

Siskiyou Democrats Grassroots News

Issue #8 - August 2019



We all love a Parade!

What a great time at the Fourth of July parade in Mt. Shasta! Over 75 Democrats – some coming from as far away as Shasta and Butte counties – marched in support of Congressional candidate Audrey Denney, and Elizabeth Betancourt, our Assembly District candidate. Above, the group assembles to start the parade. Front and center are Audrey (in shorts and white blouse) and Elizabeth (in dark blouse and straw hat). More fun photos on page 5.

In This Issue

This issue is again devoted to the **environment and agriculture, with a sharp focus on food** and what's going on at the Trump USDA (page 2). We also provide you with a view of the recent Mt. Shasta Parade, where Democrats really turned out for Audrey and Elizabeth. And you'll find lots of local sources for healthy, delicious food.

IMPORTANT - Spread the Word!

AUGUST 27th SPECIAL ELECTION!

Elizabeth Betancourt is a terrific candidate, and we want her to take Siskiyou County. An estimated 5,000 votes will **give her the win**. If everyone reading this gets **10 voters** to commit to her, we can do it!

See page 4 to learn more about her.

What's Happening

DCCSC Grassroots Committee Meetings

Tuesday, August 6, 2019: Yreka YMCA or

Tuesday, August 13, 2019: Mt. Shasta Library

Meetings begin at 6:00pm, with the same agenda for both meetings. Everyone is welcome! Join us and get involved.

Democratic Central Committee Meeting

Wednesday, August 14, 2019 6:00pm to 7:30pm

Best Western Meeting Room, Mt. Shasta

All DCCSC meetings are open to the public, and you are encouraged to attend. We meet on the second Wednesday of each month from 6:00pm to 7:30pm, alternating between Mt. Shasta and Yreka.

**SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, October 12 – Fall Fundraiser
Paint Siskiyou Blue #2 – Sons of Italy Hall in Weed
Audrey Denney will be there! See website for details**

Get Involved!

August 7 to 11 – Siskiyou Golden Fair

It's Fair Time! The Siskiyou Golden Fair is a great time to reconnect with your friends. Volunteer for the booth – in the Commercial Building - it's fun! You'll receive a separate email to sign up for a shift.

All of August – Canvassing, Postcards, or Calling for Elizabeth Betancourt (AD1)

We need to make certain there is a Democrat on the ballot for AD1! We will be calling and canvassing, and would love your help! Remember: we need 5,000 votes in the primary to win for Elizabeth in our county – so if all of you encourage 10 voters, we can do it!

You can volunteer for any of these activities by sending an email to: siskiyoudems@gmail.com.

THE PLAN TO UNDERMINE THE USDA

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) was established in 1862 by Abraham Lincoln. At that time there were 34 states, most of them agrarian, and so Lincoln dubbed the USDA “The Peoples’ Department.” Originally focused on providing farmers and ranchers with scientific analysis and research on best practices and products, and advice on resource conservation, the department’s budget is now overwhelmingly devoted to food: health, safety, and nutrition.

So it’s no surprise that under Secretary and climate change denier Sonny Perdue we could revise USDA’s priorities to: rolling back regulation on pesticides, herbicides, GMOs, and additives; cutting budgets for food inspectors, food stamps, and school lunches; and gutting scientific analysis (notably, on the impacts of global warming). As we write, Perdue is working to forcibly relocate critical science services out of DC, where they report directly to Congress, and into Kansas City, far from the centers of influence. Scientists and analysts were given 30 days to move or quit, but are fighting back. If they’re unsuccessful, attrition is expected to be 70%. Many suspect that was in fact the plan. Why? To clear the way for agribusiness as usual: monocropping, soil depletion, genetic modification, and chemical proliferation.

So Where is Doug LaMalfa?

His service in Congress is primarily on agriculture and infrastructure committees, but he’s silent in the face of USDA’s dangerous rollbacks. For example, here is an excerpt from a letter sent June 28 from Stacey Plaskett (D US Virgin Islands), chairwoman of the House Agriculture Committee, to Sonny Perdue: *We write to express strong concern regarding recent reporting by Politico*, which outlines actions taken by officials at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to suppress the dissemination of scientific information. Any effort by USDA to prevent the sharing of scientific information, particularly related to climate change, is an affront to the long-term success and economic viability of domestic farmers, ranchers, and rural communities. ...***

Predictably, LaMalfa did not sign, joining the wall of silence of his fellow Republicans. At the same time, he takes significant contributions from agribusiness, and from ideological PACs supporting his broad anti-regulation agenda. And he is a vocal denier of climate change science.

Audrey Denney Offers Real Answers

By contrast Audrey Denney’s agriculture positions fully align with USDA’s conservationist mandate, and Lincoln’s vision of a federal department supportive of The People, not the profits of Big Ag. She’s dedicated to equipping and incentivizing farmers and ranchers to steward their soil, supporting family farms and rural communities, and working to find progressive, local, land-based solutions to the global warming crisis. She understands that agriculture practices impact not just human nutrition and society as a whole, but the viability of all the world’s ecosystems.

Addressing the current efforts of the USDA to gut ag science, Denney has given the SDG News the following statement: “I’m concerned that the administration’s decision to move essential USDA staff out of Washington DC will lead to a loss of institutional knowledge and productivity within that critical agency. Additionally, any effort to suppress climate science research being done by the agency is not just unethical, it is wildly dangerous and ultimately threatens the very existence of life as we know it.”

For her FB statement, see: <https://www.facebook.com/audreyforcongress/posts/418691892069624>

* <https://www.politico.com/story/2019/06/23/agriculture-department-climate-change-1376413>

** Thanks to Tom Laurent for this excerpt from a letter to the editor of the Siskiyou Daily News, to be published soon.

Your Democratic Central Committee of Siskiyou County (DCCSC):

Officers: Carolyn Miller - Chair, Alice Rogers – Vice Chair, Katherine Shelton – Secretary, Robin Richards – Treasurer
Members: Neldena Anderson, Kate Coggin, Rick Green, Ann Herfindahl, Al Lugo, Larry Marks, Bill McKillop, Karina Pollard, Maggie Robeson, Steve Robeson, Daniel Soltis, Abigail Van Alyn Booraem, Dolly Verrue, and Karen Zeigler. For more information on the DCCSC, visit our website: siskiyoudemocrats.org or our Facebook page: [SiskiyouCountyDemocrats](https://www.facebook.com/SiskiyouCountyDemocrats). Send mail and donations to: DCCSC. Post Office Box 4. Mt. Shasta. CA 96067.

But Isn't Big Oil the Problem?

While climate news and presidential candidates' policy positions focus heavily on fossil fuel reduction, it turns out that land-use, forest management, and agriculture practices have substantially more impact on global warming. And topping even these is the complex problem of feeding the world's human population. From feedlot and seed to table to land-fill, **food production, processing, shipping, refrigeration, and waste** together represent our **#1 climate problem**. Producing just **one pound of beef takes around 2,500 gallons of water and 7 pounds of feed**. And if global food waste alone were a country, it would be the third largest contributor to climate change, after China and the U.S.*

But solving the food waste problem also holds the greatest promise for greenhouse gas reduction and drawdown. And it's the climate problem where we, as individuals and communities, can have our most powerful impacts. Here are four things you can do this year to do your part: **

- #1 Invest in an energy-efficient refrigerator;
- #2 Reduce meat in your diet to 10% or less;
- #3 Minimize personal food waste: grow what you can, buy only what you need, and compost the rest;
- #4 Whenever possible, buy local, reducing the impact of shipping and industrial refrigeration

An old fridge uses 1400 kWh a year, while a modern energy-efficient model uses only 350 kWh — a whopping 75% reduction.



Home composting

Reducing food miles helps alleviate our dependence on fossil fuels, reduce air pollution and cut back on greenhouse gas emissions.



BUY FRESH BUY LOCAL

Here are a few of many SisQ resources for buying organic produce and meat, or growing your own:

Berryvale Grocery, Mount Shasta: 7 days a week year-round; supports local producers wherever possible.

Mount Shasta Farmers' Market: Mondays 3:30 – 6:00pm, May – October, N. Mt Shasta Blvd

The Grub Club: Thursdays 12-1 pm. In summer local organic producers sell direct, on order; behind Nature's Kitchen, 412 S. Main St., Yreka. Joining is easy, just drop by. Veggies, fruit, eggs, honey, baked goods, etc.

Yreka Community Garden: Knapp Street, beside Yreka High gym; rent a plot and grow your own. The garden also contributes 2000 pounds of organic food to local charities, and composts all waste. Year round.

Etna Farmer's Market: Saturdays 10 – 12, produce, crafts, and music; June – October, at Dotty's Restaurant on N. Hwy 3

Scott River Ranch: Animal Welfare Approved organic beef, available at Berryvale and Shop 'N Kart, Ashland. The ranch is on East Side Road in Scott Valley, near Callahan. Call ahead to visit.

*UN Food and Agriculture Organization, repeated in our recommended video. The UN site adds: "...food that is produced but not eaten each year guzzles up a volume of water equivalent to the annual flow of Russia's Volga River and is responsible for adding 3.3 billion tones of greenhouse gases to the planet's atmosphere. Similarly, 1.4 billion hectares of land – 28 percent of the world's agricultural area – is used annually to produce food that is lost or wasted.

** *Drawdown*, Paul Hawking, editor. Over 200 scientists contributed to this report, the SDG News July Resource of the Month.

Resource of the Month: An Interactive Feature

Resource of the Month

Human resource of the month: CA Assembly District 1 candidate **ELIZABETH BETANCOURT** is a farmer and business owner with years of experience in water resource and land management. She and husband Pedro operate Oliview Farm outside Anderson, where they produce organic olive oil, eggs, and garden produce. You can find her extended bio on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BetancourtforAD1/>, and the wonderful story of Oliview Farm here: <http://www.oliviewfarm.net>

Video resource of the month: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6RlxySFrkIM>: *Food Waste is the World's Dumbest Problem*, produced by the UC Climate Lab. This lively and only slightly irreverent short film offers fab, and real, food waste solutions, with satisfying high tech for Millennials and Gens X, Y, Z.

Book resource of the month: *Who Really Feeds the World: the failures of Agribusiness and the promise of Agroecology*, Vandana Shiva, North Atlantic Books, 2016.

As a physicist and food activist Shiva's thinking is broad and deep, linking the agribusiness takeover of food and water to poverty, displacement, and war. Essential reading.



Food waste is a real problem, particularly in the US. Globally, it is a major contributor to greenhouse gases.

*Above, A week's waste from one grocery store
Above, right: Waste capture at UC Irvine
Right: Waste capture at an English cafe
Below: A large urban compost operation in China.*





Views of the 4th of July Parade (Clockwise from Top): Audrey Denney waves to the camera as the crowd assembles; Elizabeth Betancourt chats with a participant in Steve Robeson's "parade truck"; marchers offer big support with signs and chants; Audrey greets the crowd; marchers receive signs and instructions at the start.
 (Thanks for photos to Robin O'Brien and Daniel Soltis)

