

Dos Rios: The Many Facets of a Natural Gem



By **ERIC CAINE, The Valley Citizen**

“It looks like a bunch of weeds,” said David Froba when he pulled over to look at an early-stage restoration project near the confluence of the Tuolumne, San Joaquin and Stanislaus Rivers, just west of Modesto.

The “weeds” may not be as attractive as the ducks, geese, and songbirds that capture the attention of nature lovers when they visit the nearby San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge, but they’re just as necessary to the ongoing restoration of the riparian and floodplain habitat along the rivers.

Last Friday, Froba and several fellow members of the Stanislaus Audubon Society Board of Directors visited a restricted portion of the Dos Rios Ranch, which is slated to become California’s newest State Park. Coupled with the adjacent national wildlife refuge, the new park will be part of one of the largest floodplain and riparian restorations in the state. Much of the restoration has been managed by **River Partners**, a detail-obsessed organization dedicated to bringing life and sustainability back to the state’s rivers, floodplains, and riparian forests.

Mugwort, gum plant, native sunflowers, and creeping wild rye are among several components of the weedy understory of plants necessary to attract and sustain formerly abundant Valley birds like the Least Bell’s Vireo, which appeared on the wildlife refuge

in 2005 after a decades-long absence from the San Joaquin Valley. Today, with the planting of the appropriate understory and hundreds of thousands of cottonwoods, willows, box elder and oaks, local nature lovers are hopeful that Yellow-billed Cuckoos, a threatened species throughout the west, will find their way back to the river habitat they found attractive for nesting as late as the 1960s.

The San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge has already been a major factor in the recovery of the Aleutian Cackling Goose, a winter visitor whose numbers had dropped to under six hundred in the 1980s. Thanks to restoration work by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Audubon Society and organizations like River Partners, today’s population of the once-endangered goose numbers over 200,000.

Another endangered species, the Riparian Brush Rabbit, is so sensitive that visitors to restricted portions of its small territory must bathe their shoes in a dilute bleach mixture to prevent tracking in RHDV2, a highly contagious and often fatal disease that only recently was discovered on the refuge. The tiny rabbits also require a precise mix of over- and understory vegetation to insure their recovery.

With the ongoing purchase and restoration of farmland along the rivers, River Partners is also working to bring back the floodplain that once served as nature’s way of controlling the rivers during high water flooding events.

“We want it to be flooded,” said River Partners’ Restoration Ecologist Haley Mirts, pointing to slightly higher ground along a section of the Dos Rios where an orchard still produces almonds.

Ultimately, that section of land will become a nursery for migrating juvenile salmon as they return from upriver spawning grounds, giving them space to mature and gain strength while safe from predators. The floodplain will

mark a return to natural flood control and also serve an important role in groundwater recharge, a crucial need as Valley residents confront depleted aquifers, climate change, and reduced water allotments for lawns and gardens.

“We have one year, four year, and five-and-a-half year successional plantings,” said Mirts, as she explained the biological strategy

for restoring the natural diversity that once typified river habitats throughout the state. Ultimately, the mix of native plants, trees, birds and mammals will provide a living library of nature, even while providing practical benefits like flood control, preservation of endangered species, and recreation.

continued page 10



Farmworkers March into Modesto on 335 Mile Journey for Justice

Farmworker marchers arrived in Modesto on August 19 on their 24-day March to the California state capitol for the Governor’s signature. They are demanding that Governor Newsom sign the CA Ag. Labor Voting Choice Act AB2183.

This critical bill would give more choices to farm workers so they can vote free from

intimidation. Farmworkers would be able to vote in secret whenever and wherever they feel safe. Farmworkers specifically chose to end their march on Friday, August 26 - which Governor Newsom last year declared “California Farmworker Day.”

ACTION: Sign workers’ petition asking CA Gov. Newsom to sign AB 2183: <https://act.seiu.org/a/33122petition?ms=w>. More information at <https://ufw.org/>



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MAPS fall schedule

MAPS offers free, informative, and engaging community science programs, Approximately monthly on Fridays in MJC West Campus Sierra Hall 132 at 7:30 pm (also at 4 pm on 9/30/22).*

Friday, Sept. 30: *Two presentations - 4 pm (all ages), 7:30 pm (Jr. High and up). A MAPS, GVM, and SCOE production. Taormina (Tara) Lepore, Ph.D. candidate, UC Museum of Paleontology. Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award – 2021. **Why Do We Love Dinosaurs So Much? Connecting Our Planet's Past to Our Present.** Tara will discuss 1. Evidence gleaned from fossilized T. rex droppings and dinosaur trackways 2. What makes a dinosaur a dinosaur 3. Why we are fascinated by dinos. A JURASSIC



FESTIVAL IN MODESTO will be held in the Great Valley Museum Lobby from 5 pm until 7 pm with dino contests. Dinosaur models to be on display. More at <http://taorminalepore.com/>

Friday, Oct. 28, 2022: Anna Nierenberg, Assistant Professor of Astrophysics, UC Merced, <https://annanierenberg.com/>. Anna will discuss **the Potential and Results from the Webb Telescope** and her studies of **dark matter**. <https://annanierenberg.com/>

Friday, Nov. 18: Nick Stong, Monterey Bay Aquarium, Manager of Public Programs.

The Amazing Life of the Western Monarch Butterfly. A MAPS, GVM and SCOE production. *A second presentation at 4 pm might be added. An art contest for K-16 students will be held prior to this event. <https://www.linkedin.com/in/nick-stong-40a61587>

Friday, Dec. 9: Dr. Jim DeKloe, Professor of Biological Sciences and Biotechnology, serves as the director and founder of the Industrial Biotechnology program at Solano College. **Microbes, Medicine, and Money: Biomanufacturing in the 21st Century.** An introduction to the field of biomanufacturing, a description of the national state of training in biotechnology and biomanufacturing, <http://www.solano.edu/biotech/educators.html>

MAPS is grateful to MJC, the MJC Foundation, SCOE, the Modesto Teachers Assn. (MTA) and the Great Valley Museum (GVM) for generous support.



MODESTO PEACE/LIFE CENTER
Working for **peace, justice**
and a **sustainable future**

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MJC Science Colloquium Fall 2022 Schedule

Wednesdays 3:15 - 4:15 pm in Science Community Center, Room 115, West Campus. We are back for IN PERSON talks for the first time since March 2020! Talks will also be recorded for the Science Colloquium's YouTube site for later viewing.

Sept. 14: Denise Godbout-Avant, Stanislaus County Master Gardener. **All About Bees**

Bees are fascinating insects and vital agricultural pollinators. Learn about their anatomy, life stages, types of bees and habits, why they are in trouble and how we can help.

Sept. 28: Christine Gemperle, Almond Farmer, Gemperle Orchards. **Growing Almonds and Finding Balance in the Face of Challenges Posed by Climate Change.** California's multibillion-dollar almond industry must adapt to climate change. Christine, a leader in these efforts, will discuss how her practices enrich soils naturally, save water, and sequester carbon.

Oct. 12: Heidi Fernandez Meyer, Professor of Mathematics, Modesto Junior College. **John Napier: His Life and Early Calculating Devices.** Sixteenth-century Scottish mathematician, scientist, and inventor, John Napier is best known for his invention of logarithms and for his supposed sorcerous powers. Philosopher David Hume called Napier "the greatest man his country ever produced," and mathematician Laplace said Napier had "doubled the life of the astronomer" by making calculations easier. You will hear stories of Napier's life and learn to use two of his beautifully simple calculating devices: Napier's Rods and his Location Arithmetic."

Oct. 26: Emma Stein, former MJC student (who has been doing graduate research in Wales). **Subject: Marine Crab Behavior.**

Nov. 09: Tom Crain, NASA Ambassador. **Here Comes the Sun.** The Sun's origin, its longevity on the main sequence of stellar life, and what will be a very dramatic ending will be discussed. Breathtaking photos and videos from telescope observatories focused on the Sun, providing us with 24/7 coverage of what is happening, will be included.

Scholarships awarded by SCF

Stanislaus Community Foundation (SCF) is pleased to share that **\$305,850 has been awarded to 178 local students** for the 2022-2023 school year. Since its inception in 2002, SCF has distributed more than \$2 million on behalf of local individuals, families, companies, and schools.

"Stanislaus Community Foundation is proud to support the academic goals of our local students," said Marian Kaanon, CEO of Stanislaus Community Foundation. "They are the future of this county, and an investment in them is an investment in Stanislaus."

This year, **94 percent of first-time awardees were low income** – signaling a great need for scholarships for students in our community.

Javier Rodriguez, a local student, said, "I graduated from Ceres High School in 2013 and received a scholarship from the Stanislaus Community Foundation to pursue my undergraduate degree at UC Davis. I obtained my bachelor's degree in Neurobiology, Physiology, and Behavior in 2018 and was motivated to pursue medicine to help close the health disparities seen in the Central Valley. Scholarships truly make a difference and allow students from disadvantaged backgrounds like me to have an opportunity to be successful."

Anyone interested in opening a scholarship fund to support Stanislaus County students can contact Melissa Van Diepen, Chief Philanthropy Officer at mvandiepen@stanislauscf.org or by calling 209.576.1608 x104.

Help with an MJC Cleanup!

The Young Adults Fighting Tobacco coalition (YAFT), along with Stanislaus CJAN and the Sierra Club, will run a cleanup on the East Campus of Modesto Junior College



to combat the negative environmental effects generated by the tobacco industry. At YAFT, we work with rural communities to address the

impacts of Big Tobacco on our health and our environment. The MJC Cleanup will be held on Saturday, September 10, 2022 from 10 am-12:30 pm.

Meeting Location: East Campus, 435 College Ave, Modesto, CA 95350.

Snacks, drinks, and cleaning equipment will be provided. Volunteers will also receive free lunch and a chance to win gift cards!

If you have any questions, please email us at yaft@health-collaborative.org

Further information and specific details will be emailed to all volunteers the week before the cleanup. **ACTION:** To help, register [here](#).

KCBP Community Radio Seeks Volunteers

The Modesto Peace/Life Center's Community Radio Station the "Voice of the Valley" KCBP 95.5 FM needs volunteers to help develop the following programs:

Children • Art • Poetry • News/Journalism
• Education • Health • Science • Social
Justice • Multicultural • Music/All Genres

Other Opportunities: Underwriting
• Fundraising/Event Committee •
Community Outreach

Contact Jocelyn Cooper,
KCBP Development
Director, (209) 422-0119
kcbpvolapp@gmail.com



UFW March for Justice

PHOTO CREDITS: UFW, Ken Schroeder, Sharon Fitzsimmons-Hoffman.



Everything on Earth is Borrowed...
There is no "Mine" or "Yours"...
there is Only "Ours"...
Even Time is Borrowed.
We Kill over a Plot of Land that belongs
only to our Mother Earth.
All you have is what you came with...
and what you will leave with...
Your Spirit.
-Native American Proverb

Linda Scheller's *Wind and Children*: Powerful Poetics from the Classroom

By TOM PORTWOOD

Each school day for thirty-six years, the children walked into now-retired Ceres teacher Linda Scheller's fifth-grade classroom, eager to learn but "often burdened by grinding poverty and difficult family situations at home."

"A lot of my students' families were very, very poor," Ms. Scheller recounted recently when interviewed about her powerful new collection of poetry, *Wind and Children* (Main Street Rag Publishing Company, www.MainStreetRag.com), which focuses on her lengthy teaching career and the lives of the children she touched as "mother of thousands."

"Their families worked very hard, and their housing situations were often insecure, to put it mildly," she continued. "Many of the parents worked in the fields and orchards of the Valley – a lot of work in agriculture. If someone got a job in a cannery, that was great. That was a much better-paying job."

"But more than likely they were out in the sun, working the fields, pruning the fruit trees – doing all the back-breaking work that goes into agriculture when you are either a migrant laborer or have recently arrived in this country and need to find work to support your family – say, mucking around in a feedlot, and working for the person who owns that dairy."

"One of the reasons I wrote this book and feel so strongly about getting it into the world is that I believe a lot of Americans are unaware of the extent of childhood poverty that exists in this country. It's just appalling."

In this splendid book, dedicated "...with love and gratitude to the students, teachers, and staff with whom I worked and learned," Ms. Scheller's poems bring into razor-sharp detail the world in which her students struggled to survive conveyed in strong, beautifully accessible language. These are poems that only a caring, sensitive teacher could have written, and the portrayals she shares of her students and their often tragic lives are extraordinarily gripping. "Olivero Road" begins:

*the boy
carries a rifle
beside his flowering pride...
one of my ex-students
gone out to kill
birds and cats
replace the unseen enemy
that holds him down...*

The second poem in *Wind and Children* is "The Examination" in which the speaker's fifth graders seem haunted by "the premonition of age...coating their wings."

In "The Teacher" and other deftly observant poems, Ms. Scheller's work is almost cinematic:

*The grades she issues are written
with spittle, and at midnight she prays
for the power to move small fates
to the other side of town. Obscenities
are scratched into desk tops, and alms
of secondhand toys line the shelves.*



Of course, it was these difficult, disheartening circumstances she encountered daily that energized Ms. Scheller as a teacher. She instinctively knew she was making a difference the minute she saw the faces of her students as they scrambled for their desks at first bell. She knew that classroom in Ceres was where she was meant to be.

"I loved teaching." Ms. Scheller fondly remembers, "I really loved it. I couldn't wait. Every morning I'd pop out of bed and get to school hours early because I wanted to be really ready and get everything situated. I loved the creativity that the job demanded. I loved sharing that excitement with the kids and piquing their curiosity and helping them find their strengths."

"I had students who came from Mexico and Central America and, of course, many White kids. But I also had students who came from Fiji and Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, Ukraine, and Africa. It was marvelous to be amongst such diversity."

"I also loved being part of this human network and finding out more about humanity and our connection to one another – how we can help each other and relate to and learn from each other. And appreciate that we are all different in a lot of ways, and how that can be a source of real delight."

Ms. Scheller retired from teaching five years ago (though she continues to work as hard and creatively as ever on a variety of projects (<https://thevalleycitizen.com/community-profile-award-winning-poet-kcbp-radio-programmer-linda-scheller/>)) but still holds passionate views about the current state of the educational system and the children and families that system is meant to serve.

"Right now teachers are leaving in droves. The pandemic

has certainly been very challenging and difficult, but there had been so many problems before that. I left because I got really tired of the overemphasis on data which didn't take into account the circumstances of individual schools and the barriers so many students faced."

"We hear talk about 'bad' or poorly performing schools. Usually, what we are really talking about are impoverished, marginalized communities of color and all the systemic racism that has led those communities into being thus underminded. I hear people saying, 'Oh, the schools should be teaching critical thinking or teaching kids how to be happy.' Of course, we do teach critical thinking and kindness, but I think what many people don't realize is that when children are hungry, when they are homeless or living in a violent neighborhood, when they are afraid for their lives and their families are in dire straits, then learning anything while trying to survive becomes very difficult."

"I really hope that people can take a comprehensive view and be more compassionate, and hopefully be more proactive in insisting that we do a better job of providing for children and their families and taking care of people in our midst."

Citing Wallace Stevens, Diane Wakoski, and Gerard Manley Hopkins as early influences, among others, while admiring the work of contemporary poets Patricia Smith, Margaret Atwood, and Troy Jollimore, Ms. Scheller follows a strict regimen in her own work as a writer and poet.

"I write something or at least revise something every day," she explained. "I may not complete a piece or start something new every day, but I also do a lot of submissions. In the process of submitting my work, I scrutinize my writing and frequently will make small changes. The potential for revision is always there. Sometimes I use writing prompts, but not that often. For me – especially now that I'm retired and have more time to pursue my own interests, I'll try to challenge myself with form. For example, I'll try and have the lines all the same length, but at the same time I'm trying to maintain a musicality and pay attention to diction, meter, alliteration and assonance. I like working within those kinds of constraints."

"Strangely, I find that it's both more liberating and productive. I want to have some parameters, to make some choices and then have to fit ideas and images into those parameters. That, to me, is much more exciting. I enjoy *crafting* poems."

In addition to standing as a testament to the hardships and injustices she witnessed as a teacher of marginalized fifth-graders in the Valley, *Wind and Children* goes beyond the school grounds as Ms. Scheller writes – often despairingly – of California's tortured landscapes, of our "era of deforestation and burning" where "plants wither and rivers disappear." These images of anguish and sterility are indeed stark and sobering – and a call to action for all concerned.

But *Wind and Children* ends on a high note. In the collection's final poem, "Insert joy here," Ms. Scheller, always "a lover of wind and clouds," practically cries out at the skies:

*This morning this
glorious morning
it rained*

Modesto artist Henrietta Sparkman created the beautiful artwork for the cover of *Wind and Children*. The book is exceptional, by one of our area's leading poets, and I highly recommend reading it.

New Resources from Statistics in Schools Bring Census Data to the Classroom



By **SHANNAN ALSTON** and **ADAM GRUNDY**,
United States Census Bureau

Ever wonder how many amusement parks are in your state? If you live in Florida, it's 53. Or how many businesses are in your county? In Sussex County, Delaware, for example, 6,074 have paid employees.

These answers come from the U.S. Census Bureau's County Business Patterns but you'll find many more in easy-to-use classroom resources and activities created by the Census Bureau's Statistics in Schools (SIS) program.

As teachers across the nation begin mapping out lesson plans, they can incorporate new and updated SIS resources in core subjects like: Math, English, History, Geography, and Sociology, to introduce students to Census Bureau data and how to use them in the real world.

The Value of Statistics in Schools

"From using SIS charts, graphs, and maps...to teaching students how to read graphic information, (teachers) are always able to find value in our materials no matter what subject they teach or what field of education they're in," said Kimberley Glascoe, a SIS marketing specialist.

For example, educators can use the materials and games to help students learn while having fun playing SIS trivia games like Kahoot! And "Population Bracketology" and participating in other activities using Census Bureau "Fun Facts" handouts to pave the way.

"One of the goals of the SIS program is to show teachers that the word 'statistics' is not something that is only taught in high school or in math class," said Vicki Glasier, chief of the Statistics in Schools Branch. "Elementary and middle school teachers can use SIS resources to supplement what they are teaching across all grades and subjects to help students understand the importance of data and build on their statistical literacy from an early age."

Newest SIS Resources

Among new SIS lessons, warm-up activities and interactive data journeys now available:

Fun Facts. From the value of fireworks imported to the

United States to the number of businesses that make barbecue grills, the Census Bureau's "Fun Facts" about 4th of July has the answers. We have fun nuggets about Hispanic Heritage Month, Constitution Day, and Back To School, too. These resources are entertaining and colorful, and easy to download for use in the classroom.

Interactive Maps. After diving into some business, demographic, and population data, students and teachers alike may enjoy exploring new interactive State Facts for Students display. Students can click on their state or one of the other 49 states (plus Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, U.S. Virgin Islands, or American Samoa) to learn about Census Bureau data available at the state level. Students may be amazed to learn things like how their state's population compares to others, how workers in their state commute or how many households have smartphones.

Play Statistics in Schools Games on Kahoot! SIS has an assortment of nine Kahoot! U.S. Census Bureau Data games. These games highlight Census Bureau statistics on holidays, anniversaries and observances of America's diverse populations. One new game to be released later this month, "From Diplomas to Degrees: Exploring U.S. Education Statistics," tests your knowledge by asking questions like: Has the percentage of adults who completed high school in the last 10 years increased or decreased? What was the average annual salary of workers with a bachelor's degree?

SIS Ambassador Program

Through the SIS Ambassador program, a community of teachers, librarians and others in the education field can promote SIS activities and participate in select SIS virtual events and special initiatives.

Collaborating with other educators, librarians and the Census Bureau, the current 72 SIS ambassadors devise innovative ways to bridge the gap between data and the real world and boost statistical literacy of K-12 students nationwide.

SIS ambassadors can receive a digital badge and other national recognition for their efforts spreading the word about the value of census data.

"We are always looking for new and innovative ideas and ways to work with teachers," Glasier said. "In addition to new resources and ideas like virtual field trips and connecting students to Census experts virtually, we are keeping a list of new subject areas we would like to create content for, including economics."

Adam Grundy is a supervisory statistician in the Census Bureau's Economic Management Division. Shannan Alston is a survey statistician in the Economic Management Division.

Residential long-term care workers are underpaid and at high risk during the pandemic

From the **Economic Policy Institute**

Workers in residential long-term care facilities face low pay and poor working conditions, according to a [new EPI report](#) examining employment levels, demographics, compensation, poverty rates, and unionization rates of these workers.

Among residential long-term care workers—which consist of workers in nursing homes and residential care facility industries—the report finds:

- A vast majority (80.9%) are women.
- A disproportionate number are Black women (22.4%) and immigrant women (12.8%).
- \$15.22 is the median hourly pay—below the U.S. median hourly wage of \$20.07.
- 7.2% live in poverty—higher than the poverty rate for all workers (5.3%).
- 6.9% are covered by a union contract—a lower rate than the overall workforce (11.9%).

In addition to facing low wages, residential long-term care workers are less likely than workers in general to be covered by employer-provided retirement and health insurance benefits.

"For too long, our society has devalued the elderly and people with disabilities as well as the workers who help them lead more enriched and independent lives. It is no coincidence that women—particularly women of color and immigrants—perform much of this hands-on care work, both paid and unpaid, in homes and in residential long-term care settings," said Julia Wolfe, former EPI state economic analyst and co-author of the report.

Prior to the pandemic, employment in the residential long-term care industry was increasing rapidly but failing to meet demand. During the pandemic, this industry experienced sharp job losses and employment is still nearly 400,000 below pre-pandemic levels, which accounts for about one-third (34.8%) of the private-sector jobs lost over that period. In almost every state, residential long-term care employment has not recovered to pre-pandemic levels, according to the report.

The report calls for expanding public funding to ensure higher pay and improved working conditions for care workers, which will also attract and retain an experienced and committed workforce. In addition, policymakers can pass legislation to raise the minimum wage and strengthen protections for workers seeking to organize a union. States and localities can establish industry-specific worker standards boards to recommend changes to industry minimum wages and working conditions.

"Employment levels in the long-term care industry have failed to meet demand, and the shortfall is expected to grow.

**Economic
Policy
Institute**



Be informed!

Read the Valley Citizen at
<http://thevalleycitizen.com>

Caltrans: Sweeping your Tax Dollars Away

By **ERIC CAINE, The Valley Citizen**

We're still waiting for a report from Caltrans on how much it costs to sweep the average homeless camp along one of California's freeways. We do know that last November, Caltrans estimated it would spend \$36 million on homeless camp cleanups this year alone.

Caltrans workers assigned to the sweeps, highway patrol officers who provide security during the sweeps, and neighboring businesses and residents all know that when homeless people are forced out of one place, they just move to another, often only a block or two away.

In those cases when there's no nearby open ground, they infiltrate city parks, downtown, vacant lots, canal margins, riverbanks, and any other spot where there's room for a shopping cart and human body. They stay at the new site until forced to move by city cops, county sheriffs, local business owners, or homeowners. Then the whole process starts again.

It's not Caltrans' fault it's spending millions of tax dollars only so that millions more can be spent on futile attempts to sweep homelessness under the rug. Caltrans' negative capability is just one more sign of government's failure when responding to human distress with exercises in cruelty.



The sweep isn't the only example of extravagant government waste in failing to reduce the harms of homelessness, but it may be the easiest to understand. Most everyone living in a west coast city of any size has seen the failures repeated many times over.

Imagine a wealthy state (the current California budget surplus is around \$49 billion) where over 160,000 people lack consistent access to toilets, running water, and a place to keep their belongings. Further imagine many of these same people trying to form small communities for mutual aid and protection only to be forced again and again to disband and move along.

This is the natural state of homeless people in California today, where those 160,000 people live in a state of daily crisis, often even when in a traditional shelter, where their basic physical needs, and in many cases their illnesses — whether mental or physical — are disregarded or even disparaged as failures of character.

People who enter shelters today are not the same as in

the past. According to Modesto's Salvation Army Shelter Director, approximately 40% of the residents in Stanislaus County's low barrier shelter are mentally ill; there is little to no likelihood they will become self-sufficient and there is no other place to put them than the shelter.

Another group is elderly, and/or physically or mentally disabled; they will not become self-sufficient, and even if they did, there isn't enough housing to hold them.

Caltrans Sweep, Modesto, July 2022

While many of the state's leaders have finally realized housing shortages are a major factor in rising homeless numbers, far too few understand that so-called "affordable housing" is not the answer to chronic homelessness.

In Modesto, city leaders boasted about approving a project that would provide 14 units of permanent housing for at-risk youth at a cost of \$3.8 million, or \$271,000 an apartment. In nearby Riverbank, a "tiny house" project has been advertised at a cost of \$350,000 per unit. Costly units like these take too long and accomplish too little; homelessness is a crisis of humanity that needs to be addressed with emergency measures now.

Though there have been attempts to blame homelessness on the homeless, there's more than enough factual information to discredit such theories. In May of this year, the Stanford Institute for Economic Research released "[Homelessness in California: Causes and Policy Considerations.](#)"

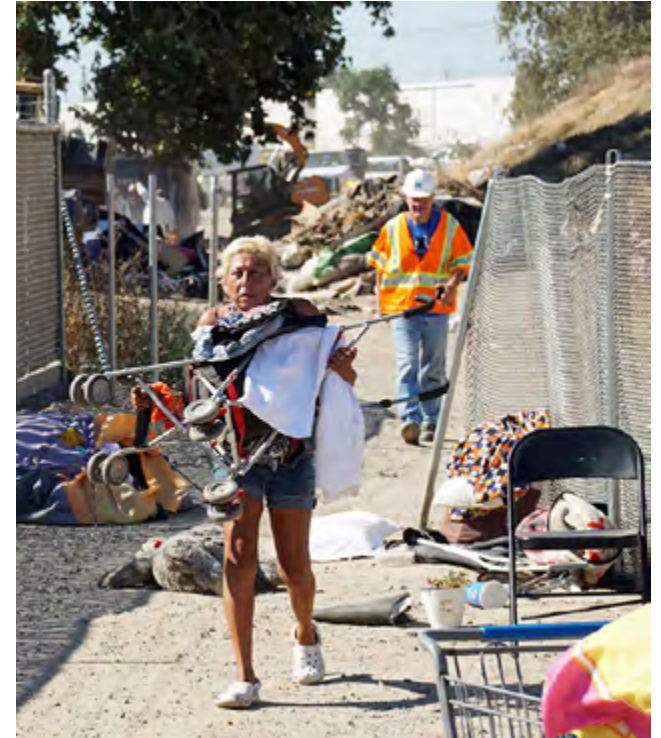
The Stanford study emphasizes "high housing costs, inadequate shelter spaces, deinstitutionalization, and changes in the criminal justice system" as major factors in homelessness. Among other things, it recommends, "more shelter capacity and increased investment in cost-effective housing."

The quickest and most effective way to increase shelter capacity is to implement safe ground policies for permitted camping. Modesto and Stanislaus County did this in 2018 when they opened Beard Brook Park for camping. When campers in the park were relocated to a site near Modesto's 9th Street Bridge, the on-site population burgeoned to almost 500. Costs in maintaining the camp were estimated at \$13 per person per day.

Most people think of congregate shelters when they hear the words "shelter capacity," but permitted camping showed shelter can be provided far more quickly and inexpensively than traditional shelter options. Moreover, the majority of homeless people who have lived in congregate shelters don't want to stay for numerous reasons, but especially because there is so little privacy and the chances of moving on are so slight.


Shelter options in addition to permitted camping are also available. When compared to the costs of sweeps, congregate shelters, lost property values, environmental damage and adverse effects on human health, alternative shelter options provide by far the best method for getting people off the streets, out of the dirt, and into humane and cost-effective living conditions.

One such option, Pallet Shelters, cost \$6,995 each and



can be set up in a day. Fifty such units could be put into service almost immediately for the approximate cost of one of Riverbank's \$350,000 "affordable" housing units.

Important as they are, costs are not the most significant factor in our failure to mitigate the multiple harms of homelessness. The crucial factor — the element we continue to ignore at our own peril — is our failure to realize that homelessness is a humanitarian crisis during which we continue to treat people in distress with cruel disregard and callous indifference. That stain on our own humanity won't soon be swept away.



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Homeless: The Accountability Papers #3

By ERIC CAINE, The Valley Citizen

“Given the significant dollars spent to address homelessness, this lack of accountability is problematic and can undermine the public’s confidence in our public agencies.”

Stanislaus County Civil Grand Jury, June 2022

It was only last year that Stanislaus County added “accountability” to its plan for reducing regional homelessness. The new measure was intended to hold homeless people more accountable for being homeless.

Released this June, in yet another of too many ironies to count regarding government failures on homelessness, the Stanislaus County Civil Grand Jury Report of 2021-2022 found that “accountability is lacking,” not among the homeless, but as a result of the myriad government agencies, non-profits, churches, charities and private organizations focused on ending homelessness in Stanislaus County.

The Grand Jury’s conclusion that attempts to reduce homelessness have failed wasn’t news to anyone still relying on the evidence of their senses. Burgeoning homeless numbers are visible everywhere in the form of bodies on the sidewalks, along freeway margins, and prone in local parks.

However, while no one with eyes and ears needs to know that homeless numbers have continued to grow, the great value of the Stanislaus County Civil Grand Jury Report (SCCGJ) is in its finding that there are,

.... dozens of public agencies, private organizations, and non-profits working in this arena. It is hard to evaluate coordination, effectiveness, and accountability when efforts are so fragmented. The SCCGJ found that while efforts to coordinate all these agencies and their activities are being pursued, accountability is lacking. Given the significant dollars spent to address homelessness, this lack of accountability is problematic and can undermine the public’s confidence in our public agencies.

Anyone working on the ground with homeless people in need of help would add that not only is there a “lack of accountability,” there is also a lack of candor about why homeless numbers continue to grow.

Consider, for example, just one segment of the homeless population, the mentally ill. Salvation Army Major Harold Laubach recently estimated that forty percent of the residents of Stanislaus County’s Low Barrier Shelter are mentally ill. He added that another forty percent deal with “substance abuse problems.”

Laubach noted that given the absence of alternatives, homeless shelters were a better option than homelessness itself. The vast majority of homeless people, ill or not, disagree. The evidence is in the ongoing availability of beds in local shelters.

Though they were never designed for such purposes, today’s shelters now serve dual roles as mental institutions



and warehouses for drug users in search of help. Staff at the shelters lack training to deal with such problems while shortages of infrastructure and services prevent timely transition to more appropriate venues. No wonder so many people avoid traditional shelters.

The plain fact is that our homeless crisis is actually a housing and care crisis, and not necessarily even an “affordable housing” crisis, insofar as no housing is affordable for people without incomes or the ability to earn them. And even though a great many homeless people do have incomes — often as a result of disabilities or retirement — those incomes are far too little to afford traditional housing options.

Those who might benefit from traditional housing options include workers in fast food, Amazon warehouses, and other jobs that pay too little to meet today’s housing costs. However, those traditional housing options — apartments and studios — would have to be constructed so that rents would be far lower than today’s averages. Given mounting costs of construction and building fees, it’s improbable we’ll have such options any

time soon. Meanwhile, people with insufficient incomes for traditional housing options are living in their cars.

These hard facts about homelessness would ordinarily mean we have a humanitarian crisis brought about by insufficient housing and services to accommodate peoples’ needs for health care, shelter, including toilets and running water, and community services such as trash and garbage disposal. Instead, we have “homelessness” and debates about its causes, almost none of which acknowledge the central problem is fellow citizens in dire need of urgent care.

The SCCGJ did not note that political leaders benefit from lack of accountability and won’t be eager to accept responsibility of any kind. They much prefer the fog of a fragmented, inefficient, and dysfunctional system to having to answer for their failures. Positive change won’t happen as long as the same players continue to dominate access to revenue streams while squandering resources and avoiding meaningful action in favor of cruel indifference to human suffering.

Residential long-term care workers

from page 5

Yet long-term care workers do not receive adequate pay for their work, and many live in poverty,” said Sebastian Martinez Hickey, EPI research assistant and co-author of the report. “If we are to ensure that those who need care receive quality care, we must be able to attract more workers to this profession and ensure that those workers have the pay, benefits, and supports they need.”

“The deficiencies in access, quality of care, and quality of life for residents and their families are inseparable from the struggles and deficiencies in job quality, societal recognition, public funding, and voice on the job for long-term care workers,” said Marokey Sawo, EPI state economic analyst and co-author of the report. “Only when workers, care recipients,

and their families stand together in solidarity can the U.S. overcome its short-sightedness to secure the services and job quality necessary for a dignified collective future. Such a future can be achieved only with adequate public funding that simultaneously improves conditions for care workers and ensures adequate care access and quality for those in need, regardless of their income or wealth level.”

EPI is an independent, nonprofit think tank that researches the impact of economic trends and policies on working people in the United States. EPI’s research helps policymakers, opinion leaders, advocates, journalists, and the public understand the bread-and-butter issues affecting ordinary Americans.

Autumn Art Festival Exhibition open at Mistlin Gallery

When: August 16 to October 15, 11:30am – 5:00pm.

Where: Mistlin Gallery, 1015 J St, Modesto, CA

Gala Fundraiser: September 10, 6 - 9 p.m.

The Autumn Art Festival is the annual juried member show featuring the best works of our Central California Art Association community. Over \$2,000 in prizes have been awarded in five categories of media. The Best of Show award went to a digitally created painting by Rebecca Jo (shown below), titled *Metamorphosis*. All works are for sale.

The awards will be presented at an annual fundraising gala, held on **September 10**. The gala includes fine food and wine, jazz music by Roger Coss, and of course all the extraordinary art by our member artists. Tickets are available at ccaagallery.org/shop for \$35.

A fundraising auction is also taking place, online until the Sept. 10 gala, then finishing live at the evening event. To view, bid or purchase items, visit 32auctions.com/ccaagala22 or use the QR code. Items range from art donated by our members to collectibles and workshops.

An original painting by the late Dan Petersen is part of the auction.

All proceeds from this event help to provide community outreach, exhibitions and continuing programs provided by CCAA, a local non-profit 501c3. Donations are welcome, and tax deductible.



To The Man in Modesto with the Flag in His Truck

(Yes, I'm talking to You)

On July 4, I watched you mount the flag into the bed of your truck. My heart fell to my feet, not wanting to acknowledge your gloating. But I witnessed your delight...it was a happy task for you. I wanted to deny your hip-hip-hooray for the corrupted judges on the bench. (July 4th was just days away from the Roe reversal, a cataclysm for women).

I say to you man of Modesto -- it is a corrupted bonanza you glory in. Womankind are paying dearly for your celebration--equality, freedom, gone. But go ahead, honk enthusiastically over the reversal of feminist advances. As you drive by, rev your engine in support of diminished checks and balances. You should realize, though, that your own predilections are exhibited for all to see.

I say secure that pole, then lay some rubber! So many see you. I'm here to remind you that the wind that moves your flag also moves Me. Blown away are my illusions, misplaced hero worship, admiration, the Man Myth. A center within me remains, absent reverence, filled to the brim with Knowing Who You Are. Look out from your high seat there in the cab; as I must see You, so must you see Me.

I feel the waves of your smugness flying free out the window; they weigh me down. While you celebrate a shocking vulgarity, I'm digging the grave of my trust in you. Think twice, for those who bear life for you are also those who make your life bearable. I've been in this fight, gained ground, lost ground; so, too will my granddaughters enter the fray. I see a future for them where our nation becomes what it was meant to be, a true democracy.

Where equality blesses all and diversity is the highest celebration,
Where checks and balances are honored, and greed is trampled underfoot.
Where women are not attacked for daring to hold their own power,
Where daughters never know the twisted metal hook of a clothes hanger.

– *The Woman Who Sees You*

Lines Written in Early Spring

I heard a thousand blended notes,
While in a grove I sate reclined,
In that sweet mood when pleasant thoughts
Bring sad thoughts to the mind.

To her fair works did nature link
The human soul that through me ran;
And much it grieved my heart to think
What man has made of man.

Through primrose tufts, in that sweet bower,
The periwinkle trailed its wreaths;
And 'tis my faith that every flower
Enjoys the air it breathes.

The birds around me hopped and played:
Their thoughts I cannot measure,
But the least motion which they made,
It seemed a thrill of pleasure.

The budding twigs spread out their fan,
To catch the breezy air;
And I must think, do all I can,
That there was pleasure there.

If this belief from heaven be sent,
If such be Nature's holy plan,
Have I not reason to lament
What man has made of man?

– *William Wordsworth*



Juried Member Show
August 16 - October 15, 2022

Gala Fundraiser
September 10

Online Auction Aug. 20 - Sept. 9

Mistlin Gallery | 1015 J Street | Downtown Modesto
ccaagallery.org



Look for
CONNECTIONS
online at:
<http://stanislausconnections.org/>

Award-Winning Poet Kai Coggin to Facilitate MoSt Workshop on October 1

The Modesto-Stanislaus Poetry Center (MoSt) is very pleased to announce that award-winning poet Kai Coggin will facilitate a special Zoom Workshop Event on Saturday, October 1, 2022.

Kai Coggin (she/her) is the author of four poetry collections, most recently *Mining for Stardust* (FlowerSong Press 2021) and *INCANDESCENT* (Sibling Rivalry Press 2019). She is a queer woman of color who thinks Black Lives Matter, a teaching artist in poetry with the Arkansas Arts Council and Arkansas Learning Through the Arts, and host of the longest-running, consecutive weekly open mic series in the country — “Wednesday Night Poetry.”



Recently awarded the 2021 Governor’s Arts Award, named “Best Poet in Arkansas” by the *Arkansas Times*, and nominated as Hot Springs Woman of the Year, her fierce and powerful poetry has been nominated four times for The Pushcart Prize, as well as Bettering American Poetry 2015, and Best of the Net 2016, 2018, 2021 — awarded in 2022. Her poems have appeared or are forthcoming in *POETRY*, *Best of the Net*, *Cultural Weekly*, *SOLSTICE*, *Bellevue Literary Review*, *TAB*, *Entropy*, *SWWIM*, *Split This Rock*, *Sinister Wisdom*, *Lavender Review*, *Tupelo Press*, *West Trestle Review*, and elsewhere. Coggin is Associate Editor at *The Rise Up Review* and on the Board of Directors of the International Women’s Writing Guild.

She lives with her wife and their two adorable dogs in the valley of a small mountain in Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas.

The Zoom event is scheduled to run from 10 am until 12:30 pm. A registration form will be available on the MoSt website (www.mostpoetry.org). Registration is \$20.00.



A Poem You Write, Dear Reader

Take this space for yourself. Grab a pen. Mine the stardust that remains etched in your cells after what we all experienced together. Write. Reflect. Put your feelings down onto the page. How did you break? How did you grow? What do you take with you into tomorrow?

Essence

I thinned the seeds already sprouting
in the bamboo garden
the radish beet carrot and bean

pulled each birth
out of the earth
and laid it on my tongue
crushed it with my teeth

and did you know these tiny sprouts
these little leaves and baby greens
already hold the heavy flavors of their final selves?

if only we tasted our own essence from birth
knew the transformations to come
were all part of the becoming —

that we had the imprint all along.

Ring Sing

There is a new song
that comes from my fingers,
a new vibration
as the sound
of my promise clinks
against the everyday things
I hold and touch,

the sound my wedding ring makes
against a glass,
a tiny bell of hope,

the song it makes as I
swipe the sudsy stainless steel sink,
push wet carrot tops
and bean ends
into the garbage disposal
with this soft scrape of gentle forever,

I keep hearing
what I think are bells,
but it is just my
ring
singing
into everything.

Palette

last night
before sleep she drew pictures on my back
with her fingers
a test of my spatial recognition
my ability to form
a horse
a sun
a sailboat
from the movement of her fingertip traces
against my skin
to see it
take shape in my mind’s eye
invisible palette

the curvature of my back
competing with her delicate design
of flower
fish
smile
and I cannot guess
cannot translate the trace to shape
each time she erases
whole palm swipes in the dark
tries again
rabbit
snail
and I am the worst at this game
because
just being touched
by the fingertip of this artist
just having my skin rise to meet her

all I can picture in these traces is

Heaven

Heaven

Heaven

All poems by Kai Coggin
Mining for Stardust
Flowersong Press, 2021.

Great Programs on KCBP 95.5 FM, The Voice of the Valley

Streaming on
www.kcbpradio.org

PSAs in English and Spanish broadcast multiple times a day about Covid-19 vaccination, produced by the West Modesto Community Collaborative.

PROGRAMS

NEW: *Ukraine 2.4.2* - a collaboration between Anne Levine, WOMR, the Pacifica Network, and Kraina FM, a 26-city radio network in Ukraine that arranges weekly cutting-edge and exclusive interviews with key people in Ukraine - Thursdays, 10:00 am.

Beethoven to Bernstein - Classical music ranging from Beethoven to Bernstein. Big hits from well-known composers - Chopin, Tchaikovsky, Strauss, Ravel, Copland - and many more, mostly in the form of orchestral, chamber, and piano music - Saturdays, 10:00 pm.

The Not Old - Better Show - fascinating, high-energy program of big-name guests, inspiring role models, interesting topics, with entertaining host, Paul Vogelzang - Fridays, 2:00 pm, Saturdays, 12:30 pm.

Bucks Stallion's Radio Transmission Emporium - Cyber Music - Sundays, 1:00 am

Down on the Farm - topics important for our San Joaquin agriculture with Madera organic farmer, Tom Willey - Saturdays, 6 am



Dos Rios

from page 1

For bird lovers like members of Stanislaus Audubon Society, the thrill of seeing native species like Swainson's Hawk, Lazuli Bunting and Blue Grosbeak thrive in their natural habitat is exceeded only by their gratitude for the work of the Central Valley Joint Venture, including River Partners. Absent their dedication to restoring the loss of 95% or our riparian forests and 90% of our native wetlands, recovery of wounded nature would almost certainly be doomed.

Instead, the ongoing restoration of the San Joaquin Valley's rivers, floodplains, and spectacular wildlife provides multiple reasons to be optimistic about humankind's role as nature's guardian and steward.

AREA 5150 UFO RADIO - Saturday night at Midnight.

LOCALLY PRODUCED PROGRAMS

L-On-Modesto - John Griffin interviews local people who reveal their inspiring stories. Mondays & Fridays, 10 am and Wednesdays at 9 pm.

Arts of the San Joaquin Valley with Linda Scheller and Laura Stokes - Mondays, 8:00 pm; Tuesdays 9:00 am & Wednesdays 8:00 pm. Listen here: <https://anchor.fm/kcbp> and on Spotify

Women of the Valley with Linda Scheller - 8:00 pm Tuesdays & Thursdays & Wednesdays, 9:00 am. Listen here: <https://anchor.fm/kcbpwotv> and on Spotify.

People Not Profit - with Pegasus - Wednesdays, 9:30 pm; Saturdays, 2:30 pm; Formerly *Peril and the Promise*. Listen here also: <https://anchor.fm/kcbp-peril>.

Modesto Sound - California Audio Roots Project (CARP) - Wednesdays 11:30 am, & Sundays 11:00 am & 5:30 pm.

Where We Were - Fascinating local history with Felton Daniels. Monday & Thursdays 9am. Friday 8:30 pm; Sunday at 11:00 am & 4:30 pm.

Local Music Programs

Mars Radio - Hip-Hop Show - Music, interviews from local & regional artists - Fridays, 8:00 pm. A new, second show plays on Saturday nights at 8:00 pm, with a third at 8:00 pm Sunday.

Modesto Area Music Awards (MAMA) with Middagh Goodwin - Mondays 5:00pm; Fridays 9:00 pm & Saturdays 6:00 pm.

Freak Radio with Christian E. Boyett, 6 pm Thursdays. Replays Saturdays, 9 pm & Tuesdays 11 pm.

This is SKA with Middagh Goodwin - Tuesdays, 9 pm; Fridays, 11 pm; Sundays, 5 am to 7 am.

I'll Take You There - A musical journey with Modesto's El

Comandante - Saturday, 5:00 pm; Sundays, 9:00 pm.

Weekdays (Monday - Friday)

Various musical programs during the noon hour: *Oldies, Old Piano.*

Sounds Irish Music from County Wicklow - Saturdays, 7:00 pm.

Dead Air - Hear the Grateful Dead with Corey Daniels. Fridays, 6 pm; Saturdays, 3 pm

Attitude with Arne Arnesen - 3:00 pm. Political and social issues.

Sojourner Truth - 4:00 pm. Interviews, panels focusing on issues that affect people of color.

Democracy Now! - 7:00 am. Reporting by veteran journalist Amy Goodman.

Flashpoint Magazine - 10:00 pm. Politics, social issues, from KQED's Dennis Bernstein.

Children's Programming

Confetti Park - Saturdays 8:00 am; & Sunday's 12:30 pm.

The Children's Hour - Sundays 3:00pm.

Science

Explorations - Science with Dr. Michio Kaku - 9:00am Sundays.

Big Picture Science - 1:00pm Sundays

Planetary Radio - 2:30pm Sundays

Got Science - 4:00 pm Sundays

Find a complete programming schedule on our website, www.kcbpradio.org

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY RADIO STATION: Donate your old car, boat, or other vehicles to help KCBP Radio. More information is here: <http://kcbpradio.org/car-donation.html>. Please consider a recurring monthly donation.



Donate Your Vehicle to KCBP Radio: It's a Win-Win Solution

Have you considered donating a vehicle to KCBP Radio? **Not only will you cruise past the hassles altogether, but you'll make a lasting impact.**

1. It's easy and the pick-up is free!
2. The proceeds from the sale of your vehicle will help us continue to provide community programs to you!
3. Donating saves time and money on repairs and maintenance.
4. Donating beats the hassles and worries of selling.
5. Our Vehicle Donation Support Team is here to guide you every step of the way.
6. We help you take care of the paperwork and provide you with any necessary tax documents. Vehicle donations are tax-deductible.



To donate, call (855) 500-7433, or submit the secure online form at <https://careasy.org/KCBP>. We accept all types of vehicles that meet the following basic requirements: Vehicle has a clear title, is in one piece, is accessible for safe towing, does not need to be running.

Valley Air District Offers Clean Air Funding for Sustainable Agriculture

Clean air funding currently available, with increased funding for small growers

From the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. In the San Joaquin Valley, strong collaboration between agricultural operations, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (Valley Air District), California Air Resources Board (CARB), USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS), and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is providing significant reductions in air pollution, toxic air contaminants, and greenhouse gases through public and private partnership to deploy the latest and cleanest technologies. These incentive-based efforts have significantly reduced air pollution from various agricultural operations through applicant cost-shared grant programs, with enhanced incentive funding for smaller farming operations facing the greatest difficulties in transitioning to new equipment. Through these efforts, over 16,000 old high-polluting agricultural pieces of equipment have been replaced, and the open burning of over 109,000 acres (nearly 3,000,000 tons of woody waste) has been eliminated through non-burning alternative practices including chipping and soil incorporation.

Funding sources in support of these clean air efforts include local Valley Air District funding, California Climate Investments and other state funding, and federal Diesel Emission Reduction Act and Targeted Airshed Grant funding. As key examples of currently available funding, the District recently accepted \$168.4 million from the State of California under the Funding Agricultural Replacement Measures for Emission Reductions (FARMER) program, and \$180 million for the Alternatives to Agricultural Open Burning program.

“The District appreciates the Governor, State Legislature, and Federal government recognizing the public health benefits that result from these clean air investments,” stated Samir Sheikh, Executive Director/Air Pollution Control Officer for the Valley Air District.

“The San Joaquin Valley agricultural sector feeds our nation and the world, and sustainable agricultural strategies put into place by the Valley Air District’s Governing Board

allow our Valley growers to produce the best quality produce and crops using the cleanest practices and equipment,” stated Stanislaus County Supervisor Vito Chiesa, Chair of the Valley Air District’s Governing Board.

These District incentive programs provide funding to farmers, matched with applicant funding, to voluntarily replace their old, higher-polluting equipment with new, much cleaner equipment. To ensure equitable access to these resources, small growers are offered additional incentives, including:

Agricultural Tractor Replacement Program:

- Operations of 100 acres or less can now receive up to 80% off the cost of eligible new latest certified equipment
- Operations of 100 acres or less can now receive up to 80% off the cost of eligible certified pre-owned Tier 3 equipment
- Operations between 101 and 500 acres can now receive up to 70% off the cost of eligible new latest certified equipment.
- Alternatives to Open Burning Incentive Program
- Operations of 100 acres or less can now receive an additional \$100 per acre (in addition to \$300 to \$1,300 per acre based on crop type and practice) to deploy clean alternatives to open burning

Officials from the Valley Air District, CARB, USDA-NRCS, U.S. EPA and California Legislature gathered with Valley farmers and leaders this morning to crush several old high-polluting tractors and pieces of equipment that were being eliminated through the program. On hand for the crushing



of her old tractor was small farmer and Vice President of the African American Farmers of California, Shirley Rowe. “I just received my new tractor! It’s a New Holland, it’s beautiful and they are going to teach me how to drive it and I am real glad to get rid of my old International and get into this cleaner tractor,” she stated. “I’m very grateful to the Valley Air District and I am hopeful that small farmers can continue to use these various programs.”

In addition to these programs, the District offers a variety of programs to support Valley farmers, residents, businesses, and public agencies with cleaner equipment, vehicles, and practices. Visit www.valleyair.org/grants or call the grants team at 559-230-5800 for more information.

Clean air investments in the Valley have significantly reduced air pollution, resulting in substantial air quality improvements throughout the Valley. Despite these improvements and ongoing local clean air efforts, more state and federal investment is needed to continue addressing mobile source emissions under state and federal jurisdiction (heavy duty vehicles and equipment) that make up the majority of air pollution in the San Joaquin Valley.

The Valley Air District covers eight counties including San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and San Joaquin Valley air basin portions of Kern. For additional information about the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, visit www.valleyair.org or call 559-230-6000.

JOB OPENING: Executive Director: Work with Musicians and Help Youth at the Same Time!

By **BRENDA FRANCIS**, former Executive Director, Modesto Sound

Modesto Sound is a recording studio open to all ages. We offer live sound services while providing job training to youth. Modesto Sound has recorded over 500 artists, held hundreds of concerts, and recorded thousands of public service announcements for radio.

We are passionate about what we do and know that healthy programs for youth are of utmost importance. Hundreds of young people have attended our programs and come back time and time again to help our mission

continue with their vibrant energy and enthusiasm.

For this job, fresh college graduates will be considered as well as people with no degree but have business management experience.

Music skills and live sound concert experience are a plus. There are some accounting, program management, and organizing meetings involved too, of course. Pay is \$18-\$30 an hour depending on experience.

Open since 2005, our mission is to empower youth with real-world job skills to create music and artistic media. We are seeking an energetic **Executive Director** that this position speaks to. We also need someone to help with our live sound and, if they happen to be the same person, it would be more hours and more fun!

Either way, apply. We look forward to talking with you and hopefully meeting you!

Link to **Zip Recruiter** for job opening: <https://www.ziprecruiter.com/job/56087e9f>

Call or text Brenda, 208-999-7978, is also fine. <https://modestosound.org>



calendar

Help keep our readers informed. We urge people participating in an event to write about it and send their story to *Connections*.

september 2022

CHECK WITH MEETING HOSTS. ONLINE MEETINGS MAY BE PLANNED.

MJC Science Colloquium Fall 2022 Schedule. Wednesdays 3:15 - 4:15 pm, see page 2 for details. Back in-person in Science Community Center, Room 115, West Campus. Talks will also be recorded for the Science Colloquium's YouTube site for later viewing. **Sept. 14:** Denise Godbout-Avant, Stanislaus County Master Gardener. All About Bees. Bees are fascinating insects and vital agricultural pollinators. Learn about their anatomy, life stages, types of bees and habits, why they are in trouble and how we can help.

Sept. 28: Christine Gemperle, Almond Farmer, Gemperle Orchards. Growing Almonds and Finding Balance in the Face of Challenges Posed by Climate Change. California's multibillion-dollar almond industry must adapt to climate change.

MAPS (Modesto Area Partners in Science): free MJC science programs. on Fridays in MJC West Campus, Sierra Hall 132 at 7:30 pm (also at 4 pm on 9/30/22). **Friday, Sept. 30:** Two presentations - 4 pm (all ages), 7:30 pm (Jr. High and up). A MAPS, GVM, and SCOE production. Taormina (Tara) Lepore, Ph.D. candidate, UC Museum of Paleontology. Details on page 2. More at <http://taorminalepore.com/>

The Prospect Theatre has continuing offerings: Visit <https://prospecttheaterproject.org/2021-2022-season/>

7 WED: VIGIL: SAVING OUR DEMOCRACY. 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm, McHenry & J. St.

8 THURS: Peace/Life Center ZOOM Monthly Board Meeting, 6:30 pm. Email jcostello@igc.org for login.

10 SAT: MJC Litter Cleanup. East Campus, 435 College Ave., 10 am to 12:30 pm. Sponsored by Stanislaus CJAN and the Sierra Club.

18 SUN: The State Theatre and the Modesto Film Society present *The Manchurian Candidate*. Join the State Theatre. Have fun, get perks, support Modesto's historic non-profit theatre. Visit <https://thestate.org/films/the-manchurian-candidate-092022/>. 2 pm.

looking ahead

Saturday, October 1: The Modesto-Stanislaus Poetry Center (MoSt) hosts award-winning poet Kai Coggin who will facilitate a special Zoom Workshop. Registration fee is \$20.00 To register, visit (www.mostpoetry.org).

Pancake Breakfast may return. Stay tuned.

Golden State Warriors Wheelchair Basketball Team Benefit Game for KCBP Radio. TBA.

regular meetings

SUNDAYS

Modesto Vineyard Christian Fellowship, 10:00 am at the MODSPOT, 1220 J St. Call or text 209-232-1932, email modestovineyard@gmail.com; All Welcome.

IMCV weekly Insight Meditation and dharma talk, 8:45 am - 10:15 am, 2172 Kiernan Ave., Modesto (rear bldg. at the end of the UUFSC east parking lot). Offered freely, donations welcome. Info: Contact Lori, 209-343-2748 or see <https://imcv.org/> Email: info@imcv.org Food Addicts Anonymous in Recovery. Sundays 6:30 pm, 2467 Veneman Ave. Modesto. Info: Emily M., 209 480-8247.

Village Dancers are not dancing in person but have a Zoom class, every Sunday 3:00-5:00 PM (PST). Lessons and reviews every week are given in international folk dances and are led by different teachers from around the Valley. People from England to Taiwan, New Hampshire to Oregon, Arizona to Denair join us each week to exercise in their own homes to interesting music. Email Judy at JudyKropp40@gmail.com to receive the Zoom number and password.

MONDAYS

The Compassionate Friends, Modesto/Riverbank Area Chapter is meeting by Zoom on the second Mondays at 7:00 pm. Bereaved parents, grandparents, and adult siblings are invited to participate in this support group for families whose children have died at any age, from any cause. Call 209-622-6786 or email for details: tcfmmodestoriverbank@gmail.com; <https://www.modestoriverbanktcf.org/>

Suicide Loss Support Group: Friends for Survival meets every third Monday at 7 pm. Details: Norm Andrews 209-345-0601, nandrews6863@charter.net.

Monday Morning Funstrummers Beginner Ukulele Lessons. Modesto Senior Center. 10:45am to Noon. Free Scenic and Bodem.

Walk with Me, a women's primary infertility support group and Bible study. 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm the first and third Mondays of each month. Big Valley Grace Community Church. Interested? Email WalkWithMeGroup@gmail.com or call 209.577.1604.

TUESDAYS

Climate Action Justice Network-Stanislaus meets the first Tuesday of the month, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Link-<https://tinyurl.com/CJAN-FirstTuesday>

Attention Veterans: Join us for Free Coffee & Donuts Meet & Greet at the Stanislaus Veterans Center, 3500 Coffee Rd., Modesto, Suite 15, 7 am - 11 am

NAACP Meeting. King-Kennedy Center, 601 S. Martin Luther King Dr., Modesto, 3rd Tuesday @ 6:30 pm. 209-645-1909; email: naacp.branch1048@gmail.com

Exploring Whiteness & Showing Up for Racial Justice Meetings, Fourth Tuesday, monthly 7:00 p.m., Central Grace Hmong Alliance Church, 918 Sierra Dr., Modesto. Info: <https://www.facebook.com/events/24765549018387/>

Pagan Family Social, third Tuesdays, Golden Corral, 3737 McHenry Ave, Modesto, 6:00 pm. Info: 569-0816. All newcomers, pagan-curious and pagan-friendly welcome.

Tuesday Evening Funstrummers Ukulele Jam. Songbooks provided. 6pm to 8pm, 1600 Carver Rd., Donation. 209-505-3216, www.funstrummers.com.

IMCV weekly Insight Meditation and dharma talk, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm, 2172 Kiernan Ave., Modesto (rear bldg. at the end of the UUFSC east parking lot). Offered freely, donations welcome. Info: Contact Lori, 209-343-2748 or see <https://imcv.org/> Email: info@imcv.org

Adult Children Of Alcoholics, Every Tuesday, 7 pm at 1320 L St., (Christ Unity Baptist Church). Info: Jeff, 527-2469.

WEDNESDAYS

Womxns Support Group for Womxn in all stages of life. Join us in a safe and judgment free environment where you can give and receive support for the many issues that we struggle with as Womxn. Every Tuesday from 1pm-2pm at the Central California LGBTQ+ Collaborative, 1202 H St., Suite D, Modesto CA (Ages +18). Contact Sandra Vidor-209.652.3961 or Kellie Johnson 209.918.0271

The GAP. A place of support for Christian parents of LGBTQ+ or questioning kids every Wednesday 6:30pm at St. Paul's Episcopal Church 1528 Oakdale Rd. Instagram: [Thegapmodesto](https://www.instagram.com/thegapmodesto)

Ongoing meditation class based on Qi Gong Principals. Practice a 3 Step Guided Meditation Process I have been doing for over a decade. Fun and Easy. JOIN ME! Donations accepted but optional. Call 209.495.6608 or email Orlando Arreygue, CMT RYT, orlando@arreygue.com

MODESTO PEACE LIFE CENTER ACTIVITIES

Modesto Peace/Life Center VIGILS: Held THE FIRST WEDNESDAY of the month at McHenry Ave. and J. St. (Five points), 4:30-5:30 pm. Call the Center for info: 529-5750.

MEDIA: Listen to **KCBP 95.5 FM** Community Radio, the "Voice of the Valley" also streaming at <http://www.KCBPradio.org>

PEACE LIFE CENTER BOARD MEETING, FIRST Thursdays, 829 13th St., Modesto, 6:30 pm, 529-5750. Meetings on Zoom. Email Jim Costello for login information, jcostello@igc.org

PEACE/LIFE CENTER MODESTO, 829 13th St. Call 529-5750. We'll get back to you with current info on activities. NOTE THE CENTER'S NEW ADDRESS.

Merced LGBT Community Center offers a variety of monthly meetings and written materials. Volunteers, on site Wed-Fri, offer support. Ph: 209-626-5551. Email: merced-board@gaycentralvalley.org - 1744 G St. Suite H, Merced, CA. www.mercedlgbtcenter.org

Merced Full Spectrum meets the second Wednesday of every month, 6 p.m. 1744 G St., Suite H, Merced <http://www.lgbtmerced.org/> Merced Full Spectrum is a division of Gay Central Valley, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. <http://www.gaycentralvalley.org/>

GLBT Questioning Teen Support Group (14-19 years old). 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, College Ave. Congregational Church, 1341 College Ave., Modesto. 7 - 9 pm. Safe, friendly, confidential. This is a secular, non-religious group. Info: call 524-0983.

Transgender Support Group, 2nd & 4th Wed., 7:30 to 9 pm. Info: (209) 338-0855. Email info@stanpride.org, or tgssupport@stanpride.org

Mindful Meditation: Modesto Almond Blossom Sangha, 7 - 9 pm. Info: Anne, 521-6977.

THURSDAYS

CA10 Progressive Coalition Monthly Meeting, third Thursdays. Inclusive group of progressive activists to share resources, ideas, and information in order to support all the great organizing work happening in the Valley! Feel free to invite trusted allies. Meet-up and social hour: 5:30 pm-6:30 pm. Meeting: 6:30 pm-8:00 pm. Follow group on Facebook. Info: Tim Robertson, tim@nvlf.org

Laughter Yoga, Every other Thursday at The Bird's Nest, 422 15th St., Modesto. The dates are February & March 7th & 21st, April 4th & 18th, May 2nd & 16th. 5:30pm-6:30pm. \$15.00 per class. To register, call or text Nicole, 209-765-8006 or visit www.nicoleottman.com

Attention Veterans: Join us for Free Coffee & Donuts Meet & Greet at the Stanislaus Veterans Center, 3500 Coffee Rd., Modesto, Suite 15, 7 am - 11 am

IMCV Grupo de Meditación en Español, cada semana 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm, 2172 Kiernan Ave., Modesto (edificio trasero al final del estacionamiento este de UUFSC). Ofrecido libremente, las donaciones son bienvenidas. Info: Contacto Vanessa, 209-408-6172.

Green Team educational meetings the 3rd Thursday of each month, 10 to 11 am, Kirk Lindsey Center, 1020 10th St. Plaza, Suite 102, Modesto. www.StanislausGreenTeam.com

Third Thursday Art Walk, Downtown Modesto, downtown art galleries open - take a walk and check out the local art scene. 5-8 pm every third Thursday of the month. Info: 209-529-3369, <http://www.modestoartwalk.com>

The Book Group, First & third Thursdays. College Ave UCC Youth Bldg., Orangeburg & College Ave., 3:30 - 5:00 pm. Info: mzjurkovic@gmail.com

Valley Heartland Zen Group: every Thurs 6:30 to 8:30 pm, Modesto Church of the Brethren, 2310 Woodland Ave. Meditation. Newcomers welcome. Info: 535-6750 or <http://emptynestzendo.org>

Pagan Community Meeting, 1st Thursdays, Cafe Amore, 3025 McHenry Ave, Suite S., Modesto, 8 pm. Info: 569-0816. All newcomers, pagan-curious and pagan-friendly welcome.

FRIDAYS

Funstrummers: A Fun-loving Ukulele group gets together live to practice and play. Play along with us or work up to

playing out in gigs. Friday mornings, 10am to Noon at the Telle Classrooms, Trinity Presbyterian, 1600 Carver Rd., Modesto. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mej3gD0ZD40&list=LLB8Y19zZg660qHCXGoC6ojQ&index=1>

Overcoming Depression: small group for men & women. Every Friday, 7:15 pm. Cornerstone Community Church, 17900 Comconex Rd, Manteca, CA 95366, (209) 825-1220.

Latino Emergency Council (LEC) 3rd Fridays, 8:15 am, El Concilio, 1314 H St. Modesto. Info: Dale Butler, 522-8537.

Sierra Club: Yokuts Group. Regular meetings, third Friday, College Ave. Congregational Church, 7 pm. Info: 300-4253. Visit <http://www.sierraclub.org/mother-lode/yokuts> for info on hikes and events.

Mujeres Latinas, last Friday, lunch meetings, Info: Cristina Villego, 549-1831.

Hispanic Leadership Council, 3rd Fridays at noon, 1314 H St., Modesto 95354. Questions? Yamilet Valladolid, yamilet@hotmail.com

SATURDAY

New HIV support group: +NET Peer Support Group meets at the LGBTQ+ Advocacy Center, every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month from 12-1pm. Focuses on supporting individuals with their struggles regarding HIV and AIDS. Providing information about community resources, promoting wellness with an emphasis on LIVING! Central California LGBTQ+ Collaborative, 1202 H St., Suite D, Modesto. Contact Vincent, 209.505.2863.

12-Step/Buddhist Meeting starts with a 30-minute meditation and then open discussion. Held monthly every second Saturday, 4:30 to 6:00 pm, 2172 Kiernan Ave., Modesto at the UUFSC in Sarana (small building, rear of the east parking lot). Freely-offered donations welcome. Information: 209 606 7214.

Free Community Drum Circle every third Saturday, 3 pm, Deva Café, 1202 J. St., Modesto. No experience or drums necessary to participate. All levels welcome. <https://drum-love.com/>

Refuge Recovery: A Buddhist Approach to Recovery from Addiction. @Friends Coming of Age., 1203 Tully Rd., Ste. B., Modesto. Saturdays 8-9 am. FREE (donations accepted). Info: RefugeRecoveryModesto@gmail.com

Divine Feminine Gathering. Join us for a time of ritual, song and conversation as women come together to celebrate one another and the Divine among us and within us. 3rd Saturday of the month, 3:30-5:00 p.m. Stockton, CA. Contact Rev. Erin King, 209-815-0763, orkingenne@gmail.com

So Easy ~ So Good: Vegetarian/Vegan/Wannabe Group. Potlucks, guest speakers, field trips, activist activities, movie nights, etc. Third Saturday of every month. Info: Kathy Haynes (209) 250-9961 or email kathyhaynesESG@gmail.com

DEADLINE to submit articles to CONNECTIONS: Tenth of each month.

Submit peace, justice, environmental event notices to Jim Costello, jcostello@igc.org
Free Calendar listings subject to space and editing.

SECOND ANNUAL

SOUNDS OF THE VALLEY

A Benefit for

KCBP 95.5FM
Community Radio

A project of the Modesto Peace/Life Center

SEPTEMBER 25TH 12PM - 8PM

10TH STREET PLAZA

LOCAL BANDS with MC Jeremiah Williams

High Street Blues Band

Aware Portrai lysisia

Horizon Point Chaz & Jess

They Catch Secrets

... more bands

and other Entertainment

SCAN to
Donate



Vendors
Welcome!



**WEST
MODESTO**
Community Collaborative



SAVE THE DATE!

HEALTH FAIR CLINIC

King Kennedy Center

SEPTEMBER 24 • SATURDAY
10AM - 2PM
601 S. MARTIN LUTHER KING DR.
MODESTO, CA 95351

Free Diabetes Screenings,
Cholesterol Testing, COVID-19
Vaccines, Flu Shots and much
more!

Free blood pressure checks as
well as other medical
screenings for all families
connected to work, schools
and churches in West Modesto.

For more information please
call our office at
209-522-6902.

**LOOKING FOR OTHER
AGENCIES TO COME
OUT THIS DAY TO
OFFER FREE
SERVICES/RESOURCES
TO THE COMMUNITY.**



COMMUNITY BUILDERS DINNER

Housing Summit

SEPTEMBER 29TH 2022

Discussing the housing needs within the Modesto community and the actions being taken to improve and address the affordable housing concerns.

Dinner Details:
Check-in: 5:45pm
Dinner: 6:00pm
Meeting Begins: 6:30pm-7:30pm
Both in English & Spanish

Please RSVP at (209)522-6902
by September 26th 2022



601 S. Martin Luther King Dr. Modesto, CA 95351

CENA DE CONSTRUCTORES COMUNITARIOS

Unase A Nuestro Taller de Viviende

29 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 2022

Discutir las necesidades de vivienda dentro de la comunidad de Modesto y las acciones que se están tomando para mejorar y abordar las preocupaciones de vivienda asequible.

Detalles de la cena:
Entrada: 5:45pm
Cena: 6:00pm
Comienzo de la reunión: 6:30 p. m.-7:30 p. m.
Reunión en inglés y español

Confirme su asistencia al (209) 522-6902
antes del 26 de Septiembre de 2022



601 S. Martin Luther King Dr. Modesto, CA 95351

What: League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County Zoom and Learn

Where: Via Zoom

When: Thursday, September 15th at 6:30 pm

Join the League's continuing series on **Criminal Justice Reform in Stanislaus County**. Kate Trompetter and a guest provide an update on the progress of Project Resolve, a network of every law enforcement agency in Stanislaus County and many community partners convened by Sheriff Jeff Dirkse after the death of George Floyd. Its mission is to build trust and strong relationships between law enforcement and the community.

Please RSVP to StanislausLWV@gmail.com before noon on September 15th.