

2023: The Fight for Our Lives Intensifies



Witness at the Border's Journey for Justice displayed slogans on the international border crossing at Brownsville, TX, Dec. 2022

PHOTO / BOB LEE, PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE

P. 5



Benchlands camper

P. 3

PHOTO / PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE



Handcuffed, unhoused Benchlander arrested

P. 3

PHOTO / PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE



Chicago health care strike

P. 7

PHOTO / SARAH JI-RHEE



NY Nurses strike

P. 7

PHOTO / NNU

New Year's Giving – Support Independent Journalism For the People

Thousands of us are out in our communities fighting for the Earth, housing, healthcare, equality, ending police brutality and for human rights—for a true Democracy, a just society that cares for us all. The People's Tribune opens its pages to share your stories in your voice about this fight. Our aim is to help build unity in the struggle for people's survival, and counter the corporate media's narrative protecting fossil fuels, or there's "not" enough to go around. A world of plenty is possible today and no one should go without anything. We hope you'll see the People's Tribune as your paper, as your voice, and support it with donations. We're all-volunteer, have no paid staff, and rely entirely on the support of our readers and contributors. To donate, visit peopletribune.org/donate/ Or mail to People's Tribune, 849-C Almar Ave., Suite 261, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. If not, feel free to leave a story at our website or email peopletribune@gmail.com! Thank you. And Happy New Year!

— The Editors



Earth Guardians, Denver, CO. PHOTO / CHRIS GOODWIN, DESROWVISUALS

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.

PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE EDITORIAL POLICY:

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

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

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Are We Welcoming the 'Huddled Masses'?

"Give me your tired, your poor,

Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,

The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.

Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me,

I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Emma Lazarus, written 1883

Editor's note: The lines above, part of a famous poem, are inscribed on a bronze plaque on the Statue of Liberty. Written as a tribute to refugees and immigrants, the poem symbolizes the statue's universal message of hope and freedom for immigrants coming to America and people seeking freedom around the world. Emma Lazarus drew inspiration for the poem from her work as an aide for refugees on Ward's Island. It is ironic that today, migrants seeking refuge in the U.S. are forced to live unsheltered in Mexico's streets while waiting for a U.S. court date. And homeless people in a Ward's Island shelter say conditions there are filthy and dangerous, especially for disabled residents.



Homeless man at Ward Island shelter says it's filthy and "like a jail."

VIDEO STILL, NYPOST



Migrants sleep in Mexico's streets awaiting U.S. asylum hearing.



The Statue of Liberty in New York City is near Ellis Island.

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Why Not Housing Now?

On Pages 3 and 4 are stories by houseless folks and supporters about their life-or-death struggle for Housing Now. It is urgent for millions of us to join in and demand housing to stop this human catastrophe, and also help prevent more of the currently housed from being pushed into the streets. Our sense of urgency is no different than how we would respond if our loved one was homeless or at risk of losing their home. Send your ideas and stories to peopletribune@gmail.com or leave at www.peopletribune.org

‘These evictions are happening left & right. Met a single mom of 2 kids on the streets. Will shelters take them? No. They’re “full.”’

[FB Post, Houston, TX]



Homeless kids.

PHOTO / DIANE NILAN

Comments on the above FB post:

“There’s such a thing as full shelters?”

“Unfortunately. Constantly full.”

“How do you talk to a mom with kids on the streets and tell them “no one can take y’all” then walk away?”

“Same thing in Denver. Gentrifiers come into our neighborhood, take her housing and clothing and she’s in the street that bans urban camping and makes it illegal for us to be homeless. So now we’re criminals if we’re sleeping in the street.”

“Sad thing is the Houston Apartment Association doesn’t allow people to rent if they have evictions(s). Even if everything is perfect, you’re still looking at \$1,000+ a month. Minimum wage earners either have to work two jobs and leave their children at babysitters (or home alone depending on age) or have roommates.”

“Make tenants’ rights a mayoral campaign issue.”

“Texas is such a shit state.”

“They aLLLLL are.”

When Society Breaks Down We Try to Take Care of One Another, says Former Camp Resident



1. Billy: “Somebody steals from me, the next day I can’t have a grudge.”
2. (Left) Greg: “We care for each other a whole lot here.” (Right) Kiana: “It’s sad it’s ending. They kick us out wherever we go.”
3. Rachel: “We were a community. People are scattered now.”

Editor’s Note: Below are excerpts from an interview with Greg, a resident of the former Benchlands encampment in Santa Cruz, CA.

You never need anything here because somebody’s got your back one way or the other. If you need a tarp, if you need food, if you need a cup of sugar — a proverbial cup of sugar — or if you need, somebody to talk to, you have it. And you also have the centralized access to food, medicine, counseling services in ourselves. It’s liberating to be here, to live outside and just not care, but it’s not, ‘not care.’ It’s care huge. We do care for each other a lot. We’re some pretty tough people, but it’s still scary. Not the way people may think. It’s that quiet space in the middle of the night when you just have your own thoughts. And that’s pretty scary. But you hear your friends’ voices out there and they might be arguing, or they’re the people that you might squabble with. But they’ve got your back when it counts. Yeah. And to have that, to have that demolished, in a systematic way....

And for all that money to be pouring in, for God’s sakes, and we’re in a worse condition than ever. I mean, any taxpayer should be outraged because the city spent a million dollars to clean the encampment. So half of our money that was supposed to be spent caring for the homeless is spent on fencing the homeless off. And having private security guards and overtime of police presence, what we call patrolling the people, when they don’t always want extra overtime.

They kept almost forcing people to come here. And then weeks later, they say, ‘now get

out,’ that’s BS. They kind of set the homeless up. It is dehumanizing. What they want to do is warehouse us. Transport us. Consolidate us. But not ever consider us, like not looking somebody in the eye and saying you are a human. And, what they’re doing here will have parallels to others.

I’ve worked in 52 countries. I’ve traveled many places. I understand some things that are coming down the pipe that nobody even wants to consider. It’s not a conspiratorial hypothesis; it’s very much reality. And the upper echelon would probably have a bland meaningless answer. That’s what you get from any question to government officials today. They’re utilizing very decent-hearted professionals as collaborators. Cops aren’t bad people here. Chicago, maybe. Oh, sorry, Chicago. I’ve had some incidents in Chicago. But we’re all being trained how to collaborate with whatever is giving the instructions to control lower levels today. Then once that lower level has been neutralized, it’s on to the next level. You know it’s not pretty.

I ran my own little mini-venture capital hedge fund in Silicon Valley and it was heartless. I was excellent at ripping cash out of the system. But here is where my heart feels torn apart. I mean it feels like this is what life is, and we’re almost going retro into a paleo society. We don’t want to be clubbing each other over the head (except maybe a couple people). So this is a model for when society does break down [and of people trying to take care of one another].

Homeless in the California Storms: We Are in a State of Emergency!

By Crystal Sanchez

SACRAMENTO CA — We have the Sheriff sweeping unhoused people during an emergency cyclone weather bomb. They are doing sweeps on Roseville Rd, attacking camps in extreme weather, and taking their RVs. This is absolutely unacceptable.

We need the community to reach out to the Board of Supervisors and City Council, write letters and let them know that we are in an

emergency. This is our community and we are halfway under water in a lot of places.

Money is what it is — capitalism — but at the end of the day we need to support each other, our neighbors, and not allow law enforcement to harass our people, those who are trying to shelter themselves from this storm.

We are in a state of emergency, and unhoused individuals should not be criminalized for acts of survival.

Update, January 7 and 8:

Last night around 6 p.m. an unhoused woman died as a tree came down on her tent. All night long we were receiving calls and just sitting on the phone with people as the storm passed to make sure that they were okay. We had 70 mile an hour winds and rain.

And today we found out one of our senior Veteran friends and plaintiffs for a previous case at Roseville Road also was crushed last night along with his dog.



Tents along the American River in Sacramento CA

PHOTO / CRYSTAL SANCHEZ



Long-term residents protest the closing of the Budgetel Inn near Chattanooga, TN, which made some 800 people homeless. Some still await the return of their advance rent payments. See story at <http://bit.ly/3GDLVTn>.

VIDEOSTILL LOCAL 3 NEWS.

Brutality and Grace as Tent Community is Destroyed



Elena serves soup to hungry residents of the Benchlands camp as it is destroyed by the City of Santa Cruz.

PHOTO / PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE

By Gloria A Lighthouse

SANTA CRUZ, CA — Phase 7 of the 8-phase Benchlands camp evictions commences: three squad cars and five cops arrive as campers frantically remove their belongings. A woman sets up a boombox on her parked bicycle and blasts music. A cop shuts it off. She yells at the cop, turns it back on, and moves it, continuing to quickly move her stuff out to the side of the adjacent walkway, a paved two-lane bicycle path. Three UCSC student journalists arrive to video document the scene. Eight cops set up an “Area Closed No Entry” sign and hang the familiar plastic yellow “Crime Scene Do Not Cross” ribbon to block campers from taking their stuff out. The cops wander through the Phase 7 section and remove some things from the other side of the footbridge, near seven large waiting dumpsters. Twenty bicyclists, a uniformed club of sorts, sail down the walkway, dodging campers and their piles of stuff. A few bureaucrats show up, survey the chaos, and leave; also present are a number of supporters of the Benchlanders. A half dozen press and photographers take positions on the footbridge as city workers below begin dismantling the tents, breaking the poles. The cops are on good behavior, no doubt because of the attention.

A lone 40-something Latina sets up a food service station at the foot of the bridge. A wagon holds a large pot of soup enclosed in a padded pot warmer. Next to it is a card table from which she serves the soup in paper bowls, deftly placing a few ping-pong ball-sized new potatoes cooked in their skins into each bowl, then ladles in the nutritious soup, laden with vegetables and a little rice. For meat eaters,

‘Let’s Give Oakland’s Wood St. Camp the City Land it’s on to Run as it Sees Fit’

By Jared DeFigh

Editor’s Note: Jared DeFigh, former resident of the Wood Street encampment in Oakland, CA, proposes to save the camp before it’s snuffed out to make more sheds. (Read Jared’s critique of shed life at peopletribune.org/2022/12/stop-destruction-of-oakland-camp)

Proposal

Let’s give Wood the city land it’s on to run as it sees fit. Or any of the other open lots owned by the city or privately. If people could find a place to simply rest in peace longer than half a day they would be able to recover from the layers of trauma a thousand times better than a bevy of therapists that changes nothing in the day-to-day. Pharmaceuticals are little better than meth; “It’s the situation, stupid!” (Not you).

I say Wood Street because they have the combination of experience, integrity, plans, and energy to create something sustainable that can be copied effectively anywhere. What they’ve done with the land is amazing if you’ve never visited. I had a tent there before I moved

to Cob [a piece of the Wood Street encampment] under the highway. You can still see the good dirt left behind. Here’s an old article about it. While at Cob I helped take care of the shower and collecting ash for the toilet, among other things, like storing food and cooking sometimes. By the time I joined, the kitchen became my room and the clinic was never finished, but its foundation was used for the free store that is now used at the main Wood Street site [known as the Commons].

Before the pandemic, there was something in the works after Wood Street won a lease to use CalTrans land. Cob was a piece of that. But after the pandemic hit all the support from the City evaporated overnight. No more returned calls. Now that CalTrans land was what I and dozens, possibly over 200 others, were thrown off of.

The last part of Wood Street, the Commons, is threatened with eviction in January. Something needs to be done before this last bastion of community, ingenuity, and passion is snuffed out to make more sheds. The residents have used TROs (Temporary Restraining Orders) to slow down evictions, but never successfully stop them. The more pressure, from more places and people, calling for a space for people to simply exist without being arrested for it, is needed. We need **that** Thunder!



Wood Street camp residents try to salvage their belongings as their community is destroyed by CalTrans and the City of Oakland.

VIDEO STILL / FOX NEWS CHANNEL 2

she adds a chunk of chicken. News of the soup spreads. “Food!” was the cry, and hungry campers quickly began to gather around the Latina. Her name was Elena. I thanked her and said, “God bless you.” Making eye contact, smiling, she responded, “God bless you.” The meal was simple yet sumptuous — balanced, nutritious and filling. She served the diverse “great unwashed” unreservedly. Through a Spanish-speaking camper, we asked her why she was doing this. She said, “The Bible says that the Lord Jesus tells us to share what we have with others.” Buddhism teaches that the prerequisite for obtaining Enlightenment is the recognition of the intrinsic unity of all living beings. With that in mind, Elena was most certainly knocking on heaven’s door.

When the pot was emptied she packed her gear into the wagon and moved her things out of the park as the dreaded forklift moved in

below, crushing tents and campers’ belongings, throwing up clouds of dust, scooping up and depositing the debris into a waiting dumpster as the cameras on the footbridge rolled. A young woman hurriedly walked past them, sobbing.

the water is rising
to the tent flaps
of the horizon

— Sarah Menefee

When Will Our Government Recognize the Human Rights of Migrants and Refugees?

By Bob Lee

“We go through so many things to get here, and they don’t let you cross,” Jose Ramon Aguilera, a migrant from Venezuela standing on the Mexican side of the border told **Border Report** in mid-December. “It is not fair. We want to enter; we want an opportunity.... I spent seven days in the jungle, drinking river water, starving, seeing people dying. I rode The Beast (a cargo train in Southern Mexico) and that was another trauma. My feet froze. I could not get off the train.” (borderreport.com)

Aguilera is one of thousands trying to cross into the U.S. from Mexico, and one of millions around the world who have been forced to migrate. Journalist Chris Hedges reported in early January that, “There are some 84 million forcibly displaced people in the world, more than at any time since World War II. They are fleeing a combination of war, civil unrest, religious conflict, poverty, persecution, local violence and the climate crisis.” Hedges notes that governments in Europe and elsewhere have responded by denouncing immigrants and refugees and turning them back, “including at sea where whole boats of refugees are drowned. Pope Francis calls the Mediterranean ‘the largest cemetery in Europe.’” Persecuting and abusing migrants and refugees has become policy in Europe, the U.S. and Australia. Hedges points out that the U.S. “bears a direct responsibility for the more than 37 million people who have fled the [U.S.] wars in Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan since 2001, not to mention the U.S.-backed wars in Central America” and the current U.S.-backed war in Ukraine. The increased hostility to refugees, Hedges writes, is the basis “of a new and heartless world order, one where the wealthy industrialized nations of the earth wall off the destitute to suffer and die.”



This Haitian family (left) and this Venezuelan family were welcomed to the U.S. after applying for asylum, although their situation is still not secure. Thousands more are waiting at the border seeking asylum. PHOTO / BOB LEE, PEOPLE’S TRIBUNE

Although in the U.S. President Biden had promised a more fair and just immigration policy, his administration has dragged its feet in halting the use of Title 42, a health law, to arbitrarily keep asylum-seekers out of the U.S., a policy begun by Donald Trump. Indeed, in Biden’s recent speech about immigration he basically called for expanding the use of Title 42. And now the Supreme Court is delaying until June any action to stop the use of Title 42.

Meanwhile, some Republican governors are callously playing politics with the lives of

migrants and refugees by sending busloads of them to places like Washington, DC. In Texas, Gov. Abbott has been sending National Guard troops to the border, who string razor wire to keep people out. Both Arizona and Texas have also begun using shipping containers to build their own exclusionary walls along the border. An estimated 3,000 asylum seekers are living in an encampment in Matamoros, Mexico, across the river from Brownsville, Texas, and they have only two portable toilets, according to a story in **Border Report**.

Just like the assault on the rights of Black Americans, indigenous people, women, etc., the shameless treatment of migrants and refugees at our southern border is part of the assault on democracy in America. It singles out a group of people and denies them their human rights, which is a threat to everyone’s rights. We have seen this pattern repeated throughout our history; it’s time we increase our efforts to stop it. We should welcome migrants and refugees as we would hope to be welcomed if we were in their shoes.

Vigilante: Georgia’s Vote Suppression Hitman

Editor’s note: This story is from the Greg Palast Website.

In his new film, *Vigilante: Georgia’s Vote Suppression Hitman*, Greg Palast and his investigations team bust the most brazen, racist attack on voting rights yet — engineered by Georgia’s Brian Kemp to ensure victory in his rematch with Stacey Abrams.

You’ll meet Kemp’s army of vigilante vote challengers — one who dresses up like Old-West vigilante Doc Holliday and is fully armed. Weird and funny — but no joke. “Doc Holliday,” has challenged the right to vote of 4,000 Georgians of color, targeting Black soldiers. He’s also a Republican Party chairman in Georgia. The secretive vigilante posse has

targeted hundreds of thousands of Georgians. And you’ll meet “Doc’s” voter targets and the heroes of the fight in Georgia for rights we assumed had been won decades ago.

Featuring LaTosha Brown, co-founder of Black Voters Matter... and a host of Confederate “reenactors” waiting for the next insurrection, the film busts open the secret source of Brian Kemp’s ancestral wealth and power: slavery. Kemp has kept his history of privilege and political fixes well hidden — including the long history of exploitation by his family aimed at both enchained Blacks and politically helpless poor whites.

It’s not a story of Democrat versus Republican, but a story of Right versus Wrong, his-

tory versus smothered truth. The film is from Academy Award winning producer Maria Florio and Executive Producers Martin Sheen, George DiCaprio, and Stephen Nemeth.

Support our investigation into the most brazen voter suppression scheme ever by making a tax-deductible donation: <https://www.gregpalast.com/vigilantes/>. The Palast Investigative Fund is a project of the 501(c)3 non-partisan not-for-profit Sustainable Markets Foundation. We must get this film out to the Georgia and US voting public — for which we need your help. Greg Palast is the author of the New York Times bestseller, *The Best Democracy Money Can Buy*, now a major non-fiction motion picture.



PHOTO / POOR PEOPLE’S CAMPAIGN

2023: The Fight for Our Lives Intensifies

From the Editors

As we begin the new year, the picture facing the American people has some bright spots—but it is also ominous. On the positive side, more and more people are organizing and fighting climate change, for better wages and working conditions, for health care, water, homes, justice, equality, voting rights, for a real democracy and against fascism, for peace – in short, for a government and society that will ensure the well-being of the Earth and its people.

On the other hand, although some decent people have been elected to public office here and there, the billionaires and corporations are still securely in control of the government at every level and in all branches, and the recent difficulty the U.S. House had electing a

speaker shows that the far right will have real influence over the direction of legislation in that body. Many observers are predicting a nearly paralyzed federal government that will be unable to provide for people's needs while military spending and subsidies to the rich will continue to skyrocket. The real governance of the country is being done by armies of corporate lobbyists, and the corporate-dominated Democratic Party is more and more proving to be useless in defending the people. The rich continue to grow more obscenely rich, while hunger, destitution and homelessness continue to grow among the people. The main answer of the government seems to be more militarized police and more prison cells for the poor. Meanwhile, the threat of a nuclear war intensifies.



Chris Brunet at his home on the Isle de Jean Charles, Louisiana, on August 21, a few days before moving into his home in The New Isle subdivision. The subdivision was built with federal funds to relocate an island community facing immense risk from the climate crisis.

PHOTO / JULIE DERMANSKY

Flint Charges on Former Gov. Snyder Dropped: Incompetence or Treachery?



By Flint People's Tribune Correspondents

Flint MI — The manmade disaster began in April of 2014. An unelected official appointed by the State of Michigan switched our water source to the toxic Flint River. Since then, Flint residents continue the struggle to be made whole. The water, while improved, is still not safe. State officials have yet to be criminally held accountable and the inadequate lawsuit to compensate residents stalls in the courts' bureaucracy.

So residents were not surprised about the piddly misdemeanor charges dropped against former Governor Snyder in the Flint water disaster, but were outraged just the same. Other state actors involved in the crisis already had dropped charges. (See an earlier story at [http://](http://bit.ly/3IJZj1e)

bit.ly/3IJZj1e). While prosecutors from the attorney general's office vow to appeal the rulings, this latest decision begs the question: Are we dealing with a dysfunctional legal team or outright sellout by the State of Michigan?

Judge Behm, who issued the Snyder ruling, now has a federal judge appointment and the Flint water case was one of her last as a Circuit Court judge. Meanwhile, Attorney Hammoud, a lead counsel on the State's criminal prosecution team was just named deputy attorney general. How do these people get promoted while they betray residents of Flint?

Now that the State of Michigan has a Democratic State House and State Senate (first time in 40 years) along with a Democratic governor, the residents are ready to double down on Justice for Flint.

We, the people, are in a fight for our lives, and we cannot let up. The struggle against corporate dictatorship and for democracy, peace, prosperity and equality will continue and grow, as it must. We will go through some dark times,

but we have to keep our eyes on the prize and know that in the end we will win if we keep fighting and learning the lessons from both our victories and defeats.

Largest-Ever Keystone Pipeline Oil Spill

By People's Tribune

"Called the largest U.S. onshore crude oil leak in nearly a decade and the largest by far in the accident-prone Keystone Pipeline system's history, approximately 14,000 barrels, or 600,000 gallons, of crude tar sands oil spewed from the Keystone 1 pipeline onto surrounding land and into a Kansas creek that feeds a watershed providing drinking water for 800,000 people." (Brett Wilkins, Common Dreams.)

The spill calls to mind the warning of danger from a coalition of landowners, tribal nations

and environmentalists who came together to successfully stop construction of a larger Keystone XL extension project in 2021. Art Tanderup, a Nebraska landowner and farmer, and a leader in that fight, said, "For over a decade we fought to keep KXL out of the ground for this very reason. How can our government allow these climate killing black snakes to continue to operate? How can we allow our water, people and land continually put in harm's way? TransCanada and our tax dollars will spend weeks, months and maybe never cleaning up this devastating tar sands spill. #ShutItDown! #LeaveItInTheGround!"



Rev. Edward Pinkney and others continue to distribute water to Benton Harbor, MI residents years after lead was found in the drinking water.

PHOTO / BRIDGE, KELLY HOUSE

Chicago Election: Seize the Opportunity for Change

From the Editors, People's Tribune

Chicago's upcoming election will take place at a critical moment.

Once known as "The City That Works," Chicago no longer functions, reeling from deindustrialization, poverty, homelessness, and rising gun violence.

In 2019, some Chicagoans were hopeful when the city elected its first African American woman mayor. However, Mayor Lori Lightfoot is now deeply unpopular, with 68 percent of voters rating her performance negatively. She has refused to cut police spending, flip-flopped on an elected school board, and refused to reopen mental health clinics closed by former Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

The combination of deep disillusionment with Lightfoot and an unprecedented wave of retirements from the City Council has created a unique possibility for change.

A total of 345 people submitted their candidate nominating petitions by the Nov. 28 deadline, filing for positions such as mayor, clerk, and treasurer, as well as positions on the City Council and the new civilian police oversight board.

Nine candidates are running for mayor. In addition to Lightfoot, the candidates include Cook County Commissioner Brandon Johnson; U.S. Representative Jesus "Chuy" Garcia; former Chicago schools CEO Paul Vallas; and

several others.

Brandon Johnson is a former teacher backed by the Chicago Teachers Union, the Service Employees International Union, and several other unions. Chuy Garcia helped forge the coalition that elected Chicago's first reform mayor, Harold Washington, in 1983. Garcia has the support of some well-known leaders of that movement.

While some mayoral candidates are putting forward the progressive positions that communities are demanding, others are running demagogic campaigns. Paul Vallas, the former CEO of the Chicago Public Schools, has unleashed a media blitz claiming that only he can solve the problem of gun violence and boasting about his ties to the police.

In several wards, activists are using the aldermanic races to highlight key issues. On the Far North Side, several leaders in the fight for affordable housing are running for spots on the City Council. On the pollution-burdened Southeast Side, activists who organized opposition to a city permit for a notorious metal-shredding business will be on the ballot.

Voters will also have a chance to elect the members of a new civilian police oversight board. This entity was created as a direct result of years of struggle by opponents of police brutality.

This election gives Chicago's voters a great way to send a message. The campaign provides



Howard Brown Health Workers United picket in Chicago. CEO David Ernesto Munar gave himself a \$100,000 raise during the COVID pandemic and monkeypox outbreaks and laid off 60 workers. PHOTO/SARAH JI-RHEE

a practical way to ask candidates claiming to support voters' demands what those candidates will actually do to guarantee those demands are implemented. Every candidate who fights for affordable housing and public education and immigrant rights and an end to police brutality must be supported.

It's especially important that people vote for good candidates for the new police oversight

board. Chicago voters should not allow apologists for police misconduct to wrest control of those oversight bodies by default.

The election of Harold Washington as mayor in 1983 changed the politics of America. It opened the doors of City Hall to the people. This year, if Chicago elects a new, progressive mayor and City Council, that move would be an important step forward.

NYC: 7,000 Nurses Walk Out to Fight for Patient and Staff Safety

By Cathy Talbott

Editor's note: As we go to print, the New York nurses' strike of 7,000 to ensure safety for patients and nurses ended with hospitals agreeing to add staffing and to improve work conditions. The strike reverberated with nurses across the country. Below are quotes from striking nurses and excerpts from a January 6, 2023 Popular Resistance Newsletter.

Lilia Espanoza (nurse at Mt. Sinai Hospital): "This is the most rewarding job I've had in my life...and it breaks my heart that this is where we're at right now; knowing that I'm not going in there to take care of them because I have to fight for them. We've been fighting for our patients and for ourselves for a long time. The staffing crisis is dangerous. We need to do something different."

Rene Tucker: "It's unsafe not only for us but for the patients. That's what we're here for: patient care. Negotiations have not gone well... that's why we're here."

Roughly 7,000 nurses at two NYC hospitals walked out on strike January 9 after failed negotiations. On December 21, unionized nurses authorized a strike by a landslide 98.8% vote. The nurses, organized under the New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA), are demanding that hospital executives address

short-staffing, raise pay in line with inflation, and not cut healthcare benefits for workers.

Nancy Hagans, NYSNA President and nurse at Maimonides Medical Center, said in a statement released by the union, "Nurses have been to hell and back, risking our lives to save our patients throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, sometimes without the PPE we needed to keep ourselves safe, and too often without enough staff for safe patient care. Instead of supporting us and acknowledging our work, hospital executives have been fighting against COVID nurse heroes. They've left us with no other choice but to move forward with voting to authorize a strike for better patient care."

Nurses have also pointed out that top New York hospital executives received millions in bonuses, averaging about \$273,000 each in 2020 while leading health systems that secured billions of dollars in federal pandemic bailouts. Nurses argue that this money could be used to invest in hiring more nursing staff.

"Right now, we are facing a tripledemic of COVID, flu and RSV. Our pediatric ER is overflowing and short-staffed on almost all shifts. It is unbearable to see children suffer because we don't have enough staff to provide safe patient care," said Aretha Morgan, pediatric nurse at NewYork-Presbyterian.



NYC Councilwoman Mercedes Narcisse, Dist. 46, a "proud" nurse, addresses the strikers. "I'm here to remind Mt. Sinai that many of them were not in the city (during the pandemic) but nurses were. So I'm asking for a fair contract for those that earned it and deserve it, who leave their families to come work here. We knew the nurse shortage was coming. We were talking about it when I was a nurse three decades ago...But management increased [their pay] by the millions while the nurses who actually keep the hospitals going wonder how they're going to pay their bills."

U.S. Carbon Emissions Grew in 2022. Emissions ticked up 1.3 %, even as renewables surpassed coal. (NYT headline)

Police Killings in 2022 Highest Number in a Decade

Clesslynn Jane Crawford, age 2. Jayland Walker, age 25. Antonio Suarez, age 82. These are among the 1,183 people killed by police in 2022, the highest number in a single year in the past decade, according to an end of year report from Mapping Police Violence. There were only 12 days last year when police did not kill someone. People were killed in every state by local and state police, county sheriffs' deputies and federal agents. Victims came from every racial and ethnic group, but people of color were killed in proportionally higher numbers.

Police Killings Per 1 Million Population (2013-22)

- **Black** 7.15
- **Native American** 7.06
- **Pacific Island** 6.91
- **Latino** 3.29
- **White** 2.57

The report found that most killings by police begin with traffic stops, mental health checks, domestic disturbances, and other non-violent offenses where no crime was alleged. One in three police killings began with an alleged violent crime. You can find the full report at mappingpoliceviolence.us.



Image from a video circulating widely on social media of a NYPD officer beating on a 14-year-old girl on January 3, 2023, striking her head nine times, while other teens tried to shield her. The officer was suspended. (New York Daily News)

The First Rainbow Coalition



The First Rainbow Coalition, a film by Ray Santisteban, chronicles the revolutionary multi-racial alliance in Chicago during the 1960s and 70s. From a segregated and impoverished city, community organizers mobilized to create one of the most effective political action groups in the 20th century. The Black Panthers, led by the charismatic Fred Hampton, was the engine that pulled the coalition together, uniting poor Blacks, whites, and Latinos to openly challenge police brutality and substandard housing in one of the most segregated cities in America. With courage and hard work, the Panthers got folks who had been waving the Confederate flag to march for Civil Rights. The coalition of the Black Panther Party, the Young Patriots (Southern whites who had migrated to Chicago), and the Young Lords (a former

Latino street gang), influenced groups around the country.

"The film is a mirror to society," says Santisteban. "The racism, the entrenched police brutality... until these are confronted we're going to keep waking up to these horrific news headlines."

The People's Tribune encourages its readers to view and discuss the film, and also to read the recent books published about the first Rainbow Coalition. The urgency and possibility of building a powerful movement for a new world exists today, but it will take the unity of millions.

Much of the above information above is from an article by Trinity Casimir at <http://bit.ly/3XBjYm5>. The film is available for purchase from Docuseek at <https://docuseek2.com/gd-rc>.

Arrested for Feeding the Hungry

Editor's note: Below are excerpts from an essay by Keith McHenry, co-founder of Food Not Bombs, on his recent arrest in Santa Cruz, CA, for attempting to share food with the hungry in a city-owned garage during the bomb cyclone storm.

"I was arrested again for attempting to share food to the hungry. We moved into a secluded corner of Garage 10 so people could stay dry during today's atmospheric river. All the garages are city-owned. We have used this garage during very heavy rain since the pandemic so this was a bit of a shock.... Two days after Food Not Bombs had prepared and shared the Santa Cruz Community Christmas Dinner, the annual atmospheric river crashed across the Bay Area for a second time this winter. We started to set up in a dark corner of Garage 10 in an area marked 'No Parking' when about ten police officers arrived and ordered us out of the protection from the storm. [After admitting I would return with a hot meal] I was arrested, charged with two misdemeanors and held for 11 hours in the holding cell at the County Jail. Not surprisingly several of my cell mates were friends who often eat with Food Not Bombs. They were happy to have been removed from the rain and expressed hope for a dry night or maybe more.... The city needs to end its ugly campaign of driving the homeless out of the garages during the storms. That is the least

SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060		P-878645	
NOTICE TO APPEAR		TRAFFIC	
DATE OF VIOLATION	TIME	CLASS	CLASS NUMBER
12/21/23	10:11	VEHICLE	1300
NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE, LAST)	VIOLATION		
KEITH MCHENRY	VEHICLE		
ADDRESS	CITY		
425 BOX 422	SANTA CRUZ		
CITY	STATE	COMMERCIAL	ADJ
SANTA CRUZ	CA		
HAIR	EYES	HEIGHT	WEIGHT
Brown	Blue	5'8"	145
VAL LIC NO OR VIN	STATE	OTHER DESCRIPTION	
VEHICLE MAKE	MODEL	BODY STYLE	COLOR
EVIDENCE OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY		HAZARDOUS MATERIAL	
REGISTERED OWNER OR LESSEE		SAME AS DRIVER	
ADDRESS		SAME AS DRIVER	
CITY		STATE	
STATE		ZIP CODE	
CORRECTABLE VIOLATION (VEH. CODE § 40616)		Booking Required (See Penalties)	
YES	NO	Code and Section	Description
		64.016	Use
SPEED APPROX	RF MAX 50	VEH LMT	SAFE SPEED
LOCATION OF VIOLATION(S)		AREA/SEAT	
AT			
VIOLATION(S) NOT COMMITTED IN MY PRESENCE, DECLARED ON INFORMATION AND BELIEF			
DECLARE UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA THE FOREGOING IS TRUE AND CORRECT.			
		1300	
		BADGE NO	

Notice to Appear for Keith McHenry

that any government could do.... The threat to our freedom is advancing at a startling pace. Small acts of defiance to the dystopian corporate state are essential if we have any hope of saving our humanity and dignity. I plan to live free even if it means I must be jailed to protect these last threads of liberty." See full article by Keith at SerfCity Times.

Oppose California's SB 31



PHOTO BY KEITH MCHENRY

This bill would prohibit a person from sitting, lying, sleeping, or storing, using, maintaining, or placing personal property upon any street, sidewalk, or other public right-of-way within 1000 feet of a sensitive area, as defined. The bill would specify that a violation of this pro-

hibition is a public nuisance that can be abated and prevented, as provided.

The bill does nothing to help alleviate homelessness—it simply criminalizes homelessness further.

Oppose California's SB31!

<https://trackbill.com/bill/california-senate-bill-31-encampments-sensitive-areas-penalties/2282371/>