



# **HOMEWARD**

## **Street Journal**

A Voice for the Sacramento Area Homeless Community Since 1997

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**November & December, 2017**

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## **Week One of Trial Challenging Camping Ordinance**

**Witnesses Claim Not Enough  
Beds for Homeless, Who Are Left  
Struggling to Stay Alive on the  
Streets**

By Cres Vellucci

Gripping testimony was the order of the day Thursday when the first witnesses for homeless plaintiffs took center stage in their suit against the City of Sacramento – sometimes it was difficult to watch and sorrowful to hear.

The Sacramento Superior Court civil trial, which started Monday and is expected to go at least another week, involves a suit by homeless plaintiffs – originally filed in 2009 – that challenges the constitutionality of the City's 22-year-old controversial anti-camping ordinance.

The homeless, through their legal team of Mark Merin, Cathleen

Williams and Paul Masuhara, claim the City is selectively enforcing the ordinance by citing and arresting the homeless and leaving everyone else alone.

The ordinance makes it illegal for anyone to camp outside anytime on public property, and allows only 24

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Photo Courtesy Safeground

## **North Sacramento Residents Oppose Shelters for Homeless**

By Suzanne Hastings

On the evening of October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the multi-purpose room of Woodlake School was crowded with residents of North Sacramento, as well as other citizens of Sacramento, to discuss opening two shelters for homeless people, both in the North Sacramento area. At the meeting, the city's plan involved one shelter being a triage center, where new intakes would be assessed; the second shelter would be a more long term facility.

The main speaker was the City of Sacramento's Homeless Coordinator, Emily Halicon. She said that the solution

to homelessness is to move people into shelters, then to get them into jobs and permanent housing. Although on paper this seems like a very viable solution, the reality is most people are homeless due to the lack of affordable housing with rising rents, and many do have jobs! Yet wages do not pay enough for them to rent housing as well as other living expenses. Living wage blue-collar jobs have almost vanished, and many manual labor jobs are being replaced with automation.

At this point it seems that the shelters will just become another revolving door: From the streets to the shelters; from the shelters to the streets, once again

becoming a never ending cycle causing even more frustration for the city and the unhoused.

The matter of "affordable" housing was brought up, as well as the fact that this is based on the law of "supply and demand". Yet, while the demand for affordable housing is going up, most of the housing that's being built is expensive apartments and condos in locations where affordable housing was torn down. Also, funding for social programs that provide for subsidized

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# Hurricane, Flood and Fire: The Need for Rent Control

By Cathleen Williams

As the towering fires of Sonoma and Napa Counties die into embers, as the flood waters of Houston, Texas and South Florida recede, and as Puerto Ricans struggle forward into the new reality of devastation, one fact unites these distant communities: the crisis in housing.

In California, where affordable housing is already beyond the reach of 1.7 million low income renters who pay at least half their income for rent, where homelessness is increasing in quantum leaps (the official count in Los Angeles now almost 60,000) – and where wealthy housing speculators lead the drive to capture new profits by raising rents – the disasters are creating a crucible, an extreme test, for the human right to housing. Remember the impact of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, where one million people were shipped off to neighboring states, isolated from family and community, forced to start their lives over. Many were never able to return and rebuild.

In Napa and Sonoma, tens of thousands of undocumented workers find short term contract jobs and seasonal work in the vineyards and resorts of the region. They are not eligible for federal disaster funds and many stayed away from shelters during the fires. According to a 2015 health survey, a typical farmworker family earning about \$20,000 annually pays about half of that income for rent. Along with thousands of other low income workers, farmworkers face months and years of displacement, swelling the ranks of the 6,000 homeless people who already struggle to survive in an area that has some of the highest rents in California.

But at this very moment, a coalition of groups throughout the state, including the statewide organizations Tenants Together as well as ACCE (Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment), is preparing to launch an initiative campaign to put the opportunity for local rent control on the ballot in 2018. This campaign puts front and center the reality that so-called “market forces” cannot and will not build or provide housing for low income people – it’s just not profitable enough.

The human right to housing is not just a slogan. Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., spoke to the historic vision of human rights when he said,

*“We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal. That they endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights. That among these, are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. But if a man doesn’t have job or an income, he has neither life, nor liberty and the possibility for the pursuit of happiness. He merely exists.”* —Martin Luther King, Jr. (March 1968)

The call for recognition of economic and social rights, including the right to housing, is resonating across the country and the state, not just as a future vision, but as a *practical necessity*:

“Bringing economic and social rights home is a central part of putting our house in order and living up to our ideals. Neither charity nor

temporary policy shifts will protect the basic dignity and equality of the ever larger number of people within the United States who are being pushed out to the margins of our increasingly harsh economy. Moreover, lack of resources is not the cause of any of these harms imposed on individuals, families and communities. Even in this economic downturn, the United States has the capacity to meet the needs of all its people. We do not really face a housing crisis. Instead, we face a policy crisis evidenced by the fact that while we have so many people without homes, we continue to allow an ever increasing number of homes to go empty without people.” (National Economic and Social Rights Initiative.)

The rent control initiative is a step toward recognition that market forces cannot address the housing crisis and a step toward affirmation of housing as a human right. Only public recognition of this reality can lift our communities out of the cycle of displacement and resolve the housing crisis now exacerbated by disaster.

The proposed initiative would repeal “Costa-Hawkins,” the law passed in 1995 with the support of land lords and property owner organizations. Costa-Hawkins barred any control of rents in property built after 1995, and in single family homes. Communities that had previously enacted rent control measures were not allowed to expand their protection; as a result, in L.A., for example, no housing built after 1978 is subject to rent control.

A similar measure to repeal Costa-Hawkins was introduced in the California legislature by Assemblyman Richard Bloom (D. Santa Monica). But it could not be moved forward because of corporate funded Democrats aligned with powerful groups of landlords.

Some say we don’t need rent control because increased construction will take care of the crisis. Governor Brown touted the impact of 15 bills signed into law this fall, pointing out that new fees on real estate transactions and a

\$4 billion bond on the 2018 ballot could raise almost \$1 billion a year to help subsidize new homes for low income residents. As the L.A. Times reported, however, the new funding will make “hardly a dent” in the state’s housing problems. About 14,000 homes per year might be financed, leaving the state with a shortage of hundreds of thousands of affordable homes. The funds would likely be exhausted within 5 years. Currently, the state faces a shortfall of over 1.5 million rental homes for low income renters – and adding moderate income households who are increasingly left out of the housing market dramatically increases this number.

One powerful indication of the urgent need to control rents is the number of people on waiting lists for Section 8 housing vouchers, which subsidize rents so that low income renters can find housing. 70,000 people are on Sacramento’s Section 8 list; in L.A., 600,000 people are expected to apply for 20,000 spots on the Section 8 list, which was opened after 13 years of not accepting new applicants. According to the L.A. Housing Authority, because there are more people in need than there are vouchers available, some of those on the waiting lists “will have to wait in line for another decade or more for their turn.” And it’s perfectly legal for a landlord to discriminate against renters who rely on Section 8 vouchers; as landlords increase rents – in Sacramento, rents have gone up by an average of 7% just this year – Section 8 housing involves a desperate search for apartments that will accept the voucher.

While overwhelming funds poured into Santa Rosa to defeat its rent control measure last year in June –\$800,000 was contributed by the California Apartment Association and other groups, about \$50 per vote – a recent poll showed that rent control is supported by 60% of California voters, as compared to 26% opposed.

The message is getting out. Housing is not just another product, another commodity on the market. Housing is a human right.



# Trial Challenging Camping Ordinance

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hours on private property with the permission of the property owner. The homeless are not seeking any money damages, only declaratory relief to end the discriminatory practice.

As jurors and courtroom observers heard from witnesses Thursday [October 26, 2017] thousands of homeless have been cited and arrested in the past 10 years, and the number is increasing every year. A three-foot high pile of citations – about 5,000 in total – reflecting the number of homeless cited or arrested was on a table behind Merin during opening arguments Wednesday.

“We were trying to make change. This (ordinance) is not working. I’ve watched people die – it’s got to stop,” testified homeless plaintiff John Kraitnz before breaking down on the stand.

Kraitnz is one of the founders of “Safeground,” a group of homeless in 2009 that set up a tent city on private property with the owner’s position. Those arrests led to the original 2009 lawsuit that is finally being heard now.

“We weren’t trying to hide” he said as he described the encampment that was outfitted with porta potties, and posted rules for residents that banned alcohol, drugs and violence. “Not even fighting words or screaming or yelling were permitted,” he said.

Despite those civil rules, witnesses Thursday said the City of Sacramento shut the tent city down after about a month, citing, arresting and seizing the belongings of most of the two dozen homeless under the City’s anti-camping ordinance. They took that action several times, but still the homeless came back.

Asked why he and others went back to the Safeground site even after being arrested, Kraitnz admitted “we had nowhere else to go...we needed a place to stay and it was better than being stabbed to death on the street.”

Kraitnz described two City police officers called “Batman” and “Robin” by homeless people, sent to the encampment to talk to them, who looked at a loss and “did

their job” when they issued orders for the homeless to leave the property, said Kraitnz. He added that both officers left the police force shortly thereafter, one retiring and other quitting because, Kraitnz believes, they didn’t like doing what they were ordered to do to the homeless.

Kraitnz said after the third round of City citations and arrests, then-Mayor Kevin Johnson came to the property and said he’s given those there motel vouchers for winter and was looking for permanent housing for them. Kraitnz said they accepted because “we had no place to go.”

But the permanent housing never materialized. Kraitnz said the City looked for housing in “100 locations,” and never came up with any. “The homeless still don’t have a safe place to go – it causes problems for everyone. There just is not a sufficient amount of housing,” Kraitnz opined.

Merin continued Thursday with witnesses designed to give the jury a clear view of what it’s like to be homeless, and singled out by

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## Opposing Shelters for Homeless

continued from Page 1



housing are being short-changed and phased out.

But one of the most disturbing things that I saw during this meeting is this was a “Not In My Back Yard” (NIMBY) issue.

Many do not want to live near what they may believe are “dangerous homeless people”. The unhoused are viewed as little more than some kind of sub-human failures. This kind of thinking is always dangerous in a society. As I listened to those who are venomously opposed to the idea of a shelter of any kind in the area, I thought of all the other groups that have historically been dehumanized and excluded from society.

The issue of public toilets was also brought up. This was also met with opposition as some stated that the unhoused just “tear up bathrooms”. Parents expressed concern about their children having to walk past “homeless people” on their way to school. The people seeking services are not only seen as animals, but predatory animals.

The mayor and city council members didn’t bother to show up, which left many wondering how much the city leaders actually cared if hate and fear will establish city policy.

**Update:** After more contentious meetings, the Sacramento City Council voted to fund a temporary 200 bed triage shelter operated by Volunteers of America for the winter at Railroad Drive, just north of the American River in North Sacramento. They are planning to develop a permanent shelter for 200 people at another site in North Sacramento, scheduled to open sometime in 2018. The proposed permanent site is not certain yet because it must be approved by the Regional Transit Board since it is their surplus land.

The County plans on funding the Winter Sanctuary Program which will be operated by Next Step Communities, as they did last year, busing people to various faith based facilities from Mid-November through March 31, 2018. -PL



# Challenging the Camping Ordinance

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authorities for arrest.

“The camp was clean and orderly, and a good neighbor. It was clear we did break the law by being on private property, but what else could the homeless do,” said Sister Libby Fernandez, the former director of “Loaves and Fishes,” which serves the needy and homeless in Sacramento. Fernandez was also cited for camping although, unlike the homeless, she wasn’t jailed.



Fernandez said “the law seems to pick on the homeless” and explained that plans to provide cottages as transitional housing as far back as 1995 never caught on with the City. “Cottages were a good idea – we even had a business plan. But we haven’t done anything since then to help the homeless, she said, adding that in 2009 they had some hope because then-Mayor Johnson “promised Safeground (housing) by the Fall of 2009.” Again, it never materialized.

Milton Harris, a plumber who was left homeless for a few years, was also arrested at the 2009 Safeground action. He’s one of the plaintiffs.

“Did I get arrested? Sure. I had nowhere else to go. They took me to jail, and took away my stuff,” said Harris, describing his nomadic downtown life as “moving every few days. I was chased and cited by the city, but I was determined to sleep somewhere.

“I came to the conclusion that I wanted to challenge the law,” Harris said, noting that it was difficult – being on the run – to get work.

Eventually he found work and is not now homeless. But he estimated that because of the arrests, it delayed him getting stabilized for six months.

Another plaintiff, Thomas Ashmore, said on the stand he’d been disabled since birth with a steel plate in his head, but that “I decided to join Safeground because on the streets people can attack you and you can get hit by cars.”

Ron Blubaugh, a retired attorney who has been helping the homeless navigate the justice system for more than a decade as a volunteer with Loaves and Fishes’ Tommy Clinkenbeard Legal Clinic, described in

detail how those citations and arrests incurred by the homeless for breaking the anti-camping ordinance are resolved.

“We have what is called the ‘Loaves and Fishes Court’ every month,” he said, explaining that most homeless escape jail by agreeing to do community service with Loaves and Fishes. But Blubaugh noted that the arrests are increasing, and “right now it’s higher than three years ago...harm accumulates to the homeless as a result of the camping tickets.”

Bob Erlenbusch, executive director of the Sacramento Regional Coalition to End Homelessness, startled the courtroom by citing statistics showing nearly 800 homeless have died on the streets in Sacramento – violent deaths like blunt force, stabbing, hanging – in the last 12 years or so. One died right at city hall this year from exposure.

Erlenbusch also charged that the estimated 4,000 homeless in the area is an “undercount.” And that the true figure is about 7,500 homeless, with as many as 3,000 out on the city streets every night.

“There has been a dramatic increase in homelessness since 2007,” said Erlenbusch, who said that there are only enough beds – in the best of times – for about 1,800 people a night.

## ABOUT “YOUR SACRAMENTO ART AND REVOLUTION”



by Suzanne Hastings

For the past 3 years, I’ve had the honor of being part of a group called “Your Sacramento Art and Revolution”, a working group of Occupy Sacramento. Now some people may just think we meet somewhere and rehearse plays. But we do a lot of other things as well. We have sewing groups, playwriting groups, and we create giant puppets. Sometimes we even put on plays (smile). We’re a group of people making a difference.

We’ve recently done readings in front of City Council about red-

lining. Last year we did a play about the lack of public toilets. We’ve done a short play about a bee and a plant that go into a store to protest the Monsanto Round-Up products being sold there. We are part of a community garden at 13th and C Streets that provides vegetables to the Community Dinner Project. Our sewing group meets at 6:00-9:00 on Friday nights at Hacker Lab, 17th & I Streets. And we have rehearsals at 1:00 on Sundays, also at Hacker Lab.

Unleash your inner star! If you want to be part of this fun group, come to Hacker Lab 17th & I Streets at 1:00 on Sundays. We’d love to see you!

Umbrella

by Karen Melander-Magoon

An umbrella hangs despondently  
Brushed and rippled occasionally  
By a nearly negligible breeze  
A price tag still attached  
Weather beaten and limp  
Forgotten over the years  
The multi striped umbrella waits  
On a cool San Francisco corner  
For patrons to sit beneath her folds  
And speak of candy and kings  
Or of the super moon  
Decry homelessness  
Find solutions to global warming  
Climate change  
Condemn the desecration  
Of native American lands and water  
Through fracking or oil pipelines  
In spite of countless ancient treaties  
Ratified to protect the indigenous peoples  
And their sacred land  
The umbrella waits  
To hear answers to planetary disasters  
To hear demands for justice fairness  
compassion  
An end to poverty  
An answer to a future president’s plans  
To dismantle environmental protections  
To strip away rights of immigrants  
The umbrella is ready to hear  
Calls to end hatred  
Solutions to violence and war

To streaming refugees  
Fleeing violence and destroyed cities  
But fleeing where?  
The umbrella hangs despondently  
Waiting for hope  
Waiting to be raised  
On a cool corner of San Francisco  
To defy the breezes of discontent  
To defy hatred injustice rejection of human rights  
Xenophobia and ignorance  
To defy the desecration of our planet and its people  
To stand tall  
Sheltering new ideas, sheltering compassion  
For humanity and for the world  
The umbrella hangs  
Scarcely moving  
Yet unfurled  
Over an empty table  
Circled by silent chairs  
On a cool corner  
In San Francisco

*It's Cold This Winter.*

It's Cold This Winter.  
The Rain Stings My Skin.  
I'm Hungry And Penniless.  
I Find A Storefront Shelter.  
The Moon Looks Down On Me.  
I Watch The Twinkling Stars.  
Lying There I Wonder;  
Don't They See?  
Don't They Know?  
Do They Care?

Cars Zoom Past In A Hurry.  
Children Stare Out Windows.  
A Bird Eats A Piece Of Bread.  
It Looks Around Curiously.  
Ants Walk By In Single File.  
They Don't Seem To Notice Me.  
I Gaze At Them And Wonder;  
Don't They See?  
Don't They Know?  
Do They Care?

Warrington R.

*Song of Myself*

By Walt Whitman

[section 46]

I know I have the best of time and space, and was never measured and never will be measured.

I tramp a perpetual journey, (come listen all!)  
My signs are a rain-proof coat, good shoes, and a staff cut from the woods,  
No friend of mine takes his ease in my chair,  
I have no chair, no church, no philosophy,  
I lead no man to a dinner-table, library, exchange,  
But each man and each woman of you I lead upon a knoll,  
My left hand hooking you round the waist,  
My right hand pointing to landscapes of continents and the public road.

Not I, not any one else can travel that road for you,  
You must travel it for yourself.

It is not far, it is within reach,  
Perhaps you have been on it since you were born and did not know,  
Perhaps it is everywhere on water and on land.

Shoulder your duds dear son, and I will mine, and let us hasten forth,  
Wonderful cities and free nations we shall fetch as we go.

If you tire, give me both burdens, and rest the chuff of your hand on my hip,  
And in due time you shall repay the same service to me,  
For after we start we never lie by again.

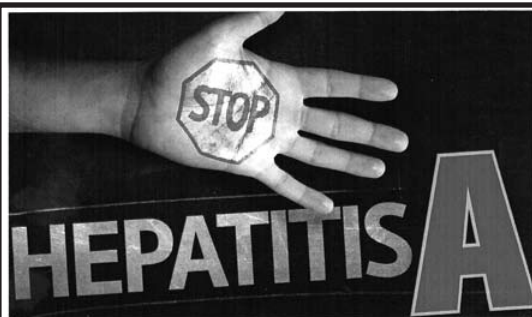
This day before dawn I ascended a hill and look'd at the crowded heaven,  
And I said to my spirit When we become the enfolders of those orbs, and the pleasure  
and knowledge of every thing in them, shall we be fill'd and satisfied then?  
And my spirit said No, we but level that lift to pass and continue beyond.

You are also asking me questions and I hear you,  
I answer that I cannot answer, you must find out for yourself.

Sit a while dear son,  
Here are biscuits to eat and here is milk to drink,  
But as soon as you sleep and renew yourself in sweet clothes,  
I kiss you with a good-by kiss and open the gate for your egress hence.

Long enough have you dream'd contemptible dreams,  
Now I wash the gum from your eyes,  
You must habit yourself to the dazzle of the light and of every moment of your life.

Long have you timidly waded holding a plank by the shore,  
Now I will you to be a bold swimmer,  
To jump off in the midst of the sea, rise again, nod to me, shout, and laughingly dash with your hair.



## ...WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

### FAST FACTS ABOUT HEPATITIS A

**HEPATITIS A** is a contagious liver disease caused by the **HEPATITIS A** virus [HAV]

The disease causes inflammation (swelling) of the liver that can last up to a few months.

Almost everyone recovers from **HEPATITIS A** with lifelong immunity but a small amount of people may die due to liver failure.

**HEPATITIS A** can be prevented by getting the vaccine and washing your hands regularly for at least 20 seconds.

### WHAT PUTS YOU AT RISK FOR HEPATITIS A

Hepatitis A is spread by swallowing food or liquids contaminated with infected feces [poop]

Most infections result from close personal contact with an infected household member or sex partner.

### SYMPTOMS OF HEPATITIS A



Fever



Fatigue



Nausea



Loss of appetite



Jaundice (yellowing of the skin or eyes)



Stomach pain



Vomiting



Dark urine, pale stools, and diarrhea

### YOU CAN PREVENT THE SPREAD OF HEPATITIS A

#### GET THE HEPATITIS A VACCINE

**WASH YOUR HANDS** with soap and water after using the bathroom or before preparing food.

**NEVER SHARE** towels, toothbrushes, utensils or other personal hygiene items.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
(916) 875-5881  
[WWW.DHHS.SACCOUNTY.NET](http://WWW.DHHS.SACCOUNTY.NET)  
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO: 211

Though there are no reported cases locally from the Hepatitis A strain that began in San Diego, preventive measures are under way. Sacramento County is holding vaccine clinics for homeless people and those working with that population. A major component of the virus's spread in San Diego had been the lack of restrooms for homeless people. This will be another preventative measure the County and City need to address.

## A Special Thanks to Our Homeward Underwriters:

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## Women's Empowerment

## Continued From Chico's Page 8

### District Attorney: No crime by Officers in Rushing Shooting Death

Rushing, who worked at and enjoyed concerts, had his backpack with all of his belongings, including truck keys, cell phone, money and clothes, stolen about July 19 after the Northern Nights Music Festival in Piercy. Festival organizers told investigators that Rushing was asked to leave after he was seen going through others' backpacks, and he hitchhiked to Chico.

The security guard's body cam footage was rough, with audio that Ramsey described as "not particularly sophisticated." But the video shows the guard's gun pointed at Rushing, who had broken into Mid Valley Title and Escrow's patio. The guard shot at Rushing after Ramsey said the guard "felt something come down on his left forearm."

Ramsey describes in his report a "violent and unprovoked sneak attack" on the guard, who he said was stabbed in two places with the handle of a blown-glass flower pot, shaped like a woman's purse. The wounds required a total of nine stitches.

Rushing fled into a Mid Valley restroom

after getting shot by the guard in the chest.

Ramsey showed clearer video from the Chico police officers who wore personal body cameras. Ruppel can be heard trying to coax Rushing out of a restroom as water tinged with blood seeped from under the door. "Let us help you, OK?" shouts Ruppel toward the bathroom. "Come out nice and slow, buddy."

Wails and moans can be heard coming from the bathroom and officers bring in a trained police dog that can be heard barking on the video. They plan a forced entry armed with both lethal and non-lethal weapons.

After a chaotic struggle, Ruppel fired twice at Rushing and the "concussive effect of the [second] shot does knock the man out immediately and he goes down," Ramsey told the press.

Findings and conclusions in Ramsey's report include:

The item with which Rushing stabbed Sgt. Ruppel in the neck — previously

described by Ramsey as an "undisclosed weapon" — turned out to be a ballpoint pen. Rushing struck another police officer, Cedric Schwyzer, in the head with what was believed to be a ceramic shard from a broken toilet.

The gunshot wound from the security guard caused Rushing to bleed to death. "This wound through the ribs and lungs caused a condition ... which would have been extraordinarily painful and debilitating as the chest cavity filled with blood and air, preventing effective air intake," says the report. "The other two wounds associated with Sgt. Ruppel's shots were not lethal and would have been survivable."

Bizarre behavior was exhibited by Rushing inside the title company office, including stacking various office supply and food items while leaving behind money and not fleeing despite an alarm that sounded for eight minutes. "Once inside the bathroom, he trashed it, throwing employee personal items around and, most bizarrely, carefully making five distinct bloody handprints in a display on the south wall."

Even though the toxicology reports found only marijuana in Rushing's system, his "radically different" behavior from normal suggested to investigators some sort of drug use. Ramsey noted that some "designer drugs" are not detectable. "Of note, during an inventory of Mr. Rushing's clothing a small plastic bag was found containing several unknown 'seeds,'" says the report. "Some speculation ensued about the nature of these 'seeds' as possibly hallucinogenic. These seeds are currently being examined and tested by the FBI, Homeland Security and independent laboratories ..."

Rushing's perplexing Chico odyssey, as told through the eyes of various people he came into contact with, exhibited both his positivity and some apparent mental impairment over his several days in the city. At one point, he was reported to be "overly exuberant in his worshipping" at Chico Bidwell Presbyterian Church, while a homeless man reported seeing Rushing pushing a shopping cart downtown, "covered in mosquito bites and ... 'filthy dirty,' but with a smile," says the report.





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## Resources List

### Night Shelters

Salvation Army: 12th and North B St. 30 days per year: Dormitory living, C&S: Dinner, breakfast clothing for residents: Men/Women: Sign-up SA patio weekdays at 1PM. 442-0331

St. Johnis Shelter: Women and Children. 4410 Power Inn Rd. Call between 10am & 3pm for space availability. 453-1482

Union Gospel Mission: 400 Bannon St. Beds for Men Only, sign up 6:30pm at mission, Newcomers/Referrals have priority. 7:30pm Chapel Service with meal afterwards, 6am breakfast for residents. Showers / shaves 9-11am & 1-2:45pm. open to all homeless men: 447-3268

Next Move (formerly SAEHC) 24 hr Family Shelter; Families, single adults with children who have no other resource: Women's Refuge; single women, no children: Call for screening/space availability 455-2160

Volunteers of America Family Shelter: Adults w/children only. Apply Tues.-Thurs. 1-3 pm 1490 Blding B, N. "A" St. 916-443-4688

### Day Shelters

Friendship Park: 12th St. & North C: Weekdays 7am - 2:30pm: open to anyone: Many services

### Meals

Union Gospel Mission: 400 Bannon St.: 7 days, Evening meal, Men/Women: Church service 7:00pm required, dinner following 8:30-9:15pm. Sunday 11am service, lunch at noon. 447-3268

Loaves & Fishes: 1321 No. C St.: Lunch every day 11:30am-1pm. Tickets available 7 am- 12:30 pm at Friendship Park weekdays: at 8 am on Saturday and 10am on Sundays .

Women's Civic Improvement Center: Seniors Only: 3555 3rd Ave. 11:30-12:30 lunch M-F 452-2866

Food-not-Bombs: serves free food in Cesar Chavez Plaza, 9th & J St., every Sunday 1:30 pm. All Welcome.

Foundation of Faith Ministries 2721 Dawes St. Rancho Cordova. Every 4th Sat. 3-5 pm All Welcome.

Glory Bound Street Ministry 4527 Parker Ave. Sundays; breakfast 11:30 am after 10 am church service; dinner 6:30 pm after 5 pm church service: Fridays; dinner 7 pm after 6 pm church service. Must attend services. 452-7078

Safe Haven Calvary Christian Center: 1300 North C St. 8 am Sun, Coffee, Women's clothing, Service 9am: Wed. 6 pm bible study.

### Women & Children

Maryhouse: 1321 No. C St. suite 32: Breakfast for Women and children 8am-9am. Day shelter 8am-3pm weekdays for women and families.

Wellspring 3414 4th St.: T&Th full breakfast: M-W-F continental breakfast for women and children. 454-9688

see Youth Services for young adults

### Free Clothing

Sacramento Food Bank: 3333 3rd Ave. (at Broadway) 10am-2pm Mon - Fri. 456-1980

Union Gospel Mission: 400 Bannon St. Men: M-Sat 9-11am or 1-2:45pm: Women and Children: Thurs. 9 am sign up, 9:30-10am bible study, 10 am - 12 pm shop. 447-3268

Glory Bound Street Ministry 4527 Parker Ave. Clothes Closet, Sundays 11:30 am all welcome. 452-7078

### Medical

Mercy Clinic: For homeless adults, children: Nurse's office in Friendship park 7:30am & 12:30pm. 446-3345

Sacramento Dental Clinic: 4600 Broadway (Primary Care Blding) Walk-ins 8 am - 12:30 pm 874-8300

### Mental Health

Guest House, 600 Bercut Drive.: Homeless Mental Health Clinic. Mental Health evaluation, medication if needed. Housing referrals for mentally ill, GA refs, SSI aps, refs to A & D counseling: 916-440-1500

TLCS Intake Offices: 1400 N. I. A. St. Blding. A; Adults 18 yrs & up; Referrals to transitional living programs, independent living, mental health support services; SSI/SSDI application assistance; Walk-ins 8-11am M-F 440-1500

Genesis: Professional Counseling for life problems. Referrals. 401 12th St. (DeLaney Center). 699-1536

### Youth Services

Wind Youth Services: Drop-In Center for youth (ages 12-24) experiencing homelessness: 1722 J Street, M-F 9am-6pm, S-S 10am-2pm: Emergency shelter for ages

12-17, call 1-800-339-7177: Emergency shelter for ages 18-24, call 916-561-4900. Services also include: street outreach, case management, mental health

### Crisis Intervention

WEAVE: Services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and their children. Referrals to court mandated battery intervention programs, Safe house, 24 hr. crisis line: 920-2952

### AIDS / HIV

AIDS Housing Alliance provides residential care, transitional housing & permanent housing services to homeless persons living with aids. 329-1093 weekdays.

CARES (Center for AIDS Research, Education and Service): 1500 21st ST. Serves people with HIV and AIDS. Medical care, mental health, case mgmt, health ed and regional prevention/ed classes. 443-3299

Breaking Barriers: Homeless Outreach Program provides direct services to people living with AIDS and HIV. Transportation to social services, medical appointments, job interviews, and housing assistance. 447-2437

Harm Reduction Services: 40001 12 Ave.; High risk outreach; HIV, Hep-C testing; case management for HIV; free medical clinic, needle exchange. 456-4849

Alternative Test Site: Free anonymous HIV testing, Wed /Thurs. Call for appt. 874-7720.

### Legal Aid

Disability Rights, CA: Free legal services for people with disabilities. Call for appt. toll free: TTY:(800)776-5746

Tommy Clinkenbeard Legal Clinic: 401 12th St. (DeLaney Center) Free legal assistance and advocacy for problems related to homelessness. 446-0368

Legal Services of Northern California, Inc: 515 12th St. (at E ST.) M-F 8:30am-12pm, 1pm-5pm. Problems with public benefits, landlord / tenant, divorce clinic. Call for appt. 551-2150

Welfare Rights: 1901 Alhambra Blvd. (2nd floor) M-F 9am-5pm: AFDC, Food Stamps, Workfare and Medical rep at hearings. 736-0616

Social Security Disability / SSI Lawyer Free Consultation (916) 658-1880



### About SHA

The Sacramento Housing Alliance is a network of concerned citizens who promote decent affordable housing for low income households and homeless people through advocacy and participation in public discourse.

For more info, or if you would like to participate, please call:

**(916) 455-4900**  
<http://sachousingalliance.org>

909 12th Street, Suite 114  
Sacramento, CA 95814

*The SHA does not itself provide or manage housing.*

### Veterans

VA Outreach: 1-800-827-1000

Homeless VA Coordinator:  
(916) 364-6547

Mather VA Social Works: help getting DD-214, any vet. (916) 843-7064

Sacramento Veterans Resource Center  
7270 East Southgate Dr. 393-8387

### Miscellaneous

Francis House Center 1422 C St. Must get a lottery number 9am. M,Tu,Th,F for Direct Services: ID vouchers, transp. assistance; In depth resource coaching by apt.; Veteran's advocac.; Notary services Thurs. call for apt.; Job Development Center M,Tu,Th,F 9:30am - 1pm. Family Rescue motel vouchers for qualified families Mon. 1pm. (916) 443-2646

Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services: 3333 3rd Ave. (south of Broadway) Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 10am-1:30pm, and Wed 4pm-7pm. 456-1980.

Social Services: 28th & R ST. M-F 7:30am-5pm. Call for asst. 874-2072

Employment Development Department (EDD): 2901 50th St. (at Broadway) M-F 8am-5pm. Unemployment, job services. 227-0300

Medi-Cal: 1-800-773-6467, 1-888-747-1222. Or see DHA eligibility workers 1725 28th St. 916-874-2256

Social Security Office: 8581 Folsom Blvd (East of College Greens Lite-rail stop, past the flea market) M-F 9am-4:30pm 381-9410: Natl line 1-800-772-1213

### 211 Sacramento

Dial 211  
for tele-info & referral service

**Califorina Youth Crisis Line:**  
1-800-843-5200

**Health Rights Hotline:**  
551-2100

## Welcome to Homeward:

Please help us make a difference!



Homeward Street Journal has been publishing since 1997 as a non-profit project of the Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee, which is a member of the Sacramento Housing Alliance. The paper's mission is to alleviate miscommunication between communities by educating the public about housing and poverty issues, and by giving homeless people a voice in the public forum. Homeward also informs homeless persons of shelter and occupational assistance, and acts as a creative self-help opportunity for those individuals who wish to participate.

**The opinions expressed in Homeward are those of the authors, and not necessarily the Sacramento Housing Alliance or SHOC or Homeward.**

### Submissions and Editorial Policy

We welcome any participation or contributions: Articles, poems and other writing can be submitted at our office in Friendship Park, or mailed to the address below.

All writing submitted for publication will be edited as necessary, with due respect for the author's intent. The editors will attempt to consult with an author if changes are necessary, however, the paper will go to print with the story as edited if the author is unavailable.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed to be published. If the writer wishes to remain anonymous s/he should so state, but the letter must still be signed.

Poetry and graphics will not be edited, either the paper will publish the submission or not.

In submitting articles to the paper, authors give their permission to print their submissions in accordance with the above stipulations, as well as possible reprinting in INSP member papers, with due byline. Any requests for stories outside the above three will be referred to the author.

Subscriptions are available with a \$20 contribution. Make checks out to SHOC (Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee).

**Loaves & Fishes is not affiliated with the Homeward Street Journal in any way. Participants with the paper are not allowed to solicit for donations for L&F, nor make any reference regarding the relationship between Loaves & Fishes and this newspaper whatsoever.**

All correspondence can be sent to: Homeward Street Journal  
PO Box 952  
Sacramento, CA 95812

The paper may be reached at:  
(916) 442-2156

The paper may also be E-mailed at  
[homeward2@yahoo.com](mailto:homeward2@yahoo.com)

On the web at:  
<http://homeward.wikispaces.com>

## Protect and Serve

By Bill Mash

I was walking on The Esplanade just past dusk when I heard breaking glass, lots of it, in a crosswalk on the opposite side of the street near Bidwell Mansion. A slim, long-haired man, his bicycle frame laden with possessions, was nervously surveying the remnants of half a dozen bottles that had tumbled to shards from his towed baby carrier packed with recyclables.

I spied one lonely unbroken bottle in the midst as the light turned green; headlights glaring on a man caught in the middle of a fine mess. The flashing blues of a Chico police SUV sprung into view 30 yards away. I reached the crosswalk just as the policeman parked, straddling both lanes of the roadway as traffic piled up behind the blocked intersection.

The police officer exited his vehicle, honing in on the unbroken bottle. He picked it up and gently passed it to the man. He then began moving the shards of glass with the side of his boot as he directed the man to the safety of the sidewalk. Halfway through this chore, another man hustled over and handed him a push-broom.

With a head nod and thank you, the officer proceeded to sweep the intersection clear of glass a two-minute job that ended with a courteous conversation with the recycler before he got back in his cruiser and left, his flashing lights now dark.

Every character in this scene is vital. Removing any of them the destitute man, the dozens of auto occupants, the police officer or the man with the broom—changes the demeanor and charm of the community humanely coming together. We all lead busy and often chaotic lives, be it gathering bottles for a meager handful of change, or patrolling the streets of Chico from the vantage point of a police cruiser. Opportunities like this underscore how kindness and courtesy in the face of adversity are what constitute the human race and what make Chico a place we are proud to call our own.

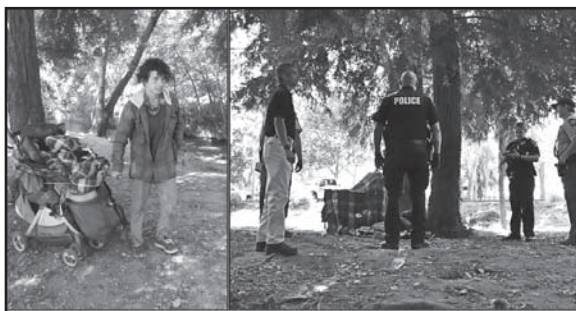


Photo Courtesy Without a Roof [woaroom.tumblr.com](http://woaroom.tumblr.com)

On a brisk Sunday afternoon in October I encountered two Chico Police officers and four city park officials sweeping the Lost Park off 1st Street in Chico. There were four people total in the park at three different locations. None of these people were doing anything other than sleeping in the park. I was taking pictures by the creek when the police and city park employees swooped in on Luke (pictured here) who had all his worldly possessions meticulously placed on his stroller while he slept by a tree. I reached out to the homeless community who verified my observations on this day, and others, that this young man keeps to himself and bothers no one.

Sleeping in a park in broad daylight isn't a crime, neither is being seen in a public space. Citizens of Chico need to understand the dynamics at play here; laws that were passed under the guise of public safety are being indiscriminately applied to people for the simple acts that we all do as human beings such as sleeping, resting and standing in public spaces. It's time to reconcile the realities of the devastating impacts of extreme poverty and the crushing lack of housing and supportive services in the county and to make the faces and voices of poverty stricken individuals seen, heard and acted upon.

# The CHICO VIBE

Made possible by our supporters...

Bob Woods, Ed Mayer, Chico Housing Action Team

North valley community foundation, KZFR 90.1FM

and Lucy Gould

## from Writing for Donuts

### DARKNESS AND LIGHT

In the dark you see the light  
In the ashes you see the embers  
When dusk falls, there's no one there  
For when you fall, you need to pick yourself up  
Only in the darkness can you see the stars  
In your darkest moments, look to the light  
Try to be there for someone who can't be  
Say hi, let them know you're there  
For every hi you can make someone's day  
So don't forget to smile and wave.

-Seth

### SURVIVE THE PAIN

When you're all alone out here  
You gotta stay strong, don't shed a tear  
Or people will use you  
Until you start to believe them too  
Then you'll sell your body to make the green  
The money you make hardly to be seen  
Your pimp takes most of it  
All you can do is endure and sit  
You get on drugs and can't just stop  
Until you're spun out, getting cuffed by a cop  
You start robbing people and getting violent  
Hurting yourself but you gotta stay silent  
Or the monsters that prey on the people out here  
Will beat you, mistreat you, make you live in fear  
So just hold still, you'll be OK  
Survive the pain, there's always a way

-Anonymous



## Stephanie, Susan and Allan Residents at CHAT House #2

"I don't know anybody in this world that will do more for us than Chico Housing Action Team." -- Allan



[chicohousingactionteam.org](http://chicohousingactionteam.org)

## DA: No crime by Officers in Rushing Shooting Death

*Peaceful Ventura man behaved bizarrely in Chico*

by Dave Waddell and Leslie Layton with Chicosol.org

Tyler Rushing, who died during a chaotic confrontation in close quarters with Chico police, most likely succumbed to an earlier "devastating gunshot" wound from a private security guard responding to a burglary.



Tyler Rushing

That's the conclusion of Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey in a 17-page report made available to ChicoSol and other news media prior to a press briefing by Ramsey. Ramsey also wrote that a medical examiner was taken aback after multiple toxicology reports turned up a "moderate" amount of marijuana in Rushing's system but no other drugs.

"The doctor expressed great surprise (Rushing) was able to function as long and violently as he did after the security (guard's) devastating gunshot," says Ramsey's report. "He opined the subject's extraordinary stamina and strength (were) most likely drug induced."

In his report, Ramsey ruled that neither the 23-year-old security guard, who was identified by body camera video as "Security guard Sanchez," nor Chico police Sgt. Scott Ruppel, who shot Rushing twice at close range, committed a crime in the death of the 34-year-old Ventura resident. The report followed an investigation by the Butte County Officer Involved Shooting/Critical Incident Protocol Team, which Ramsey leads.

Scott Rushing, Tyler's father, gave this comment to ChicoSol: "I will be studying that report line by line. I do initially have some concerns about it. I have my own little investigation going. I will have my own press conference at a later date, and I will have my own response."

Rushing, described as "all about peace, love and positivity" by his mother, Paula Rushing, died July 23 in a restroom at Mid Valley Title and Escrow Co. at Sixth and Main streets. Indeed, Ramsey's report, which calls Rushing "a gentle soul," notes: "His favorite symbols which promoted PLP was a peace sign, heart and plus sign."

The outline of a heart and a peace sign, apparently finger-painted with blood, were found on the side of a cabinet at Mid Valley Title and Escrow and are seen on the officers' body camera video that Ramsey showed during today's press briefing.

Writes Ramsey: "The personality known as Tyler 'Tyger' Rushing to family and friends was not in the Mid Valley Title Company the night of the shooting. Instead officers faced an unknown angry, dangerous and wounded subject who had broken into a business and viciously attacked a responding security sergeant, whose uniform mimicked their own; who had been shot and was bizarrely finger-painting in his own blood; who profanely told officers when they first entered the building that he had a gun; and who, despite his cries of pain from the bathroom, refused to come out for medical aid and flooded the bathroom.

"Officers showed patience and restraint in attempting to wait out the subject in the bathroom, but as his blood seeped out from under the door – evidence that he was most likely dying – their subsequent actions were driven by the circumstances rather than any desire to rapidly end their wait."

**Continued on Page 6 Inside**