SEIU 1021 nurse saves kidnapped girl

She thought she had finished her grocery shopping when Theresa Shanley realized she’d forgotten the dog food. A quick stop at the Safeway in the Outer Richmond on the way home would solve that-and a nationally notorious crime.

Shanley, a nurse at San Francisco County Jail #5 in San Bruno and a shop steward, pulled into the parking lot. As she and her seven-year old daughter headed for the entrance, she noticed a couple of figures by the doorway panhandling, a man and an adolescent girl. Shanley looked at the girl, who just stared back, never breaking eye contact.

"As a nurse I have to read people's eyes all the time. It's often the only way to understand where they are," Shanley said. "But I couldn't get a read on her. No one has ever looked at me like that."

Then it hit her. The girl looked like Brittany Mae Smith, whose mother's boyfriend, Jeffrey Scott Easley, had kidnapped her after murdering her mother in Virginia a week before. Then the two had disappeared. Shanley had seen a story about it on CNN just the night before. It had stuck with her because in the piece Brittany's aunt was pleading for her return so she could attend her mother's funeral.

"Even inmates get to go to their mothers' funerals," she said.

Shanley was so rattled she couldn't find her cell phone, so she asked a clerk to call the local police. The cops told her to keep her cell near. So she headed back to the car to get it and walked past the girl again. Again, the stare. Back at her car she realized her cell was in her pocket all the time.
Within minutes a half dozen black-and-whites descended on the parking lot, Easley was in handcuffs and a cross-country crime ended.

On Christmas Day, Shanley got a call from Brittany, thanking her for noticing and acting.

"Just take a minute to look around you," Shanley said. "If more people did that, we'd find more children."

**SF unions decry plan to eliminate of bumping - Meet Jan. 18 to plan response**

Hundreds of union city employees descended on the Civil Service Commission meeting Dec. 20 to denounce a Dept. of Human Resources proposal to eliminate interdepartmental bumping for all permanent workers. The item appeared on the Commission’s agenda with no notice to the unions representing the workers affected or to the Commission itself. Nonetheless, on very short notice and just a few days before the holiday break, the workers mobilized and had the matter postponed for another meeting.

The Commission agreed to give the issue a full and proper hearing on February 7. Union members will be meeting this Tuesday, January 18, to prepare a response for the hearing. Your input is critical.

**Civil Service hearing preparation meeting**
Tu 1/18 - 5:30p - SEIU 1021, 350 Rhode Island, #100 South Building, San Francisco

**SFUSD 1021 Bargaining Team plays hardball with District in negotiations**

SEIU 1021 members working for the San Francisco Unified School District are facing an employer determined to bring down the standards built over the last few decades. But their Bargaining Team, though frustrated, is hanging tough.

"They don't want to budge," said Yuvonne Miller-Johnson, a member of the Bargaining Team. "It's been like pulling teeth just to get them to change language that wouldn't cost them a dime. What's going to happen when we really talk about money?"

Get the full stories when you [download the January issue of SF News Bites](#)

**Last chance to take our NewsWire Reader Survey**

We've had a great response to the survey so far, not just in the number of people who've responded, but in the quality of their responses and thoughtful comments. So ... one last chance to tell us about your reading experience and how you use the NewsWire in your union life. If you haven't already done so, please take a few moments to [fill out this short survey](#), and help the NewsWire to inform you more and serve you better in 2011. Thank you.

Randy Lyman, Editor

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**1021 State Budget Campaign**

**California's three-time governor unveils his first budget proposal**

Since the March 2002 primaries, Californians have voted in major statewide elections in eight of the last nine years: two each in 2002, 2004, 2006 and 2010, three in 2008 (two primaries), plus special elections in 2003 (recall of Grey Davis), 2005 (Schwarzenegger's attack on unions) and 2009 (state budget bills) - **14 elections in all**; on average, one almost every eight months! Even the off-year (2007) saw major local elections in San Francisco, Marin County and elsewhere.
Now we may vote again, in June -- this time on revenue bills to counterweight the $12 billion in proposed cuts that Gov. Jerry Brown laid out less than a week after his austere, theme-and-mood-setting inauguration.

"Gov. Jerry Brown's budget proposal made a record-breaking debut on the Web," the Sacramento Bee reported. "The Department of Finance's ebudget.ca.gov site logged about 1 million hits between 11 a.m. and midnight on the day of the budget's release, according to a DOF spokesman. That's more than 300,000 more hits than the previous record-holder -- former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's January 2008 budget unveil."

But don't mistake downloads for enthusiasm. While leaders and analysts across the board appreciated Brown's realism and the absence of sleight-of-hand parlor tricks that defined every single Schwarzenegger budget, the proposal received a mixed reception. No one but Republican legislators like the massive cuts that will hurt almost every part of public sector service in the state; in fact, they're already demanding more. City officials were cold to the idea of eliminating the state's 465 redevelopment agencies that revive neighborhoods and stimulate local economies, but county governments offered cautious support to the thought of shifting many programs from state to county control ... if the state will make sure there's funding.

Sacramento Bee: "Counties cautiously support Brown's plan to realign services"

Sacramento Bee: "Dan Walters: California's state-local relationship in flux"

"Brown appears bent on asking voters to approve higher taxes to close the state's chronic deficit and wants to send part of the money directly to local governments. There is, however, a rub. If the new revenue is to be permanent, they'd be a very hard sell to voters; but if they are temporary, the locals would not accept any permanent reassignment of duties."

Healthy Cal: "Brown to pursue high risk budget strategy"

"The big question is whether the Democrats, who now have the power to pass a budget on a majority vote, will be willing to adopt a spending plan that balances without the new revenue they and Brown will be seeking from the voters, most likely in a special election this June. This would be an ugly budget that would cut deeply not just into programs for the poor but into many services that middle-income Californians value highly, including the schools, universities, parks, and local government."

"The virtue in this approach, if there is one, is that it would be like a wake-up call to the voters. They would see, for the first time, what level of services they can get within the state's existing tax laws."

Follow Local 1021's state budget campaign here in the NewsWire. Let the 2011 State Budget Games begin!

Complete state budget news from the Sacramento Bee

Download the full 266-page summary of Gov. Brown's budget proposal

Breakdowns of the budget from the: Associated Press I Los Angeles Times I Sacramento Bee

The Live Wire

Welcome to the Hotel California

There's more to California politics than the state budget. Get it while it's hot in SEIU 1021's daily political blog -- The Live Wire -- at www.1021Votes.org. A sampling from some recent posts:

NY Times: "Strained States Turning to Laws to Curb Labor Unions"

Faced with growing budget deficits and restive taxpayers, elected officials from Maine to Alabama, Ohio to Arizona, are pushing new legislation to limit the power of labor unions, particularly those representing government workers, in collective bargaining and politics.
State officials from both parties are wrestling with ways to curb the salaries and pensions of government employees, which typically make up a significant percentage of state budgets.

**Robert Reich: "The Shameful Attack on Public Employees"**

In 1968, 1,300 sanitation workers in Memphis went on strike. The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. came to support them. That was where he lost his life. Eventually Memphis heard the grievances of its sanitation workers. And in subsequent years millions of public employees across the nation have benefited from the job protections they've earned.

But now the right is going after public employees. ... But the right's argument is shot-through with bad data, twisted evidence, and unsupported assertions.

**LA Times: "'Crash taxes' are growing in popularity among cash-strapped California cities"**

One more good reason to drive safely in California: If you cause an accident, you may be on the hook to pay the police and firefighters who show up to help.

At least 50 cities in the state have adopted so-called crash-tax laws allowing local governments to seek reimbursement from insurance companies for the costs of sending public emergency crews to accident scenes. The fees can amount to hundreds or even thousands of dollars. If insurers don't pay, cities can hire collection agents to seek payment from the motorists involved.

Billing crash victims might seem heartless. But public officials said that budget woes are compelling them to find new ways to raise revenue.

*Read the full stories and more in [The Live Wire](http://www.1021Votes.org).* 

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**Calendar**

- Map links to SEIU 1021 office locations
- Calendar Online

  Moon Phases: Full, Jan. 19 - 3rd Q, Jan. 26 - New, Feb. 3 - 1st Q, Feb. 11

**SEJ Health & Wellness Fair**

**Saturday, January 29, 2011 - 10a-4p**

Preservation Park, 558 13th Street, Oakland, Nile Hall

Find out what you need to know about health care at this day-long information fair sponsored by the SEIU 1021 Social & Economic Justice Committee. Representatives from the Solano County Public Health Dept, the American Heart Association and the Children's Hospital of the East Bay Hematology Dept. will be there; so will a fitness & wellness instructor and healthy cooking demonstrations by Café Blue. Information on heart disease and high blood pressure prevention and treatment, sickle cell anemia, and HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment will also be available.

Our goal is to assist our members in changing unhealthy habits by offering healthy alternatives with an emphasis on prevention. We want our members and the community to "Take Ownership of Their Health." Please join us for this exciting and informative event.

**Jobs with Justice / San Francisco**

**2011 Kick-Off Celebration**
Th 1/27 - 6-8p - Bayanihan Community Center, 1010 Mission Street (between 6th & 7th), SF

Join us to celebrate our successful first year building Jobs with Justice in San Francisco and look ahead to expanding community labor solidarity and power in 2011 and beyond. RSVP: Gordon Mar, gordon@jwjsf.org or (415) 994-2496.

Visit [Jobs with Justice/San Francisco](#)

**SEIU 1021 Oakland Holiday Food Drive**

Final 2 weeks! Help put a smile on the faces of needy families in our community. SEIU 1021’s Oakland offices are holding a winter food drive that runs now through the end of January 2011. Your non-perishable food items can be dropped off at any Oakland office:

Click address for Google map: [100 Oak Street](#) | [155 Myrtle Street](#) | [447 29th Street](#)

**SEIU 1021 Boards & Committees**

Fr 1/21 - Budget/Finance Committee - 10a-3p - SEIU 1021, 2300 Boynton Ave. #200, Fairfield

Sa 1/22 - Executive Board - 10a-5p - SEIU 1021, 2300 Boynton Ave. #200, Fairfield

**Issues & Communities**

*For January only, the Disability Caucus and AFRAM Committee are changing their meeting dates due to the MLK Day holiday on Monday.*

Tu 1/18 (changed from 1/17) - Disability Caucus- 6-8p - SEIU 1021, 100 Oak St., Oakland

Tu 1/18 (changed from 1/17) - AFRAM Solidarity Committee - 6-8p - SEIU 1021, 100 Oak St., Oakland

Tu 1/18 - Peace & Solidarity Committee - 5:30-8p - SEIU 1021, 350 Rhode Island, #100 South Building, San Francisco

Tu 1/18 - Women's Solidarity Committee - 6:30-8:30p - Location TBD

We 1/19 - Lavender Solidarity Committee - 6:30-7:30p - Meet by teleconference; contact Eileen at eberkun@ix.netcom.com for info

**Education & Training**

*View the complete catalog and register at [www.1021training.info](#).*

We 1/19, 26 (sessions 2 & 3) - Basic Shop Steward Training - 5:30-8p - SEIU 1021, 350 Rhode Island, #100 South Building, San Francisco

Th 1/20 - Getting Results from Meetings - 5:30-8p - SEIU 1021, 100 Oak St., Oakland

Tu 1/25 - Making the Labor-Management Committee Work - 5:30-8p - SEIU 1021, 37 Hunter Square Plaza, Stockton

**Regions & Industries**

Tu 1/18 - East Bay Region Meeting - 5:30-8:30p - SEIU 1021, 100 Oak St., Oakland - RSVP for dinner at 1-877-687-1021