



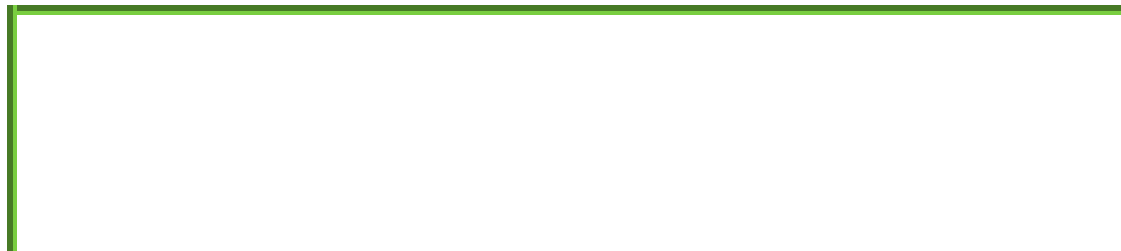
***Protecting our rural environment by promoting citizen
participation in sustainable land use planning since 2006***

The Community Action Project (CAP) administers the Calaveras Planning Coalition (CPC), which is comprised of regional and local organizations, community groups, and concerned individuals who promote public participation in land use and resource planning to ensure a healthy human, natural, and economic environment now and in the future.

Learn more at www.calaverascap.com

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Join Us!

Get a glimpse into what CPC membership is like by attending a meeting.

There is no commitment, just show up and listen in!

Next Calaveras Planning Coalition Meeting

October 5, 2021 3 P.M. - 5 P.M.

New Members Welcome at CPC Meetings

Organizations, groups, and individuals (known as associate members) may join the Calaveras Planning Coalition (CPC). Prospective members may attend two consecutive meetings before making a final decision on membership in the Coalition. The membership form is a pledge to support and advocate for the Coalition's eleven Land Use and Development Principles, which you will find on our website:

www.calaverascap.com.

There is no membership fee. However, members are encouraged to donate to the Community Action Project/Calaveras Planning Coalition. Visitors and prospective members will, by necessity, be excluded from attorney/client privileged discussions.

If you are interested in membership, please email CPC Facilitator Tom Infusino, tomi@volcano.net, to receive a membership form, agenda, and the Zoom meeting connection.

To help prevent the spread of Covid-19 in our county, all CAP and CPC meetings will be held online via Zoom until restrictions are lifted by the Public Health Department.

Board Of Supervisors September 28, 2021

Agenda

Items of Interest :

16. Resolution - Human Resources (ID # 6321) Adopt a Resolution appointing Gina Kathan to the position of Interim Director of Planning, effective October 2, 2021.

31. Resolution - Planning (ID # 6272) Conduct a public hearing and adopt a Resolution to disestablish California Land Conservation Contract / Agriculture

Preserve No 368 & 371 and simultaneously establish California Land Conservation Contract / Agriculture Preserve No 386 for the Robert Garamendi Family & 387 for Chili Gulch Enterprises, LLC.

Planning Commission Meeting October 14, 2021

Agenda Upcoming

Local News

Calaveras County health department reports 4 additional COVID-19 deaths, including male in his 30's

Enterprise Report / The Calaveras Enterprise / September 20, 2021

Four additional Calaveras County residents have died due to COVID-19-related illness, according to the county's health department.

The announcement, issued on Monday, brings the community's total Covid death count to 71 and includes the youngest Covid victim yet reported in Calaveras County, a male who was in his 30s.

The other deaths reported Monday were a male in his 60s, another male in his 70s, and a female in her 80s.

"The team at Calaveras Public Health offers our deepest sympathies to everyone experiencing the loss of a loved one, a friend, a co-worker, or neighbor from COVID-19," Monday's press release states.

Calaveras County's vaccination rate has increased slightly in recent weeks, now listed as 40th in the state with 45.8% of its population fully vaccinated, according to an [L.A. Times vaccine tracker](#).

Last week, staff at Dignity Health/Mark Twain Medical Center in San Andreas spoke about the [ongoing surge](#) in Calaveras County, which began in mid-summer of 2021.

CCWD is rolling out new customer service software

The following press release was issued by the Calaveras County Water District.

SAN ANDREAS, CA., September 21, 2021 – CCWD is pleased to announce it is partnering with Tyler Technologies to implement new customer service software. The software will go live this week.

After the software changes, all customers will have NEW customer accounts. This means that any accounts that are currently enrolled in autopay will need to enroll with the new software. Unfortunately, there was no way to transfer customer data to the new software, so all customers will be required to register for the new software to gain access to:

- Transaction History
- Address Information
- Account Information
- Consumption History
- Manage Multiple Accounts
- Paying your bill (both single payments and setting up auto pay)

CCWD apologizes for this one-time inconvenience, but the new software will greatly improve their customer experience and access to information. With the adoption of Tyler Technologies software, CCWD will have the ability to deliver better and faster assistance to the public while providing greater transparency and accessibility for customers. This transition will also include improvements to CCWD's billing and payment system that will allow for an easier and more streamlined payment process. Once our new Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) meters are installed, CCWD customers will be able to access their detailed, real-time water usage data through an interactive dashboard within their account. Furthermore, customers can set up water usage and leak alerts.

CCWD is asking all customers to go to ccwd.org to set up their new account. In order to accommodate the transition to new payment accounts, no late fees will be assessed on past due balances through October 15.

We want to thank all our customers for their patience during this transition and we look forward to providing a better service to our valued customers.

For more information on CCWD's new finance software or if you have questions about how to set up a new online account, please visit ccwd.org and select Pay My Bill or contact Customer Service at 754-3543 x 3.

Some recreation areas in the Stanislaus National Forest may soon no longer be free, others may cost more

Guy McCarthy / Union Democrat / September 23, 2021

Federal custodians of the Stanislaus National Forest are proposing new fees and fee increases for 31 recreation areas on 1,403 square miles of federal lands, and anyone who wants to comment has until Nov. 30.

People who manage the forest on behalf of taxpayers nationwide say the new fees and fee increases are necessary to do delayed maintenance and make improvements for visitors.

If approved, new fees will be charged at nine recreation sites that currently are free. The free sites and proposed new user fees are Sourgrass, Union East, Beardsley, Rainbow Pool, and Carlon, which would cost visitors \$5 per day or a \$30 annual pass; and four campgrounds that are currently free, Hermit Valley, Herring Creek, Herring Reservoir, and Black Springs Off Highway Vehicle, which would increase from \$0 to \$20.

Most of the remaining recreation areas in the federal proposal are campgrounds that already charge user fees, and under the plan, those user fees would increase. At Mosquito Lakes Campground, user fees would increase from \$8 to \$20. At the Stanislaus River Campground on the North Fork Stanislaus in Calaveras County, user fees would go up from \$11 to \$30. At Big Meadow Group Campground off Highway 4 in Calaveras, user fees would jump from \$50 to \$100.

In addition, Tuolumne River permits would increase from \$2 to \$10 per day.

The Forest Service is also considering a \$30 annual pass that could be used at all 31 sites listed in the proposed fees change plan. Other passes, including America the Beautiful interagency annual, senior, and access passes would be accepted at the sites, according to the Forest Service.

All 31 sites that are being considered for new fees or fee increases will continue to offer free opportunities and fee-free days, Forest Service staff said.

Some of the busiest recreation areas in the Stanislaus National Forest, like Pinecrest and Cherry reservoirs, are not included in the proposed federal fees change plan.

The Forest Service, a federal agency that manages 20 national forests in California and more than 150 forests nationwide, has not said when the new fees would go into effect, if approved. Traci Allen, acting public information officer for the Stanislaus National Forest, said Tuesday the new fees could go into effect in "Calendar year 2022."

In a prepared statement about the proposed new fees and fee increases, the Forest Service emphasized the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, passed by Congress in 2004,

allows the Forest Service to collect and retain funds at recreation sites, and to use the funds locally to operate, maintain, and improve the sites.

“Ninety-five percent of the revenue from recreation fees remains on the forests to operate, maintain, and improve facilities,” Forest Service staff said. “Raising the revenue collected through recreation fees would help the forests improve infrastructure at campsites and day-use sites and hire additional recreation staff during the season of operation.”

The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act requires that all new fees and any fee changes must be proposed and approved by a citizens advisory committee. The Forest Service has not released a list of members of the citizens advisory committee for the Stanislaus National Forest. Asked Tuesday who is on the committee and where they live, Allen said, “The committee has not been fully established at this time.”

The designated public comment period for proposed new fees and fee increases for 31 recreation areas in the Stanislaus National Forest is scheduled to end by close of business on Nov. 30.

Comments can be mailed by postal service no later than Nov. 30 to Stanislaus Forest Service, Attention: Casey Jardine, 19777 Greenley Road Sonora, CA 95370. Comments can also be emailed to SM.FS.RecreatFees@usda.gov.

Spoken comments can be provided two ways: in person at any Stanislaus National Forest office, or by calling Jardine at (209) 813-6011. Specify you want to comment on proposed recreation fee changes.

For more information about the new Forest Service fees plan, including a list of all 31 recreation sites where fees are proposed to be imposed or increased, visit <https://bit.ly/3nWo75k> online. For a Forest Service public input page with maps, visit <https://bit.ly/3ktPyRL> online.

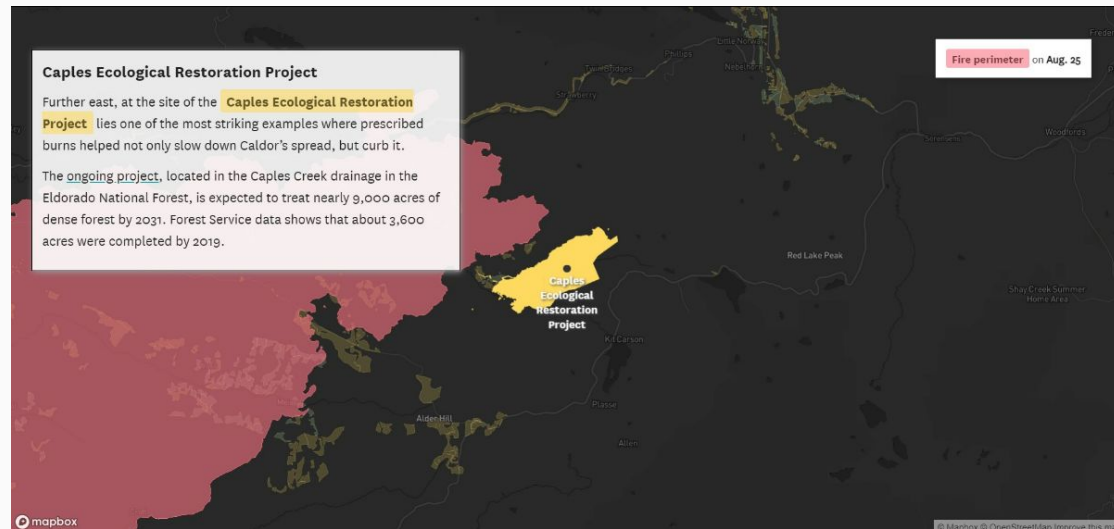
According to the Forest Service, once the public comment period is closed, all comments will be reviewed.

“Then, the proposed fee changes will be reviewed by a Recreation Advisory Committee,” Forest Service staff said, “who will submit their recommendation to the Regional Forester for a final decision.”

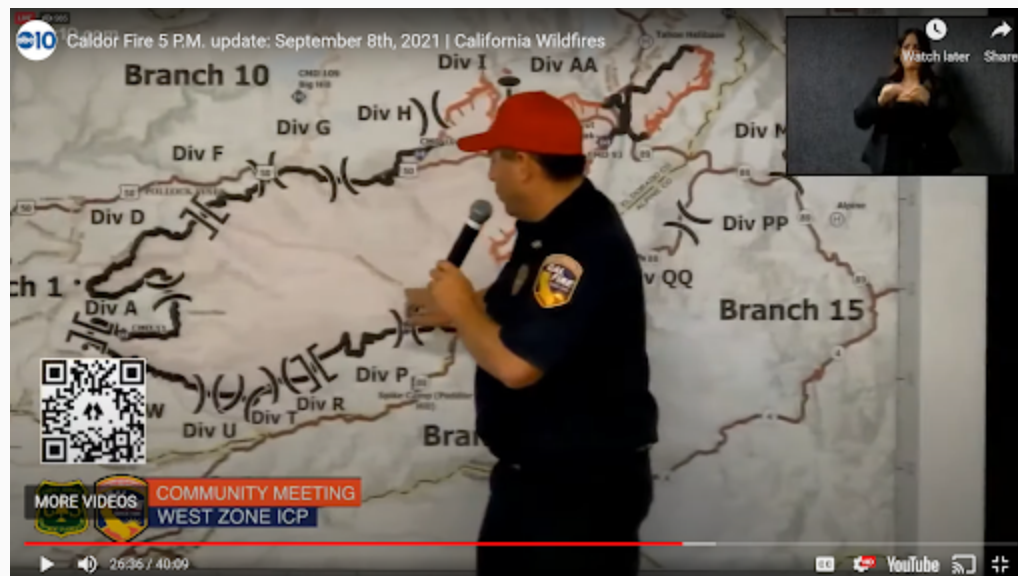
“We recognize how important these sites are to our local communities,” Beth Martinez, deputy supervisor for the Stanislaus National Forest, said in a prepared statement released after 6:50 p.m. Monday. “Fee increases will help us maintain the sites to the level and quality people have come to expect as well as make the fees more consistent throughout the state. During this public input period, we want to hear strategies and other ideas to help cut costs and leverage resources.”

For more information about the Stanislaus National Forest, www.fs.usda.gov/stanislaus online.

Contact Guy McCarthy at gmcCarthy@uniondemocrat.net or 770-0405. Follow him on Twitter at @GuyMcCarthy.



[Check out this great, interactive article from the San Francisco Chronicle detailing the progress of the Caldor fire as it reached fuel breaks and fuel reduction projects, like the Caples Ecological Restoration Project.](#)



During CALFIRE's evening briefing about the Caldor

fire, we asked:

“For three decades the USFS has been establishing and maintaining shaded fuel breaks along roads and ridges in the fire area, including on the edge of the fire on Omo Ranch Road. Have these shaded fuel breaks helped you fight this fire by making road access safer, keeping the fire out of the tree crowns, reducing the intensity of the fire, or in any other way?”

[Hear the excellent response from CALFIRE here.](#)

Regional News

Climate change is sabotaging education for American students - and it's only getting worse

Caroline Preston / USA Today / September 19, 2021

The [wildfires](#) that ripped through California towns torched school buildings and postponed the start of school as students and teachers were left homeless. A [deadly deluge in Tennessee](#) flooded schools and delayed classes as rescue teams searched for dozens of people who'd gone missing. Students around the country were dismissed early due to heat waves and [Hurricane Ida](#), while smoke settled over towns and cities as far east as Philadelphia, sending kids inside for recess.

This summer brought not only a [resurgence of the coronavirus](#) but also some of the starkest evidence yet of the devastating toll that climate change will take on the planet – and on the lives and learning of children. As humans continue to unleash greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, fires, hurricanes, floods, droughts and heat waves are intensifying, in some cases forcing kids to flee their homes and classrooms and shattering their sense of security.

School buildings and budgets aren't up to the task of weathering climate disasters and the experience of living through these calamities is adding to the mental health strains on

students already burdened by the coronavirus pandemic.

“Extreme weather is going to increasingly impact and disrupt learning,” said Laura Schifter, senior fellow at the Aspen Institute where she leads K12 Climate Action, an initiative to foster climate-friendly practices within education. “That is something that school leaders and administrators are going to have to grapple with and start to better plan for.”

Megafires

In California, some 70 schools had been directly affected by wildfires as of early September, said Kindra Britt, of the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association. One hard-hit district is Plumas, which encompasses Greenville, a mountain town that burned virtually to the ground in the Dixie Fire, the second-biggest blaze in state history.

Terry Oestreich, superintendent of the Plumas Unified School District, said school was postponed from August 23 until after Labor Day as the community tried to recover. Students from Greenville have the option of attending another school in the district unharmed by the fire.

How many families will remain in the area is uncertain. Josie Chelotti, vice principal and athletic director for Greenville Elementary and Jr./Sr. High School, lost her house and virtually all her belongings in the fire. She and her daughter, Eva Morris, an eighth grader, are staying with family nearby; Eva will attend another school in the district this fall. Some of her classmates have scattered to Arizona, Texas and Nevada, Eva said.

“It makes you physically ill to go into town,” said Chelotti. “It reminds me of a graveyard.”

Michele Custer, a school psychologist with Colfax Elementary School, near Lake Tahoe, spent the end of August working with teachers and students who’d been forced to evacuate by the River Fire. Kids in the rural community spoke of losing their horses, cows and other animals in the fire, of seeing the sun glowing red as ash clogged the skies and of having the start of school – long anticipated after months of remote learning – delayed again. As therapy, students drew pictures of emergency responders who’d battled the flames.

“It feels like we’ve entered into this new reality,” Custer said. With the wildfires layered on top of the pandemic, some kids might experience complex trauma that could have long-term effects, she said.

In California, where the eight largest fires in state history have all struck since 2017, school leaders have learned how to help kids cope with the aftermath of wildfires. Custer, for example, was among the psychologists and counselors who spent time in Paradise, California, after that town was leveled by 2018’s Camp Fire, and is now exporting those trauma lessons to other communities.

In Paradise, school district enrollment is 1,524 today, compared with 3,400 before the fire. Even so, the district has a shortage of teachers, substitute teachers and aides, said Angel Allen-Clifford, a school psychologist who has worked in Paradise schools for almost 25 years.

“People are afraid to live here,” she said. Families keep their most precious belongings boxed up, ready to flee at any moment. She’s mailed photographs of her father to her son in San

Jose, and other keepsakes to her daughter, who lives north of Seattle.

But the community is rebuilding. An elementary school that was devastated in the Camp Fire reopened for the first time this August. For years, staff have been working in what Allen-Clifford likened to “an educator MASH unit,” moving from one site to another as permanent structures slowly go up. The money and mental health support that flooded in after the fire is largely gone, but each Paradise school still employs at least two counselors, one specializing in trauma, she said.

Smoke and other triggering events that recall the Camp Fire are frequent. This summer, as the Dixie Fire raged nearby, shrouding Paradise in unhealthy fog, students spent recess indoors while air purifiers roared. A drought exacerbated by climate change has also added to local people’s sense of dread. “We can handle the heat, we’ve even handled the fires, but God help us if we don’t have water,” said Allen-Clifford.

Floods

School officials elsewhere are also finding that their infrastructure is unprepared for climate change. In rural Humphreys County, Tennessee, record rainfall last month sent floodwaters surging into the local elementary and middle schools, stranding two teachers and 20 people around the community. About 1,100 students have been left without a place to go to school, said Penny Schwinn, the state education commissioner.

She said the state is trying to ensure that those kids can keep learning. It’s buying laptops, reupping the district’s pandemic remote learning plan, and opening churches and other buildings for students to gather. The youngest kids will be bussed to the nearest elementary, some 40 minutes’ drive away.

The schools, adjacent to a creek, will likely not be rebuilt in their existing locations. “This is their third flood in 10 years,” said Schwinn. “There are a number of parents in Humphreys County who’ve ... said, ‘Every time it rains, I will worry.’ And that is reasonable.”

In the aftermath of the deluge, Schwinn conducted an assessment of flood risks and identified 24 other schools across the state at moderate or high risk of flooding. She has asked the Department of Education to allow Tennessee to use federal pandemic relief funds to relocate those schools. “We have a number of schools in flood plains,” she said. “We should not wait until disaster strikes.”

Nationwide, 6,444 schools are located in counties at high risk of flooding, according to a 2017 Pew Trusts report.

Hot classrooms

Meanwhile, around the country, record high temperatures are making it harder for students to learn. Hot conditions reduce blood flow to the brain, inhibiting cognition. Because a significant portion of America’s schools lack air conditioning, students are being forced to muddle through lessons in sweaty classrooms, if schools remain open at all. In Baltimore, just hours into the first day of school this year, kids were hustled out of hot classrooms and sent home.

Touring school buildings on the first week of school on Aug. 23, Tay Anderson, a board member and secretary for Denver Public Schools, said classroom temperatures climbed into the 90s. “We’ve had students and staff who’ve had heat strokes,” he said. “It’s not just affecting the physical health of our students but also the mental health of our students too. I’ve had students come talk to me about how it is hard to concentrate in class when they are trying to find any and all means to stay cool.”

Of the district’s approximately 220 schools and campuses, 55 lack air conditioning, Anderson said. Nationwide, schools serving predominantly Black and Hispanic students are significantly less likely to be air-conditioned. In fact, researchers say the inequities in access to air conditioning explain some of the gaps in test scores between white students and Black and Hispanic children

That has been the pattern in Denver too. But the district has tried to overcome those disparities by prioritizing schools with a high share of low-income students when it installs new air conditioning units, Anderson said. It is also considering “heat days” when students might study from home remotely, he said.

In Arizona’s Tolleson Union High School District, near Phoenix, outdoor temperatures were above 100 degrees for most of August, peaking at around 115 degrees on Aug. 4, the day schools opened. The district recently upgraded its air conditioning systems thanks to a bond project, according to Devin Del Palacio, school board president.

“Not having A/C would be a death sentence,” he said.

Global warming is altering how kids experience childhood. “We don’t allow our kids to play outside during recess or lunch,” said Del Palacio. “We know students need recreation, and unfortunately that’s being limited due to the climate.”

Young people are moving away, not just for better job opportunities but also for cooler climates, he said. Maricopa County, where the school district is located, is one of six Arizona counties identified in a 2020 study as at risk of being uninhabitable within 30 years.

“It’s becoming unlivable,” said Emilio Avila Solis, a 2018 graduate of Tolleson Union High School who now attends Arizona State University. He said many of his former classmates have left.

“I would prefer to stay in the state where I grew up, but if we get to a point where I can’t, I might have to leave,” he said. “Do I really want to raise a child in a state where they can’t jog or play outside in the middle of the day?”

Climate resilience

Educators have been battling for years, often unsuccessfully, for improvements to school infrastructure. In Philadelphia, where many schools lack air conditioning, the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers has estimated that it would take about \$200 million to address the most urgent facilities’ needs, including lead abatement and upgraded HVAC units. But money hasn’t been forthcoming.

Laura Schifter's group, K-12 Climate Action, is encouraging the federal government to work with states and school districts to assess the risks they face from climate disasters and mitigate those harms. The \$1.2 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill that passed in the Senate limited the funds available for school repairs to expenses such as replacing lead pipes, but a reconciliation bill could provide greater support. The Department of Education's budget proposal this year includes \$25 million for a "climate resilient schools" program that make grants available to schools seeking to modernize.

As a group, school leaders have been laggards in acknowledging the climate threat. Relatively few school boards and systems, for example, have agreed to [sign climate resolutions](#) promoted by the group Schools for Climate Action, which was founded by Park Guthrie, a sixth-grade teacher and climate activist. When Devin del Palacio and others tried to persuade the National School Boards Association to adopt such a statement in 2019, the Florida delegation led an effort that stripped the words "climate change" from the resolution and turned it into a statement on natural disasters.

Yet today's students are coming of age in a world battered by disasters on a scale unimaginable even a few years ago. The failure of adults to teach kids accurately about the science behind and threats from climate change, much less about how to mitigate its harms, could add to the mental health trauma young people experience, say educators and psychologists.

"We already essentially need a truth and reconciliation process if we're going to help young people accurately perceive the situation and build their resilience," said Guthrie, the sixth-grade teacher and climate activist. "It's a little like any of our national historical injustices, when we're not speaking accurately about them, it defers the ability to process them, learn from them and heal from them."

Mental health professionals say we may have entered a new reality in which almost everyone, including children, is touched by climate change – and routinely so. "This summer has been a wakeup call for what we mean when we say climate change is a threat multiplier, in which many things come together to increase stress on people," said Elizabeth Haase, chair of the American Psychiatric Association Committee on Climate Change and Mental Health.

"With climate change we are always either in or between disasters," she added. "If you are not experiencing it yourself you are aware that someone else is experiencing it and you are aware of the chronicity of it."

This story about climate change was produced by [The Hechinger Report](#), a nonprofit, independent news organization focused on inequality and innovation in education. Sign up for [Hechinger's newsletter](#).

This article originally appeared on USA TODAY: [Wildfires, floods: Climate change, extreme weather sabotaging schools](#)

Letters to the Editor: Angry Republicans in rural California should try understanding urban liberals

LA Times / September 21, 2021

To the editor: I am genuinely sorry for the fate of communities in California's far north, where voters feel marginalized in a state that overwhelmingly rejected the recall of Gov. Gavin Newsom that they enthusiastically supported.

I do not wish to paint these people with too broad a brush, but it's safe to say many of them believe strange election conspiracy theories, discount the COVID-19 pandemic, reject the science of global warming and are more likely to support overthrowing the federal government. The maladies of burning forests and economic decline that affect people in these areas are also products of the very policies that they supported by voting for anti-environment and pro-big business politicians.

Conservatives in California are vastly outnumbered by voters who are invested in a very different set of beliefs, which seem to have helped us weather the pandemic better than the rest of the nation and develop pro-growth green energy policies.

I am not uninterested in learning more about California's far north, but perhaps the conservatives there who feel misunderstood should also better understand their more liberal neighbors.

James Clark, La Cañada Flintridge

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To the editor: After reading about the anger and resentment in California's rural communities, I feel hopeless and sad. Everyone seems to be lashing out so they can feel a little better. Newsom was a target for these emotions, and no one really seemed to express any actual ideas.

What is going on with us humans? How did it come to this, with alienation and loneliness so common? More importantly, what can be done about it now?

It seems that our democratic experiment is unraveling before our eyes. Those who are so mad at everything and everyone do not seem to be familiar with one important lesson of history: The destruction of what we hold dear begins from within.

We need to heed this warning, as the message from within is being shouted loud and clear.

Susan Miller Fink, Los Angeles

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To the editor: It's hard not to feel sympathy for Californians who feel like they are ignored in a left-wing state. However, a couple of things should be noted.

First, most of the forests that are burning — indeed, most of the forests in the state — are managed by the federal government, which if my memory serves was recently run by a president these voters enthusiastically supported.

Second, as one of the interviewees noted, the recall election cost a lot of money. Well, I have to pay for some of that, so thank you for wasting my money.

Third, Republicans are selling ideas that most of the country doesn't want to buy. Sure, Congress has a lot of Republicans, but the 50 who are in the Senate represent about 43% of all Americans, and the combined population of Montana, Idaho, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming is less than one-sixth of California's. Yet these states together have 10 senators.

The answer might be to break up California into five states, but the real answer is for everyone to stop being so tribal and start being Californian.

For years, California has had the largest delegation in Congress. What has it profited us? If the people we send to Congress would start acting like Californians, we'd be better off.

So I repeat, it's not hard to feel sympathy for my fellow Californians.

Ron Smith, Valencia

This story originally appeared in [Los Angeles Times](#).

Wake up and smell the coffee ... made in the United States

Marcelo Teixeira / USA Today / September 17, 2021

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Farmer David Armstrong recently finished planting what is likely the most challenging crop his family has ever cultivated since his ancestors started farming in 1865 - 20,000 coffee trees.

Except Armstrong is not in the tropics of Central America - he is in Ventura, California, just 60 miles (97 km) away from downtown Los Angeles.

"I guess now I can say I am a coffee farmer!" he said, after planting the last seedlings of high-quality varieties of arabica coffee long cultivated in sweltering equatorial climates.

Coffee is largely produced in the Coffee Belt, located between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn, where countries such as Brazil, Colombia, Ethiopia and Vietnam have provided the best climate for coffee trees, which need constant heat to survive.

Climate change is altering temperatures around the globe. That is harming crops in numerous locales, but opening up possibilities in other regions. That includes California and Florida, where farmers and researchers are looking at growing coffee.

Armstrong recently joined a group of farmers taking part in the largest-ever coffee growing endeavor in the United States. The nation is the world's largest consumer of the beverage but produces just 0.01% of the global coffee crop - and that was all in Hawaii, one of only two U.S. states with a tropical climate, along with southern Florida.

Traditional producers of coffee such as Colombia, Brazil and Vietnam have suffered from the impact of extreme heat and changing rain patterns. Botanists and researchers are looking to plant hardier crop varieties for some of those nations' coffee growing regions.

Top producer Brazil is going through the worst drought in over 90 years
<https://www.reuters.com/business/environment/brazil-drought-alert-country-faces-worst-dry-spell-91-years-2021-05-28>. That was compounded by a series of unexpected frosts, which damaged about 10% of the trees, hurting coffee production this year and next.

CALIFORNIA DREAMIN'

"We are getting to 100,000 trees," said Jay Ruskey, founder and chief executive of Frinj Coffee, a company that offers farmers interested in coffee growing a partnership package including seedlings, post-harvest processing and marketing.

Ruskey says he started trial planting of coffee in California many years ago but told few about it. He said he only "came out of the closet as a coffee farmer" in 2014, when Coffee Review, a publication that evaluates the best coffees every crop year, reviewed his coffee, giving his batch of caturra arabica coffee a score of 91 points out of 100.

Frinj is still a small coffee company targeting high-end specialty buyers. Frinj sells bags of 5 ounces (140 grams) for \$80 each on its website. As a comparison, 8-ounce packages of Starbucks Reserve, the top-quality coffee sold by the U.S. chain, sell for \$35 each. Frinj produced 2,000 pounds (907 kg) of dry coffee this year from eight farms.

"We are still young, still growing in terms of farms, post-harvest capabilities," said Ruskey. "We are trying to keep the price high, and we are selling everything we produce." The venture is already profitable," he said.

The company has been growing slowly since, with Armstrong's 7,000-acre (2,833-hectare) Smith Hobson Ranch one of the latest, and largest, to partner with Ruskey.

"I have no experience in coffee," said Armstrong, who typically grows citrus fruits and avocados, among other crops.

To boost his chances of success, he installed a new irrigation system to increase water use efficiency and has planted the trees away from parts of the ranch that have been hit by

frosts in the past.

Coffee uses 20% less water than most fruit and nut trees, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. Water has become scarce in California after recent droughts and forest fires. Many farmers are switching crops to deal with limits on water use.

Giacomo Celi, sustainability director at Mercon Coffee Group, one of the world's largest traders of green coffee, said the risks of cultivating coffee in new areas are high.

"It seems more logical to invest in new coffee varieties that could be grown in the same current geographies," he said.

FLORIDA HOPES

As the climate warms in the southern United States, researchers at the University of Florida (UF) are working with a pilot plantation to see if trees will survive in that state.

Scientists have just moved seedlings of arabica coffee trees grown in a greenhouse to the open, where they will be exposed to the elements, creating the risk that plants could be killed by the cold when the winter comes.

"It is going to be the first time they will be tested," said Diane Rowland, a lead researcher on the project.

Rowland said researchers are planting coffee trees close to citrus, an intercropping technique used in other parts of the world as larger trees help hold winds and provide shade to coffee trees.

The project, however, is about more than just coffee cultivation. Alina Zare, an artificial intelligence researcher at UF's College of Engineering, said scientists are also trying to improve how to study plants' root systems. That, in turn, could help in the selection of optimal coffee varieties for the region in the future.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. weather agency, annual mean temperatures were at least 2 degrees Fahrenheit (1.1 degrees Celsius) above average for more than half the time in the long-term measuring stations across the United States' southeastern region in 2020.

Florida experienced record heat last year, with average temperatures of 28.3 C (83 F) in July, and 16.4 C (61.6 F) in January. That is hotter than Brazil's Varginha area in Minas Gerais state, the largest coffee-producing region in the world, which averages 22.1 C (71.8 F) in its hottest month and 16.6 C (61.9 F) in the coldest.

"With climate change, we know many areas in the world will have difficulties growing coffee because it is going to be too hot, so Florida could be an option," Rowland said.

(Reporting by Marcelo Teixeira in New York; Editing by David Gaffen and Matthew Lewis)

Sierra Nevada
Conservancy
Funding
Opportunities
Newsletter
for September/
October



This is an electronic newsletter published every two months containing information on upcoming grant and funding opportunities for the Sierra Nevada region. The newsletter includes federal, state, and private foundation funders as well as additional resources and information related to grant funding. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy provides the Funding Opportunities Newsletter as a free resource under its Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program.

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Brown's Peony(c) yosemitenorthphotography.com

Narration, Transubstantiation

by [Leah Naomi Green](#)

"God is an infinite sphere, the center of which is everywhere, the circumference nowhere."

—Borges

1.

The peony, which was not open this morning, has opened,
falling over its edges

like the circumference of God, still clasped
at the center:

my two-month-old daughter's hand
in Palmer reflex, having endured

from the apes: ontogeny
recapitulating phylogeny, clutching for fur.

Her face is always tilted up when I carry her,
her eyes, always blue.

She is asking nothing of the sky, nothing
of the pileated woodpeckers,

their directionless wings, directed bodies,
the unmoved moving.

2.

Hold still,
song of the wood thrush,

twin voice boxes poised, smell of the creek
and the locust flowers, white as wafers

on the branches, communion: pistil, stamen, bee.
Hold still.

She doesn't say

a word.

3.

When we eat,

what we eat is the body

of the world.

Also when we do not eat.

She is asking the sky for milk.

Take and eat, we tell her,

this is my body

which is given for you, child,

who are here now,

though you were not,

though you will be old

then absent again: sad

to us going forward in time

but not back. Not sad to you at all.

The peony whose circumference

is nowhere, you, whose head

now is weighted to my chest,
the creek stringing lights

along next to us,
the peony which has opened.

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