

# PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE

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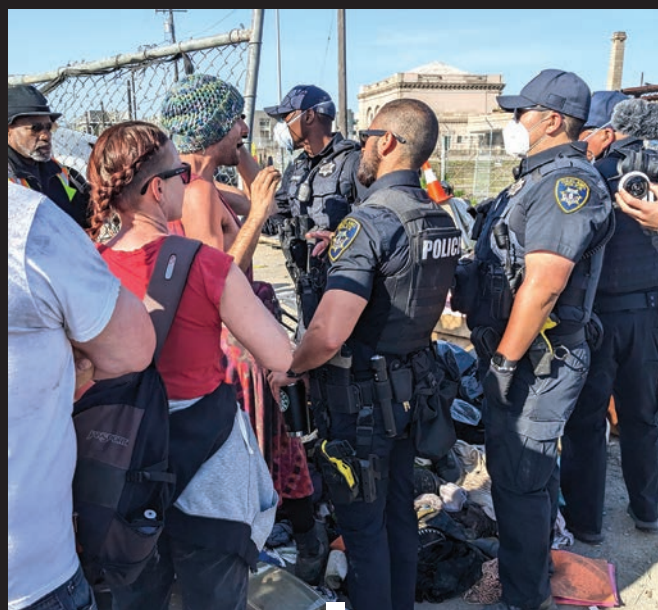
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## ASSAULTS ON DEMOCRACY WILL NOT STAND!



Harvard students protest Supreme Court's ruling ending affirmative action programs in higher education.

Photo / ©Ziyu Julian Zhu / Xinhua via ZUMA Press See P. 2 and 7



Unhoused people demand housing, not camp destruction or jail.

Photo / Wood St. Commons. See P. 3 and 6



Forest defenders try to stop Cop City.

Photo / Chad Davis, Minneapolis Uprising See P. 8



Farmworkers demand aid after Pájaro, CA flooding.

Photo / Kevin Painchaud / Lookout Santa Cruz. P. 4 and 5



Sisters, two of 16 youth in landmark climate suit against Montana.

Photo / © Robin Loz-nak / ZUMA Press Wire. See P. 6

Chicago protest, one year after ending Roe.

Photo / Sarah-Ji, LoveandStrugglePhotos.com See P. 8



More Inside: Child labor, migrants in Chicago, hunger, campaign to end poverty, Big Pharma.

# Welcome to the People's Tribune

Dear Readers,

There's enough wealth in the hands of the few today, that no one should go without any necessity, including equality. Our battles for a caring society that provides for us all are intensifying given the myriad of new laws handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court, Congress, and some states—laws and rulings that seek to criminalize us and strip us of our most basic constitutional and human rights: the overturning of reproductive rights and LGBTQ+ rights; cancelling student debt relief and the Clean Water Act, expansion of the Mountain Valley Pipeline, weakening child labor and voter rights laws, reduction of the paltry food and housing programs, no freedom from gun and police violence, limited asylum for migrants, and now, no affirmative action at colleges and universities, which will deeply affect the opportunities for African Americans and people of color. The powers that be want us to give up, but the voices in the People's Tribune from the frontlines of the battles underway inspire us. They bring a snapshot of the fight for our rights, and for a society whose wealth benefits all, not billionaires and their giant corporations.

We are an independent publication relying solely on our readers, whose activism and thoughts elevate today's social movements. We need your stories and donations.

Email [peopletribune@gmail.com](mailto:peopletribune@gmail.com), and visit our website at [peopletribune.org](http://peopletribune.org) to donate or leave messages.

Or call 773-486-3551.

We hope to hear from you!

— *People's Tribune*



**Rally outside Supreme Court before it heard cases on (top) affirmative action and (right) student debt.**

PHOTOS / VICTORIA PICKERING



## PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE

The People's Tribune is devoted to the understanding that an economic system that doesn't feed, clothe, house, or care for its people must be and will be replaced with a system that meets the needs of the people. To that end, this paper is a tribune of the people. It is a voice of millions of everyday people who are fighting to survive in an America in crisis. It helps build connections among these fighters and the awareness that together, we can create a whole new society and world.

Today, technology is permanently eliminating jobs. Our needs can only be met by building a cooperative society where we the people, not the corporations, own the technology and the abundance it produces. Then, everyone's needs will be provided for.

We welcome articles and artwork from those who are engaged in the struggle to build a new society that is of, by and for the people. We rely on readers and contributors to fund and distribute this paper.

The People's Tribune is an independent newspaper, relying solely on our readers, whose activism and thoughts elevate today's social movements.

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Articles that are unsigned, such as the editorials, reflect the views of the editorial board. Bylined articles reflect the views of the authors, and may or may not reflect the views of the editorial board.

Contributions of articles and art: Send photographs, art and articles to [peopletribune@gmail.com](mailto:peopletribune@gmail.com) or go to [peopletribune.org/contact/](http://peopletribune.org/contact/). Poems and articles should be as short as possible, no longer than 500 words for articles. We reserve the right to edit articles to conform to space limitations.

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## Why is Hunger Growing When There's Plenty of Food?

Food is a human right. Yet over 34 million Americans — and those numbers are growing every day — are hungry, including 1 in 8 children. Why is anyone, let alone children, going hungry when there's plenty of food in supermarkets across the country? And now, the new debt ceiling legislation Congress just passed will not only cut urgently needed social programs by 1%, but require some recipients who were already on the paltry SNAP program (that never provided enough to eat) to work for their food benefits. Suppose there's no jobs, or no jobs paying enough for rent, utilities, and to feed the kids? It's inexcusable too that food banks are allowed to run dry, and that groups sharing healthy meals with unhoused people are fined and dragged into court for doing so. Meanwhile the corporate conglomerates who own most of the world's food are thriving. Between 2021 and 2022, the food and beverage in-

dustry in the U.S. made more than \$155 billion in profits, according to Forbes. Nestlé, the world's largest food company, increased its gross profits last year by almost 3 percent to \$46 billion. Something has to give. We can easily feed everyone—why don't we?

**Shere Dore of Food Not Bombs-Houston, a group that provides healthy meals to hungry people, is ticketed by police for feeding people. The group has provided meals outside the library for almost two decades. Now, the city wants them to move. FNB-Houston vows to stay, saying the move would be a hardship on those they serve. So the city started ticketing volunteers, forcing court appearances. Over 30 tickets were issued to volunteers as of March 31. Potential fines are up to \$2,000 each. The group needs your help. Please go to <https://www.hpjc.org/fnb/> to donate!**

PHOTO / FNB-HOUSTON



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# Jail Is Not a Cure! Housing and Real Justice Is

By Sarah Menefee

SAN FRANCISCO, CA — On June 8, the San Francisco Sheriff's Office held a press conference announcing they will send 130 deputies to arrest people who "use drugs in public." They plan to concentrate these arrests where lots of people live on the streets. Corporate media parrots the narrative that houseless people are "criminals" and addicts, and the way to deal with the growing crisis of homelessness and despair is jail. Experts on addiction agree that this approach will be ineffective for getting people into treatment and recovery.

San Francisco Mayor London Breed announced last year that the Tenderloin – near downtown where SRO (single room occupancy) hotels are concentrated – would be swept of tents on its sidewalks. The rents even in these fleabag rooms have gone up so much that people on disability or Social Se-

curity, and even many workers, can no longer afford them. This only compounds the misery, as people sleep (and die) on the bare pavement below glittering glass condo towers, and in doorways of the many closed-down storefronts and businesses.

Politicians and media try to convince us that the unhoused, the worst victims of the ongoing economic crisis, are the cause of the decimation of the businesses that now stand empty and the exit of corporations such as Twitter and Salesforce from the city, as they lay off tens of thousands of workers due to the economy, automation and AI.

In the largest survey of homeless Californians in decades, done by the University of California at San Francisco, the leading cause of homelessness was overwhelmingly found to be the crushingly high rents and unaffordable housing, and lack of meaningful help getting rehoused once housing is lost, despite



Unhoused people living in the Tenderloin District of San Francisco face sweeps and arrests for living in the streets, June, 2023. PHOTO / TAYFUN COSKUN

## 'Comin' In From The Cold'



Joe Pace, August 11, 1960 – April 12, 2023 PHOTOS / KEITH MCHENRY

By Gloria A Lighthouse

SANTA CRUZ, CA — Food Not Bombs Santa Cruz recently held a memorial at the Town Clock for Joe Pace, a FNB volunteer who died of fentanyl poisoning. He'd thought he was sniffing cocaine. Joey, a Special Forces veteran, was a years-long volunteer in charge of the clothing giveaway and he generally helped out at the Town Clock food service. About 40 mostly unhoused people attended.

Keith McHenry set up an altar with a photo of Joey, flowers and incense. An excellent band, a quartet, played 60s and 70s music. A few danced. It was about calling Joey home. Many stepped up to the solar-powered mic and gave remembrances, including Pastor Joel from the Little Red Church. The Episcopalian minister often distributes bagels, lox and cream cheese to FNB patrons at the Town Clock. Isaac, our young local Black poet, read his rousing poem, "I Am Fighting For You!" Drew, who manages the Town Clock food service, being too upset to speak, played a flute in

lieu of speaking.

The community had been reeling from the death of Nick the Greek, age 36, a beloved unhoused FNB patron, stabbed to death six months ago in a downtown parking garage where he was sheltering, and also the extreme violence to other Santa Cruz unhoused. Last October, Max, an unhoused gentle man in his 70s, was beaten nearly to death by two high school boys who stomped on his head and shamelessly videoed their violence. A total of 90 unhoused died here in 2022.

Joe's brother Nicholas, visiting from Hawaii, had found Joe dead in his apartment. He gave remembrances and then spontaneously launched into Bob Marley and the Wailers' "Comin' In From The Cold." Those who knew the words sang along — "It's you, it's you, it's you I'm talking to now." One young man who gave a remembrance declared, "F—k fentanyl!" As one participant commented, it was like an Irish wake without the whiskey.

Needless to say, Joey received a righteous sendoff. It was all about community. Joe Pace, rest in peace.



Friends mourning Joey's death.

millions of dollars spent on "homeless services" (mainly shelters and policing). Ninety percent of these homeless are from California, and a majority cited loss or reduction of income for their loss of housing. A majority said a mere \$300 a month would help get them off the street. More than half are 50 years old and above, with Black and Native American populations overrepresented.

Instead of housing people, or using tax revenues to build housing affordable for low- or no-income people, a few crowded and unsafe shelters are maintained, at great cost to

taxpayers. Despite an injunction by a federal judge that forbade the city from enforcing laws that would "prohibit homeless individuals from sitting, lying, or sleeping on public property" unless there is adequate shelter available, the city continues deadly raids on individuals and encampments, blaming the homeless for San Francisco's decline. This – instead of guaranteeing housing for all as a human right – scapegoats and blames those who suffer most from the ills the economy creates. Housing, support, real solutions and real justice, not jail, for all people now!



VIDEO STILL / FOX5

Black homeless street artist Jordan Neely, 30, walking through a NYC subway car saying he was hungry and thirsty, was held in a chokehold until he died. Widespread protests finally resulted in manslaughter charges against his killer, ex-Marine Daniel Perry who confronted Neely, forced him to the floor of the car and held him in a chokehold for about 15 minutes, as a couple of other men helped hold him down. Another life snuffed out for the crime of color, poverty, and want. People are demanding that the city prosecute the vigilante who took Jordan Neely's life. Justice for Jordan Neely.

## If I Could Rule the World

If I could rule the world for only a day  
change the course of human events to go the other way.

A life of love, what a joy it would be  
peace through the land, America would truly be free.

In the course throughout time  
living without fear, no more war, no more crime.

One voice to stand for right, it might take a year,  
loving one another, living in cheer

people would live a different way,  
if I ruled the world for only a day.

— Roy S. Trout

# ‘We Need to Change the Entire Industrial Agricultural System’

By Sandy Reid and Bob Lee

Dr. Ann Lopez, PhD, founder and executive director of the Center for Farmworker Families (CFF), speaks with the People’s Tribune during a monthly distribution of food, clothes and household goods in Watsonville, CA organized by the Center and other non-profit groups and volunteers. The excerpts below are from the full interview published at <https://bit.ly/3JESyM7> and from a follow-up conversation with Dr. Lopez in June.

“The flooding of Pájaro has been absolutely devastating. It makes me angry that they knew these levees needed to be redone in 1995. And they just chose not to do it. I think they planned on doing it for 2025. And on the Watsonville side of the levee, they spent five times more money shoring up the levees than on the Monterey side of the levees, and that’s why they didn’t break in Watsonville, but they broke on the Monterey side [flooding Pájaro]....Somehow farmworkers are not viewed



In April, some 1,000 farmworker families mainly from Pajaro line up for a distribution of food, clothes and household goods in Watsonville, organized by the Center for Farmworker Families and others. PHOTO / BOB LEE, PEOPLE’S TRIBUNE

as worthy human beings, worthy of dignity, respect, the same kind of care anybody else would get.

“And what I’ve been so shocked about is that there’s no local, state or federal government support. The only people really working hard to help them are small nonprofits like us.

“[I was talking] with a Oaxacan family one winter and their two young daughters were crying and begging for food....And the parents said, we’re not working, we have no money for food. They said the whole community’s hungry. And from then on, we established a partnership. Once a month we do this distribution. And it grew from just food to clothes, household goods, whatever’s needed, so people don’t have to feel deprived. We usually get a maximum of, I’d say, 300 families at this time

of year. And this one today probably is close to 1,000 families. And the one two months ago was the same. So that’s related to the Pájaro floods and people losing everything.

“I meet children of farmworkers affected by pesticides all the time. It’s like an epidemic down here. [The pesticides used here] are associated with childhood leukemia....and tied to childhood brain cancer. I mean, how low can you go? It’s one thing with adults, but children for God’s sakes. It drives me nuts. That’s why I do what I do!

“[The treatment of farmworkers] is a similar issue to homelessness. You know, there’s four pillars of the neoliberal economy that we’re in. Deregulate, privatize, get rid of public services, and if someone can’t make it in this economy, you blame them. And that’s what we do with

the homeless. And that’s what we do with the farmworkers. You blame them and that takes the responsibility off the people that perpetrated it.

“I think we’re going backwards and yet I see signs of hope everywhere. The way people have responded, just grassroots people, to this whole crisis [volunteering and donating]. It just warms my heart and gives me hope for humanity.

“I’ve heard a figure as high as 83% [of the farmworkers in this area are undocumented].... There’s three things that would transform farmworkers’ lives, and the first is comprehensive immigration reform – give these people legal status....And number two, they need a living wage....And finally, they need a contract with the grower they work for, because 22.5% of wages are stolen.

“We need to change the entire industrial agricultural system. It’s not working. The only person or entity it’s working for are the agricultural companies and wealthy growers....”



Dr. Ann Lopez. PHOTO / BOB LEE

## Iowa Passes Law Allowing Children to Work Dangerous Jobs Millions Fight to Protect Child Labor Laws!

By Georgia de la Garza

Earlier this year the Federal Government announced that since 2018, there has been a 69% increase of illegally employed children.

With economic instability, intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic, the food industry and organizations like the National Restaurant Association (NRA) are spending millions of dollars lobbying state legislatures to weaken and change child labor laws, taking advantage of labor shortages due to Covid illnesses and death, closed businesses, lost jobs, and adult employees who left these industries, exhausted from being exploited by poverty wages. Keep in mind food business in 2022 was a \$97 billion industry.

Just this past April, the National Restaurant Association bankrolled the introduction and eventual passage of an Iowa child labor expansion bill Senate File 167 supported by the GOP. The bill allows children as young as 14 to work dangerous jobs in industrial freez-

ers, meat coolers and industrial laundry. According to the Department of Labor, in 2022, almost 4,000 children in the U.S. were working at companies, mostly restaurants that were violating child labor laws.

The Department of Labor investigation found two 10-year-old children working at a McDonald’s franchise in Louisville, Kentucky, not being paid, working with deep fryers. They worked at times as late as 2 a.m. This year, franchise operators at Crumbl Cookies, Chick-fil-A, Chipotle, Arby’s, and Dairy Queen, among others, have been found exploiting children and violating child labor laws.

Seventy-two-hour workweeks are common to half a million children in the U.S., ages 8 to 17 who work in agricultural jobs thanks to the loopholes in the federal Fair Labor Standards Act passed in 1938, drafted from horrible child labor conditions in the industrial era. An analysis by the Office of Government Accountability, found close to 100,000 kids

illegally working today, some as young as 12, will be injured on the job each year.

History has taught us that organizing and strengthening labor unions will protect child labor laws and hold industry accountable. With the National Restaurant Association, established in 1919 being one of the main contributors to maintain a subminimum wage for food industry workers and lobbying to weaken child labor laws, we must support the federal Raise the Wage Act, as well as moving One Fair Wage legislation across the nation.

The organization, One Fair Wage (OFW), representing more than 14 million workers in the service industry, is working to end all subminimum wages in the United States and to protect child labor laws. Three hundred thousand service industry workers and over 2,000 participating restaurant owners nationwide are working together to increase wages and improve working conditions. Organizations like One Fair Wage need your support. Donate at [onefairwage.site](http://onefairwage.site)



1908: Boys working in a Georgia textile mill. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, PHOTO / LEWIS HINE



2023: Children found working at Louisville McDonald’s until 2 a.m., and without pay. VIDEO STILL / ABC7

# Three Months After Flood, California Farmworkers Still Need Help

By Bob Lee

*Editor's note: This is compiled from a longer article on our website at <https://bit.ly/3rg9QEc>*

PÁJARO, Calif. – When the Pájaro River levee failed on March 11 during torrential rains, the resulting flooding of the farmworker community of Pájaro was no surprise to public officials. As the LA Times reported, officials had known for decades that the levee was vulnerable, “but never prioritized repairs in part because they believed it did not make financial sense to protect the low-income area.”

Most of the Pájaro community, across the river from Watsonville, consists of low-income farmworkers and immigrants, mainly from Latin America. The flooding damaged many homes and forced thousands of people to evacuate. Many are still unable to return to the homes they were renting, and are living in hotels or shelters. Because the fields surrounding Pájaro were damaged by the flooding, work is scarce. And because many workers are undocumented, there is no government help for them.

Recently, People’s Tribune staff traveled to Watsonville to interview two farmworker women from Pájaro. We asked them about the status of things as of late May.

Like many area farmworkers, Alma (not her real name) is originally from Oaxaca, a state in southern Mexico where about half the population is Indigenous people. She said the flooding didn’t affect her home directly, but she knows others who were hit hard – the water entered their homes and they lost everything. Some lost their cars to the flood.

“I know my people who live in Pájaro, and



A dad helps his daughter through the flooded streets of Watsonville, the community next door to Pájaro in January.

PHOTO: KEVIN PAINCHAUD / LOOKOUT SANTA CRUZ

they are struggling right now,” she said. “A lady told me she was struggling a lot, because water got into her car and she couldn’t work. There’s a lot of depression. She thinks a lot about what they’re going to do. There’s a lot of stress....Right now there is no government help, people say, and there is not much work.” She said people have access to donated food, but need help with the rent, because they are paying as much as \$2,000 a month for a one-bedroom house.

Alma said the farmworkers can get some assistance with the rent from non-profit community groups like the Center for Farmworker Families, but there are obstacles to getting government help. “The government asks for a lot of requirements [paperwork], and that’s when we can’t get the help there. When the government asks for too many requirements, one does not qualify,” she said. The workers first put any money they get toward the rent, “because if we don’t pay the rent with the land-

lords, they could kick us out, so we cannot be behind on rent.”

Alma added, “I would say there shouldn’t be any discrimination against farmworkers, because they are the ones who harvest all the food, the vegetables, the fruit.”

Esperanza is originally from Michoacan, Mexico. The flood destroyed everything she had. She got some reimbursement from FEMA for the rental furniture she lost, but it wasn’t enough and she is still expected to make payments on the furniture. She is appealing FEMA’s decision. “I get in there and fight for my rights,” Esperanza said.

She gets \$240 a month in food stamps for her and her three children, who are 16, 10, and 4 years old. They are living in a hotel, using vouchers provided by Monterey County. She has to renew the vouchers every three weeks, and doesn’t know when they might end. “It’s very stressful, because I really don’t know how long we’re going to be able to be here [in the

hotel], and after that, where will we go?” she said. “And I am not working and have problems of depression and anxiety. But I have to be strong for my children. It’s very hard. I was not prepared for this.”

After the flood closed the Pájaro school, Esperanza’s children were transferred to schools in Watsonville and Lakeview. “There have been conflicts between the children from Pájaro and those that were originally in the Watsonville school. It’s sad what is happening to our children. The younger ones keep asking when can we go back to Pájaro.”

Asked about the future, Esperanza said, “I hope to find a home and live there with my children. And also to be able to work and lift up the family again.” She added: “We need more assistance for Pájaro, because we are experiencing very bad times.”

Peg Elwell and Gloria A Lighthart contributed to this article.

## We Won’t Be Silent Anymore! Poverty = Death

Poverty is the fourth leading cause of death in one of the wealthiest nations in the world.

Poverty = Death. “The real moral question for our country is where we stand in relation to the poor and the least of these – who are many of us. Instead of deflecting to culture wars and partisanship, lawmakers ought to focus on the hundreds of people dying each day from poverty in the wealthiest nation on earth. Our politicians have failed to act, and leaders who stand silent in the face of these injustices are complicit in their deaths.” — Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis and William J. Barber, II, co-chairs, Poor People’s Campaign

The Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival’s Moral Poverty Action Congress 2023 just spent three days strategizing to end poverty across the nation, to mobilize in state capitals, and for a massive voter engagement operation heading into the 2024 election. We won’t be silent anymore! Join the Poor People’s Campaign at <https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/>



I want to live in a world where harm is not systemic, where love organizes society, where the Earth is respected, and where life is valued above all else

— Author unknown

PHOTO / POOR PEOPLE’S CAMPAIGN

# Youth Bring Historic Climate Lawsuit Against State of Montana

By Cathy Talbott

The first-ever constitutional climate trial in the U.S. — the result of 16 youth suing the Montana government for promoting and supporting fossil fuels that dangerously warm up the planet — concluded June 23. A ruling was expected in several weeks. There are similar suits in all 50 states.

The Montana Constitution, amended in 1972, declares that “the state and each person shall maintain and improve a clean and healthful environment in Montana for present and future generations,” and “all persons are born free and have certain inalienable rights,” including “the right to a clean and healthful environment.” These revisions were made at a constitutional convention to reduce the influence of the copper and coal industries, big players in Montana politics since the 1880s.

The plaintiffs argued Montana’s extensive support for fossil fuels is unconstitutional because the resulting pollution is dangerously heating the planet and has robbed them of a healthy environment.

Grace, one of the 16 youth behind *Held v. State of Montana*, stated, “Going to trial means

a chance for me and my fellow plaintiffs to have our climate injuries recognized and a solution realized. It means our voices are actually being heard by the courts, the government, the people who serve to protect us as citizens, and Montana’s youth.”

Kian T., 18, described trying to play soccer outdoors in excessive heat. “I have had many, many soccer practices canceled for smoke and heat. Playing soccer on turf in the heat is miserable. Imagine your feet are boiling in your cleats, burning every single step you take on the field. It burns you out.”

“We’re really trying to bring the youth generation to the courts, and do so through a human rights lens,” said Julia Olson, founder of Our Children’s Trust, the lead attorney. Olson, along with her team, are also helping 21 young Americans challenge the constitutionality of federal government policies that promote fossil fuel production and consumption in the case of *Juliana v. the United States*. For eight years, the U.S. Department of Justice under the last three presidents have used legal maneuvers to keep the case from going to court. Recently a federal judge has ruled the lawsuit can proceed. The youth plaintiffs in the Mon-



Youth plaintiffs in *Held v. Montana* testified that the state violated their constitutional right to a clean and healthful environment. VIDEO STILL / PBS

tana case hope their suit will help set a precedent for this and other legal challenges to the fossil fuel industries.

While the Montana lawsuit is the first of its kind in U.S. history, it must not be the last. And because greenhouse gases don’t stop at state boundaries, litigation should not be limited to state energy policies. The U.S. government and governments worldwide need to

fulfill their obligation to fundamental human rights by ending fossil fuel pollution.

Our children deserve credit and all the support we can give them for trying to hold governments accountable.

*The information for this article is from a series of articles in the Climate Emergency News Section of Common Dreams at [commondreams.org](http://commondreams.org).*

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@johnpaul\_Mejia: I’m hearing too much “recycle, compost, go vegan!” and not enough “100 corporations cause 71% of emissions.”  
(Received 87.6K retweets; 295.9K hearts)

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## The CARE Court: A Primer

By Gloria A Lighthart

In September of 2022, CA Governor Gavin Newsom signed into law Senate Bill 1338, creating a mental health court. The Community Assistance Recovery & Empowerment (CARE) court program empowers a judge to compel people with mental health disabilities or substance abuse issues to accept psychiatric treatment and medication against their will. The state Senate voted 38 to 0 in favor.

A court-appointed conservator would make financial and health care decisions and control a patient’s medication and treatment — powerful brain-altering drugs delivered initially at an involuntary temporary stay in a residential psychiatric facility. Could this be the housing promised by Gov. Newsom when he announced his CARE Court plan?

The CARE Court is opposed by more than 40 advocates for unhoused people, legal, civil rights, human rights, and disability rights groups, including Human Rights Watch and the ACLU, who has called the conservatorship “. . . the greatest deprivation of civil liberties aside from the death penalty.” Set up by undeclared presidential candidate Newsom to get

the unhoused off the streets, CARE Court is backed by the Big City Mayor’s Coalition, including San Francisco Mayor London Breed and San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan.

But one need not be unhoused nor mentally ill, nor a substance abuser to qualify for being hauled into CARE Court, even if you haven’t committed a crime and are not a danger to yourself or others. First, a petition must be filed with the Court by “specified individuals” such as a relative, community member or police officer, and backed by a signed affidavit from a behavioral clinician diagnosing you as suffering from schizophrenia or other psychosis. If you insist you are sane, you might be suffering from “anosognosia,” or lack of awareness that you are ill, according to the Schizophrenia & Psychosis Action Alliance, which preaches “compassionate involuntary intervention.”

Ultimately, it is up to the CARE Court judge to speculate whether you have the decision-making capacity for your own medical care, depriving you of your right to self-determination.

Lawsuits are pending. Stay tuned.



A handcuffed evicted Santa Cruz Benchland’s camper is escorted to a squad car by a police officer. An unhoused person is a prime candidate for the CARE Courts.

PHOTO / GLORIA A LIGHTHEART

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“Total war makes no sense ... in an age when the deadly poisons produced by a nuclear exchange would be carried by wind and water and soil and seed to the far corners of the globe and to generations yet unborn.”

-President John Kennedy, June 1963 commencement address at American University. As true today as 60 years ago.

*From Veterans for Peace, Facebook*

# Texas governor's political stunt: Chicagoans Refuse to be Divided

By Chris Mahin

CHICAGO – An emotional memorial service was held in the Woodlawn neighborhood June 10 for Luis Alberto Aguilar Peres, a 26-year-old father who had traveled from Venezuela in search of a better life.

Peres, who died suddenly June 2, had lived in a former school in Woodlawn which has been turned into a city-run migrant shelter. It's one of several set up to deal with the many immigrants sent to Chicago by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott. Since August 2022, more than 11,000 immigrants have been sent to Chicago from Texas.

At stormy public meetings earlier this year, some residents of the South Side objected vigorously to former Mayor Lori Lightfoot's proposals to use former schools and other facilities as migrant shelters.

The mass media quickly portrayed the controversy as an instance of African Americans and immigrants fighting each other. The reality is more complex. It is certainly true that a small percentage of Chicagoans – including some Black Chicagoans — are anti-immigrant. However, most of the Chicago residents who expressed anger at public hearings were outraged at the administration of former Mayor Lori Lightfoot for its refusal to consult with neighborhood residents before it acted.

The real spirit of Chicago can be seen in the many individuals who have come forward to help -- donating food, clothing, and time. For example, the funeral for Luis Alberto Aguilar Peres was held in Concord Missionary Baptist

Church. This church near the shelter where Peres died has a predominantly African American congregation. Since February, the church has been part of a city-backed initiative called Chicago 4 All. Begun with a bilingual weekly church service, this effort has grown into a program offering care packages, English classes, weekly soccer games and a "neighborhood beautification project" for migrants.

On May 31, a stormy Chicago City Council meeting voted to allocate \$51 million to care for migrants through the end of June. Despite objections from some of her constituents, Alderman Jeanette Taylor voted for the funding.

In a heartfelt speech to the council, Taylor described the legitimate grievances of residents of the South Side and West Side: "I'm so tired of, when it's a crisis for everybody else, we go: 'We gotta do something.' But, when we're having this violence in the Black community, nothing gets said or nothing gets done," Taylor said. "But that doesn't mean we have to hurt or disrespect or be rude to anybody else."

In her remarks, Taylor also demanded that Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker act to stop Texas Gov. Greg Abbott from continuing to use vulnerable people as political pawns in Chicago. The money voted by the Chicago City Council only extends through the end of June, with no state or federal funding in sight. The situation is becoming critical. Pritzker, Illinois state officials, and the Illinois delegation in the U.S. Congress must be compelled to stop the governor of Texas's cynical ploy!



Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson visits migrants at the Chicago Police Department's 12th District Station in the Pilsen neighborhood, which is housing migrants.

PHOTO: © E. JASON WAMBSGANS / CHICAGO TRIBUNE VIA ZUMA PRESS WIRE

## Affirmative Action Ruling Hurts All of Us

Below are excerpts from social media posts by two Black women about the recent Supreme Court ruling on affirmative action.

"The Supreme Court overturned affirmative action in college admissions, which essentially allowed colleges to consider race during the admissions process. It did not mean admission because of race. It meant schools reached out to high-achieving students from Black, Brown and low-income areas that already exceed the criteria for entry. . . We are talking students that have above 4.0 GPAs and near perfect test scores. No one's getting into college because they're Black or Latino. Everyone has the grades and test scores. Everyone still has to meet the same admission criteria . . ." Jacalyn Wetzel

"I'm a Black lawyer. Fewer than 5% of lawyers in this country are Black. White men are overwhelmingly represented as the people who make the laws that govern your rights, your liberty, your lives. And white women, I want you to pay attention because you were actually the group that most benefited by affirmative action. Last year [the Court] took away your right to bodily autonomy too. You are affected too, and these white male lawmakers want you to be as uneducated, barefoot, and pregnant as the Black and Brown women next to you. Lack of diversity hurts all of us and the Supreme Court's decision today will only hurt us more." From a Tik Tok by Elizabeth Booker Houston @bookersquared

## Big Pharma Wants You to Magically Lose Weight with Ozempic: Its Newest Cash Cow

By Kathy Powers

Ozempic (semaglutide) is a weekly injectable medicine for adults to improve blood sugar and reduce the risk of major cardiovascular events such as heart attack, stroke, or death in adults with Type 2 diabetes and known heart disease, and results in weight loss. It is made by Novo Nordisk, a Danish pharmaceutical company. It belongs to the class of medicines

called GLP-1 receptor agonists.

Common side effects are nausea, diarrhea, constipation, stomach pain, vomiting, sulfur burps, and hair loss. Serious side effects can be thyroid tumors, including cancer, pancreatitis, changes in vision, hypoglycemia, serious allergic reactions, gallbladder problems, and jaundice.

It is unknown if Ozempic will harm an unborn baby or passes into breast milk. Ozempic

must be stopped two months before pregnancy. Ozempic is not for use in people with Type 1 diabetes. It is unknown if Ozempic is safe and effective for use in children under 18 years of age.

Online pharmacies, medical spas and diet clinics run thousands of weight-loss ads on social media for Ozempic. When a drug takes over the internet, it takes over the world. There are more than 4,000 ads for Ozempic-style drugs running on Instagram and Facebook. The ads are everywhere: on television, at signs near public transit, on the walls of airports, and most surfaces devoted to marketing.

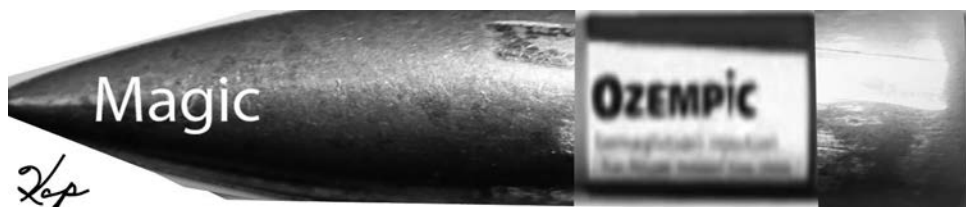
According to the FDA, there are no approved generic versions of semaglutide. Accordingly, there are counterfeit drugs. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sve2k8TYrOY&t=296s>.

The cost for Ozempic subcutaneous solu-

tion (2 mg/1.5 mL (0.25 mg or 0.5 mg dose)) is around \$995 for a supply of 1.5 milliliters. There are coupons: some for \$25 a month for 24 months by the Novo Nordisk. Kroger has one for \$250 off, and there are fake coupons.

Ozempic is intended for long-term use. After some significant weight loss occurs in about two years, financial assistance will be exhausted, regular insurance won't cover it due to its cost, and then what? Most will have to stop taking it, weight will rebound. Folks risked serious health problems only to return to where they started.

If there was a magic bullet for weight loss, it would be diet and exercise-related. Let's get back to work. Losing weight takes time and lifestyle changes. It's not impossible, just slow. As always, see your doctor for the best advice.



Big Pharma magic bullet. Novo Nordisk, producer of Ozempic, made a gross profit of \$22.244B for the 12 months ending March 31, 2023, a 14.69% increase over last year.

# ‘We Won’t Be Bullied’ by Legislators Passing Unconstitutional Laws

By Karel Riley

Current right-wing attacks are intensifying around issues of reproduction, healthcare, maternal care, and now gender identity. Women, trans people and children’s lives are at stake. Poor women and youth are particularly hurt, but the laws potentially threaten all pregnant and gender-diverse people. New “anti-trans” laws are targeting medical care for gender-diverse children. Some families are trying to move out of state to continue their child’s care. Of course, many cannot afford to move and their children will be traumatized and more susceptible to suicide.

“It’s not just for me,” says Amanda Zurawski, one of the plaintiffs in a lawsuit against the state of Texas over life-threatening abortion laws. “It’s for every pregnant person and for everyone who knows and loves a pregnant person. It is with and for all Texans who like me are scared and outraged at the thought of being pregnant in this state that I stand and fight.”

Organizations that support people getting abortions in states that ban them are scrambling to provide help under the new laws. “We won’t be bullied by legislators who are trying to pass these illegitimate and frankly unconsti-

tutional laws,” says Denise Rodriguez of Texas Equal Access Fund. OB/Gyn doctors are being pulled into this fight, too, as they try to provide care deemed illegal in many states due to bans on abortion and gender-affirming care. Dr. Marta Crispens says, “We took an oath — we have to be able to take care of these women.”

The lawmakers passing these laws are the same ones attacking our democracy at every level. In Texas, district attorneys from several large cities agreed not to prosecute election fraud or abortion-related cases. In response, HB17 just passed, which will allow the D.A.’s removal if they fail to prosecute these new crimes. “It’s vile legislation at its core, threatening the removal of democratically-elected officials who dare to reform our justice system or stand up for voting rights and reproductive freedom in our state,” said Laquita Garcia, Statewide Right2Justice Policy Coordinator of the Texas Organizing Project.

Attacking the rights of a section of people threatens everybody’s rights. Either everyone has their rights or no one will have their rights. As history teaches us, the only way forward is for a massive movement for rights and democracy from the scattered battles raging on many fronts, with the people most affected in key leadership roles.



Chicagoans rally on the one-year anniversary of the Supreme Court overturning Roe. The rally highlighted the fight for reproductive justice and LGBTQ+ rights.

PHOTO / SARAH-JI, LOVEANDSTRUGGLEPHOTOS.COM

## Cop City’s Corporate Ties Exposed! Ballot Initiative to Give Community a Say

By Bob Lee

The push to build “Cop City,” the planned police training facility in Atlanta, and the struggle to stop it, tell us a lot about who really runs our country and what the movement for progressive change is up against, not only in Atlanta but nationwide.

Cop City is the name activists have given to a planned \$90 million corporate-funded militarized police training facility that would destroy 85 acres of forest and include mock cities to help police train for urban warfare. There is little doubt that police would be training there to confront future protest movements and to protect corporate interests.

There has been broad and diverse public opposition in Atlanta to the project, including through petitions, direct actions, town halls, canvassing, and public testimony. As Micah Herskind reported last year in Mainline, in September 2021 the Atlanta City Council voted to advance Cop City despite hearing 17 hours of pre-recorded comments from more than 1,100 Atlanta residents, 70% of whom opposed the project. More recently, on June 5 and 6, the City Council heard from more than 400 opponents of the project, but the Council approved funding for Cop City anyway.

Reporting by Mainline, Prism, Truthout and others has exposed the ties between powerful corporations and wealthy investors and the At-

lanta Police Foundation (APF, a private group that funnels money to the police), the media, the police department and city government.

Angela Y. Davis and Barbara Ransby wrote recently in Truthout that corporations like Amazon, Wells Fargo and Delta are backing the development of Cop City. They note the “direct link between the police state and encroaching environmental degradation” and that “Black and working-class people are losing their lives to both at a record pace.” They point out that those who have stood against Cop City have been systematically targeted by the police.

The call to stop Cop City “is also connected to the years-long fight against the West Side

Cop Academy in Chicago and against Urban Shield in Oakland,” and other struggles, they write. They also note: “Atlanta has the highest income inequality in the nation, and more police won’t fix that,” but resources for health care, housing, and education will.

A report from the watchdog group Private Equity Stakeholder Project outlines the ties between the APF and private equity firms like Roark Capital. “More money for police departments and foundations ultimately leads to more money for private equity firms and other corporate actors,” the report says.

On June 7, Atlanta activists announced a petition drive to put Cop City on the November ballot as a referendum. “The overwhelm-

ing majority of people opposed Cop City but the City Council chose again to side with the police and corporations to continue to criminalize our community — which is why it is time for the people of Atlanta to decide,” said local activist Kamau Franklin. Britney Whaley, regional director of Working Families Power, added: “Atlanta’s working families overwhelmingly oppose Cop City. It will disrupt their communities and environment, and lead to greater fear of police across the city and country. If the City Council won’t stand up for its people, then the people must stand up for themselves — and that’s exactly what we are doing with this ballot measure.”



Protest at Atlanta City Council over Cop City. In 2021, 1,100 Atlanta residents, 70% of them opposed to building the police facility spoke, and on June 5 and 6, more than 400 opponents spoke. The City Council approved the \$90 million funding for the facility anyway. VIDEO STILL / ATLANTA CONSTITUTION-JOURNAL