

TAKING THE FIGHT TO THE POLLS

Candidates, voters, and activists demand government serve people's needs

Read on pages 3 & 5



Detroiters picket Deloitte, a financial services company, demanding their managing partner drop a lawsuit to remove an anti-gerrymandering initiative from the Michigan ballot.

PHOTO/JIMWESTPHOTO.COM

Stop separating families!

PAGE 10



PHOTO/ADRIAN GARCIA

**FUND MY FUTURE!
CLASS OF 2032**

Government declares war on public education!

PAGES 2, 6 & 7



PHOTO/CHARLES E. MILLER

Government declares war on public education!

EDITORIAL

The national debate around K-12 education is boiling to the surface again, with teachers striking and threatening to strike again this fall, and other education workers, parents and students demonstrating massive support for them. The underlying issue is whether the corporations or the people will dictate the future of our youth and our country.

Mickey McCoy, a retired Kentucky English teacher, summed it up in describing how Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin is leading “a war on public education” in his state. He said Bevin “wants to replace public education with charter schools, charter schools that will pick and choose who they’re going to teach, who will not take the underprivileged kids. And if this is allowed to be funded in Kentucky or any state, we’re going to change this nation into a place of the haves and have-nots.”

Parents see education as the key to their children’s future. Teachers see teaching as a calling, as a way of inspiring kids and changing lives for the better. Students see education as a path to their dreams. But the corporations and billionaires who run our country have another, darker vision of education; in an era when it’s getting harder for corporations to find ways to make money, they want to privatize education as a source of profit. (The U.S. education “market” is valued at \$1.3 trillion.) And in a time when technology is reducing the number of workers needed, they also want a system that will train only the handful of workers they need. The corporations also want to train the young to be obedient, not to think critically,

and to accept the destruction of democracy.

Typically, privatization of the schools has taken the form of charter schools, which are publicly funded but privately managed. There has been a 278% increase in charter school enrollment since 2006. Today in New Orleans, which has been the model for those backing charter schools, there are only two non-charter schools left. (See the article on page 6.)

Some parents like charters, because they think their kids will get a better education from them. Promoters claim charters yield better test scores and graduation rates among students. But critics say the most objective statistics show public school students are doing better academically than

charter school students. Critics also say charters tend to marginalize the poorest and most disadvantaged children, who are sometimes literally forced out of the schools.

The federal government has played a leading role in establishing charter schools as markets for corporations. States and school districts were compelled to create charter school markets in order to receive federal funds. The federal government alone has spent over \$4 billion since 1990 to fund the charter school industry. The federal government also established and helped fund Common Core as the national basis for high-stakes testing, which unified a national K-12 education market.

Many teachers, parents and students have joined together to

fight for a properly funded, publicly owned education system. In the end, the fight has to be waged at the national as well as the state and local level. We need the schools to be public, and the federal government must be made to guarantee quality education for all by providing national funding for publicly owned schools.

Modern technology can give us a world of freedom and abundance, if the people and not the corporations are making the decisions. We can educate our youth to think critically, value democracy, respect everyone’s rights, and be the builders of a new world, but we first have to take our education system away from the corporations. The fight is on to do this.



PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE

An economic system that doesn't feed, clothe and house its people must be and will be overturned and replaced with a system that meets the needs of the people. To that end, this paper is a tribune of those struggling to create such a new economic system. It is a vehicle to bring the movement together, to create a vision of a better world and a strategy to achieve it.

Labor-replacing electronic technology is permanently eliminating jobs and destroying the foundation of the capitalist system. The people's needs can only be met by building a cooperative society where the socially necessary means of production are owned by society, not by the corporations.

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*, formerly published by the League of Revolutionaries for a New America, is now an independent newspaper with an editorial board based in Chicago.

PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE EDITORIAL POLICY: Articles that are unsigned, such as the cover story and editorials, reflect the views of the editorial board. Bynlined articles reflect the views of the authors, and may or may not reflect the views of the editorial board.

Deadlines for articles and art: The deadline for articles, photographs and other art is the first of each month for the issue that comes out at the beginning of the following month. For example, the deadline for the June issue is May 1. Articles should be as short as possible, and no longer than 500 words. We reserve the right to edit articles to conform to space limitations.

People's Tribune Editor: Bob Lee

Editorial Staff: Ran Dibble, Brett Jelínek, Sarah Menefee, Joseph Peery, Sandra Reid, Cathy Talbott

National Office:
People's Tribune, P.O. Box 3524
Chicago, Illinois, 60654
E-mail: info@peopletribune.org
Phone: 773-486-3551
Toll Free: 800-691-6888
Web: www.peopletribune.org
Facebook: fb.com/peopletrib

Publisher: People's Tribune
ISSN# 1081-4787

Reach us locally at:
Ann Arbor, MI: zettir@gmail.com
Atlanta, GA: atlanta@peopletribune.org
Carbondale, IL: carbondale@peopletribune.org
Chicago, IL: 773-486-3551
peopletribunechicago@gmail.com
Denver, CO: info@peopletribune.org
Detroit, MI: 248-629-0897
Houston, TX:
P O Box 231281, Houston, TX 77223-1281
Los Angeles, CA: 310-548-6491
Merced, CA: TPPT2017SJV.CA@gmail.com
Oakland, CA:
oakland@peopletribune.org
Washington, D.C.:
pt_in_dmv@yahoo.com

SUBSCRIBE TO THE PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE! ORDER BUNDLES

- Please send me a one-year individual subscription [\$20]
- Please send me a one-year institutional subscription [\$25]
- Please send me a bundle of _____ PTs [at 50 cents per paper]

Enclosed is my donation of:

- \$20 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$Other _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

*My check or money order made payable to "People's Tribune" is enclosed.
Mail this coupon to: People's Tribune, P.O. Box 3524, Chicago, IL 60654-3524.
You can also order your subscription online at peopletribune.org.*

Taking the fight to the polls:

Candidates, voters, and activists demand government serve people's needs

This year, the political primary season has become a summer of discontent. In June, the stunning victory of a 28-year-old working-class woman over a New York City political hack caught the attention of the entire country. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez won the Democratic nomination for Congress from New York City's 14th Congressional District because she talked about the burning issues that people care deeply about: health care, jobs, affordable housing, and an end to attacks on immigrants.

Almost a third of the states will hold primaries in August and September, and other upsets seem possible. A strong group of candidates for seats in the U.S. Congress are sounding themes similar to those championed by Ocasio-Cortez. They are calling for universal health care, a \$15 minimum wage, affordable housing, free public education and an end to the persecution of immigrants.

Across the country, we are seeing a surge in interest in the elections among many as people express their demand that the government provide for people's basic needs. Across the country, progressive candidates have stepped forward to challenge entrenched political hacks, often incumbents from big-city Democratic Party political machines that stand in the way.



The youth-led “March for our Lives: Road to Change” is touring the country to get out the vote to stop the killings in the schools. Here they rally in Atlanta, GA. PHOTO/JOHN RAMSPOTT

Boston City Council member Ayanna Pressley is running for the U.S. Congress in Massachusetts, emphasizing the extreme economic disparity in her district, which stretches from Boston's Back Bay to the working-class neighborhoods of Dorchester and Roxbury. In Missouri, Cori Bush—a nurse and mother—ran for Congress on a platform calling for free college tuition for com-

munity colleges and state universities. A community activist, Bush marched in Ferguson to protest the police killing of Michael Brown, suffering police brutality herself in the process. In Washington state, Sarah Smith is running for the U.S. House of Representatives on an anti-war platform. Kerri Evelyn Harris, an Air Force veteran running for the U.S. Senate in Delaware, also champions

an anti-war position. In Hawaii, Kaniela Ing is running for the U.S. Congress calling for a universal basic income and Medicare for all. Those are just a few of the candidates running; there are numerous others campaigning for offices at the national, state, and local levels.

All this is a veritable sea change from the days when many incumbents ran unopposed in

the primaries. The current summer of political discontent could lead to an autumn of opportunity if fighters for justice at the grass-roots level are able to utilize these campaigns as vehicles to highlight the demands of the working class. The situation is in flux. The corporate media has discovered the different progressive campaigns and is working overtime to mock or demonize them. While the mainstream media focuses on the personalities or the organizational affiliations of these progressive candidates, the most important thing about them is actually the program they are running on.

Today, first-time candidates calling for society to address the concerns of the increasingly impoverished are welcomed by many voters grateful that someone is finally talking about their concerns.

The November election is shaping up as almost a referendum on where the country should be headed, and whether the government should be controlled by the corporations or the people. This is only the beginning of the fight. Let's use this election year as a way to bring forward the real issues and to demand solutions. Then we have to continue that fight long after Election Day!

See page five for more election coverage.

History's lesson for the midterm elections:

We need moral firmness, not 'moderate' caution

From the Editors

Our country is in crisis. Scenes of children crying at the border have shocked every decent person. Millions are wondering how to end the toxic regime that produced this outrage and so many others.

More than a century ago, small children were also being snatched from their mothers—by slave owners. Before the Civil War, there was an intense debate about how to respond. Some Northern leaders urged voters to elect “moderates” who would accommodate Southern slaveholders.

In 1831, William Lloyd Garrison founded an anti-slavery newspaper—The Liberator. In his very first editorial, he declared that on the subject of slavery: “I do not wish to think or speak, or write, with moderation. No! No! Tell a man whose house is on fire to give a moderate alarm ... but urge me not to use moderation.”

Wendell Phillips—America's greatest orator against slavery—pointed out that society needed someone as impassioned as Garrison to counter the fanatical zeal of slavery's leading apologist, John C. Calhoun. “[Calhoun and Garrison] are chemical

equals,” Phillips explained. “You cannot neutralize nitric acid with cologne water.”

In the 19th century, every attempt to compromise with the slaveocracy degraded the free states and eventually flopped. A national political party built on a shaky alliance between Northern business and Southern plantation owners tore itself apart over slavery. The fate of that apparatus—the Whig Party—should serve as a warning to us today.

The nitric acid of today's oppression cannot be washed away with the cologne water of “centrism.” If the new forces fighting for universal health care, free public education, and an end to attacks on immigrants cannot be heard inside the old institutions, those forces have every right to forge something new, just like the opponents of slavery spurned by the Whig Party created a new institution—the Republican Party of Abraham Lincoln.

For more information about history's lessons for election battles today, check out the educational on the People's Tribune website: www.peopletribune.org.

People's Tribune 'get a sub' drive

Tell everyone you know to 'get a sub' to the *People's Tribune*—a paper where the movement has a voice! *People's Tribune* contributors share their stories in the fight for a society where everyone will have what they need.

October and November are our subscription drive months! Won't you subscribe now?

We are all volunteer; we get no grants.

Three month trial subs are \$5.
A full year is only \$20.

Donate at peopletribune.org or send to
PT, PO Box 3524, Chicago, IL 60654.

Ani believes she will not survive another winter in the streets

By Marcia Poole and John Paulin

BERKELEY, CA — We call to your attention the case of Ani Mauck, an 80-year-old American ordained Buddhist nun of the Tibetan Buddhist Karma Kagyu lineage, who received teachings and empowerments from the 16th Karmapa, Kalu Rinpoche, and Chögyam Trungpa Rinpoche, among others. Ani has been homeless in Berkeley for over five years and has been a member of the First They Came for the Homeless (FTCFTH) encampment community for the last year. Although she had fallen through the social services safety net, she was welcomed into that community. FTCFTH provided her shelter, and to the best of its ability, accommodations for her special dietary and physical needs. Ani is not physically well. For quite some time she has been afflicted with severe diabetes, has suffered several small

strokes, and recently broke her toe, which significantly exacerbated her mobility problems. Although she very much appreciates living with the FTCFTH community, she believes she will not survive another winter living on the street.

On Monday, May 21, Ani was pushing her wheelchair in the Ashby BART station in Berkeley. The trip there had exhausted her, and because she lacked the energy required to push her chair to the elevator, she boarded the flattened ramp of an out-of-service escalator, believing that its slope was gentle enough to accommodate both her and the wheelchair. However, once aboard, the device jerked into motion and she fell backward, fracturing her skull and severely bruising her sacrum. She was taken unconscious to Highland Hospital.

FTCFTH put out a missing person report, and a member tracked her to the hospital, and found her weak, but clear-headed.

By Saturday, May 26, she had improved enough to be transferred to Oakland Heights Nursing Facility, where she is enjoying their care and amenities.

Part of this tragedy is the city of Berkeley's "inability" to come to the assistance of this woman. Once released, this frail 80-year-old will return to a tent in Berkeley. The mayor's office and the city council have been made aware of Ani's distress repeatedly and of the FTCFTH community's fear that a woman in her condition would incur a serious accident or illness. When informed last winter that Ani had been soaked by the rains, the Mayor's office stated that it could not do anything. "We have hundreds of people just like her out there."

The mayor and several council members visited the FTCFTH encampment to meet Ani and other residents. Many of the homeless are disabled, some of them



Ani, in her wheelchair in the distance, waits for housing in the 'First they came for the homeless' tent community in Berkeley, CA.

PHOTO/SARAH MENEFFEE

severely, and a number of them get around in wheelchairs. Others without disabilities, including an increasing number of senior citizens, have been priced out of their homes and left without a place to live. Increasingly, the face of homelessness will be people who look like our mothers and fathers, rather than our children.

The real tragedy here is the indifference of our "progressive" Democrats. Berkeley failed Ani as

it has failed many others. Instead of seeing less fortunate individuals as valued members of their community, our politicians label them and criminalize them. This cannot continue. Berkeley must develop a conscience.

Editor's note: Ani has returned to her tent in the 'First they came for the homeless' community, where she currently is waiting for housing, as her 81st birthday approaches.



San Jose residents filled the windows of City Hall with their signs at a "House Your People" rally on August 1. PHOTO/SERVE THE PEOPLE SAN JOSE

Yes on proposition 10! The rent is too damn high!

By Sandy Perry

SAN JOSE, CA — If Californians vote in November to pass Proposition 10, known as the Affordable Housing Act, it would repeal the notorious anti-rent control Costa Hawkins Act in California. The weak controls imposed by Costa Hawkins have allowed California rents to rise so high that one-third of tenants now pay over half their income in rent.

The Proposition 10 battle is especially sharp because it directly challenges the right of property owners to raise rents and displace tenants to maximize profits. It is polarizing the Democratic Party, where 95% of convention dele-

gates voted to support it, but party leaders like Gavin Newsom refuse to do so. Landlords and real estate profiteers have already raised over \$20 million to fight the measure.

While we fight hard for Proposition 10, it is also important to understand it is only a partial solution. The California housing crisis is part of a national and even global economic system organized around private profit instead of meeting basic needs of human beings. As more and more workers lose their jobs to automation and downsizing, they do not have the money to pay for even rent-controlled housing. Ultimately the solution is a massive government takeover of corporate-owned housing and its transfer to the people who live in it, in the form of public housing, non-profits, or limited equity cooperatives.

Members of Silicon Valley Renters Rights Coalition spoke out on why they support the Proposition 10 repeal of Costa Hawkins.

Salvador Bustamante, Latinos United for a New America: Proposition 10 is the most sensible way to address the housing affordability crisis in California. It will give back to local municipalities the power to expand rent control. We need to stop forcing people to commute 2 to 3 hours each way to work just to live in housing they

can afford. Displacement is not a solution to our housing crisis.

Milt Krantz, Affordable Housing Network: I am 81 years and have been a tenant in a San Jose HUD Low Income Tax Credit senior housing apartment complex for the last 14 years. Thousands of highly paid workers have been imported into Silicon Valley over the last few years by giant tech companies, without additional housing, and they continue to pour in. They are rapidly displacing long term residents, especially lower income renters who live in the quickly disappearing rent controlled housing units. California's Costa Hawkins legislation allows landlords to raise rents to market value when tenants move out, and prohibits cities like San Jose from expanding rent control to units built after 1979, or to single home rentals or condos.

Ben Vo, De Anza Renters Rights Campaign: Many young people support repealing Costa Hawkins because it will allow California cities to strengthen rent control laws. Any step to protect tenants is a step in the right direction. When Bay Area investors raise rents to drive up their returns, more and more tenants get displaced. Repealing Costa Hawkins will give cities more power to prevent displacement.

Donate to the People's Tribune!

Dear Friends,

I coordinate the homeless and housing desk on the *People's Tribune* editorial board. I hope you will donate, subscribe, and keep abreast of the fight to end poverty in America.

We ask why, if there are six empty houses for every homeless person in this country, are we debating about shelters and whether people should be allowed to be in tents or "tiny houses" or sheds, live in cars, sit on the sidewalk, etc.? House people now! The housing is there!

What did you say? That it's capitalism and corporate bottom lines, private property and the profit motive? If that's what is standing in the way of taking care of everyone's basic needs and ending this mass suffering, then time to change it up!

Send us your stories. We are a voice for this budding movement.

Send \$5 for a trial 3-month subscription or \$20 for the year. Go to peopletribune.org and donate via Paypal or send check to PT, PO Box 3524, Chicago, IL 60654-3524.

— Sarah Meneffee

**It's not enough to be progressive, it's time to be revolutionary;
it's time to vote for a better future. — Kenneth Mejia**

“Voices of candidates” The fight for a government of, by, and for the people

On this page are voices of candidates and activists about some of the vital issues raised in the midterm elections. Regardless of party affiliation, each brings a vision of a realizable American dream, where everyone can have peace and prosperity.

— **The Editors**



“Today, 28-year-old New York City Congresswoman-elect **Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez** spoke in downtown Los Angeles. She grew up cleaning toilets with her mom and was a bartender until recently. She spoke only about the movement

for survival. She said, there is no race or class. Only race and class. No red, no blue. No left, no right. Only top and bottom. After visiting Skid Row, she said there are three times as many empty luxury apartments in New York as homeless people. She said the solution to homelessness there is to put the people without homes into the empty luxury apartments. She called for free medical care and education, and for freeing those imprisoned for non-violent crimes. While she said that ‘injustice is bipartisan,’ she said she believes that our strategy should be to transform the Democratic Party.”

— *From a People's Tribune reader, Los Angeles*



“I am fighting for the new American Dream. One where all people: Have health-care. Can get educated. Can afford homes. Can choose to have families. Can live in their communities without fear. Can enjoy a secure green future. Let's make this new Dream a Reality.”

— **Sarah Smith**, candidate for Congress from Washington



“[You can end the school to prison pipeline] by starting with our children. ... Our babies go to school, some go hungry. ... We have to make sure our hungry children eat and have healthy food, that parents have job-training programs and can adequately

provide for their families. Then the youth are able to do better...

“We have removed a few billion out of education—put that money back—and stop putting it into prisons. ... Put more into fathers or mothers support when they come out of jail.

“We also need access to quality mental health service. I'm a mental health nurse. Every day we service

the homeless, the underserved, people just released from prison. After 10 years of being locked away, we expect them to be productive, but they don't have Medicaid, Medicare, and no way to get medication...

“I stood up against tanks in Ferguson, tear gas, rubber bullets, and real bullets. I won't back down. ... That's how I'll be in Congress...”

“I'm different from corporate Democrats.”

— **Cori Bush**, candidate for Congress from St. Louis, MO



“Putting the needs of my families across the district over corporate profits will show the nation you don't have to sell out ... in Congress. ... I will fight ... to make sure every single child and family in our strong 13th District lives in a just society.”

— **Rashida Tlaib**, candidate for Congress from Michigan



“I think there will be a lot of historical things happening in the 2018. There is still a huge struggle caused by the lack of federal protections, specifically in housing and jobs, that needs to be addressed ... including homelessness, suicide, and

criminal justice issues. I am a product of public education ... and I will advocate for strong federal support and partnership on public education.”

— **Sharice Davids**, candidate for Congress in Kansas. Davids is a member of the Ho-Chunk Nation, a Native American tribe in Wisconsin

“We're surrounded by military bases [here], spending trillions on for-profit wars while we have an affordable housing crisis. Who controls our State, who is controlling our party? ... If my great grandparents didn't stand up against the corporate establishment of their times, I would still be on the plantation. It's time for us to stand up ...”

— **Kaniela Ing**, candidate for Congress from Hawaii

Every Democracy will slouch toward Oligarchy when its political system is *designed* to give more voice to the wealthy and powerful. To preserve our Democracy, we must rid ourselves of this flaw by reversing Citizens United, and enacting mandatory public campaign financing.”

— **Lissa Lucas**, candidate for West Virginia House of Delegates

“Los Angeles is supposed to be the city of dreams. My mom immigrated from the Philippines ... worked tirelessly ... even battled cancer so we could follow our

Medicare for all! Healthcare is a top concern of the American people

From the Editors

Dr. Margaret Flowers, a pediatrician and activist for Medicare For All, disputes those who say universal healthcare is too costly:

“Everyone is in the system for life. If a person needs health care, they see a health professional of their choice, the health professional cares for the patient and submits a bill to the system, or they are paid a salary, and that's it. Simple. Just as it is in most other industrialized countries. Single payer systems save money...”

“The only system we can't afford to maintain is the current one. Private health insurers are insatiable. The government subsidizes them by hundreds of billions of dollars a year, and still they raise premiums and out-of-pocket costs and ask for more. Pharmaceutical companies are increasing their prices by as much as they can get away with. A single payer system is the best way to put private insurers where they belong—on the margins of our healthcare system, and to control the pharmaceutical industry.”

(Excerpted from *Health Over Profit* article by Dr. Flowers)

Missouri votes for workers everywhere

In August, by two-to-one, the people of “red” state Missouri voted against their state's anti-union Right to Work law, boosting the rights of all workers.

— **The editors**



dreams. I organized for kids to have adequate school supplies, for residents to stay in their homes, and for people living in the streets ...

“It's easy to be anti-Republican and anti-Trump, but it's not enough to turn the situation around. Too few

Democrats are working for the people ... [they] take money from companies that made their profits from student debt, health insurance and private prisons.

“It's time ... for all of us to pursue our dreams, supported by Medicare for all, universal rent control, tuition-free public college, full legal status for all immigrants, criminal justice reform, and an end of the corporate stranglehold on politics. It's not enough to be progressive, it's time to be revolutionary; it's time to vote for a better future.”

— **Kenneth Mejia**, candidate for Congress from Los Angeles

THE FIGHT FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

New Orleans: *Fighting for education justice*

By Bob Lee

The push for privatizing K-12 public schools in America through converting them to charter schools took a big leap after Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans in 2005. The storm destroyed many of the city's schools, and shattered the school district's tax base. Wealthy private foundations that backed charter schools and high-stakes testing swooped in to take advantage of the crisis. They offered to help fund new schools. Over a relatively short period, nearly all the New Orleans public schools became charter schools. Today there are only two non-charter schools left in the city, one of which is a former independent charter that was just taken over by the local school district this year.

New Orleans became the model for the charter school movement. Champions of privatization claim that charters have yielded improvement in test scores and graduation rates among New Orleans students. But critics say the statistics are produced in such a way as to give misleading results, and that by more objective measures, public school students in Louisiana are doing better than charter school students in New Orleans. Critics also say the charters operate at the expense of the city's most disadvantaged children, who are often effectively forced out of school altogether and thus are no longer included in the data.

Maria Harmon is among those fighting on behalf of New Orleans' students. She is a co-founder and co-director of Step Up Louisiana, an organization that advocates for education and economic justice. In an interview, she told the *People's Tribune* that the most recent state evaluation of school performance showed "at least 30 'D' and 'F' schools in New Orleans. All these schools are charters. They found that many failing schools in New Orleans are about 95 percent African American and 93 percent

low-income, so we see a correlation between socioeconomic status and race and the quality of the school. Many of the failing schools don't have the resources invested into them that the affluent schools that have the 'A' and 'B' performance scores have."

She added: "Some of these unfortunate circumstances are by design. You'll have people who run these charter schools like slumlords; they don't want parent or community input, they have their own agenda." Harmon said the charter organizations "use a corporate management model" to run their schools to guarantee profits. "They hoard money at the top. The CEO of a charter management organization might pay themselves \$300,000 a year, and top administrative staff \$90,000 to \$100,000 a year, and then all you have left is maybe a couple million for teacher salaries, programs, textbooks, and supplies. And they don't care if the teachers are certified, because they can pay them less if they're not certified."

She said Step Up Louisiana strives to let parents know what is going on in their public school system and what their rights are. They also promote education justice through advocating such measures as a universal academic calendar for the schools; an audit of the city's "OneApp" open enrollment program, which they think may discriminate against certain families; implementation of the sustainable community schools model, which starts with each community evaluating its needs; opposition to high-stakes testing; restorative justice instead of punitive measures as a means of discipline; and transformational parent and community engagement programs.

To bring about change, "we are going to have to pick apart the laws that are already in place," said Harmon. "Long-term, we want democratic, local, direct control of schools and we want full-blown accountability from schools, school leadership, and the parents and community."



[Above] Students and teachers picket Detroit Public Schools headquarters in 2016. PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

[Below] New York. PHOTO/@CLAYHENSLEY



Official who decimated schools hired as school operations manager

By Eban Morales,
Highland Park, MI School
Board Vice President

HIGHLAND PARK, MI — Why would a community embrace the hiring of an Emergency Manager in expectation of them being their savior? (Emergency managers are governor appointed officials who replace elected officials; their job is to sell off a city's public assets to corporations.) People need to be aware and unite to take back all that has been stripped from us. People need to start believing what some still know ... that the State of Michigan is not our friend and the Emergency Manager law has never brought restoration, only the bleeding and demise of communities that are most vulnerable

Yet, the city of Highland Park, Michigan's school board decided to embrace the emergency manager and offered Kevin Smith (former emergency manager of Highland Park Schools) a job as an

operations manager. The contract is nearly \$250,000 for a single K-8 school district of roughly 350 students, already being run by a failing for-profit charter. The school board decided that Kevin Smith, as Emergency Manager, did such a good job decimating an entire school district, which included the leveling of the high school, the selling of the administration building, several other school buildings and even the bus yard and all other assets, leaving students displaced, that he deserved a job.

This is the equivalent of placing the fox in charge of the chicken coop.

The school board also allowed Kevin Smith to write his own contract with a 33% raise on the backs of a still crippled district with roughly \$15 million of debt. The school district office is now a space rented in a strip mall at \$2,600 a month plus utilities. The district must provide the Emergency Manager with staff-

ing and outside contractors to perform duties that he has no knowledge of—like education. This is an expense that starts to push nearly a half a million dollars a year for a single school with roughly 350 students that aren't receiving quality education.

Despite public opposition, the board was determined to hire the Emergency Manager Kevin Smith who ill advised the board to do what was not legally possible. Yet they ultimately did it without even having the contract reviewed by an outside attorney. They hired him, then sent the contract out for review. Open Meeting Act laws were broken and collusion occurred. The school board president, acting outside of her authority, chose the attorney for review and negotiated the contract with the board secretary independent of the board for the purpose of assuring and protecting the Emergency Manager's new job.

The mayor of Highland Park



Highland Park Renaissance Academy is a for profit charter run by the Leona Group. Students complain about few books, no resources, no library, no sports, art or music. Students say they are kicked out for standing up for themselves. PHOTO/EBAN MORALES

who runs an entire city only makes \$65,000 a year so why is no one concerned about these questionable decisions and bizarre actions? Why do Black and Brown communities in Michigan continue to be

looted and milked dry till there is nothing left and usually with prior state involvement and Emergency Managers?

Teachers, parents and students are joining together to fight for a publicly owned education system. Will it be education that serves the people or the corporations? On these pages, they share their thinking on this fight. Please send your thoughts and articles to the *People's Tribune*. — The Editors



[Above] Milwaukee teachers getting out the vote. PHOTO/JOE BRUSKY, MILWAUKEE TEACHERS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION [Below] Protest against gun violence in schools. PHOTO/CHARLES E. MILLER



Teachers and activists: Keeping the 'public' in education

"Everything 'public' has been blurred with 'private' for some time. Just as public television and radio is largely funded by corporate sponsors and corporate matching funds at pledge time, a community college such as mine has various wings of its educational funding that serve as labs for specific corporations and industries. Public and private money gets blurred."

— Danny Alexander, teacher in the Kansas City area

"Well, you know about the charter school network ... it was formed to give our children something new and innovative that public schools could not give them, but in Camden, NJ, what's happening is that they are sucking up the resources, drying up the public school district. Now we know that those schools do not serve children with special needs. ... So now if you don't service the whole community, then you're no good to us. [Charters are] failing all over the country and every city they are in are urban Black cities. They're taking advantage of our people."

— Vida Neil, public school advocate, Camden, NJ, transcribed from a video posted on Facebook

"Teachers are killing themselves. I shouldn't be having to drive Uber at eight o'clock at night on a weekday. I just shut down from the mental toll: grading papers between rides, thinking of what I could be doing instead of driving—like creating a curriculum."

— Matt Barry, California history teacher, to writer Alissa Quart

"No accident that conservatives and centrist Democrats all fear monger about the growing militancy of union teachers. ... Read about the resolution that the Chicago Teach-

ers Union and allies passed [at the American Federation of Teachers convention] to champion a political agenda that will lift all boats with single payer, universal child-care, public college for all, paid for by taxing the wealthiest Americans!"

— Jackson Potter, Chicago Teachers Union, posted on Facebook

"We have seen enough to know that simply voting for Democrats won't fix our problems. ... Throughout their 82 years of legislative control, the Democratic Party never granted collective bargaining rights to public employees. Under Gov. Joe Manchin's Democratic leadership, our state government lowered the corporate net income tax from 9 percent to 6.5 percent. ... Rather than investing in our schools ... Democrats chose to give millions of dollars in handouts to corporations."

— Emily Comer, West Virginia teacher, quoted in "55 Strong, Inside the West Virginia School Strike"

"It is a time of systematic attack on public education by corporate interests designing to privatize public dollars, deploy high stakes testing to shut down socially disadvantaged schools, and to expand the use of technology to cheapen education. These facts are well detailed in the recently published book *The One Percent Solution* by Gordon Lafer. Education is also under attack because it is dangerous to the ruling class. Science and knowledge have developed to a stage such that they now have the power to solve humanity's most pressing problems, namely economic poverty and climate change."

— Tom Hirschl, author and professor at Cornell University

Say 'no' to charter community colleges

By Dr. María de Jesús Estrada

CHICAGO, IL — Do you want your daughters and sons or other young adults to succeed in college? Do you want them to be shackled with debt when they are done getting their degrees? No one wants that indebtedness for our young people. Yet, the Instituto Progresso Latino College, despite its amazing promises, will definitely not help young people succeed.

The Instituto Progresso Latino "College", which is not endorsed by the faculty of the City Colleges of Chicago, promises to help immigrant children with limited English skills succeed. According to City College Chancellor Juan Salgado, the college would offer opportunities to students who would not make it in our Chicago City College system.

That is a patently absurd

claim. The City Colleges offers English as a Second Language support for students at all levels and adult education for students who have not completed high school. Our fine academic institutions at the City Colleges are all independently accredited academically and our degrees mean *something*. Their college is not accredited, and it won't be for the next two years.

Despite its promises and over \$40 million-dollar contributions—supposedly no strings attached money—from Chase Bank, students would not pay cheaper tuition. Although students would supposedly not pay tuition the first year, the following years, they would be heavily burdened. After the first year, each credit would be \$240. At 12 credits a semester that would be \$5,760 for tuition alone.

For residents, the City Colleges charge \$3,504 for the year or

24 credit hours. You think that is too high? The tuition for the supposed Instituto College would go up every year. After the fifth year, tuition would be a whopping \$450 per credit or \$10,800. Who in their right mind would pay such a large sum to attend essentially a charter college? The tuition at the City Colleges is way more affordable, and offers ample wraparound services for students to succeed. Why, then, this ruse? What does Chase Bank get from such a generous donation?

After exhausting their financial aid, if any, students would have to take out loans to complete their degrees. These \$40 million dollars are not a gift. Nor is the Instituto's supposed first free year of Instituto Progresso Latino College. Students deserve better than empty promises, especially those immigrant youth who are trying to make something of their lives.

If students want a future,



Local 1600 faculty, professionals, and part-time professionals stand up against charter community colleges in Chicago.

PHOTO/ZACH POULOS, CCCTU LOCAL 1600

they deserve to get a degree at an established institution with real credentials at an affordable price. Chicago's Malcolm X College is a state-of-the-art college with various health degrees. Students should be going to colleges like these.

The doors of City Colleges are open, and we welcome these students. We will make sure they

succeed and, whether they get a higher degree or a job, our tuition won't make debt slaves out of them.

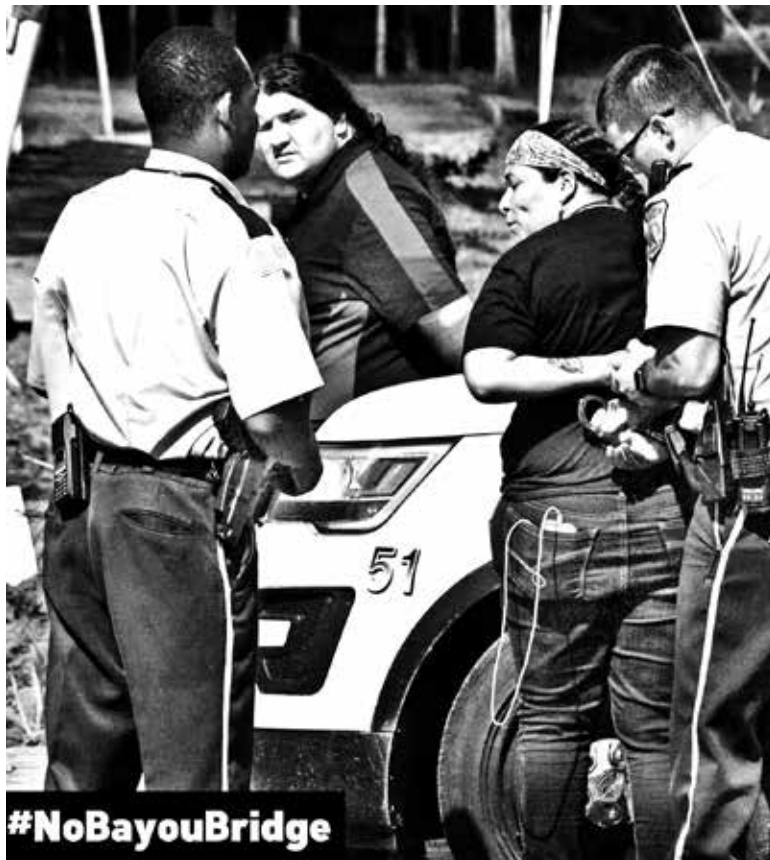
The only thing private colleges like Instituto Progresso Latino do is steadily threaten the viability of public community colleges. We must take a clear principled stance, and say 'No to Charter Community Colleges.'

Water protectors say 'No Bayou Bridge Pipeline'

L'eau Est La Vie Camp is home base for a network of pipeline resisters who organize, protest and monitor construction along the Bayou Bridge Pipeline route. The route is deep in the Atchafalaya Basin, one of the largest swamps in North America.

Aerial blockades have been established directly on the path of the Bayou Bridge Pipeline. Water protectors are currently occupying multiple tree-sits on the pipeline easement. A rotating group lives on the land, running educational workshops and uploading photos and videos of digging and deforestation to their Facebook page and website.

The people and water along the line's route are the key concern for pipeline opponents, who worry about Energy Transfer Partners' (ETP) higher-than-average record of spills. A Greenpeace report published earlier this year found that, on average, ETP pipelines have leaked once every 11 days since 2002, releasing 3.6 million gallons of hazardous liquids, including 2.8 million gallons of crude oil. On 18 occasions, leaks contaminated groundwater.



On May 24 and July 3, water protectors blocked access to work sites in St. James and Iberville Parishes, with multiple arrests each time.

PHOTO/L'EAU EST LA VIE CAMP - NO BAYOU BRIDGE

Editor's Note: This information is excerpted from wagingnonviolence.org/feature/indigenous-water-protectors-louisiana-pipeline and facebook.com/EarthDefenseCoalition.

Wildfires: Feeling heartbroken in Grants Pass, Oregon

By Julia Jaye Posin

LOS ANGELES, CA — The impacts of climate change are taking devastating tolls, and as the Southern Oregon wildfires claim more land amidst record-breaking heat waves, once again this fight hits close to home. The 49-square mile Garner Complex Fire literally surrounds the small towns of both my mom and best friend, who at this point are pretty much confined to their homes due to the suffocating smoke.

Remembering when I was a kid, how I would gaze peacefully at mountains and treetops as far as they eye could see, cooling off in the creek, watching the deer as they would come visit our apple tree.

Now I wake up in the morning, scan the local news, check the fire first response map, and call the emergency information center ... hoping none of my loved ones get the dreaded evacuation notice, and have to leave everything behind, like more than 1,000 households in the area already have.

My heart goes out to the victims and families of the Carr Fire in Redding, the hundreds who lost their lives in Greece, and everyone who's been affected by these terrifying fires.

I'm grateful for the more than 2,600 fire personnel working the Garner Complex. Their bravery and leadership in these moments of crises are critical.



Wildfire smoke can be especially harmful to the elderly, pregnant women, children and those with chronic heart and lung diseases. People wear face masks in an attempt to protect themselves.

PHOTOS/DONATED

Grandmother jailed defending property from energy co.

By Michael Bagdes-Canning

PENNSYLVANIA — I'm a cynic when it comes to court cases. Too often, I've seen our courts demonstrate that they are not so much about "justice" as they are about state repression, comforting the comforted and afflicting the afflicted.

My friend Ellen Gerhart [a retired teacher and grandmother] was tried for "indirect criminal contempt." [Energy Transportation Partners (ETP) alleged that she baited a bear onto the pipeline easement on her wooded 27-acre property.] I'm not sure what the exact legal definition is—and it doesn't matter to me because the laws were not written to be just.

The backstory: the Gerharts have owned a beautiful forested plot of land in Huntingdon County for over 30 years. They allowed the forest to prosper, mature, exist in a protected state. They constructed paths through it and Ellen walked it daily.

Sunoco Logistics (ETP), lusting after money, decided they needed a pipeline, decided the pipeline would pass through the Gerharts' property (and a whole lot of other folks' property) whether the Gerharts wanted it or not. But, because the Gerharts didn't want their trees cut down, didn't want a pipeline carrying fracked gas liquids to pass through their property, they refused to sign an easement for the Mariner East II pipeline to pass through. But, ETP, anxious to transport fracked gas liquids for export convinced the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission that their "product" was a "public good" and had a portion of the Gerharts' beautiful woods seized via eminent domain. The "public good" will be profit for a tiny few. The public harm will be ongoing and devastating.

But Judge Zanic saw only contempt, a refusal to obey the dictates of an unjust restraining order. Reading from a script he prepared well in advance, he scolded Ellen. He spoke of his restraint, as long as she "obeyed" the law. He talked about how he "let" her "protest."

That is a stinking pile of



Ellen Gerhart was brought to court in leg irons and sentenced to 2-6 months for protecting her property from destruction by energy corporations.

PHOTO/CAMP WHITE PINE

manure. I witnessed his restraint. On the day of the first cutting, almost two years ago, he sent the Sheriff to protect the chainsaw crew against a bunch of observers. His "restrained" Sheriff arrested people, imposed a \$250,000 bail on one of them, held them in jail.

He lied when he said he exercised restraint, when he said he respected Ellen's Constitutional rights and when he suggested there are legal ways to restrain monied corporations from stealing and destroying. Worst of all, he lied about administering justice. Judge Zanic punished a woman who stood up to protect her homeplace when the "justice" system refused to. He lectured Ellen and all in attendance, about how refusing to follow his orders makes a mockery of justice.

Huge corporations stealing and destroying the property of a 63-year-old retired teacher is a mockery of justice. Making her sit through a court hearing in leg irons and cuffs with a guard standing behind her is a mockery of justice. Sentencing Ellen to two to six months in jail for protecting what she loves is making a mockery of justice. Calling such blatant injustice "justice" is making a mockery of justice.

We must rise up, protect what we love, and demand real justice.

See full statement at facebook.com/michael.bagdescanning/posts/1898349216852657

‘We all need each other in this fight for clean water’

By Lisia Williams

FLINT, MI — This is embarrassing. However, I want to share a little of my story of our water crisis.

Many residents of Flint were affected by the switch to the Flint River. Some have died; a number we probably will never know the truth.

My grandchildren suffered hair loss, boils, and rashes.

I suffered rashes from time to time. My hands have rashes that constantly itch. I went to my dermatologist and was told it was a rash form, maybe psoriasis. The dermatologist used several creams, but none has yet to work.

I was told on several occasions to leave Flint.

I tried and came back to help my people with all I had. I could not leave my Mom, kids, family and friends, knowing they needed my motivation and inspiration to stand and Fight for Justice!

Yes, I get tired of all our people fighting each other. And the division in the community activist circle. I have an assignment



to help and educate the people as much as I can.

We have some Victory and many may not see it or even don't want to see it.

This fight never was for the quick and the swift but for the ones who endure to the end.

I applaud many of the seniors who continue to go to the water pods to volunteer knowing how their body may feel. They put themselves aside to help all our families!! Salute!!

We all need each other in this fight for Clean Water. There is no Big I's or Little U's it Just "US"

The Victory is Ours FliCity.



Lisia's hands have rashes, from Flint's water, that constantly itch. PHOTOS/FACEBOOK



THE YEARS PROJECT

Editor's note: Youth today are taking up the urgent call to protect humanity and the planet. Their efforts to build a climate change movement are crucial steps toward the ultimate solution: that the public gain control of the corporations and create a society where the protection of the Earth and its people will be society's priority.

These young people, pictured above, are suing the U.S. government over climate change, and the Supreme Court just ruled that the Trump Administration has to face them in court. The suit argues that the Trump administration "violated the youngest generation's constitutional rights to life, liberty, and property, as well as failed to protect essential public trust resources" through their climate policies. The Court stated, "The breadth of [the youth's] claims is striking" and ordered the District Court to take the federal government's "concerns into account in assessing the burdens of discovery and trial, as well as the desirability of a prompt ruling on the Government's pending dispositive motions." (Forbes) PHOTO/THE YEARS PROJECT

Detroit gives truck company \$7.8 million contract to shut off peoples' water



“This is a Homrich truck. Homrich is the private contractor who has already scored millions of dollars of taxpayers’ money for the purpose of shutting off residents’ water. The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) absolutely refuses to consider a water affordability plan despite the fact that Detroit is in the middle of a hepatitis A outbreak. ... Homrich Wrecking was given a new \$7.8-million contract earlier this year to conduct water shutoffs in the city through June 30, 2021. Previous years of contracts have been anywhere from \$5.6 million or more.” — Patricia Downing

PHOTO/VALERIE JEAN



I'd like to see capital
with lacerated knees crawling
from one reality to another
for a change.

— Jack Hirschman,
from "Streetscene"

The immigrants' struggle is everyone's fight

From the Editors

The immigrant workers are a part of the U.S. working class. The moral outrage at the separation of families, the unjust deportations, the torture of children, is growing throughout the country. This fight for human rights is part of our overall battle for a world where all people have a right to democracy and a fulfilling life. We are up against a powerful class of billionaires and their corporations who care only about their profits. They intend to impose a dictatorship over us all to secure those profits. They will succeed only if we let them pit us against each other. That is why today's groundswell of support for the immigrants is so important. Our unity is the key to victory.

'We are not mere victims but warriors in struggle' says immigrant rights leader

By Maru Mora Villalpando,
NWDC Resistance

SEATTLE, WA — When I received a certified letter on December 20, 2017, I did not imagine the change in the country, the overwhelming support for our immigrant communities in 2018. The letter was from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or as we Latinxs know it—La Migra. They started a deportation process against me because of my work in favor of immigrants, especially the detainees, and against ICE.

Now, after two hearings and all of my petitions denied by the judge, we are surprised that ICE is giving me more time so that my daughter born in the U.S. can apply for my stay as soon as she turns 21 in August.

Our work for the defense of our communities includes forecasting the political climate, and in 2017, we already knew there was a total war against us by the new government. First, they criminalize our presence and thus justify our detention and deportation, then—as in my case—they go behind immigrant activists to try to intimidate the community and stop our work. Now we see the criminalization of whole families who ask for asylum, and a step toward extreme cruelty, separating entire families and putting adults and children in separate detentions.

It's not a new tactic to detain families, but the separation of children from their parents is. It shows the clear intention of this government to use the infrastructure developed by previous governments against our community, as well as to expand the legal power they have always had to criminalize us.

One way to achieve this is to use the laws that if a person is



Maru Mora Villalpando.

PHOTO/DONATED

deported and returns, they will get years in federal prisons. This will also happen to those who enter the country without permission. In my state of Washington we have seen this many times. Parents who spend two years in the federal prison of SeaTac are then sent to the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, WA, SeaTac prison, to California, Oregon or Texas. These prisons signed a contract for parents separated from their children at the border to carry out their sentences of at least 120 days in these states.

First they came for immigrants in the interior, then for us activists, then for fathers/mothers and children on the border. Instead of asking who's next, let's make sure the immense support activists like me and separated families have received, is a support that recognizes the work we have been doing for decades.

Let it be recognized that we are not mere victims but warriors in struggle. We are fighters and experts, we know how to lead the fight, and do not need heroes or saviors, we need accomplices and honest support without profit, neither political, economic nor moral.

The legal process against me continues but I have the opportunity and privilege of having an entire community at my side, supporting my family. Let's ensure that the future is full of such community support for all people, with or without family, with decades in the country or newcomers, and that our experience is recognized as the guide for our liberation.

Contact Maru Mora Villalpando at 206-251-6658 at Northwest Detention Center Resistance.



Grandmothers and their allies feel it is morally corrupt to separate children from their families. They caravanned to the US-Mexico border to make their voices heard.

PHOTO/GRANNIES RESPOND/ABUELAS RESPONDEN

Grannies Respond! Caravan speaks out against separation of children

Editor's note: Grannies Respond/ Abuelas Responden is a movement of grandmothers and their allies spurred to action by the humanitarian crisis unfolding on the southern border. Below is their press release about a recent protest action they organized.

"I'm a member of Grannies Respond because I believe it is morally corrupt to separate children from their families," says Rafiah Jones, a grandmother from Washington D.C. "Our legislation should uphold, not uproot, our morality."

This is the inspiring story about a group of unlikely activists—a group of "grannies"—who are putting their bodies on the line and their lives on hold to stop the Trump Administration's harsh treatment of migrating children and families.

We're a group of 30 (and growing) grandparents who are heartbroken and outraged at the inhumane treatment of migrating children and families. At a time when so many are upset but don't know what to do, we grannies are stepping forward with a powerful message of compassion for all children, regardless of nationality or immigration status.

On July 31, we're setting out

on a six-day caravan from New York City to the U.S.-Mexico border in Texas in order to speak out against this injustice. Our road trip will stop at ICE Detention facilities and other key locations along the way to hold rallies, sing songs, and offer a message of compassion while demanding the reunification and release of detained kids and families. These cities include Reading, PA, Pittsburgh, PA, Louisville, KY, Montgomery, AL, New Orleans, LA, and Houston, TX. We hope that people in each city will join us in the streets, and that others will be inspired to start caravans of their own to ride along with us.

"I have a responsibility to fight for the future of all those impacted, including my own children and my granddaughter," says Tina Bernstein, a grandmother from Beacon, NY. "I'm joining this caravan because I want to connect with other people who are concerned around the country and say 'no,' this is not just."

Website: GranniesRespond.org,
Facebook: [granniesrespond](https://www.facebook.com/granniesrespond),
Twitter: [@GranniesRespond](https://twitter.com/GranniesRespond),
Instagram: [@GranniesRespond](https://www.instagram.com/GranniesRespond),
Email: GranniesRespond@gmail.com

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

The People's Tribune welcomes your comments. Your feedback helps us stay on course as a paper that points the way forward to a new cooperative society. Email info@peopletribune.org or call 800-691-6888.

— The Editors

‘Michelle should be here!’ says sister of woman killed by Chicago police

By Andy Willis

CHICAGO, IL — Friends and family gathered in May at the corner of Irving Park and Western where Michelle Robey had been gunned down by the Chicago Police. Michelle’s sister Stacey, an emergency room nurse working in Las Vegas, spoke for the family to a crowd, following a march to Mayor Rahm Emanuel’s house.

Stacey shared her pain and understanding about her sister’s killing with the *People’s Tribune*. She had been in California on February 10, 2017 when her mother called to tell her that Michelle had been shot by the police. Just five weeks earlier, Stacey had seen her sister, who suffered from a mental disability, and assured their mother that they had nothing to worry about. Michelle had interacted with the police many times in her neighborhood and her “middle class” family had no reason to think the police would harm her, much less kill her.

As an ER nurse, Stacey regularly encounters people suffering psychotic episodes, sometimes even armed patients. “We call first security backup and try to de-escalate the situation. Sometimes we have to take weapons off people, but we only do that without incident generally. It happens all the time. We don’t carry guns, so we can’t shoot people.”



Stacey Robey at the memorial held for her sister at the Chicago corner where Michelle Robey was killed by the police.

PHOTO/ANDY WILLIS

“As an ER nurse, I am held to a high level of accountability. If I make a mistake or harm someone, it could mean my license. I don’t believe Chicago police officers are held to the same level of accountability. I just want the same standards. We undergo so much training on how to deal with crises with mentally ill people ... how could the police not need it more than we do?”

Stacey sees the use of deadly force by the police as more than a local or isolated problem. Recently she reached out to the family of Stephon Clark, a 22-year-old African American man, shot down by the police in his grandmother’s backyard in Sacramento, California. “I just

heard about it on the news and my heart just broke for that family, because I know what it feels like to lose a family member to violence.”

Stacey explained, “This is a local problem, but it is also a national problem. Yes, it’s definitely a Chicago issue. It’s an issue for New York. It’s a Sacramento issue, Salt Lake City, Utah issue. Nobody wants to look at it as a national issue, but it is a national issue because it’s gone crazy in our major cities across the United States.”

The country as a whole is awakening. Community control of the police force is on everyone’s mind. Do police serve the people? If so, why aren’t they

Justice for Snoop, killed by Chicago police

Editor’s note: Chicago activist and poet Malcolm London joined the community protest of the police killing of Harith “Snoop” Augustus, a popular barber, on July 14 on the South Side. The following is excerpted with permission from Malcolm’s Facebook post, which includes a video by Karess Taylor-Hughes showing Chicago police officers very aggressively going after protesters. Malcolm’s Facebook post was on July 16. Visit facebook.com/malcolm.d.london

By Malcolm London

“This was the moment after the last news camera left & they charged us like an army platoon with batons hitting us, knocking down women & children, punching & choking folks. Mind you WE WERE STANDING BEHIND



A BARRICADE and THEY charged us. I have bruises on my hip, leg, arm & back. I witnessed 11 officers wrestle my homie @brothermaddmaxx down to the ground with his hands up. After being slammed to the ground myself, I watched them knock over @sharlyngace Attack @charlenecarruthers @trailk-aress & an entire crowd of people grieving. This moment was traumatic. We live in a country where it is dangerous to be Black & dangerous to care about someone who is Black being murdered. I cried & yelled & fought back & after getting beat up, we gathered & marched to the police station to get out the people who were arrested. This is America. #JusticeForSnoop”

held to the same standards as an ER nurse?

People who step up and demand real community control of the police are involved in protecting all of us, no matter our

race or nationality. As Stacey said in front of the Chicago mayor’s house, “Michelle should be here!”

Police have killed 3 men daily in the U.S. since 2012

By Allen Harris

The police in the United States use deadly force to kill an average of 2.8 adult men a day, according to recent study by a Cornell University researcher, Frank Edwards, who said the government’s own data tell just half the story.

Edwards said the police are responsible for about 8 percent of all U.S. homicides of adult males, according to an online article in the Cornell Chronicle.

The Cornell researchers identified 6,295 adult male victims of police homicide between Jan. 1, 2012, and Feb. 12, 2018. The average was about 1,028 deaths per year, or 2.8 deaths per day.

By race and/or identity,

2,993 were white, 1,779 were black, 1,145 were Latino, 114 were Asian/Pacific Islander, and 94 were American Indian/Alaska Native, according to Edwards.

By region, 17 percent of the homicides were in the Mountain States, but only 5 percent in the Middle Atlantic states. Ten percent were in predominantly rural areas while only 7 percent were in large urban areas.

On the other hand, black men were killed by police at a rate of at least 2.1 per 100,000 population, Latino men at a rate of at least 1.0 per 100,000, and white men at least 0.6 per 100,000.

In short, more white men were killed than minority men, but the minorities were killed at a much higher rate than the whites.

Edwards’ report did not specifically explain that paradox.

As for gap between official government data and independent research, he pointed out that:

“Police departments are not required by law to report deaths that occur due to officer action and may have strong incentives to be sensitive with data due to public affairs and community relations. Effectively, we don’t know what’s happening if all we look at is the official data,” he said.

In the Cornell Chronicle article, Edwards said that deaths of men by police use of force is more common than officially stated. He reaffirmed that structural racism, racialized criminal-legal systems, anti-immigrant mobilizations and racial politics

all likely play a role in explaining where police killings are most frequent and who is most likely to be a victim. The data also revealed that police killings are occurring throughout the county, including in rural areas.

In an era where good paying jobs are a thing of the past and where more and more workers are becoming destitute, workers are

becoming a threat to the rule of the billionaires because billionaires will not provide for workers they do not need. America’s ruling elite has turned to violence as a means of control. Who will be next? We all must join the life or death fight to stop all police killings and bring the police under the control of the people.

PEOPLE’S TRIBUNE DISCUSSION GROUPS!

Call or email us to find out if there is a *People’s Tribune* discussion group in your area.
(800) 691-6888 | info@peopletribune.org

'I met several juvenile lifers in prison in Coldwater, MI'



PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

By Rev. Edward Pinkney

BENTON HARBOR, MI — The truth is America is a fraud. We have the most corrupt system, run by the establishment, in the world. The court system is rigged, judges are bribed, and there is fake and phony trials. There is extortion by lawyers, who refuse to defend the defendant and there is no penalty for them.

I met lot of good people in prison who should not have been there, especially the juvenile lifers.

Let the truth be told, the United States of America stands alone worldwide in imposing sentences of life without parole

on juveniles. The United States achieved this unique position by slowly and steadily dismantling the founding principles of the juvenile justice system. Today a record number of people are serving juvenile life without the possibility of parole—that is a person who commits a crime and is sentenced in the United States for a crime before their 18th birthday.

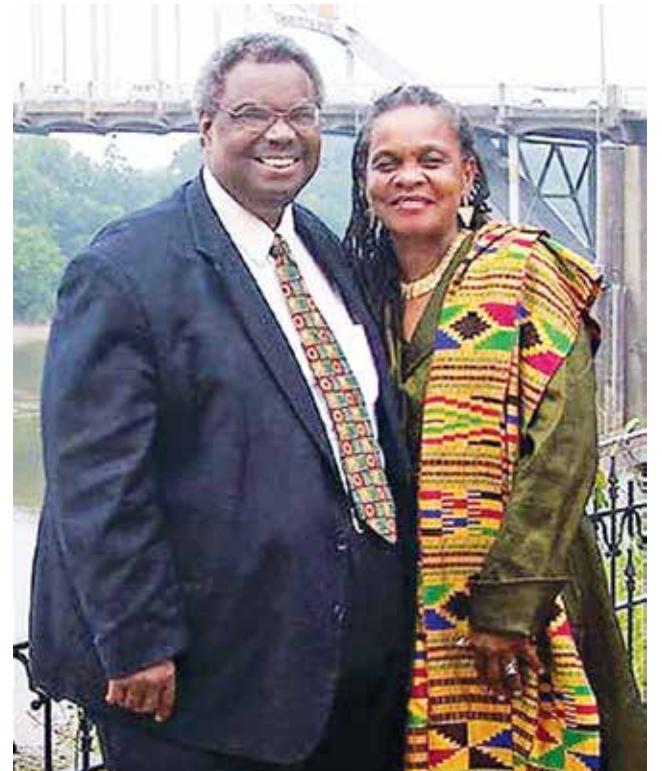
It is driven by the media reporting false information, which I believe is fake news. And we cannot forget public fear. They use catch phrases such as adult crime, 'you do adult time.' The policy makers respond with a frenzy of tough laws that disregard developmental differences between youth and adults and instead focus exclusively on the crime. We cannot run a society for their privilege and allow a significant proportion of the population to be marginalized, like the juvenile lifers. It impacts the quality of life for all of us if we throw away people. A justice system, which tolerates injustice, is doomed to collapse.

I made a commitment when I left prison to continue to speak out about juvenile lifers and the prison system.

I am committed to fight for all. I cannot sleep at night knowing I left so many behind. I will continue to fight until I can bring them home.

Selma civil rights leader arrested for removing illegal campaign sign

Editor's note: Below are excerpts from a statement that Senator Hank Sanders, Faya Rose Touré's attorney and husband, made at the Alabama State House press room on July 18. While earlier complaints of death threats against Faya Rose were ignored by police, they tailed her to prevent justice in the recent elections. City officials removed signs of Black candidates, leaving those of white candidates untouched. City ordinance prohibits political signs on public rights of way. Touré gave notice she would remove the signs, but when she removed a sign in front of Tabernacle Baptist Church, birthplace of the 1960s voting rights movement, she was arrested. For the full statement, visit peopletribune.org.



Faya Rose Touré, the first female African American judge in Alabama, and her husband Alabama State Senator Hank Sanders are lifelong civil/human rights activists and lawyers. PHOTO/SELMA50.COM, FOUNDERS

MONTGOMERY, AL — On July 16, 2018, Faya Rose was driving by Tabernacle Baptist Church with our 11-year-old granddaughter, and there was a sign right in front of the Church on a public right of way. She stopped the car, got out and removed the sign. A Tabernacle Church Deacon thanked her for removing the sign. He said they had objected to the sign being there to no avail, but because it was on a public right of way, they had not removed it.

As Faya Rose left Tabernacle, someone in an unmarked vehicle followed her, and, when he turned on flashing lights, she decided not to stop until she was in a location where other people were. When she stopped, she was in front of the campaign office of the African American candidate for probate judge, Jimmy Nunn, who is now Probate Judge-elect for Dallas County, AL.

Because she had ensured that the commu-

nity's "Vote or Die" campaign [targeted to get as many people as possible out, especially young voters] was in no way affiliated with any individual's campaign, Faya decided to move her car and circled the block to an area where more people were. She pulled into a parking spot at the corner of Selma Avenue and Broad Street. Eventually, nine or so policemen came en masse to arrest one 73-year-old Black woman.

Because she had our 11-year-old granddaughter with her, she asked if she could call someone to pick her up. The police refused, and they left our 11-year-old granddaughter alone downtown with people she did not know. Faya also told the police that her wrist had been broken and was still painful. She asked them to put the handcuffs on in front of her instead of behind her so her injury would not be aggravated.

Instead, they put the handcuffs on behind her back and forcefully tightened them.

The police report states she was arrested for shoplifting in the fourth degree for removing a sign illegally placed on a public right of way in front of Tabernacle Baptist Church. When I learned of her arrest, I went to the site of her arrest and got our granddaughter and made sure she was safe. Our car was still there, so I asked the police if I could move it to our law office. They said it was evidence and refused to allow me to move it. However, they did not take it to the police station but had a tow truck come to move it to a tow yard. One of my daughters immediately went and paid \$150 to get it.

Update: Faye Rose Touré was released from jail. She still faces trumped up charges of shoplifting.

Ed Sadlowski, 1938-2018

From the Editors

The *People's Tribune* notes with great sadness the passing of a staunch defender of labor's rights.

Edward Eugene Sadlowski died in June at the age of 79. For more than 50 years, he was the very embodiment of honest, militant trade unionism in the United States.

Sادلowski went to work at age 18 as an oiler at U.S. Steel Corporation's giant South Works in Chicago. In the mid-1960s, at age 26, he became the youngest president of a local of the United Steel Workers of America (USWA), after the courts overturned a rigged vote. He later led the union's largest district, which covered mills from Chicago to Gary, Indiana.

Nicknamed "Oil Can Eddie" on his first steel job, Sadlowski was born about a mile from the site of the Memorial Day Massacre of 1937, the tragedy in which 10 unarmed supporters of striking steelworkers were killed by police. A third-generation steelworker, Sadlowski was known for his deep knowledge of labor history and his determination to carry on the fighting spirit shown in labor's massive organizing drives of the 1930s.

In 1977, Sadlowski ran for the top post in the steelworkers' union. Sadlowski's bold move galvanized steelworkers sick of the conservative policies of outgoing USWA president I.W. Abel. The campaign for USWA international president between Sadlowski and Lloyd McBride—Abel's favorite—turned into one of the bitterest internal disputes in the history of American unions. (In one instance, a Sadlowski volunteer was shot and wounded while handing out leaflets in Houston.)

Much has changed since the courageous—but ultimately unsuccessful—Sادلowski campaign of 1977. The giant steel mills of Chicago are gone. As we ponder how to confront new challenges, we should all be grateful for the honest leaders of the working class who emerged during the second half of the 20th century—people like Ed Sadlowski. They have left us with an honorable legacy of lifelong resistance to injustice, an important inheritance to draw upon as we prepare for new battles.