Florida Attacks and Murders

**West Palm Beach, Florida**

Two homeless men killed in two separate incidences in one week

May 17: In West Palm Beach, Florida, there have been two different homeless men slain during the course of a week.

One man, Rolando Longoria, 27, was riding his bicycle in a shopping plaza and was shot and killed in a drive-by shooting; eye witnesses report the shooter being a man driving a black car. Police say that Longoria had a confrontation with the driver behind the Starfish Game Room located in the West Palm Plaza. Sheriff spokesman Teri Barbara said deputies believe there were witnesses in the area.

Prior to the shooting, the Medical Examiner’s Office performed an autopsy on a homeless man; the report ruled the cause of death “homicide” due to a fatal gunshot wound. The victim, David Roland Ulmer, 41, was found by a woman at about 10:50 am. It is believed that the two incidents may be related.

**Panama City, Florida**

Teen Stabs Man to Death

August 2: Jose Gonzalez, 17, has been charged with 1st degree murder and faces a life in prison sentence. Gonzalez was convicted for stabbing Timothy Humphries, 49, to death one evening. He is said to have pulled Humphries off his bike when he was on his way to his cousin’s house.

**St. Petersburg, Florida**

Man attacks homeless couple sleeping at a campsite

February 15: Jesus Escudero, 31, was arrested in St. Petersburg, Florida for attacking a homeless couple at about 1 a.m. Detectives suspect Escudero of approaching the couple, who were sleeping at a campsite, and attacking the man, 48, with a brick. Escudero then struck the woman, 42, in the head. The male victim attempted to call 911, but when he came to the campsite he learned that the female victim had been raped and that the attacker had fled. Deputy Jake Viano and the female victim had been raped and that the attacker had fled. Deputy Jake Viano and the female victim had been raped and that the attacker had fled. Deputy Jake Viano and the female victim had been raped and that the attacker had fled. Deputy Jake Viano and the female victim had been raped and that the attacker had fled. Deputy Jake Viano and the female victim had been raped and that the attacker had fled. Deputy Jake Viano and the female victim had been raped and that the attacker had fled. Deputy Jake Viano and the female victim had been raped and that the attacker had fled. Deputy Jake Viano and the female victim had been raped and that the attacker had fled. Deputy Jake Viano and the female victim had been raped and that the attacker had fled. Deputy Jake Viano and the female victim had been raped and that the attacker had fled. Deputy Jake Viano and the female victim had been raped and that the attacker had fled. Deputy Jake Viano and the female victim had been raped and that the attacker had fled.

Hate, violence, and death on main street usa 2008

Crimes of hate and violence have continued to plague the forgotten and most vulnerable members of society: homeless people. Since 1999, the National Coalition for the Homeless has been tracking the9 catastrophic of violent crimes that have been committed against homeless persons. The National Coalition for the Homeless has for the tenth year published this report which documents the unfortunate trend of violence towards the homeless. People who are homeless are more vulnerable to attacks because they live outside in public spaces. Most of our communities do not have adequate, affordable housing or shelter space to meet the need, leaving many homeless people to live outside. In fact, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 41.8% of our homeless population is under 30. Unfortunately, this percentage is higher as current economic issues have brought...
For just $15 a month you can keep a homeless family off the streets for a day.

Sullivan
In Loving Memory of Rex
Lichtenbercher
In Loving Memory of Thomas
Gasbarro
In Memory of Steven
Maderan
In Memory of Martha Hughes
In Memory of Bill Stledge
In Memory of Billy Curwin
In Memory of Brian Groeleau
In Memory of C.T.R.
In Memory of Charles Horton
In Memory of Chief George J.
Hodges
In Memory of Dan Holland
In Memory of George Ericson
In Memory of Gertrude
Chong
In Memory of Irene Grady
Johnjohn
In Memory of Martin Grey
In Memory of Maxima
In Memory of Melba DeSanto
In Memory of My Good Friend Pat Gibson
In Memory of My Mother
Pearl McCann
In Memory of Scott Paul
Cooper
In Memory of Stanley Smolen
In Memory of Tony Adria
In memory of Wesley H.
Wosdall?
In Memory of William F.
Judge
Intercountry Management Consulting Group, Inc.
Isabella J. Henry
Ivonne Fernandez
I Coffee
Jack Scaparo Jr.
Jack Johnson
Jacqueline M. McCarty
Jacqueline McCarty
James & K. Heather Molans
James Black
James D. Peter Jr.
Jamie F. Flores
Janet Campbell
Jason Emrik
Jason T. Eronse & Marie D.
Platt
Javier Perez
Jeffery and Veronica Burjol
Jennifer Hicky
Jennifer S. Nickell
Jennifer Caris
Jessa Padilla
Jesus Diaz
Jim Johnson
Jim Lentz
Jimmy Daniels
Jim Fitchus & Kids
Joel Gardner
John & Joyce Moore
John & Ruth Mautino
John C. Burt
John Crissia
John Dinniel
John Evans & Family
John Gaeta
John Plumbing Service
Jonathan Burger
Joseph Raymund
Joseph Soares
Joseph Yuges
Josh Seales
Joyce Johnston
Juan and Antonietta Boffil
Juan Galindo
Judith Kelly
Judith Temple
Judith Vital
Judy B. Fascarella
Juliet Ier
Julio A. Izquierdo
June Jones
Justin Rowan
K.J. Williams
Karen B Porlock
Karen Vassal
Keith Yade
Kellie Jones
Kenneth Gleel
Kenny Angela
Kevin Britt
Kevin IKJ Jones
Kevin Jones
Kristan Perez
Laura & Bill Fash
Laura Flash
Lavances Wright-Rolle
Leah and Ray
Leonard R Snyder
Levon Aghasyam
Liga Vcga Cleaning Services
Lisa Cebat
Lisa Jackson
Lord of the Harvest Ministries
Lorraine A Col
Love, Teresa
Luiz Delacruz & Suzette A.
Rodriguez
M. Smith
Madeline Rutera
Magan Narduzzi
Marcia A Kessler
Margaret D. Neverdowsky
Margaret Melendez
Margie Jones & Friends
Maria and James Mulligan
Maria M. Riveiro
Maria Nieto
Maria Suter
Marilyn R. Smith
Marvin Yeksh
Mario Tuio
Marjorie G. Rhines
Mark E. Johnson
Mark Faber
Mark Target
Madlene S Warner
Marsha Bugin
Martha Roman
Marvin Shutez
Mary Green
Mary Sue Ellis
Maryann Singapore
Maureen Barry
Mauro Borahy Jr
Maury Covato Family
Mel Blount
Menza & Ezra Alexander
Michael & Michale Rhett
Michael R. Prokop, Jr.
Mike Cross
Mona B Staub & Ruth C Grey
Morris Grazi
Mr. and Mrs. Bocalynger
Mr. and Mrs. Garson
Mrs. Jenkins
Ms. Evelyn Salerno
Ms. Marilyn Smith
Mustafa Mehmet Gokoglu
Myrona J Thompson
Mythia Jival
Nancy Keil
Nancy Schuler
Nancy T Gamaairat
Naomi Ross
Natxor Martin
Nichole Faber
Nicole Lee Nelson
Noran L. Lieberman
Norman Scott
Oakland Park
On Behalf of Matthew Lamcroft
ORTD Messenger, Inc
Otis Garcia
Paola C Mollica
Patrick Lee Rissu
Patricia Kung
Paula King
Paula E. Yonts
Philip H. Laffey
Phyllis A. Bokio
Pioneer Middle School Youth
PJ Carter
Polly Zardivar
Proeftro Family
Rafael Advertising Corp
Raine Dyre
Rainer Hansen
Raul Cardenas MD PA
Raymend Joseph
Real Breakthrough Solutions
Regis J Ferrer
Renato & Malika Vasconez
Rhendas-Mei Family
Rhonda K. Veerassamy
Richard & Margaret Martin
Richard Friedman
Richard Gomez
Richard M. and Bettie R Bass
Richard Russ
Ricky Cambell
Robert A Jenkins & Joonne T.
Jenkins
Robert and Betty Short
Robert and Ruth Baul
Robert Comfort
Robert J. Llanes
Robert Sapia
Robert T. Henshaw
Roger and Veronica
Vallecillos
Ronald & Carly Walker
Ronald Prescia
Ronald Shafer
Rosemary & Mark Zenoba
Roseanne Kesselme
Roy T. Brons, Jr.
Russell & F. Ferguson
Ruth Faison
Ruth C Grey
Sabrina Thornton, Former Mo.
H. Lounderl
S and Georgia Geynor
Saks Jewelry Designer
Sally Lister
Samuel Morrey
Samuel R Hapera PA
Sandra B KRiuin
Sandra L. Wilhelm
Sara Raji
Saroya Swigg
Sethion Park
Sergio Cobo
Sheila Hollier
Sheldon Jones
Sheerline Cuprae
Shelly R Adria
Southern Financial Title
Services Inc.
Steve Dillan
Steve Georoby
Surolc Seniors Inc
Susan C Hoffsion
Susan P Brady
Tailored Advertising, Inc
Tamara Southard
Tara Hunter
Temple Aton Koladok
Temple Beautiful
Thank you so much Sean &
Loss for all your help.
Thank You Winn Dixie
The Baldwin Family
The Baptista Family
The Chilsons
The Davis Family
The Geise Family
The Hermann Family
The Hermann Family
The Laduris
The Maione Family
The Martinez Family
The Matte Family
The Monserrat Family
The Morabito Family
The Nicaraguais
The Ramos Family
The Ronis Family
The Savish Family
The Schneider Family
The Strikowski Family
The Swifties Family
The Verry & Stewart Family
The Watidows
Thomas A Kramer
Thomas Rua
Thye Rencsciudis
Timothy and Barbara Wilson
Timothy L Whitlaw
Timothy Lukashe
Todd Palgen
Tom Thumb Food Stores, Inc.
Tresse W. Osborne
Ulyna Quadriino
Vance C Galvez
Vane C. Galvez
Vane C. Galvez
Virginia H. Bailey
Vjoth S Camili
Wendy Bryan
Wynona A Thompson
Yorick and Bonita 
Youngs family
Zlata and Alfredo Jr Salazar
Zlate and Alfredo Jr Salazar

Letter from the Editor:

Hey Mr. Mayor, Why Are You So Mean To Me?

Each year the National Coalition For the Homeless publish two major reports. July 15th the meanest city report will be made public. This is the report that tells us advocates what city law makers are doing to the homeless. Basically what laws are they making that target the homeless? Laws such as no public lodging or no panhandling ordinances. Or get this one, no feeding the homeless and if you do it is time to get arrested. I’m sorry Mr. Priest you can’t do what God commands you to do and if you do you will end up having a new ministry, a “Jail Ministry.”

Florida has been a state that has some of their cities listed in this report year after year. From ripping down the tents of homeless people to arresting college kids for feeding the homeless. Cities across the USA get listed in this report and some people who find out that certain cities are mean to the homeless they end up refusing to go there and spend their hard earned dollars. The report also embarrasses some of the local law makers to have their own city they are in control of having experts putting all kinds of data out there showing just how mean they really are to the homeless. Will they ever get a conscious? In the next issue of the Homeless Voice you will see the results of what cities are the mean ones and don’t be surprised if you see a city from this great state.

The sad part about being a mean city is that research shows that when cities are mean to the homeless and pass laws that target the homeless, usually attacks on the homeless are increased by housed individuals. This is one of the reasons why Florida has more attacks to the homeless than any other state in past years.

The second report they publish is based on how many homeless are attacked each year and how many homeless people are killed by housed individuals. This report will be out in the next coming weeks.

Steps are being made to pass laws that if you attack a homeless person simply because they are homeless then you will be facing a longer prison term under the hate crimes laws.

-Mark Targett

Attention Readers:

The bad Economy has Hit us as well... and we need you more than ever! We need your help, and we need it bad. Emergency Funding, this month and for the next few months we are asking for as many supporters to please send in their checks of $25.00 to:

COSAC HOMELESS ASSISTANCE CENTER
P.O. Box 292-577

or make your donation online
www.HomelessVoice.org/donate

What if the Homeless Voice earned a penny every time you searched on the Internet?

Well Now We Can!

1. Go to www.Goodsearch.com
2. Type in Homeless Voice
3. Use that page to search the Web
At least 1.35 million children are homeless during the year

Poverty defined as inequality will always be with us

States where hate crimes/violence occurred in 2008:

- Georgia—1 incident in 1 city (Athens) resulting in 1 non-lethal act
- Illinois—3 separate incidents in 3 cities (Elgin, Peoria, Rockford) resulting in 4 non-lethal acts
- Louisiana—1 incident in 1 city (Monroe) resulting in 1 non-lethal act
- Michigan—2 separate incidents in 1 city (Pontiac) resulting in 2 non-lethal acts
- Missouri—2 separate incidents in 2 cities (Kansas City, St. Louis) resulting in 1 non-lethal act
- New York—5 separate incidents in 1 city (New York) resulting in 2 deaths and 5 non-lethal acts
- North Carolina—1 incident in 1 city (Jacksonville) resulting in 1 death
- Ohio—5 separate incidents in 3 cities (Akron, Cleveland, Columbus) resulting in 1 death and 4 non-lethal acts
- Oregon—5 separate incidents in 1 city (Portland) resulting in 5 non-lethal acts
- Pennsylvania—2 separate incidents in 2 cities (East Stroudsburg, Scranton) resulting in 3 non-lethal acts
- Tennessee—2 separate incidents in 2 cities (Bartlett, Nashville) resulting in 3 non-lethal acts
- Texas—1 incident in 1 city (San Antonio) resulting in 1 death

Are the poor always with us?

Even though Jesus may have said, "The poor are always with you," from the perspective of the poor, the always is a discouragingly long time. For the poor, choice is between two equally bad options. The poor are shamed for making healthy decisions because of their low income, lack of good options can be addressed if the government provides the housing where none have ever existed, there is hope that people can pull themselves out of poverty. However, in our own community, the need for help is growing. There are more than 10,000 families earning less than $35,000 a year, and there is not enough affordable housing. There are chronically homeless households. They struggle with health decisions because of their low income.

The Homeless Advisory Board proposed supportive housing solutions for the chronically homeless because it is the humanitarianist and most successful solution for using the community’s resources. In addition to the individuals living in the hidden corners of our community are the countless others who cannot afford the plentiful supply of rental units available. Thirty percent of income is considered a reasonable proportion to spend on housing, and in 2009, many families are paying nearly $25,000 a year needed to live in those homes. Poverty defined as inequality will always be with us. Poverty defined as a lack of good options can be addressed if the government provides the housing where none have ever existed, there is hope that people can pull themselves out of poverty. However, in our own community, the more time you spend on organizing now, the better the week will go in November. Remember that the week does not have to be full of events. Especially if you are just starting out, it might be better to choose one or two events, which will be dynamic and focus your solution to hunger and homelessness will not happen in one week, but a dedicated and timely effort in planning your week will contribute greatly to the overall effort.

How? First things first: you need a team. Putting together a dedicated and enthusiastic team is important for a successful week. You may already know many people who would like to join the effort. Don’t be afraid to ask those whom you think would not be interested - you may be surprised. Look within community organizations that you are involved with. Even if you are not active in a particular group, you can look around for groups that may already be active in hunger and homelessness. It is important to talk to people about your ideas both to promote interest and to get feedback. Discuss some of the events that you plan to do and be open to changes in your ideas. It is important to know your community you will be working with and to try to adapt the events accordingly. After forming a team, it is important to decide on the logistics as soon as possible. Here is a sample check list of some, but not all, questions which need answers:

• How many and which events should we plan for?
• When should the events take place?
• How many people should coordinate each event?

Suggested Activities

- Organize a “One Night Without a Home” awareness sleep out in front of city hall or on a nearby college campus. (See the detailed description included later in this packet).
- Designate one day for community members to skip a meal. Instead of purchasing a lunch that day, they can donate the money that they would have spent to hungry people in your community.
- Host educational forums on hunger and homelessness. Invite speakers, such as homeless persons to share their experiences with the attendees. Provide literature to community speakers. Show videos and distribute fact sheets or other informational material (refer to the National Coalition for the Homeless’ website: www.nationalhomeless.org).
- Organize a movie night and show one of the movies listed above in the Education section.
- Have a booth where people can write to their Congressional representatives about the importance of programs for homeless persons. (See the World for the Year Offering of Letters description included in this packet).
- Organize a potluck dinner in which community members bring in a dish for themselves and three other persons. Invite homeless persons as guests in order to encourage community interaction. Remember to choose a neutral site for the dinner—convenient but with no religious affiliation.
- Organize a bake sale. Donate collected money to a local shelter.
- Sponsor a benefit concert with local musicians. Donate collected money to a local shelter.
- Arrange a walk or a run. Have each participant collect sponsorship money; set a minimum, such as $20 per participant. Donate collected money to a local shelter. Encourage local businesses to donate food and other supplies. Encourage local bands to provide entertainment.
- Arrange a Community Service Day where people can volunteer (get involved with local organizations and learn about their activities). Suggested contacts: food pantries, homeles
You Will Be Missed By Me and By Many Others

I knew her for almost 15 years, as a friend, as a Director of our shelter, as someone who cared about her and at the same time someone you would get mad at, at times. I knew her even longer because of the school we shared although at different times we could share some stories. I remember all the arguments we had in my office. Sometimes the arguments were so loud I finally realized that there was someone louder than me in this place. To those who did not know Renae, Renae got away with a lot more stuff than others, not because I knew her a long time, although that did help her sometimes. It was because no matter how much trouble she got into there was just something about her. As if this was a real life movie like, “Something about Mary.”

Renae would have her ups and downs but no matter what Renae had her dreams like anyone else but those dreams always dealt with helping those little creatures who were sick and injured known as our pets. Even if it was not a pet and just a bird that was injured Renae was there lending a helping hand. Some of us would tell her that she needed to take care of herself before she could help pets but in reality we all know that when you have a love for pets and you want to care for them sometimes you worry more about them than yourselves. Renae had a chance to work with pets at the Hollywood Animal Hospital in her younger years and she had dreams of going back there one day. But she would slip and fall and have to start over again at her recovery process.

In August, just this last month Renae was hit by a hit and run driver as she was crossing the street in Dania on her way to the hospital for her frequent severe migraine headaches she had which kept her from employment. When we all heard the news it really brought tears to some of our eyes. For me, I did not get so upset at first, it was a day later as I thought back on all the times when she was in my office and we were talking about rules and her following them. The conversations were always intense but there was many cries, and many hugs that existed between the two of us, again, “Something about Renae.”

We had her funeral service at the COSAC’s Homeless Voice, Homeless Center, where her friends, and some family members as well as many of the friends here at the shelter came to give their last respects. We learned a lot that night, the last few months of her life was pretty good for her. For, she was not homeless any longer and she was living with her husband to be Mr. Charlie Robinson. Charlie was a former client of our shelter who also got his life together after he got his disability benefits in place.

Renae, even when she was slipping she was a Christian. It was no shelter anymore for her because she got it right, she started her recovery process and it was going uphill as she reached for the next step, she now is reaching for His hand to take her to Heaven, I am sure He, Jesus, her Lord and Savior has His hand out and He did not hit her with the cross for her mistakes but rather He said, “Renae, this Blood, my Blood I shed for you, This Bloods for you.”

I love you Renae,

Love Sean

For video coverage go to www.homelessvoice.org/story/renae-lettiere

Hit and run driver kills woman in Dania Beach

(Continued from pg 1)

a couple of years during the late 1980s.”

Cononie said there was a funeral held for Lettiere at 8:30 a.m. Sunday at the Hollywood shelter, 1203 N. Federal Hwy.

Cononie said he tried unsuccessfully to look for Lettiere’s relatives in the hopes that they would attend.

Investigators say the car they are looking for is a dark-colored, four-door Volkswagen Jetta 2.5 with right, front-end damage to its spoiler, bumper and headlight area.

Anyone with information should contact Broward Crime Stoppers at 954-493-8477.

-David Smiley
Florida Attacks and Murders

Florida Homeless Man Brutally Attacked

February 25: Twenty-one year-old Jordan Smith, 26, was beaten and knocked to the ground on the streets of St. Augustine, Florida. The attacker then left the scene without providing assistance to the injured Smith.

Florida Homeless Man Violently Harassed

April 5: Stephen Steidel, 40, of St. Lucie County, Florida, was physically attacked by an unknown person who called Jordan Steidel a derogatory name. The incident occurred while the victim was standing on a busy street.

Florida Homeless Man Suicides

August: Three homeless men were killed in St. Petersburg, Florida, a week apart from each other. All three had been suffering from mental health issues.

Florida Homeless Man Stabbed

September 28: A homeless man was stabbed in the neck while walking near a railroad bridge at approximately 11:00 PM. The attacker reportedly yelled racial slurs at the victim.

Key West, Florida

Two Homeless Men Assault

Outside Fast Food Restaurant

April 27: Two homeless men attempted to rob a man outside a fast food restaurant in Key West, Florida. The man resisted and was able to call for help.

St. Augustine, Florida

Homeless Man Bashed by Teens

August: Three homeless men were beaten by a group of teenagers who repeatedly struck the victim with a baseball bat. The attack occurred near a popular park.

Key West, Florida

Homeless Man Stabbed by two men

September 28: A homeless man was attacked by two individuals who stabbed him in the neck while walking down the street.

Twin Brothers Terrorize Homeless

Some of the accused/convicted have been identified, but is thin with tattoos on his head and neck. The two teens started arguments with the homeless man as they walked out of the restaurant, and one of the teens pulled out a knife. The two victims were found walking down the street with stab wounds.

Attacks on Homeless need to be Classified as Hate Crimes

I see that the hate towards the homeless is much more than just the other groups that are protected class of people. They are verbally abused and physically attacked. The mentally ill are the victims of such attacks.

Sticht has also been arrested for an attempted murder conviction in 1999, but the change was reduced to mis-


demeanor trespassing. Several large organ-

izations, including the NAACP, ACLU, and Public Defender Howard Finkenstein have created a coalition to try and get the FL. Lauderdale police to protect the homeless population better. President of the Broward NAACP, Marida Elliott, says “surely, another homeless person doesn’t have to die before the police do something.”

Police precincts report that the homeless are consistently 

attacked by youths who are not members of any gang. Some of the attacks are motivated by the desire to 

commit robberies or to get away from the police. The homeless are more likely to be targeted because they are more vulnerable than other citizens. They are also more likely to be attacked because they are 

seen as an easy target.

Many victims of attacks on the homeless are not reported to the police because they are fearful of retribution or because they do not want to bring attention to themselves.

The homeless are at higher risk of becoming victims of hate crimes because they are seen as a vulnerable group. They are often targeted for their race, ethnicity, and sexual orientation.

It is estimated that over the past ten years, hundreds of attacks against the homeless have been reported to the police. However, many more attacks go undocumented each year. Samples of headlines from various publications and other sources show that attacks on the homeless are a common occurrence.

Some of the attacks that were not reported to the police include:

- A homeless man was stabbed in the neck while walking near a railroad bridge at approximately 11:00 PM. The attacker reportedly yelled racial slurs at the victim.
- Three homeless men were killed in St. Petersburg, Florida, a week apart from each other. All three had been suffering from mental health issues.
- A homeless man was attacked by two individuals who stabbed him in the neck while walking down the street.
- A homeless man was beaten by a group of teenagers who repeatedly struck the victim with a baseball bat.

The attacks on the homeless are a serious issue that needs to be addressed by the police and the community. It is important to report all incidents of attacks on the homeless to the police so that they can be investigated and justice can be served.

There are several organizations that are working to protect the rights of the homeless and to prevent attacks on them. Some of these organizations include the NAACP, ACLU, and Public Defender Howard Finkenstein.

It is important to remember that the homeless are people who are struggling with many issues, and they should be treated with respect and dignity.

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Hate, violence, and death on main street usa 2008

Total Cities: 55
   Akron, Ohio —1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act
   Annapolis, Maryland —1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act
   Athens, Georgia —1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act
   Bartlett, Tennessee —1 incident resulting in 2 non-lethal acts
   Bolinas, California —1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act
   Boston, Massachusetts —1 incident resulting in 1 death
   Cambridge, Massachusetts —1 incident resulting in 2 non-lethal acts
   Colorado Springs, Colorado —1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act
   Columbus, Ohio —1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act
   Costa Mesa, California —1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act
   Cumberland, Maryland —1 incident resulting in 1 death
   Dania Beach, Florida —1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act
   Danville, Virginia —1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act
   Danbury, Connecticut —3 separate incidents resulting in 1 death
   Elgin, Illinois —1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act
   Fort Lauderdale, Florida —3 separate incidents resulting in 7 non-lethal acts
   Frederick, Maryland —1 incident resulting in 1 death
   Glen Burnie, Maryland —1 incident resulting in 1 death
   Hayward, California —5 separate incidents resulting in 5 non-lethal acts
   Honolulu, Hawaii —1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act
   Indianapolis, Indiana —1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act
   Islas Vista, California —1 incident resulting in 1 death
   Jacksonville, North Carolina —1 incident resulting in 1 death
   Kansas City, Missouri —1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act
   Key West, Florida —2 separate incidents resulting in 3 non-lethal acts
   Lake Worth, Colorado —1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act
   Long Beach, California —1 incident resulting in 5 deaths
   Los Angeles, California —2 separate incidents resulting in 1 death
   Manatee County, Florida —1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act
   Miami, Florida —2 separate incidents resulting in 2 non-lethal acts
   Monroe, Louisiana —1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act
   Nashville, Tennessee —1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act
   New York, New York —5 separate incidents resulting in 2 deaths
   North Little Rock, Arkansas —1 incident resulting in 1 death
   Panama City, Florida —3 separate incidents resulting in 1 death and 2 non-lethal acts
   Peoria, Illinois —1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act
   Pompano Beach, Florida —4 separate incidents resulting in 4 non-lethal acts
   Pontiac, Michigan —2 separate incidents resulting in 2 deaths
   Portland, Oregon —5 separate incidents resulting in 5 non-lethal acts
   Richmond, California —1 incident resulting in 1 death
   Riverside, California —1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act
   Rockford, Illinois —1 incident resulting in 2 non-lethal acts
   Sacramento, California —1 incident resulting in 2 non-lethal acts
   San Antonio, Texas —1 incident resulting in 1 death

...Florida cities try to make laws that stop good Americans from feeding the poor and homeless...

(Continued on pg 10)

also introduced in this session of Congress in the U.S. House of Representatives Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX). The bill seeks to provide support to victims of hate crimes, including housing assistance for homeless individuals.

• Bills to add homeless persons as a protected class to state hate crime statutes are currently being considered in California, Florida, and South Carolina.

Even though the trend of violence against homeless persons has risen over the past decade, there are steps that we can take to put an end to this terrible trend. Advocates, service providers, policymakers, and members of the public can take a stand by:

• Supporting bills, such as H.R. 3419 and H.R. 262.
• Supporting state legislative efforts to add homeless persons as a protected class to state hate crime statutes.
• Initiating police training to help law enforcement officers better understand homelessness in general and how to prevent and manage hate crimes against homeless persons.
• Engaging in public education initiatives in schools to educate young people about homelessness and to humanize homeless neighbors.
• Advocating against city measures that criminalize homelessness and for more constructive approaches to homelessness.
• Advocating for more affordable housing and permanent supportive housing to bring an end to homelessness for these homeless members of our communities. 

-CH
March 23: Bartlett, ten- nessee. Two homeless men were the victims of an attack on Easter Sunday. The attackers, adults males ages 19-22, used molotov cocktails, a homemade concoction that consists of a bottle filled with gasoline and set on fire. Holmann claimed the flames only made the attackers laugh harder, and they thought it was funny all right, they absolutely did.

Holmann now says he can hardly recognize his friend, Jeffery Martin, 37. “It made me ill, he reports. “I just saw him yesterday, his head ballooned out to there…his scalp was taken off, his right hand is completely bandaged up…” Martin reports that it was the worst pain he’s ever experienced in his life.

Martin sustained second and third degree burns to his head, neck, ears, shoulders and hands. Police found the attackers to be 20-year-old Michael Grace, 19-year-old Andrew Colin Hicks, 22-year-old John Tyrell Eggleston, 19-year-old Wesley Ray, and 19-year-old Zach Addison Parrish. All five have been charged with attempted Aggravated Arson, and Parrish was charged with the additional attempted Second Degree Murder, as police suspect the threw the flaming bot- tle at the victims. Eggleston and Grace pleaded not guilty to the charges and waived their preliminary hearing. 

Update to the above story:

Two get 8 years for attack on homeless man in Bartlett

Others get light sentence for firebombing

Two men went to prison and two oth- ers went home Tuesday in the after- math of a firebombing attack last year on a homeless man in Bartlett. After a nearly three-hour hearing in Criminal Court Tuesday, Judge Paula Skahan denied probation for Zachary Parrish, 20, and John Tyrell Eggleston, 22, and ordered them to begin serving eight-year prison sentences. Both men carried Molotov cocktails -- gasoline- filled beer bottles with homemade wicks -- in the early-morning hours of March 23 last year. The two had approached the campsite of two homeless men in a wooded area near the $830 block of Stage Road.

They said the plan was to set fire to the men’s tent in retaliation for one of the homeless men accosting a member of their group a month earlier at the nearby Lowe’s store.

“One of them grabbed me, and I hit him with the bottle,” Parrish testified. “He caught on fire. All I could see was flames. I feel horrible. I can’t stop thinking about it.”

Eggleston said he dropped his gas- filled bottle in a panic, but one of the homeless men said Eggleston threw it at his friend, 37-year-old John Martin, before running away. Martin sustained second- and third- degree burns on his head, neck, shoul- ders, hands and left leg. The second homeless man was not injured.

“The victim said ‘I’m on fire’ and started rolling on the ground,” said state prosecutor Betsy Carnesale, adding that any of the five defen- dants could have stopped the attack or called for help. “They didn’t even care like a burn. How can a human be so cruel to another person? The Men said they heard laughing after he was set on fire.” Parrish pleaded guilty to attempted aggravated arson and ag- gravated assault. Eggleston pleaded guilty to attempted aggravated arson. Two other defendants -- Andrew Hicks and Wesley Ray, both 20 -- pleaded guilty to facilitation to commit attempted aggravated arson.

Hicks, the group’s getaway driver who waited in his truck, was sen- tenced to three years’ probation. Ray, who got out of the truck, but did not follow Parrish and Eggleston, was placed on diversion, which means his case can be dismissed with three years of good behavior.

Skahan ordered both men to serve 50 hours of community service at a homeless shelter.

The case against a fifth defendant, Michael Grace, 21, is still pending.

-- Lawrence Baser

This Attack Proves It Is Ok to Hurt or Kill A Vagrant

February 14: Frederick, Maryland. Will- iam Sigler, 49, a repeat offender of ass- ail, drug possession, reckless endan- germent and assault, and who was found guilty of the fatal attack of Samuel Webster Hou Jr., 57, a homeless man living in Frederick. Police were called to respond to an unconscious Wood with his skull cracked open from the attack. Authorities report evidence of strangula- tion and severe trauma to the head and neck from repeated assault. A witness re- portedly saw Sigler standing over Hout shouting to call 911, but said Sigler left before authorities arrived.

Evidence found at the scene showed blood marks on the wall of the alley as well as on a windowsill.

In December, pleading guilty to sec- ond-degree murder, Sigler was sentenced by County Circuit Court Judge G. Edward Dwyer Jr. to 30 to 50 years in the Mary- land Division of Corrections. Sigler, a former police officer, waited at Sigler’s apartment, where a search produced blood spattered sneakers, blue jeans, and a hat.

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Street paper is good news for Nashville’s homeless

Hawking a monthly newspaper written by Nashville’s homeless and formerly homeless may seem to offer an unlikely path to stability, especially at a time when media companies across the U.S. are suffering. But for Jerry Andreasen, and his wife, Karen, both 65, selling copies of The Contributor at $1 a copy has helped them move from a tent by the river to renting a $100-a-week room in a North Nashville house. A carpenter and handyman, Jerry Andreasen had lost everything after he had a heart attack.

“You don’t start out with no mansion,” he said, as he walked around the couple’s shared room jammed with newly acquired tools, many donated. “This here tickles us to death.”

The couple is part of a national movement that is changing the discussion about street people by making them micro-businessmen and putting a personal face on poverty.

Andy Freeze, executive director of the North American Street Newspaper Association, said circulation is rising among the papers. There are about 25 street newspapers in 10 cities in the U.S. and Canada.

In its first two months of publication in 2007, Nashville’s Contributor sold about 600 copies. By August of this year, 4,500 had been distributed, and sales have been brisk enough that the 6,000 copy run of its September issue could sell out. Nashville’s paper this summer won an award for a piece by Michael “Pontiic” Cooke about making the transition from a tent city to a subsidized apartment.

Taking positive steps

Vendors must sign a code of conduct that requires sobriety while working, respect toward the public housing youth, and a review of the Tomato Art Festival in East Nashville. There’s even a locally written “Hoboscope” column that offers amateur astrology readings.

Tom Turner, president and CEO of the Nashville Downtown Partnership, a business-oriented group that wants to keep aggressive panhandlers and drunks away from the area, said he appreciates what The Contributor is doing for the homeless population.

“If you have a group of courteous people trying to better their position, I think it’s good for them and good for the community,” Turner said. “For a lot of people, quality of life can start with a job. Anything that provides a part of the solution is a step in the right direction.”

‘Like my own business’

Leaving Downtown Presbyterian Church last week, Tony Angello looked like a tourist, wearing $40 to $50 a night on motel rooms.

“Have a blessed day,” he said. Overstreet, looking like somebody’s big sister with blond ponytail and clean white tennis shoes, said she was disabled in a car wreck. When her husband divorced her and didn’t pay alimony, she lost everything.

She has managed to get into federally subsidized housing, but needs money from paper sales for basic things such as toiletries, telephone service and washing clothes.

“This is like my own business,” she said. “It’s my own need for self-sufficiency.”

Angello said they decided to buy a tent and now sleep in an isolated, wooded area so they can save for an apartment.

Tuesday afternoon, office worker Chantay Shye threw her arms around vendor Debbie Overstreet outside the Arcade and gave her $3. She said she worries when she doesn’t see Overstreet selling the paper.

“So many of them are some good people,” Shye said, glumming at Overstreet. “I don’t know how it feels to be homeless. I don’t want to know. I help people when I can.”

Overstreet, 49, smiling with a serious look in her eyes, called out as people passed: “September edition is out. Want to buy a paper to help the homeless and formerly homeless?”

“I’m almost at the same level,” one middle-age man said with a nod as he passed.

“Have a blessed day,” she said.

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She has managed to get into federally subsidized housing, but needs money from paper sales for basic things such as toiletries, telephone service and washing clothes.

“This is like my own business,” she said.

“You don’t start out with no mansion,” he said. “This is like the first opportunity the homeless have had for an income that’s really worked out.”

By ANNE PAINE

Police investigating

-2 separate incidents resulting in a non-lethal act

*Tesch, Florida

—2 separate incidents resulting in 2 deaths

Washington, District of Columbia

—2 separate incidents resulting in 1 death

Wilmington, Delaware

—1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act

St. Augustine, Florida

—1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act

South Bend, Indiana

—1 incident resulting in 2 non-lethal acts

San Pablo, California

—1 incident resulting in 1 death

St. Louis, Missouri

—1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act

Scranton, Pennsylvania

—1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act

—1 incident resulting in a non-lethal act

San Pablo, California

—1 incident resulting in 2 non-lethal acts

Tucson, Arizona

—1 incident resulting in 1 death

Waltonham, Massachusetts

—1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act

Wilmington, Delaware

—1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act

West Palm Beach, Florida

—2 incidents resulting in 2 deaths

Nashville, Tennessee

—2 separate incidents resulting in 1 death and 2 non-lethal acts

Columbia

—1 incident resulting in 1 death

St. Petersburg, Florida

—2 separate incidents resulting in 4 non-lethal acts

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CITIES WHERE HATE CRIMES/HATE CRIMES/ VIOLENCE OCCURRED IN 2008: (Continued from pg 9)

San Pablo, California

—1 incident resulting in 1 death

Scranton, Pennsylvania

—1 incident resulting in 2 non-lethal acts

South Bend, Indiana

—1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act

St. Augustine, Florida

—1 incident resulting in 3 non-lethal acts

St. Louis, Missouri

—1 incident resulting in 1 death

St. Petersburg, Florida

—2 separate incidents resulting in 4 non-lethal acts

Tucson, Arizona

—1 incident resulting in 1 death

Waltonham, Massachusetts

—1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act

Washington, District of Columbia

—3 separate incidents resulting in 1 death and 2 non-lethal acts

West Palm Beach, Florida

—2 incidents resulting in 2 deaths

Wilmington, Delaware

—1 incident resulting in 1 non-lethal act
Most homeless people qualify for a free cell phone and airtime in their state if they receive food stamps, Medicaid or other assistance. All they need is an address of a local shelter to use. Go to the web site and see what your state requires.

Bedside Snack Ministry

We need:
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- plates
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Most homeless people qualify for a free cell phone and airtime in their state if they receive food stamps, Medicaid or other assistance. All they need is an address of a local shelter to use. Go to the web site and see what your state requires.

Mark Lavallee, President 954-961-2642 www.advantage-com.com Excellence in Radio

* ACI supports the Homeless Voice and the Cosac Foundation in raising awareness and providing solutions to homelessness in our neighborhoods.
* ACI knows that lending aid to human beings in need is good for our souls, our communities and is simply the right thing to do.
* ACI would like to thank all people who are actively engaged in helping humanity here on the blue planet. God bless the Cosac Foundation.