, predominantly urban and White, accessed learning over high-speed fiber-optic networks, while thousands of “children of a lesser god” were left offline. This tragic failure unfolded in homes throughout California.

## Network Architecture in Humans

The beautiful architecture of the human body relies on neurons in the brain and heart, which send high-speed signals via neural networks and synapses to every dependent system and extremity. When children lack stimulation, socialization and learning, the connectivity in their developing brains can decline, neural pathways lose plasticity and their lights go dim. They might never reach their full human potential.

Lack of lifelong learning, stimulation and social activity in adults contributes to comorbidities, which are the underlying causes of higher death rates related to Covid-19 in communities that lack effective communications networks and auxiliary services.

Communications Workers of America (CWA) Local 9408 represents more than a thousand employees of AT&T and Frontier Communications in Fresno, Madera, Tulare and Kings counties. They are technicians and back-office staff in engineering departments, as well as mobility cellular stores.

Many see the social and economic disparities in surrounding communities firsthand, where rural and inner-city neighborhoods are victims of digital redlining by telecommunications and Internet service providers.

AT&T and Frontier keep outside workforce headcount at a minimum to benefit their business plans, shareholders and CEOs. Technicians must maintain networks with 20-year-old technology that does not fulfill customers’ increasing data needs.

In 2021, the State of California announced plans to dedicate \$6 billion in federal coronavirus and state surplus funds to bridge the digital divide: \$3.25 billion would go to the Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative (MMBI) to build up to 9,000 miles of fiber-optic network infrastructure throughout the state; \$2 billion would be for “last mile” fiber connections to homes and businesses in unserved and underserved communities; and \$750 million would be available in credit support.

Democratic state and federal administrations are responding to the pandemic with a huge investment in broadband infrastructure. This is the largest broadband infrastructure project in U.S. history, which would not have happened without the coincidence of critical conditions and forward-thinking political leadership.

In 2021, CWA analyzed the proposed California Middle-Mile Broadband map and observed areas of Fresno County that would remain unserved. A strategic plan emerged to approach the city councils of Firebaugh, Mendota, San Joaquin and Huron for adoption of a Resolution of Support for Broadband Infrastructure and the West Fresno County Fiber Optic Network. Each city council voted unanimously for the initiative.

CWA presented the resolutions to the California Public Utilities Commission along with letters of support from Central Valley Leadership Roundtable President Eliseo Gamiño and 4Venir.org of Merced County. Peter Ansel, policy advisor for State Senator Anna Caballero (D–Merced), provided key advice, and Senator Caballero submitted a strong letter of support.



Speed tests performed on dozens of Wi-Fi hot-spot devices provided by county schools found that many performed marginally, relying on the weak cell tower signal of low-quality antennas in many rural communities of the San Joaquin Valley. They were unable to provide the symmetrical data stream for balanced two-way video that is essential for learning. Photo by Eduardo Stanley

In November 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom announced the Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative Initial Projects and Project 10: “West Fresno: Fresno County, including South Dos Palos, Kerman, Mendota, Firebaugh, Tranquillity and San Joaquin.” This represents an investment of more than \$2 million in westside communities that would have otherwise remained unserved by the Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative.

But the job is not done; expansion of Internet access must keep pace with the expansion of data consumption and there are more opportunities. The Biden administration has committed an additional \$65 billion in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for broadband projects across the United States.

The west Fresno County model of collaboration can expand to other areas, including communities east of Highway 99 and other parts of the Central Valley. This will facilitate proposals to the California Advanced Services Fund for last mile fiber connectivity to homes and businesses throughout the Valley.

This could ignite an era of investment in advanced communications technology and network infrastructure that will strengthen economic life and prosperity for the entire Central Valley. Only then will the children of the San Joaquin Valley realize true inclusion in society and the fulfillment of their human potential.

\*\*\*\*\*

Stan Santos is an activist in the immigrant and labor community. Contact him at [comworkeradvocate@gmail.com](mailto:comworkeradvocate@gmail.com).



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# Central Valley Fuego Beats Richmond Kickers 3-1

Photo by Peter Maiden

In a game against the Richmond (Virginia) Kickers on July 23, Fuego FC's Christian Chaney took control of the ball, pressured by three Richmond players. Fuego FC won 3-1, with two goals being scored by Victor Falck.

It was a rough game. There were quite a few yellow cards, and two Richmond players got red cards, forcing them to leave the game. One of the red cards was in the first half, and the other was in the second. This, of course, meant Richmond had to play with only nine men toward the end of the game, so they had little chance to come back.

Fuego FC games are played at the Fresno State soccer stadium, and the schedule is available at [fuegofc.com/2022-schedule/](http://fuegofc.com/2022-schedule/).



# THE HATE!

REPORT BIAS AND HATE

The *Community Alliance* newspaper is launching a Stop the Hate campaign and is seeking your input to identify, vocalize and eradicate "hate" in Fresno County. The *Community Alliance* wants to hear about incidents of "hate" you have encountered and/or witnessed, especially involving the following groups: the disabled, LGBTQ+, women, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, Asian and Pacific Islander, Native Americans, Native Hawaiian/OPI and/or religious.

If you're willing to share your story of experiencing hate with the *Community Alliance* newspaper, provide your phone number and full name.

Please take a moment today to complete the following survey: [surveymonkey.com/r/X3H9PNP](https://surveymonkey.com/r/X3H9PNP).

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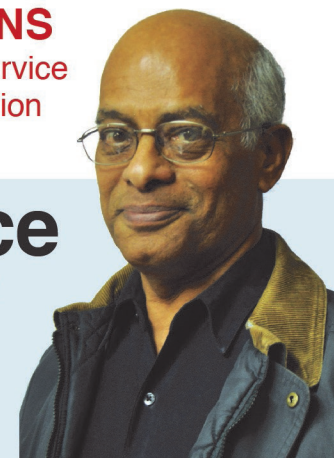
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## Peace & Social Justice Calendar August 2022

Sponsored by the Fresno Center for Nonviolence

**MON 01** Democratic Women in Action 6 p.m. Marie Callender's Restaurant, 1781 E. Shaw Ave. Program: State Center Community College District (SCCCD) candidates Gilbert Felix, Destiny Rodriguez and Robert Fuentes. For more info, contact 559-681-3140 or ggaston1234@aol.com or visit [www.dwiafresno.org](http://www.dwiafresno.org).

**TUE 02** National Women's Political Caucus (NWPC) 5:30 p.m. Los Amigo's Restaurant, 5088 N. Blackstone Ave. Speaker: Pam Whalen. Topic: Community Activism. For more info, contact 559-222-6212 or joanne@pbyoga.com.

**WED 03** KFCF 88.1 FM: *Stir It Up!* 3 p.m. Community Alliance radio show hosted by Daren Miller. For more info, visit [www.kfcf.org](http://www.kfcf.org).

**THU 04** ArtHop Downtown/Tower District 5 p.m.–8 p.m. Museums, studios, galleries and other venues open their exhibits free to the public. For more info, visit [FACarthop](http://FACarthop) on Facebook.

**FRI 05** BWOPA 12th Annual Salute to Sisterhood 2022 5 p.m.–8 p.m. Pardini's Catering, 2257 W. Shaw Ave. Honoring community change agents: Tiffany Binion-Mangum; Venise Curry, MD; Dr. Tanya Fisher; Stacey Gamble; Sara Pomare Martinez; Wendy McCulley; Vernice Nellon; Keisha Lewis Nesbitt, RN; Dr. Arrie Smith; and Mona Tatum. \$90/person. For more info, contact 559-916-2590 or [swgamble@aol.com](mailto:swgamble@aol.com).

**SAT 06** Commemorating the 77th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki 8 a.m.–11 a.m. Fresno State Peace Garden. Sponsored by the Human Rights Coalition of the Central Valley. Also, persons are invited to join a three-day fast starting at 8 a.m. on Aug. 6 to 11 a.m. on Aug. 9. Fasting affirms our commitment to nonviolence, peace, justice and advancing the elimination of nuclear weapons and war as a tool of foreign policy. For more info, contact 559-270-7041 or [hrccentralvalley@gmail.com](mailto:hrccentralvalley@gmail.com).

Kennedy Club of the San Joaquin Valley 9 a.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact 559-435-4043.

**TUE 09** Human Rights Coalition Event 10:30 a.m.–noon. Shinzen Friendship Garden, Woodward Park. Sponsored by the Human Rights Coalition of the Central Valley. For more info, contact 559-270-7041 or [hrccentralvalley@gmail.com](mailto:hrccentralvalley@gmail.com).

Stonewall Democratic Club 6 p.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact 559-709-8016 or [conantm@aol.com](mailto:conantm@aol.com).

Black American Political Association of California (BAPAC) 6 p.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact 559-287-1308 or [debbiejarden@gmail.com](mailto:debbiejarden@gmail.com).

Peace Fresno 7 p.m. Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 Van Ness Ave. In person/via Zoom. For more info, call 559-355-9717.

**WED 10** KFCF 88.1 FM: *Stir It Up!* 3 p.m. Fresno Center for Nonviolence radio show. For more info visit [www.kfcf.org](http://www.kfcf.org).

**THU 11** Women's International League for Peace and Freedom 7 p.m. For more info, contact 559-360-8054 or [taca\\_03@ymail.com](mailto:taca_03@ymail.com).

**AUG 11-12** March for the Governor's Signature Calwa, Aug. 11; Biola, Aug. 12. The United Farm Workers will have a 24-day, 335-mile march, launching from Delano's historic Forty Acres on Aug. 3 and arriving at the State Capitol in Sacramento on Aug. 26. Sign up to march or join the rallies at the start and end. Sign the petition to Governor Newsom asking him to sign AB 2183, the Agricultural Labor Relations Voting Choice Act. The bill would give more choices to farmworkers so they can vote free from intimidation. Farmworkers would be able to vote in secret whenever and wherever they feel safe. For more info, contact 559-722-0038 or [crivera@usw.org](mailto:crivera@usw.org) or visit [www.ufw.org](http://www.ufw.org).

**SAT 13** Central Valley Progressive PAC 3:30 p.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact 559-978-4504 or [simone.rhodes@seiu521.org](mailto:simone.rhodes@seiu521.org).

**MON 15** California Latina Democrats–Fresno 6 p.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact 559-859-6203 or [chaircalatinadems@gmail.com](mailto:chaircalatinadems@gmail.com).

**TUE 16** Central Valley Partnership 5:30 p.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact 559-967-1940 or [agrariandemocracy@gmail.com](mailto:agrariandemocracy@gmail.com).

**WED 17** KFCF 88.1 FM: *Speaking Truth to Empire* 3 p.m. Hosted by Dan Yaseen. For more info, visit [www.kfcf.org](http://www.kfcf.org).

San Joaquin Valley Democratic Club 6:30 p.m. Via Zoom. For more info, call 559-312-3925.

Sierra Club Tehipite Chapter 7 p.m. Via Zoom. For information, visit [sierraclub.org/tehipite](http://sierraclub.org/tehipite).

**THU 18** ArtHop Metropolitan/Fresno Metro Area 5 p.m.–8 p.m. Museums, studios, galleries and other venues open their exhibits free to the public. For more info, visit [FACarthop](http://FACarthop) on Facebook.

Fresno Move to Amend 6:30 p.m. Via Zoom. Support a constitutional amendment to establish that corporations are not entitled to constitutional rights and that spending money is different from exercising freedom of speech. For more info, e-mail [fresno@movetoamend.org](mailto:fresno@movetoamend.org).

**SAT 20** West Fresno Democratic Club 9 a.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact 559-930-4909 or [westfresnodemclub@gmail.com](mailto:westfresnodemclub@gmail.com).

**SUN 21** Democratic Socialists of America 2 p.m. For more info, visit Facebook @ Democratic Socialists of America, Fresno, CA.

**MON 22** Fresno County Democratic Women's Club 11:30 a.m. Marie Callender's Restaurant Garden Room, 1781 E. Shaw Ave. \$25/person. For more info, contact 559-960-2292 or [ms.keshiathomasvp@gmail.com](mailto:ms.keshiathomasvp@gmail.com).

**TUE 23** California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) 10 a.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact 510-663-4086 or visit [californiaalliance.org](http://californiaalliance.org).

**THU 25** Clovis Democratic Club 7 p.m. Denny's Restaurant, 710 W. Shaw Ave., Clovis. For more info, contact 559-322-9740 or [jenikren@gmail.com](mailto:jenikren@gmail.com).

**FRI 26** 2022 Women's Equality Day 5:30 p.m. Pardini's Banquets, 2257 W. Shaw Ave. Sponsored by NWPC Fresno. Theme: Nevertheless We Persist. Keynote speaker: Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis. Honoring those who have persisted: Magdalena Gomez, SCCCDC trustee; Dr. Luz Corona Gomez, Kaiser Permanente; Patsy Montgomery, lifetime achievement; Diane Milutinovich, lifetime achievement; and Rep. Jim Costa, good guy. \$95/person (\$110/person at door). For tickets and sponsorships, visit [nwpcfresno.brownpapertickets.com](http://nwpcfresno.brownpapertickets.com). For more info, contact 559-222-6212 or [joanne@pbyoga.com](mailto:joanne@pbyoga.com).

Submit upcoming community activities to [calendar@fresnoalliance.com](mailto:calendar@fresnoalliance.com) by the 15th of the month preceding publication.

# FUSD Reminds Us of the Punishment-Racism Commitment

By [Morghan Vélez Young](#)

The U.S. cultural fixation on punishment relies on major institutions to recycle and recirculate beliefs and practices that make chronic punishment look “natural,” “inevitable” and “timeless.” The major institutions of the juvenile and criminal court systems, as well as school systems, are some of the largest institutions that coopt their employees and adjacent communities to believe that punishment as it is done today in the United States is, of course, the appropriate and needed way to manage populations.

We can choose from many institutional examples that unfold daily. The sneaky thing about cultural beliefs and practices is that they appear to be created and maintained by self-directed individuals, but, in fact, the collective agreements that occur within an institution's reach show us the cultural-ness of these things.

Individuals carry out actions that reflect institutional agreements that fulfill the cultural beliefs. We can easily bear witness to individuals who are fulfilling the scripts and blueprints of the U.S. cultural punishment fixation.

For example, consider the recent Fresno Unified School District (FUSD) board's decision to give millions to the police, funding police cars to chase students and administrative costs for the surveillance of students. All but one school board member, representatives of families living across their various trustee areas of the school district, voted to advance the criminalization processes for students.

This is a simple instance of the collective agreement to believe in the appropriateness of greater and greater amounts of punishment for children. If we time traveled to a different period or teleported to another part of the globe, we can find collective agreements that focus on the

protection and nurturing of children rather than investing in more ways to criminalize them.

In this FUSD example, however, the way we do/invent/construct punishment in the United States is always linked to fulfilling racist and colonial agendas. When school board members voted to advance the criminalization processes for students, in actuality they voted to advance punishment for BIPOC children.

The U.S. cultural imagining about who is appropriate to punish, whether it is spoken publicly by local politicians or implied, is evident in the continued support by the school board for students to be punished for school disciplinary issues by racial category.

Education research shows that many school discipline issues across the country are equally distributed across students' heritage groups, but based on the FUSD's disciplinary data, the FUSD preference is to target BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and people of color) students.

Although school board members recently voted to advance punishment for BIPOC children, they had already been voting metaphorically by their negligence to ask questions about the failed programming in FUSD high schools called Restorative Practices (RP), which was launched in 2014. To date, RP still has not been comprehensively implemented and leadership, such as the school board, succeed in making sure that racist school disciplinary practices continue with the inclusion of new cars and more cash.

When we get to see instances of the contrary here in the United States, a standing ovation is deserved. For an institutional outlet and/or leadership group to select not to implement the cultural and racist fixation with punishing BIPOC communities, something special is unfolding.

Intentional script switching and the remaking of blueprints are required. There are always ghosts monitoring the periphery of such examples, ghosts of the larger, established collective that can interfere with the finances and sustainability of these countercultural examples. Until—at some point—a shift is made in the cultural beliefs of that larger collective.

Ultimately, the role of institutions in a racist society like the United States is to fulfill racism. Institutions are intended to deliver on the cultural beliefs of the context in which they are created and operated.

## EXPLORING PUNISHMENT



The school board is successfully recycling and recirculating the punishment beliefs and practices that make chronic punishment of BIPOC children look “natural,” “inevitable” and “timeless.”  
Photo courtesy of Nathan Dumlaio/UpSplash

The FUSD example, then, is an example of coherency across the U.S. cultural fixation with punishment, particularly for BIPOC groups. The school board is successfully recycling and recirculating the punishment beliefs and practices that make chronic punishment of BIPOC children look “natural,” “inevitable” and “timeless.”

\*\*\*\*\*

Morghan Vélez Young, Ph.D., is an educator and researcher focused on transformative opportunities for those involved in the juvenile and criminal justice systems. She consults and trains through [browngirlhealing.org](http://browngirlhealing.org) and lectures in the Anthropology Department at Fresno State. Contact her at [mvelezyoung@csufresno.edu](mailto:mvelezyoung@csufresno.edu).



## VIDEO

### “Ukraine: A Taste of the Truth”

<https://www.registremblay.com/ray-mcgovern-ukraine-a-taste-of-the-truth/>

Ray McGovern’s video presentation <https://www.registremblay.com/ray-mcgovern-ukraine-a-taste-of-the-truth/> is designed to give Americans historical background necessary for understanding Russia’s view of the U.S. & NATO’s threat to its national security and factors that influence the U.S. government’s willingness to engage once again in a cruel and costly war abroad.

Ray McGovern is one of the few Americans uniquely prepared to speak authoritatively about U.S. /Russian history and relations. <https://raymcgovern.com/bio> He is up to date on the conflict in Ukraine and is currently publishing and being interviewed almost daily. Ray has appeared on The Newshour, C-Span’s Washington Journal, CNN, BBC, a number of domestic Russian TV channels, Aljazeera, RT, PressTV, CCTV, Fresno’s KFCF (88.1 FM) “Speaking Truth to Empire” and many other TV & radio programs and documentaries. <https://raymcgovern.com/>

## VIDEO

### “Ukraine: A Taste of the Truth”

<https://www.registremblay.com/ray-mcgovern-ukraine-a-taste-of-the-truth/>

For a clickable link go to <https://www.peacefresno.org/>



# CELEBRATE with us

We invite you to join us as we share our plan to get more progressives elected in Fresno and the San Joaquin Valley. Central Valley Progressive PAC–endorsed candidates will join us. There will be music, food and good friends as we share the evening under the stars. This event will be held on Sunday, September 4, starting at 5 p.m. in Pat Wolk’s beautiful backyard at 6661 N. Forkner Ave. in Fresno.

**Lance Canales and the Flood** will provide our musical entertainment. This is a roots-blues-influenced Americana trio from California’s breadbasket, where Canales lived the life that so many songs have been written about since the birth of roots music—hard labor, one-room shacks and taunting ghosts whispering of a better life. Canales’ guttural vocals combine a hard-edged storytelling approach beneath a stripped-down, foot-stomping, acoustic instrumentation.

Canales’ rendition of “Plane Crash at Los Gatos: Deportee,” written by Woody Guthrie in 1948, reveals the names of the Mexican casualties whom were simply referred to as “deportees.”

For more information, visit [www.cvppac.org](http://www.cvppac.org).



# DOLORES HUERTA FOUNDATION

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## Historic #Health4All Win!



The Dolores Huerta Foundation in partnership with community organizations and state legislatures of the Health4All Coalition celebrated its historic victory as California became the first state to extend healthcare to all Californians regardless of immigration status. Medi-Cal will now extend healthcare to all in-come eligible Californians ages 26 to 49 providing coverage to approximately 700,000 undocumented residents starting no later than Jan. 1, 2024.

Extending access to Medi-Cal to all undocumented Californians has been a goal for health and immigration advocates for years. Dolores Huerta, President, and Co-Founder, of the Dolores Huerta Foundation, stated the milestone achieved is important as, "hundreds of thousands of people who are undocumented in California are going to have health care." Along with community members and advocates, Senator Maria Elena Durazo, stated, "This historic investment speaks to California's commitment to health care as a human right."

The triumph of the Health4All Coalition has shown Californians that by uniting the community, legislators, and governor as one, health equity for all can be achieved. DHF extends great appreciation and gratitude to Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula, Senator Maria Elena Durazo, Governor Newsom, the legislature, community organizations, and advocates that worked tirelessly to achieve this victory. Si Se Puede!

## March For Our Lives



After the devastating Robb Elementary shooting in Uvalde, Texas the Dolores Huerta Foundation joined forces with local organizations to attend the first-ever March For Our Lives in Kern County. The March For Our Lives nationwide movement mobilizes hundreds of groups each year to advocate for gun and school safety. DHF Liberated Youth for Empowerment (LYFE) member, Daniela Lopes, joined the march because "It truly saddens me that so many young people lost their lives to gun violence."



DHF will continue to fight for gun safety and encourages you to take action in supporting gun control by voting in the upcoming General Election on November 8th.

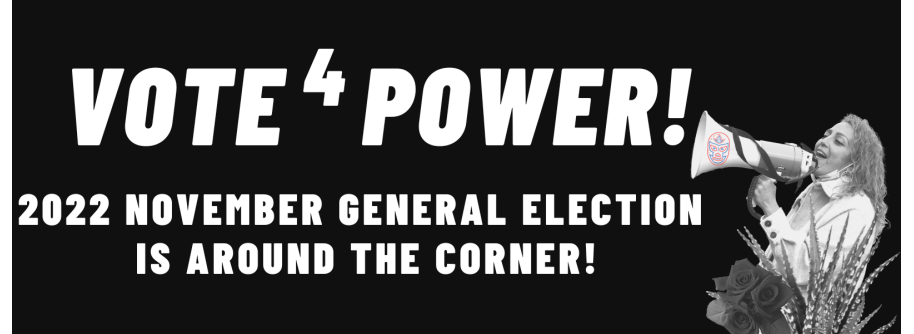
This is not a moment, this is a movement!

## Tulare Giveaway



The Dolores Huerta Foundation in partnership with Catholic Charities of Los Angeles Inc. hosted the annual Tulare Giveaway. With the support of 32 DHF volunteers, they were able to provide support to 250 families with free produce, home appliances, and voter registration!

## It's General Election Szn!



The 2022 General Election is near! As a community organization, the Dolores Huerta Foundation hosted numerous door-to-door canvassing, Candidate Forums, and voter engagement outreach throughout the Central Valley, Antelope Valley & Los Angeles County to encourage voters to power to the polls in the recent Primary Election. Now is the time to exercise your power to vote. The General Election is on November 8th to register to vote visit: [www.registertovote.ca.gov](http://www.registertovote.ca.gov)

## IMPORTANT DATES!



## Liberated Youth for Empowerment Spotlight



The Dolores Huerta Foundation's very own Liberated Youth for Empowerment (LYFE) member, Alex Fan, is on his way to Columbia University! Alex will be attending the university in the Fall of 2022 where he will further his education and passion for human rights and social justice by majoring in political science. Along with his passion for human rights, he also shares a love for dance, which he hopes to continue throughout college. Alex is determined to become a public defender specializing in International Law and even dance professionally for Broadway.

Alex is immensely thankful for his time while in the LYFE program. Alex states, "The DHF LYFE program gave me the opportunity to become a leader in my community by honing in on my passion for human rights through civic engagement." Throughout the LYFE program, Alex participated in Get-Out-The-Vote volunteer efforts, public speaking engagements, public service announcements, and op-eds. DHF wishes Alex the very best on this new journey at Columbia University!

## Cancelling COVID-19



More protection is here for your littlest family members! COVID-19 vaccines are now available for kids 6 months and up. Help keep the whole family safe from serious illness & hospitalization due to COVID-19. Give yourself peace of mind & help your loved ones get vaccinated. Visit [MyTurn.ca.gov](http://MyTurn.ca.gov) or call 833-422-4255 to find a vaccine near you!

For more information on how you can join the Vecinos Unidos® contact 1-833-564-6343 or 1-833-JOIN-DHF  
To support the organizing work of the Dolores Huerta Foundation, please visit [Give2DHF.org](http://Give2DHF.org)

THE CONTENT IN THIS SECTION IS PAID FOR BY THE DOLORES HUERTA FOUNDATION

# Fresno Center for Nonviolence 2022

August 2022

This month we remember Hiroshima & Nagasaki. Two evils we never should of done. The war was over, and we didn't need to kill innocent people just to see how deadly these devices were. War has never made anyone safe. A lesson we need to learn,



Edited by  
Richard Gomez.

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*"There is many a boy here today who looks on war as all glory, but, boys, it is all hell."*

- Civil War General William Tecumseh Sherman addressed to the graduating class of the Michigan Military Academy.

I got into a discussion with a man regarding the results of war, especially WW2.

*"Well at least we stopped the Nazi's!" defiantly he spoke.*

*"Oh yeah," I interjected adding, "Now they're here, and multiplied, they act like they are running the government."*

*"Well," the man apologetically said, "Well, people can change their minds, right?" At first, I felt disgust but after a moment I realized that here in the United States people DO HAVE the right to change their minds but REEALLY, Nazi's?"*

Later on, I mumbled to myself just what he had said. You know, the usual, like that they are murders, if they get more power or people like him, they will kill me and my friends or worst. I had trouble accepting this, thinking I should have been more assertive to the point of threatening him. I mean Nazi's. Eventually I went home and fell into my chair and turned on the television and then it all came to me. As a kid, TV taught me that Nazi's and other enemies were despicable but in the last twenty years the tone has soften. The same TV that encouraged millions to vote for a Fascist lifestyle. At a time when TV could have been teaching people to be more caring about people of different styles, instead it made jokes of how weak we were. A time when TV could have advocated peace to the world or trying to clean it instead, it ignores us but always there was war. The great competition to prove who was better who would eventually end with the winner being the more aggressive.

So Why War? Because it's very profitable for the wealthy and the rich while those who fought or were merely in the way suffered the most. Propaganda, propaganda, propaganda, or Bull-S, Bull-S, Bull-S, is the lone reason to hide the truth who we all know is the first casualty of any war. Medals, music, and political self-congratulation is all pure garbage but with fireworks, fancy parades to rewrite the story of what didn't happen. So why do we put up with it?

The Big Lie. A theory that the more times one lies, it creates doubt of the most dubious people, and they begin to buy into, even though it's false. Our corporate sized media have found since their beginning this method works at crippling the society. Our total concept of the country called the USA is more propaganda than truth. People want to believe in something safe and warm like a teddy bear. Reality is scary and sucks.

Wars are meant to be vicious and horrible to remind a competitor not to challenge their financial greed. Still, after so many millennials, wars begat wars which begat wars and on nauseum. War has always been about the acquisition of wealth, land, natural resources which also means people too.

Most importantly is that the USA has no plan for peace. Neither does Corporate America have a plan for Peace which could still be profitable but not as much as the total thievery and control over the human soul that members that Wall Street hold dear to their greedy heart. As someone once said that we need to be prepared for peace when it breaks out,

KFCF 88.1 FM



Wednesday August 10th at 3 pm



In August our show will be hosted by Josh Shurley with guest TBA at a later time. For more information call on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at (559) 237-3223 or check our website at [www.centerfornonviolence.org](http://www.centerfornonviolence.org)

In July our show will be hosted by Josh Shurley with guest Aaron Foster of Advance Peace that helps kids who shoot. To hear again go to: [www.siuo71322.mp3](http://www.siuo71322.mp3)

Our June radio show will be hosted by Josh Shurley with guest Abbygail de Castro and Michael Mayfield from Citizen's Climate Lobby. To hear it again:

[https://soundcloud.com/joshua-shurley/stir-it-up-june-8-2022?utm\\_source=clipboard&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=social\\_sharing](https://soundcloud.com/joshua-shurley/stir-it-up-june-8-2022?utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing)

# Yosemite Logging Halted by Lawsuit over Environmental Concerns

Continued from page 1

"On average, [for] those trees it takes two people to reach their arms around and touch hands on a tree of that size."

The park service was logging in parts of the forest that had been affected by drought, fire and bark beetle infestation.

Hanson points out that park managers are not even following their own guidelines, "They're not supposed to be logging in 99% of the park. They're only supposed to be doing some tree cutting adjacent to homes. And so, we filed suit."

"We just asked them to comply with their own fire management plan."

Making matters worse, the National Park Service (NPS) did not notify the public about the projects or hold any public meetings, and Yosemite officials did not allow public comments. The litigants say that violates federal law.

As global warming continues to dry out the forests of the western states, the U.S. Forest Service is increasingly using an administrative shortcut called "categorical exclusions" to move forward fire prevention efforts with a much shorter, less comprehensive environmental review.

Hanson was dismayed to learn that the NPS has decided to launch a highly impactful project that includes logging, burning and land clearing in Yosemite Valley, the Merced Grove of giant sequoias and other areas in the park, including near residential communities.

"They're really supposed to be for very, very, very minor things with no environmental impacts, non-controversial things like a new information kiosk at a trailhead, weed whacking next to a paved road, simple, small things. You don't want to hold up a federal agency on repainting the ranger station."

The current project, according to Hanson, is not in keeping with the fire management policy Yosemite had previously adopted.

"The park is directed to manage the forest through fire including prescribed fire and wildland fire. And that's what they violated. Instead, they just decided they were going to do a bunch of logging out in these wildland areas instead of following their own fire management plan."

Another aspect of Yosemite's fire management strategy that breaks with tradition, Hanson says, is the commercial connection that seems out of touch with our ongoing climate crisis.

"The park service is selling these trees to private logging companies to haul away to lumber mills for lumber or to haul down to biomass plants and incinerate the trees for energy production."

"Not only is that really damaging from a wildlife habitat standpoint, removing all those live and dead trees, but it's a terrible idea from a climate change standpoint, because when you burn trees or portions of trees for energy, it actually emits about 40% more CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere than burning coal for equal energy produced."

"It's even worse than coal from a climate change standpoint. So, it's a really, really bad idea."

Hanson suggests there was and still is a better way to make the forest more fire resilient without the logging and removal of large trees, "What the park would typically do is if some of those trees were hazard trees and might fall on a road or campground, they just fell them, but leave him on site for wildlife habitat."

"Those large down logs are really important wildlife habitat. They store a lot of carbon, they cycle important nutrients back into the soil."

Further south in the Sierra, another way to achieve wildfire resilience has been in practice for years. Hanson praises what land managers at Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park have successfully accomplished with prescribed burning and removal of fire fuels without logging or clearcutting. Giant Forest is a worthy example.

Without their persistent ecological approach to wildfire protection many more sequoias, including the world's largest tree, would have been consumed by the 2021 KNP Complex fire.

Now, the court will have a say about what could happen in Yosemite going forward.

\*\*\*\*\*

Vic Bedoian is an independent radio and print journalist working on environmental justice and natural resources issues in the San Joaquin Valley. Contact him at vicbedoian@gmail.com.



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# La Fibra Óptica Llega a Comunidades Pobres del Valle

Continúa de página 18

En 2021, el estado de California anunció planes para dedicar \$6 millones en fondos para coronavirus federal (ARP) y del estado para cerrar la brecha digital. \$3.25 mil millones se destinarían a la iniciativa de Banda Ancha de Media Millia (MMBI) para construir hasta 9000 millas de infraestructura de red de fibra óptica en todo el estado. \$2 millones serían para conexiones de fibra de "Última Millia" a hogares y negocios en comunidades desatendidas, con \$750 millones en apoyos crediticios.

Las administraciones estatales y federales demócratas están respondiendo a la pandemia con una gran inversión en infraestructura de banda ancha; la más grande en la historia de los Estados Unidos. No habría sucedido sin la coincidencia de las condiciones críticas y el liderazgo político con visión de futuro.

En 2021, CWA analizó el Mapa de Banda ancha de Media Millia de California y observó áreas del condado de Fresno que permanecen desatendidas. Surgió un plan para pedir Resoluciones de Apoyo para Infraestructura de Banda Ancha a los Concejos Municipales de Firebaugh, Mendota, San Joaquin y Huron. Los Concejalos votaron unánimemente a favor de la iniciativa, incluyendo la Red de Fibra Óptica de West Fresno.

CWA presentó las Resoluciones a la Comisión de Servicios Públicos de California CPUC junto con cartas de apoyo de la Mesa Redonda de Liderazgo del Valle Central, el presidente Eliseo Gamino y Avenir.org del Condado de Merced. Peter Ansel, Asesor de Políticas de la Senadora Anna Caballero, brindó consejos clave, y la Senadora Caballero presentó una carta de apoyo.

En noviembre de 2021, el Gobernador Newsom anunció los Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative Initial Projects y el Proyecto 10: "West Fresno: Conado de Fresno, incluyendo South Dos Palos, Kernan, Mendota, Firebaugh, Tranquility y San Joaquin". Es una inversión de más de \$2 millones en comunidades que de otro modo no hubieran sido atendidas por la iniciativa de Banda Ancha de Media Millia.

Pero el trabajo aún no termina; la expansión del acceso a Internet debe seguir el paso de la expansión del consumo de datos, y hay más oportunidades. La Administración Biden ha comprometido otra cantidad de \$65 mil millones para más proyectos de banda ancha en Estados Unidos.

El modelo de colaboración en el oeste de Fresno debe expandirse a otras partes del Valle y con propuestas al Fondo de Servicios Avanzados de California (CASF) para la conectividad de fibra óptica a hogares y negocios en todo el Valle. Esto puede encender una época de inversión en tecnología de comunicaciones avanzada e infraestructura que fortalecerá la vida económica y la prosperidad de todo el Valle Central. Sólo entonces los hijos de San Joaquin se darán cuenta de la verdadera inclusión en la sociedad y de la realización de su potencial humano.

Stan Santos es un activista por los derechos laborales de los trabajadores y de los inmigrantes. Contacto: [commworkeradvocate@gmail.com](mailto:commworkeradvocate@gmail.com).

## !Fuego Derrota a Richmond Kickers 3-1!

Foto de Peter Maiden

Michael Hornsby (derecha) y Renato Bustamante (izq), de Fresno Fuego, celebran el primero de los dos goles de Victor Falk (centro), durante el juego contra Virginia Kickers, de Richmond, el 23 de julio. Falck es sueco, Hornsby es alemán y Renato es peruano, una muestra de la diversidad que existe en el fútbol.

Fue un partido duro, con varias tarjetas amarillas, y dos jugadores de Richmond recibieron tarjetas rojas, por lo que tuvieron que dejar el partido. Una de las tarjetas rojas ocurrió en el primer tiempo, y la otra en el segundo. Esto hizo que el equipo de Richmond jugara con nueve jugadores en la parte final del encuentro, por lo que fue muy difícil para ellos tener una chance de remontar el partido.

Fresno Fuego juega en el estadio de la Universidad Estatal de Fresno, y los interesados pueden chequear el fixture aquí: [www.fuegofc.com/2022-schedule/](http://www.fuegofc.com/2022-schedule/).



### Se Solicitan Voluntarios

Ayúdanos a llevar a nuestras comunidades la "voz del movimiento progresista".

Necesitamos voluntarios para distribuir Alianza Comunitaria en la zona oeste del Condado de Fresno.

Contacta a Peter, nuestro Encargado de Distribución: [maidenfoto1@gmail.com](mailto:maidenfoto1@gmail.com)



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Contacto: Eduardo, 559-304-3714, [eduardostanley@comcast.net](mailto:eduardostanley@comcast.net)



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# Odio Armado y el Próximo Golpe de Estado

Por Gabriel Lerner

La próxima vez, ganaremos, dicen los soldados del odio armado del 6 de enero, la próxima vez estaremos mejor preparados, mejor armados, más organizados; no fracasaremos. Y lo más importante, la próxima vez usaremos las armas que llevamos.

No solo nosotros: tenemos aliados dentro del Servicio Secreto. El hermano de nuestro general (Michael Flynn) es un comandante de la Guardia Nacional en Washington (Charles Flynn).

¿Quién habla así, o mejor dicho, quién creemos que así piensa?

Los grupos de odio armados que participaron en el asalto al Congreso.

## El odio armado e impune

¡, muchos de sus miembros han sido arrestados por participar en el intento de insurrección del 6 de enero de 2021. Al mismo tiempo, sus líderes, acusados pero libres bajo fianza, demuestran una actitud abiertamente combativa y desafiante.

¿Por qué?

Porque sienten y usufructúan el apoyo de una considerable parte de la sociedad.

Porque estas organizaciones extremistas, hasta hace poco rechazadas por todos, se están convirtiendo en mainstream, en un ala reconocida, si bien extrema, del partido Republicano, en un elemento respetable del apoyo incondicional a Donald Trump en su quimera de rechazo de las elecciones de 2020 y el retorno al poder lo antes posible.

De las audiencias del Congreso aprendimos de la existencia de un war room (sala de guerra) en el hotel Willard, un lugar elegante cerca de la Casa Blanca, capitaneado por Michael Flynn y Roger Stone, dos de los más incondicionales aliados de Trump. Ambos fueron acusados de crímenes no relacionados con el ataque. Ambos recibieron sendos perdones presidenciales. Ambos coordinaban el contacto entre los rebeldes y la Casa Blanca.

Si, quienes eran antes considerados patras, saboteadores y neonazis son ahora el brazo armado del Trumpismo.

Todo por obra y gracia del mismo Trump. En uno de los últimos debates presidenciales de 2020, cuando tanto el moderador como su rival, el entonces candidato Joe Biden, le apremiaron a que condenara a las milicias armadas, primero pretendió no conocerlas. Después se dirigió a ellos directamente diciendo: “stand back and stand by” (retrocedan y manténganse alerta).

El mensaje fue reproducido por las organizaciones armadas—especialmente los Proud Boys—quienes en poco tiempo triplicaron su membresía.

## ¿Cuántos son los Proud Boys?

Desconocemos el número total de miembros de Proud Boys y los otros grupos armados; fluctúan según fuentes entre varios cientos hasta 6.000. Sólo en Los Angeles y hace cuatro años, se sabe que tenían 160 miembros y 300 candidatos.

Imágenes analizadas por The Washington Post a principios de este año muestran a un miembro de Cath Keepers, otra de las organizaciones armadas en la suite de Stone en el Hotel Willard en la mañana del 6 de enero.

El vídeo también muestra a Stone usando una aplicación de mensajería encriptada para hablar con Enrique Tarrío—el afro cubano americano comandante de The Proud Boys—y con Stewart Rhodes, el líder de los Cath Keepers.

Por Stan Santos

# La Fibra Óptica Llega a Comunidades Pobres del Valle

La historia de la tecnología de banda ancha en las comunidades del Valle Central sigue patrones históricos de privilegio y abandono, pobreza extrema en una región de extrema riqueza. Pueblos como Firebaugh, Mendota, San Joaquin, Raisin City, Cantua, y Huron sufren de la peor calidad del aire y el agua. Los niños experimentan los niveles de rendimiento más bajos en Artes del Lenguaje e Inglés, Matemáticas y Exámenes de Ingreso a la Universidad: indicadores fundamentales de la calidad de vida futura de un niño (Ricos y Pobres en la Brecha Digital)

En el oeste del condado de Fresno, las luchas de la comunidad incluyen las huelgas de UFW y la lucha por la tierra y los servicios básicos librada por las familias campesinas de Three Rocks en 1980 (Joaquín Murrieta y el Camino a Tres Piedras)

La vida para las familias campesinas fluye como un río. Trabajan los campos, observan los cambios de estación y crían a sus hijos entre ciclos de crisis provocados por hombres y por causas naturales. La crisis llegó en 2019, con la embestia gradual y cada vez más mortal del COVID-19.

En California, había más de 800,000 trabajadores agrícolas en California en diciembre de 2020, la mayoría de ellos en el Valle Central, y más de 300,000 indocumentados quienes de repente fueron clasificados como “Trabajadores Esenciales”. En 2021, una investigación UCSF research report reportó que los trabajadores agrícolas tenían casi el doble de probabilidades de morir de COVID-19 que los demás trabajadores en California—sin dudas el grupo ocupacional con mayor riesgo de muerte.

En abril de 2020, el presidente Trump declaró a los procesadores de carne y pollo como industrias esenciales. Hubo 400 infecciones y nueve muertes en Foster Farms de Livingston y 17 muertes en las plantas en Fresno, Merced, Tulare y Stanislaus. El Valle de San Joaquin había llegado a la intersección de la codicia, los intereses económicos y las vidas de las familias pobres y trabajadoras.

Mientras tanto, miles de niños, muchos de ellos hijos e hijas de trabajadoras esenciales, se vieron obligados a aprender por internet. Pero el internet no existía para ellos. El director/superintendente Baldomero Hernández de West Side Elementary en Five Points reportó que solo el 10% de sus estudiantes tenía internet en sus hogares.

Se comprobó que docenas de dispositivos de wifi proporcionados por las escuelas proveyeran servicios de baja calidad. No proporcionaban un flujo de datos suficiente para el aprendizaje. Los maestros se frustraron y los niños se desconectaron. Se descubrió el hecho que el Valle es un “desierto digital”.

¿Cómo sobreviven las especies en el mundo natural? Reúnen sus fuerzas a través de redes de comunicación. Las criaturas vivientes, desde microorganismos hasta árboles y animales se comunican a través del sonido, el micelio y las frecuencias electromagnéticas. Las canciones de ballenas emiten un sonido de alta amplitud a través de miles de millas de océano para comunicarse con su manada, localizar parejas y evitar el peligro.

Para las sociedades naturales, la supervivencia de su especie es una función instintiva.



La conexión de internet de alta velocidad en zonas rurales requiere de largas instalaciones de cables. Foto cortesía The Commons

Comunican, procesan datos, y actúan como uno solo. Los seres humanos como formas superiores deberían considerar a todos los seres, inclusive los niños, como esenciales; células vivas de ese organismo que es la sociedad.

Durante la pandemia, estudiantes en las comunidades de alta velocidad, mientras que miles de “hijos de un dios menor” se quedaron sin conexión. Este trágico fracaso se desarrolló en comunidades de todo California.

La hermosa arquitectura del cuerpo humano se basa en neuronas en el cerebro y el corazón que envían señales de alta velocidad a través de redes neuronales y sinapsis a todo el cuerpo. Cuando los niños carecen de estimulación, socialización y aprendizaje, la conectividad en sus cerebros en desarrollo puede disminuir; las vías neuronales pierden plasticidad, las luces se atenúan

La falta de aprendizaje permanente, estimulación y actividad social en adultos contribuye a altas tasas de mortalidad relacionadas con COVID-19 porque carecen de redes de comunicación efectivas y servicios auxiliares.

Communications Workers of America Local 9408 representa a más de mil técnicos y otros empleados de AT&T y Frontier Communications en los condados de Fresno, Madera, Tulare y Kings. Muchos ven de primera mano las condiciones sociales y económicas en vecindarios rurales y de la ciudad donde los proveedores de servicios de telecomunicaciones e internet practican discriminación.

AT&T y Frontier mantienen el número de técnicos a un mínimo para beneficiar a sus planes de negocios, accionistas y directores ejecutivos. Los técnicos deben mantener redes antiguas con tecnología de veinte años que no satisfaga las crecientes necesidades de datos de los clientes.



Simpatizantes de Trump marchando al Capitolio el 6 de enero, 2021, donde finalmente entraron a la fuerza. En el proceso se registraron varias muertes y heridos. Foto cortesía The Commons

Tanto Tarrío como Rhodes fueron acusados de conspiración sediciosa y enfrentan hasta 20 años de prisión.

Ahora que están finalizando las audiencias del comité del Congreso para investigar el ataque del 6 de enero, es claro que la participación de las organizaciones potencialmente terroristas fue mucho mayor de lo concedido hasta ahora, especialmente en la cantidad de armas de todo tipo con que ingresaron al recinto parlamentario.

## Coordinación con la Casa Blanca

Y también nos vamos enterando del alto grado de coordinación—no sólo virtual o causal sino directa—entre la presidencia y estos grupos.

A cada paso se descubren más datos que apuntan a una clara conclusión: el golpe de estado pudo haber tenido éxito, y si no lo tuvo fue por una conjunción de circunstancias personales.

Un problema mayor es que desde el asalto, defendido hasta ahora por el ala MAGA del partido republicano, la posibilidad de un golpe de estado y el uso de armas para conseguir objetivos políticos es parte del credo de esta agrupación.

Esto completa su vuelco antidemocrático traducido en decenas de leyes estatales que harán, en las elecciones de este noviembre, más difícil la participación electoral.

En parte, la cooperación entre los rebeldes y los aliados de Trump fue abierta. Por ejemplo, se sabe desde hace mucho tiempo que tanto Flynn como Stone, utilizan escoltas armadas de seguridad proporcionados por grupos de extrema derecha, incluidos Proud Boys, Cath Keepers y 1st Enmienda Praetorian.

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la Dra. Abscal, "Y también ahora notamos que hay menos hospitalizaciones de adultos mayores, en parte por el efecto de las vacunas y las precauciones adicionales". La especialista insiste en que las personas deben actuar con responsabilidad y de acuerdo a las circunstancias. Por ejemplo, aunque ahora las tiendas no exigen el uso de la mascarilla, es recomendable usarla para evitar contagios. Esto debería ser obligatorio para las personas con enfermedades crónicas cuando circulen por lugares con presencia de mucha gente, incluyendo el transporte público. En los últimos meses, los contagios han aumentado y por lo tanto es importante ser cuidadoso.

"Me llama la atención ver a muchos niños con mascarillas y no se quejan. Creo que somos nosotros, los adultos, los complicados", comenta la Dra. Abscal, "Muchos adultos que se han vacunado se niegan a ponerse los refuerzos...? Qué tan importante son las vacunas? Un estudio reciente del CDC (Center For Disease Control, https://www.cdc.gov) pone en evidencia que una persona no vacunada tiene 45 veces más probabildades de ser hospitalizada si se contagia de Covid, que alguien que si está vacunada con los dos refuerzos".

La representante del Departamento de Salud estatal mencionó también que ya hay medicamentos disponibles para enfrentar el Covid 19 y pidió a las personas consultar a su médico de cabecera en casos de contagio, y evitar remedios recomendados en el internet, simplemente en altas dosis y/o tratamientos "alternativos".

La Dra. Abscal insistió en que la vacuna es segura, tanto para los adultos como para niños de 6 meses en adelante, no se observaron efectos secundarios—solo las pequeñas consecuencias posteriores a cualquier vacuna.

“Es curioso que aquí los latinos seamos el grupo que menos se ha vacunado”, asegura la Dra. Abscal, “Curiosamente en América latina la gente sí se vacuna. Recientemente estuve en México y observé que mucha gente se vacuna y vacuna a sus niños. No sé qué nos pasa cuando cruzamos la frontera”.

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“Esta variante afecta más a las vías respiratorias altas que las otras variantes no habían como Omicron, son más virulentas.

Los niños sorprenden a las autoridades sanitarias, quienes afirman que las nuevas variantes, muerte, porque muchas tienen otras condiciones—diabets, alta presión sanguínea, etc— medida que los adultos’, la realidad es que es un asunto realmente serio”.

Las personas adultas que se contagián padecen serias consecuencias, incluyendo la medida que los adultos’, la realidad es que es un asunto realmente serio”. Durante enero y febrero de este año vimos un récord de hospitalizaciones en niños menores de cuatro años por Covid 19. Ahora estamos viendo cómo el virus se está aprovechando de las personas no vacunadas,” dice la Dra. Abscal, “Cabe mencionar que actualmente el Coronavirus es una de las cinco causas principales de muerte en niños menores de cuatro años. Entonces, a pesar de que no se mueren los niños en la misma medida que los adultos’, la realidad es que es un asunto realmente serio”.

Según la Dra. Abscal, los niños se contagián y se enferman con Covid 19 igual que los adultos. Ellos también pueden necesitar ser hospitalizados y tener consecuencias a largo plazo. “Durante enero y febrero de este año vimos un récord de hospitalizaciones en niños menores de cuatro años por Covid 19. Ahora estamos viendo cómo el virus se está aprovechando de las personas no vacunadas,” dice la Dra. Abscal, “Cabe mencionar que actualmente el Coronavirus es una de las cinco causas principales de muerte en niños menores de cuatro años. Entonces, a pesar de que no se mueren los niños en la misma medida que los adultos’, la realidad es que es un asunto realmente serio”.

Rivera conoce muy bien las consecuencias de Covid: ella se contagió en julio 2020. “El más pequeño tiene asma, no puedo arrésgar su salud”.

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*Continúa de página 20*

## Covid 19 Sigue Entre Nosotros, ¿Ya Vacunó a Su Niño?

que es realmente dañino desde el punto de vista del hábitat de la vida silvestre, eliminar todos esos árboles vivos y muertos, sino que es una idea terrible desde el punto de vista del cambio climático, porque cuando quemas árboles o partes de árboles para obtener energía, en realidad emite alrededor de un 40% más de CO2 en la atmósfera que quemar carbón por la misma energía producida. Es incluso peor que el carbón desde el punto de vista del cambio climático. Entonces, es una muy, muy mala idea”.

Hanson sugiere que había y aún hay una mejor manera de hacer que el bosque sea más resistente al fuego sin la tala y la eliminación de árboles grandes, “Lo que normalmente haría el parque es si algunos de esos árboles fueran árboles peligrosos y pudieran caer en un camino o campamento , simplemente los derribarón, pero lo dejaron en el sitio para el hábitat de la vida silvestre. Esos grandes registros de caídas son realmente importantes. Almacenan una gran cantidad de carbono, reciclan nutrientes importantes de regreso al suelo”.

Más al sur, en la Sierra, se ha estado practicando durante años otra forma de lograr la resiliencia a los incendios forestales. Chad Hanson eligió lo que los administradores de tierras en el Parque Nacional Sequoia-Kings Canyon han logrado con éxito con la quema prescrita y la eliminación de combustibles para incendios sin talar. Giant Forest es un ejemplo digno. Sin su enfoque persistente y ecológico para la protección contra incendios forestales, muchas más secouyas, incluido el árbol más grande del mundo, habrían sido consumidas por el incendio del complejo KNP de 2021.

Ahora, la corte tendrá algo que decir sobre lo que podría suceder en Yosemite en el futuro.

*Vic Beddian es un periodista independiente de radio y medios impresos que trabaja sobre temas de justicia ambiental y recursos naturales en el Valle de San Joaquin. Puede contactarlo en vicbeddian@gmail.com.*

El proyecto actual, según Hanson, no está en consonancia con la política de gestión de incendios que Yosemite había adoptado anteriormente: “El parque está dirigido a gestionar el bosque a través del fuego e incluye incendios prescritos y incendios forestales. Y eso es lo que violaron. En cambio. Simplemente decidieron que iban a hacer un montón de cierres de sesión en estas áreas silvestres en lugar de seguir su propio plan de manejo de incendios”.

Otro aspecto de la estrategia de manejo de incendios de Yosemite que rompe con la tradición, dice Hanson, es la conexión comercial que parece desconectada de nuestra actual crisis climática.

*Continúa de página 20*

## Tala de árboles de Yosemite Detenida Por Demanda Por Preocupaciones Ambientales

Unión Nacional de Juristas de Cuba y es miembro del Comité Nacional de la Federación de Mujeres Cubanas. Ha tenido participación clave en la redacción del Código de las Familias. También es una reflexión sobre el trabajo destacado de Cuba de abogar y establecer los

derechos de las mujeres. La líder cubana Esther Vélez estuvo en el proceso negociador y de redacción de la Convención y fue elegida para el primero y segundo comité y Cuba es el primer país que firmó y el segundo que ratificó a CEDAW. Cuba tiene una presencia histórica en este Comité. Lo que es aún más importante, es que Cuba ha mantenido un compromiso al avance de la igualdad real y efectiva para las mujeres, comenzando con el triunfo de la Revolución en 1959. Así que, cuando se formó y aprobó a CEDAW en 1979, Cuba ya tenía 20 años de experiencia en esfuerzos por eliminar la discriminación contra las mujeres, con la creación de la Federación de Mujeres Cubanas en 1960, y el Código de la Familia en 1975—un documento avanzado para su época. En 1965, Cuba legaliza el aborto, siendo el primer país en el Hemisferio Occidental que reconoció el derecho de autonomía de su propio cuerpo a la mujer. Las madres (o los padres) tienen derecho a 6 semanas de licencia de maternidad antes del parto y 3 meses después con 100% del salario, con otros 9 meses disponibles a 60% del salario y con el derecho automático de regresar a la misma plaza después del parto. Igual salario para igual trabajo es la ley. El parlamento de Cuba—La Asamblea Nacional de Poder Popular—incluye el 53% de delegadas mujeres, y las mujeres representan más de 67% de los profesionales de la educación, 70% de jueces y fiscales, el 64% de médicos, y más de la mitad de los científicos.

Cuba hoy está actualizando todo su sistema jurídico tocante al Derecho Familiar en el Código de las Familias: familias plurales porque establece el derecho de todas las personas de cualquier género a formar familia sin discriminación, actualizando la definición legal de

instituciones de familias con modelos inclusivos en vez de estrictamente heteronormativos. Algunos aspectos de estas reformas son discutibles para los elementos conservadores en Cuba, pero el derecho al aborto no se encuentra bajo ataque, y cuando el Código de las Familias vaya a referendo, se espera que será aprobado con gran mayoría. Cuba avanza los derechos no solamente de las mujeres sino de todas las personas.

Al no ratificar CEDAW, con la no aprobación de la Emiienda de Derechos Iguales (ERA), Cuba, pero el derecho al aborto no se encuentra bajo ataque, y cuando el Código de las Familias vaya a referendo, se espera que será aprobado con gran mayoría. Cuba avanza los derechos no solamente de las mujeres sino de todas las personas.

sea, a los Derechos Humanos

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*Leni Villagomez Reeves es una médica local y activista. Puede contactarla en lenireeves@gmail.com. Chequee sus comentarios y noticias sobre Cuba en Facebook (fresnosolidarity/).*

El Comité para la Eliminación de la Discriminación contra la Mujer es el órgano de expertos independientes que supervisa la aplicación de la Convención sobre la eliminación de todas las formas de discriminación contra la mujer. Está formado por 23 expertos en derechos de la mujer de todo el mundo. Durante esta sesión, la candidata cubana, Dra. Yanilia González Ferrer, fue elegida con el mayor conteo de votos: 143. Este hecho se debe a las distinciones personales de la Dra. González Ferrer, quien es Doctora en Ciencias Jurídicas y Profesora Titular de la Facultad de Derecho de la Universidad de La Habana, vicepresidenta de la

El Comité reiteró su compromiso de defender los derechos humanos de las mujeres y las niñas en todo el mundo y afirmó que “no se rendirá frente este mandato, especialmente en lo que toca al acceso al aborto seguro y legal para todas las mujeres”.

El Comité ha enfatizado repetidamente que negar el acceso al aborto seguro y legal es “una restricción grave a la capacidad de las mujeres para ejercer su libertad reproductiva”, y que “obligar a las mujeres a llevar un embarazo a término implica sufrimiento mental y físico equivalente a violencia de género contra mujeres y, en determinadas circunstancias, a torturas o tratos crueles, inhumanos o degradantes, en violación de la Convención del CEDAW”.

La Alta Comisionada de la ONU para los Derechos Humanos, Michelle Bachelet, se ha referido a la decisión de la Corte Suprema estadounidense de derogar el acceso legal al aborto como “un duro golpe para las garantías fundamentales de las mujeres y la igualdad de género”. El panel designado por la ONU llamó la atención específicamente sobre el artículo 16 de la Convención, que “protege los derechos de las mujeres a decidir libre y responsablemente sobre el número y el espaciamiento de sus hijos”, y agregó que el aborto inseguro es una de las principales causas de mortalidad materna. También explicó que, según el artículo 12 del instrumento, el derecho a la salud incluye la autonomía corporal y abarca las libertades sexuales y reproductivas de las mujeres y las niñas.

## EE.UU Condenado por el Comité CEDAW por Violar los Derechos Humanos de las Mujeres

*Continúa de página 20*

# LLAMAZA

## COMUNITARIA

### LA VOZ DEL MOVIMIENTO PROGRESISTA DESDE 1996

## Covid 19 Sigue Entre Nosotros, ¿Ya Vacunó a Su Niño?

Por Eduardo Stanley

Finalmente, el gobierno autorizó la aplicación de vacunas contra el Covid 19 para niños de seis meses en adelante. Esto ayudaría a controlar la propagación de este virus y sus peligrosas variantes.

Hay que recordar que durante la época escolar aumentan los contagios entre los niños y jóvenes. Y ellos a su vez llevan el virus a sus hogares, contagiando al resto de la familia.

La mejor manera de cortar esta "ruta" del contagio es, principalmente, vacunándose. Las personas no vacunadas tienen 5.9 veces más posibilidades de contagiarse que aquellas vacunadas con al menos uno de los dos refuerzos, según un comunicado del Departamento de Salud de California, del día 26 de junio de 2022—estos datos varían constantemente.

El éxito de esta campaña de vacunación depende en gran parte de los padres y madres. Pero muchos y muchas de ellas tienen prejuicios contra la vacuna y hasta temen que la misma afecte el crecimiento de sus hijas e hijos.

"Llevamos muchos años vacunando niños en todo el mundo y nunca hemos visto un efecto a largo plazo en el desarrollo de ellos. No existe una base científica para semejante preocupación", dice la Dra. Lucia Abascal, vocera del Departamento de Salud de California.

"Creo que esta falsa información afecta a las familias; también podría afectar el hecho de que al principio de la pandemia se decía que Covid 19 afectaba muy poco a los jóvenes".

Zyda Rivera, una madre de dos hijos de Madera, California, no dudó en vacunar a ambos. "Mi hijo mayor, de 8 años, tuvo Covid... Los primeras dos días la pasó realmente

## Tala de árboles de Yosemite Detenida Por Demandas Ambientales

Por Vic Bedoian

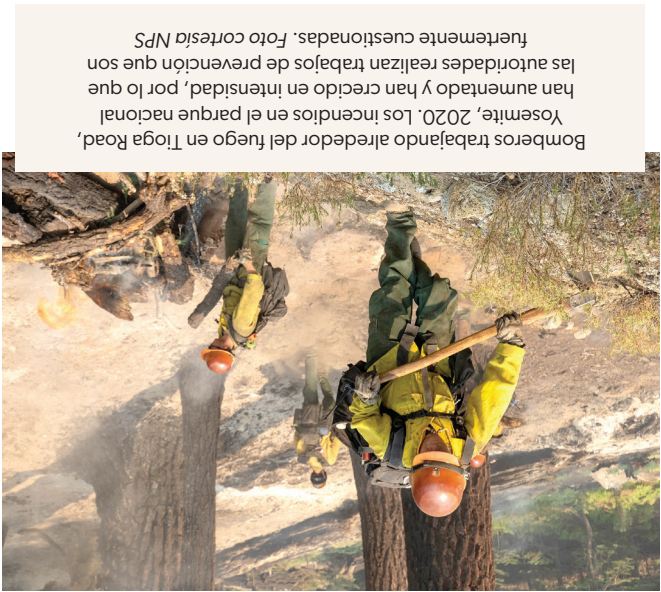
¿Qué hay detrás de la tala en el Parque Nacional Yosemite? Los funcionarios del parque lo anunciaron como un proyecto de reducción de combustible para mejorar la resistencia al fuego en los bosques del parque, pero en cambio generó controversia y una demanda. Actualmente, la tala se ha detenido, al menos temporalmente, debido a una acción legal iniciada contra Yosemite por el Proyecto John Muir y el Instituto Earth Island.

Así es como Yosemite describe el proyecto: Este proyecto reduce los combustibles post-sequía y post-incendio para proteger las arboledas de secuoyas gigantes de Yosemite y Tuolumne, el Valle de Yosemite, las comunidades de Yosemite West, Wawona, El Portal, Foresta, Yosemite Village, un hábitat importante para los pescadores del Pacífico y el gran búho gris, sitios arqueológicos prehistóricos e históricos, y mejora la seguridad para el público y los socorristas.

Se necesitan acciones inmediatas para proteger estas áreas de incendios de alta gravedad.

Entre Chad Hanson, fundador del Proyecto John Muir. Como ecólogo forestal, Hanson se ha mostrado escéptico con respecto a algunas de las prácticas de gestión forestal del Servicio Forestal de Estados Unidos (NPS, por sus siglas en inglés), cuyas tierras están designadas para la supervisión de usos múltiples. Pero estaba realmente desconcertado por lo que estaba pasando, especialmente en el valle de Yosemite.

"El parque inició una operación maderera comercial muy grande en el valle de Yosemite. Talar los bosques, talar árboles maduros y vivos de hasta 20 pulgadas de diámetro, que tienen entre 90 y 100 años. En promedio, para esos árboles, se necesitaban dos personas o estrar los brazos y tocar las manos en un árbol de ese tamaño. Y estaban talando una Sequoia Grove. Estaban registrando parches de bosque



Bomberos trabajando alrededor del fuego en Tioga Road, Yosemite, 2020. Los incendios en el parque nacional han aumentado y han crecido en intensidad, por lo que las autoridades realizan trabajos de prevención que son fuertemente cuestionados. Foto cortesía NPS

de troncos, lo cual es realmente importante. Esos parches de fuego mataron o los escarbajos mataron árboles. Estos escarbajos son naturales y las llagas, los árboles muertos, y hay muchas especies de vida silvestre que dependen de parches de árboles muertos".

Hanson señala que los administradores del parque ni siquiera están siguiendo sus propias pautas:

"Se supone que no deben registrar el 99% del parque. Se supone que solo deben estar cortando árboles adyacentes a las casas. Y así, presentamos una demanda. Simplemente pedimos que cumplieran con su propio plan de manejo de incendios". Para empeorar las cosas, el NPS no notificó al público sobre los proyectos, no realizó reuniones públicas ni los funcionarios de Yosemite permitieron comentarios públicos. Los litigantes dicen que viola las leyes federales.

A medida que el calentamiento global continúa secando los bosques de los estados del oeste, el Servicio Forestal de los Estados Unidos utiliza cada vez más un atajo administrativo llamado "exclusiones categóricas" para avanzar en los esfuerzos de prevención de incendios con una revisión ambiental mucho más corta y menos completa. Hanson se sintió consternado al saber que ahora el NPS decidió lanzar un proyecto de gran impacto que incluye la tala, la quema y el desmonte en el valle de Yosemite, el Merced Grove de secuoyas gigantes y otras áreas del parque, incluidas las comunidades residenciales cercanas. "Realmente se

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## EE.UU. Condenado por el Comité CEDAW por Violar los Derechos Humanos de las Mujeres

Por Leni Villagomez Reeves y Nora Cuello

CEDAW es la Convención sobre la eliminación de todas las formas de discriminación contra la mujer. Es un tratado internacional adoptado en 1979 por la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, una declaración de derecho a la salud sexual y reproductiva. Se incluye el derecho a la igualdad de oportunidades para hombres y mujeres, pero EE.UU. nunca ha ratificado CEDAW. Hay solamente 5 naciones y el Vaticano que no han aceptado el acuerdo. Sudán del Sur en 2015 fue la más reciente en firmar.

El Comité para la Eliminación de la Discriminación contra la Mujer existe con el fin de examinar los progresos realizados en la aplicación de la Convención CEDAW, y a veces también se indica por estas siglas aunque se debe llamar Comité CEDAW. Cerró su sesión número 82 el 1ro de julio, con una declaración haciéndolo una llamada urgente a EEUU a adherirse a la Convención:

"El Comité para la Eliminación de la Discriminación contra la Mujer (CEDAW) insta a Estados Unidos a adherirse a la Convención sobre la Eliminación de Todas las Formas de Discriminación contra la Mujer a fin de respetar, proteger, cumplir y promover los derechos humanos de las mujeres y las niñas".

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