

# Shasta region sees homeless count rise



Andrew Dellamico, right, of the Redding housing nonprofit FaithWorks conducts a survey the evening of Jan. 26 near Mercy Canyon off Linden Avenue. HUNG T. VU/SPECIAL TO THE REDDING RECORD SEARCHLIGHT

## State numbers fall

**Michele Chandler**  
Redding Record Searchlight  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The rise of homelessness in Redding and the greater Shasta County region is outpacing much of the rest of northern California, according to an annual snapshot count.

During the latest Point-in-Time cen-

sus conducted in January, surveyors reported finding 2,598 homeless people living in shelters, in transitional housing or on the streets in a region that includes seven North State counties: Shasta, Siskiyou, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Sierra and Del Norte.

That's up from the 2,329 people without a permanent place to live who were surveyed in the seven-county region during the count of homeless individuals in 2025, according to the Hub for Urban Initiatives homelessness re-

search group.

This year's increase represents an 11.6% surge in the seven-county region that includes Shasta County, the research group said.

In comparison, the Sacramento region's survey found a 6.6% rise in homeless people on the night of the count, the nonprofit Hub for Urban Initiatives said.

Statewide in 2026, homelessness

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# Shasta County ROV-elect shares plans as she prepares to take office

**David Benda**  
Redding Record Searchlight  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Since winning in June, Shasta County Clerk and Registrar of Voters-elect Joanna Francescut has been prepping for a job she's intimately familiar with.

She promises to bring steady leadership to an office that for more than a year has seen its share of turmoil and controversy under the leadership of Clint Curtis.

"So, my hope is that I can be the leader the county deserves in that role as registrar of voters, well county clerk and registrar of voters," Francescut said. "Our county deserves someone that can bring a calmness and stillness to the process when there is chaos all around the political spectrum."

Francescut beat Curtis in the June 2 primary by nearly 20 percentage points.

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Shasta County Elections Clerk and Registrar of Voters elect Joanna Francescut encouraged voting rights advocates, and all Shasta County residents who qualify, to vote in all elections — big and small — at a rally in downtown Redding on Aug. 28. JESSICA SKROPANIC/RECORD SEARCHLIGHT



**Buzz on the Street**  
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## Restaurants, gaming lounge close

While the restaurant cited several things that led to its closing, the Olney Creek Bridge replacement project certainly played a role in Bird & Beef's decision.

The restaurant, which opened in November 2025 in the old Snack Shack building on Eastside Road, posted on its Facebook page on Sept. 9: "Over the last couple of months, Bird & Beef has been navigating a lot of changes with the construction on our road, traffic flow, staffing, and rising food costs."

Bird & Beef is just yards away from the bridge replacement project, which has been long delayed. But work has kicked into high gear over the last several months. That work has reduced traffic to one lane for portions of Eastside Road.

Vehicles traveling north and south are piloted via temporary traffic signals. The wait for the light to turn green backs up traffic on Eastside Road in both directions.

In its Facebook message, Bird & Beef stated the work made it a challenge for customers.

"We're incredibly grateful for all the love and support you've shown us over the last year. Our joy has been getting to cook for you, create something new, and bring fun, creative food to the Redding area," the message said.

Miguel Gonzalez, who owns Redding Collision Center just south of Bird & Beef, can see how the traffic back-up from the bridge project could affect the restaurant's business.

But he said the project has not been a big deal for him. They have been there 21 years and have built up a clientele, which helps.

Gonzalez even thinks that maybe cars lined up in front of his business for a few minutes isn't necessarily a bad thing.

"So they stop and look and say, 'Hey, there's a body shop,'" he said smiling.

Bird & Beef did not rule out reopening at a future date.

For the record, since the Snack Shack closed about five years ago, that location has had a few restaurants come and go, including Yeti's Snack Shack and DJ's Smash Burger. DJ's relocated to the Redding Public Market.

The bridge replacement project is

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