

A COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

THE VOICE OF THE PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT SINCE 1996



EN ESPAÑOL
PÁGINAS 23-28

March for Peace

BY I. SMILEY G. CALDERON AND BOB MCCLOSKEY

In early November, on a beautiful Central California afternoon, Peace Fresno led a group of local residents in a peace march and demonstration on the sidewalks at the corner of Blackstone and Nees avenues in front of Riverpark Shopping Center to denounce all wars, especially the genocide that is happening now in Palestine.

There were about 100 people at the demonstration, a diverse group that included older adults, retirees, students, workers and families. All faced the busy streets with their colorful handcrafted signs in solidarity with Palestine. "Say No to Nukes" and "Honk for Peace" were some of the signs.

Many drivers honked their horns in support, and everyone observing seemed to support the cause. There were no visible counterprotesters.

The event was cohosted by a coalition of local peace and social justice organizations: Back from the Brink, the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, the Palestine Liberation Group, Raza Against War, Veterans for Peace and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

The coalition supporting the march believes that Americans should know how their tax dollars are being used. For example, since Israel's founding in 1948, it has received at least \$158 billion in military aid and tens of billions more in economic aid from the United States.

This money has been a real gift to the multibillion dollar military industrial complex, which builds weapons of mass destruction. Such weapons include bombs, missiles, jets, helicopters, artillery, tanks, "shield" technology,



A demonstrator expressing her disappointment of U.S. support to Israel during a protest at Blackstone and Ness avenues in Fresno. Photo by Peter Maiden

ammunition and more—weapons currently being used to actively ethnically cleanse Palestinians.

Since Oct. 7, 2023, the Biden administration has sent more than \$17.9 billion in military aid to Israel to combat the Palestinians, which has included fighter jets, advanced

air-to-air missiles and other advanced weapons systems. The bombs dropped by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) are made in the United States. The United States has already provisionally agreed through a Memorandum of

Continues on page 2

Reacting to the Threat of Mass Deportations

BY VIC BEDOIAN

Results of the 2024 election and Donald Trump's menacing immigration policies sparked a coalition of immigrant rights and social justice groups to call a press conference at the federal building in Fresno just days after the election. Speakers expressed an outcry of concern and a determination to confront mass deportations of undocumented immigrants, should that come to the San Joaquin Valley. Sukaina Hussain of the California Immigrant Policy Center stressed the urgency of the moment.

"We are standing before you today as representatives from immigrant rights and immigrant-serving organizations," said Hussain. "The election results of this week have caused a wide array of emotions among vulnerable communities, including pain, grief and anger for immigrant families.

"In the Central Valley, a very real and valid response is uncertainty and fear. During this difficult time, we are standing together to share that local organizations, community organizers and advocates will work to protect families and will fight for our rights."

Hussain went on to put the impact of mass deportation in a broader context. "For years, Trump has used anti-immigrant and xenophobic hate to fuel his political ambitions. Throughout his presidential campaign, he pledged mass deportation of immigrants. And he said he would do it at any cost.

"He also threatened to eliminate very important legal pathways to citizenship and end programs like Temporary

Protected Status and DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals). He has threatened to enact policies that violate the spirit and values of religious freedom for our country."

Despite the intensified threats that immigrants will face beginning in 2025, Allison Davenport of the Immigrant

Legal Resource Center explained that there are supportive networks that will resist mass deportation activities by government agencies and provide aid to immigrants in distress.

Continues on page 2



Sarait Martinez, director of Centro Binacional Para el Desarrollo Indígena Oaxaqueño of Fresno, speaking at a press conference in which several organizations expressed concern about the next administration's stated intention for the mass deportation of undocumented workers. Photo by Peter Maiden

DECEMBER 2024

WWW.FRESNOALLIANCE.COM



San Joaquin Valley Media Alliance
P.O. Box 5077
Fresno, CA 93755

Change service requested

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FRESNO, CA
PERMIT NO. 475

Instagram: @FRESNOALLIANCE
Twitter: @FRESNOALLIANCE
Facebook: /COMMUNITYALLIANCENEWSPAPER

March for Peace

Continued from page 1

Understanding (MOU) to provide \$3.8 billion more each year to Israel through 2028 so that it can continue its brutal military campaign.

Every day in Gaza, on average, 115 people are killed: 46 children, 31 women and 38 men. Israel has killed at least 42,000 people in Gaza in the past year—17,000 children. And that's not to mention the thousands more still buried beneath rubble and unaccounted for. Or the permanently injured and maimed. Thousands more are displaced and homeless.

Palestinians are not mere numbers, of course; they are real people, loving human beings. Yet, everyone in Gaza is starving. The truth is, Israel has been ruthless in its ethnic cleansing campaign. And Americans are funding it.

In late September, Senators Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), Peter Welch (D-Vt.), Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) and Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii) introduced three Joint Resolutions of Disapproval (JRDs) to stop a \$20 billion weapons shipment already

approved by the Biden administration. Unfortunately, the resolutions were swiftly voted down and defeated in a Senate vote in mid-November.

"The United States of America is complicit in these atrocities," says Sanders. "That complicity must end, and that is what these resolutions are about."

Taking Action!

Contact your Congressional representative and U.S. senators to urge them to vote against sending more funds to Israel.

Furthermore, you can organize to create community awareness about the Palestinian plight by teaming up with groups such as Peace Fresno (peacefresno.org), Back from the Brink (preventnuclearwar.org), the Fresno Center for Nonviolence (centerfornonviolence.org), the Palestine Liberation Group, Raza Against War, Veterans for Peace (vfp180.org) and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF Fresno on Facebook).

At a press conference on Capitol Hill, Sanders remarked that "what is happening in Gaza today is unspeakable. What makes it even more painful is that much of what is happening there has been done with U.S. weapons and with American taxpayer support."

Dan Yaseen, president of Peace Fresno, a longtime peace and antiwar activist and host of *Speaking Truth to Power* on KFCF 88.1 FM, remarked at the rally: "We are all here today to demand that our current Congress and President Biden end all war and end genocide, end Israel's expansion of war in Lebanon and Iran, end [the] U.S./NATO war in Ukraine and close all of our overseas military bases."

Big words coming from a small place. Fresno wants peace, and these peace activists are letting the world know that they mean business.

I. smiley G. Calderon 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.

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

Reacting to the Threat of Mass Deportations

Continued from page 1

"We are fortunate enough to live in the state of California that values immigrant families," notes Davenport. "California will continue to protect immigrant communities by funding our legal services and outreach work, providing driver's licenses and IDs for all, ensuring access to critical public benefits and limiting the ways that our local law enforcement cooperates with ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement).

"Governor Newsom has called a special session for next month to begin strategizing around some of this. California's attorney general will once again need to lead the way, and we as a collective are prepared to work with our elected officials to shape those policies so they are as strong and responsive as possible."

Trump's bellicose and racist rhetoric during the Presidential campaign, and now his election mandate, is spreading fear throughout Valley communities.

Davenport emphasized that all residents, legally residing here or not, hold legal rights that can be used to protect families at risk. "For years, we're going to be talking a lot about our constitutional rights.

"Regardless of a person's immigration status, simply by being on American soil, we all have certain rights. The right to remain silent if we have contact with a law enforcement official, the right to not open the door of our homes to a law enforcement official and due process rights, to have our day in court and to be represented by an attorney."

The San Joaquin Valley is home to many Dreamers who immigrated to the United States with their parents as children. Thanks to DACA, the immigration program established in 2012 during Barack Obama's presidency, the Dreamers are part of the fabric of our communities. They have lived with the lingering apprehension that their status could be changed by government action.

Pricilla Ramos warned about what could be at stake. "All they have worked for, and all they know can certainly get taken away. Now with the new Trump administration, these fears only intensify.

"We have been the witness to direct attacks within the Dreamer community, and I also want to establish something very clear to the Trump administration that America is the Dreamers' home."

Mattias Bernal introduced himself as a proud, undocumented immigrant living in the Central Valley, "As a DACA recipient, I have withstood the direct attacks of the previous Trump administration and resisted for years."

He urged civic participation to defend people aimed "at protecting our communities during these uncertain times. It is essential that we take steps to proactively protect ourselves and the well-being of our families. This means staying informed about our rights and the resources available to you."

Bernal stated the importance of building a rapid response network that will enable people to mobilize quickly and efficiently to potential raids, legal changes and any actions that threaten the peace and security of immigrant communities.

One public official, Kerman Mayor Maria Pacheco, stepped forward with a strong statement in defense of residents in her city, "I stand before you with a clear and unwavering message. I am fully committed to working with and protecting our undocumented families.

"As mayor, my role is to ensure that every resident of Kerman, regardless of their immigration status, feels safe, respected and valued."


Pacheco is working with Rep. John Duarte (R-Modesto) in advocating for stronger protections and legislative solutions for undocumented residents.

"We are preparing for the next steps in the fight for justice and equality," says Pacheco. "We will continue to press forward ensuring that no one is left behind and that our communities remain a safe place where everyone can live without fear."

The coalition plans to communicate with civic leaders and local law enforcement agencies to seek cooperation in protecting Valley residents. The coalition further aims to continue seeking humane, inclusive and permanent immigration solutions under the new administration.

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.

GET YOUR MESSAGE OUT!
Advertise in the




COMMUNITY ALLIANCE
THE VOICE OF THE PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT SINCE 1996

8,000 COPIES PUBLISHED AND DISTRIBUTED MONTHLY

All ads need to be camera ready
(typesetting, layout and design is extra)
Submit a black-and-white ad or upgrade to a full-color ad.
Deadline is the 15th of the month preceding publication.

	ADVERTISING RATES			
	ONE MONTH	THREE MONTHS	SIX MONTHS	ONE YEAR
Business Card (3.375w x 2h)	\$44	\$99	\$165	\$297
Eighth Page (5.125w x 4.125h)	\$66	\$176	\$330	\$594
Quarter Page (5.125w x 8.25h)	\$132	\$352	\$650	\$1,188
Half Page (10.25w x 8.25h)	\$220	\$589	\$1,100	\$1,980
Full Page (10.25w x 16.5h)	\$440	\$1,177	\$2,200	\$3,960


FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
I. smiley G. Calderon | 714-290-6651 | smileycalderon@gmail.com
Community Alliance | P.O. Box 5077 | Fresno, CA 93755



FRESNO CENTER FOR NONVIOLENCE

centerfornonviolence.org

- Dedicated to Peace and Social Justice since 1992
- Catch our radio program, *Stir it Up*, on KFCF 88.1 FM every 2nd Wednesday at 3:00 p.m.
- Please consider supporting our work a DONATION —>
- Scan the QR code to contribute today and stand with us for peace



**1584 N. VAN NESS AVE
FRESNO, CA 93728**

STRATEGY + VISION

PAUL E. PIERCE



BOARD/STAFF DEVELOPMENT

+

PRODUCTIVE MEETINGS

+

STRATEGIC PLANNING

PAUL@PAULEPIERCE.COM

559 246 7236

The United States elected a president who, from day one, will seek to undermine democracy, take revenge on his political enemies and the press, deport thousands of undocumented people, increase the wealth of the rich and worsen poverty. This means that the number of homeless people will grow.

One wonders how farmers and agricultural companies will react when they start losing

workers because many of the field workers who plant and harvest are undocumented.

The wife of the President-elect is an immigrant and the spouse of the Vice President-elect is from an immigrant family, but it is not yet clear whether they also run the risk of being deported.

What is clear is that thanks to his victory, Trump will have immunity and in this way the

trials and lawsuits against him will not have repercussions for him, which forces us to rethink the functioning of justice in this country, as well as the electoral system, undoubtedly created to keep the powerful in power.

It will not be easy to promote changes under such a political climate that will likely last for some time.

Till next month.



Since 1996, the *Community Alliance* has been an independent progressive voice for the Central San Joaquin Valley. The *Community Alliance* advocates for

- Racial, social, environmental and economic justice
 - Equal rights for all, including immigrants, the unhoused and the LGBTQ+ community
 - Access to a free quality public education for all
 - Access to healthcare for all
 - A living wage for all working people
- Our goal is to expose racial, social, environmental, economic and political injustices. We will help to build a powerful progressive movement that will make all our communities safer, healthier, more equitable and more livable.

EDITOR

Eduardo Stanley
editor@fresnoalliance.com

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mike Rhodes
559-978-4502

NONPROFIT BOARD

Beverly Fitzpatrick
Olga Loza
Jim Mendez
Pam Whalen

LAYOUT DESIGNER

Ashley Harper

**DISTRIBUTION MANAGER/
PHOTOGRAPHY**

Peter Maiden
maidenfoto1@gmail.com

ADVERTISING

I. smiley G. Calderon
714-290-6651 (text)
smileycalderon@gmail.com
Yo también hablo español

COPYEDITOR

Michael D. Evans

TO SUBSCRIBE

Send \$60
(progressive movement builder),
\$40 (regular) or \$15 (low income)
to
COMMUNITY ALLIANCE
P.O. Box 5077
Fresno, CA 93755
fresnoalliance.com

SUBMISSIONS

Deadline:
15th of the previous month.
Articles 800-1,200 words.
E-mail editor@fresnoalliance.com.

Peace and Social Justice

Calendar:
Please submit all activities to
calendar@fresnoalliance.com
by the 15th of the previous month.

Letters to the Editor:

E-mail editor@fresnoalliance.com.
Up to 200 words.

The *Community Alliance* newspaper, a 501(c)(4) entity, reserves the right to edit all articles for space and clarity. It is printed on recycled paper.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Complexity of Holiday Greetings

A recent conversation with a business acquaintance sparked a thought-provoking discussion on the use of the phrase "Happy Holidays." It all began when he shared his discomfort with a greeting he received during the holiday season. As a Christian, he felt that the phrase was a sign of disrespect, driven by political correctness and an attempt to sidestep Christmas altogether. Naturally, this prompted me to offer a different perspective—one rooted not in a lack of respect, but in an abundance of it.

I explained to him that "Happy Holidays" might not be an affront to Christmas but rather an acknowledgment of the diversity of celebrations taking place during the same time of year. In fact, there are at least 14 different religious and cultural holidays observed around the world in December alone, from Hanukkah and Kwanzaa to Diwali and the Winter Solstice. By offering a more inclusive greeting, the intent is not to diminish any particular holiday but rather to show respect for the variety of traditions people hold dear during this season.

This line of thought led me to reflect more deeply on the nature of communication and interpretation. It is always fascinating, and at times even frustrating, how easily we misinterpret the words and actions of others—especially when we lack insight into their personal perspectives or intentions.

The "Happy Holidays" greeting, while benign in nature, can easily be perceived in vastly different ways depending on one's background, experiences or even their emotional state at the time.

For me, when I'm greeted with "Happy Holidays," I choose to respond with gratitude, simply saying "Thank you!" I do not take offense at the inclusive nature of the greeting; instead, I see it as a reflection of the speaker's attempt to be kind and considerate of the many different ways people celebrate, or do not celebrate, during this time of year. I see it as a gesture of goodwill, not an erasure of any specific tradition or belief.

At the core of this discussion is the broader philosophical idea that our interpretations of others' words and actions are shaped by our own perceptions, experiences and beliefs. What may feel like an attack to one person may, in fact, be a gesture of inclusivity or respect to another. And this is a reminder of how important it is to approach these moments with openness and empathy, rather than jumping to conclusions or making assumptions about someone else's intent.

The question, then, becomes one of perspective: How do we choose to interpret the actions of others? And, perhaps more importantly, how can we engage in dialogue that fosters mutual understanding, even when our views differ? In a world that is increasingly diverse and interconnected, I believe that the answer lies in cultivating a willingness to see things from multiple viewpoints and recognizing that respect does not always look the same to everyone.

So, whether it's a "Merry Christmas" or a "Happy Holidays," the true meaning behind the greeting lies not in the words themselves, but in the spirit of kindness and goodwill with which they are offered. And when we respond with understanding and gratitude, we contribute to a more respectful and harmonious exchange of ideas and beliefs, one holiday greeting at a time.

Arthur Dyson
Fresno

Brandau's Politics

[Fresno County Supervisor] Steve Brandau has gone from the voice of the Tea Party, a conservative Republican organization, to a self-serving politician. He brags about how Democrats endorse him while "appearing" to have Republican values.

He commends the Fresno County Department of Social Services for their work, however, the DSS has received funding to help homeless adults without children, yet still has not set up any programs to assist these individuals. Homeless adults continue to ask for help with housing and are turned away as nothing has been implemented yet.

Brandau still voted in favor of giving DSS middle managers a 30% raise one month after some of these managers released a video singing and dancing while at work. This video was a waste of taxpayer money. It is on YouTube if you want to see it.

Fresno needs to get rid of this guy.

Gabriel Sanchez
Online feedback

A Call to Establish an Elections Review Committee

I am the president and founder of the Fresno Veterans Coalition. We are an organization that honors, represents and supports our 50,000 local veterans by providing a coalition of resources in Fresno.

It has been brought to our attention that some ballots belonging to veterans may have been incorrectly printed or lost in an unlocked ballot box. Furthermore, Fresno City Attorney Andrew Janz and Rep. Jim Costa were both notified of election interference and intimidation, but chose to do nothing this election cycle. This is extremely concerning as a taxpayer given any potential personal, political or romantic relationships causing said conflicts. Our group has been subject to impersonation, hate speech, death threats and doxing.

Costa's staff improperly worked with an extremist PAC in town (Youth Save Democracy) and failed to report hate speech against veterans. Janz shrugged his primary election duties this cycle and instead chose to attend fellow attorney Roger Bonakdar's political events. This was after Janz testified to the Fresno City Council and Mayor [Jerry] Dyer that he would be apolitical when accepting the job at City Hall. This is especially concerning when this individual has also hosted political events for state Attorney General Rob Bonta and other prominent Democrats.

We are respectfully requesting the City of Fresno and County of Fresno to launch an election integrity committee for Fresno elections that reviews complex and controversial issues.

Justin St. George
Fresno



Looking for a volunteer delivery driver for the *Community Alliance*!

The Madera Route needs a driver. Could that be you?

Help us get out the "voice of the progressive movement!"

Contact Peter, Distribution Manager, by email:

maidenfoto1@gmail.com

Spending Misfocused

I find this to be so stupid: I mean \$11 million to build another building to house the homeless. Do you know how many apartment complexes could have been bought to give the homeless a real permanent home instead of another shelter where a homeless person will once again have to wait six months to a year and a half to finally get into a home?

This is why California will never get control of the homelessness because they waste the money instead of doing what needs to be done. And yes, I am homeless in Central California.

Jennifer Watkins
Online feedback

YES! I WOULD LIKE TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE COMMUNITY ALLIANCE NEWSPAPER:

- Enclosed is \$40 for a one-year regular subscription. I would like to be a monthly sustainer at the rate of \$_____ a month.
- Enclosed is \$60 for a one-year progressive movement builder subscription.
- Enclosed is \$15 for a one-year subscription (low-income option).
- Enclosed is an additional contribution of \$_____. I support alternative/independent media and want to see this publication grow.

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

Community Alliance, P.O. Box 5077, Fresno, CA 93755



The *Community Alliance* newspaper is published monthly by the San Joaquin Valley Media Alliance, located at 1584 N. Van Ness Ave., Fresno, CA 93728. The *Community Alliance* newspaper is distributed free of charge, or by subscription. Subscriptions are \$40 per year, \$60 per year for a movement builder subscription or \$15 per year for a low-income subscription.

Stop the Hate in Action

BY BOB MCCLOSKEY

On Oct. 28, three members of the Westboro Baptist Church (WBC; in Topeka, Kan.), “arguably, the most obnoxious and rabid hate group in America,” according to the Southern Poverty Law Center, arrived at Roosevelt High School in Fresno to spread their message of hate. The WBC specializes in anti-gay vitriol, typified by their slogan, “God Hates F—s.” The group regularly tours the country and has said that “the deadly events of 9/11 were divine outpourings of retribution for America’s horrendous sodomite sins.”

The WBC members were confronted by several hundred counterprotesters. The protesters created a “wall of love” with several hundred rainbow-colored umbrellas, and it wasn’t long before the three church members left.



Yokuts Valley residents June and Bayard Taylor at the “Wall of Love” at Reedley High School. Photo by Brandi Angela



“Wall of Love” at Reedley High School. Photo by Bob McCloskey

On Oct. 30, five or six members of the WBC arrived early at Reedley High School in Reedley. They arrived before school to harass students and wave their hateful signs. Again, they were greeted by more than a hundred counterprotesters with rainbow umbrellas, a “wall of love.” It was a lively and spirited counterprotest and the WBC group left within an hour.

The resounding message from Fresno and Reedley is that hate is not welcome here.

Brock Neeley, a community and civil rights advocate at the Reedley High counterprotest, had a copy of the U.S. Constitution, calling it the gay agenda (equal rights), and said that “the kids need to know that there are people out there that love them and accept them as they are.”

“So there’s no need for them to try to attempt suicide. They do not have these issues because they’re gay. They have these issues because of the way society treats them.”

“We’re fortunate here in California to have some kind of fighting back, but think about the other states. Trump has made gay and trans rights an issue. We have to fight back.”

“There were about 350 people at Roosevelt High School in Fresno last week (protesting WBC). It’s great to see people here today at Reedley High.”

Jennifer Cruz, an advocate for the community and LGBTQ+ resource manager at the Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission, said, “I think [WBC] came to the Central Valley thinking it’s a conservative part of California, and they realized that their message of hate wasn’t welcome. I think we really showed up and showed the students that love and support.”

“[Our] real agenda is to make sure that our teens from the LGBTQ+ community survive to adulthood. I heard that last

month a 13-year-old from the school down the street took her own life. I heard that from someone today.”

Emily Burnias, a U.S. Navy veteran, said, “We are supposed to be protecting our youth, not attacking our youth. I heard that a youth has already committed suicide, and that’s one too many.”

“We do not need to be coming here as adults and attacking young children. We are supposed to be molding young children, loving young children, guiding young children not attacking.”

“This is the time of their youth when they’re supposed to be enjoying life, deciding what they’re going to do in their future. Instead of molding and guiding them, they’re attacking, telling them God hates them. Did you see those terrible signs?”

Ken Hudson, who drove down from Yokuts Valley to support the community, said, “I really wanted to support the LGBTQ+ students here at Reedley High School.”

“My own son is trans female to male, and his high school experience was surprisingly very good—and no bullying. He was a student in Fresno at Edison High School. His (school) experience was good, but I wanted to come down and support the students here today.”

The Reedley counterprotest was lively and joyful. The community showed up to express solidarity and love. It was a true example of “Stop the Hate, Be the Love.”

Bob McCloskey is an activist and a reporter for the Community Alliance newspaper. Contact him at bobmccloskey06@gmail.com.

Students Rally for Peace

BY I. SMILEY G. CALDERON

A week before their Thanksgiving break, Fresno City College (FCC) students organized an “End the Genocide” demonstration and rally where they walked through campus holding up signs that read “Free Palestine” and “Arms Embargo Now,” among others.

After walking through campus, the group of about a dozen students (and one mom) formed a circle around the fountain at the college’s center and chanted in unison: “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free” and “Biden, Biden what do you say, how many kids did you kill today?”

The students were prohibited from using a megaphone by college officials, but that didn’t hamper their resolve. They raised their voices loud as they competed with the sound of buzzing generators from the many food trucks nearby.

“Israel bombs, USA pays, how many kids did you kill today?” They continued, “Not another nickel, not another dime, no more money for Israel’s crimes.”

“I feel a sense of pride in my fellow students—it gives me hope,” said forestry student Arion Grajeda about the turnout.” Grajeda, who identifies as “Chicano, a Mexican-American,” sees a connection with Palestinians.

“I think it is quite simple,” he said, “particularly Mexican-Americans in the Southwest have faced a lot of displacement...Palestinians and Mexican-Americans are both people who have faced displacement at the hands of imperialist states.”

Grajeda is actively involved in FCC’s MEChA chapter. “MEChA is the Chicano student movement,” he says. “We are a political activist group with chapters all over the nation...”

“We are fighting for the liberation of brown people all over the world, educating our brown communities and advocating for higher learning.”

The rally was organized by a part-time undeclared major, Dante Mendoza, and a fellow student, Octavio. Mendoza, wearing the black-and-white keffiyeh that’s become synonymous with Palestinians, had a sign in one hand that read “Arms Embargo Now” and in the other hand a stuffed teddy bear wrapped in a baby blanket covered in red paint to represent the blood of thousands of Palestinian children.

“You have to look at the history between Israel and Palestine. You have to educate yourself,” she said. “Israeli drones target civilians and, after bombs are dropped, they go and pick them off one by one—that’s not right.”

“And the U.S. is really complicit in all of this, sending arms. It’s just not right. There needs to be an arms embargo. Everything that’s happening in Gaza right now is not right.”



Student Dante Mendoza at a Nov. 19 protest for Palestine on the Fresno City College campus. Photo by Peter Maiden

“Fifty percent of the population in Gaza are children—and that’s who they are fighting, that’s who they are targeting.”

One of the signs at the demonstration read “Block Weapons, Save Lives.”

The students want to hold their country and government accountable. Amid the passionate chanting, “Free, free Palestine—Free, free Gaza,” the sound of hope could be heard.

“For students and people observing,” said Grajeda, “do not be afraid to join demonstrations like this. The more solidarity we show for each other, the more we stand together, the more able we are to make change—and free Palestine!”

I. smiley G. Calderon 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.

DESERT RIVER PSYCHOLOGY

Alexia Baca Morgan, Ph.D
Clinical and Forensic Psychologist
Baca.Alexia@yahoo.com

CA Psy 14911 559-472-8375
For appointment call 559-908-6488
Medi-Cal and most insurances accepted.



Affordable Eastern style yoga for all levels of experience

6 classes per week both online and at

Community United Church of Christ 5550 N Fresno Street

www.yogacenteroffresno.com current schedules available on our website & our Facebook page

Join us for a quiet time in a busy day.

Parents, Families & Friends Allied with the LGBTQ+ Community



Meetings the 2nd Sunday of the month @2PM

At Wesley UMC 1343 E. Barstow Ave Fresno CA 93710

www.PFLAGFresno.org (559) 434-6540 pflagfresno@gmail.com

Fresno: A Cruel and Unusual City

BY BOB MCCLOSKEY

Since the implementation of the City of Fresno's harsh and cruel anti-camping ordinance on Sept. 23, there have been 150 arrests of unhoused individuals in Fresno. Most arrests occurred in early to mid-October. The City then turned to issuing citations. The number of citations are unknown at this point and will require a California Public Records Act (CPRA) request to obtain this information. Several defendants set for arraignment did not appear in court, leading to warrants for their arrest.

At least one case was dismissed at arraignment proceedings after an unhoused woman was held for four days. She said that her case was dismissed with time served. She added the judge appeared to be sympathetic and that she was represented by a public defender.

From street interviews and analysis, the arrests and the issuance of citations are based on certain locations that are targeted by police. Police claim they are offering services that they say are sometimes refused. However, based on street interviews and written statements from some of those arrested, the only services offered are to sign up for a drug treatment program. No housing is offered.

If someone states they don't have a substance abuse problem and don't need drug treatment, they are often arrested or cited. It appears the police are targeting and clearing certain areas such as Downtown Fresno and the Tower District based on complaints primarily from business owners who don't seem to care about the terrible human impact of the draconian ordinance and simply want the homeless to disappear.

Through a CPRA request, we obtained a Fresno Police Department (FPD) training bulletin for implementing the ordinance. The section in the bulletin called "Drug Treatment in Lieu of Arrest" verifies in writing that treatment is the only service offered.

The bulletin further states that "officers will use their discretion when determining whether to issue a citation, make an arrest or provide warning to those in violation of FMC 10-2101." This order to use discretion will certainly lead to the profiling of unhoused victims.

Such profiling always includes the biases and prejudices of individual officers. The bulletin goes on to state that the officer should "consider the history of the situation, prior calls for service and wishes of the reporting party," verifying that the mayor and City Council are pandering to the business community and their desire to rid the city of unhoused human beings.

The Fresno business community and City leadership must realize that the much lauded anti-camping ordinance will kill their fellow human beings. Upon arrest and otherwise, the FPD is regularly throwing away tents, sleeping bags, blankets and other necessary survival gear—leaving people to die from exposure.

Word from the Streets

"Everyone should check out Fresno, probably the most corrupt city ever," says Deana, a senior unhoused Fresno resident who has never used drugs. "[There are] very strict codes, and they don't open the four warming centers in town unless it's 33 degrees.



This encampment at Shields and Weber avenues in Fresno was recently destroyed and valuable property was trashed.
 Photo by Bob Miller

"Fresno is in a valley surrounded by mountains that get a lot of snow. So the wind chill is agonizing in winter.

"Fresno has a homeless task force that consistently stalks the homeless. And this task force shows up with a garbage truck throwing all of their survival gear away. Even their only blankets. And homeless people here freeze to death in the winter."

Reflecting on the impact of the new anti-camping ordinance, Deana said that "we (she and her female friend) have had to move, because of complaints, four times (since the ordinance was implemented). And we might have to move again tonight!

"We were in our current spot for about a month. Someone complained and lied, [saying] there were a lot of people here."

Although a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision stated that criminalizing and arresting unhoused people is not cruel and unusual punishment, any sane person can see that the anti-camping ordinance and subsequent police enforcement of it is cruel. Throwing away survival gear in winter is cruel. Arresting and detaining people is cruel.

As Deana and so many other unhoused folks and advocates have documented, the blatant Fourth Amendment violations and inhumane treatment amount to human rights violations.

"MAGA Liberals" and the Unusual Ordinance

When the five "liberal" Democrats on the Fresno City Council joined forces with two MAGA Republicans, Mayor Jerry Dyer and City Council Member Garry Bredfeld, to pass and implement the most draconian anti-camping ordinance in the United States, they opened the gates of hell. A living hell for street family members. People are forced to walk aimlessly every day in an attempt to avoid contact with the police.

Arrests and Citations

Fresno's anti-camping, anti-sitting, anti-standing and anti-lying ordinance is unusual in the sense that it is the harshest and most cruel ordinance in the United States. The ordinance was driven by "liberal" Democratic Council

Members Miguel Arias and Tyler Maxwell and the extremist MAGA Bredfeld.

The City uses the Homeless Assistance Response Team (HART) to move unhoused taxpayers (unhoused people pay sales tax to the City) endlessly, often to dangerous locations. Unhoused residents say the FPD's HART members commit crimes everyday. There are many witnesses to these crimes. The crimes include theft of property, civil rights abuses and violations of the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution (illegal search and seizure of property).

HART throws away basic survival gear every day. Imagine sleeping on the streets of Fresno when it's 40 degrees with no blanket. People have died and more will die from exposure this winter.

Although hypothermia is most common at extremely cold temperatures, it can occur even at cool temperatures (above 40°F) if you become chilled from rain, sweat or being in cold water. If you have a chronic condition such as diabetes, Parkinson's, memory loss or thyroid problems, it can set in.

Many medicines make it hard to regulate body temperature, and if you have COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), you might have difficulty breathing in the cold. Many other health conditions put people at risk for hypothermia at temperatures higher than 34 degrees.

If you are unhoused, 37, 38 or 39 degrees is not much different than 34 degrees and you will have a miserable night without sleep at those temperatures. Unhoused folks often challenge the mayor and City Council members to sleep outside on the cold winter streets of Fresno.

Prolonged exposure to homelessness has a significant negative effect on individuals that can result in death. Homelessness is much more than the absence of physical housing; it is a tension-filled, trauma-filled and treacherous condition that often results in injuries and fatalities.

It's time for the City to abolish the cruel and unusual anti-camping ordinance and provide real solutions to the housing crisis. Homelessness is driven by poverty and the lack of affordable housing. A real Housing First approach is necessary.

Permanent housing with services is the way forward. Social housing is the ultimate solution, and interim solutions are necessary such as the establishment of low-cost tiny home villages, temporary trailer housing and safe encampments.

There are real humane alternatives to the current egregiously inhumane criminalization of those unfortunate enough to be on the cruel streets of Fresno.

Bob McCloskey is an activist and a reporter for the Community Alliance newspaper. Contact him at bobmccloskey06@gmail.com.

Take Action!

Contact the mayor of Fresno and the City Council by e-mail @fresno.gov, via fresno.gov/citycouncil/ or call them at 559-621-8000. Tell them to rescind the heartless no-camping ordinance, open the City warming centers when temperatures drop below 50

degrees, and present humane and viable solutions to the housing crisis in Fresno.

Also, on Dec. 17, a protest against the war on the street-family members of Fresno will take place at Fresno City Hall (2600 Fresno St.) at 9 a.m. This action is part of a national effort called Stolen Land Liberation for Houseless Peoples Self Determination.

GAZA UPDATE:

43,846 killed (17,000 children)

103,740 wounded (Source: Palestinian Ministry of Health)

Call Congress & the White House NOW to END the genocide!



Monthly meeting: 4th Thursday 6:30pm
 Fresno Center for Nonviolence

Protests: join the peace community **Saturdays** 3-5pm Blackstone & Nees and **Wednesdays** 11:30-1:30 pm at 2500 Tulare St



To receive our emails: camille.russell@att.net
 president@peacefresno.org
 peacefresno.org
 559.513.0199



**Good driver?
 GREAT RATE!**



AUTO • HOME • BUSINESS

Worker's Comp
 Life Insurance

RioMESAINSURANCE.COM

LICENSE #0608912 / 0C13433

292-2490

3134 Willow Ave., Suite 102 • Clovis, CA 93612

**CITY OF FRESNO
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT PUBLIC NOTICE
PUBLIC HEARING FOR CONSOLIDATED PLAN, ANNUAL ACTION PLAN,
ANALYSIS OF IMPEDIMENTS TO FAIR HOUSING CHOICE, AND CITIZEN
PARTICIPATION PLAN**

The City of Fresno is developing its five-year Consolidated Plan, which includes the 2025-2026 Annual Action Plan, Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, and Citizen Participation Plan. As a recipient of entitlement funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) the City must develop a Consolidated Plan that will assess the current housing market, discuss characteristics of the city's population, identify community improvement goals, and outline a five-year plan to fund and implement priorities through 2029. The Annual Action Plan will identify projects that the City plans to implement in 2025-2026 using funds from HUD under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnerships (HOME), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) programs.

A separate study called an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI) will be conducted to identify and address barriers to equal access to housing choice in the city. The AI will include strategies and actions to overcome any identified impediment to promote fair housing choice for all persons.

Additionally, the City must adopt a Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) that sets forth the City's policies and procedures for citizen participation in the planning, execution, and evaluation of the Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plans, Substantial Amendments, and Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Reports. The CPP provides guidelines for the City to provide and encourage public participation by residents, community stakeholders, and grant beneficiaries in the process of drafting, implementing, and evaluating the Consolidated Plan and related documents. The citizen participation process includes outreach, public hearings, community forums, and opportunities for comment.

The opinions and perceptions of residents are an important part of these processes. To provide input, all residents are invited to attend a public hearing on December 12, 2024 at 9:25 AM or thereafter. Participation instructions will be available 72 hours before the hearing at fresno.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx.

If you need additional accommodations such as sign language interpreters or the services of a translator, please contact the office of the City Clerk at (559) 621-7650 or clerk@fresno.gov at least three business days prior to the meeting.

Project updates and additional information about the project are available online at www.FresnoConPlan.org.

Homelessness and Reagan Deja Vu

BY PAUL THOMAS JACKSON

At the time they began dreaming up Homeless Persons' Memorial Day (HPMD) and hoping to make it the real annual occasion it has since become in about 100 U.S. cities, a group of New Yorkers gathering in 1984 faced the daunting prospect of a second presidential term of Ronald Reagan.

It was the year George Orwell chose for the title of his dystopian novel, an exploration of how truth and facts can be manipulated in society, particularly while under totalitarian rule.

Newspeak, according to the marvelous fiction writer, uses only simplified grammar and a limited vocabulary to limit a person's ability for critical thinking—which is the wellspring of liberal democracy, a political system that depends on an educated citizenry as a founder of the country, Thomas Jefferson (whatever his flaws), correctly pointed out.

And to those socially conscious New Yorkers, it seemed that Newspeak, the politically constructed, stultifying language in the dystopia envisioned by Orwell, insightful anarchist that he was, bore a striking resemblance to what Reagan uttered in such phrases as "peace through strength."

By that phrase, Reagan tried to justify huge expenditures on military "defense" while the country's current wave of homelessness was under way. His administration's policies grew the disparity in resources available to Americans, widening the country's economic gulf to extremes—one extreme being the scandalous increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness (PEH) in the world's richest country.

Now, as a former President's second term is upon us, homeless advocates might feel daunted as did those who created HPMD 40 years ago. The President-elect is in many ways an unserious person whose election, as his leading opponent had said, would (and now will) have serious consequences for us all.

Indeed, in defying listeners' capacity for critical thinking, his unsettling, mind-bending public pronouncements far exceed Reagan's 1984-ish phrases.

"It has been said that history repeats itself. This is perhaps not quite correct; it merely rhymes," wrote Theodore Reik, the mental health professional who pioneered in making psychoanalysis a legit practice carried on by non-M.D.s, whether social workers or psychologists.

The challenge now upon us is not to create HPMD as a commemoration in 100 cities but to ensure the events we hold that day (Dec. 21) matter in regard to our own morality: Unless heavily obligated to do so, we don't go on living and spending time with family and friends in our heated homes.

But if we do, we aren't indifferent to the plight of PEH here to the point of needless death on our streets. But we take some time out to recognize the fact that the people who'd experienced homelessness in Fresno in 2024 were indeed people (possibly known to us as our neighbors) and so are deserving of a memorial.

Moreover, the National Coalition for the Homeless, which since 1990 has sponsored HPMD wherever it's held, recognizes the legitimacy of "public policy advocacy" in a separate event on Dec. 21.

Like Reik's pioneering accomplishment bringing a scientific technique available to a larger public, much of homeless advocacy has to do with ordinary people, non-experts, assuming important roles to care for the needs of PEH.

Despite the claims of a certain faction in local government—what we might call the North Fresno faction, having over the years been comprising Fresno County Supervisor Steve Brandau, Fresno City Council Member Mike Karbassi and their ilk—homeless advocacy cannot solely rely on such "expertise" as only the Poverello House and the Fresno Mission possess in this city.

In their coziness with the nonprofits, the faction ignores the scale of the local crisis of homelessness, which far exceeds any single City Council district or neighborhood and has engulfed all of Fresno since September 2014, when the City of Fresno completed a series of demolitions of encampments, thereby dispersing their former occupants to the streets in many parts of this city.

The faction is fond of using such slogans as "some people don't want help" (a half-hearted apology for the existence of high levels of homelessness that shifts the blame to those people who experience it from local officials who want to play it safe on this hot button issue and appease voters' NIMBY attitudes by relying heavily on an impressive-looking Homeless Assistance Response Team rather than taking the political risks inherent in convening a broader community dialogue to honestly face the realities of the ongoing housing crisis and the inexorable conclusion that some unsheltered people here will have no safe place to go—and to remain—unless provision is made for them (as the city of Tulare has with its open campground since January 2023)).

Another such phrase is "Save Shaw Avenue" (a call to send all unsheltered people to certain nonprofits, namely the Pov (Poverello House) and the Mission, that actually are



George Orwell, author of the novel 1984.
Photo courtesy of The Commons

far south of Shaw Avenue, so that someone north of Shaw might childishly pretend they can be put out of mind by being put out of sight).

But, as in the mathematical field called game theory, the challenge is akin to the "prisoner's dilemma": It's up to prisoners (council districts) to cooperate with one another and coordinate their escape (the greatest-possible response to the local homelessness crisis) by making wise use of all resources at their disposal.

Communities that have ended chronic and/or veteran homelessness have given what's known as an all-of-community response. In Fresno—which is indeed "one Fresno" regardless of whether the concept furthers anyone's political objectives—the kind of response we desire embraces yet transcends the mayor's faith-based cabinet to bring more secular voices in his earshot as well as those entities that are called collaborative participants in the local planning body known as the Continuum of Care (the county Department of Social Services, local hospitals, the two dozen or so nonprofit homeless service providers, among others).

Whatever is happening in national politics, it's morally incumbent on a community (Fresno) to do our best to address the basic needs of those people here (fellow Fresnoans) who are homeless or who are in any vulnerable or weak position.

Paul Thomas Jackson prepared the claims that paved the way for a homeless lawsuit that in 2008 settled for \$2.35 million. He is now the secretary of the Fresno Homeless Advocates and one of the moderators of its Facebook group ([fresnohomelessadvocates](https://www.facebook.com/fresnohomelessadvocates)).

Homeless Persons' Memorial Day

On Dec. 21, in recognition of Homeless Persons' Memorial Day, Fresnoans will gather at Eaton Plaza Amphitheater. Following a musical performance by Matthew Embry at 11 a.m., Brian Bobbitt, a homeless advocate whose printmaking business is three doors down from the Fresno County Democratic Party HQ, will speak at 12:30 p.m. A memorial for the homeless who have lost their health or even their lives is set for 1 p.m.

Unsurprising to anyone who understands the limitations of the Fresno community's current response to homelessness, Bobbitt will push for an open campground in Fresno much like the one that opened in the city of Tulare in January 2023.

However much care and concern they express, our words won't have the power to save the lives of those already lost, but they do matter.

White Christians and the Election

BY BAYARD TAYLOR

Let's talk about white Christians and the election, shall we?

Of white evangelicals who voted, 81% broke for Trump. This is almost exactly the same percentage who voted for Trump in the 2016 and 2020 elections.

White evangelicals are a faithful voting bloc that Trump can rely on. No outrageous, divisive, racist, misogynist, hateful, mendacious, Nazi-themed thing that he says or does is enough to dissuade white evangelicals from turning out in strength to vote for their "hero," Trump.

It's not just white evangelicals. White Catholics and white non-evangelical Protestants consistently vote almost 60% for Trump.

White Christians were the biggest key to Trump's victory.

What accounts for this intense, emotional loyalty among white Christians to a twice-impeached, adjudicated sexual abuser and convicted felon?

It's staring us in the face.

Trump has tapped into a long and strong tradition in American history: white supremacy.

We were founded upon contradictory principles. Thomas Jefferson's soaring rhetoric in the Declaration of Independence declared "all men are created equal."

Of course he didn't mean it. "All men" did not include women. It did not include the poorer classes of people who didn't own property.

Most particularly and obviously, "all men" did not include slaves. Jefferson himself owned hundreds of slaves. He did not consider them "created equal."

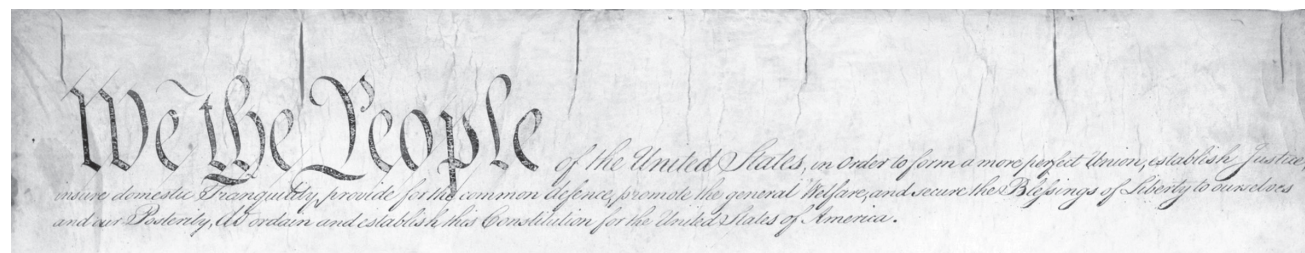


Image of the original copy of the U.S. Constitution. White supremacy was embedded in the document. Photo courtesy of The Commons

After the Revolutionary War, when the founders got together to craft the Constitution, white supremacy was embedded in the document. Four crucial clauses show that the framers legitimized and perpetuated the slave trade and the institution of slavery.

- The clause that slaves were to be counted as "two-thirds" of a human being guaranteed that slaveholding states, which had small numbers of white landowners compared to the other states, would have their interests disproportionately represented in Congress and the courts.
- The Electoral College worked in tandem with the two-thirds clause to give slaveholding states disproportionate power in presidential elections.
- The fugitive slave clause, adapted from the punitive fugitive slave laws of slaveholding states, required that law enforcement capture escaped slaves and return them to their masters.
- The Constitution forbade any changes to laws regarding slavery until 20 years after ratification, extending legal protection to the slave trade until 1808.

In other words, the original Constitution, the highest law in the land, supported, legalized and perpetuated slavery. No matter how ugly or degrading slavery was, it was enshrined as legal in the Constitution.

We Americans—especially white Americans, very especially white Christian Americans and most especially white evangelical Christians—need to be honest about these facts.

But, of course, these facts are seldom if ever acknowledged among white Christian Americans. We are too busy talking about how "exceptional" and foresighted our founders were and how advanced America is. These facts are too uncomfortable in the fantasy world we have been taught to believe.

We have been taught to revere the Constitution, almost as if it was perfect and was handed down directly from God. But, of course, it is not perfect and it is not directly from God. It is a human document coming out of a particular time and place.

Positively, it is part of a larger historical world development from autocracy to democracy, from the Divine Right of Kings to Consent of the Governed.

Continues on page 17



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM
 WILPF Fresno, P.O. Box 5114, Fresno, CA 93755

Graphic by Lincoln Cushing

IMPACT ON PALESTINIAN WOMEN

A section from the recent report of the UN Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories:

40. Since 7 October, United Nations entities and experts have consistently warned that women, children and newborns have disproportionately borne the brunt of the war in Gaza as victims of military operations, severely diminished access to healthcare, and food shortages. As experts have highlighted, the assault on Palestinian women's dignity and rights has escalated to new and terrifying dimensions.

41. During the reporting period, a large majority of recorded deaths were women and children, with up to two mothers killed per hour. Israel's widespread bombardment, including on health facilities, prolonged border closures, extended cuts to Gazans' main source of clean water, and restrictions on essential items and humanitarian aid have also critically impacted women and girls' access to essential health services. Pregnant women, in particular, have been prevented from obtaining necessary nutrition, care and emergency obstetric services. With an estimated 180 women giving birth every day in Gaza, many face childbirth under horrific and unsanitary conditions, increasing medical complications and maternal deaths. The war's psychological impact has also caused a rise in stress-induced miscarriages, stillbirths, and premature births. In addition, pre-existing malnutrition among pregnant women significantly worsened due to catastrophic levels of food insecurity, heightening the risks of disease and death.

42. On 20 November, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences warned of Israel's relentless and grave assault on the reproductive rights, physical integrity and dignity of Palestinian women and their children and newborns, noting that it could constitute genocidal measures intended to prevent births within a group. Throughout the reporting period, Israel conducted extensive attacks on healthcare facilities and ambulances, with 200 documented by 30 October, 318 by 18 January, 410 by 12 March and 500 by 30 July. By February 2024, less than a third of Gaza's hospitals were partially operational, with caesarean sections and amputations on children being performed without anaesthesia.

In May, United Nations experts again highlighted the appalling treatment and dreadful conditions of pregnant and lactating women, noting that bombings of hospitals, deliberate denial of healthcare access by Israeli snipers, and shortages of beds and medical supplies, put around 50,000 pregnant women and 20,000 newborn babies at unimaginable risk. Miscarriages also increased by 300 per cent, and nearly all pregnant and breastfeeding women faced severe food poverty.

By July 2024, the healthcare sector was beyond crisis levels and doctors reported alarming trends of rising cases of pre-term and low-birth weight babies and developmental delays in children, common signs of severe malnourishment in pregnant women, worsened by stress, fear and exhaustion.

43. During the reporting period, Israeli military and security forces also subjected hundreds of Palestinian women and girls to sexual and gender-based violence, according to numerous reports and/or allegations received by the Special Committee and other United Nations entities and experts, including OHCHR, United Nations experts and the Commission of Inquiry. The reports included cases of being targeted, arbitrarily detained and subjected to forced nudity; inappropriate touching; sexual violence, including rape; sexualized torture; threats of rape; psychological violence; and online sexual harassment, including through the posting of degrading photos on social media platforms. The Commission of Inquiry stressed that cultural sensitivities related to privacy and the significance of the veil worsened the impact of the gender-based crimes, leading to severe and long-term social repercussions for victims due to the pervasive and lasting presence of online content. It further concluded that Israeli military personnel either ordered or condoned the abuses, which were intended to humiliate and degrade the victims and the Palestinian community, reinforcing gender stereotypes and contributing to broader violence and ill-treatment of Palestinians.

44. United Nations experts have also documented credible allegations of deliberate targeting and extrajudicial executions of women and children in places of refuge or while fleeing. In February, alarms were also raised about the enforced disappearance of Palestinian women and children by the Israeli military, including children separated from their parents and at least one female infant forcibly transferred to Israel. On 6 May, several

experts warned again of the continued and systematic onslaught of violence, noting that most victims had been women and children. They reported new findings of mass graves at hospitals, including women and children showing signs of torture and summary executions. The experts also highlighted the destruction by Israel of the largest fertility clinic in Gaza, which reportedly stored 3,000 embryos.

45. In the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, UNFPA, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and United Nations experts repeatedly warned that since 7 October, women and girls have experienced intense fear and insecurity owing to Israel's lethal open-fire policy and increased discrimination, harassment, sexual assault and attacks by Israeli authorities and settlers. Movement restrictions, closures and attacks on healthcare, also obstructed mobile clinics, health facilities, ambulance services and humanitarian aid delivery, severely limiting women and girls' access to essential services and increasing the risk of gender-based violence. Furthermore, women in remote areas had little to no access to essential healthcare services, with pregnant women facing a higher risk of giving birth at home or at checkpoints. The visit by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General also revealed allegations of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and sexual violence by Israeli security forces during detention and reports of sexual harassment and rape threats during house raids and at checkpoints.

46. The Special Committee is deeply concerned that Israel has not provided the special protection to women and children required by international humanitarian and human rights law. Furthermore, the Special Committee is deeply concerned that the systematic targeting of women and children and measures imposed are effectively preventing births among Palestinian women in Gaza; causing serious bodily and mental harm to Palestinian women and children; and inflicting conditions of life inimical to bring about their physical destruction.

**REPORT FROM
 PALESTINIAN
 JOURNALIST HIND
 KHOUDARY**



Hind Khoudary, a Palestinian journalist.
 Photo courtesy of Middle East Eye

Meanwhile on the ground: We are facing starvation; children and women don't see food to eat or water to drink for days, as there is very little coming in. Women barely feed themselves, foraging for leaves and dead animals, which is so unsafe. We don't know what diseases could come from eating the carcasses.

Children are dying for lack of proper medical attention and care. I keep telling more everyday because my heart is broken knowing what we face every day, so I plead with the good people out there to come to the aid of the Palestinian people because we are in a time of critical condition without control.

**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!
 HERE'S HOW:**

Send dues to WILPF-Fresno, P.O. Box 5114, Fresno, CA 93755.

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

For questions and information updates, contact Nancy Hatcher at nhatcher46@gmail.com or Kyla Mitchell at kyla.noelle@gmail.com.

WILPF MEETING

Dec. 12 (second Thursday), 7 p.m., via Zoom and sometimes also at the Fresno Center for Nonviolence, 1584 N. Van Ness Ave. This meeting is open to all members. Watch your e-mail for an announcement. For info on the in-person option, contact Teresa at taca_03@gmail.com.

**STIR IT UP-WILPF
 KFCF 88.1 FM**

Dec. 25 (fourth Wednesday), 3 p.m. Jean Hays highlights people and events important to our WILPF community. Probably The Raging Grannies will sing outrageous holiday songs!

WOMEN IN BLACK

Dec. 4 (first Wednesday), noon, together with Raza for Gaza in front of the Federal Building, 2500 Tulare St. Check first with Sue Kern at skern@netptc.net or 559-349-3777.

THE CONTENT IN THIS SECTION IS PAID FOR BY WILPF. THE WILPF PAGE IS USUALLY COMPILED AND EDITED BY LENI VILLAGOMEZ REEVES (LENIVREEVES@GMAIL.COM).

Black Women Make History

BY CALIFORNIA BLACK MEDIA

There is one African American woman currently serving in the California State Senate, Sen. Lola Smallwood-Cuevas (D-Ladera Heights). It's the same in the U.S. Senate.

In October 2023, Gov. Gavin Newsom appointed Sen. Laphonza Butler (D-Calif.) to complete the term of Sen. Dianne Feinstein after she passed away in September 2023. Butler will likely be replaced in January by Adam Schiff, who is projected to win the seat after the Nov. 5 general election. Now, two more Black women are on pace to become California state senators.

In the U.S. Senate, two Black women have already won seats. Lisa Blunt-Rochester of Delaware and Angela Alsobrooks of Maryland will be going to Capitol Hill in January after winning their respective U.S. Senate races.

It will be the first time in U.S. history that two Black women have served in the Senate at the same time.

"It is remarkable to think that in two years, America will celebrate its 250th birthday and in all those years, there have been more than 2,000 people who have served in the United States Senate and only three have looked like me," said Alsobrooks in her victory speech on Nov. 5.

"So, I want to salute all of those who came before me, who made it possible for me to stand on this stage tonight, whose sacrifice and stories I will continue to carry with me," added Alsobrooks.

In Southern California, as of Nov. 9, Laura Richardson leads Michelle Chambers with 107,255 votes to 103,638 votes in Senate District 35. Both women are Democrats. The 35th Senate District encompasses an area in south Los Angeles County, including parts of Inglewood, Compton, San Pedro, Hawthorne and Carson.

That seat is currently held by California Legislative Black Caucus vice chair Sen. Steven Bradford (D-Inglewood), who terms out in December and is running for lieutenant governor in 2026.

Richardson served in the State Assembly in 2006-2007 before she was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where she served from 2007 to 2013.

"As a dedicated housing advocate for the past decade, I stand unwavering in my commitment to ending homelessness," Richardson stated on her campaign website. "With a profound understanding of the pressing issues at hand, my top priority is to spearhead the creation of more affordable housing options."

Chambers is a former Compton City Council member who has worked for the state's Attorney General's office.

"Our campaign is about fighting for the needs of working families," Chambers posted on the social media platform X, formerly called Twitter, on Oct. 11. "I'll always stand up for our #SD35 communities—not special interests."

In San Diego, Assembly Member Akilah Weber (D-La Mesa) is leading her Republican opponent, Bob Devine, in the race for the 39th Senate District seat. Weber has 219,465 votes (62.4%) so far to Devine's 132,044 (37.6%).

Weber and Devine are vying for a seat that is currently held by Sen. Toni Atkins (D-San Diego), who will be running for governor in 2026.

"I am extremely humbled and incredibly grateful for the support you've shown me throughout the election," Weber posted

Nov. 6 on X. "San Diego has just made history by electing the first African American woman to the CA State Senate south of Los Angeles. Thank you for believing in me. Now let's get to work."

Eight years ago, Blunt-Rochester first made history in Congress as the first Black person and woman elected to represent Delaware. Alsobrooks was a Maryland state's attorney and a county executive in Prince Georges County before running for the Senate.

Vice President Kamala Harris, the first Black person elected as U.S. Senator from California, served from 2016 to 2020. Blunt-Rochester pointed out that Kamala Harris had only four months to launch her presidential campaign, highlighting the significant challenge of such a tight timeline.

"From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank Vice President Kamala Harris for stepping up to run when our country needed her leadership, tenacity and commitment to serve the American people," Blunt-Rochester stated. "Because of the trails she blazed, the lives she touched, the communities she fought for, the stories she uplifted, we are better."

Her Team Will Win Again

BY HOMER GEE GREENE JR.

Trump's lie ball struck her out. Her head down as she heads back to the dugout. A little over half the crowd cheered her strike out. In 2028 her team will have a new lover to compete against the returning victorious team.

Hopefully, her new lover on the team will be victorious. Then again, she may return as the team's old lover and be victorious. You know her name now. The color of her uniform is still blue. The team's name is still Freedom!

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



Chase Flower Shop
 (559) 233-8631
 1405 N. Van Ness Ave
 Fresno, CA 93728

World Wide Delivery
www.chaseflowershop.com

Michael Butler
 Floral Design

Support the *Community Alliance* newspaper by becoming a subscriber. See page 3.

CRV Bottle & Can Facts

Changes to CRV Law effective January 1, 2024

New CRV Beverage Containers Added + Bottles & Cans!

Wine | Liquor | Juice



Subject to CRV (with or without CRV label)



AND SAVE OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

Always Recycle CRV Bottles & Cans!



www.fresno.gov/recycle
 FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE
 RECYCLING HOTLINE AT (559) 621-1111

Free Holiday Vaccine Clinic



Protect yourself and loved ones during flu season for the holidays. Get your **FREE COVID and FLU VACCINE** and other Health Screenings

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2024

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
700 VAN NESS AVENUE- LOBBY
FRESNO, CA 93721

ENJOY A BOX LUNCH - TOTE BAG - GIFT CARDS
(SUPPLIES ARE LIMITED)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:



WEST FRESNO FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER, 559-374-5750, EXT.1022

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR FUTURE VACCINE CLINICS AT WWW.WFRESNOFRC.ORG



WFFRC- VACCINE EQUITY CAMPAIGN

SPONSORED BY

UCSF - MOBILE HEALTH AND LEARNING



**PROFESSIONAL
CLEANING SERVICES
FOR YOUR HOME**



Our Services

- ✓ Trash Can Cleaning
- ✓ Solar Panel Cleaning
- ✓ Pressure Washing

BOOK YOUR SERVICE NOW!



@scrubcan_inc
info@scrubcan.com
559.375.5252



SCAN HERE

WWW.SCRUBCAN.COM

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO DISCOVER OUR RESIDENTIAL CLEANING SERVICES!

- ✓ EXPERTISE AND RELIABILITY
- ✓ PROFESSIONAL CLEANING SERVICES
- ✓ TRUSTED AND GUARANTEED

Why Donald Trump?

BY DEBAY TADESSE

The 2024 U.S. presidential election concluded with Donald J. Trump emerging as the winner, securing a return to the White House. Although several reasons were given for Trump's victory, spanning economic discontent and inflation, immigration and border security, social issues and cultural divides, to mention a few, China's state capitalism, where the government is central in directing and controlling economic activity, as a challenge to the free-market ideology might be the primary reason for Trump's victory.

In China, the state owns or heavily influences key sectors (e.g., energy, telecommunications and banking) and often guides private firms to align with national goals. This contrasts with Western liberal capitalism, where market forces are generally expected to operate with minimal government interference.

Capitalism: An Overview

Capitalism is an economic system characterized by private ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange. Under capitalism, individuals or corporations own and operate businesses and resources, aiming to generate profits in a competitive marketplace. This system often contrasts with alternatives such as socialism or communism, where the government or the collective owns or controls production and distribution.

The concept of a free market, in which supply and demand determine prices for products and services, is central to capitalism. Clients and producers interact voluntarily, with the goal of satisfying needs and wants. Because the market is competitive, businesses must innovate, improve efficiency and respond to consumer preferences to stay profitable.

This competition can drive technological advancements, lower prices and increase the variety of products and services available. Those who successfully meet consumer demand can accumulate wealth, while those who are unable to do so risk becoming bankrupt.

State Capitalism versus Liberal Capitalism

Western capitalist countries typically operate under the assumption that market forces (supply and demand) and limited government intervention result in the most efficient allocation of resources. China's state-controlled model challenges this assumption, suggesting that a centrally planned, state-directed economy can achieve high growth rates and modernize rapidly.

China has become the world's largest manufacturer and exporter of goods, offering high-quality products at low prices. This has led to significant trade imbalances with Western countries, especially the United States, contributing to manufacturing job losses in industries such as textiles, electronics and consumer goods.

Furthermore, Chinese intellectual property theft and forced technology transfers are common concerns for Western companies. As Chinese enterprises have become more technologically sophisticated, they are now direct rivals of Western tech giants (e.g., Tencent vs. Western gaming corporations or Huawei vs. Cisco). In addition, the rise of Chinese technological innovation is challenging Western dominance in areas such as artificial intelligence (AI), 5G and renewable energy technology.

Authoritarianism versus Democracy

China's one-party system and lack of political pluralism contrast the democratic, multiparty political systems common in the West. The success of China's model provides an alternative to the Western liberal democratic capitalist order. The successful Chinese single-party system and state-controlled model can replace the Western liberal democratic capitalism system.

Although Western countries often promote democracy and individual freedoms as cornerstones of their economic systems, China's rise without adhering to these principles presents an ideological challenge.

Many emerging nations are drawn to China's "authoritarian development" model, which emphasizes economic expansion at the expense of political pluralism. It offers a path to modernize without the institutional and political changes that Western aid and investment models demand. In contrast to the Western strategy, which typically links economic assistance to political reforms, China generally employs "soft power" through business alliances and non-interference in domestic affairs.

Through organizations such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and its participation in the BRICS group (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa), China is progressively promoting its own international standards.

For instance, the U.S. dollar's pivotal role in international trade or Western-dominated financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund could be threatened by China's support for alternative approaches to intellectual property, financial systems such as the creation of the digital yuan (Chinese currency) and trade. China, a significant global economic force, offers alternatives to trade standards and economic methods that the West dominates.

Trump's Policy on China

U.S.-China economic relations became notably more volatile during Trump's presidency, as his administration took a more confrontational approach to trade and economic issues with China. Trump's "America First" policy prioritized reducing the U.S. trade deficit (\$382 billion) with China and addressing what he characterized as unfair trade practices, including intellectual property theft and forced technology transfers.

This led to tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of Chinese goods, prompting retaliatory tariffs from Beijing. The trade war escalated throughout his term, with both countries engaging in rounds of tariffs and negotiations, severely disrupting global supply chains and creating uncertainty for businesses and investors.

Trump's hardline stance also extended to national security concerns, particularly in technology and telecommunications, where his administration pushed to limit Chinese companies' access to the U.S. market, citing risks of espionage and intellectual property theft.

The U.S. government's moves against Chinese tech giants such as Huawei and ZTE heightened tensions and underscored broader geopolitical competition, particularly in emerging technologies like AI and 5G. The underlying issues of economic competition, trade imbalances and technological rivalry remained unresolved, leaving the relationship more unpredictable and strained under Trump's leadership.

Trump's decision to impose tariffs on Chinese imports valued at billions of dollars was one of his most significant

actions, aiming to reduce the U.S. trade deficit and force China to make economic concessions. The Trump administration also sought to limit China's access to critical technologies, most notably by restricting Chinese tech companies like Huawei from accessing American-made semiconductors and 5G infrastructure. Trump's policy reflected a broader shift toward strategic competition, viewing China as a strategic rival rather than a partner in global governance.

During his first term as President, Trump imposed tariffs ranging from 10% to 25% on Chinese agricultural products imported to the United States, including seafood, pork and dairy. The world's two largest economies began a trade war after Beijing responded with its own tariffs.

President-elect Donald Trump has threatened to slap a tariff of up to 60% on all goods imported to the United States from China. Since the start of Trump's first term in the White House and through President Biden's term, China's economic growth has slowed from roughly 7% to 4.5%. The country's property market has crashed because of massive overbuilding and an increase in youth unemployment.

Conclusion

China's rise is seen as a threat to the Western capitalist order for several key reasons: It offers an alternative, state-controlled capitalist model that directly challenges the liberal, market-driven approach in the West; China competes aggressively in global trade, manufacturing and high-tech industries; and it seeks to reshape global governance, economic norms and technological leadership.

The shift toward a more multipolar world, where China plays an increasingly dominant role, challenges the historical dominance of the United States and its Western allies in shaping the global economic and political landscape. This is particularly evident in areas such as trade, technology and geopolitical influence, where China's growing power and influence could undermine Western capitalist institutions and norms.

Under Trump's leadership, the relationship between the United States and China has become increasingly unpredictable and strained. He is often labeled as a dictator or fascist due to his authoritarian tendencies, including undermining democratic institutions, attacking the press and promoting loyalty over rule of law. Critics argue that his rhetoric and actions mirror those of authoritarian regimes, with attempts to consolidate power and dismiss opposition in ways that resemble fascist movements from the 20th century.

However, many of his Republican allies endorse his hardline stance on China. It was summed up well in a recent remark made by Rep. Troy Nehls (R-Texas). He said, "Donald Trump is elected and will be in office now, so we will do everything he says. If Donald Trump said, 'jump three feet high and scratch your head,' we will jump three feet high and scratch our head."

Debay Tadesse has a Ph.D. in African studies focusing on public policy and development from Howard University in Washington, D.C., and an M.A. in African history and a B.A. in world history from Georgia State University in Atlanta. He currently lectures at Fresno State and Fresno City College.

Public Hearings for Pesticide Control

BY CRISTINA GUTIERREZ

On Nov. 15, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) issued a draft regulation of cancer-causing pesticide 1,3-dichloropropene (aka 1,3-D, brand name Telone) that will create a two-tier system of protections—one level for adult workers and a second far less health-protective one for children and other residents of farmworker communities.

The pesticide 1,3-D is a soil fumigant manufactured by Dow Chemical under the brand Telone II. It is a drift-prone pesticide used to kill organisms in the soil prior to planting, applied mostly on strawberry and grape fields in the Central Coast and almonds and walnuts in the San Joaquin Valley.

The fumigant is injected into the ground or applied by drip lines and typically—but not always—covered with tarps. 1,3-D drifts initially from wind and later from volatilization for many miles at health-harming concentrations.

Acute harms include immediate exposure symptoms from high air levels due to drift: irritation of skin and nose, as well as possible slow weight gain in infants. Very high exposure to 1,3-D, such as a spill, can cause nausea, vomiting, headache, depression and damage to the liver, intestines and the bladder, and difficulty breathing.

The long-term health threats from chronic exposure to even tiny amounts of 1,3-D over time can cause cancer, damage to the lining of the nose and can pollute groundwater. 1,3-D is listed as a Prop 65 carcinogen and a Toxic Air Contaminant by the State of California.

Take Action!

Oppose the California Department of Pesticide Regulation's unfair double standard that will expose children in farmworker communities to unsafe levels of a cancer-causing pesticide. The DPR's acceptable daily 1,3-D exposure target for children is currently 14 times higher than that for adults. The 0.04 ppb per day 1,3-D exposure level is what pesticide reform advocates say should be the one standard for all California residents.

The DPR will hold public hearings as follows on the proposed regulations in January 2025. Spanish interpretation will be available.

Visalia: Jan. 8, 5:45 p.m. presentation, 6 p.m.–8 p.m. hearing, Visalia Veterans Memorial Building, 609 W. Center Ave., Visalia.

1,3-D is banned in 34 countries, but not in the United States. The pesticide was prohibited in California between 1990 and 1995 after high air concentration levels were recorded in the Central Valley.

The DPR's new draft regulation is grounded in assumptions that "occupational bystanders"—farmworkers in fields near but not at the application site—can be exposed to air with 1,3-D concentrations of an average of 0.21 parts per billion (ppb), while at work for eight hours a day, five days a week for 40 years. This cancer risk exposure level also assumes the farmworkers will not be exposed to 1,3-D outside of work, which the DPR maintains will keep the occupational bystander exposure level below an average of 0.04 ppb per 24-hour day.

Virtual: Jan. 10, 9:45 a.m. presentation, 10 a.m. hearing, via Zoom; Webinar ID: 845 7679 6884.

Salinas: Jan. 16, 5:45 p.m. presentation, 6 p.m.–8 p.m. hearing, National Steinbeck Center, 1 Main St., Salinas.

Chico: Jan. 21, 5:45 p.m. presentation, 6 p.m.–8 p.m. hearing, Chico Women's Club, 592 E. 3rd St., Chico.

Written public comments regarding the DPR's draft regulation of 1,3-D can be e-mailed to DPR no later than Jan. 24 at the online portal. For more info on the hearings or providing public comment, contact 916-445-3974 or leia.bailey@cdpr.ca.gov.

Cristina Gutierrez is the San Joaquin Valley regional environment justice coordinator of the California for Pesticide Reform.

Crushed Hopes: What's Next?

BY RUTH GADEBUSCH

The big question is how did it happen. That is, the election of a misogynist, lying, cheating, racist, convicted criminal as leader of this nation founded on such high principles two centuries ago, now the leader of the free world. There is no absolute answer with speculation and opinion flying freely.

The above description is not just that from us, his political opponents. It would be bad enough if it were just one person carried away with his own self-importance, but quite another for persons of a once respected political party holding high office to “amen” his actions beyond the law or the land or accepted moral standards of the society.

A few have belatedly made mild hints that he was less than of high character that we once expected of our leaders and even admitted some of the many instances when he had been less than what he swore to be in his first term as leader. Nevertheless, they continue to support him. What do they expect to get from him? Where is their loyalty to the Constitution, to which most of them have had occasion to swear allegiance, and to which all of us are expected to do.

Here let me recognize former Rep. Liz Cheney for her courage, her loyalty, her character in speaking out early instead of the too little, too late of those speaking out so

late and so mildly. Incidentally, not being a fan of her father, a former vice president, I never expected to be in a position of admiring her actions. She paid the price, but as I have always said it does no good to hold an office if you do not do the right thing. She did the right thing.

At this point is a good time to note it seems that in this nation women are still viewed as less endowed with the ability to hold high office than men. To the rubbish heap went our high hopes that the time had come with this our second superbly qualified female candidate in this short period of time—one even getting the majority of votes, but let us leave that Electoral College provision for another time!

As if electing this man were not enough, at this writing the Congress appears to be in control of his party giving him a free hand to near complete dictatorship reinforced by a Supreme Court decision deviating from all previous interpretations of the U.S. Constitution, another process to be dealt with at another time.

Biden did not even have a fully supporting party in Congress to direct the economy of the nation yet that seemed to be a major factor in defeat. Despite all the normal measures giving the economy high marks, it was perceived as not benefitting the ordinary citizens that so many give as reason for supporting the disgraced “winner.” I put “winner” in quotes because it might be an individual winner, but I seriously doubt it will be a long-term winner for the nation, much less for the planet. Too many of the monied players who had such a big role in this election are hardly known for sharing their dollars.

ONE WOMAN'S VIEW

We can only wonder just how much they need to live on and just how long the workers who serve them can survive on the amount they are expected to receive for their labors. Just a bit of advice to those who have so little appreciation of others in lesser spots than themselves is that degrading conditions feed revolutions.

It is too much in the news for me to enumerate other contributing conditions here, but any one of them is a severe departure from the principles that have made the nation the envy of the world. This takes us back to the original question of what's next. Most important: What do we do about it? We need not place ourselves above the banana republics that we have so long denigrated. I think it is a safe bet that much of the world has placed us in that role now.

I believe it was Oliver Wendell Holmes, a Supreme Court justice when all the justices, not just some, were respected jurists, who told us that it mattered not where we had been but where we were going. Our work is cut out for us. Where are we going?

Ruth Gadebusch, a former naval officer, is a community activist having been involved in many aspects of civic and social life in Fresno as well as several state and national organizations including being an emeritus member of the Board of the Center for Civic Education.

White Fog in Yokuts Valley

BY JUNIE YAMAZAKI

I grew up on the coast of Maine where fog rolled in so thick you couldn't see the road ahead when you wanted to get somewhere. You had to inch forward at a few miles an hour, along the painted white line trying not to drive off the road. Our country is in a kind of fog regarding the existence of racism.

I have to include myself in this group of people in a white fog because I am half white and the daughter of an army colonel who did not acknowledge the existence of racism. He drew unapologetic lines in his mind, between superior people and inferior people and treated everyone accordingly. He never gave himself the chance to know any other cultures of color beyond the Japanese culture, which he adored because of their “superior” ways, so he remained in a comfortable fog regarding the other cultures of color.

I am just coming to terms in my 68th year with the racism I experienced as a little girl growing up in a sea of whiteness. I struggled deeply to find a sense of belonging among classmates who barely spoke to me during my elementary years because I was Japanese and because I looked different. I understand the feelings that accompany racism. The feelings are real. They stay with you throughout your life.

So now, as we approach 2025, the year that Yokuts Valley will have completed its transition into the new name, I understand the feelings of Native women who have to drive the 180 Kings Canyon Highway every day through the racist gauntlet of S-word names. I do admit my experience of racism does not include the violence inflicted on Native women throughout the history of our country.

Violence takes racism to deeper levels of trauma. This kind of trauma resides in people of color in ways that I do not understand because I have not experienced violent trauma. If you are a white person reading this, it is possible you don't understand the feelings of racial trauma either. It's possible you are in a white fog.

Anyone who bothers to learn the history of Native people in our country (and it's not easy because our school textbooks didn't tell the actual history of genocide) will know that Native people have suffered deeply at the hands of white people for more than 500 years.

The attempts at erasing this history through the suppression of critical race theory do not erase the truth of what happened. White people who want to ignore the repercussions of systemic cruelty by denying our actual history are contributing to a massive white fog. We have collectively driven off the road through this thick fog of suppression only to find ourselves kneeling on the necks of people like George Floyd and deepening the racial divide in our country.

When we first moved to the foothills, during the pandemic, we were not aware that the term *squaw* was derogatory. Our son, who had learned about Native culture with the water protectors at Standing Rock, in South Dakota, told us the name was an insult to Native women. Upon learning this, I knew I didn't want to live in a town with a racist name, so we eventually found a community of people who were aware of the racist meaning of the word and were working to change it.

The Yokuts people, along with all Native people in our country, suffered a violent mass extermination at the hands of white settlers who gained land when gold was discovered in California. By the turn of the 20th century, 99% of all Yokuts men, women and children had been killed by white settlers at the encouragement of the California government, who paid them for each Native scalp they acquired.

Now, more than a hundred years later, the few descendants of the Yokuts people are asking if we could change a town name that does emotional violence to Native women. This small gesture of reconciliation is getting driven off the road in another blinding white fog that makes it impossible for white people to attend to their own sense of right and wrong.

The new Yokuts Valley sign on Highway 180 has been vandalized three times. By now, everyone has had access to the facts about the derogatory word. It is no longer a secret. The S-word does emotional violence to Native women.

How difficult is this to comprehend? It is, apparently, difficult to understand when you are living in a white fog. As I have examined my own whiteness and my own accompanying white fog, I realize that we white people are for the most part racist by default because we have not experienced the feelings that accompany racism.

In my own attempt to heal from the racism I experienced as a child, I unconsciously protected myself by identifying as a white person. My education about racism inflicted on other cultures came from movies like *Remember the Titans*, starring Denzel Washington, or children's books about famous Black Americans. My white circle of friends raising their white children did not read books by Malcolm X or actual histories of Indigenous peoples.

We live in a world that shelters us from an understanding of racism. So when Indigenous people like Roman Rain Tree ask us to participate in an effort to honor Native women by changing the name of S— Valley to Yokuts Valley, we respond from a white fog. We can't see through the fog to the pain we have inflicted on Native people.

OPINION & ANALYSIS



The new sign indicates the name of the community previously known as S— Valley. The new sign has been vandalized several times. Photo by Bob McCloskey

We remain in our safe cocoons and pretend that the S-word is harmless and endearing. It's time to move out of the fog into the clear light of day and embrace the beautiful new name of Yokuts Valley.

Junie Yamazaki is a resident of Yokuts Valley who is of Japanese descent. She enjoys activism and cooking and lovely times with friends in Yokuts Valley.

Musica Viva

As the world enters the Advent season in preparation for the 2024 holiday season, Musica Viva, featuring the Emerald Duo of Susan Doering on violin and Dieter Wulfhorst on violoncello, offers an imaginative escape from the worries about the many wars raging, the trepidations that are looming ahead of us and the uncertainties of our world at this moment in time.

Four free Advent concerts will take place in the Central Valley this month (see Dec. 16–19 listings on page 13). The theme for this set of concerts is “Advent Reflections through Words and Music: Light and Hope” featuring readings by various poets, authors, philosophers and spiritual leaders, and music specifically representative of the themes of light and hope.

The Emerald Duo explores the unusual repertoire of original compositions for violin and violoncello and is always interested in discovering new pieces for this unusual musical combination, often commissioning and premiering pieces by American composers. In addition, the duo has been featuring music of the Holocaust for many years and has given lecture recitals throughout the United States and Canada on the music and



conditions of the concentration camps during the Holocaust.

Violinist Doering is a multifaceted solo performer, chamber musician, orchestral player and conductor. She also teaches, does clinics and adjudicates competitions around the country. She teaches violin and viola at Fresno Pacific University and has a private violin/viola studio.

Wulfhorst, violoncellist, has performed extensively as a soloist, chamber musician and orchestral performer. He is now a member of the “Freeway Philharmonic,” every week playing with a different orchestra. He is co-director (with Doering) of Musica Viva, an organization that offers free chamber music concerts throughout California's Central Valley.

FRESNO ARTS & CULTURE

DECEMBER 2024 CALENDAR

01

Librería Donceles Exhibition (through Dec. 22) Arte Américas. *Librería Donceles* is a socially engaged art project that Mexican artist and educator Pablo Helguera created out of a desire to address the lack of Spanish bookstores that serve the growing Latinx communities in the United States.

Little Women (through Dec. 22) 8 p.m. (Thursday, Friday, Saturday), 2 p.m. (Sunday). 2nd Space Theatre. The Good Company Players present a performance based on Louisa May Alcott's novel that follows the lives, loves and tribulations of four sisters growing up during the Civil War. \$25

Charles Gaines: The Fresno Years (through Jan. 5, 2025) Thursday–Sunday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Fresno Art Museum. Taken from the museum's permanent collection, these works from early in Gaines' more than 50-year career as an artist were made during his tenure here in Fresno.

Wendy Maruyama: A Sculptural Survey (craft, material, process) (through Jan. 5, 2025) Thursday–Sunday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Fresno Art Museum. Selections for this solo show include examples of Maruyama's traditional studio craft, and her social commentary explores the themes of feminism, her Japanese American heritage and her personal family history.

Glorious and Triumphant: Byzantine Icons from the A. & P. Stefanopoulos Collection (through Jan. 5, 2025) Thursday–Sunday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Fresno Art Museum. Celebrating 100 years of St. George Greek Orthodox Church of Fresno, the icons in this exhibition range from the 16th century to the modern day and are an example of an enduring ancient tradition.

Legally Blonde (through Jan. 12, 2025) 5 p.m. Roger Rocka's. This musical follows the transformation of Elle Woods as she tackles stereotypes and scandal in pursuit of her pink-tinted dreams. \$45

Art of the Word: Once Upon a Book (through June 29, 2025) Thursday–Sunday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Fresno Art Museum. Featuring the original illustrations from *Once Upon a Book*, which emphasizes the power of books to help one experience other places outside your own reality.

International Public Art Exhibit: Wings of the City (through August 2025) Maple Mall, Fresno State. World-renowned Mexican artist Jorge Marin's bronze mythical creatures have taken perch, silently watching the bustle of campus life.

Free Sunday at the Fresno Art Museum 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Enjoy free admission supported by the City of Fresno Measure P Expanded Access to Arts and Culture Fund.

03

Crowdsourced Cinema Screening: Home Alone 6:30 p.m.–8:15 p.m. Royce Hall. Revisit this 1990s holiday flick completely remade by Fresno area residents.

Symphony Orchestra Winter Concert 7:30 p.m. FCC Theatre. Majestic brass fanfare by Kevin McKee with selections from *The Nutcracker Suite* and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4 in F Minor. \$8

04

Love Lights the Way 5 p.m.–7 p.m. Woodward Park. An evening dedicated to honoring loved ones affected by cancer, featuring a candlelight ceremony, live music and a community gathering in the serene Art of Life Healing Garden. Free; register via Eventbrite.

New Horizons Band & Orchestra of Fresno Winter Concert 6 p.m. Bullard High School Auditorium. A string ensemble, jazz band and concert band perform music from classical to contemporary—and, of course, Christmas.

05

ArtHop 5 p.m.–8 p.m. Downtown Fresno. Free entry to exhibitions, gallery shows, special performances and unique art experiences for art lovers of all ages. facebook.com/FACarthop/

Rachel Eckroth Quartet 7:30 p.m.–10 p.m. Fresno State Concert Hall. Fresno State Jazz Festival Concert featuring the Fresno State Jazz Orchestra and the Rachel Eckroth Quartet with Tina Raymond, Shane Endsley and Richard Lloyd Giddens Jr. \$10+

06

Red Velvet (through Dec. 14) John Wright Theatre. Organized by the Department of Theatre and Dance.

In 1833, when Edmund Kean, the greatest actor of his generation, collapsed on stage while playing Othello, a young black American actor was asked to take over the role. But as the public riot in the streets over the abolition of slavery, how will the cast, critics and audience react to the revolution taking place in the theater?

Home for the Holidays 7:30 p.m. William Saroyan Theatre. The Fresno Philharmonic presents a festive concert featuring the Fresno Master Chorale and special guests, celebrating the holiday season with symphonic music. \$36+

Ship Wreck 8 p.m.–1:45 a.m. Fulton 55. Los Angeles-based deep house production and DJ team Collin Maguire and Tripp Churchill bring their high-energy beats to Fresno.

07

Cookies and Cocoa with Santa 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Shinzen Friendship Garden. A family-friendly event featuring warm cocoa, cookies, a holiday story read by Santa, photo opportunities, and arts and crafts activities in the serene setting of the Shinzen Garden.

Saturday Science (also Dec. 14, 21 & 28) 11 a.m.–noon. Fresno Discovery Center. Get creative and learn the science behind light-up holiday cards. This interactive session blends arts and STEM for a fun, festive experience.

Water Protectors Noon–2 p.m. Arte Américas. A bilingual reading and art workshop for children and families, focusing on environmental themes.

'Tis the Season 3 p.m.–5 p.m. Paul Shaghoian Concert Hall. The Fresno Community Concert Band kickstarts your holiday spirit with classic carols featuring vocalists Aaron and Sherah Burdick. \$14

Chiquis in Concert 8 p.m. William Saroyan Theatre. Latin Grammy-winning artist Chiquis performs live, bringing her energetic and heartfelt music to Fresno audiences as part of her "Diamantes" tour.

Male Tears, Dark Chisme and Puppet 8 p.m. Full Circle Brewery. Live performances by goth/synthpop/darkwave artists accompanied by DJs Abraxas Deity, Demonica and Lost Kin.

Zingara 9 p.m. Rainbow Ballroom. "For the Crystal Children Tour." With special guest Super Future.

08

Arise, Shine, for Thy Light Is Come: A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols 3 p.m. University Presbyterian Church. This mix of reading and music combines the talents of Fresno Pacific University (FPU) and the Fresno community. Featuring the FPU Concert and Chamber choirs, Fresno Choral Artists, the University Presbyterian Church Handbell Choir and San Joaquin Chorale.

09

Jazz Composers Orchestra Holiday Concert 7:30 p.m. Roger Rocka's. Holiday concert.

10

Symphonic Band: Storm, Urge and Ascent 7:30 p.m. FCC Theatre. A winter concert featuring the Fresno City College Symphonic Band with the Parlier High School Symphonic Band. \$8

11

Chamber Ensembles Concert 7:30 p.m. FCC Theatre. Featuring Fresno City College's Woodwind Ensemble, Brass Ensemble, String Ensemble and Percussion Ensemble. Free

12

Game Night: Lotería! 6 p.m.–8 p.m. Arte Américas. An evening of traditional Lotería games as part of the "Arte, Pero Later" program, offering enriching evening events.

We Out Here Comedy Tour 8 p.m. Tower Theatre. With Omar Gooding, Charles Allen and Charlie Mac. \$21.32+

13

HOPE 7 p.m. Tower Theatre. HOPE, which was created to explore the struggles of the human condition in the search for hope, is a show born out of Fresno that uses live music, dance, aerial silks, live painting, poetry, audiovisual elements and so much more to move, entertain and connect with the audience. \$16.17+

14

Fresno SantaCon 2024 1 p.m.–4 p.m. See pubcrawls.com (select Fresno). Join the festive SantaCon bar crawl, where participants dress in holiday attire and enjoy drink specials across multiple venues.

15

Putting the X Back in Xmas 8 p.m. Fulton 55. Legendary punk band X's original lineup will perform as part of their farewell tour; experience the energy of a band that shaped LA's punk scene and influenced countless artists. \$49

Free Sunday at the Fresno Art Museum 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Enjoy free admission supported by the City of Fresno Measure P Expanded Access to Arts and Culture Fund.

Bilingual Zine Poetry Workshop 1 p.m.–3 p.m. Arte Américas. A creative workshop where participants craft bilingual poetry zines. Materials fee and registration required.

16

Brit Rock 6: El Cap, The Alps and Devils Tower 6:30 p.m.–9 p.m. Crest Theatre. The SoYo Collective presents a series of films collected by world-famous British filmmaker Alistair Lee showcasing some of the world's most iconic rock climbs in an event to raise funds for the SoYo Collective's local conservation efforts. \$28.52

Musica Viva Chamber Music 7 p.m. First Mennonite Church, 1208 L St., Reedley. (see article on page 12)

17

Musica Viva Chamber Music 7 p.m. University Presbyterian Church. (see article on page 12)

18

Why Not Wednesdays 5 p.m.–9 p.m. Fulton St. (Mono to Fresno). Street fair that transforms Fulton Street into a vibrant pop-up market, featuring a diverse mix of vendors, food trucks, artists and live music. 559-490-9966

Musica Viva Chamber Music 6:30 p.m. Concordia Lutheran Church, 1800 Sierra St., Kingsburg. (see article on page 12)

19

Musica Viva Chamber Music 4 p.m. St. James Episcopal Cathedral, 4147 E. Dakota Ave. (see article on page 12)

ArtHop 5 p.m.–8 p.m. Fresno Metro Area. Free entry to exhibitions, gallery shows, special performances and unique art experiences for art lovers of all ages. facebook.com/FACarthop/

Posada Navideña 5 p.m. Arte Américas. Celebrate Las Posadas in Librería Donceles, a social practice project created by Pablo Helguera.

21

Growing Up with Tamales 2 p.m.–4 p.m. Arte Américas. A cultural event exploring the tradition of tamale-making.

Comedy in the Brewery 8 p.m.–9:30 p.m. Full Circle Brewing. A night of laughter as DoKnow, one of the fastest rising stars in stand-up comedy, headlines his first show in Fresno.

22

Fiesta Navidad 4 p.m. Tower Theatre. This popular festive and joyous holiday performance by Mariachi Los Camperos celebrates and honors the unique cultural traditions of Mexico. \$47.07+

CALLS TO ARTISTS

The Fresno Arts Council and City of Fresno are seeking nominations for the next City of Fresno Poet Laureate for the term 2025–2027. Deadline: Jan. 24, 2025. fresnoartscouncil.submittable.com

The Fresno International Transportation Innovations (FITI) 2025 S.T.E.P. Summit invites artists to explore and reimagine the beauty of clean transportation and renewable energy. Deadline: Jan. 31, 2025. fresnotransposummit.org

Submit arts-related events to
fresnoartscalendar@gmail.com by the 15th of
the month preceding publication.



The San Joaquin Valley Media Alliance is funded in part by the City of Fresno Measure P Expanded Access to Arts and Culture Fund administered by the Fresno Arts Council.

VENUES

2nd Space Theatre • 928 E. Olive Ave. • 559-266-0660 / gcplayers.simpletix.com	FCC Theatre • Fresno City College • 559-442-8221	Fulton 55 • 875 Divisadero St. • info@fulton55.com / fulton55.com	Royce Hall/Fresno High School • 1839 N. Echo Ave. • 559-457-2780
Art of Life Healing Garden/Woodward Park • 7775 N. Friant Rd. • 559-621-2900	Fresno Art Museum • 2233 N. First St. • 559-441-4221 / fresnoartmuseum.org	John Wright Theatre • Speech Arts Building/Fresno State • 559-278-2216	Shinzen Friendship Garden • 114 W. Audubon Dr. • 559-478-4848
Arte Américas • 1630 Van Ness Ave. • arteamericas.org	Fresno Discovery Center • 1944 N. Winery Ave. • fresnodiscoverycenter.org	Paul Shaghoian Concert Hall • 2770 E. International Ave. • 559-327-5000	Tower Theatre • 815 E. Olive Ave. • 559-485-9050 / fresnotowertheater.com
Bullard High School Auditorium • 5445 N. Palm Ave. • 559-451-4320	Fresno State Concert Hall • 2380 E. Keats Ave. • 559-278-2654	Rainbow Ballroom • 1725 Broadway St. • 559-354-1017	University Presbyterian Church • 1776 E. Roberts Ave. • upc@upcfresno.org
Crest Theatre • 1170 Broadway Plaza • 559-268-0044	Full Circle Brewery Co. • 712 Fulton St. • 559-319-8195 / fullcirclebrewing.com	Roger Rocka's Dinner Theatre • 1226 N. Wishon Ave. • 559-266-9494 / rogerrockas.com	William Saroyan Theatre • 700 M St. • 559-445-8100

Note: All locations are in the city of Fresno unless otherwise noted.

Six Climate and Environment Takeaways From the Election

Trump is coming back to power. Now what?

BY JASON MARK, SIERRA MAGAZINE

November 7, 2024

There's no use in sugarcoating it: The 2024 election returns are a gut punch for those of us who care about climate change, preserving clean air and clean water, protecting lands and wildlife, and, in general, maintaining a livable planet full of wonder and abundance.

Donald Trump's return to power will undoubtedly lead to an attempted assault on the Biden-Harris administration's landmark climate-action achievements, as well as efforts to roll back long-standing environmental protections—which is exactly what Trump's corporate backers have bought and paid for. The two most important words in that last sentence are *attempted* and *efforts*, because even now, in these first grim days after the election, the environmental movement is busy mobilizing to fight Trump & Co.'s retrograde agenda.

To the great frustration of many environmental advocates, climate change and the environment weren't really on the ballot this year. Compared with other hot-button issues like the economy, women's rights, and democracy, environmental concerns fell pretty low on most voters' lists of concerns. But even if the environment wasn't on the ballot, the environment will likely be a casualty of the election. Unless, that is, the environmental movement and our allies can frustrate the Trump regime—just as we did during the first Trump administration. Here are six things to keep in mind during the weeks, months, and—sorry to say—years ahead.



1. Trump 2.0 threatens to be more ruthlessly focused than before

During his first term, Trump took a cleaver to US environmental policy. He pulled the US out of the Paris Climate Agreement; he sought to muzzle government scientists; he opened up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling; he rolled back Bears Ears National Monument in Utah. He infamously called climate change a "hoax" and couldn't even pronounce Yosemite National Park correctly.

Trump the sequel could be more awful. Once again, Trump plans to withdraw the US from the Paris Agreement. He says he wants to axe federal support for electric vehicles, which he erroneously calls a "mandate." He has pledged to "frack, frack, frack and drill, baby, drill" and to intensify US oil and gas extraction—already at a historic high. "We have more liquid gold than any country in the world," Trump said at his victory speech, in a reference to US fossil fuel reserves.

If Trump Part Two threatens to be even worse than the original installment, that's largely because he (or at least his handlers) have learned from their past mistakes. **Trump 1.0 was environmental maliciousness smothered in incompetence; Trump 2.0 threatens to be environmental maliciousness spiked with ruthless efficiency.** Will Trump put into his administration experienced DC operators who are adept in the dark arts of dismantling government agencies?



SIERRA CLUB
TEHIPITE CHAPTER

That question is top of mind for Kieran Suckling, the founder of the Center for Biological Diversity. "The first Trump presidency really failed long term to undermine environmental protections, and a key reason why it failed was that Trump appointed so many incompetent people who could not get anything done," Suckling said. "So what's going to happen now? Will Trump keep on his love of the wing nut, and put in lunatics? That will determine how much a Project 2025 will be able to accomplish."

2. Keep an eye on Project 2025

To get a sense of who the Trump administration will be, look no further than Project 2025, the far-right-wing policy blueprint cooked up by the Heritage Foundation. Once Project 2025 became politically toxic, Trump as a candidate sought to disavow it. But the fact remains that some 140 people who worked in the first Trump administration—including six former cabinet secretaries—helped to write the plan, and it's widely agreed that the phone-book-size tome will guide the next Trump administration.

Among other dangerous and destructive ideas, Project 2025 calls for the following:

- More oil and gas drilling as a way to "restore America's energy dominance" and ending the supposed "war on fossil fuels"
- Dissolving and restructuring the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which, among other functions, houses the National Weather Service—the government agency that provides the data behind the weather apps on your phone
- Eliminating a raft of clean energy programs within the Department of Energy
- Reversing the long-standing EPA designation of carbon dioxide pollution as a threat to human health, which is the cornerstone of the federal government's ability to regulate greenhouse gases
- Ending states' ability, under the Clean Air Act, to adopt California's rigorous standards for tailpipe emissions

In an interview with *Sierra* this past summer, the eminent climate scientist Michael Mann warned that should the Project 2025 policy agenda actually be implemented, "it would be game over for climate progress in the US, turning the reins of our government over to the polluters."

3. Rolling back the Inflation Reduction Act will be harder than Trump thinks

One of the top objectives of Project 2025 is the dismantling of the Inflation Reduction Act, the 2022 legislation signed by President Biden that is the most ambitious US climate law in history. Trump has made clear he agrees with this goal, calling the IRA the "green new scam."

But "repealing the IRA is going to be much more difficult than some Republicans think it's going to be," Sierra Club legislative director Melinda Pierce said. There's a simple reason for this: The law is working, and as it works it has begun to generate bipartisan support.

Millions of Americans have benefitted from more than \$8 billion in IRA tax credits to help pay for energy upgrades like highly efficient heat pumps and to help cover the costs of electric vehicles. Companies have announced \$265 billion in clean energy projects and manufacturing facilities since the IRA was signed into law, and in the process have created about 330,000 new jobs.

Here's where things get interesting: A majority of those new clean energy and manufacturing investments are sited in Republican states and Republican districts. According to a *Washington Post* analysis, "congressional districts that favored Trump in the 2020 election

received three times as much clean energy and manufacturing investments as those that leaned toward Biden.”

A separate number-crunching exercise found that two-thirds of new solar, wind, and battery projects have been built in counties that voted for Trump.

Maybe the Republicans will try to take apart IRA piecemeal; the tax credits for electric vehicles seem especially vulnerable. But it's just as likely that they'll wage an ideological frontal assault on IRA as a whole, and in the end can't come up with the numbers to repeal it. In Trump's second term, the Inflation Reduction Act may become the new Affordable Care Act—a popular, successful Democratic initiative that, try as they might, they just can't eliminate.

4. The Green Resistance is ready—and now has economics at its back

On the morning after the election, the mood among environmentalists was grim but defiant.

“This moment right now is why the environmental movement exists—we exist to stand strong in the worst-case scenarios,” Suckling from CBD said.

“We are going to defend our progress,” Pierce insisted. “We are not unprepared. We have been to this rodeo before.”

“Our job is to fight back,” longtime climate activist Jamie Henn pledged on X.

Sounds like echoes from eight years ago, when in the wake of the first Trump victory, progressives coalesced into what came to be called, with a romantic flourish Muir would've loved, The Resistance.

But when it comes to climate change and the environment, there's a huge difference between today and the original Trump election of 2016. Nearly a decade later, the United States is in the midst of a clean energy revolution, one that is already shuffling some of the political calculus. The United States today is now home to an increasingly mature clean energy sector that, as much as Trump and his oily allies would like to slow it down, looks to be implacable.

“The fossil backers of Trump's campaign would love to turn back the clock, but we know that Americans support clean energy,” said Craig Segall, senior vice president at Evergreen Action. “We have billions of dollars in the clean energy economy that we didn't have before. You can't squeeze the toothpaste back in the tube.”

Even as the environmental movement remains vigilant at contesting Trump's destructive agenda, over the next few years, you can expect to see environmentalists focus much of their attention on city and state governments. At the same time, the movement will likely intensify pressure on corporate actors, especially the banks and insurance companies that continue to underwrite the fossil economy.



In some ways, that's a repeat of the environmental movement's 2017-2019 playbook. Only now it comes with the benefit of lessons learned from the last time around, as well as the jolt of IRA. “We will spend the next four years incubating at the state level the policies that we hope to achieve at the national level post-Trump,” said Jennifer Hensley, the senior director of state lobbying and advocacy at the Sierra Club. “And, at both the state and local level we will implement the climate solutions offered by the IRA to make a daily impact on our utility bills and to be more resilient in the face of the devastating weather events impacting our communities.”

5. The silver lining—states are leading the way

Environmentalists' aspirations to move climate progress at the state and local level is part of a budding progressive strategy to leverage states as laboratories to expand individual freedoms and advance progressive ideals. In this election, there were some important victories at the state level that demonstrate how this strategy might play out.

Perhaps the biggest environmental win came in Washington State, where voters crushed (by a more than 20 points) an initiative concocted by a Seattle hedge fund bro that would've dismantled the state's strongest-in-the-nation climate law, which has raised billions of dollars for clean energy projects there. While the Evergreen State is famously green in terms of its environmental politics, the absolute thrashing of the measure reveals that voters are willing to tolerate higher energy prices—as long as they come with real environmental benefits.

Meanwhile, voters in South Dakota rejected a measure that would've made it easier to permit a contentious CO2 pipeline. The prairie opposition to this one pipeline is a great example of the unlikely allies and uncomfortably large coalitions that are forming as environmentalists join with more politically conservative activists to push back on carbon capture and storage.

And in California, voters overwhelmingly approved Proposition 4, a \$10 billion bond measure that will help the state get ready for the impacts of climate change. It's a good example of how some places recognize that it's not enough to merely ratchet down emissions; at this point in time; it's also essential to adapt to climate chaos already upon us.

6. Ultimately, physics trumps politics

The 2024 election will make its way into the planet's geologic record. Mother Nature may not give a damn about the political machinations of humans, but she does seem to have a darkly ironic sense of humor. The week before the election, nearly the entire country was suffering through drought conditions. This October was the driest in New York City since recordkeeping began in 1869.

Speaking of New York City—the temperature there was 80°F the day after the November election, a freakish and fearsome harbinger.

Trump's grandiose illusions (“I alone can fix it”) are no match for the planetary forces we've unleashed through the burning of fossil fuels. No amount of nostalgia for an America that never was can turn back the clock—can reverse the rising levels of global carbon pollution or prevent the storms and the floods. Climate change is coming for Donald Trump, whether he likes it or not.

Catastrophe is a lousy consolation for political defeat—but there you have it. In the absence of political leadership, the climate fires of the second coming of Trump will have to fuel our movement for preserving a livable planet.

Jason Mark is the editor of Sierra and the author of Satellites in the High Country: Searching for the Wild in the Age of Man. He is writing a book about shifting baseline syndrome and the antidotes to environmental amnesia to be published by W.W. Norton. Follow him on X @ jasondovemark.

Recognized for Contributions to Our Artistic Communities
 and
 Amplifying Artistic Voices

Dr. Ashaki Mari Jackson, MFA, Ph.D.



“BEYOND BAROQUE” – NOVEMBER 2, 2024
 Distinguished Service Award

Dr. Ashaki M. Jackson, is the author of two chapter-length collections, *Surveillance* (Writ Large Press) and *Language Lesson* (Miel). A Cave Canem alumna, Jackson has studied with the Hurston/Wright Foundation, VONA/ Voices Summer Poetry Workshop, and Hedgebrook. In her literary service, she served as a Write Girl youth mentor for 10 years; instructor for youth and adult writing programs; a juror for fellowships, residences, and book prizes; board member of literacy and art organizations, most recently Art Share Los Angeles; and a reading curator. Jackson, in collaboration with Alyss Dixson and Xochiti-Julisa Bermejo, founded Women Who Submit, an organization that empowers women and nonbinary writers to submit their writing to publications and prizes, Jackson is **Publisher at The Offing** online magazine of literature and art.

This Service Award is a testament to your remarkable contributions and the difference you have made in the lives of other creative writers and artists.

CONGRATULATIONS Dr. ASHAKI M. JACKSON

WHAT IN THE WORLD
 ARE WE DOING?



BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION TO OIL POLLUTION.
 RECYCLE USED MOTOR OIL AND OIL FILTERS

Free recycling with the City of Fresno residential curbside program and free recycling at certified collection centers.

CALL (559) 621-1111 FOR MORE INFORMATION



LIC.NO. 0600205

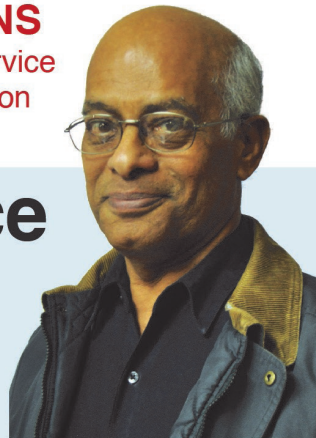
MEDICARE INSURANCE PLANS
 Insurance Plan Comparisons / Personal Service
 Medicare-MediCal Plans / Free Consultation

Yaseen Insurance

3134 Willow Ave, Ste 102 Clovis CA 93612

559-251-3361

danyaseen@comcast.net
 www.yaseeninsurance.com



Tanveer "Dan" Yaseen

An independent insurance agent specializing in senior insurance in Fresno for 27 years. Licensed to sell Medicare Health Plans offered by major insurance companies.

Questions? Call Dan 559-251-3361



Friday Dec 20
 Vista Theater

(inside the Fresno Music Academy & Arts)

1296 N. Wishon

7pm-9pm

in person seating free!

This event will be BROADCAST LIVE on 88.1 FM!

Andrea Phillips

Aideed Medina (poet)

Gloria Williams Johnson

and a band To be announced

a monthly series of local artist performances and broadcasts!



Got CBD?

100% Effective
 Natural
 0% THC

100% Affordable



Contact: smiley
 smileycalderon@gmail.com

STIR IT UP
 THE COMMUNITY ALLIANCE
 RADIO SHOW



HOST
 DAREN MILLER, ED.D.

INTERVIEWS WITH WRITERS, COMMUNITY ACTIVIST AND ALLIES IN THE STRUGGLE FOR PEACE, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE.

THE COMMUNITY ALLIANCE IS AN ALTERNATIVE/INDEPENDENT MONTHLY NEWSPAPER BUILDING A PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT FOR CHANGE IN FRESNO AND THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY.

THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 3P.M. ON KFCF 88.1 FM

Slow Progress for Street Vendors

BY PAULINA DEEDS CRUZ

Fresno’s City Council passed a new law that places strict restrictions on street vendors, barring them from selling in designated areas. The “Sidewalk Vending Ordinance” passed on a 5-2 vote in November 2023 with implementation expected earlier this year, however, implementation has been delayed and the ordinance is still being refined.

Changes are still being made, partially thanks to many local vendors and advocacy groups arguing against the negative impacts the ordinance could have on more vulnerable communities. On Nov. 21, the City Council discussed possible revisions to the ordinance. Amendments might include changes in the distance requirements between vendors and certain locations and operating hours. At the Dec. 5 meeting, the revised proposal will be voted on.

Over the past year, City officials initiated an “educational period” to help vendors understand and adapt to the new rules and avoid getting in trouble.

What are the rules?

The law does not include food trucks.

Under this ordinance, street vendors are prohibited from operating near schools, parks and major intersections, effectively sidelining many entrepreneurs. This supposedly addresses overcrowded sidewalks and traffic congestion.

The Sidewalk Vending Ordinance also restricts vendors from operating within specific distances of key locations unless they have written permission or meet certain exceptions. Vendors cannot set up within 200 feet of freeway ramps, certified farmers markets or permitted events unless they are associated with those activities.

They must stay 100 feet from residences (except for those selling fresh fruit, corn or snow cones) and 50 feet from brick-and-mortar restaurants unless granted permission. They are also prohibited from selling within 10 feet of another vendor unless mutually waived in writing, and within three feet of buildings for vendors cooking food on-site.

Vendors will receive a written warning for the first violation, followed by fines of up to \$100 for a second, \$200 for a third and \$500 for four or more violations.

The City Council promises this is not with the intent of targeting marginalized communities, but rather to better Fresno as a whole. However, this isn’t the first promise the City Council has made to the city’s street vendors.

The Unkept Promise

In March 2021, a street vendor named Lorenzo Perez was killed. Perez was shot during a robbery. His death mobilized Fresnoans to call for increased protections for street vendors, who are often left vulnerable to violence. The City Council promised to take action.

Fresno Mayor Jerry Dyer, along with members of the City Council, promised to enhance safety measures, including increasing patrols in high-vendor areas and implementing educational campaigns on reporting crimes.

The City also expressed a commitment to easing the process for street vendors to obtain proper permits, ensuring their operations were both legal and visible to law enforcement. Although there were calls from the public for City-backed resources such as security training, the installation of surveillance cameras in vending hotspots and an emergency fund for vendors impacted by crime, progress has been slow and uneven. Some cameras were purchased, but not much else has changed.

City Council members also pledged \$5 million to build a “community kitchen” to support street vendors after what happened to Perez. This would greatly benefit food vendors by making it more affordable to prepare food and easier to get a permit. However, the \$5 million was reduced to \$2 million and later cut to \$1.1 million.

The original pledge of \$5 million was to develop a commercial kitchen for street vendors, providing a centralized facility for food preparation (making it easier and more affordable to comply with health regulations). This commitment was based on the estimated cost of a specific property on H Street near Chukchansi Park.

City officials changed the pledge amount to \$2 million soon after with plans to remodel an old building into the community kitchen. However, when that property was used for a housing development instead the City reduced its financial commitment again, this time to \$1.1 million.

Of the \$1.1 million now committed, \$700,000 is a grant for the future community kitchen and the balance was previously allocated for security measures and technical assistance for street vendors. The cameras were placed in areas where the City believes street vendors frequent. The \$700,000 has been officially granted to Cultiva La Salud, which has long wanted to create a community kitchen.

Violence against Street Vendors Continues

Street vendors across the state continue to face rising levels of violence.

According to the Los Angeles Police Department, there has been a significant rise in violence against street vendors in recent years. In Los Angeles, from January 1 to July 31, 2022, there were 156 reported incidents involving street vendors as victims, a 52.9% increase from the 102 incidents during the same period in 2021 and a 48.6% rise compared with the first half of 2019.

A year after Perez’s death, on Feb. 14, 2022, 77-year-old street vendor Juan Hernandez was assaulted during a robbery along with his two daughters and granddaughter in Fresno. Hernandez was stabbed in the hand during the altercation.

Last year, a video of Hanford street vendor Jose Hernandez being verbally attacked and threatened by a man swinging a golf club went viral. The vendor was able to leave safely and report the assault.

In October, outside of Mount Whitney High School in Visalia, Juan Diego Loreto was assaulted while selling corn and chips to kids. A neighbor, Jashua Martino, began yelling at Loreto telling him to leave and “go sell corn in Mexico.” Martino escalated the situation by damaging the products and the cart. Things got physical, and Loreto had to defend himself and try to protect the kids near the cart.

Loreto expressed shock at the situation. “My biggest concerns beforehand had been the extreme heat or the cold.” For now, Loreto is focused on saving up money to get his cart fixed so he can get his permit and go back to work.

After hearing about the community kitchen that Cultiva La Salud plans to establish in Fresno, Loreto responded that “something like that could be really good—cut down the cost, make permits easier. It would change lives.” And that is Cultiva La Salud’s hope.

Cultiva La Salud is a Fresno-based nonprofit dedicated to promoting health equity. The organization has officially secured a property on Fresno Street, just south of Highway 180, with the intention of transforming it into both a functional kitchen and a resource center for street food vendors.

This facility would provide vendors with a compliant space to prepare food, helping them meet health regulations and making it easier to acquire the needed permits. It would also offer assistance and education on the permitting process and business development.

Cultiva La Salud estimates the project will cost \$3 million, with half of the funding already gathered through savings, donations and public funding (including the \$700,000 grant from the City of Fresno). Because of the large cost, the timeline for the kitchen’s opening is projected to be more than a year from now.

As incidents of hate and violence continue across the state, efforts like Cultiva La Salud’s community kitchen project offer support and hope to street vendors. For vendors like Loreto, such initiatives represent more than policy—they are a lifeline for their safety and livelihood.

Paulina Deeds Ortiz is a former fellow with the Community Alliance newspaper. She is a Mexican immigrant currently attending Fresno State, working on an anthropology major with a minor in psychology. She spends her free time writing poetry or painting.

White Christians and the Election

Continued from page 7

Negatively, it is a part of a larger story of Eurocentric colonialism—that white Europeans, being “stronger,” “more energetic,” “smarter” and “Christian”—have the moral obligation and the God-given right to conquer non-Christian peoples and lands, to “Christianize” and to “civilize” them. If that project of “civilizing” means slavery and genocide, so be it—but we won’t talk about it. We’ll pretend it happened naturally and for the most part peacefully.

Even before the founding of the United States as an independent nation, we were deeply enmeshed with white supremacy. That problem continued in our early years.

Bible teachers claiming that the “Curse of Ham” condemned Blacks forever to be slaves. “Manifest Destiny” justified the wholesale land grab and stealing of Native American lands. Western expansion “necessitated” “Indian Removal” and mass genocide of Native Americans. The Supreme Court’s *Dred Scott* decision decreed that African Americans have no rights at all (no “standing”) to bring their cases of abuse before the courts.

The Civil War to End Slavery—not, as Southern white supremacists call it, “the War of Northern Aggression”—required the blood of 600,000 Americans to be spilled.

After the Civil War, the short-lived bright spot of Reconstruction was squelched by the federal government’s lack of resolve to live up to the 13th and 14th Amendments

and stop Southern-style “Jim Crow,” lynch mobs, KKK terrorists and their law enforcement allies.

The story of white supremacists resisting equality and civil rights for all has continued in American history to the present. Yes, we have seen some gains, but they are always contested by white supremacists trying to game the system to their advantage, using sneaky tactics (disinformation campaigns, using racist tropes in political ads, gerrymandering Congressional districts to deny non-white communities representation) and claiming “persecution” when they don’t get their way or perceive that non-white communities are getting “benefits they don’t deserve.”

So this is the context we must keep in mind with Trump. He is expressing a deep American, and American Christian, malaise.

When he refused to rent his apartments in New York to Blacks, he was acting as a white supremacist.

When he paid for a full-page ad calling for the execution of the Central Park Five, he was channeling white fears that Black males are violent rapists.

When he challenged Barack Obama’s birth certificate, he was trying to delegitimize a Black man’s qualifications to lead the country, which magnified the outrage of white supremacists who hated having a Black president.

When he separated children from their parents at the southern border, he was asserting that asylum seekers from Central and South America were less than human.

This is what white supremacists do.

More recently, when Trump said, “Haitians are eating the dogs...they’re eating the cats,” obviously, he was not telling the truth (it was a lie). But truth-telling is totally beside the point with Trump. The point is to stir up racial resentment and racial hatred.

When Trump says immigrants “are poisoning the blood of this country,” he’s using a Nazi-esque trope (it is a lie). But truth-telling is not even close to being on his agenda. What Trump is saying resonates deeply with white grievances and fears of losing their dominant place in America.

When Trump says, “my beautiful white skin” or tells people at one of his Minnesota rallies that they have “good genes” (i.e., they have white skin), or when he says, “Make America Great Again” or courts white Christians, he’s telling whites that Jesus is their savior and he is their “retribution.” He tells them he’s the only one who can “fix” things. He alone can bring about the longed-for white supremacist “Christian” nationalist state.

He’s a demagogue. He knows how to play on fears, gin up hatreds and find scapegoats. He knows what he’s doing.

That white Christians can be so cozy with Trump is a sign that white American Christianity is profoundly sick and has profoundly deviated from the teachings and example of Jesus. They’ve bought into Trump’s white supremacy because they are so comfortable with their own white supremacy.

Not all white Christians are white supremacists. But all white Christians need to ask the hard questions of their conditioning and training. It’s the only way to root out white supremacy. It’s a huge project because white supremacy in our culture, and in Christian culture, is so pervasive.

Bayard Taylor is a resident of the 93675 zip code, a nature lover, the author of two books, a former English teacher and a master’s of divinity graduate of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. Contact him at bayardtaylor1@aol.com.



root access
 Community Hackerspace
 and Makerspace

3D Printing • Laser Cutting • Electronics • Technology
 Sewing & Fiber Arts • Workshop • ...and more!

Proudly located in the Tower District at 1476 N. Van Ness Ave.
 Check us out online at rootaccess.org



PATIENCE MILROD
 LAWYER/LICENCIADA EN LEYES

985 NORTH VAN NESS AVENUE FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93728
 559.246.7239 PM@PATIENCEMILROD.COM



TACOS Marquitos
 Antojitos Mexicanos

Javier Rangel (559) 977-4413 Jesus Ibarra (559) 977-5481

1772 E. Barstow Ave. Fresno, CA 93710
(559) 447-5569

We are located inside the Bulldog Plaza

Peace & Social Justice Calendar December 2024

Sponsored by the Fresno Center for Nonviolence

WEEKLY

Raza Against War Wednesdays, 11 a.m.–1 p.m. 2500 Tulare St. For more info, contact comworkeradvocate@gmail.com.

Stand for Gaza Saturdays, 6 p.m.–8 p.m. N. Blackstone and E. Nees avenues. Stand for humanity and human rights. Hosted by the Palestine Liberation Group. Limited signs available. Bring a friend. For more info, contact camille.russell@peacefresno.org.

Stand Up, Speak Up, Spread the Truth Sundays, 3 p.m.–5 p.m. Mooney and Walnut avenues, Visalia. Free Palestine. Let Gaza Live! Cease Fire Now. For more info, contact fida.taha@gmail.com.

MON 02 **First Student/SEIU 521 Press Conference** 10 a.m. First Student Yard, 2805 S. East St. First Student is a chapter that SEIU 521 represents. They are bus drivers who work for the company First Student, and the Fresno Unified School District hires them to drive students with special needs. For more info, contact simone.rhodes@seiu521.org.

An In-Depth Conversation with Robert Costa 5:30 p.m.–7 p.m. Satellite Student Union, Fresno State. Topic: "Inside the White House, Congress and the Future for Both Parties." Costa is the chief election and campaign correspondent for CBS News, where he covers national politics and American democracy. Sponsored by the Maddy Institute. For more info or to register, contact 559-278-1133 or tloeffler@csufresno.edu.

TUE 03 **Power to the People: Investing in Clean Transportation and Community Action** 1 p.m.–2:30 p.m. Via Zoom. With the 2024 election results set to reshape government priorities for years to come, there is an urgent need to understand the shifting landscape of public funding and policies related to climate change, clean transportation and the transition to a green economy. For a timely conversation on approaches to center public dollars on the needs of the people, join Hana Creger, associate director of climate equity at The Greenlining Institute, and panelists Huron Mayor Rey León, also executive director of the Latino Equity Advocacy and Policy Institute (LEAP); Jeanie Ward-Waller, director of transportation advocacy at Fearless Advocacy; and Simeon Gant, founder and Executive Board member of Green Technical Education and Employment (Green Tech). For more info and to register, contact impact@shfcenter.org.

National Women's Political Caucus (NWPC) 6 p.m. Holiday Party and End-of-Year Celebration. For location and more info, contact 559-222-6212 or joanne@pbyoga.com.

Rural Communities Rising Community Meeting 6 p.m. Kerman High School Cafeteria, 205 S. First St., Kerman. What renewable energy is proposed with what possible impacts and opportunities in western Fresno County? For more info, contact 559-250-1253 or gamayer20@gmail.com.

Sierra Club Tehipite Chapter

7 p.m. Woodward Park Library, 944 E. Perrin Ave. "The Seven Laws of the Great View: A visual essay on landscape aesthetics—or, how we appreciate great scenic viewpoints."

Join backpacker and mountaineer Robert Turner for an exploration of the aesthetic side of backpacking, and learn how to enhance the enjoyment of magnificent landscapes, with examples drawn from the grand American West. For more info, visit sierraclub.org/tehipite.



KENNEDY CLUB OF THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

Founder: Lawrence J. Kelly

The Kennedy Club
of the San Joaquin Valley
Meeting and Discussing
Democratic Ideas Since 1997

Kennedy Club meets 1st Saturday of each month.
9:00am to 11:00am. Please Join Us!
More Information: fresnocountydemocrats.org

KFCF 88.1 FM: Nuestro Foro (Spanish) 7 p.m. News, commentaries and music with a Latino touch hosted by Eduardo Stanley. For more info, visit kfcf.org.

WED 04 **KFCF 88.1 FM: Stir It Up!** 3 p.m. Community Alliance radio show. For more info, visit kfcf.org.

THU 05 **South Central Specific Plan: City Council Hearing** 9:20 a.m. or thereafter. Fresno City Hall Council Chamber, 2600 Fresno St. Opportunity for public input. The South Central Specific Plan, Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and related documents can be viewed at www.fresno.gov/scsp. For more info, contact 559-621-8092 or michelle.zumwalt@fresno.gov.

Small Business Procurement Workshop 10 a.m.–11 a.m. AMOR Wellness Center, 115 Belmont Ave., Mendota. Are you interested in bid opportunities to participate in large-scale projects? Register at tinyurl.com/bscworkshopprocurement. For more info, contact info@theriosco.com.

Housing Learning Labs 5 p.m. 3253 E. Shields Ave. Session 2: Blight and Housing Systems. Discover who provides affordable housing and how to access it. For more info, contact juana@tcmfresno.org.

SAT 07 **Kennedy Club of the San Joaquin Valley** 9 a.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact 559-435-4043 or claval@comcast.net.

A Celebration of Human Rights Day 10 a.m. Table Mountain Rancheria Reading Room, Fresno State Library. Acknowledging the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with a special appreciation for Dr. Sudarshan Kapoor, who is stepping down as co-chair of the Human Rights Coalition of the Central Valley. For more info, contact 559-270-7041.

Rural Communities Rising Community Meeting 10 a.m. John Palacios Community Center, 16846 4th St., Huron. What renewable energy is proposed with what possible impacts and opportunities in western Fresno County? For more info, contact 559-250-1253 or gamayer20@gmail.com.

CAIR Know Your Rights Training 3 p.m. Masjid Al Aqabah, 949 Waterman Ave. For more info, contact 916-441-6269.

MON 09 **Fresno County Democratic Women's Club** 11 a.m. Democratic Party HQ, 1033 U St. Speaker: Monte Forkas, event coordinator. For more info, contact 559-435-4043 or claval@comcast.net.

Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA) 5 p.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact swgamble@aol.com.

Democratic Women in Action 6 p.m. Holiday party. For location and more info, contact 559-681-3140 or president@dviafresno.org.

TUE 10 **Black American Political Association of California (BAPAC)** 6 p.m. Via Zoom. For more info, contact 559-287-1308 or bapacfresno@gmail.com.

Stonewall Democratic Club 6:30 p.m. Los Amigos Restaurant, 5088 N. Blackstone Ave. For more info, contact 559-285-1641 or info@fresnostonewalldemocrats.org.

KFCF 88.1 FM: Nuestro Foro (Spanish) 7 p.m. News, commentaries and music with a Latino touch hosted by Eduardo Stanley. For more info, visit kfcf.org.

WED 11 **KFCF 88.1 FM: Stir It Up!** 3 p.m. Fresno Center for Nonviolence radio show hosted by Josh Shurley. For more info, visit kfcf.org.

Trans-E-Motion Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m. Fresno EOC LGBTQ+ Resource Center, 1252 Fulton St. For more info, contact transemotion@gmail.com or visit transemotion.com.

THU 12 **Clovis Democratic Club** 6 p.m. Holiday Gathering and Installation of Officers. RSVP to clovisdemocraticclub@gmail.com.

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) 7 p.m. 1584 N. Van Ness Ave. Online/in person. For more info, contact 559-360-8054 or taca_03@ymail.com.

SAT 14 **Hmong Heritage Education Day** 9 a.m.–2 p.m. Fresno State. Educating and bringing communities together to celebrate the Hmong people's history, heritage, values, achievements and contributions. Cultural workshops, educational workshops and music and performances. For more info, contact 559-278-4240.

MON 16 **California Latina Democrats-Fresno** 6:30 p.m. Yosemite Falls Café, 4020 N. Cedar Ave. For more info, contact chaircalatinadems@gmail.com.

TUE 17 **Stolen Land Liberation for Houseless Peoples Self-Determination** 9 a.m. Fresno City Hall, 2600 Fresno St. Protest the war on the street family members of Fresno. This action is part of a national effort. For more info, contact info@poormagazine.org.

Central Valley Partnership 5:30 p.m. Room 251, Old Administration Building, Fresno City College. Moving Forward as a United Community. For more info, contact agrariandemocracy@gmail.com.

KFCF 88.1 FM: Nuestro Foro (Spanish) 7 p.m. News, commentaries and music with a Latino touch hosted by Eduardo Stanley. For more info, visit kfcf.org.

WED 18 **KFCF 88.1 FM: Speaking Truth to Empire** 3 p.m. Hosted by Dan Yaseen. For more info, visit kfcf.org.

San Joaquin Valley Democratic Club 6:30 p.m. Denny's Restaurant, 1110 E. Shaw Ave. For more info, contact 559-312-3925.

FRI 20 **KFCF 88.1 FM: It's a Queer Thang** 5 p.m.–6 p.m. Covers local and national LGBTQ+ issues and events. Hosted by Chris Jarvis and Kaylia Metcalfe Armstrong. For more info, visit kfcf.org.

TUE 24 **KFCF 88.1 FM: Nuestro Foro (Spanish)** 7 p.m. News, commentaries and music with a Latino touch hosted by Eduardo Stanley. For more info, visit kfcf.org.

WED 25 **KFCF 88.1 FM: Stir It Up!** 3 p.m. WILPF radio show hosted by Jean Hays. For more info, visit kfcf.org.

TUE 31 **KFCF 88.1 FM: Nuestro Foro (Spanish)** 7 p.m. News, commentaries and music with a Latino touch hosted by Eduardo Stanley. For more info, visit kfcf.org.

Submit upcoming community activities to
calendar@fresnoalliance.com by the 15th
of the month preceding publication.

32954 Rd. 222
North Fork, CA

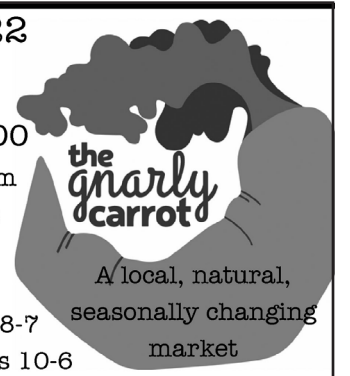
(559) 877-8400

kernfamilyfarm.com

kernfamilyfarm@netptc.net



Open M-F 8-7
weekends 10-6



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF FRESNO
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



bigredchurch.org

Every Sunday
9am: Exploration Hour
10am: Worship
Bold. Proud. Progressive.

2131 N. Van Ness Blvd.

Helping to Preserve
Fresno's Pictorial History
HOWARD K. WATKINS
Fresno's Photo Laureate
www.watkinsphotoarchive.com

(559) 355-7040

howardkwatkins@gmail.com

THE LAW OFFICE OF KEVIN G. LITTLE

30+ Years Fighting for the Underdog!

- Civil Rights
- Employment
- Personal Injury
- Medical Malpractice



- Criminal Defense
- Juvenile
- Dependency
- Family Law

1225 East Divisadero Street, Fresno, CA 93721
Tel. (559) 342-5800, E-Mail: kevin@kevinglitttle.com
www.kevinglitttle.com



WE ARE AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING
CHURCH WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME.

5550 N FRESNO ST • FRESNO CA 93710
559.435.2690 • communityucc.com

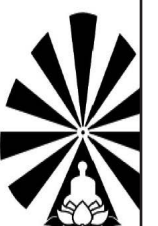
MEDITATION FOR INNER PEACE & HAPPINESS

Raja Yoga is the most ancient form of meditation. You can learn to maintain stability of mind in stressful situations and gain more control over your life. Both individual and group instructions are available. No charge.

Monthly events:

Women of Spirit & World Meditation Day.
Call Veena Kapoor: (559) 435-2212

Website: www.bkwsu.com



Water Equity Is Vital to the Future of Valley Communities

BY VIC BEDOIAN

Lindsay is a citrus- and olive-growing town in Tulare County. The lush orchards that embrace the surrounding landscape thrive on water from California's canal system and the San Joaquin Valley's groundwater. But some of the residents here, including Irma Medellin and her family, cannot drink the tap water.

"The first thing that we face is why we have to pay a lot of money for our water because we pay for tap water, but then that water, they say, is not good." It didn't seem right to Medellin that every month her family pays \$60 for unhealthy tap water and another \$60 for bottled water.

Veronica Mendoza lives in Orosi. She said that her son suffers from rashes after taking a shower. "Every day after I dry [him] with a towel, he gets rashes like red spots. And my neighbors, they have yellow and black teeth. The doctor said it's the water."

Other reported problems include kidney and gallbladder ailments and miscarriages.

Cristobal Chavez, his wife, two kids and their six foster children live on their 15-acre farm just west of Porterville. They can't drink the water from their own well.

Sitting in the shade of a massive mulberry tree, Chavez explains a recent report on their well water: nitrates four times higher than what is considered safe, coliform bacteria counts much greater than the safety threshold. He confirms that his family must buy water for household use. "Yes we cannot drink it at all, or wash dishes or cook."

Some of the hardest working families in the Central Valley pay some of the state's highest water rates for toxic water. For many, it takes 10% of household income just to have safe drinking water. Chavez spends \$200 a month to buy bottled water. That is commonplace for thousands of Valley residents, especially those with private wells or on small community water systems.

Mainly, this is because cleansing the water, or drilling a new well, is expensive and usually not a viable option. Moreover, many Valley schools cannot provide clean drinking water. Until a few years ago, neither the state's bureaucrats nor local officials did anything about it. Chavez says they never warned him or his family about the poor water quality.



Cristobal Chavez checks the water system on his family's Tulare County farm. Photo by Vic Bedoian

Elsewhere in the Valley, drinking water exceeds maximum contaminant levels of uranium and arsenic. The pollution is a result of agricultural chemicals that have percolated into the groundwater and from naturally occurring minerals in the subsoil.

Surrounded by orchards and vineyards, Seville has 75 homes and 350 residents who are mainly farmworkers with an average salary of \$16,000 a year. Like many other rural areas, people should not drink the water, and the village is too small to do anything about it.

Seville was served by a deteriorated pipeline running through an open ditch. The leaky pipeline was sucking algae, sand and bacteria into Seville's water system. It was so bad that the county had to take receivership of a primitive, broken water system.

Rebecca Quintana, who grew up and raised a family in Seville, was angered by the conditions, "I have always told everybody that in the town of Seville, it's like we're living in a third world country. This shouldn't exist here in the state of California."

Quintana decided to do something about it. She connected with the Visalia-based Community Water Center (CWC).

The CWC has been a powerhouse in the world of water advocacy and organizing since its founding in 2006 by organizer Susana De Anda and attorney Laurel Firestone. They specialize in a full range of activities including

building political power in communities, developing safe water projects to help individual families and villages, and advocating in the Capitol and statewide for policies that supply safe and affordable water.

The group filled a great void in caring about the quality of life for so many Valley residents who, indeed, actually were living as if in a third-world country.

That is what brought Catarina de Albuquerque to Seville in 2011. She was convinced by the CWC that conditions in the Valley, especially in Tulare County, warranted a UN mission. In September 2010, the United Nations officially declared the Human Right to Water and Sanitation, with the United States signing on. The Portuguese human rights attorney was appointed the UN Rapporteur on the Human Right to Water in 2008. She has investigated living conditions in Egypt, Costa Rica, Bangladesh, Slovenia and Japan.

In Seville, de Albuquerque explained the human right to water. "It means that water and sanitation have to be available. They have to be accessible, and they have to obviously be of quality. They have to be safe for everyone to drink."

"When we talk about affordability, it means you don't have to be forced to make choices between the right to water and the right to food, or the right to water and the right to housing."

Reflecting on what she saw in the Valley, de Albuquerque says that "there is no single country I have visited, rich or

Continues on page 21

The Enemy All Along

BY STEVEN ROESCH

Six minutes.

Several years ago, at a Fresno Unified School District school site, that's how long students had to go from one period to the next.

And, according to Annie Jacobsen's meticulously researched book *Nuclear War: A Scenario*, six minutes is roughly the amount of time that an American president will have to decide how to prosecute a nuclear war.

Based on interviews with scores of military, government and academic experts, her work describes a plausible and deeply unsettling way in which an atomic holocaust might start and then continue. In addition to moment-by-moment accounts of how it could develop, she includes informative and chilling intercalary chapters that explore the history of nuclear weapons.

Spoiler alert: Early on, an enemy missile strikes a site in California with especially dire consequences.

Her grim depiction, sometimes overwhelming in its amount of detail and the magnitude of horror that it portrays, left this author with a few key takeaways.

Speed

World-shaking events erupt within a matter of minutes. Due to this rapid pace, major decisions need to be reached in short order and under duress—something that can, of course, lead to miscalculations and errors.

Once made and implemented, those decisions can't be changed.

Military Networks

An intricate worldwide tapestry of sites watches for enemy missiles; should it be deemed necessary, they can help to launch an attack. In the United States alone, installations in Alaska, Colorado, Nebraska and Wyoming play central roles in the developing catastrophe.

Fog of War

Early on in *Nuclear War*, American military installations detect an ICBM that's hurtling toward the continental United States. But they have a blind spot: They can't determine whether it's armed—and, if so, whether it's loaded with nuclear, biological or chemical weapons.

Still, they need to figure out what their response will be. Most likely they'll act according to an established doctrine called Launch on Warning.

This precept, which has been in place for decades, means that the United States won't delay its response to an initiated nuclear attack until after the first missile has actually struck its target. Once officials are aware that such a strike is imminent, they'll hit back in kind. They'll feel obliged to launch a counterstrike before the missile hits its destination and reveals what its payload was.

Paul Nitze, who served under several presidents and helped to shape nuclear policy, admonished long ago that Launch on Warning heightens the possibility of disaster, calling it "inexcusably dangerous."



An initial nuclear attack would likely cost millions of lives, but there would also be significant long-term consequences. In this image, the Badger explosion on April 18, 1953, as part of Operation Upshot-Knothole, at a Nevada test site. Photo courtesy of The Commons

Level of Destruction

Jacobsen's book explores the amount and nature of devastation that a nuclear exchange would unleash instantly and over the long haul.

An initial enemy attack, her scenario suggests, would most likely cost millions of lives in our country alone.

True, she notes—the U.S. military does have interceptor missiles at its disposal. But there are only 44 in total—not enough by far to neutralize an attack with potentially hundreds of enemy rockets. She also points out that in the past, when the effectiveness of those interceptor missiles was tested, they demonstrated an abysmal success rate.

Enemy rockets that hit their targets would, of course, wipe out a lot immediately—cities, ecosystems, human and animal life.

Adding to the Devastation: EMP

A nuclear device detonated over the American Midwest could precipitate an electromagnetic pulse (EMP) attack affecting the entire continental United States. Among many other things,

Continues on page 20

Devastating Hurricane Rafael Hits Cuba

BY LENI VILLAGOMEZ REEVES

On Nov. 6 (Wednesday), Hurricane Rafael hit central Cuba, and I was there. This is a contemporary account written from Marianao, Havana, four days later, while our electricity was still out.

It's hard to assess the damage from here because the electricity system as a whole went down; between the damages of Rafael and its recently restored state after a previous hurricane two weeks ago, this was not surprising. The wind and water came from the southeast with tremendous force, as if a whole battery of fire hoses was blasting the walls and windows from that direction. It drove water right through the closed and fastened windows. I got quarts and quarts of water off the floor with a dirty rag and a bucket, but there was still more coming in all the time.

It toppled a lot of trees—some broke and some had less root-hold in the ground than the force of the wind. A tremendous number of branches were also torn off. A lot of power poles and wires were knocked down too.

The next morning was quiet and everyone was out in the street. Clearing and sweeping the sidewalks was the most popular task, which is notable because, if our experience was typical (and why not?) everyone also had a lot of mopping up to do inside.

By Thursday night some areas got their power restored and some more by Friday and Saturday. But this area of Marianao has a lot of trees and suffered a lot of damage. On Saturday, crews worked until midnight, and some tantalizing lights appeared along a different street just a block away, but it was a different circuit.

On Sunday, our lights were still out. All the perishable food that didn't get eaten had spoiled. We were worried about how much water remained in the rooftop tank, especially



The day after the hurricane, working crews started clearing debris and restoring posts and lines.
 Photo by Leni Villagomez Reeves



Fallen trees and power poles could be seen all over Havana after Hurricane Rafael hit the island on Nov. 6. Photo by Leni Villagomez Reeves

because it's water delivery day (every other day) and the water cannot rise to the tank by itself; it needs to be booster-pumped up.

We've been saving water in some of the usual gross ways but trying not to get too gross. But there were trucks and even a bulldozer scooping up the trees and garbage, even though it's Sunday. We are waiting.

We are waiting for electricity and our phones are dead, and there's no connection anyway. The refrigerator has been at room temperature for a while and smells bad.

Honestly, it's no fun at all. But no one died. This is Cuba, the civil defense capital of the world. Everyone at severe risk was evacuated—not "warned to evacuate" but given bus transport and a place to stay (usually in school dorms) and food. Yes, it's sad watching this on television before the event. People have only what they can carry and face the prospect of losing everything else.

Immediately after the event, the recuperation started. Cuba is in serious condition economically. The tightening of the U.S. blockade and the determined effort of the U.S. government to prevent Cuba from having any sources of income or finance have been diabolically successful. We should be ashamed.

But the crews are here, working hard, clearing debris, restoring posts and lines. And, most important, the people of Cuba are spontaneously clearing up, checking on each other, and collecting bundles of goods for those who have lost their possessions in this and the previous hurricane, Oscar, that hit Guantanamo and other eastern provinces two weeks ago.

All the evil that the governments of the United States have been able to do, over 65 years, has not been able to break these people. Cooperation and human solidarity are deeply ingrained in the Cuban psyche now. Cubans, in this worst moment, feel that they are not isolated and they are not victims. They are together fighting for a better future.

Leni Villagomez Reeves is a local physician and activist. Check out her news and views about Cuba on Facebook (facebook.com/fresnosolidarity/).

The Enemy All Along

Continued from page 19

such an event would disable air traffic control, train service, ATMs and a significant number of private vehicles.

It would also jeopardize the safe operation of nuclear power plants.

Many who initially survived would confront another danger: radiation sickness. Jacobsen's intercalary chapter about the subject shows just how awful this can be.

In May 1946, during an experiment at a clandestine laboratory called Omega Site, physicist Louis Slotkin accidentally dropped a plutonium sphere. Immediately, there was a burst of blue light and Slotkin's fate was sealed. Despite medical care, his body began "failing to oxygenate its own blood." Ultimately, in the final phase of his ordeal, the tissue separating his internal organs was almost completely lost, so that his internal organs "merged into one."

Another Long-Term Consequence: Nuclear Winter

Massive fires would erupt, throwing an estimated 330.6 billion pounds' worth of soot up into the atmosphere. The average temperature on the globe would plummet by 27 degrees Fahrenheit—and that decline would be more on the order of 40 degrees in our country. Agriculture as we know it would cease to exist.

In 1983, the U.S. military conducted a war game named Proud Prophet to determine how nuclear war might develop, to investigate how various scenarios might play out. No matter which variations were examined, the results of the exercises were consistent—"complete Armageddon-like destruction...[w]ith the death of, at minimum, a half billion people in the war's opening salvo alone."

Back in the 1960s, my father, a mechanical engineer, landed a plum job at Aerojet in Rancho Cordova. Among the projects he worked on was the MX missile, which was capable of carrying several warheads and thus striking several targets.

Sometimes, when he drove to work in the morning, he passed by anti-nuke protesters who were passing out flyers.

Knowing about my interest in their arguments, he took those flyers now and then and shared them with me. Over time, it became clear that he occasionally felt conflicted about the "cutting-edge" science that he was a part of.

Given such bleak circumstances, what have nations with such weapons been up to?

Efforts to curb nuclear proliferation and shrink nuclear arsenals have fallen by the wayside.

Some countries, including China and the United States, are expanding their weapons capabilities. "The Price," a *New York Times* op-ed that appeared in October 2024, sheds light on America's efforts in this new arms race.

Its author, W.J. Hennigan, reports that the United States aims to spend \$170 trillion over three decades to upgrade its nuclear capabilities. The project, which got going 14 years ago, is proceeding "in at least 23 states—nearly 50 if you include subcontractors."

Included is the construction of 12 ballistic missile submarines—560 feet long—estimated to cost \$11 billion each.

Hennigan's piece leads to one final takeaway.

Opportunity Cost

Resources devoted to such purposes can't be used in other areas. Suppose that a fraction of this amount were made available for the perennial ills now facing us—deep-seated poverty, food insecurity, homelessness—or just making sure that every student who goes through K-12 education winds up with effective reading and math skills?

But no such luck. The *Times* article makes it clear that a virtually endless stream of cash is available for such state-of-the-art weaponry.

Jacobsen's final section, brief but thought-provoking, throws us 24,000 years into the future and asks what archaeologists, were they to locate remnants of our world, would come to know about us. Lost to time would be the awareness "that the enemy was not North Korea, Russia, America, China, Iran or anyone else..."

"It was the nuclear weapons that were the enemy of us all," she concludes. "All along."

Steven Roesch is a retired German and English teacher who taught in the Fresno Unified School District for 30 years. Contact him at stevencroesch12@comcast.net.

Love is Our Doctrine



Unitarian Universalist
 Church of Fresno

Sunday Services with Rev. Tim Kutzmark 10:30 a.m.

Children and Youth Religious Exploration Sundays 10:30 a.m.

UU Buddhist Study and Meditation Wednesdays 2:00 p.m.

2672 E. Alluvial Avenue
 (between Willow and Chestnut)
 Fresno, CA 93720
 (559) 322-6146 (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)

www.uufresno.org

Water Equity Is Vital to the Future of Valley Communities

Continued from page 19

poor, where there are no problems. In richer countries what I see is an even more profound presence of discrimination. I think it's a lack of political will. So, it's the constant patterns of discrimination and exclusion that I unfortunately see all over the place."

Later that year, she presented the Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation to the UN Human Rights Council that documented her findings. She observed that Tulare County is one of the top agricultural-producing counties in California. It has a majority Latino population. And that it is the poorest county in the state. Her investigation underscored what local residents and community researchers had already discovered.

"Tulare County has many public water systems with nitrate levels over the maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 45 parts per million. Approximately 20% of Tulare County's small public water systems are unable to meet the nitrate MCL on a regular basis.

"The independent expert received testimony from various rural communities in Tulare County. These communities suffer from drinking water contaminated by nitrates, arsenic, banned pesticides and disinfectant by-products. Seville, a small, low-income community, is illustrative of the broader problems plaguing Tulare County."

That report and the follow-up work by clean water advocates sparked a package of state legislation in 2012 that became the Human Right to Water law. California became the first state in the nation to recognize that "every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking and sanitary purposes. The human right to water extends to all Californians, including disadvantaged individuals and groups and communities in rural and urban areas."

Subsequently, in 2016, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted a resolution to make the human right to water a top priority and core value. The water board pledged "to preserve, enhance and restore the quality of California's water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health and all beneficial uses, and to

ensure proper water resource allocation and efficient use, for the benefit of present and future generations."

The Water Board promised to work with relevant stakeholders to develop new systems or enhance existing systems and to identify communities that do not have safe, clean, affordable and accessible water for household use.

Human rights laws passed in 2012 and State Water Board resolutions did not have an immediate impact on the ground. The drinking water crisis had not abated. While some funding was provided to improve water systems in some communities, the effort was falling far short of what was required. By 2018, more than 300 public and private water systems in the state were still out of compliance with safe drinking water standards, affecting one million residents statewide.

Then in 2019, as one his first acts in office, Governor Gavin Newsom signed SB 200 sponsored by then State Senator Bill Monning to establish the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund to help communities and individuals have access to clean groundwater. It allocated some \$130 million annually for a range of projects to improve infrastructure. Newsom followed up by appropriating \$10 million for emergency drinking water projects and \$10 million to help bring local water districts into compliance with drinking water standards.

At the 10th anniversary of the Human Right to Water (HRTW) law, the California Water Impact Network offered their evaluation of the measure's impact and reach, suggesting a deficiency of political will to fulfill the all-inclusive goals of the HRTW law.

"Much of the commentary around the 10-year anniversary of the HRTW law can be summarized as 'progress has been made, but more work remains.' While this is both true and unobjectionable on its face, it avoids the politically uncomfortable question of why more work remains.

"Why, in 2023, is it too difficult to immediately and permanently provide safe drinking water to 2.5% of the state's population? Why is it too difficult to ensure that domestic wells don't go dry every time precipitation levels are low? Why is it too difficult to provide financial assistance to people struggling to pay their water bills when the state helps with every other basic necessity? Why is it beyond the state's capacity to provide adequate water and sanitation to people living on the street?"

As the state's most recent drought years stretched on, concerns over water quality issues in the San Joaquin Valley merged with the existential threat of simply having running water in the home at all. A century of pumping water from the once abundant aquifers had drawn them down to a condition of severe overdraft in order to build the agricultural and commercial life of the Valley that exists today.

Groundwater depletion was especially serious during three drought episodes over the past two decades. The first was 2006 to 2010, the second from 2011 to 2017 and the most recent from 2019 to 2022. The overpumping did not stop during the dry years as large estates of nut trees and other thirsty permanent crops have continued to expand.

Meanwhile, more than a thousand wells dry up each year in the state with the Valley being especially hard hit. The small unincorporated community of West Goshen is an example. Part of the town is hooked up to the water system of nearby Visalia, but about 60 homes rely on private wells. Some of those residences had their wells go dry in those recent droughts.

That is when the CWC stepped in to help. Working with an engineering firm, they worked to identify options to connect with other safe, reliable sources for water. The CWC holds monthly meetings with residents to share information and gather feedback. Other groups like Self Help Enterprises supply funding for small-scale water systems.

The Kaweah subbasin extends from the Sierra Foothills to the center of the Valley; it contains the cities of Visalia and Tulare and a lot of farmland. It is part of the Tulare Lake aquifer. Like most aquifers in the southern San Joaquin Valley, groundwater is currently being pumped out faster than it is recharged.

Stakeholders here formed a groundwater sustainability agency and came up with a plan as required by California's sustainable groundwater law passed in 2014, but the State Water Board's professional staff found deficiencies in the proposal and held a workshop to explain why the state could intervene.

In the 2022 water year, agriculture used 91% of the water with urban consumption at 7% according to the staff report. The plan that the Kaweah Sub-Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency came up with in 2022 failed to protect domestic wells and disadvantaged communities. Some 40% of domestic wells, more than 1,500 wells, could dry up under that plan, and 53 public supply wells would also go dry.

There are other groundwater basins under state scrutiny for plans that staff researchers are finding inadequate. Coming up with equitable groundwater plans will be a major challenge for state regulators and all the stakeholders—farmers, disadvantaged small towns and families—dependent on well water and support groups. State laws and common fairness require that commitment. Water is, after all, a public resource.

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.

CENTRAL VALLEY BRIEFS

Create the Range of Light National Monument

Deanna Wulff, executive director of Unite the Parks, is leading the effort to protect the 1.4 million acres of federal land between Yosemite and Sequoia-Kings Canyon national parks as the Range of Light National Monument. This area between the parks and in the center of the longest interconnected wilderness in the contiguous 48 states presents a rare opportunity to create an integrated ecosystem in one the most biodiverse places in the world.

From the blue oak woodlands to the granite spires of the high alpine, the beauty and biodiversity of the Sierra Nevada is nothing short of remarkable. While the Sierra Nevada takes up only 20% of California's land mass, half of its native plant species live there and more than 400 of its species are found nowhere else on earth, including the infamous giant sequoia and gray wolf. The Range of Light National Monument is home to 24 species listed as endangered or threatened.

Adding 1.4 million acres to America's conserved lands would serve wildlife and significantly advance the Biden administration goal of protecting 30% of the nation's lands by 2030. This monument would preserve and expand forests and soils sequestering carbon and create a wildlife corridor enabling plants and animals to adapt to climate change. Protected landscapes are also the most fire-resilient, and local communities will benefit from the fire safety that parks and monuments provide.

Finally, the new national monument would also increase local employment by nearly 2,900 jobs—providing 40 new jobs for every job displaced. This would catalyze tourism, restoration and recreation while building a future for the region that serves the economy and the environment.

Unite the Parks is encouraging the Biden administration to use the Antiquities Act to create the Range of Light National Monument for people and wildlife for all time. It's a legacy that will last for generations to come.

For more information or to sign on to a letter of support to be sent to President Joe Biden, visit uniteparks.org.

Council on American-Islamic Relations

The Sacramento Valley/Central California office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-SV/CC) reaffirmed its commitment to combating Islamophobia, xenophobia and racism following the reelection of Donald Trump. CAIR-SV/CC also commended California Muslims for turning out to vote in the November election despite deep frustration and disillusionment with both major parties due to their support of Israel's ongoing genocide in Gaza.

In a statement, CAIR-CA CEO Hussam Ayloush said the following:

"No matter who won, we knew there would be work to do. The reelection of Trump has brought concerns to many of us who remember the heightened climate of fear and hostility that followed the 2016 election.

"Our community has not forgotten the rampant Islamophobia, xenophobia and racism during Trump's presidency that sparked one of the largest waves of hate targeting American Muslims that CAIR has seen in its history.

"Amid his reelection, we reaffirm our commitment to defending the civil rights, safety and dignity of American Muslims and every community facing injustice.

"We commend American Muslim voters for making their voices heard in races across the country, and up and down the ballot, in the 2024 election. Our community made it clear: the genocide in Gaza is our red line.

"No politician or party has ownership of the Muslim vote. Going forward, we expect all elected officials to genuinely address the urgent concerns of Muslim voters, including President-elect Trump. It is important for Trump to now recognize that most Americans do not want to see more bigotry here at home or more war overseas.

"We urge the President-elect to pursue peace abroad, beginning with ending U.S. complicity in Israel's genocide in Gaza. However, this must be a real peace based on justice, freedom and a state for the Palestinian people."

Arts Alive in Agriculture

The Fresno Arts Council seeks submissions for the 12th annual "Arts Alive in Agriculture," a juried art exhibition. This competition honors the agricultural roots, resources and traditions of the diverse communities that produce our food in the Central Valley.

The Fresno Arts Council wants to highlight the Central Valley's agricultural industry by exhibiting original works of art created by Central Valley-based artists.

The public is invited to join the Fresno Arts Council in recognizing and celebrating, through the unique vision of local artists, the important role that agriculture plays in the Central Valley and in our lives, on April 17, 2025, at "The Barn" at the San Joaquin Parkway Trust River Center from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The deadline for artist submissions is Feb. 3, 2025. For more information, visit fresnoartscouncil.org or contact andrea@fresnoartscouncil.org.

Community Water Center Action Fund

As we reflect on last week's election results and their impact across the nation, we know many of us are anxious for what's to come. There is still a lot to process and a few key races still haven't been called.

Despite this uncertainty, we cannot deny the impact of our collective power building work. Our teams across Congressional Districts 13 and 22 knocked on 19,500+ doors, made 63,750+ phone calls and went above and beyond to provide rides to polls, pick up ballots and answer questions in communities where this support is critical to making sure people can actually vote.

In a small, rural town in Tulare County, the community of Orosi made their voice heard and elected three new board members to serve on the Orosi Public Utilities District by an overwhelming majority. Angela Ruiz-Alvarez, Nancy Cerda Serna and Serafin Brito ran for these seats with a determination to show change is possible for their community and to make sure Orosi and its neighbors can finally achieve water justice for all.

Finally, California voters approved Proposition 4, which will secure funding for climate change resiliency projects directed to communities in need. This means \$610 million will now be available to fund safe drinking water projects.

This is what building community power looks like. This is the fuel we need to stay connected, heal and continue our work towards water justice. The fight continues.

—Susana De Anda, co-founder and executive director of the Community Water Center

What Trump's Return Means for Ukraine

BY ZARINA ZABRISKY

Donald Trump's election in 2024 signals a geopolitical shift that could put at risk Ukraine's sovereignty and embolden Russian aggression. His administration's ties to the Kremlin, history of transactional diplomacy and promises of isolationism might bring devastating consequences for Ukraine, Europe and the global community.

Trump's Election Celebrated in Russia

Trump's victory in 2024 has been met with celebratory remarks by Russian officials and ideologues.

Former Russian president Dmitry Medvedev directly tied Trump's election to Russia's aggression in Ukraine. He posted on X, "Kamala is finished...Let her keep cackling infectiously. The objectives of the Special Military Operation remain unchanged and will be achieved."

Russian President Vladimir Putin congratulated Trump during his speech at an economic forum and expressed his willingness to engage in dialogue. He said, "What has been said about [Trump's] desire to restore relations with Russia, to help end the Ukrainian crisis, in my opinion, deserves at least attention."

Putin also referenced an assassination attempt on Trump—a statement that, in the context of Kremlin modus operandi, means a veiled threat. Putin's aide Nikolai Patrushev, in an interview with a major Russian publication, followed up with a remark that Trump "relied on certain forces to which he has obligations" and would be "responsible to fulfill them."

When asked about the consequences of Trump failing to meet these obligations, Patrushev ominously noted, "Four U.S. presidents died at the hands of assassins while in office."

Russian philosopher Alexandr Dugin, often referred to as "Putin's brain," declared, "So we have won. That is decisive. The world will be never ever like before. Globalists have lost their final combat. The future is finally open. I am really happy."

Foreign Influence and Trump's Administration Picks

Trump's first administration appointments raise further concerns about the direction of U.S. foreign policy as the composition of his future team reflects a broader alignment with Russian interests. For instance, Susie Wiles, Trump's announced appointment for chief of staff, has a complex history entwined with foreign influence.

Before leading Trump's 2024 campaign, Wiles co-chaired a lobbying firm representing sanctioned Russian oligarchs and companies tied to the Kremlin. Her ex-husband has connections to a Russian lobbyist linked to the infamous 2016 Trump Tower meeting.

Trump's choice for director of national intelligence, Tulsi Gabbard, has been a frequent favorite on Russian state media. She opposed sanctions against Russia and suggested that Ukraine should abandon its NATO aspirations. Her controversial 2017 meeting with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, a close ally of Russia, raised eyebrows about her foreign policy stance.

Bypassing traditional vetting processes and background checks raises major concerns for national security while these picks signal a pivot toward policies that could benefit Russia at the expense of U.S. allies—and Ukraine.

Trump's History with Ukraine

In 2019, Trump faced impeachment for withholding a \$400 million military aid package to Ukraine. The aid, mandated by Congress, was blocked as Trump pressured Ukrainian President Volodymyr

Zelenskyy to announce investigations into his political rival Joe Biden and a debunked theory about Ukraine's interference in the 2016 U.S. election. When a whistleblower complained about these actions, the aid was released.

The House of Representatives impeached Trump for abuse of power and obstruction of Congress. Although the Senate acquitted him, the Government Accountability Office later concluded that withholding the aid violated federal law.

In December 2023, all 49 Republican senators blocked an emergency appropriations bill that included \$61 billion in aid to Ukraine amid the Russian full-scale invasion. The package also encompassed funding for Israel, Taiwan and U.S. border security. President Biden accused Republicans of holding Ukraine aid "hostage."

Anticipated Policies under Trump 2025

In 2025, under Trump's leadership, U.S. policy toward Ukraine will likely shift dramatically, prioritizing a so-called peace deal that would cement Russia's illegal territorial claims and undermine Ukraine's sovereignty.

Reports suggest Trump's advisers are considering a plan to freeze the 1,300-kilometer front line in Ukraine, creating a demilitarized zone while imposing a 20-year moratorium on Ukraine's NATO membership. This proposal would pressure Ukraine to negotiate under coercion, with the U.S. threatening to cut military aid entirely.

In exchange, Washington might promise weapons to deter future aggression—a hollow guarantee given Russia's consistent disregard for international agreements. These measures would grant Putin time to regroup while leaving Ukraine vulnerable to future invasions.

Beyond this deal, Trump could lift sanctions imposed after the annexation of Crimea and return billions in frozen Russian assets. In 2017, Trump reportedly sought to ease sanctions on Russia but was constrained by the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA), which Congress passed overwhelmingly in response to Russian election interference, aggression in Ukraine and cyber activities.

CAATSA codified existing sanctions, imposed new ones and limited the President's authority to lift them without Congressional approval. Trump reluctantly signed the bill, criticizing its constraints on executive power. With a Republican-controlled Senate and House of Representatives, he might now face fewer obstacles in fulfilling this agenda. The removal of sanctions would provide Russia with economic relief, fueling its military ambitions.

Ukraine: Between Two Evils

In case the Russia appeasement plan succeeds, hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians trapped in occupied territories would face the erasure of identity through bans on the Ukrainian language and cultural heritage, forced adoption of Russian citizenship and indoctrination through militarized education for children.

Politically, Ukraine's aspirations for NATO membership would falter, leaving the country vulnerable to future aggression. Economically, the lack of international investment and aid would further isolate Ukraine from global markets, reducing its capacity to rebuild and contributing to regional instability.

Another overlooked issue is Russia's forced conscription of Ukrainian men in occupied territories. This practice not only violates international laws and human rights but also strengthens Russia's military by coercing Ukrainians to serve. According to Russian state media and officials, these efforts align with Moscow's openly stated ambition to march "on Berlin."

In 2014, the slogan "Today Crimea, tomorrow Rome," linked to Russia's concept of the "Third Rome," emerged during the annexation of Crimea. This phrase reflects Russia's historical narrative of Moscow as the successor to the Roman and Byzantine empires, reinforcing expansionist ambitions

OPINION & ANALYSIS

under the guise of protecting Orthodox Christianity.

If Ukraine persists and turns down "the deal," the withdrawal of U.S. military and financial aid would have catastrophic implications. Without sustained support, critical infrastructure in Ukraine-controlled territories, already damaged by relentless Russian attacks, would remain in disrepair, crippling the economy. Reparations for the destruction caused by Russia's invasion would become unattainable.

Russian Strategy Ahead of Anticipated "Peace Deal"

Russia aims to maximize territorial gains in the Donbas, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions before Trump's Jan. 20, 2025, inauguration to strengthen its position for anticipated negotiations, leveraging territories it has formally declared as part of the Russian Federation through disputed referendums and a constitutional decree signed by Putin.

Russian forces have advanced in the Donbas region, sustaining massive casualties but seizing more territory in a recent week than at any prior 2024 period. Russia is targeting the Zaporizhzhia region with artillery, aerial-guided bombs and might open a new front in this direction. In the Kherson region, the Russian military has intensified assaults, unsuccessfully attempting to regain the islands in the Dnipro River.

The Russian army is also seeking to regain the lost territory in the Ukraine-controlled Kursk region, where Ukraine's August offensive captured 1,000 square kilometers. Russia has since mobilized 50,000 troops, including North Koreans, and reclaimed half of the territory.

Russia continues its strikes on Ukraine's energy infrastructure, as well as nightly Iranian-made Shahed drone attacks in the Odesa, Kyiv, Chernihiv and Sumy regions; aerial bombings in Kharkiv; and escalated "human safari" tactics in the Kherson and Dnipropetrovsk regions, targeting civilians to destabilize the economy and erode morale.

Call for Countermeasures

The Biden administration should take proactive steps before Trump's inauguration to safeguard Ukraine and maintain international stability. The Biden administration should accelerate weapons deliveries to Ukraine, ensuring it has the resources to defend itself against Russian aggression. This includes providing advanced long-range systems, enabling Ukraine to strike military targets within Russian territory.

The window for decisive action is narrow. The Biden administration and its allies must act swiftly to empower Ukraine and prepare for a geopolitical landscape reshaped by Trump's return to the White House. Delay could embolden Russia, undermine democratic institutions and destabilize the global order.

Global Instability

With the U.S. position changing, European nations need to increase military spending, coordinate defense strategies and ensure the continuity of support for Ukraine. The European Union should also take the lead in imposing additional sanctions on Russia and addressing loopholes that allow Moscow to evade existing measures.

However, European internal challenges complicate such responses. Political instability in Germany, economic pressures and migration crises strain European unity. Without a cohesive and robust strategy, Europe might struggle to provide the military and financial aid Ukraine needs to defend itself. Strengthening alliances with countries such as Japan, South Korea and Australia could counterbalance the vacuum left by potential U.S. policy shifts under Trump.

The ripple effects of U.S. disengagement could extend far beyond Europe. Iran's regional ambitions, bolstered by decreasing U.S. influence, could escalate tensions in the Middle East. China's assertive foreign policy, coupled with growing ties to Russia, poses a direct challenge to the international order. Russia's alliances with states like North Korea and its influence in Africa could further destabilize global geopolitics.

Conclusion

Trump's history of leveraging Ukraine's vulnerabilities for personal or political advantage, coupled with GOP resistance to providing critical support, risks destabilizing not only Ukraine but also emboldening authoritarian regimes worldwide.

Zarina Zabriskey is an American journalist and an award-winning novelist currently reporting on the Russian war in Ukraine. She is a war correspondent for *Bywire News (UK)*; writes a *Daily Review* column for *Euromaidan Press*, an online Ukrainian English-language independent newspaper since 2014; and contributes articles and podcasts on information warfare, reports from the sites and interviews military experts and eyewitnesses for these and other publications, including *The Byline Times (UK)* and the *Community Alliance newspaper (Fresno)*.

PROVIDE FEEDBACK.
E-MAIL EDITOR@
FRESNOALLIANCE.COM.



National Women's Political Caucus (NWPC) is a multi-partisan, multi-racial, 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. Dinner Meetings the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm at Toledo's Restaurant at Shaw and Blackstone. \$18.00 at the door

PO Box 5553
Fresno, CA 93755-5553
nwpcfresno.org

Contact: Cathy Brass 559-225-5433(home) or 559-256-6347(work)
Follow us: facebook

Women are the largest untapped reservoir of talent in the world. – Hillary Clinton

In memory of our past president, Carol Bequette.

Los Indocumentados de Merced se Preparan para las Políticas de Inmigración de Trump en Medio de Temores de Deportación Masiva

Continúa de página 28

“Las deportaciones masivas van a dañar nuestra economía en primer lugar”, dijo, “Nuestra gente que viene a este país no viene... por elección. No me gustaría irme del país en el que nací. La violencia nos lleva por otros caminos”.

Ana Padilla, directora ejecutiva del Centro Comunitario y Laboral de UC Merced, dijo que el condado de Merced tiene la tercera tasa más alta de residentes no ciudadanos en California, con un 16.9%. Esta cifra incluye tanto a las personas indocumentadas como a las que tienen residencia legal.

“Los residentes no ciudadanos no necesariamente significan personas indocumentadas”, dijo Padilla. “Podría significar personas que tienen la cartilla de residencia. Pero por lo general, en los condados con altas tasas de residentes no ciudadanos, hay muchas personas indocumentadas”.

Padilla destacó además los desafíos que enfrenta la población inmigrante de la región.

“En el condado de Merced, el 11.4% de los trabajadores en el noreste son trabajadores agrícolas”, dijo Padilla. “En el oeste y el sur, incluyendo ciudades como Los Baños y Livingston, la tasa es aún más alta, del 13.4%”.

En ciertas comunidades, el porcentaje de trabajadores agrícolas es aún mayor, lo que refleja la dependencia de la zona de la mano de obra agrícola.

“Sabemos que la mayoría de los trabajadores agrícolas en California son indocumentados”, dijo.

Si bien el centro no ha realizado un estudio específico sobre los impactos económicos de las deportaciones masivas, Padilla dijo que sus datos permiten algunas suposiciones.

“La mayor propuesta de deportación tendría implicaciones de largo alcance”, explicó. “Trastomaría las vidas de la mayoría de los trabajadores agrícolas en el condado de Merced, creando un efecto dominó en la economía local y más allá, tocando todas las mesas del país”.

Vivir con miedo constante

Corchado, quien trabaja principalmente con comunidades de trabajadores agrícolas, ya ha visto el impacto de la reelección de Trump en la comunidad.

“Creo que la gente todavía está en estado de shock... que fue reelegido”, dijo. “Sus políticas de inmigración y esas amenazas de inmigración tienen a la gente preocupada, con mucha ansiedad y miedo”.

Para Corchado, los temores no son infundados. Durante el mandato anterior de Trump, las políticas y la retórica dirigidas a los migrantes indocumentados trajeron inmensas dificultades y ansiedad a las comunidades migrantes.

Ella recuerda cómo esos años se vivieron como si estuviera bien el comportamiento discriminatorio.

“Lo que salió de sus cuatro años en el cargo fue casi un permiso para ser racista, ser sexista, discriminar, ser simplemente malvado”, dijo, reflexionando sobre un período que muchos en su comunidad sintieron

VISITE NUESTRO SITIO WEB

Todo nuestro contenido está disponible en línea para que lo lea

<https://fresnoalliance.com/>

que se definió por la tensión y la hostilidad. “Le dio permiso a la gente para lastimar a la gente, para lastimar a otros”.

La historia de resiliencia de Randu

Para Randu, Estados Unidos se convirtió rápidamente en su hogar después de mudarse aquí con su familia. Terminó el segundo grado y comenzó el tercero en Merced, adaptándose a una nueva cultura y aprendiendo un nuevo idioma.

Académicamente, sobresalió, particularmente en matemáticas: “Las matemáticas eran bastante fáciles cuando llegué aquí”, recordó, “pero aparte de eso, todo estaba un poco perdido”.

Al crecer, Randu y su madre, que también permaneció indocumentada, aprendieron a navegar por las complejidades y limitaciones de su estatus.

Su padre, titular de una tarjeta verde, conducía camiones a través de la frontera entre Estados Unidos y México, pero hoy es Randu quien soporta el peso de la incertidumbre para la familia.

“Empiezas a perder la esperanza poco a poco”, dijo. “Fui a la escuela, trabajé duro, obtuve mi título en justicia penal... solo para descubrir que la mayoría de los lugares no te contratan porque eres indocumentado”.

Randu se graduó de la universidad con un promedio de calificaciones de 3.9 y entró en la lista del decano, pero las puertas permanecieron cerradas para él.

Después de la universidad, con opciones limitadas, Randu comenzó a trabajar en la construcción, un trabajo físicamente exigente lejos de sus aspiraciones académicas.

“Fue un dolor despertar y darme cuenta de la construcción, sabiendo que tenía una licencia en mi pared”, admitió. “Mis padres siempre pensaron que una vez que tuviera un título, no tendría que hacer estos trabajos duros. Pero allí estaba yo, conduciendo hasta el Área de la Bahía, a veces incluso quedándome en las montañas de la Sierra durante la semana para trabajar en cabañas”.

El costo mental en la comunidad

Como director de una organización sin fines de lucro, Corchado siente la urgencia de brindar apoyo emocional y psicológico a la comunidad indocumentada, que vive a diario con la posibilidad de deportación y separación familiar.

“Realmente necesitamos aumentar nuestros servicios de apoyo a la salud mental para nuestra comunidad inmigrante”, dijo. “Creo que vivir a diario bajo este estrés y de lo desconocido, pasa factura a tu psicología. Pasa factura a tu salud mental”.

Mientras Randu trata de vivir lo más tranquilamente posible, contribuyendo positivamente a su comunidad e intentando pasar desapercibido, sus frustraciones con el sistema son palpables.

“Fue una decepción ver a la gente de mi edad votar en contra de políticas que beneficiarían a personas como yo”, dijo. “Empiezas a perder la esperanza. Solo estoy aquí tratando de vivir una buena vida, trabajando, pagando impuestos, sin causar ningún problema, pero se

De cara al futuro, espera seguir trabajando y manteniendo a su familia, aunque eso significue permanecer en las sombras.

“Les deseo lo mejor a todos, indocumentados o no”, dijo. “No creo que nadie deba ser considerado un criminal solo por querer una vida mejor”.

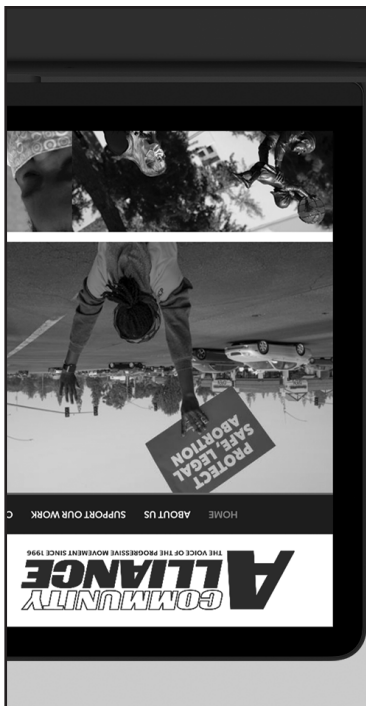
La relativa red de seguridad del estado para los inmigrantes indocumentados ofrece cierta tranquilidad para Corchado.

“Lo que me ayuda, como directora de una organización sin fines de lucro, es el hecho de que estamos en California”, dijo. “Espero que el estado de California haga algo completamente radical que continúe protegiendo a nuestras comunidades de inmigrantes”.

Mientras Randu navega por su vida diaria, con la esperanza de permanecer bajo el radar, Corchado, junto con otros defensores, permanecen atentos, preparados para trabajar con los legisladores locales para asegurar protecciones para las personas indocumentadas.

“Reuniremos a todas nuestras promotoras, y reuniremos a los trabajadores agrícolas y haremos lo que sea necesario para asegurarnos de que estén protegidos”, dijo Corchado. “Si tenemos que ir al Capitolio, estaremos allí para abogar junto a nuestra comunidad”.

Christian de Jesus Betancourt es reportero de Merced FOCUS.



El periódico Community Alliance (Alianza Comunitaria) se publica mensualmente por San Joaquin Valley Media Alliance, ubicada en 1584 N. Van Ness Ave., Fresno, CA 93728. El periódico Community Alliance (Alianza Comunitaria) se distribuye gratis o por suscripción. Las suscripciones son de \$40 por año; \$60 por año para activistas; y \$15 para personas de bajos ingresos.

Desde 1996, Alianza Comunitaria ha sido una voz progresista independiente para el Valle Central de San Joaquin. Alianza Comunitaria aboga por la justicia racial, social, ambiental y económica; la igualdad de derechos para todos, incluidos los inmigrantes, las personas sin hogar y la comunidad LGBTQ+; Acceso a una educación pública gratuita y de calidad para todos; Acceso a la atención sanitaria para todos; Un salario digno para todos los trabajadores. Nuestro objetivo es exponer los problemas raciales, sociales, medioambientales y económicos e injusticias políticas. Ayudaremos a construir un poderoso movimiento progresista que hará que todas nuestras comunidades sean más seguras, más sanas, más equitativas y más habitables.

EDITOR

Eduardo Stanley
editor@fresnoalliance.com

DIRECTOR EJECUTIVO

Mike Rhodes
mikerrhodes@fresnoalliance.com
559-978-4502

MESA DIRECTIVA, SECCIÓN NO LUCRATIVA

Beverly Fitzpatrick
Olga Loza
Jim Mendez
Pam Whalen

COMPAGINADORA

Ashley Harper

DISTRIBUCIÓN/ FOTOGRAFÍA

Peter Malden
maldenfoto1@gmail.com

PUBLICIDAD

I. smiley G. Calderón
714-290-6651 (text)
smileycalderon@gmail.com
(También habla español)

CORRECTOR DE PRUEBAS

Michael D. Evans

SUSCRIPCIÓN

Envíe \$60
(constructor del movimiento progresista), \$40 (regular) or \$15 (bajo ingreso) a:

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE
P.O. Box 5077
Fresno, CA 93755
fresnoalliance.com

ENVIO DE ARTICULOS PARA PUBLICACIÓN

El 15 de mes previo.
Artículos 800-1,200 palabras.
E-mail editor@fresnoalliance.com.

Calendario de Paz y Justicia Social:
Por favor envíe sus eventos
para anunciarlos a:
calendar@fresnoalliance.com
el 15 de mes previo.

Cartas al Editor:

Hasta 200 palabras.
E-mail editor@fresnoalliance.com.

El periódico Alianza Comunitaria se reserva el derecho de editar los artículos por razones de espacio y claridad. Alianza Comunitaria se imprime en papel reciclado. Alianza Comunitaria es una entidad 501(c)(4).

**Ciudad de Fresno
 Departamento de Planificación y Desarrollo Aviso Público
 Audiencia Pública para el Plan Consolidado, el Plan de Acción Anual, el
 Análisis de los Obstáculos a la Elección de Vivienda Justa y el Plan de
 Participación Ciudadana**

La Ciudad de Fresno está desarrollando su Plan Consolidado a cinco años, que incluye el Plan de Acción Anual 2025-2026, el Análisis de Obstáculos a la Elección de Vivienda Justa y el Plan de Participación Ciudadana. Como beneficiaria de fondos del Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de EE.UU. (HUD, por sus siglas en inglés), la ciudad debe desarrollar un Plan Consolidado que evaluará el actual mercado de la vivienda, analizará las características de la población de la ciudad, identificará las metas de mejoramiento de la comunidad y esbozará un plan de cinco años para financiar e implementar las prioridades hasta el 2029. El Plan de Acción Anual identificará los proyectos que la Ciudad planea implementar en 2025-2026 utilizando fondos del HUD en el marco de los programas de Subvenciones en Bloque para el Desarrollo Comunitario (CDBG, por sus siglas en inglés), Asociaciones para la Inversión en Viviendas (HOME, por sus siglas en inglés), Subvenciones para Soluciones de Emergencia (ESG, por sus siglas en inglés) y Oportunidades de Vivienda para Personas con SIDA (HOPWA, por sus siglas en inglés).

Se llevará a cabo un estudio independiente denominado Análisis de los Obstáculos a la Elección de Vivienda Justa (AO) para identificar y abordar los obstáculos a la igualdad de acceso a la elección de una vivienda en la ciudad. El AO incluirá estrategias y acciones para superar cualquier obstáculo identificado con el fin de promover la elección de una vivienda justa para todas las personas.

Además, la Ciudad debe adoptar un Plan de Participación Ciudadana (PPC) que establezca las políticas y procedimientos de la Ciudad para la participación ciudadana en la planificación, ejecución y evaluación del Plan Consolidado, los Planes de Acción Anuales, las Enmiendas Sustanciales y los Informes Anuales Consolidados de Evaluación del Desempeño. El PPC ofrece directrices para que la Ciudad facilite y fomente la participación pública de los residentes, las partes interesadas de la comunidad y los beneficiarios de subvenciones en el proceso de redacción, implementación y evaluación del Plan Consolidado y los documentos relacionados. El proceso de participación ciudadana incluye actividades de divulgación, audiencias públicas, foros comunitarios y oportunidades para formular opiniones.

Las opiniones y apreciaciones de los residentes son una parte importante de estos procesos. Para aportar su opinión, se invita a todos los residentes a asistir a una audiencia pública el 12 de diciembre de 2024 a las 9:25 a.m. o después. Las instrucciones de participación estarán disponibles 72 horas antes de la audiencia en fresno.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx.

Si necesita adaptaciones adicionales, como intérpretes de lenguaje de señas o los servicios de un traductor, póngase en contacto con la oficina del Secretario Municipal en el (559) 621-7650 o clerk@fresno.gov al menos tres días hábiles antes de la reunión. Las actualizaciones del proyecto y la información adicional sobre el mismo están disponibles en línea en www.FresnoConPlan.org.

La Justicia del Agua es Vital Para el Futuro de las Comunidades del Valle

POR VIC BEDOIAN

Lindsay es una ciudad productora de cítricos y olivos en el condado de Tulare. Los exuberantes huertos que abrazan el paisaje circundante prosperan gracias al agua del sistema de canales de California y del agua subterránea del Valle de San Joaquín. Pero algunos de los residentes aquí, incluidos Irma Medellín y su familia, no pueden beber agua

del grifo.

“Lo primero que enfrentamos es por qué tenemos que pagar tanto dinero por nuestra agua, porque pagamos por el agua del grifo, pero luego dicen que esa agua no es buena”. A Medellín no le parece correcto que cada mes su familia pagara \$60 por agua del grifo

insalubre y otros \$60 por agua embotellada.

Verónica Mendoza vive en Orosi. Dijo que su hijo sufre de sarpullidos después de ducharse. “Todos los días después de secarlo con una toalla, le salen sarpullidos como manchas rojas. Y mis vecinos tienen los dientes amarillos y negros. El médico dijo que es el agua”.

Otros problemas denunciados incluyen enfermedades renales y de vesícula biliar y abortos espontáneos.

Cristóbal Chávez, su esposa, dos hijos y sus seis hijos adoptivos viven en su granja de 15 acres al oeste de Porterville. No pueden beber el agua de su propio pozo.

Sentado a la sombra de un enorme árbol de moras, Chávez explica un informe reciente sobre el agua de su pozo: nitratos con nivel cuatro veces más altos que lo que se considera seguro, recuentos de bacterias coliformes mucho mayores que el umbral de seguridad. Reconoce que su familia debe comprar agua para uso doméstico. “Sí, no podemos beberla en absoluto, ni lavar platos ni cocinar”.

Algunas de las familias más trabajadoras del Valle Central pagan algunas de las tarifas de agua más altas del estado por agua tóxica. Para muchos, se necesita el 10% de los ingresos del hogar solo para tener agua potable segura. Chávez gasta \$200 al mes para comprar agua embotellada. Eso es algo común para miles de residentes del Valle, especialmente aquellos con pozos privados o en pequeños sistemas de agua comunitarios.

Esto se debe principalmente a que la purificación del agua o la perforación de un nuevo pozo son costosas y, por lo general, no son una opción viable. Además, muchas escuelas del Valle no pueden proporcionar agua potable. Hasta hace unos años, ni los burócratas del estado ni los funcionarios locales hicieron nada al respecto. Chávez dice que nunca le advirtieron a él ni a su familia sobre la mala calidad del agua.

En otras partes del Valle, el agua potable excede los niveles máximos de contaminantes de uranio y arsénico. La contaminación es el resultado de productos químicos agrícolas que se han filtrado en las aguas subterráneas y de minerales que se producen naturalmente en el subsuelo.

Rodeado de huertos y viñedos, Seville tiene 75 casas y 350 residentes que son principalmente trabajadores agrícolas con un salario promedio de \$16,000 al año. Como muchas otras áreas rurales, la gente no debería beber el agua, y el pueblo es demasiado pequeño para hacer algo al respecto.

Seville estaba abastecida por una tubería deteriorada que corría por una zanja abierta. La tubería con fugas estaba absorbiendo algas, arena y bacterias en el sistema de agua de Seville. La situación era tan mala que el condado tuvo que aceptar la administración judicial de un sistema de agua primitivo y averiado.

Rebecca Quintana, que creció y crió a su familia en Seville, estaba entadaada por las condiciones: “Siempre le he dicho a todo el mundo que en la ciudad de Seville es como si viviéramos en un país del tercer mundo. Esto no debería existir aquí en el estado de California”.

Quintana decidió hacer algo al respecto. Se puso en contacto con el Centro Comunitario del Agua (CWC) con sede en Visalia.

El CWC ha sido una potencia en el mundo de la defensa y la organización del agua desde su fundación en 2006 por la organizadora Susana De Anda y la abogada Laurel Firestone. Se especializan en una amplia gama de actividades, entre ellas la creación de poder político en las comunidades, el desarrollo de proyectos de agua potable para ayudar a familias y pueblos individuales, y la defensa en el Capitolio y en todo el estado de políticas que proporcionen agua potable y asequible.

El grupo llenó un gran vacío en el cuidado de la calidad de vida de tantos residentes del Valle que, de hecho, vivían como si estuvieran en un país del tercer mundo. Eso es lo que llevó a Catarina de Albuquerque a Seville en 2011. La CWC la convenció de que las condiciones en el Valle, especialmente en el condado de Tulare, justificaban una misión de la ONU. En septiembre de 2010, las Naciones Unidas declararon oficialmente el derecho humano al agua y al saneamiento, con la adhesión de Estados Unidos. La abogada portuguesa de derechos humanos fue designada Relatora de la ONU sobre el derecho humano al agua en 2008. Ha investigado las condiciones de vida en Egipto, Costa Rica, Bangladesh, Eslovenia y Japón.

En Seville, de Albuquerque explicó el derecho humano al agua. “Significa que el agua y el saneamiento tienen que estar disponibles. Tienen que ser accesibles y, obviamente, Bangladesh, Eslovenia y Japón.

Al reflexionar sobre lo que vio en el Valle, de Albuquerque dice que “no hay ningún país que haya visitado, rico o pobre, donde no haya problemas. En los países más ricos lo que veo es una presencia aún más profunda de discriminación. Creo que es una falta de voluntad política. Por lo tanto, son los patrones constantes de discriminación y exclusión los que, lamentablemente, veo por todas partes”.

Más tarde ese año, presentó el Informe del Relator Especial sobre el Derecho Humano al Agua Potable y al Saneamiento al Consejo de Derechos Humanos de la ONU que documentaba sus hallazgos. Observó que el condado de Tulare es uno de los principales condados de producción agrícola de California. Tiene una población mayoritariamente latina. Y que es el condado más pobre del estado. Su investigación subrayó lo que los residentes locales y los investigadores de la comunidad ya habrían descubierto.

“El condado de Tulare tiene muchos sistemas públicos de agua con niveles de nitratos superiores al nivel máximo de contaminante (MCL) de 45 partes por millón. Aproximadamente el 20% de los pequeños sistemas públicos de agua del condado de Tulare no pueden cumplir con el MCL de nitratos de manera regular.

El experto independiente recibió testimonio de varias comunidades rurales del condado de Tulare. Estas comunidades padecen de agua potable contaminada con nitratos, arsénico, pesticidas prohibidos y subproductos desinfectantes. Seville, una pequeña comunidad de bajos ingresos, es un ejemplo de los problemas más amplios que afectan al condado de Tulare”.

Música Viva

interesado en descubrir nuevas piezas

para esta inusual combinación musical, a menudo encargando y estrenando piezas de compositores estadounidenses. Además, el dúo ha estado interpretando música del Holocasto durante muchos años y ha dado recitales de conferencias por todo Estados Unidos y Canadá sobre la música y las condiciones de los campos de concentración durante el Holocausto.

La violinista Doering es una intérprete solista polifacética, músico de cámara, ejecutante de orquesta y directora. También enseña, realiza clínicas y acta como juez en concursos por todo el país.

Este mes se llevarán a cabo cuatro conciertos gratuitos de Adviento en el Valle Central (consulte la programación del 16 al 19 de diciembre en la página 27).

Wulfhorst, violonchelista, ha realizado numerosas actuaciones como solista, músico de cámara e intérprete de orquesta. Ahora es miembro de la “Flarmonica Freeway” y cada semana toca con una orquesta diferente. Es codirector (con Doering) de Música Viva, una organización que ofrece conciertos gratuitos de música de cámara en todo el Valle Central de California.

El Dúo Esmeralda explora el repertorio inusual de composiciones originales para violín y violonchelo y siempre está de los temas de luz y esperanza.

Este mes se llevarán a cabo cuatro conciertos gratuitos de Adviento en el Valle Central (consulte la programación del 16 al 19 de diciembre en la página 27).

El tema de este conjunto de conciertos es “Reflexiones de Adviento a través de palabras y música: luz y esperanza”, que incluye lecturas de varios poetas, autores, filósofos y líderes espirituales. Y ofrece un escape imaginativo de las preocupaciones sobre las muchas guerras que se desatan, las inquietudes que se avencinan y las incertidumbres de nuestro mundo en este momento.

Mientras el mundo entra en la temporada de Adviento (según los cristianos, las cuatro semanas previas a la Navidad en la que celebra el nacimiento de Jesús) años y ha dado recitales de conferencias por todo Estados Unidos y Canadá sobre la música y las condiciones de los campos de concentración durante el Holocausto.

La violinista Doering es una intérprete solista polifacética, músico de cámara, ejecutante de orquesta y directora. También enseña, realiza clínicas y acta como juez en concursos por todo el país.

Este mes se llevarán a cabo cuatro conciertos gratuitos de Adviento en el Valle Central (consulte la programación del 16 al 19 de diciembre en la página 27).

Wulfhorst, violonchelista, ha realizado numerosas actuaciones como solista, músico de cámara e intérprete de orquesta. Ahora es miembro de la “Flarmonica Freeway” y cada semana toca con una orquesta diferente. Es codirector (con Doering) de Música Viva, una organización que ofrece conciertos gratuitos de música de cámara en todo el Valle Central de California.

interesado en descubrir nuevas piezas

Continúa en página 25

¿Por qué, en 2023, es demasiado difícil proporcionar de manera inmediata y permanente garantía que los pozos domésticos no se sequen cada vez que los niveles de precipitación aguan potable segura al 2,5% de la población del estado? Por qué es demasiado difícil pregunta políticamente incómoda de por qué aún queda mucho trabajo por hacer.

Asignó unos 130 millones de dólares anuales para una variedad de proyectos para mejorar la infraestructura. Newsom siguió asignando 10 millones de dólares para proyectos de agua potable de emergencia y 10 millones de dólares para ayudar a que los distritos de agua locales cumplan con los estándares de agua potable.

En el décimo aniversario de la ley del Derecho Humano al Agua (HRTW, por sus siglas en inglés), la Red de Impacto del Agua de California ofreció su evaluación del impacto y el alcance de la medida, lo que sugiere una deficiencia de voluntad política para cumplir con los objetivos integrales de la ley HRTW. “Gran parte de los comentarios en torno al décimo aniversario de la ley HRTW se pueden resumir como ‘se han logrado avances, pero aún queda mucho trabajo por hacer’.

Si bien esto es cierto e inobjetable a primera vista, evita la pregunta política de por qué aún queda mucho trabajo por hacer. Si bien esto es cierto e inobjetable a primera vista, evita la pregunta política de por qué aún queda mucho trabajo por hacer.

Asignó unos 130 millones de dólares anuales para una variedad de proyectos para mejorar la infraestructura. Newsom siguió asignando 10 millones de dólares para proyectos de agua potable de emergencia y 10 millones de dólares para ayudar a que los distritos de agua locales cumplan con los estándares de agua potable.

En el décimo aniversario de la ley del Derecho Humano al Agua (HRTW, por sus siglas en inglés), la Red de Impacto del Agua de California ofreció su evaluación del impacto y el alcance de la medida, lo que sugiere una deficiencia de voluntad política para cumplir con los objetivos integrales de la ley HRTW. “Gran parte de los comentarios en torno al décimo aniversario de la ley HRTW se pueden resumir como ‘se han logrado avances, pero aún queda mucho trabajo por hacer’.

Si bien esto es cierto e inobjetable a primera vista, evita la pregunta política de por qué aún queda mucho trabajo por hacer. Si bien esto es cierto e inobjetable a primera vista, evita la pregunta política de por qué aún queda mucho trabajo por hacer.

Asignó unos 130 millones de dólares anuales para una variedad de proyectos para mejorar la infraestructura. Newsom siguió asignando 10 millones de dólares para proyectos de agua potable de emergencia y 10 millones de dólares para ayudar a que los distritos de agua locales cumplan con los estándares de agua potable.

En el décimo aniversario de la ley del Derecho Humano al Agua (HRTW, por sus siglas en inglés), la Red de Impacto del Agua de California ofreció su evaluación del impacto y el alcance de la medida, lo que sugiere una deficiencia de voluntad política para cumplir con los objetivos integrales de la ley HRTW. “Gran parte de los comentarios en torno al décimo aniversario de la ley HRTW se pueden resumir como ‘se han logrado avances, pero aún queda mucho trabajo por hacer’.

Si bien esto es cierto e inobjetable a primera vista, evita la pregunta política de por qué aún queda mucho trabajo por hacer. Si bien esto es cierto e inobjetable a primera vista, evita la pregunta política de por qué aún queda mucho trabajo por hacer.

Asignó unos 130 millones de dólares anuales para una variedad de proyectos para mejorar la infraestructura. Newsom siguió asignando 10 millones de dólares para proyectos de agua potable de emergencia y 10 millones de dólares para ayudar a que los distritos de agua locales cumplan con los estándares de agua potable.

En el décimo aniversario de la ley del Derecho Humano al Agua (HRTW, por sus siglas en inglés), la Red de Impacto del Agua de California ofreció su evaluación del impacto y el alcance de la medida, lo que sugiere una deficiencia de voluntad política para cumplir con los objetivos integrales de la ley HRTW. “Gran parte de los comentarios en torno al décimo aniversario de la ley HRTW se pueden resumir como ‘se han logrado avances, pero aún queda mucho trabajo por hacer’.

Si bien esto es cierto e inobjetable a primera vista, evita la pregunta política de por qué aún queda mucho trabajo por hacer. Si bien esto es cierto e inobjetable a primera vista, evita la pregunta política de por qué aún queda mucho trabajo por hacer.

Asignó unos 130 millones de dólares anuales para una variedad de proyectos para mejorar la infraestructura. Newsom siguió asignando 10 millones de dólares para proyectos de agua potable de emergencia y 10 millones de dólares para ayudar a que los distritos de agua locales cumplan con los estándares de agua potable.

En el décimo aniversario de la ley del Derecho Humano al Agua (HRTW, por sus siglas en inglés), la Red de Impacto del Agua de California ofreció su evaluación del impacto y el alcance de la medida, lo que sugiere una deficiencia de voluntad política para cumplir con los objetivos integrales de la ley HRTW. “Gran parte de los comentarios en torno al décimo aniversario de la ley HRTW se pueden resumir como ‘se han logrado avances, pero aún queda mucho trabajo por hacer’.

Si bien esto es cierto e inobjetable a primera vista, evita la pregunta política de por qué aún queda mucho trabajo por hacer. Si bien esto es cierto e inobjetable a primera vista, evita la pregunta política de por qué aún queda mucho trabajo por hacer.

Asignó unos 130 millones de dólares anuales para una variedad de proyectos para mejorar la infraestructura. Newsom siguió asignando 10 millones de dólares para proyectos de agua potable de emergencia y 10 millones de dólares para ayudar a que los distritos de agua locales cumplan con los estándares de agua potable.

En el décimo aniversario de la ley del Derecho Humano al Agua (HRTW, por sus siglas en inglés), la Red de Impacto del Agua de California ofreció su evaluación del impacto y el alcance de la medida, lo que sugiere una deficiencia de voluntad política para cumplir con los objetivos integrales de la ley HRTW. “Gran parte de los comentarios en torno al décimo aniversario de la ley HRTW se pueden resumir como ‘se han logrado avances, pero aún queda mucho trabajo por hacer’.

Si bien esto es cierto e inobjetable a primera vista, evita la pregunta política de por qué aún queda mucho trabajo por hacer. Si bien esto es cierto e inobjetable a primera vista, evita la pregunta política de por qué aún queda mucho trabajo por hacer.



Un residente del condado de Tulare después de recibir agua embotellada que él y su familia usan para cocinar y beber.

ARTE Y CULTURA DE FRESNO

CALENDARIO DICIEMBRE 2024

Colocando la X otra vez en "Xmas" 8 p.m. Fulton 55. La legendaria banda de punk X, con su agrupación original, presentándose en su tour de despedida; vive la energía de la banda que cambió la escena de la música punk de Los Angeles e influyó a innumerables artistas. \$49

Domingo Gratis en el Museo de Arte 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Domingo gracias a la Medida P de Acceso Ampliado al Arte y la Cultura administrada por el Fresno Arts Council.

Taller de Folletos de Poesía Bilingüe 1 p.m.-3 p.m. Arte Americanas. Taller creativo en el que los participantes elaboran folletos de poesía bilingües. Se requiere inscripción y pago de materiales.

Roca Británica 6: El Cap, The Alps y Devils Tower 6:30 p.m.-9 p.m. Crest Theatre. SoYo Collective presenta una serie de filmes recopilados por el mundialmente conocido cineasta británico Alistair Lee, que muestra algunas de las escaladas en roca más emblemáticas del mundo en un evento para recaudar fondos para los esfuerzos de conservación local del SoYo Collective. \$28.52

Música de Cámara Música Viva 7 p.m. First Memorial Church, 1208 L St., Reedley. (ver artículo en la página 26)

Música de Cámara Música Viva 7 p.m. University Presbyterian Church. (ver artículo en la página 26)

Por qué No Los Miércoles 5 p.m.-9 p.m. Fulton St. (calles Mono a Fresno). Feria callejera que transforma Fulton Street en un vibrante mercado emergente, con una mezcla diversa de vendedores, camiones de comida, artistas y música en vivo. \$59-490-9966

Música de Cámara Música Viva 6:30 p.m. Concordia Lutheran Church, 1800 Sierra St., Kingsburg. (ver artículo en la página 26)

Música de Cámara Música Viva 4 p.m. St. James Episcopal Cathedral, 4147 E. Dakota Ave. (ver artículo en la página 26)

ArtHop 5 p.m.-8 p.m. Fresno Metro Area. Entrada gratis a exhibiciones, galerías, actuaciones especiales y experiencias artísticas únicas para los amantes de todas las edades del arte.

Posada Navideña 5 p.m. Arte Americanas. Celebrate Las Posadas en la Librería Donceles, un proyecto de práctica social creado por Pablo Heigüera.

Creando con Tamales 2 p.m.-4 p.m. Arte Americanas. Un evento cultural que explora la tradición de la elaboración de tamales.

Comedia en la Cervecería 8 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Full Circle Brewing. Una noche de risas con Doknow, una de las estrellas de más rápido ascenso en la comedia stand-up, encabezando su primer espectáculo en Fresno.

Fiesta Navidad 4 p.m. Tower Theatre. Esta popular actuación festiva y alegre de Marichi Los Camperos celebra y honra las tradiciones culturales únicas de México. \$47.07+

CONVOCATORIA PARA ARTISTAS

El Fresno Arts Council y la Ciudad de Fresno están solicitando nominaciones para el próximo Poeta Laureado de la Ciudad 2025-2027. Fecha límite: Enero 24, 2025. fresnoartscouncilsubmit@fresnoartscouncil.com

The Fresno International Transportation Innovations (FTI) 2025 S.T.E.P. Summit invita a artistas a explorar y reimaginar la belleza del transporte a base de energía limpia y renovable. Fecha límite: Enero 31, 2025. fresnoartscouncilsubmit.org

Envía eventos relacionados con las artes a fresnoartscouncil@fresnoartscouncil.com antes del día 15 del mes previo a su publicación.



San Joaquin Valley Media Alliance está financiada por la Medida P de Acceso Ampliado al Arte y la Cultura administrada por el Fresno Arts Council.

desplomó en el escenario mientras interpretaba Otelio, se le pidió a un joven actor negro estadounidense que asumiera el papel. Pero, mientras el público protestaba en las calles por la abolición de la esclavitud, ¿cómo reaccionarán el elenco, los críticos y el público ante la revolución que se estaba produciendo en el teatro?

En Casa Para las Vacaciones 7:30 p.m. William Saroyan Theatre. La Fresno Philharmonic presenta un concierto festivo con el Fresno Master Choral e invitados especiales, celebrando la temporada de vacaciones con música sinfónica.

Ship Wrek 8 p.m.-1:45 a.m. Fulton 55. Deep House Production, de Los Angeles y el equipo de DJs Collin Maguire y Tripp Churchill traen sus ritmos de alta energía a Fresno.

Galletas y Chocolate con Santa 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Shinzen Friendship Garden. Un evento familiar que incluye chocolate caliente, galletas, una historia navideña leída por Santa Cíes, oportunidades para tomar fotografías y actividades de arte y manualidades en el entorno sereno del Shinzen Garden.

Ciencia Sabatina (también Dic. 14, 21 & 28) 11 a.m.-mediodía. Fresno Discovery Center. Sea creativo y aprenda la ciencia detrás de las tarjetas navideñas iluminadas. Esta sesión interactiva combina las artes y las ciencias, tecnología, ingeniería y matemáticas (STEM) para una experiencia festiva y divertida.

Protectores del Agua Mediodía-2 p.m. Arte Americanas. Un taller bilingüe de lectura y arte para niños y familias, centrado en temas ambientales.

Esta es la Estación 3 p.m.-5 p.m. Paul Shaghonian Concert Hall. La Fresno Community Concert Band inicia tu espíritu navideño con villancicos clásicos con los vocalistas Aaron y Sherah Burdick. \$14

Chiquis en Concierto 8 p.m. William Saroyan Theatre. La artista ganadora del Grammy Latino, Chiquis, se presenta en vivo y lleva su música energética y sentida al público de Fresno como parte de su gira "Diamantes".

Male Tears, Dark Chisme y Puppet 8 p.m. Full Circle Brewery. Presentación en vivo de artistas de goth/synthpop/darkwave junto a los DJs Abraxas Deity, Dementia y Lost Kin.

Zingara 9 p.m. Rainbow Ballroom. "Para la Gira de los Niños de Cristal". Con el artista invitado Super Future.

Levántate, Brilla, Porque tu Luz ha Llegado: Un Festival de Nueve Lecciones y Villancos 3 p.m. University Presbyterian Church. Esta mezcla de lectura y música combina los talentos de la Fresno Pacific University (FPU) y la comunidad de Fresno. Presenta los coros de Concert and Chamber de la FPU, Fresno Choral Artists, el coro de campanas de la Iglesia Presbiteriana de la Unión y el San Joaquin Choral.

Concierto de Temporada de la Orquesta de Compositores de Jazz 7:30 p.m. Roger Rocka's. Concierto de Navidad.

Banda Sinfónica: Tormeta, Impulso y Elevación 7:30 p.m. FCC Theatre. Un concierto de invierno a cargo de la Fresno City College Symphonic Band con la Parlier High School Symphonic Band. \$8

Concierto de Conjunto de Cámara 7:30 p.m. FCC Theatre. Presentando el Fresno City College's Woodwind Ensemble, Brass Ensemble, String Ensemble y Percussion Ensemble. Gratis.

Juego de Noche: Lotería 6 p.m.-8 p.m. Arte Americanas. Una tarde con juegos de la tradicional Lotería como parte del programa "Arte, Pero Later", ofreciendo encuentros y eventos.

Tour de Comedia Estamos Aquí 8 p.m. Tower Theatre. Con Omar Gooding, Charles Allen y Charlie Mac. \$21.32+

ESPERANZA (HOPE) 7 p.m. Tower Theatre. HOPE, que fue creado para explorar las luchas de la condición humana en la búsqueda de esperanza, es un espectáculo nacido en Fresno que utiliza música en vivo, danza, telas aéreas, pintura en vivo, poesía, elementos audiovisuales y mucho más para commover, entretener y conectar con la audiencia. \$16.17+

Fresno SantaCon 2024 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Visite pubcrawl.com (seleccione Fresno). Unase al festivo recorrido de bares de SantaCon, donde los participantes se visten con atuendos navideños y disfrutan de bebidas especiales en varios lugares.

Exhibición Librería Donceles (hasta Dic. 22) Arte Americanas. *Librería Donceles* es un proyecto de arte socialmente comprometido que el artista y educador mexicano Pablo Heigüera creó con el deseo de abordar la falta de librerías en español que atiendan a las crecientes comunidades latinas en los Estados Unidos.

Mujeritas (hasta Dic. 22) 8 p.m. (Jueves, Viernes, Sábado), 2 p.m. (Domingo). 2nd Space Theatre. The Good Company Players presenta una actuación basada en la novela de Louisa May Alcott que sigue las vidas, amores y tribulaciones de cuatro hermanas que crecen durante la Guerra Civil. \$25

Charles Gaines: Los Años en Fresno (hasta Enero 5, 2025) Jueves-Domingo, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fresno Art Museum. Tomadas de la colección permanente del museo, estas obras de los primeros años de la carrera de 50 años Gaines como artista que tuvieron lugar durante su permanencia aquí en Fresno.

Wendy Maruyama: Una Muestra Escultórica (Artesanía, material, proceso) (hasta Enero 5, 2025) Jueves-Domingo, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fresno Art Museum. Las selecciones para esta exposición individual incluyen ejemplos de la artesanía tradicional del estudio de Maruyama, y su comentario social explora los temas del feminismo, su herencia japonesa estadounidense y su historia familiar personal.

Glorioso y Triunfante: Iconos Bizantinos de la Colección de A. & P. Stefanopoulos Collection (hasta Enero 5, 2025) Jueves-Domingo, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fresno Art Museum. En celebración de los 100 años de la Iglesia Ortodoxa Griega de San Jorge, de Fresno. Los iconos de esta exposición abarcan desde el siglo XVI hasta la actualidad y son un ejemplo de una antigua y perdurable tradición.

Legalmente Rubia (hasta Enero 12, 2025) 5 p.m. Roger Rocka's. Este musical sigue la transformación de Elle Woods mientras enfrenta los estereotipos y el escándalo en busca de sus sueños tejidos de rosa. \$45

Arte del Mundo: Habia Una Vez un Libro (hasta Junio 29, 2025) Jueves-Domingo, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fresno Art Museum. Con las ilustraciones originales de *Once Upon a Book (Habia Una Vez un Libro)*, que enfatiza el poder de los libros para ayudar a uno a experimentar otros lugares fuera de su propia realidad.

Exhibición Pública de Arte Internacional: Alas de la Ciudad (hasta Agosto 2025) Maple Mall, Fresno State. Las criaturas míticas de bronce del mundialmente famoso artista mexicano Jorge Marín se han posado, observando en silencio el bullicio de la vida del campus.

Domingo Gratis en el Museo de Arte 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Distrita de la entrada gratis a este museo gracias al apoyo de la Medida P de Acceso Ampliado al Arte y la Cultura administrada por el Fresno Arts Council.

Proyección de Cine Colaborativo: Mi Padre Angelito 6:30 p.m.-8:15 p.m. Royce Hall. Reviva esta película navideña de los años 90 completamente rehecha por residentes del área de Fresno.

Concierto de Invierno de la Orquesta Sinfónica 7:30 p.m. FCC Theatre. Fanfarria majestuosa de metales a cargo de Kevin Mckee con selecciones de la Suite de El Cascanueces y la Sinfonía n.º 4 en fa menor de Tchaikovsky. \$8

El Amor Ilumina el Camino 5 p.m.-7 p.m. Woodward Park. Una velada dedicada a honrar a los seres queridos afectados por el cáncer, con una ceremonia a la luz de las velas, música en vivo y una reunión comunitaria en el sereno Art of Life Healing Garden. Gratis; regístrate a través de [Eventbrite](http://Eventbrite.com).

Concierto de Invierno de la Banda Nuevos Horizontes & de la Orquesta de Fresno 6 p.m. Bullard High School Auditorium. Un conjunto de cuerdas, una banda de jazz y una banda de concierto interpretan música desde lo clásico hasta lo contemporáneo y, por supuesto, Navidad.

ArtHop 5 p.m.-8 p.m. Downtown Fresno. Entrada gratis a exhibiciones, galerías, actuaciones especiales y experiencias artísticas únicas para los amantes de todas las edades del arte. facebook.com/FACarthop/

Concierto Rachel Eckroth 7:30 p.m.-10 p.m. Fresno State Concert Hall. Fresno State Jazz Festival Concert presentando la Fresno State Jazz Orchestra y el Cuarteto Rachel Eckroth con Tina Raymond, Shane Endsley y Richard Lloyd Giddens Jr. \$10+

Art of Life Healing Garden/Woodward Park • 7775 N. Friant Rd. • 559-621-2900

Arte Americanas • 1630 Van Ness Ave. • arteamericanas.org

Bullard High School Auditorium • 5445 N. Palm Ave. • 559-451-4320

Crest Theatre • 1170 Broadway Plaza • 559-268-0044

Full Circle Brewery Co. • 712 Fulton St. • 559-319-8195 / fullcirclebrewing.com

Fresno State Concert Hall • 2380 E. Keats Ave. • 559-278-2654

Fresno Discovery Center • 1944 N. Winery Ave. • fresnodiscoverycenter.org

Fresno Art Museum • 2233 N. First St. • 559-441-4221 / fresnoartmuseum.org

Fresno State • 559-278-2216

John Wright Theatre • Speech Arts Building / Fresno State • 559-278-2216

Rainbow Ballroom • 1725 Broadway St. • 559-354-1017

Roger Rocka's Dinner Theatre • 1226 N. Wishon Ave. • 559-266-9494 / rogerrockas.com

Shinzen Friendship Garden • 114 W. Audubon Dr. • 559-478-4848

Tower Theatre • 815 E. Olive Ave. • 559-485-9050 / fresnotowtheater.com

University Presbyterian Church • 1776 E. Roberts Ave. • upcfresno.org

William Saroyan Theatre • 700 M St. • 559-445-8100

2nd Space Theatre • 928 E. Olive Ave. • 559-266-0660 / gcplayers.simplertix.com

FCC Theatre • Fresno City College • 559-442-8221

Fresno City College • 875 Divisadero St. • info@fulton55.com / fulton55.com

Fresno State • 559-278-2216

Shinzen Friendship Garden • 114 W. Audubon Dr. • 559-478-4848

Tower Theatre • 815 E. Olive Ave. • 559-485-9050 / fresnotowtheater.com

University Presbyterian Church • 1776 E. Roberts Ave. • upcfresno.org

William Saroyan Theatre • 700 M St. • 559-445-8100

2nd Space Theatre • 928 E. Olive Ave. • 559-266-0660 / gcplayers.simplertix.com

FCC Theatre • Fresno City College • 559-442-8221

Fresno City College • 875 Divisadero St. • info@fulton55.com / fulton55.com

Fresno State • 559-278-2216

Shinzen Friendship Garden • 114 W. Audubon Dr. • 559-478-4848

Tower Theatre • 815 E. Olive Ave. • 559-485-9050 / fresnotowtheater.com

University Presbyterian Church • 1776 E. Roberts Ave. • upcfresno.org

William Saroyan Theatre • 700 M St. • 559-445-8100

2nd Space Theatre • 928 E. Olive Ave. • 559-266-0660 / gcplayers.simplertix.com

FCC Theatre • Fresno City College • 559-442-8221

Fresno City College • 875 Divisadero St. • info@fulton55.com / fulton55.com

Fresno State • 559-278-2216

Shinzen Friendship Garden • 114 W. Audubon Dr. • 559-478-4848

Tower Theatre • 815 E. Olive Ave. • 559-485-9050 / fresnotowtheater.com

University Presbyterian Church • 1776 E. Roberts Ave. • upcfresno.org

William Saroyan Theatre • 700 M St. • 559-445-8100

2nd Space Theatre • 928 E. Olive Ave. • 559-266-0660 / gcplayers.simplertix.com

FCC Theatre • Fresno City College • 559-442-8221

Fresno City College • 875 Divisadero St. • info@fulton55.com / fulton55.com

Fresno State • 559-278-2216

Shinzen Friendship Garden • 114 W. Audubon Dr. • 559-478-4848

Tower Theatre • 815 E. Olive Ave. • 559-485-9050 / fresnotowtheater.com

University Presbyterian Church • 1776 E. Roberts Ave. • upcfresno.org

William Saroyan Theatre • 700 M St. • 559-445-8100

2nd Space Theatre • 928 E. Olive Ave. • 559-266-0660 / gcplayers.simplertix.com

FCC Theatre • Fresno City College • 559-442-8221

Fresno City College • 875 Divisadero St. • info@fulton55.com / fulton55.com

Fresno State • 559-278-2216

Shinzen Friendship Garden • 114 W. Audubon Dr. • 559-478-4848

Tower Theatre • 815 E. Olive Ave. • 559-485-9050 / fresnotowtheater.com

University Presbyterian Church • 1776 E. Roberts Ave. • upcfresno.org

William Saroyan Theatre • 700 M St. • 559-445-8100

2nd Space Theatre • 928 E. Olive Ave. • 559-266-0660 / gcplayers.simplertix.com

FCC Theatre • Fresno City College • 559-442-8221

Fresno City College • 875 Divisadero St. • info@fulton55.com / fulton55.com

Fresno State • 559-278-2216

Shinzen Friendship Garden • 114 W. Audubon Dr. • 559-478-4848

Tower Theatre • 815 E. Olive Ave. • 559-485-9050 / fresnotowtheater.com

University Presbyterian Church • 1776 E. Roberts Ave. • upcfresno.org

William Saroyan Theatre • 700 M St. • 559-445-8100

2nd Space Theatre • 928 E. Olive Ave. • 559-266-0660 / gcplayers.simplertix.com

FCC Theatre • Fresno City College • 559-442-8221

Fresno City College • 875 Divisadero St. • info@fulton55.com / fulton55.com

Fresno State • 559-278-2216

Shinzen Friendship Garden • 114 W. Audubon Dr. • 559-478-4848

Tower Theatre • 815 E. Olive Ave. • 559-485-9050 / fresnotowtheater.com

University Presbyterian Church • 1776 E. Roberts Ave. • upcfresno.org

William Saroyan Theatre • 700 M St. • 559-445-8100

2nd Space Theatre • 928 E. Olive Ave. • 559-266-0660 / gcplayers.simplertix.com

FCC Theatre • Fresno City College • 559-442-8221

Fresno City College • 875 Divisadero St. • info@fulton55.com / fulton55.com

Fresno State • 559-278-2216

Shinzen Friendship Garden • 114 W. Audubon Dr. • 559-478-4848

Tower Theatre • 815 E. Olive Ave. • 559-485-9050 / fresnotowtheater.com

University Presbyterian Church • 1776 E. Roberts Ave. • upcfresno.org

William Saroyan Theatre • 700 M St. • 559-445-8100

2nd Space Theatre • 928 E. Olive Ave. • 559-266-0660 / gcplayers.simplertix.com

FCC Theatre • Fresno City College • 559-442-8221

Fresno City College • 875 Divisadero St. • info@fulton55.com / fulton55.com

Fresno State • 559-278-2216

Shinzen Friendship Garden • 114 W. Audubon Dr. • 559-478-4848

Tower Theatre • 815 E. Olive Ave. • 559-485-9050 / fresnotowtheater.com

University Presbyterian Church • 1776 E. Roberts Ave. • upcfresno.org

William Saroyan Theatre • 700 M St. • 559-445-8100

2nd Space Theatre • 928 E. Olive Ave. • 559-266-0660 / gcplayers.simplertix.com

FCC Theatre • Fresno City College • 559-442-8221

Fresno City College • 875 Divisadero St. • info@fulton55.com / fulton55.com

Fresno State • 559-278-2216

Shinzen Friendship Garden • 114 W. Audubon Dr. • 559-478-4848

Tower Theatre • 815 E. Olive Ave. • 559-485-9050 / fresnotowtheater.com

University Presbyterian Church • 1776 E. Roberts Ave. • upcfresno.org

William Saroyan Theatre • 700 M St. • 559-445-8100

2nd Space Theatre • 928 E. Olive Ave. • 559-266-0660 / gcplayers.simplertix.com

FCC Theatre • Fresno City College • 559-442-8221

Fresno City College • 875 Divisadero St. • info@fulton55.com / fulton55.com

LLAMAZA COMUNITARIA LA VOZ DEL MOVIMIENTO PROGRESISTA DESDE 1996

Los

Indocumentados

de Merced se

Preparan para

las Políticas de

Trump en Medio

de Temores de

Deportación

Masiva

Pero con el paso de los meses, los padres de Randu tomaron una decisión que les cambió la vida: decidieron quedarse.

“Era como si estuviéramos de vacaciones”, dijo, recordando con una leve sonrisa. “Luego, a medio viaje, mis padres dijeron: ‘Oye, hemos estado aquí durante dos meses. ¿Qué les parece si hacemos de este lugar nuestro hogar?’”

Con esa elección, se instalaron en Merced, comenzando un nuevo capítulo con una mezcla de esperanza e incertidumbre.

Personas como Randu, ahora de 24 años, que han pasado la mayor parte de sus vidas en Estados Unidos y lo consideran su hogar, ahora están sintiendo una renovada ola de ansiedad mientras el presidente electo Donald Trump se prepara para asumir el cargo nuevamente.

Para muchas personas indocumentadas como Randu (razón por la cual usamos solo su primer nombre), la perspectiva de deportaciones masivas y la incertidumbre sobre las nuevas políticas migratorias están reavivando los temores que pensaban habían quedado en el pasado.

Sus medios de vida y las comunidades que han construido ahora se sienten inseguras, mientras se preparan para lo que podría ser otro capítulo de mayores desafíos.

Esos temores se intensificaron esta semana, cuando Trump dijo que declararía una emergencia nacional y usaría al ejército para poner en práctica su plan de deportaciones masivas de inmigrantes.

Implicaciones económicas para el Valle

Claudia Gabriela Corchado, directora ejecutiva de Cultiva Valle Central, enfatizó las contribuciones cruciales de los trabajadores agrícolas indocumentados a la economía del Valle, explicando los posibles efectos dominó si se implementaran deportaciones masivas.

“Pensamos en nuestra comunidad de trabajadores agrícolas”, dijo. “Necesitamos trabajadores que hagan el trabajo más duro que existe... cultivando nuestros alimentos más saludables del mundo. ¿Cómo sería nuestra economía si él, entre comillas, deportara a los inmigrantes ilegales?”

Corchado destacó el impacto que estas políticas podrían tener tanto en la economía local como en los trabajadores

Lento Avance Para los Vendedores Ambulantes

POR PAULINA DEEDS ORTIZ

El Ayuntamiento de Fresno aprobó una nueva ley que impone restricciones estrictas a los vendedores ambulantes, prohibiéndoles vender en áreas designadas. La “Ordenanza de venta ambulante” se aprobó con una votación de 5 a 2 en noviembre de 2023 y se espera que se implemente a principios de este año; sin embargo, la implementación se ha retrasado y la ordenanza aún se está perfeccionando.

Todavía se están realizando cambios, en parte gracias a que muchos vendedores locales y grupos de defensa argumentan en contra de los impactos negativos que la ordenanza podría tener en las comunidades más vulnerables. El 21 de noviembre, el Ayuntamiento discutió posibles revisiones a la ordenanza. Las enmiendas podrían incluir cambios en los requisitos de distancia entre los vendedores y ciertas ubicaciones y horarios de funcionamiento. En la reunión del 5 de diciembre, se votará la propuesta revisada.

El año pasado, los funcionarios de la ciudad iniciaron un “período educativo” para ayudar a los vendedores a comprender y adaptarse a las nuevas reglas y evitar meterse en problemas.

¿Cuáles son las reglas?

La ley no incluye a los camiones de comida. Según esta ordenanza, los vendedores ambulantes tienen prohibido operar cerca de escuelas, parques e intersecciones importantes, lo que margina de hecho a muchos

La promesa incumplida

En marzo de 2021, un vendedor ambulante llamado Lorenzo Pérez fue asesinado. Pérez recibió un disparo durante un robo. Su muerte movilizó a los habitantes de Fresno para pedir mayores protecciones para los vendedores ambulantes, que a menudo quedan vulnerables a la violencia. El Ayuntamiento prometió tomar medidas.

El alcalde de Fresno, Jerry Dyer, junto con miembros del Ayuntamiento, prometieron mejorar las medidas de seguridad, incluido el aumento de las patrullas en áreas

La promesa incumplida

Continúa en página 23

Indocumentados que, a pesar de sus contribuciones esenciales, viven en una incertidumbre constante.

Defensores de los derechos de los inmigrantes comienzan a movilizarse para enfrentar las posibles deportaciones masivas de la nueva administración que asumirá el 20 de enero de 2025. En la imagen, un participante en una conferencia de prensa el pasado 8 de noviembre en Fresno se opone a las deportaciones de inmigrantes. Foto de Peter Maiden



Fresno impone restricciones estrictas a los vendedores ambulantes, pero la construcción de una cocina comunitaria podría ayudar a los vendedores a obtener los permisos sanitarios. Foto cortesía de The Commons