

New York, NY, 2020  
PHOTO / ERIK MCGREGOR

## *Fight For Our Lives at the Polls and in the Streets*

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## *Housing is a Human Right*



STILL FROM VIDEO BY JODY K. BIEHL AND KEVIN PAINCHAUD, LOOKOUT SANTA CRUZ

Santa Cruz, CA: Houseless camp of hundreds dismantled.

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Jackson, MS fights for clean water.

VIDEO STILL, YOUTUBE

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Victory in Detroit police brutality suit. (Photo: 2021 protest in Detroit.)

PHOTO / VIOLA KLOCKO

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Corporate profits soar

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# The People's Tribune Needs Your Support

The *People's Tribune* brings you stories of our movement; our resistance to poverty, the fight for true democracy, and people's visions for a better society. Our stories are the voices of those in the streets leading these fights. As the weather worsens and the economy continues to fail, the People's Tribune will continue to cover the critical issues of our movement. Massive homelessness and the fight for housing, the ongoing fight of Flint for justice after the justice system refused to prosecute officials responsible for the poisoning, the high stakes in the upcoming elections where poverty, women's reproductive rights, corporate power, climate and democracy itself are on the ballot, are a few of the issues we address in this edition. Our pages are open to your voices. It is up to us all to find real solutions. Send us your stories, photos, ideas and visions. Please donate at <https://peopletribune.org/donate/>. We are all volunteer staff and receive no grants.

— *The Editors*



Activist groups celebrate a victory for climate and against fossil fuel expansion by working together to force Sen. Manchin to withdraw his dangerous Dirty Deal for now.  
PHOTO / EMAN MOHAMMED / SURVIVAL MEDIA AGENCY.

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 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, formerly published by the League of Revolutionaries for a New America, is now an independent newspaper.

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## We Can't Even Afford Beans Anymore

**#BelovedDetroit:** Animo [Courage]. Today I went to E&L to get some groceries. As I put a few items in my cart, I thought items were mis-marked. There was a young man stocking the shelves. I said to him, "Is this a mistake? Black beans \$2.98 a can?" He told me prices go up every single day. He was tasked with posting the prices, so he was tuned into this. Some items go up 20 cents a day. Imagine getting 20 cents a day more in pay; this is getting 20 cents less a day. He was marking prices as we spoke. I put the cans back. Later this evening, I went to Trader Joe's. Black beans were \$.89 a can for Trader Joe's brand and \$.99 a can for organic. #Bustelo is still cheapest at Aldi's. Cheese at E&L was \$2 higher than last week. I don't have

a clue what we're going to do, except to tell you I still have a Costco membership. And if you want to purchase in bulk, I'm down for it. — *FB post by Elena Herrada, Counter narrator, mother, grandmother and shameless heckler. Founder: #Detroit-FreeThePress.*

While global food prices soared by over 33% last year and are expected to go up another 23% this year, billionaires in the global food and agri-business industry became \$382 billion richer during the pandemic. — *Bernie Sanders*

Food is a Human Right! There is enough food for everyone! No one should get rich off of the control of food, and no one should go without it. — *The Editors*



PHOTO / ISTORIA

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# Fight For Our Lives at the Polls and in the Streets

## From the Editors

Mark Finchem, the Republican candidate for Arizona secretary of state, is a member of the Oath Keepers, a violent hate group. This group is so extreme that one of its leaders actually proposed that the late John McCain, former Republican U.S. Senator from Arizona, be hanged. If elected, Finchem would oversee his state's elections. Given that Arizona is now a swing state, Finchem's decisions in 2024 could possibly determine the next president.

Finchem's candidacy is just one element of an orchestrated effort to win secretary of state offices across the country run by the America First Secretary of State Coalition. Founded in May 2021, this shadowy group operates with funds from Mike Lindell, the CEO of My Pillow.

The 2022 midterm election is shaping up to be the most important midterm election since 1862. At stake is not just control of the U.S. House of Representatives, one-third of the U.S. Senate, and many governors' mansions. In a very real sense, American democracy itself — as limited as it is — is also on the ballot.

One of the country's two major parties — the Republican Party — has now been taken over by outright fascists. They would impose an

open, violent, racist dictatorship on the country. Without democracy, it will be much harder for us to win the things we're fighting for.

The Democratic Party, meanwhile, is not standing up sufficiently to the fascists or putting forward a program to deal with the suffering reflected in the inflation, low wages, evictions, growing poverty, and homelessness we see. Recent polls show the economy is the number one issue with most voters.

We need a massive turn-out at the polls to block open fascists from seizing control of the U.S. Congress and key state governments — but that's just the beginning. We need to pressure the Democrats and all other candidates and office holders to find the backbone to confront fascism. And the people need to keep putting their program forward in public venues and in the streets, and demand that all candidates and office holders, regardless of party, implement it. The people have made clear they want democracy, equality, peace, human rights, and a government that guarantees the health and prosperity of the people, not the corporations.

Our participation in elections and campaigns — including the 2022 midterms — is about stopping fascism, getting people elected who will

fight for us, and about using the election process to help build a massive popular movement that can continue fighting for democracy and the people's program after the elections.

LaTosha Brown, executive director of Black Voters Matter, addressed this challenge when she was interviewed recently for the "55 Voices for Democracy" podcast. "In the work that we do at Black Voters Matter, we recognize that just being engaged around the election is not enough," she explained. "We will take people out of office that are working against our interests. We have to hold them accountable. The very next day [after the election], we have to be in those offices, walking down those hallways to make sure that our elected officials are actually serving the interests of the people."

She added: "We have the power. We have the numbers. And when we collectively decide that we want this nation to go in a new direction, and when we are as relentless as the other side has been to maintain their power, we will change the nation."

Let's get out the vote.  
Let's educate people about what's at stake.  
Let's build our movement for a democracy of, by and for the people.



PHOTO / POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN, FACEBOOK



Javier Cazares (left) with Beto O'Rourke, Democratic candidate for governor of Texas. Cazares, whose daughter Jacklyn was killed in the Uvalde school shootings, is running as a write-in candidate for Uvalde county commissioner. PHOTO/PHOTO/MANUEL RIZO

## We Won't Be Pushed Back!

When the Supreme Court struck down Roe v. Wade, which has been in law since 1973 protecting women's right to autonomy over their own bodies, they unleashed a wide resistance across the country. In Kansas, women mobilized to overwhelmingly defeat a referendum that would have limited a woman's right to bodily autonomy.

Proposed new laws in several states would force rape victims and even children to give birth, and make assisting with any termination, and even miscarriage, a crime, in some more vicious proposals punishable by death. This has sparked outrage, organizing, the running of new candidates, and mass protests.

Millions of women understand what this attack represents. They see it as part of an agenda to strip away liberties and rights people have fought and died for, including this most intimate and fundamental one, and an attempt to push whole sections of humanity back into old and new forms of slavery, using the old weapons of misogyny, white supremacy and division.

Women saying "No! We Won't Be



Pushed back!" are part of a broad movement of people who act from a vision of a liberated society of equals.

— The Editors

Austin, TX, Women's March, 2022  
PHOTO / KAREL RILEY

—Scream *Vote*

so that one day  
a hundred years from now  
another sister will not have to  
dry her tears wondering  
where in history  
she lost her voice.

— *jasmin kaur*

# All Things Pass

## Formerly Homeless Woman Still Fighting for the Houseless

By Gloria A Lighthouse

SANTA CRUZ, CA — I became a homeowner in 1982 when I bought a '64 Chevy Nova station wagon for \$500. I lived in Cara Mia Rosa Nova with my dog for the next seven years. It was the best investment I'd ever made.

I had up to that point made my living doing office work, and food service — dishwasher, busser, waitress, food prep, cook, even chef. Now things had changed. Hispanic men now operated Santa Cruz kitchens. Being a woman and not knowing Spanish, I did not qualify for work I'd done since age 15. Now young college students waited on tables; at age 40, I was deemed too old. I didn't have the clothes to work in an office, and had my dog. So I found work as a housecleaner, working alongside a crew of four or five other women. The cleaning company was called for one-time-only jobs, cleaning the grungiest of houses/apartments/trailers, often at the behest of real estate and property management companies. The activity was better than being cooped up in an office and I actually grew muscles. Housecleaning was Right Livelihood.

There were also other advantages. I didn't have a phone but I could call in for work every day at 7 a.m. from a public phone at a café where I'd have coffee and breakfast, my one meal of the day until I was given more work. And I was free to tend to my dog on my breaks. She never missed a meal.

I found a circle of friends among my co-workers. We'd gather at a co-workers home and "burn one", enjoyed along with some beer or wine and pleasant, if sometimes ribald conversation. And they welcomed my dog. A co-worker would let me park in her driveway for the night, and I'd wash her dishes and cook a vegetarian soup or stew served with homemade whole-grain biscuits hot from the oven. I, a chef who had had my own restaurant,

who had waited tables for generous tips in upscale tourist destinations was now content to serve the working poor, gratis, for the luxury of a hot shower. The Tao works in strange and mysterious ways.

Now, 35 years later, things have changed. Latinas do the housecleaning or what's left of it after the catastrophic pandemic. Who needs a housecleaner when you've lost your home? Many restaurants have shuttered and what's left of office work requires bilingual ability. Computers have taken over high-tech clerical work performed remotely, as isolation, anti-depressants, pharmaceuticals, meth, deadly fentanyl, insanity and suicide replace camaraderie.

Now I'm retired and am fortunate to live in subsidized housing. In the park across the street is an encampment of 237 tents. I am much condemned by my fearful fellow tenants for bringing them food. Every day I awaken to a hot cup of coffee, for which I thank God. Then I prepare a hot meal, mindful of the unhoused, whom if they get a hot meal at all that day will receive it from Food Not Bombs, a lifeline that the City Council has not succeeded in shutting down, even as they sweep one tent encampment after another, routing hundreds of penniless constituents, some huddling in dark downtown doorways at night while the city aims its wrecking ball at our divided and gutted progressive community, demolishing blocks and acres of downtown homes and businesses, evicting more residents and destroying more lives, so corporate developers can build luxury high-rise hotels and apartments for well-off tourists and international investors.

But it ain't over 'til it's over, and it's not over.  
May the Force be with us.



Gloria A Lighthouse, formerly homeless.



Mark

PHOTO / PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE

## Houseless Man Shares His Survival Plan

By Gloria A Lighthouse

SANTA CRUZ, CA — Mark is 61 years old and has camped on the San Lorenzo River levy and Benchlands for three years. Mark says he's suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, being physically and emotionally drained after having to move his stuff three times in two weeks. That, plus the rigors of surviving three years outdoors had ebbed away at his health and well-being.

The Benchlands evictions and bulldozing of tents is being carried out by the City of Santa Cruz, California in eight phases. After phase two, he slept 48 hours and awoke fatigued. He had twice moved further into the camp to avoid eviction and was too exhausted and emotionally worn down to move again, knowing he'd be evicted again.

Standing there on the side of the walkway next to the camp with a wagon filled with what was left of his belongings, Mark was waiting for a friend to help him secure a storage space.

Mark had rented a 3-bedroom house for 18 years. He was forced to move when the landlord raised the rent from \$2,500 to \$4,500 a month. The landlord told him he had been a great tenant.

Mark was turning 62 and he had a plan. He could collect Social Security retirement and Medicare—then he planned to get a housing voucher, or get housing another way, with Social Security as proof of income for a prospective landlord. Anxiety and depression notwithstanding, having been disposed of by the City, he was not through living.

Someone once asked Mother Teresa, "How can you pick up those dirty old sick people on the street and wash them?" She said, "Every one of them is Jesus in a different disguise." What if we looked at an unhoused person as if they were Muhammad or Buddha or Jesus — how would we treat them then?

— Gloria A Lighthouse

# Homeless in Sacramento and Oakland Fight Together for Housing — No More Death on the Streets!

*Editor's note: This article is from a press release for the Sacramento-Oakland joint action.*

SACRAMENTO, CA — On September 30, a vacant city-owned lot in Sacramento was officially occupied by unhoused individuals. On October 1, a group of resident organizers from the Wood Street encampment in Oakland, CA held a bicycle ride from Oakland to Sacramento to raise funds for the Wood Street community, demand an end to the evictions of Wood Street residents and others, and call on state officials to support the civil and human rights of unhoused people, with access to permanent housing, water, electricity, trash removal, and other

basic resources that allow them to live with dignity, safety and stability.

Both Sacramento and Oakland have been under attack for sweeps, lack of accountability, lack of resources and shelter, and lack of impacted voices at the table. For the last three years, both Oakland and Sacramento have been working together to fight for real solutions that include camp self-sustainability, housing now, and no more death on the streets.

The City of Sacramento spent \$617,000 to fence and pave the lot which was intended to be part of the city's comprehensive siting plan. They moved approximately 150 unhoused residents in circles around

the lot and ultimately, last April, forced them off the lot to fence it off and lock people out, displacing people and creating perpetual sweeps and removals by code enforcement. The city spent millions of dollars forcing people back onto the streets, perpetuating harm, violence, criminal charges, loss of shelter and death.

"Throughout this past week and over the past month, the California Highway Patrol and California Department of Transportation have been permanently evicting Wood Street encampment residents en masse at the request of Governor Gavin Newsom, destroying their tiny homes, vehicles and the community they have created together



PHOTO / SACRAMENTO UNION OF THE HOMELESS

there over the past decade," said formerly unhoused Oakland-based advocate Delphine Brody, who biked with Wood Street resident organizers and advocates to Sacramento.

"Residents would love to share our experiences and shed light on the

trauma caused by the violence state and local government officials are visiting upon people living in poverty and on the streets of California," said Sacramento Homeless Union president Crystal Sanchez.

## More Heartbreak for the Houseless: Santa Cruz Dismantles Camp of Hundreds

**By the People's Tribune**

In a move called a "crime against humanity," the City of Santa Cruz, CA is evicting an estimated 300 people living in tents running along a riverbed right next to this largely wealthy city's downtown. The City is dismantling the Benchlands camp one section at time. On day one a young

man was pulling his few possessions in a wheeled cart with a broken bike. A woman was dragging a large suitcase. Another woman wrapped a scarf around her head without the convenience of a mirror, on her way to work.

Santa Cruz County, not far from the heart of Silicon Valley and its billionaires, has the second highest

rents in the country. To afford housing, a \$60 an hour wage, or three minimum wage jobs, is needed.

The camp, of about three years, was sanctioned by the City. Houseless people were directed by the City to go there because the City didn't (and still doesn't) have enough beds. Keith McHenry of Food Not Bombs says, "This never needed to become a crisis for the hundreds of houseless people driven to the Benchlands by police and social service agencies. Officials had two years to set up sanitary camps that provided the dignity of showers, water and toilets, but failed to do so, even when provided with millions of dollars from the state and federal governments."

The State of California in recent years has given billions of dollars to California cities to deal with homelessness — why haven't more of

those billions been spent on permanent housing, instead of camps and shelters?

Elise, an organizer with the Santa Cruz Homeless Union, said, "The city is offering land to developers who are not even from here, basically giving away our city lands, and they're squirming out of providing any affordable housing." She added: "How, in such a wealthy country, are we in this position still?"

Today anyone can become houseless. The solution is to provide housing. It is not to help developers who profit from the housing crisis they help create. Government on every level has the responsibility and resources to provide for people. What is happening to the homeless is a harbinger of what faces millions more Americans if we, the people, don't demand housing as a right for all.

**Voices from the Benchlands:**

"They don't have compassion for disposable people."

"It's your human right to not be bulldozed. And it's on you to defend yourself. You're not hurting people, they are hurting us, displacing us."

"They make us move in a hurry and then half of our belongings become garbage. Then they photograph it and show it as proof of the trash we leave."

"I don't know where I'll go. Been here 3 years. Going to work now."

"We've been on a wait list for a shelter for 5 months."

"They want you to think this couldn't happen to you, that you have to be a drug addict."

"It would be nice if you would help us, but you just complain about us, and you in your billion-dollar house. We pretty much can all have what we need. There's plenty for everybody. Look around. Like, why don't we share?"



Benchlands residents, prior to the camp evictions and destruction.

PHOTOS / PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE

### SOME STRANGER SOMEWHERE

Somewhere there's a stranger who is hungry  
Somewhere there is a stranger that is hurting  
Somewhere there is a stranger that is hopeful  
Somewhere there is a stranger that is great  
Somewhere there is a stranger that needs you  
Maybe they aren't far away, and maybe they aren't a stranger.

— Alicia Kuhl

# Toxic Justice System Bypasses Flint Residents – Again Flint Water Disaster Defendants’ Charges Dropped



Flint residents vow to not stop fighting for justice. PHOTO / DONATED

By Flint Correspondents

FLINT, MI — Community voices react to the third time that criminal charges have been dropped against seven defendants in the Flint water disaster. Charges were first dropped in 2019 by newly elected Attorney General Dana Nessel, claiming that former Special Prosecutor Todd Flood had “botched” the case. In June, the Michigan Supreme Court ruled that the State could not use a one-man Grand Jury to indict the accused. Charges dismissed. This month the case was returned to Genesee County Circuit Court where Judge Elizabeth Kelly threw out the charges based on the higher court ruling.

The community is angry but not surprised at what feels like Groundhog Day as it relates to injustice for Flint. Here are a few responses:

**Bishop Bernadel Jefferson:** This

is a slap in our face. A dog and animal’s life is valued more than a human being in Flint MI. You can do anything to the people in Flint and there is no consequence, no accountability. The community won’t stop fighting for justice.

**Melissa Mays:** Do you blame Dana Nessel (Michigan Attorney General)? I do. I do blame Dana Nessel because there was no reason to have fired Todd Flood (*former Special Prosecutor*) and his team. There’s no reason to not have worked or integrated his team with her team and have worked together . . . like the residents actually were asking her to do. Then maybe we wouldn’t be where we’re at . . . so we don’t even get our day in court, and we definitely don’t get to see Justice. Instead, here we are with nothing....

**Vicki Marx:** I’m not really surprised that the charges were dropped. When Snyder appointed Judge Kelly

to fill a vacant seat, I suspected she would pay him back. When she ran for election to the position, I tried to tell people that she was compromised, but as usual no one listened and here we are today . . . no one being held accountable.

**Fli-City Blackout FB:** I got a problem with Kim Worthy (*Wayne County Prosecutor*) coming in this community trying to be the prosecutor over the water crisis. The thing is, I got a problem when you did a shame of a job with Kwame (Kilpatrick) and then you fumble the bag with Snyder!! You not going after him like you did with Kwame . . . We not going to vote for the same folks no more. Don’t come trying to run through the back door with all that nonsense. When are we going to stop that stuff and still hold folks accountable, and raise up some new revolutionary leaders?

## Military Spending vs. Human Needs



Tax Day rally outside IRS office NYC demands our tax dollars stop funding war and environmental destruction. April, 2022.

PHOTO / ERIK MCGREGOR

By Bob Lee

- More than 50% of our income taxes are spent on the Pentagon (masspeaceaction.org).
- \$1.6 trillion is projected military spending in fiscal 2023 (warrestisters.org).
- \$84,000+ per minute was spent on U.S. nuclear weapons programs in 2021 (Intern’l Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons).
- \$110 million a day was given to Ukraine over the last year by some estimates (theintercept.com).

**What would even a 10% cut in the military budget do?** Sen. Bernie Sanders proposed a 10% cut in the base military budget last summer. It was defeated, but if it had passed, the \$74 billion would have been spent this way:

- **Jobs,** building affordable housing, schools, childcare centers,

community health centers, public hospitals, libraries, sustainable energy projects, and clean drinking water facilities. Provide rental assistance and bring an end to homelessness.

- Improve education by hiring more public school teachers and paying them properly, nutritious meals to families, free tuition for public colleges, universities, and trade schools.

**President Dwight D. Eisenhower said in 1953:** “Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children.”



### Benton Harbor’s Lead Pipes Replaced!

*Dorothy Pinkney writes:* “Congratulations to Rev. Pinkney and the Benton Harbor Community Water Council. 97% of the lead pipes have been replaced. I know first-hand how much hell the Governor’s office gave you, but you stood tall. The elected officials had no idea what to do. The Benton Harbor Community Water Council took the lead and make it happen. They even sent two state police officers to intimidate Rev. Pinkney. He stood tall. Congratulations.”  
Photo / Water is Life rally, Detroit, MI / Daymonjhartley.com

### Defend Clean Water Act

Clean Water Action President Robert Wendelgass (center) speaks at the *Protect Our Waters Rally* in front of the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington D.C., on October 3 on the first day of the Court’s new term. Justices heard arguments in the Sackett v. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency case. At issue is which waters will or will not be protected by the Clean Water Act. Ensuring that streams, wetlands, and other water bodies are protected has been a priority campaign for Clean Water Action for over 20 years. You can hear Robert Wendelgass at [youtube.com/watch?v=jKml-hV7Q84](https://youtube.com/watch?v=jKml-hV7Q84)



# Community Occupies Hospital Lot for 11 Days to Stop Luxury Housing Development



The 11-day protest of a luxury housing development included tents, mutual aid tables, music, art, poetry, solidarity workshops and a memorial for Chicagoans who died homeless. PHOTOS / KATHY POWERS

By Kathy Powers

CHICAGO, IL — The plan was to express anger and occupy the former parking lot at Weiss Hospital in Uptown, Chicago for three days. A community of neighbors, activists, and homeless residents agreed that a 314-unit luxury high-rise de-

velopment was an egregious misuse of community resources. SROs and vacant land developed into luxury housing, under the tutelage of Alderman James Cappleman and his zoning committee of white supremacists. The community remained until they were forcibly removed after 11 days of occupation.

Their message was clear: *Stop luxury development in our community.*

“Uptown doesn’t need more luxury housing. We need truly affordable housing,” said Tom Gordon, Vice President of the Chicago Union of the Homeless.

“We’d like to see the property utilized for community needs, not another luxury high rise,” said Ronald Schupp, of Uptown. “Poor, elderly and homeless people are being pushed out systemically.”

The occupation began almost two years after the development was announced to the community. A campaign to stop luxury development in Uptown will not end. Many historic buildings have been razed to make room for a community of empty luxury high-rises built of glass and steel. The community has decided that Uptown is not for sale.

The occupation consisted of tents, mutual aid tables, music, art, poetry and workshops on solidarity. A clothing-mending workshop held at the occupation helped people fix clothes or pick up new items. Also held were discussions of other housing struggles across the city, a “social

housing workshop” and a poetry and music session.

“People are pushed into homelessness by gentrification, by luxury developments like this, by rising rents,” said Adam Gottlieb, organizer with Chicago Union of the Homeless. “We’re talking about human beings here. Everyone deserves a place to live.”

Besides the lack of affordable housing, another serious concern is the survivorship of Weiss Hospital, the only community hospital in the area.

Pipeline Health Systems LLC (Pipeline), the owner of Weiss Hospital, West Suburban Hospital in Oak Park, and the shuttered Westlake Hospital in Melrose Park, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection throughout the U.S. on October 3, 2022. Pipeline sold the parking lot to Lincoln Properties and promised that the \$8 million profit would be used for hospital upgrades and new services.

“This is a community hospital, and that shall remain,” said Manoj Prasad, CEO of Resilience Healthcare, the prospective buyer of Weiss.



“We are going to be here to serve the needs of the community passionately.”

“As previously reported, proceeds of the parking lot sale will be reinvested in Weiss Hospital,” said Jane Brust, vice president for marketing and communications for Pipeline in a statement. Pipeline leaders stated that it invested more than \$35 million to Weiss that included the \$12 million parking garage renovation, a \$13 million medical records upgrade, and a \$5 million new orthopedic center.

With the bankruptcy proceeding in the works, one wonders whether another luxury high-rise will replace the hospital.

## Poor People’s Campaign: Jackson, Mississippi Moral Monday Free the land, clean the water, and keep it public!



Jackson, MS march to demand state and federal government act on their water crisis. VIDEO STILL / POOR PEOPLE’S CAMPAIGN (PPC)

Editor’s note: The fight for clean water as a public good is gathering strength across the nation. Below are some young voices from a Jackson, MS, Poor People’s Campaign event. Jackson has

been suffering from government neglect of basic services like water. See the full video at <https://bit.ly/JacksonPPC> — The Editors  
Isaiah McCoy, youth activist

with Jackson’s Peoples’ Assembly: “Access to clean water is what separates a thriving community from a community that’s trying to survive.”

**Riley Adams, student:** “The lack of urgency from state and federal officials seems to be because a large percentage of the population is impoverished. EPA administrator Michael Regan visited and witnessed the impact of this crisis. I thought, thank goodness he’s here. Certainly, the federal government is going to rectify the situation expeditiously. Unfortunately, a year later we’re standing here fighting for the most basic resource. . . If it were your child having to use contaminated water, what would you do?”

**Javion McDonald, student:** “My mom works hard, and has to work harder trying to get bottles of water just so we don’t get sick. I hope the governor will fund this.”

**Shamira Smith, student:** “The community’s inability to have clean water is a violation of human rights. Not being able to properly shower,

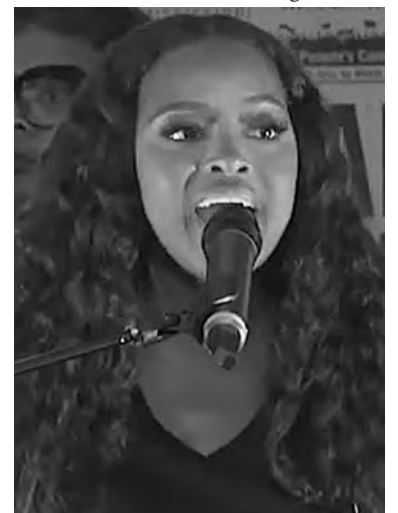
cook food, or even brush your teeth is not the way people should live in the 21st century.”

**Lorena Quiroz, Immigrant Alliance for Justice and Equity:** “We are an organization of immigrant people fighting for the rights of immigrant people and for justice everywhere. We are standing on stolen lands of the Choctaw and Natchez Nations and we’re fighting for stolen water. The forces that stole this land and water are the same forces that stole our ancestors’ lives and labor to develop this very land; the same forces that terrorize our people at the borders. They’re the same folk who tell us that we have to let them privatize the water. . . Did you all know we have ICE agents walking around in Jackson? ICE agents have no business at distribution centers harassing our people. Water is a human right! We will fight to free the land, clean the water, and keep it public. We want water, not ICE!”

**Angela Taylor, Disability Rights Activist and Advocate:** “I have

people calling me; they feel left out, that they don’t have a right to live . . . [some] have to go as far as Hattiesburg for dialysis because the water isn’t fit.”

**Darius:** “I’m 24. The government is absolutely to blame but we have the obligation to address the ideologies that separate us. We have to save one another, and it starts right here.”



Testifying in Jackson VIDEO STILL, PPC



Uvalde, TX

# Student Relates the New Sad Reality in Uvalde-Area Schools

Below is an excerpt from a letter by a Knippa High School student in Uvalde County. You can read the student's full letter at [tribunodelpueblo.org/](http://tribunodelpueblo.org/)

**Tuesday, September 6, 2022, 8:22 am** — The Day We Received Our Dog Tags 1st period —AP Calc. . . Knippa is a small school, 1A . . . Being a senior, it's almost impossible not to know each student. The high school shares the same buildings with 5th grade and up. We see our little (ones) every day in the halls . . . I'm not scared for myself, it's them. I have 4 cousins on campus. This summer I watched them grieve friends while raising money for the ones that survived. They were robbed of a summer of memories they should've made with them. instead, they visited graves talking to friends that would never talk back. . . . Yet, each day they come to a school fenced

like a prison and plaster on a smile, ready to learn. Though it's meant to keep people out, from the inside looking out, it feels like we're meant to be kept in. It feels like we're the ones who have done wrong, we're the ones being punished. Because of someone else's cruel actions, we cannot move on campus without an escort. We can no longer access the front office. All the doors are locked at all times, no exceptions. We are no longer to open the doors to anyone, that's a privilege meant for the staff alone. Best of all, we wear IDs now. As I said, everyone knows everyone here. Our IDs are not for us. They are meant for a reality where someone may have to identify our bodies one day without having to obtain a DNA test. They are dog tags for a war we never enlisted in. Why did any of this have to happen? Why!

# Victory in Police Brutality Lawsuit Against City of Detroit

*Editor's note: Excerpts below are from the FB page of the youth-led, anti-police brutality group, Detroit Will Breathe. See their full statement at <https://www.facebook.com/detroitwillbreathe>*

"Today, Detroit Will Breathe and individual plaintiffs accepted a historic offer of judgment by the City of Detroit that includes over \$1 million ... the federal court will rule that the City of Detroit and the Detroit Police Department (DPD) violated the constitutional rights of protestors during the George Floyd uprising of 2020.

"[T]his judgment is a victory for the movement. At the start of our lawsuit, we obtained an unprecedented temporary restraining order against DPD...[that] prohibited DPD from beating, choking, pepper-spraying, and tear-gassing protestors and was converted into an injunction that lasted over two years. We also defeated the City's multiple attempts to bring a baseless and retaliatory countersuit against us ...

"While the movement should use every tool at its disposal ... this lawsuit confirms ... that mass struggle in the streets is ultimately needed to



Detroit Will Breathe action in 2021.

PHOTO / VIOLA KLOCKO

win us justice ...

"We do not seek to make a friendlier... less violent police force; rather, we demand the abolition of the institution itself and the transfer of those public resources into programs that will improve the lives of our community — housing, mental health care, education, and clean water...

"We rose up in 2020 to defend Black and Brown lives, yet capitalism and its enforcers, the police,

continue to kill and maim people like Porter Burkens, Patrick Lyoya, Theo Gray, Hakim Littleton, Priscilla Slater, and Ma'khia Bryant... While we don't see the daily marches... strikes have rippled across the country and student walkouts are a regular occurrence. The militancy of these new actions is a spark that can light a fire. We encourage everyone to join the fight in any way they can. "See y'all in the streets."

Visit [peopletribune.org](http://peopletribune.org) for more stories like these and many others:



As the price of gas has soared the five big oil companies made \$59 billion in profits during the 2nd quarter of this year alone. (Bernie Sanders)



Gen Z leading the fight for justice in Kansas.



Migrant deaths on the US-Mexico border.



Is the US now a non-developing country?



The fight against fascism and Woody Guthrie's example.