



BRIAN VANDER BRUG Los Angeles Times

THE 40 ACRE Conservation League’s Jade Stevens sits along Putt Lake in California. The nonprofit has secured funding to buy 650 acres of land near Lake Tahoe that will be a haven for Black outdoor enthusiasts.

State’s first Black land trust wants an inclusive outdoors

The 40 Acre Conservation League aims to fight climate change and help people of color feel at home in nature

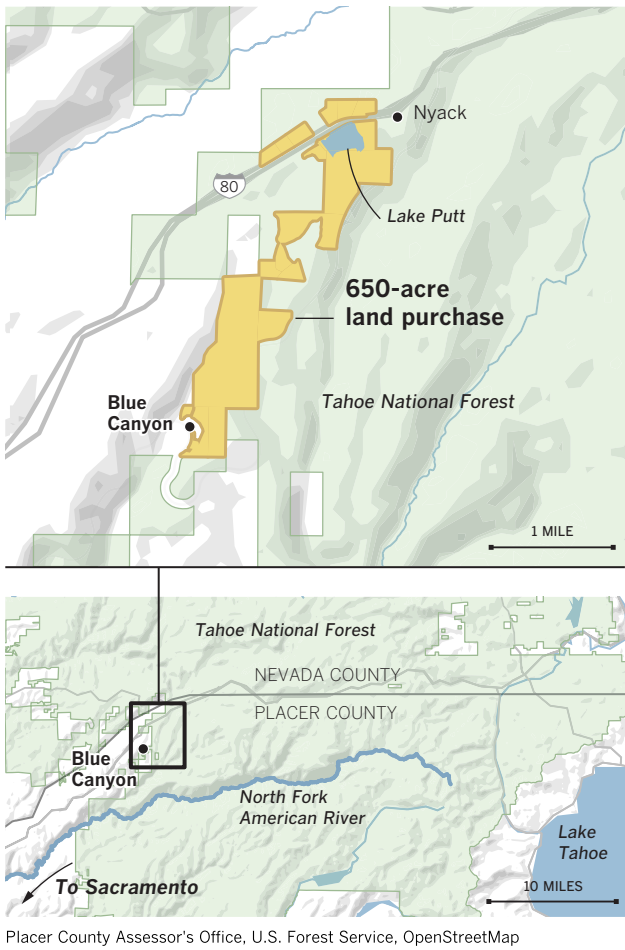
BY TYRONE BEASON

EMIGRANT GAP, Calif. — Jade Stevens stands at the edge of a snowy cliff and takes in the jaw-dropping panorama of the Sierra. Peaks reaching more than a mile high form the backdrop to Bear Valley, a kaleidoscope of green pastures mixed with ponderosa pines, firs, cedars and oak trees.

Stevens, 34, is well aware that some of her fellow Black Americans can’t picture themselves in places like this. Camping, hiking, mountain biking, snow sports, venturing to locales with wild animals in their names — those are things white people do.

As co-founder of the 40 Acre Conservation League, California’s first Black-led land conservancy, she’s determined to change that perception.

The nonprofit recently secured \$3 million in funding from the state Wildlife Conservation Board and the nonprofit Sierra Nevada Conservancy to purchase 650 acres of a former logging forest northwest of Lake



LORENA ELEBEE, SEAN GREENE Los Angeles Times

Tahoe. It will be a haven for experienced Black outdoor lovers and novices alike.

The land trust, almost by necessity, has both an environmental and a social mission, Stevens says as she leads a tour of the parcels straddling Interstate 80.

The most obvious goal for the property is to help the state reach a target of protecting 30% of its open space by 2030 — as part of Gov. Gavin Newsom’s overall climate and conservation initiative.

Given that Black Americans historically have not enjoyed equal access to national parks and wilderness recreation areas — and have often been deprived of the chance to steward large open spaces because of discriminatory land policies — the purchase carries immense cultural importance too.

The group’s name derives from Union Gen. William T. Sherman’s unfulfilled promise to grant some emancipated slaves “40 acres and a mule” to help them start over after the Civil War.

An avid cyclist, Stevens is [See **Land trust**, A10]

As extreme heat rises, its impact will be uneven

Disadvantaged communities will suffer more as power grids are strained, a grim report predicts.

BY HAYLEY SMITH

The next quarter of a century will bring considerable climate danger to millions of Americans living in disadvantaged communities, who will experience not only increased exposure to life-threatening extreme heat but also greater hardships from reduced energy reliability, a new nationwide report has found.

The report, published Wednesday by the ICF Climate Center, examines global warming projections in Justice40 communities — those identified by the federal government as marginalized, underserved and overburdened by pollution.

The Justice40 Initiative was established under President Biden’s strategy to tackle the climate crisis,

which aims to funnel 40% of benefits from certain federal climate, energy and housing investments into these communities.

But the report outlines a stark future for residents in these areas, including many in California.

Under a moderate-emissions scenario — one in which current fossil fuel consumption peaks in the coming decades and then starts to decline — at least 25 million people in disadvantaged communities will be exposed to health-threatening extreme heat annually by 2050, the report found.

Under a high-emissions scenario, reflecting unchanged, “business as usual” greenhouse gas emissions, that number soars to 53 million people.

Extreme heat is defined as at least 48 health-threatening heat days per year.

“We were a bit surprised at those numbers — they’re large and meaningful,” said Mason Fried, one of the report’s authors and the director of climate science at ICF, a global consulting firm. [See **Heat**, A10]



BRIAN VANDER BRUG Los Angeles Times

THE REPORT by the ICF Climate Center looks at warming projections in marginalized communities.

Deputy’s tattoo got under his skin

Newly minted chief covered his Banditos logo because he was ‘embarrassed’ about alleged gangs in ranks.

BY KERI BLAKINGER

When word got out, the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department rumor mill sprang into action. Some said Joe Mendoza was a hard worker and deserved the coveted promotion. But others whispered that he sported the mark of a “deputy gang.”

And he did — but he doesn’t anymore.

“I got it covered up,” the

newly minted chief told The Times, adding: “I’m not a gang member. I’m a family guy.”

On his upper arm where Mendoza said he once had a Banditos logo — a bandolier-draped skeleton wearing a sombrero — he now sports a tattoo of St. Michael, the patron saint of law enforcement.

In an interview, Mendoza explained why he got the image covered up: He saw troubling headlines about the East L.A. station clique’s bad behavior and was embarrassed. So he decided to lead by example.

“I am interested in changing the culture,” he said. “I want people to understand how complex [See **Tattoos**, A5]

How ‘1/2’ addresses can be a total pain

Casey Hogan had no idea her new address would be so frustrating.

But soon after moving into a granny flat in Van Nuys three years ago, she realized that the fraction in her house number — think: 101 1/2 Main St. — was going to be particularly inconvenient in an era of constant deliveries.

Her packages get marked as “address not deliverable” or dropped off at the wrong door. Retail websites that are programmed to reject special characters, including the fraction’s slash, sometimes refuse her shipping address or auto-correct it to another location.

She has tried workarounds to this quirk of Los Angeles geography — most common in dense neighborhoods with duplexes or, as in Hogan’s case, at accessory dwelling units built on pre-existing properties. Spelling out the fraction as “one half” has helped, but about a

As delivery culture balloons, people who live at one of L.A.’s fractional street numbers are often left scrambling.

BY MARISA GERBER



Los Angeles Times photo illustration

quarter of her packages or food deliveries arrive late or get dropped at someone else’s house.

In the case of a particularly urgent order before a flight, she had Amazon deliver a dog carrier to her mother’s home in Oceanside and drove there to pick it up instead of risking a snafu at her place.

“It’s still a nightmare,” said Hogan, 32, who works as a medical scribe. “Anything that could go wrong has gone wrong.”

In the increasingly deliverable world shaped by consumers’ skyrocketing, post-pandemic expectations that almost anything they want or need should arrive quickly and seamlessly at their doorstep, residents at more than 60,000 Los Angeles addresses like Hogan’s have been left on the sidelines. (Or really, left standing on their stoops, searching endlessly for packages.) [See **Fractions**, A6]

Coal plants still powering the West

There’s work to be done in phasing out the dirtiest fossil fuel, Sammy Roth writes. **BUSINESS, A7**

Libertarians boo Trump speech

Used to friendly crowds, the candidate faces backlash at the party’s convention. **NATION, A4**


Weather

Mostly sunny.
L.A. Basin: 74/56. **B6**

Insurers strand property owners

Thousands in fire zones are priced out of policies, George Skelton writes. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

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