

29 Abril 2021

# El Semanario

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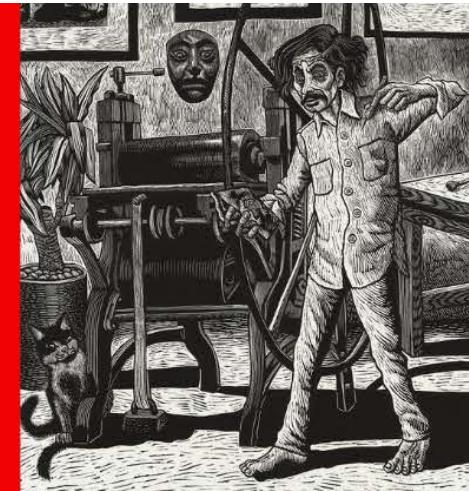
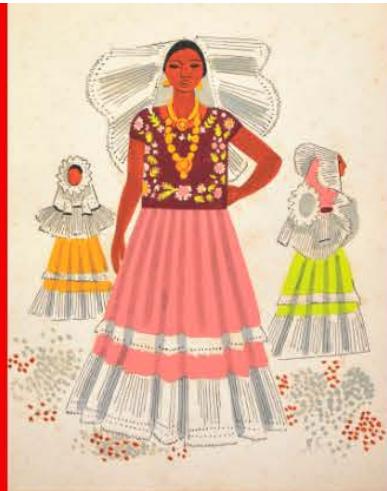


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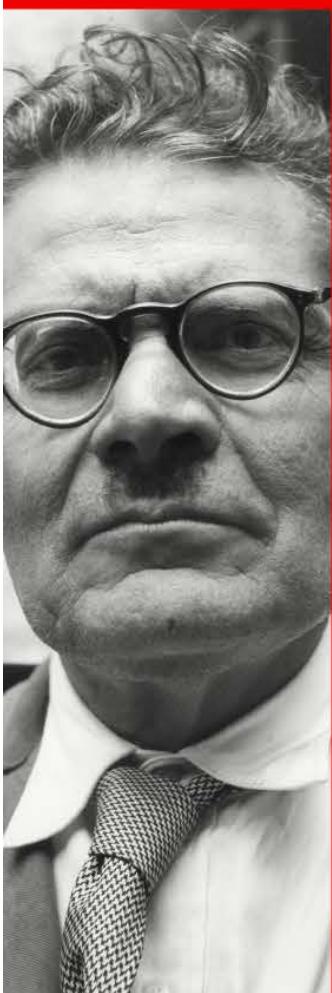


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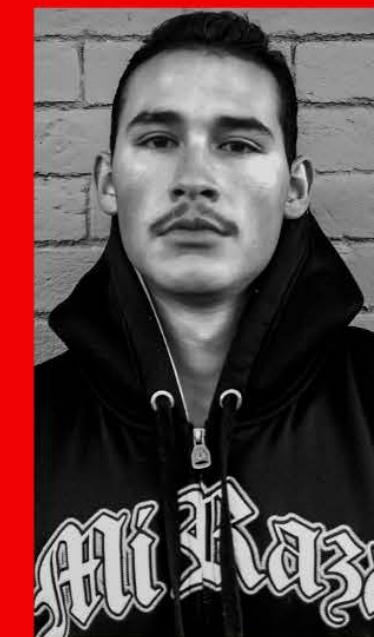
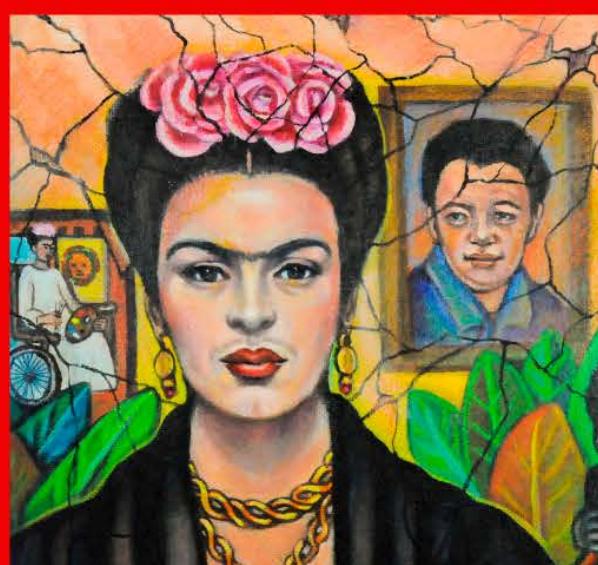
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## Commentary/Commentario

## On Immigration, No More Room for Political Paralysis

**Maribel Hastings  
and David Torres**

**H**ow many times can the Democrats trip over the same stumbling block when it comes to immigration? How long will they allow Republican anti-immigrant extremists to intimidate them, to the point of forgetting that a majority of the population and a majority of the people who vote for them in elections support a path to legalization for undocumented immigrants in this country?

Their political behavior on this specific issue has always walked a fine and slippery line that works to perfection in every campaign but heads into a determined tailspin when they achieve power.

For example, on April 16 the White House had to reverse itself after announcing that it would leave the annual refugee cap at the same level as Donald Trump, 15,000. This is something that, as a candidate, Joe Biden had promised to increase. The reactions from pro-immigrant and pressure groups were unexpected, gener-



Photo/Foto: America's Voice

ating an immediate change in position.

Did they think no one would realize it, and that their acquired legitimacy after the elections was a blank slate to change positions or, in any case, go back on promises? This barely-passed test should shine a light on the political moment we are living in, the historic moment through which we are all traveling, and the fact that the vote they received was not an easily-won gift from society, but a new opportunity to vindicate themselves as a political-electoral op-

tion, before their electors and diverse immigrant communities.

In the case of the Democrats, in theory, it has always been part of their script to support immigration reforms that include a path to legalization for millions of undocumented immigrants. But in practice, when they begin to face Republican critics or even moderates in their own party, they become paralyzed or abandon their original promises.

Their weakness—their lack of political courage when it is most needed—is in fact evidenced after

just three or four steps toward the exercise of public policy, as if walking on the right side of history was just the rehearsal of an orchestra that will never perform its symphonies.

How can one forget that Barack Obama promised immigration reform and, although he had a Democratic Congress on his side, opted to look for bipartisan support? And that, in doing so, he expanded deportations. Ultimately, there was no Republican support and absolutely no reform. There were family separations, and millions of undocumented immigrants saw their efforts to achieve a better life, for

See Hastings on page 18

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## Ya No Hay Espacio para la Parálisis Política

**Maribel Hastings  
and David Torres**

¿Cuántas veces pueden tropezar los demócratas con la misma piedra cuando de inmigración se trata? ¿Hasta cuándo permitirán que los extremistas republicanos antiinmigrantes los intimiden, al punto de obviar que la mayoría de la población y la mayoría de quienes votan por ellos en las elecciones apoyan una vía a la legalización de los indocumentados en este país?

Su comportamiento político en este específico tema ha caminado siempre por una fina y resbaladiza línea que funciona a la perfección

en toda campaña, pero que se va en decidida picada cuando están en el poder.

Por ejemplo, el 16 de abril la Casa Blanca tuvo que dar reversa al anuncio de que dejaría el tope anual de refugiados al mismo nivel que la administración de Donald Trump, es decir, en 15,000. Esto es algo que, como candidato, Joe Biden había prometido incrementar. Las reacciones de grupos pro inmigrantes y de presión no se hicieron esperar, generando el cambio de postura de inmediato.

¿Pensaban que nadie se iba a dar cuenta y que la legitimidad adquirida tras las elecciones era una carta blanca para modificar

¿Cuántas veces pueden tropezar los demócratas con la misma piedra cuando de inmigración se trata?

posiciones o, en todo caso, promesas? Esta prueba medianamente superada les debe arrojar luz sobre el momento político que están viviendo, el momento histórico por el que todos estamos atravesando y que el voto recibido no fue una prebenda fácil por parte de la sociedad, sino una nueva oportunidad para reivindicarse como opción político-electoral, ahora sí, ante sus electores y ante las diversas comunidades inmigrantes.

Esto es, en el caso de los demócratas, siempre ha sido su guion el apoyar en teoría reformas migratorias que incluyan una vía a la legalización de millones de indocumentados. Pero en la práctica, cuando comienzan a enfrentar críticas republicanas o incluso de los moderados de su propio partido se paralizan o dan marcha atrás a sus promesas originales.

Su debilidad —su falta de agallas políticas cuando más se

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Vea Hastings/Esp., página 18

## Value People over Profit: A Bill That Can Save Lives

**Bianey Bermudez**

**M**y name is Bianey Bermudez, I'm 25 years old and I have lived and been a part of the low-income marginalized community in Sheridan, Colorado for most of my life. Going to a school with a 90% low-income student population and being a part of an immigrant community, I know that communities like mine are often policed heavier than the community that's

five minutes away with some of the wealthiest names in Colorado.

I've witnessed friends choosing crime because they are the sole providers in their families, I've witnessed homelessness and I've witnessed hard working undocumented people working tirelessly to give their children a better opportunity. Above all of that I know that crime isn't solved by policing, it's solved by support.

I am tired of seeing Black and Brown people being heavily pros-

ecuted for low level offenses. I am angered at writing about people losing their battle with mental health issues at the mercy of the police. I am sick of waking up to news about people who have lost their lives at the hands of police brutality. I believe that SB21-62 is the beginning of a solution to a problem that has been affecting marginalized communities for generations. Growing up my family would always say *La vida es sagrada*, life is sacred. In this country

it seems like the only sacred life is that of white, wealthy, able bodied people.

SB21-62 safely reduces jail populations by limiting cash bail and pretrial detention. This bill would reserve jail beds for people who are a real threat to the safety of others, instead of criminalizing poverty and race. The punishments of cash bail and pretrial detention disproportionately harms our black and

See **Bermudez** on page 17



I am tired of seeing Black and Brown people being heavily prosecuted for low level offenses. I am angered at writing about people losing their battle with mental health issues at the mercy of the police.

## Valorar a las Personas Sobre las Ganancias: Una Factura que Puede Salvar Vidas

**Bianey Bermudez**

**M**i nombre es Bianey Bermudez, tengo 25 años y he vivido y sido parte de la comunidad marginada de bajos ingresos en Sheridan, Colorado, durante la mayor parte de mi vida. Al ir a una escuela con un 90% de población estudiantil de bajos ingresos y ser parte de una comunidad de inmigrantes, sé que las comunidades como la mía a menudo están más vigiladas que la comunidad que está a cinco minutos de distancia con algunos de los nom-

bres más ricos de Colorado. He sido testigo de cómo amigos eligen el crimen porque son los únicos proveedores de sus familias, he sido testigo de la falta de vivienda y he sido testigo de personas indocumentadas que trabajan incansablemente para darles a sus hijos una mejor oportunidad. Por encima de todo, sé que el crimen no se resuelve con la policía, se resuelve con el apoyo.

Estoy cansada de ver que se procesa duramente a personas de raza negra y morena por delitos de poca monta. Me enoja escribir so-

bre personas que pierden la batalla con problemas de salud mental a merced de la policía. Estoy harta de despertarme con noticias sobre personas que han perdido la vida a manos de la brutalidad policial. Creo que SB21-62 es el comienzo de una solución a un problema que ha estado afectando a comunidades marginadas durante generaciones. Al crecer, mi familia siempre decía "La vida es sagrada". En este país parece que la única vida sagrada es la de las personas blancas, ricas y sanas.

SB21-62 reduce de manera

segura la población carcelaria al limitar la fianza en efectivo y la detención preventiva. Este proyecto de ley reservaría camas en las cárceles para personas que son una amenaza real para la seguridad de los demás, en lugar de criminalizar la pobreza y la raza. Los castigos de la fianza en efectivo y la prisión preventiva perjudican de manera desproporcionada a nuestros vecinos negros y morenos y a las personas con problemas de salud mental. Todos hemos sido tes-

Vea **Bermudez/Esp**, página 17



Estoy cansada de ver que se procesa duramente a personas de raza negra y morena por delitos de poca monta. Me enoja escribir sobre personas que pierden la batalla con problemas de salud mental a merced de la policía.

## Queer Youth of Color Need a Change of Narrative

**Jonathan García**

**A**s a teenager in the '90s, I looked forward to finishing my homework early nearly every night so I could watch a telenovela with my mom and *abuelita*. Latin American soap operas captured my imagination most when their melodrama and magical realism addressed social issues. As a queer Latinx youth from Colombia, I sat riveted to the screen when the characters struggled with classism, immigration, and racism. But I was disillusioned because the few queer characters who took center stage reinforced stereotypes and provided comic relief.

In reality, queer Latinx youth are much more complex. A 2019 focus group we conducted with parents, youth, health providers, and educators in Corvallis and Portland, Oregon, found that queer Latinx youth can face dual forces of isolation. They experience racism and xenophobia within queer spaces, and transphobia and homophobia in ethnic community spaces. At the intersection of queer and Latinx communities, we found that these

**“**  
Believing their isolation is a result of being timid, introverted, or having inadequate social skills, the queer Latinx youth in the focus group blamed themselves.

youth experience identity strain that leaves them feeling unworthy and lacking someone in whom to confide.

Believing their isolation is a result of being timid, introverted, or having inadequate social skills, the queer Latinx youth in the focus group blamed themselves. Their reaction is consistent with findings about queer youth in general: pervasive social isolation and rejection drive them to feel unsafe in school and at home, and to attempt suicide.

Queer youth of color need a change of narrative. As director of the Engaging the Next Latinx Allies



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See **Queer** on page 17

## Commentary / Commentario

## The Power of Money Alone Can't Fix Central América—Or Stop Migration to US

**Luis Guillermo Solis**

To stem migration from Central América, the Biden administration has a US\$4 billion plan to "build security and prosperity" in Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador – home to more than 85% of all Central American migrants who arrived in the U.S. over the last three years.

The U.S. seeks to address the "factors pushing people to leave their countries" – namely, violence, crime, chronic unemployment and lack of basic services – in a region of gross public corruption.

The Biden plan, which will be partially funded with money diverted from immigration detention and the border wall, is based on a sound analysis of Central Améri-



Photo via The Conversation

ca's dismal socioeconomic conditions. As a former president of Costa Rica, I can attest to the dire situation facing people in neighboring nations.

As a historian of Central América, I also know money alone cannot build a viable democracy.

**Failed efforts**

Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador comprise Central América's "Northern Triangle" – a poor region with among the world's highest murder rates.

These countries need education, housing and health systems that work. They need reliable economic structures that can attract foreign investment. And they need inclusive social systems and other crime-prevention strategies that allow people to live without fear.

No such transformation can happen without strong public institutions and politicians committed to the rule of law.

Biden's aid to Central América comes with strict conditions, requiring the leaders of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador to "un-

dertake significant, concrete and verifiable reforms," including with their own money.

But the U.S. has unsuccessfully tried to make change in Central América for decades. Every American president since the 1960s has launched initiatives there.

During the Cold War, the U.S. aimed to counter the spread of communism in the region, sometimes militarily. More recently U.S. aid has focused principally on strengthening democracy, by investing in everything from the judiciary reform and women's education to agriculture and small businesses.

The Obama administration also spent millions on initiatives to fight illegal drugs and weaken the street gangs, called "maras," whose bru-



As a former president of Costa Rica, I can attest to the dire situation facing people in neighboring nations. As a historian of Central América, I also know money alone cannot build a viable democracy.

tal control over urban neighborhoods is one reason migrants say they flee.

Such multibillion-dollar efforts have done little to improve the region's dysfunctions.

See **Solis** on page 19

## Debt-Based License Suspensions Are Bad Public Policy

**Michelle Borbon**

In the tragic killing of Daunte Wright, police claimed they stopped him because when they ran his plates, they found he had unpaid fines and fees. Fines and fees are part of a nationwide problem where state and local governments rely on law enforcement for revenue gener-

ation. When policymakers allow counties and states to rely on fines and fees to fund essential services, they perversely incentivize the over-criminalization and over-policing of innocuous conduct. More laws fining minor offenses create more opportunities to issue money-making tickets and, consequently, provide more excuses for police to engage in

race-based surveillance under the guise of the law. Wright's death is just the most recent example of the devastating harm caused by employing law enforcement officers as debt collectors. Every year, there are 30 million cases related to minor infractions punishable by fines and fees — many of which give cops an excuse to make pretexts

for racial stops. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) new report, "Reckless Lawmaking," proposes a simple fix to stop over-policing and decrease income inequality: end debt-based license suspension.

In our study, we reviewed the state policy landscape and conducted in-depth semi-structured interviews with 16 people who



When policymakers rely on predatory fines and fees to fund government services, they not only impoverish drivers, they also incentivize unnecessary encounters with the criminal legal system and waste city resources.

had unpaid fines and suspended licenses. Each interview proved that debt-based suspensions make it nearly impossible for drivers to pay off their debts.

Suspensions are counterproductive to improving collection outcomes. If a driver can't afford a parking ticket, they also can't afford the late fee for the missed payment. Take Dario, one of our interviewees, who was pulled over by the police for "tinted windows." When he couldn't afford to pay the initial ticket of \$225, he got slapped with an extra \$807 in fees, for a grand total of \$1,032. Neither the police nor the court cared that Dario couldn't afford the charges and his license was suspended pending repayment. But because he worked 35 miles from his home, the suspension cut his income in half.

"Since I couldn't drive to work, I lost my job," Dario explained — a story that repeated itself across multiple interviews.

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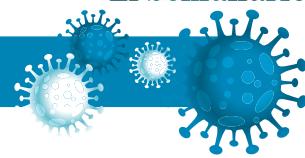
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See **Borbon** on page 19



## More Women Than Men Are Getting Covid Shots

By Laura Ungar

**M**ary Ann Steiner drove 2½ hours from her home in the St. Louis suburb of University City to the tiny Ozark town of Centerville, Missouri, to get vaccinated against covid-19. After pulling into the drive-thru line in a church parking lot, she noticed that the others waiting for shots had something in common with her.

"Everyone in the very short line was a woman," said Steiner, 70.

Her observation reflects a national reality: More women than men are getting covid vaccines, even as more men are dying of the disease. Kaiser Health News (KHN) examined vaccination dashboards for all 50 states and the District of Columbia in early April and found that each of the 38 that listed gen-

der breakdowns showed more women had received shots than men.

Public health experts cited many reasons for the difference, including that women make up three-quarters of the workforce in health care and education, sectors prioritized for initial vaccines. Women's longer life spans also mean that older people in the first rounds of vaccine eligibility were more likely to be female. But as eligibility expands to all adults, the gap has continued. Experts point to women's roles as caregivers and their greater likelihood to seek out preventive health care in general as contributing factors.

In Steiner's case, her daughter spent hours on the phone and computer, scoping out and setting up vaccine appointments for five relatives. "In my family, the wom-

en are about a million times more proactive" about getting a covid vaccine, Steiner said. "The females in families are often the ones who are more proactive about the health of the family."

As of early April, statistics showed the vaccine breakdown between women and men was generally close to 60% and 40% — women made up 58% of those vaccinated in Alabama and 57% in Florida, for example.

States don't measure vaccinations by gender uniformly, though. Some break down the statistics by total vaccine doses, for example, while others report people who have gotten at least one dose. Some states also have a separate category for nonbinary people or those whose gender is unknown.

A handful of states report gender vaccination statistics over

time. That data shows the gap has narrowed but hasn't disappeared as vaccine eligibility has expanded beyond people in long-term care and health care workers.

Dr. Elvin Geng, a professor at the medical school at Washington University in St. Louis, said women of all age groups, races and ethnicities generally use health services more than men — which is one reason they live longer.

Arrianna Planey, an assistant professor who specializes in medical geography at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, said it's often women who manage medical appointments for their households so they may be more familiar with navigating health systems.

Decades of research have documented how and why men are less likely to seek care. A 2019

“

"It's for my safety, for my kids' safety, for my neighbors' safety, for the people who go to my church's safety. I really don't understand the resistance."

Mary Ann Steiner

study in the American Journal of Men's Health, for example, examined health care use in religious heterosexual men and concluded masculine norms — such as a perception that they are sup-

See [Women](#) on page 20

## Se Vacunan Más Mujeres Que Hombres

Por Laura Ungar

**M**ary Ann Steiner condujo dos horas y media desde su casa en University City, un suburbio de St. Louis, hasta la pequeña ciudad de Ozark, en Centerville, Missouri, para vacunarse contra covid-19. Después de poner su auto en fila en el estacionamiento de una iglesia, notó que las otras personas que esperaban tenían algo en común con ella.

"Todos en la corta línea eran mujeres", dijo Steiner, de 70 años.

Su observación refleja una realidad nacional: más mujeres que hombres están recibiendo vacunas contra covid, incluso cuando más hombres mueren a causa de la enfermedad.

KHN examinó los registros de vacunación de los 50 estados y el Distrito de Columbia a principios de abril y descubrió que cada uno de los 38 que desglosan por género mostraba que más mujeres que hombres habían recibido la vacuna.

Expertos en salud pública explican esta diferencia por muchas razones, una central: las mujeres constituyen las tres cuartas partes

de la fuerza laboral en la atención médica y la educación, sectores priorizados en las primeras fases de vacunación.

También, las mujeres viven más, por lo que los residentes de hogares que recibieron las vacunas en la primera ronda tendieron a ser mujeres. Pero a medida que la elegibilidad se expande a todos los adultos y a más edades, esta brecha ha continuado.

Expertos señalan los roles de las mujeres como cuidadoras y su mayor probabilidad de buscar atención médica preventiva en general como factores que contribuyen a esta brecha.

En el caso de Steiner, su hija pasó horas en el teléfono y la computadora, buscando y programando citas de vacunación para cinco familiares. "En mi familia, las mujeres son un millón de veces más proactivas para la vacunación contra covid", dijo Steiner. "Generalmente, las mujeres son más proactivas con respecto a la salud de la familia".

A principios de abril, las estadísticas mostraban que el desglose de la vacuna entre mujeres y

hombres generalmente se acercaba al 60% y al 40%. Por ejemplo, las mujeres constituían el 58% de las vacunadas en Alabama y el 57% en Florida.

Sin embargo, los estados no miden las vacunas por género de manera uniforme. Algunos desglosan las estadísticas por dosis totales de vacunas, mientras que otros informan personas que han recibido al menos una dosis. Algunos estados también tienen una categoría separada para personas no binarias o aquellas cuyo género se desconoce.

Un puñado de estados informan estadísticas de vacunación por género a lo largo del tiempo. Esos datos muestran que aunque la elegibilidad para recibir la vacuna se ha expandido, la brecha, aunque reducida, no ha desaparecido.

El doctor Elvin Geng, profesor de la Escuela de Medicina de la Universidad de Washington en St. Louis, dijo que las mujeres de todos los grupos de edad, razas y etnias generalmente usan los servicios de salud más que los hombres, que es una de las razones por la que viven más tiempo.

Arrianna Planey, profesora asistente de geografía médica en la Universidad de Carolina del Norte-Chapel Hill, dijo que a menudo son las mujeres quienes organizan las citas médicas en sus hogares por lo que pueden estar más familiarizadas con la navegación de los sistemas de salud.

Décadas de investigación han documentado cómo y por qué es menos probable que los hombres busquen atención. Un estudio de 2019 en el American Journal of Men's Health examinó el uso de la atención médica en hombres religiosos heterosexuales y concluyó que las normas masculinas, como la percepción de que son fuertes, eran la razón principal por la que muchos hombres evitaban buscar atención médica.

Las actitudes sobre la pandemia de covid y las vacunas también afectan a quién las recibe.

La doctora Rebecca Wurtz, directora de administración y políticas de salud pública en la Universidad de Minnesota, dijo que las mujeres han tenido más probabilidades de perder sus trabajos durante la pandemia y, en muchos

“

"Es por mi seguridad, por la seguridad de mis hijos, por la seguridad de mis vecinos, por la gente que va a mi iglesia. Realmente no entiendo la resistencia".

Mary Ann Steiner

casos, son las que llevan la peor parte en la enseñanza y el cuidado de los niños en el hogar.

"Las mujeres están preparadas para hacer esto incluso más que los hombres", dijo Wurtz.

Las actitudes políticas también influyen en las opiniones de la gente sobre cómo afrontar la pandemia, dijeron expertos. Una encuesta de Gallup de 2020 encontró que tanto entre demócratas como republicanos, las mujeres eran más propensas a decir que tomaban precauciones para prevenir contraer covid, como practicar siempre el distanciamiento físico y usar máscaras.

En una encuesta nacional reciente realizada por KFF, el 29%

Vea [Mujeres](#), página 23

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## Cover /Portada

## Efforts Continue to Vaccinate the Underrepresented

By Anna Almendrala

**L**eonor García held her clipboard close to her chest and rapped on the car window with her knuckles. The driver was in one of dozens of cars lined up on a quiet stretch of road in Adelanto, California, a small city near the southwestern edge of the Mojave Desert. He was waiting for the food bank line to start moving and lowered the passenger window just enough to hear what García wanted. Then she launched into her pitch.

"Good morning! We're here to talk about Covid-19 today! Do you have a minute?" she said in Spanish.

After a brief conversation, García learned the man had no internet connection or phone of his own, but was 66 years old and wanted to get the covid vaccine. He had tried to visit a pharmacy in person, but the shots were all out for the day. García took down his name and the phone number of a friend, so she could reach the driver later about a mobile vaccine clinic that her organization, El Sol Neighborhood Educational Center, was putting together for the remote desert



Dr. Marx Genovez, a family medicine doctor, prepares Guadalupe Neri's arm for a Covid-19 vaccine at El Sol Neighborhood Educational Center's pop-up vaccination clinic on March 19, 2021 in Adelanto, California. / El doctor Marx Genovez, médico de familia, prepara el brazo de Guadalupe Neri para una vacuna de Covid-19 en la clínica de vacunación emergente de El Sol Neighborhood Educational Center, el 19 de marzo, en Adelanto, California.

Photo/Foto: Anna Almendrala/Kaiser Health News

city sometime in April.

Then it was on to the next car. And the next. As the line started moving, she and fellow health worker Erika Marroquín jogged up and down the sidewalk, taking down names, phone numbers and preexisting conditions. It was the first mild, sunny day the High Desert region had seen in weeks, and the exercise made them sweat.

After 90 minutes, the food bank was done for the day, and García and Marroquín had spoken to peo-

ple in 54 cars. They had found six people eager for the covid vaccine and eligible for it immediately. Ten more wanted to be put on a waiting list for leftover doses.

The rollout of vaccinations in California, as in many states, has been slow and chaotic. More than 5 million of the 24 million adults in the nation's most populous state have been at least partially vaccinated, while an additional 5.6 million are fully vaccinated. Come April 15, all adults in California will

be eligible to sign up for a vaccine, and by early summer the goal is to have plenty of vaccine for any adult who wants it.

But the country needs to get the vaccination rate to about 75% to keep the virus from easily spreading — a level called herd immunity by experts on infectious diseases. But even that figure assumes the population is homogenous in terms of vaccination. That's why the state's ability to stave off another Covid surge may rely on people like García and Marroquín — community health workers and organizers doing time-intensive, laborious work — to prevent pockets of the population with low vaccination rates in remote or isolated communities from becoming a tinderbox for a new covid surge.

"When you have geographical or social pockets of unvaccinated people, it really messes up herd immunity," said Daniel Salmon, director at the Institute for Vaccine Safety at Johns Hopkins University's Bloomberg School of Public Health.

U.S. measles outbreaks in recent years provide a sobering example. State and national vaccine coverage is quite high, "but then you'd have these communities where a lot of people would refuse vaccines, and then measles would be imported and create an outbreak," Salmon said. Outbreaks have hit certain Orthodox Jewish communities in New York, Somali immigrants in Minnesota and affluent pockets of Southern California where anti-vaccine parents lived.

The coronavirus is still circulating widely in California, though at much lower levels than two months ago. The virus, especially an increasingly common, more contagious variant, could easily rip through vulnerable communities with low levels of immunity. In Adelanto, where 29% of residents live in poverty, less than 6% of the adult population had been fully vaccinated by March 20.

As of March 26, most of the more than 15.9 million vaccine doses distributed since December had gone to the healthiest, wealthiest places in the state. Community-based organizations like nonprofits and churches are clamoring for more funding — and trust — to carry the vaccine the final mile to the people they've been serving for years.

El Sol's success in getting Black, Latino and other underrepresented populations vaccinated debunks the idea that these groups



"Even if they don't give us money, we'll keep doing the work."

Alex Fajardo, El Sol

won't get the shot, said Juan Carlos Belliard, assistant vice president for community partnerships at Loma Linda University Health in San Bernardino County. Loma Linda is collaborating with El Sol to staff and provide doses for clinics. The people who show up are ready for their vaccine, though some are a bit hesitant, he said.

"They're not like our middle-class folks who are literally crying for the vaccine," Belliard said. "These folks are still nervous about it, but you've removed almost all of these other barriers for them."

El Sol's community workers were supported by a \$52.7 million combined effort from state and philanthropic funding that provided grants to 337 organizations considered "trusted messengers" in their communities. The money was pushed out to groups like El Sol that had proven track records of shoe-leather canvassing for voter registration or census surveys.

El Sol received \$120,000 from the public-private initiative to support its general outreach and educational efforts for covid vaccination. But the group was in the dark about whether it would get any reimbursement for the mobile vaccination events it has organized in San Bernardino County, said executive director Alex Fajardo.

El Sol held a pop-up vaccination event Feb. 17 at Centro Cristiano Luz y Esperanza, a church located off a two-lane expressway in Adelanto, surrounded by desert scrub. Medical staffers, students and vaccines arrived from Loma Linda University Health, about an hour away, to vaccinate 250 people, and returned a month later to give people their second doses.

Patricia Pérez, 47, and Rosa Hernández, 69, a mother-daughter pair, were among those who got their vaccines at Centro Cristiano.

Pérez's father, who works in a supermarket dairy department, fell ill with covid in June and was unable to return to work for six months. No one else in the seven-member household ended up testing positive, but Rosa Hernández is a cancer survivor and her daughter was worried about her.

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See Underrepresented on page 21

## Continúan los Esfuerzos para Vacunar a los Infrarrepresentados

Por Anna Almendrala

**L**eonor García sostuvo su carpeta cerca de su pecho y golpeó la ventana del auto con los nudillos. Había docenas de vehículos alineados en un tramo tranquilo de la carretera en Adelanto, California, una pequeña ciudad cerca del borde suroeste del desierto de Mojave. El conductor estaba esperando que la fila del banco de alimentos comenzara a moverse y bajó la ventanilla del pasajero lo suficiente para escuchar a García.

La mujer dijo en español: "¡Buenos días! ¡Hoy estamos aquí para hablar sobre Covid-19! ¿Tienes un minuto?"

Después de una breve conversación, García supo que el hombre no tenía conexión a Internet ni teléfono propio, pero tenía 66 años y quería recibir la vacuna. Había ido a una farmacia en persona, pero ya no había dosis por ese día.

García anotó su nombre y el número de teléfono de un amigo, para poder comunicarse con el conductor más tarde sobre una clínica móvil de vacunas que El Sol Neighborhood Educational Center, estaba organizando para la remota y desértica ciudad, en algún momento de abril.

Luego pasó al siguiente coche. Y al siguiente. Cuando la fila comenzó a moverse, ella y su compañera, la trabajadora de salud Erika Marroquín, corrieron arriba y abajo por la acera, anotando nombres, números de teléfono y condiciones preexistentes. Era el primer día templado y soleado que la región del High Desert había visto en semanas, y el ejercicio las hacía sudar.

Después de 90 minutos, se terminó el banco de alimentos del día, y García y Marroquín habían hablado con personas en 54 autos. Encontraron a seis ansiosas por la vacuna covid y elegibles de inmediato. Otras 10 querían estar en lista de espera de dosis sobrantes.

Como en muchos estados, la implementación de la vacunación en California ha sido lenta y caótica. Más de 5 millones de los 24 millones de adultos en el estado más poblado del país han sido vacunados al menos parcialmente, mientras que otros 5.6 millones están completamente vacunados.

El 15 de abril, todos los adultos de California serán elegibles para inscribirse para recibir una vacuna y, a principios del verano, el objetivo es tener suficientes dosis para cualquier adulto que la quiera.



Residentes de la región de High Desert, hacen fila en el Centro Cristiano Luz y Esperanza, en Adelanto, para recibir la segunda dosis de la vacuna contra Covid, en un evento de vacunación el 19 de marzo. Las otras filas son para personas que esperan por su segunda dosis, o por remanentes de vacunas. / Residents of California's High Desert region line up at the Centro Cristiano Luz y Esperanza church in Adelanto to receive their second doses of Covid vaccine at El Sol's March 19 vaccination event. In line on the left are those who got their first shot at an event the previous month. The line on the right is full of people hoping for leftover doses.

Pero el país necesita llevar la tasa de vacunación a alrededor del 75% para evitar que el virus se propague fácilmente, un nivel llamado inmunidad colectiva por los expertos en enfermedades infecciosas. Una figura que asume que la población es homogénea en términos de vacunación.

Es por eso que la capacidad del estado para evitar otro aumento

de covid puede depender de personas como García y Marroquín, trabajadores de salud comunitarios que corren contra el tiempo realizando una tarea intensa, para evitar que grupos de poblaciones con bajas tasas de vacunación en comunidades remotas o aisladas se conviertan en un polvorín para una nueva oleada de covid.

"Cuando hay zonas geográficas

o grupos sociales no vacunados, realmente se arruina la inmunidad colectiva", dijo Daniel Salmon, director del Instituto para la Seguridad de las Vacunas de la Escuela de Salud Pública Bloomberg de la Universidad Johns Hopkins.

Los brotes de sarampión en los Estados Unidos en los últimos años proporcionan un ejemplo aleccionador. La cobertura de vacunas a nivel estatal y nacional es bastante alta, "pero luego tienes estas comunidades donde mucha gente rechaza las vacunas, aparece sarampión importado y se genera un brote", dijo Salmon.

Los brotes han afectado a ciertas comunidades judías ortodoxas en Nueva York, inmigrantes somalíes en Minnesota, y zonas acomodadas del sur de California donde viven padres que están en contra de las vacunas.

El coronavirus que causa covid sigue circulando ampliamente en California, aunque a niveles mucho más bajos que hace dos meses. El virus, especialmente una variante cada vez más común y más contagiosa, podría atravesar fácilmente comunidades vulnerables con bajos niveles de inmunidad.

En Adelanto, donde el 29% de

"Incluso si no nos dan dinero, seguiremos haciendo el trabajo".

Alex Fajardo, El Sol

los residentes vive en la pobreza, menos del 6% de la población adulta se había vacunado por completo al 20 de marzo.

Al 26 de marzo, la mayoría de las más de 15.9 millones de dosis de vacunas distribuidas desde diciembre se habían destinado a los lugares más saludables y ricos del estado.

Las organizaciones comunitarias sin fines de lucro y las iglesias están clamando por más fondos, y confianza, para llevar la vacuna hasta la última milla, a las personas a las que han estado sirviendo durante años.

El éxito de El Sol en vacunar a las poblaciones negras, latinas y otras poblaciones subrepresentadas

Vea [Infrarrepresentados](#), página 20

Please contact COLOR about upcoming community forums on the **"Know Your Rights"** training for immigrant families and the **"What's At Stake?"** information sessions regarding your health care coverage.

Contacta las oficinas de COLOR para obtener información de los próximos foros comunitarios sobre inmigración y el taller Conozca Sus Derechos. En los foros puedes saber más sobre como puede verse afectada tu cobertura médica mediante el taller ¿Qué está en juego?

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**El Semanario** THE WEEKLY ISSUE Our Community Partners

## State News / Noticias del Estado

## Students Appreciate Practical Lessons on Personal Finance

## COLORADO

By Melanie Asmar

**O**n a recent Thursday, Denver teacher Daniel Walter started a lesson on supply and demand with a question about legendary New York Yankees player Alex Rodriguez.

"If A-Rod's skills are unique enough to get him paid \$275 million, what do we know about the supply of great baseball players? High? Low? Somewhere in the middle?" Walter asked.

Low, said his students. Walter then made a connection to the students' own lives: When you're considering what type of career you want, he said, investing in your



Photo/Foto: Melanie Asmar/Chalkbeat CO

West Early College students take a personal finance class taught by teacher Daniel Walter, right, in the West high school library in Denver. / Alumnos del West Early College asisten a una clase de finanzas personales impartida por el profesor Daniel Walter, a la derecha, en la biblioteca del instituto West en Denver.

education to learn skills that are scarce — like being able to hit a baseball at 100 miles per hour or

more realistically, knowing how to

drill cavities or fix leaky pipes — will net you a higher salary.

Walter teaches at West Early College high school, which is offering a personal finance class that some educators and alumni hope will become a districtwide requirement. The aim is to provide students with real-life knowledge on topics like taxes, credit scores, and loans.

Students said they appreciate the practical lessons.

"I took this class because I feel like when I'm in there learning, it's giving me the keys to be successful," said Isaiah Phorson, a West junior. "A lot of high school students are lost when they get out of high school. They don't know money management."

"I took this class because I feel like when I'm in there learning, it's giving me the keys to be successful. A lot of high school students are lost when they get out of high school. They don't know money management."

Isaiah Phorson, West Early College

This class, he said, "puts you a step ahead in the economic battle." Colorado school districts are

See Finance on page 21

## Los Estudiantes Aprecian las Lecciones Prácticas Sobre Finanzas Personales

## COLORADO

Por Melanie Asmar

**U**n jueves reciente, el profesor de Denver Daniel Walter comenzó una lec-

ción sobre la oferta y la demanda con una pregunta sobre el legendario jugador de los New York Yankees Alex Rodríguez.

"Si las habilidades de A-Rod son lo suficientemente únicas como para que le paguen 275 millones

de dólares, ¿qué sabemos de la oferta de grandes jugadores de béisbol? ¿Es alta? ¿Baja? ¿En algún punto intermedio?", preguntó Walter.

Baja, dijeron sus alumnos. Walter estableció entonces una con-

exión con las propias vidas de los estudiantes: Cuando consideras qué tipo de carrera quieras, dijo, invertir en tu educación para aprender habilidades que son escasas — como ser capaz de batear una pelota de béisbol a 100 millas por hora o, de manera más realista, saber cómo perforar caries o arreglar tuberías con fugas — te dará un salario más alto.

Walter enseña en el instituto West Early College, que ofrece una clase de finanzas personales que algunos educadores y ex alumnos esperan que se convierta en un requisito para todo el distrito. El objetivo es proporcionar a los estudiantes conocimientos de la vida real sobre temas como los impuestos, las puntuaciones de crédito y los préstamos.

Los estudiantes dicen que aprecian las lecciones prácticas.

"Tomé esta clase porque siento que cuando estoy allí aprendiendo, me está dando las claves para tener éxito", dijo Isaiah Phorson, un junior de West. "Muchos estudiantes de secundaria están perdidos cuando salen del instituto. No saben administrar el dinero".

Esta clase, dijo, "los pone un paso adelante en la batalla económica".

Los distritos escolares de Colorado no están obligados a ofrecer clases de finanzas personales o de conocimientos financieros, aunque una ley estatal de 2004 lo fomenta decididamente. Un proyecto de ley que se está debatiendo en la legislatura este año, el proyecto de ley 1200 de la Cámara de Rep-

"Tomé esta clase porque siento que cuando estoy allí aprendiendo, me está dando las claves para tener éxito.

Muchos estudiantes de secundaria están perdidos cuando salen del instituto. No saben administrar el dinero".

Isaiah Phorson, West Early College

resentantes, añadiría varios temas al plan de estudios de educación financiera sugerido por el estado, incluyendo cómo pagar la universidad y gestionar la deuda de los préstamos estudiantiles.

Pero un grupo de ex alumnos de las Escuelas Públicas de Denver está presionando al mayor distrito escolar de Colorado para que vaya más allá de las recomendaciones del estado y haga de las clases de educación financiera un requisito de graduación. Aproximadamente una cuarta parte de los 178 distritos escolares de Colorado ya lo hacen, según el Departamento de Educación de Colorado. En el último año, varios distritos, incluyendo Adams 14 y Aurora, han añadido o están planeando nuevas clases de finanzas personales.

Las Escuelas Públicas de Denver dijeron en un comunicado que el distrito está explorando la posibilidad de hacer de la alfabetización financiera un requisito de graduación. El equipo académico del

## Museum From Home

**Free** programs, exhibits, and activities online in English and Spanish.

## Horses in the North American West

Apache horseback riding quirt from 19th/early 20th century, braided horse hair and beads



Vea Finanzas, página 22

## LCAC Launches Popul/Arte: Merging Art, Culture and Theory

### COLORADO

**M**ore people identify as organizers and activists than ever before, with good reason. The world faces structural and mutually intensifying crises--ecological, social, cultural, political, economic, and perhaps even spiritual--which urgently demand unprecedented consciousness and creative action.

In response, the Latino Cultural Arts Center (LCAC) is launching an innovative residence program, *Popul/Arte* that merges art and research. Their mission is to bring



Left to right: Mayara Smith, Camila Parreira, Dailey Gonçalves, Jéssica Goés, Letícia Moreno and Michael Wilson-Becerril, Ph.D.

higher education to the public at no cost and through the creative arts.

Academia can give people the tools to lift their communities through knowledge, creativity, art, and innovation. However, it is inaccessible financially and mostly reluctant to communicate clearly with non-specialist audiences. *Popul/Arte* seeks to change that by bringing theory back to the people.

The LCAC announced Michael Wilson-Becerril, Ph.D. as the inaugural scholar. Wilson-Becerril is an activist-scholar from Méx-



The world needs answers now more than ever: how do we transform violence and build peace?

ico City, México, specialized in political ecologies of violence, resistance, and peace, with an emphasis in Latin América. The

See [LCAC](#) on page 25

## ACLU of Colorado Sues Mesa County Judge, Sheriffs

### COLORADO

**I**n a filing this week in federal district court, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) lawyers sued the Chief Judge in Mesa County, Brian Flynn, as well as Mesa County Sheriff Matt Lewis and Boulder County Sheriff Joe Pelle. The complaint alleges that the three defendants are respon-

sible for unnecessarily and unjustifiably causing the ACLU's client, Michelle Reynolds, to spend fifteen harrowing days locked up in jail with no opportunity to post bond and obtain pretrial release.

"People who are accused of a crime but not convicted are innocent in the eyes of the law," said Mark Silverstein, ACLU of Colorado Legal Director. "The Constitu-

tution guarantees a prompt opportunity to post bond and obtain pretrial release from jail. Fifteen days is nowhere near prompt."

On Friday, August 23, 2019, Ms. Reynolds was driving through Mesa County on her way to watch her niece's volleyball game when she was stopped for speeding. After a computer check, the officer discovered

an outstanding warrant issued ten months earlier by a Boulder judge. Ms. Reynolds had no criminal record and had no idea that a warrant had been issued for her arrest. She was taken into custody and booked into the Mesa County Jail. Because no bond had been set on the warrant, Ms.

See [ACLU](#) on page 24



"The traumatic events that occurred during my wrongfully incarcerated 15 days did not end once I was released. The emotional distress will be with me for the rest of my life. It's absolutely tragic and appalling how broken the legal system truly is."

Michelle Reynolds

## ACLU de Colorado Demandó al Juez y a los Alguaciles

### COLORADO

**E**n una presentación esta semana en el tribunal de distrito federal, los abogados de la American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) demandaron al juez principal del condado de Mesa, Brian Flynn, así como al alguacil del

Joe Pelle. La demandó alega que los tres acusados son responsables de causar innecesaria e injustificadamente que la cliente de la ACLU, Michelle Reynolds, pasó quince días angustiosos encerrada en la cárcel sin oportunidad de pagar una fianza y obtener la libertad previa al juicio.

"Las personas acusadas de un delito pero no condenadas son inocentes a los ojos de la ley", dijo Mark Silverstein, director legal de la ACLU de Colorado. "La Constitución nos garantiza una oportunidad rápida para pagar una fianza y obtener la libertad previa al juicio de la cárcel. Quince días no es ni mucho menos pronto."

El viernes 23 de agosto de 2019, la Sra. Reynolds conducía por el condado de Mesa en camino a ver el juego de voleibol de su sobrina cuando la detuvieron por exceso de velocidad. Después de una verificación por computadora, el oficial descubrió una orden pendiente emitida diez meses antes por un juez de Boulder. La Sra. Reyn-

olds

“Los eventos traumáticos que ocurrieron durante mis 15 días encarcelados injustamente no terminaron una vez que fui liberada. La angustia emocional estará conmigo por el resto de mi vida. Es absolutamente trágico y espantoso lo quebrado que es realmente el sistema legal.”

Michelle Reynolds

condado de Mesa, Matt Lewis y al alguacil del condado de Boulder,

Vea [ACLU/Esp](#), página 22

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## State News / Noticias del Estado

## Indigenous Students Share Their Experiences During Pandemic

## NEW MEXICO

By Sunnie R. Clahchischiligi

**N**ot far from the Shiprock pinnacle on the Navajo Nation, just as the sun rises, brothers Makai and Elishah Tsosie crawl out of their warm beds.

They rub their eyes, get dressed, drag their feet to the kitchen for breakfast and prepare for another day of learning in the family dining room.

Their mother, Philana Harrison,

is up long before them. Just before she nudges the boys to get up, she places a phone call to Tsé Bit Aí Middle School to report that her sons — Makai, 14, and Elishah, 13 — will be present and accounted for. She'll spend the rest of the day trying to help the kids with school while also working as a home health aide for her elderly father.

After breakfast, the brothers situate themselves at the table, in separate cubbies their mother put together. From about 9 a.m. to about 4:30 p.m., they attend online school.

Every school day for the past year has followed this same cycle — the morning phone call, the boys dragging their feet out of bed, and the evening homework sessions if either of them needs to catch up.

"It makes me feel lonely at times," Makai, a seventh-grader, says. "We don't really get to see anyone at all, and we're just always stuck at home."

Students everywhere are struggling with the emotional impacts of the pandemic due to the isolation — the worry about spreading COVID-19 to family members and



Photo/foto: Curtis Ray Benally/Fox Searchlight New México

Brothers Elishah (left) and Makai Tsosie take a break from their chores and enjoy some horseback riding on the family ranch outside of Lake Valley, N.M. / Los hermanos Elishah (izquierda) y Makai Tsosie se toman un descanso de sus tareas y disfrutan de un paseo a caballo en el rancho familiar en las afueras de Lake Valley, N.M.

## GET YOUR FREE COVID-19 VACCINE!

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- If you don't receive an alert for an appointment, **walk-up appointments are available.**
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the guilt if that occurs. Depression and anxiety have been so pronounced for young people that the CDC has issued alerts about the emotional toll. For Indigenous students, the toll might be even greater.

Many Native students live in remote areas with no internet access at home. Some live without basic necessities like electricity and running water, and many carry the weight of loss on their shoulders, having seen the virus rampage through their communities, families and villages, sometimes snatching family members one by one.

On the Navajo Nation alone, at least 30,267 people have tested positive for the coronavirus; 1,262 have died. And it is widely known that Indian Country as a whole has suffered disproportionately from the pandemic, due to government neglect and generations of inadequate health care. A recent CDC study found that the cumulative incidence of COVID-19 was 3.5 times greater for Native peoples than for whites.

Here is how some Indigenous students describe their experiences.

### Makai Tsosie, Diné

"I feel that it's really challenging, and it's hard to just do my assignments by myself," Makai says. "In fifth grade, we were taught to learn in groups and learn to work together, and not by yourself."

When you're in a brick-and-mortar classroom, "teachers teach your work to you — they work the problems out with you." At home, he can't get the same guidance.

And when his parents try to help, there's still something missing. "Our parents don't really remember how to do certain assignments that we're doing."



"Sometimes you feel like it's hell, but it's just the moment that has a grasp on you. You can't let it get a hold of you. You just have to realize it's just in that moment, and it will pass."

Geoffrey Hugte, Zuni Pueblo

For most Navajo kids, the reservation is a dirt playground. Kids don't have access to basketball courts because most are in school gyms — and schools are locked. Most kids don't have cement driveways, paved streets or grass fields to practice sports. And they can't play in nearby parks — there typically are none.

Making matters far worse, Makai lost an uncle to the virus, a relative who encouraged him to keep up with his schoolwork and helped him practice roping. After his uncle's death, Makai started sleeping more and fell behind in school. As with many Navajo kids, his extended family was just as important to him as his immediate family.

## Estudiantes Indígenas Hablan de Sus Experiencias Durante la Pandemia



asistente de salud en el hogar para su anciano padre.

Después de desayunar, los hermanos se sitúan en la mesa, en cubículos separados que su madre ha montado. Desde las 9 de la mañana hasta las 4:30 de la tarde aproximadamente, asisten a la escuela en línea.

Todos los días de clase del último año han seguido este mismo ciclo: la llamada telefónica de la mañana, los chicos arrastrando los pies fuera de la cama y las sesiones de deberes de la noche si alguno de ellos necesita ponerse al día.

"A veces me siento solo", dice Makai, de séptimo grado. "No podemos ver a nadie en absoluto, y siempre estamos atrapados en casa".

Los estudiantes de todo el mundo están luchando con los impactos emocionales de la pandemia debido al aislamiento: la preocupación por el contagio de COVID-19 a los miembros de la familia y la culpa si eso ocurre. La depresión y la ansiedad han sido tan pronunciadas para los jóvenes que los CDC han emitido alertas sobre el costo emocional. En el

“

"A veces sientes que es un infierno, pero es el momento el que te domina. No puedes dejar que te atrape. Sólo tienes que darte cuenta de que es sólo en ese momento, y que pasará".

Geoffrey Hughte, Zuni Pueblo

Vea [Indígenas](#), página 23

**Thalia Lee lanza canastas en el patio trasero de su casa en Albuquerque. Se toma un descanso de las tareas escolares para jugar al baloncesto, a menudo con sus hermanos pequeños. / Thalia Lee shoots hoops in the backyard of her home in Albuquerque. She takes breaks from schoolwork to play basketball, often with her younger brothers.**

### NEW MEXICO

Por Sunnie R. Clahchischili

No muy lejos de la cumbre de Shiprock, en la Nación Navajo, justo cuando sale el sol, los hermanos Makai y Elishah Tsosie se arrastran fuera de sus cálidas camas.

Se frotan los ojos, se visten, arrastran los pies hasta la cocina para desayunar y se preparan

para otro día de aprendizaje en el comedor familiar.

Su madre, Philana Harrison, se levanta mucho antes que ellos. Justo antes de dar un empujón a los chicos para que se levanten, hace una llamada telefónica a la escuela secundaria Tsé Bit Aí para informar de que sus hijos -Makai, de 14 años, y Elishah, de 13- estarán presentes y serán atendidos. Pasará el resto del día tratando de ayudar a los niños con la escuela mientras también trabaja como

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- Si usted no recibe una alerta para una cita, **hay citas disponibles el mismo día.**
- Apoyo lingüístico estará disponible, no identificación será requerida.



## New México Holds on to Its' Three Congressional Seats

### NEW MEXICO

The U.S. Census Bureau released apportionment data this week, including state population totals that are the basis for allocating seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and the number of seats awarded to each

According to the data released, the following congressional seat changes will occur: Texas will gain two seats in the House of Representatives; Colorado, Florida, Montana, North Carolina, and Oregon will each gain one seat; California, Illinois, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia will each lose one seat; And the remaining states' number of seats, including New México, will not change based on the 2020 Census.

"Despite the enormous challenges New México and the rest of the country faced in 2020, in the midst of a pandemic, I want to extend my most sincere gratitude and appreciation for all of the countless volunteers, community leaders, community organizers, and trusted community organizations that put in an incredible amount of work to ensure New Mexicans were counted during an unprecedented Census count," said Oriana Sandoval, CEO of the Center for Civic Policy, co-lead of the NM Community Engagement Complete Count Com-

“

"As the Census data is approved by Congress, it is paramount we work at the local level to ensure political maps are drawn fairly and equitably, to guarantee representation of each resident of our state."

Oriana Sandoval, Center for Civic Policy

state for the next decade, starting in 2023. The 2020 Census shows the resident population of the United States on April 1, 2020, was 331,449,281.

See [Census](#) on page 18



## State News / Noticias del Estado

## Grijalva Presses for Humane Solutions to Help Asylum Seekers

**ARIZONA**

**O**n April 27, Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva sent a letter to President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris regarding the current situation at the border. Instead of more troop deployments, militarization, and border wall construction, he instead advocated for more federal funds to nonprofits, cities, and counties to assist asylum-seeking families.

"For too long, we've seen inflammatory rhetoric and political opportunism continually impede efforts to address the balance between security, humanitarianism, and legal processes that the border desperately needs," wrote

Rep. Grijalva. "Without taking urgent action and implementing a multi-pronged approach to address the myriad of issues at the border; human desperation, hopelessness, and fear will continue to dominate immigration issues."

"As non-governmental organizations, counties, and cities continue to assist, I ask that federal funds be designated so these entities can immediately access them and continue helping asylum-seeking families," continued Rep. Grijalva. "These entities have the expertise and desire to support these families. The millions of dollars designated towards the DHS soft-sided detention facilities and hotel beds and related services to provide

for Emergency Family Reception Sites (EFRS) ignore the community-based options for asylum-seekers that have the proven reputation, demonstrated success, and capacity to collaborate with the federal government to address this ongoing challenge."

In his letter, Rep. Grijalva urged the Biden Administration to include border communities in environmental mitigation plans, immediately cancel border wall contracts, divert existing funds to mitigate the most egregious damage from the border wall, and remove all military personnel and equipment from border communities.

"While Governor Ducey continues to militarize the southern

border with his latest politically-motivated deployment of the National Guard, it is imperative that asylum-seeking families are not met with guns and troops," he wrote. "This deployment is a waste of taxpayer dollars and does nothing to address the needs of these families and those assisting them. It is unfortunate, though not surprising that Governor Ducey has decided to take unilateral action without consulting with the various local officials on the current needs of border communities."

Read the full letter [here](#).

**For More Arizona News:**

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"While Governor Ducey continues to militarize the southern border with his latest politically-motivated deployment of the National Guard, it is imperative that asylum-seeking families are not met with guns and troops. This deployment is a waste of taxpayer dollars and does nothing to address the needs of these families and those assisting them."

U.S. Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva

## MALDEF Sends Letters Warning Against COVID-19 Vaccine Discrimination

**CALIFORNIA**

**A** Latino civil rights organization warned California state health officials and a public university healthcare system that requiring – or even appearing to require – a social security number or other immigration status information for a COVID-19 vaccine appointment is a violation of state law, according to two letters sent recently.

MALDEF (Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund) sent letters to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the University of California San Diego Health (UCSD Health) explain-

ing that appearing to require proof of citizenship or lawful presence in the United States could deter undocumented and other immigrants from getting the COVID-19 vaccine and violates California's Unruh Civil Rights Act. The Unruh Act prohibits discrimination against any individual based on race, national origin or immigration status.

"Our state faces enough challenges to achieve widespread immunization against COVID-19," said Thomas A. Saenz, MALDEF president and general counsel. "We should not be compounding those challenges by misleading those who may be most at risk from the continuing pandemic."

MALDEF sent a letter to the California State Public Health Officer (CDPH) and its director after hearing from people who made vaccine appointments through California's My Turn website. According to the letter, emails and texts confirming the vaccine appointments include a link to the Covered California webpage called "Proof of Immigration Status or Lawful Presence." Sending the page link may mislead some undocumented immigrants to believe they are not eligible to receive the vaccine, the letter says. Additionally, the confirmation emails, texts or webpage do not include the information that

COVID-19 vaccines cannot be denied based on immigration status.

MALDEF also requested that CDPH inform registrants that COVID-19 vaccines cannot be denied based on immigration status and to remove the link to the "Proof of Immigration" webpage.

A second letter was sent to the UCSD Health because the university's vaccine registration website has a required field for a social security number. Requesting such information incorrectly implies that a person must have a social security number to get a vaccine, and that people without social security numbers, including undocumented immigrants, are not eligible for a vaccine, according to the letter. MALDEF asked the university to revise its materials and websites to remove the request for a social security number or expressly offer an alternative such as an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) or "000-00-0000" directly on its scheduling form. That alternative is only reflected on a separate webpage.

In both cases, MALDEF points out that practices or policies that deter people from getting the vaccine puts the unvaccinated and their communities at risk.



"It is troubling that, this far into vaccine distribution efforts, the CDPH's and UCSD's carelessness may discourage the very immigrant communities most negatively affected by the deadly pandemic from receiving the vaccines to which they are entitled."

Juan Rodríguez,  
MALDEF

"It is troubling that, this far into vaccine distribution efforts, the CDPH's and UCSD's carelessness may discourage the very immigrant communities most negatively affected by the deadly pandemic from receiving the vaccines to which they are entitled," said MALDEF attorney Juan Rodríguez.

Read the letter to the California Department of Public Health [here](#).

Read the letter to the University of California, San Diego [here](#).

**For More California News:**  
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### ¿Está atrasado en su alquiler?

PROGRAMA DE EMERGENCIA DE ASISTENCIA DE ALQUILER DEBIDO A COVID-19

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## Florida State Senate Advances Voter Suppression Bill

### FLORIDA

By Jessica Corbett

**B**olstering recent calls for federal legislation to protect and expand voting rights, the GOP-controlled Florida state Senate marked Confederate Memorial Day on Monday by advancing a bill that—similar to a law enacted by Georgia Republicans last month—critics are condemning as “Jim Crow 2.0.”

“Instead of upholding the fundamental right to vote, certain Florida senators have decided to become accomplices to the nationwide voter suppression scheme underway by passing this undemocratic bill,” said Kara Gross, legislative direc-

tor and senior policy counsel of the ACLU of Florida, in a statement. “They are suppressing the right to vote by obstructing access to vote-by-mail.”

Members of the upper chamber passed [Senate Bill 90](#) in a 23-17 [vote](#). The bill would limit ballot drop boxes, require residents to submit vote-by-mail requests for each election cycle, impose more identification requirements for absentee ballots, and criminalize giving food and water to voters waiting in line.

NBC News reports the Florida House is “working on a similar, but not identical, legislation. That measure, for example, was stripped of language limiting the handing out of food and water to voters, although the bill’s sponsor suggest-

ed it could still bar the practice if the people doing so are trying to influence a voter’s decision.”

While states nationwide have seen an increase in absentee voting during the coronavirus pandemic, Gross noted that “in 2020, about 4.8 million voters in Florida cast their ballots by mail. More than 1.5 million Floridians used a secure drop box to safely and conveniently return their ballot. Nothing about Florida’s elections has shown a need for this law.”

“In fact, legislators should be encouraged that Floridians turned out in record numbers to participate in their democracy,” she said. “It should prompt our legislators to seek ways to improve voter access by streamlining voter signa-

ture-matching procedures and ensuring uniformity across all counties, or encouraging more equitable polling places. Supervisors of elections have made it clear that this bill will create unnecessary hurdles to administering elections in Florida. Yet, certain senators are choosing to pass initiatives, like S.B. 90, that would make it harder for Floridians to vote.”

“We call on Floridians to tell their state representatives to stop this bill,” Gross added. “We call on corporations to demand legislators stand up for voting rights. We call on all legislators to break down—not erect—barriers to Floridians’ fundamental right to vote. Voting is the cornerstone of our democracy and the fundamental right upon

“

Instead of upholding the fundamental right to vote, certain Florida senators have decided to become accomplices to the nationwide voter suppression scheme underway by passing this undemocratic bill. They are suppressing the right to vote by obstructing access to vote-by-mail.”

Kara Gross, ACLU, Florida

See [Suppression](#) on page 18

## Addressing the Crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

### NEVADA



Photo Office of Sen. Cortez Masto

to see the Administration enact our landmark legislation, and I am confident it will help us deliver justice for the thousands of Native women and girls that have been targeted. I look forward to continuing to work with Senator Murkowski and the Administration to protect Native communities in Nevada and across the country.”

Cortez Masto and Murkowski have led efforts in the Senate to protect Native communities and to combat the dangerous epidemic of missing, murdered, and trafficked Indigenous women and girls.

“It’s a proud moment to see the actions being taken to implement the Not Invisible Act, and I thank

down by the complex law enforcement systems in place,” said Senator Murkowski. “I am hopeful that this new Joint Commission will be instrumental in protecting women and girls and will provide direct solutions to this pervasive issue. This is one more step toward heal-

ing an open wound which plagues Native communities.”

Working together, the bipartisan pair of Senators introduced the [Not Invisible Act](#) and [Savanna’s Act](#), which passed the Senate on a unanimous, bipartisan vote and were signed into law in October

2020. The *Not Invisible Act* created a point person in the Bureau of Indian Affairs to improve coordination of violent crime prevention across federal agencies and established the commission that DOI and DOJ

See [Crisis](#) on page 22

## COVID-19 Vaccine Facts

**IT’S OK TO HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE VACCINE**

“This is a welcome step from the Administration and it will make an enormous difference in our efforts to address the epidemic of missing, murdered, and trafficked Native women.”

U.S. Senator Catherine Cortez Masto

Senator Cortez Masto for her efforts as we have worked together on this issue. Addressing the crisis of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls has long been a priority of mine. Too many families have faced unspeakable loss as Native women have gone missing, murdered, or trafficked and let

The truth is vaccines allow you to build immunity without the increased rates of death in the community. COVID-19 can cause serious health problems and it is life-threatening. Lives can be saved by getting vaccinated. Relying on natural immunity is not as effective as vaccine immunity.



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## National News/Noticias Nacionales

## United We Dream: Stop the Deportations

By Jake Johnson

**R**ights group United We Dream warned on that unless he takes immediate steps to improve his administration's treatment of immigrants, President Joe Biden is at serious risk of repeating the destructive failures of former President Barack Obama, who deported roughly three million people during his eight years in office.

Despite Biden's characterization of Obama's mass deportations as a "mistake" and pledge to usher in a more humane immigration system, United We Dream estimates that the administration has deported just over 300,000 people since January—largely using a Trump-era policy called Title 42.

The policy was first issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) last March—at the start of the coronavirus pandemic—and has been kept in place by the Biden administration. As Human Rights Watch (HRW) explained earlier this month, "The Title 42 expulsion policy has effectively closed the U.S. border to nearly all asylum seekers based on the misapplication of an obscure, 75-year-old public health law."

"That law, the Public Health Service Act of 1944, was designed to confer quarantine authority to health authorities that would apply to everyone, including U.S. citizens, arriving from a foreign country," HRW noted. "Quarantine authority was never meant to be used to determine which noncitizens could or couldn't be expelled or removed from the U.S."

In a statement on Monday, Cynthia García of United We Dream stressed that "Title 42 was designed under one of the most anti-immigrant administrations in modern history."

"President Biden and the Department of Homeland Security must be reminded that their inaction to protect vulnerable immigrant communities seeking refuge in the U.S. is not only putting lives on the line; it upholds a white nationalist immigration system that seeks to expel and keep Black and Brown immigrants out at any cost," said García, who voiced dismay at the Biden administration's deportation of vulnerable Haitians and others.

According to a report (pdf) released late last month by the Haitian Bridge Alliance and other advocacy groups, the Biden administration

used Title 42 to deport more Haitians during its first weeks in power than the Trump administration did in all of Fiscal Year 2020.

"Reflecting on his time as vice president, President Biden acknowledged that the Obama administration was wrong in deporting over 2.5 million people and vowed to never make that mistake again when he took office," García continued. "President Biden is well on track to repeat history. Now, he must make a choice: repeat the mistakes of the Obama administration or do everything in his power to end the cruelty of detentions, expulsions, and deportations and show that he is a president of his word."

National Partnership for New Americans (NPNA), a coalition of more than 40 immigrant and refugee rights organizations, echoed United We Dream's concerns about continued mass deportations during the first 100 days of the Biden administration.

While pointing to positive steps Biden has taken since January—such as ending Trump's Muslim ban and pushing for a path to citizenship for Dreamers—NPNA noted that "there are many changes that the Biden administration can pur-

sue with little to no congressional action, including ending the use of Title 42 expulsions, redesignating [Temporary Protected Status] for Haiti and other countries [that] are set to expire, and increasing the number of refugees that the U.S. will resettle as part of the presidential determination."

"These are literally life or death decisions that will impact millions of lives," the group said. "The administration can also take action to expand access to citizenship and justice and to bolster due process protections through an increase of legal representation for those in detention and removal proceedings."

**Jake Johnson is a Staff Writer with CommonDreams.**

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"President Biden and the Department of Homeland Security must be reminded that their inaction to protect vulnerable immigrant communities seeking refuge in the U.S. is not only putting lives on the line; it upholds a white nationalist immigration system that seeks to expel and keep Black and Brown immigrants out at any cost."

Cynthia García, United We Dream

## La Verdad Sobre la Vacuna COVID-19

# ES NORMAL TENER DUDAS SOBRE LA VACUNA

La verdad es que las vacunas nos ayudan a desarrollar inmunidad. COVID-19 puede causar problemas de salud graves y es potencialmente mortal. Se pueden salvar vidas vacunándose. Es mas efectivo alcanzar inmunidad con la vacuna.



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### Suppression

which all our civil liberties rest. It must not be compromised."

According to NBC, during a debate before the vote Monday, Florida state Senate Democrats framed the legislation as a result of former President Donald Trump's "Big Lie" that the 2020 election was "stolen" from him as well as an continuation of the Jim Crow South, blasting the bill as "Georgia light."

"This bill is just a vindictive way of trying to punish people for an election that some people just didn't like at the national level," said state Sen. Audrey Gibson (D-6). "Not one indication of fraud, just a lot of folks decided that they were fed up and they wanted to vote."

During a committee hearing about the legislation last week, state Sen. Perry Thurston (D-33) said that "the people who are the descendants of the people of who were affected by Jim Crow, they know that during that time the people didn't say that these Jim Crow laws are designed to keep you in place."

"They didn't say these Jim Crow laws are designed to stop you from voting," Thurston continued. "Nobody came out and said poll taxes are designed to do this. When you look at that history, then you have to say well I'm going to analyze this legislation under those lights."

As *Slate*'s Jeremy Stahl pointed out Monday: "The state is one of five in the country that still officially observes as a holiday the April 26, 1865 surrender at Bennett Place,

North Carolina, of the last large field army of the Confederate forces that fought to destroy the United States and maintain slavery.

...It's Florida's long history of white supremacy—celebrated by Confederate Memorial Day, which state legislators tried and failed to eliminate earlier this year—that voting rights advocates say the measure hearkens back to."

Reporting on the bill last week, the *New York Times* noted that because the Florida Legislature's current session is nearly over, any legislation would have to be passed by both chambers before May 1.

The development in Florida comes amid a widespread attack on voting rights by Republicans in state legislatures across the country. According to the Brennan Center for Justice at the New York University School of Law, this year GOP lawmakers in 47 states have introduced at least 361 bills with restrictive voting provisions.

Republicans' voter suppression efforts at the state level have fueled demands for the Democrat-controlled Congress to urgently pass the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act—and to abolish the filibuster if Senate Republicans try to stand in the way.

**Jessica Corbett is a Staff Writer with CommonDreams.**

**For More Florida News:**

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tigos de los efectos traumáticos de nuestro sistema policial actual y es hora de cambiar.

Este proyecto de ley sería un paso en la dirección correcta de poner nuestro sistema criminal a funcionar de la manera que debería, en vez de vigilar en exceso a las comunidades de bajos ingresos y no apuntar a los miembros de la comunidad BIPOC. Queremos vivir en comunidades seguras. Queremos estar protegidos por aquellos que juraron hacer eso. Pero todos los hechos están ahí, el sistema está establecido para sacar provecho de nuestra comunidad y pone en peligro la vida y la seguridad de nuestros vecinos. Más del 60% de los habitantes de Colorado en la cárcel ni siquiera son condenados por un delito, sin embargo, se sientan en una celda de la cárcel porque simplemente no pueden pagar la fianza.

Si bien puede pensar que esto probablemente no afectará su vida, les pido que piensen en sus comunidades y sus vecinos. Les

pido que piensen en la larga lista de personas que han perdido la vida después de ser arrestadas por delitos menores en Colorado. Les insto a que piensen cuántos nombres tiene esa lista en nuestro país. SB21-62 puede salvar vidas, todas las vidas. Por eso, no solo les pido a los legisladores, sino también a los miembros de la comunidad que se informen sobre este proyecto de ley y vean cómo pueden cambiar positivamente nuestras comunidades. La única forma en que podemos comenzar a reparar un sistema que está tan roto es uniéndonos y poniendo en práctica proyectos de ley como SB21-62.

*Bianey Bermudez es asistente de comunicaciones en la American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) de Colorado y defensora de los derechos humanos.*

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## Bermudez

brown neighbors and people with mental health problems. We've all witnessed the traumatizing effects of our current policing system and it's time for change.

This bill would be a step in the right direction of putting our criminal system to work the way it should not by over policing low-income communities and not by targeting BIPOC community members. We want to live in safe communities. We want to be protected by those who swore to do that. But the facts are all there, the system is set in place to profit from our community and puts the lives and safety of our neighbors in jeopardy for it. Over 60% of Coloradans in jail aren't even convicted of a crime, yet they sit in a jail cell because they simply can't afford bail.

While you might think this probably won't affect you, I urge you to think about your community and

your neighbors. I urge you to think about the long list of people who have lost their lives after being arrested on low level offenses in Colorado. I urge you to think about how long that list is for our country.

SB21-62 can save lives, all lives. And so, I'm asking not only legislators but community members to inform themselves on this bill and see how it can positively change our communities. The only way we can begin to repair a system that is so broken is by coming together and putting bills like SB21-62 in action.

*Bianey Bermudez is a communications assistant at the American Civil Liberties Union of Colorado and advocate for human rights.*

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## Queer

for Change and Equity (ENLACE) program, with funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, I set out to create a telenovela starring queer Latinx youth in their own stories of bravery. The newly launched [ENLACE series](#) can be found on YouTube (and [here](#) on the YES! site). The videos are all created by queer Latinx youth who participated in a filmmaking workshop led by [Outside the Frame](#) and [Oregon State University](#), where I am an assistant professor and director of the Global Health Program.

The episodes include the story of [Nat](#), an 18-year-old born in Portland, Oregon, who uses they/them pronouns. They are a person with a physical disability, severe social anxiety, and bipolar disorder. Nat explains, "I don't think I'd last very long if I didn't have access to health care."

Their father was deported to México when Nat was 2. Their mother is White. In Nat's telenovela, their mom draws a grotesque parallel between traversing the gender binary and crossing the U.S.-México border: "They' isn't a real thing," Nat's mother proclaims. "No one's gonna respect you if you live in some kinda fantasy world. You are just like your father. Like, what did he think? He could cross the border and live in some magical world. And

where is he now? He's in México. There are boys, and there are girls."

Nat demands that their mom support them: "It is hard enough dealing with people outside of this house, but coming home and still not feeling safe and accepted—it's too much."

Nat's interaction with their mom raises an important point about queer Latinx youth: Their parents, along with other family and friends, have a powerful opportunity to be their children's advocates. Many Latinx parents in the ENLACE community advisory board grappled with traditional Catholic teaching that homosexuality is a sin; however, they held that no matter what, no child should be made to feel so alone that they attempt suicide. A [2020 national survey](#) found that 40% of LGBTQ youth and 52% of transgender and nonbinary youth have seriously considered suicide.

When I came out at the age of 13, my *abuelita* moved our family to an independent Catholic Church, not affiliated with Rome, that welcomed LGBTQ people. To let me know she understood how it felt to be rejected, she bravely told me the story of having been excommunicated in Colombia because she wanted to start contraceptives after almost dying when she had her 10th child. As both my grand-

mother and the queer Latinx protagonists in the videos show, when people share personal journeys of marginalization, even others who do not share their precise identity can find solidarity.

As such, the youth who created these telenovela-inspired videos hope they can be used as part of a toolkit to train allies or strengthen intersectional brave spaces. For example, the youth believe the videos can be used to amplify representation of queer youth of color in institutional settings, including [4-H clubs](#), Genders and Sexualities Alliances (GSAs) in schools and family support groups (such as [PFLAG](#)) across the country. Together, the series explores school bullying, family rejection, self-harm, and crossing the U.S.-Mexico border—all to let youth with similar experiences know "there's a whole community out there," they are not "alien," and they do not have to feel alone.

*Jonathan García, Ph.D., is Assistant Professor and Program Director of Global Health at Oregon State University. Originally published by Yes! Magazine.*

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them and their families, frustrated. The "Deporter In Chief" will be his permanent alias, whenever the issue of immigration in the Obama presidency is analyzed.

On the other hand, no one forgets that the Chief of Staff for Obama from January 2009 to October 2010, Rahm Emanuel, avoided the immigration issue, considering it "harmful" to some Democrats. But he was wrong, and subsequent elections proved it. In fact, tackling the immigration issue without fear helps Democrats win elections. Biden is the most recent example of this. As a candidate, he did not hesitate to support reform. As a

president, he has offered a bill with a path to legalization for 11 million undocumented immigrants.

But the increase in numbers of unaccompanied migrant children arriving at the border; Republican critics; press headlines; some surveys that give bad marks to management of the border issue; as well as the fears of moderate Democrats; have begun to have repercussions on the White House's decisions.

One would think that, by now, Democrats would not fall into the same trap. After all, a majority of the players are veterans of previous battles, who should know the

Republican playbook by heart. But what happened on April 16 showed that this is not the case. If pressure made them break a campaign



Did they think no one would realize it, and that their acquired legitimacy after the elections was a blank slate to change positions or, in any case, go back on promises?

promise to increase the refugee cap to 125,000, although they then

reversed course—what will happen when they face opposition to measures to legalize millions?

In the first instance, it could be concluded that the form in which the White House ultimately responded was, in some way, a "solution"; but let it not be lost that this came after pressure.

What Biden cannot forget is the historic moment in which this White House finds itself, in the middle of a pandemic, with a politically divided country after the Trump presidency, who focused on immigrants in the cruel and more nefarious public policies. A coalition of voters chose him over Trump, looking for real

and humane solutions to problems, including the urgent need for immigration reform that has the support of a majority of U.S. citizens.

The situation at the border must not jettison the efforts to legalize those who have lived here for decades. Neither should Democratic paralysis, every time the opposition tightens the screws.

**Maribel Hastings** is a Senior Advisor to América's Voice. **David Torres** is a Spanish-language Advisor at América's Voice.

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## Hastings/Esp

necesitan—queda de hecho evi-denciada al apenas dar tres o cuatro pasos en el ejercicio de la función pública, como si caminar por el lado correcto de la historia fuera tan solo el ensayo de una orquesta que jamás interpretará sus sintonías.

Cómo olvidar que Barack Obama prometió una reforma migratoria, y aunque tenía a su favor un Congreso demócrata optó por buscar apoyo bipartidista. Y, para ello, recrudeció las deportaciones. Al final ni hubo apoyo republicano y mucho menos hubo reforma. Hubo separación familiar y millones de indocumentados vieron frustrados sus esfuerzos por alcanzar un mejor nivel de vida, para

ellos y para sus familias. El "Deportador en jefe" quedará como alias permanente, siempre que se analice el tema migratorio durante su presidencia.

Por otra parte, nadie olvida que el jefe de despacho de Obama de enero de 2009 a octubre de 2010, Rahm Emanuel, evadió el tema migratorio por considerarlo "perjudicial" para algunos demócratas. Pero estaba equivocado, y las elecciones subsiguientes lo demostraron. Ahora bien, abordar sin temor el tema migratorio ayuda a los demócratas a ganar elecciones. Biden es el más reciente ejemplo de ello. Como candidato, no titubeó en su apoyo a la reforma. Como presidente, presentó un

que ese no es el caso. Y la interrogante es si la presión los llevó a romper una promesa de campaña de aumentar el tope de refugiados a 125 mil, aunque luego hayan revertido el curso, ¿qué pasará cuando enfrenten oposición a medidas que busquen legalizar a millones?

En una primera instancia, se podría concluir que la forma en que respondió la Casa Blanca fue, de algún modo, una "solución", pero no hay que pasar por alto que lo hizo bajo presión. Y no se trata específicamente del problema de los refugiados, sino que pudo haber sido otro tema del ámbito migratorio.

Lo que no debe olvidar Biden es el momento histórico en que llega a la Casa Blanca, en medio de una pandemia, con un país políticamente dividido tras la presidencia de Trump, quien centró en los inmigrantes sus políticas públicas más crueles y nefastas. Una coalición de electores lo favoreció sobre Trump, buscando soluciones reales y humanas a nuestros problemas, incluyendo la urgente necesidad de una reforma migratoria que tiene el aval de la mayoría de los estadounidenses.

La situación en la frontera no debe echar por la borda los esfuer-

zos de legalizar a quienes llevan décadas aquí. Como tampoco debe hacerlo la parálisis demócrata cada vez que la oposición aprieta los tornillos.

**Maribel Hastings** es Asesora Ejecutiva de América's Voice.  
**David Torres** es Asesor en Español de América's Voice.

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## Census

mittee, and member of NM's Complete Count Committee.

"Over the course of 6 months, we made hundreds of thousands of calls, texted tens of thousands of people, and mail thousands of households across the state to ensure they were counted in the decennial count. Today we see the fruit of our hard work by keeping our three congressional seats to represent every family in our nation's capital."

Sandoval added, "But our work is not done yet. As the Census data is approved by Congress, it is paramount we work at the local level to ensure political maps are drawn fairly and equitably, to guarantee representation of each resident of our state."

Redistricting data include the local area counts states need to redraw legislative boundaries. Due to modifications to processing activities, COVID-19 data collections delays, and the Census Bureau's obligation to provide high-quality data, states are expected to receive redistricting data by August 16, and the full redistricting data with toolkits for ease of use will be delivered by September 30.

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If anything, Central América's problems have gotten worse. COVID-19 is raging across the region. Two Category 5 hurricanes hit Honduras within two weeks in late 2020, leaving more than 250,000 homeless.

Some experts have been calling for a "mini-Marshall Plan" to stabilize Central América, like the U.S. program that rebuilt Europe after World War II.

### The Costa Rica counterpoint

To imagine a way out of Central América's problems, the history of Costa Rica – a democratic and stable Central American country – is illustrative.

Costa Rica's path to success started soon after independence from Spain in 1821.

It developed a coffee economy that tied it early to the developing global capitalist economy. While other Central American countries fought prolonged civil wars, Costa Rica adopted a liberal constitution and invested in public education.

Costa Rican democracy strengthened in the 1940s with a constitutional amendment that established a minimum wage and protected women and children from labor abuses. It also established a national social security system, which today provides health care and pensions to all Costa Ricans.

These reforms triggered civil war. But the war's end brought about positive transformations. In 1948, Costa Rica abolished its military. No spending in defense allows Costa Rica to invest in human development.

The country also created a credible electoral system to ensure the legitimacy of elected governments.

Over the next seven decades, consecutive Costa Rican governments expanded this welfare state, developing a large urban and rural middle class. Already a trusted U.S. ally when the Cold War began, Costa Rica was able to maintain progressive policies

of the sort that, in other countries, the American government viewed as suspiciously "socialist."

Today, Costa Rica invests nearly 30% of its annual budget in public education, from kindergarten to college. Health care represents around 14.8% of the budget.

The U.S. is not a draw for Costa Ricans. Instead, my country has itself received hundreds of thousands of Central American migrants.

### Predatory elites and authoritarian politics

The migrants are fleeing political systems that are broadly repressive and prone to militarism, autocracy and corruption. In large part, that's because many Central American countries are dominated by small yet powerful economic and political elites, many dating back generations.

These elites benefit from the status quo. In the Northern Tri-

angle, they have repeatedly proven unwilling to promote the structural transformations – from more equitable taxation and educational investment to agrarian reforms – that could end centuries of oppression and deprivation.

During the Cold War, they quashed popular revolutions pursuing such changes, often with U.S. support.

Biden's Central América plan requires the active participation of this "predatory elite," in the words of Biden adviser Juan Gonzalez.

Gonzales told NPR in March that the administration would take a "partnership-based approach" in Central América, using both "carrots and sticks" to push powerful people who may not share the U.S.'s goals to help their own people. The U.S. will also enlist local human rights organizations and pro-democracy groups to aid their cause.

It's too early to know if the ex-

pected partnerships with Central American leaders will materialize.

The Salvadoran president recently refused to meet with Biden's special envoy to the Northern Triangle. Honduras' president is named in a U.S. criminal investigation into his brother's alleged drug-smuggling ring.

Still, without the U.S. resources being offered, Central América's troubles will persist. Money alone won't solve them – but it is a necessary piece of an enormously complicated puzzle.

**Luis Guillermo Solis** is a Distinguished Professor, Director of the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center, Florida International University. Luis Guillermo Solis was the President of Costa Rica from 2014 to 2018. Originally published by *The Conversation*.

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### Borbon

A \$225 fine becomes a \$1,032 debt when additional fees are added: (the following represents Dario's debts):

#### Fines:

Misdemeanor Fine: ..... \$75.00  
Traffic Fine: ..... \$150.00

#### Fees:

Victim's Compensation Fund: \$66.00

Victim's Assistance Fund: ... \$134.00

Evaluation & Supervision: ...\$200.00

Court Security Cash Fund: ....\$.50.00

Court Costs: .....\$21.00

LEAF Assessment:.....\$90.00

Traumatic Brain Injury Trust

Fund: .....\$15.00

Additional Surcharge: .....\$50.00

Genetic Testing Surcharge: ....\$2.50

Useful Public Service Fee:....\$80.00

Cost of Prosecution-Crg

Agncy: .....\$88.66

Time Payment Fee: ..... \$25.00

Outstanding Judgement/

Warrant Fee: ..... \$30.00

**Totaled Owed:** .....\$1,032.16

Suspending Dario's license for tinted windows keeps nobody safer, but the policy behind the suspension endangers many people. When policymakers rely on predatory fines and fees to fund government services, they not only impoverish drivers, they also incentivize unnecessary encounters with the criminal legal system and waste city resources. Our interviewees faced required court appearances, compound-

ing criminal charges, and even jail time for failure to pay. For example, our interviewee Jessica from Florida had her license suspended when she could no longer afford her car insurance premium. When she missed a court date, she was arrested for failure to appear.

Police enforcement of fines and fees also increases contact between drivers and police. Because cops can identify unpaid fines and fees with license plate readers, police enforcement of missed payments justifies pretextual police stops. At best, these stops result in additional fines for drivers struggling to pay original fines. At worst, these encounters escalate to violence or death. Just last week, an unpaid fine gave former officer Kim Potter a pretext to stop Daunte Wright. The stop ended with Potter fatally shooting Wright.

Even when pretextual policing doesn't result in death or police brutality, it still has devastating mental and emotional health consequences for impacted individuals. "When I got to court, I almost had a nervous breakdown," relayed our respondent Rosie from Colorado. "I thought, 'This is just one ticket.' Then I saw I was facing actual criminal charges. I couldn't breathe." Another respondent, Katy, shared, "I had my small child with me at the time. It was very traumatic. The

cop was very aggressive and threatening."

Our report gives policymakers multiple recommendations:

- Driver's license suspension should not be used as a penalty for failure to pay or failure to appear, regardless of the underlying offense: States should make it easier, not more difficult, for people to comply with payment by instituting reasonable payment plans, retroactively reinstating suspended licenses, and waiving reinstatement fees.

- All fees should be eliminated: The government should end fiduciary reliance on fines and remove perverse incentives for law enforcement to criminalize drivers based on income level.

- Existing prescribed dollar amounts for fines should be replaced with income-based measurements: For example, payments could be based on one day's pay or 1 percent of monthly income.

- Lawmakers and court administrators should provide robust, timely notice of payment and court obligations: Information about payment and license reinstatement should be easily accessible.

- States should collect demographic data for debt-based driver's license suspensions: Given the racial and economic disparities throughout the criminal legal system, states should routinely

collect demographic data in all cases where fines and fees are imposed and collected.

- States should regularly collect relevant data needed to assess the fiscal impact of fine and fee related license suspensions: Fiscal notes related to license suspensions should consider the scope of the impact, the cost of enforcement, and collateral costs to drivers from job loss, eviction, and economic mobility.

Our legal system should benefit the people it serves. Taking away driver's licenses from peo-

ple struggling to pay their debts is bad public policy, plain and simple. We need policies that reflect the economic reality of Americans surviving a pandemic, recession, and gilded-era wealth inequality. It's common sense: Debt-based license suspensions are bad public policy.

**Michelle Borbon** is a Communications Assistant, American Civil Liberties Union.

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posed to be tough — were the main reason many men avoided seeking care.

Attitudes about the covid pandemic and the vaccines also affect who gets the shots.

Dr. Rebecca Wurtz, director of public health administration and policy at the University of Minnesota, said women have been more likely to lose jobs during the pandemic, and in many cases bear the brunt of teaching and caring for children at home.

"Women are ready for this to be done even more than men are," Wurtz said.

Political attitudes, too, play a part in people's views on coping with the pandemic, experts said.

A [Gallup poll last year](#) found that among both Democrats and Republicans, women were more likely to say they took precautions to avoid covid, such as always practicing physical distancing and wearing masks indoors when they couldn't stay 6 feet apart from others.

In a [recent national poll](#) by KFF, 29% of Republicans and 5% of Democrats said they definitely would not get the shot.

Steiner, who plans to retire at the end of the month from editing a magazine for the Catholic Health Association, said she was eager to be vaccinated. She has an immune disorder that puts her at high risk for severe illness from

covid and hasn't seen some of her grandchildren in a year and a half.

But she said some of the men in her life were willing to wait longer for the shots, and a few nephews haven't wanted them. She said her brother, 65, received the one-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine in early April after her daughter made it easy by arranging it for him.

Steiner, who has now received both doses of the Moderna vaccine, said she doesn't regret taking the more difficult step of traveling five hours round trip to get her first shot in February. (She was able to find a closer location for her second dose.)

"It's for my safety, for my kids' safety, for my neighbors' safety, for the people who go to my church's safety," she said. "I really don't understand the resistance."

**Laura Ungar, Midwest Editor/  
Correspondent with Kaiser  
Health News' St. Louis office.**

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## Infrarepresentados



mos, adiós".

"Esa es una evaluación muy justa", dijo Susan Watson, directora de programas de la iniciativa Together Toward Health del Public Health Institute, el financiador filantrópico detrás de parte del trabajo de El Sol. "Aqui hay una oportunidad para que la gente piense en el futuro y en cómo hacemos las cosas, que no necesariamente deja a los grupos comunitarios fuera, a los que solo se usa cuando hay una emergencia".

Community Coalition, una organización sin fines de lucro del sur de Los Ángeles fundada en 1990, también recibió subvenciones de la asociación público-privada para crear conciencia sobre las vacunas de covid, pero no fondos adicionales para entregar vacunas a la gente.

Aún así, movilizó al personal para tocar puertas, enviar mensajes de texto y correo electrónico a las personas elegibles para que asistieran a un evento de vacunación emergente de dos semanas en un parque del vecindario a principios de marzo: 4.487 personas recibieron su primera dosis, dijo Corey Matthews, jefe de operaciones del grupo.

El doctor Mark Ghaly, secretario de Salud y Servicios Humanos del estado, prometió proporcionar más dinero para los grupos que están vacunando a sus comunidades. "Este no es un trabajo voluntario", le dijo a KHN en una rueda de prensa. "Este es un trabajo real, y quiero ser parte del equipo que lo hace realidad para todos".

Barbara Ferrer, directora del Departamento de Salud Pública del condado de Los Ángeles, se hizo eco de ese sentimiento. "Estaban allí antes de que comenzara la pandemia, han estado allí todo el tiempo durante la pandemia y estarán aquí mucho después de la pandemia", dijo.

Ya sea que esas promesas se mantengan o no, los grupos comunitarios dicen que quieren ser parte del esfuerzo de vacunación.

"Incluso si no nos dan dinero, seguiremos haciendo el trabajo", afirmó Fajardo.

**Anna Almendrala es  
corresponsal de Kaiser  
Health News. Esta historia  
fue producida por Kaiser  
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Los trabajadores comunitarios de El Sol fueron financiados por un esfuerzo combinado de \$52.7 millones de fondos estatales y filantrópicos que proporcionaron subvenciones a 337 organizaciones consideradas "mensajeras de confianza" en sus comunidades. El dinero fue enviado a grupos como El Sol que tenían antecedentes probados de caminar los vecindarios, de casa en casa, para el registro de votantes o encuestas del Censo. El Sol recibió \$120,000 de la iniciativa público-privada para apoyar sus esfuerzos educativos y de divulgación general para la vacunación contra covid. Pero el grupo no sabía si obtendría algún reembolso por los eventos móviles de vacunación que organizó en el condado de San Bernardino, dijo Alex Fajardo, su director ejecutivo. El Sol llevó a cabo un evento de vacunación el 17 de febrero en el Centro Cristiano Luz y Esperanza, una iglesia ubicada junto a una autopista de dos carriles en Adelanto, bordeada por desierto. El grupo planea hacer tres ventanas emergentes de vacunación más en el área de High Desert. Pero el apoyo futuro para sus clínicas, el alcance de las vacunas y la educación son inciertos, dijo Fajardo.

El personal médico, los estudiantes y las vacunas llegaron desde Loma Linda University Health, a una hora de distancia, para vacunar a 250 personas, y regresaron un mes después para darles su segunda dosis. Rosa Hernández, de 69 años, y Patricia Pérez, de 47, madre e hija, estuvieron entre las que recibieron sus vacunas en el Centro Cristiano. El padre de Pérez, que trabaja en el departamento de lácteos de un supermercado, se enfermó de covid en junio y no pudo regresar al trabajo durante seis meses. Nadie más en la familia de siete miembros resultó positivo, pero Rosa Hernández es una sobreviviente de cáncer y su hija estaba preocupada por ella.

A pesar de las múltiples llamadas a una línea telefónica del condado, Pérez no había podido hacer una cita para su madre. La conexión a Internet de la familia, en la cercana ciudad de Hesperia, es irregular y Pérez no podía navegar por los sitios web ni encontrar información en español, el idioma con el que se siente más cómoda.

Aprovechó la oportunidad cuando se enteró del evento de El Sol a través de alguien de su iglesia. Pérez también logró obtener una dosis adicional para ella después de que una cita fuera cancelada. Ahora ambas están completamente vacunadas, dijo Pérez, y no hubiera sucedido sin El Sol.

El grupo planea hacer tres ventanas emergentes de vacunación más en el área de High Desert. Pero el apoyo futuro para sus clínicas, el alcance de las vacunas y la educación son inciertos, dijo Fajardo. "¿Qué va a pasar después?", expresó. "Cuando te necesitamos, te pagamos. Cuando no te necesite-

## Underrepresented

Despite multiple calls to a county phone line, Pérez had been unable to line up a vaccine for her mom. The family's internet connection, in the nearby town of Hesperia, was spotty, and Pérez couldn't really navigate the websites or find any information in Spanish, the language she's most comfortable with.

She jumped at the chance when she heard about El Sol's pop-up event through someone at her church. Pérez also managed to snag an additional dose for herself after someone didn't show up for their appointment. Now she and her mom are fully vaccinated, Pérez said, and it wouldn't have happened without El Sol.

The group plans to do three more vaccination pop-ups in the High Desert area. But future support for its clinics, vaccine outreach and education are murky, said Fajardo.

## Finance

not required to offer classes in personal finance or financial literacy, though a 2004 state law strongly encourages it. A bill up for debate in the legislature this year, [House Bill 1200](#), would add several topics to the state's suggested financial literacy curriculum, including how to pay for college and manage student loan debt.

But a group of recent Denver Public Schools alumni is pushing Colorado's largest school district to go beyond the state recommendations and make financial literacy classes a graduation requirement. About a quarter of Colorado's 178 school districts already do, according to the Colorado Department of Education. In the past year, several districts, including Adams 14 and Aurora, have added or are planning new personal finance classes.

Denver Public Schools said in a statement that the district is exploring making financial literacy a graduation requirement. The district's academics team said it is grateful for its collaboration with alumni and appreciate "their advocacy in making this a priority."

Liloni S. Ramos, who graduated from Denver Public Schools in 2011, said she didn't get any personal finance lessons in high school. It wasn't until she took a workshop offered through a scholarship foundation that she learned about topics like budgeting.

"Growing up, budgeting wasn't a thing because we barely had enough money to make ends meet," Ramos said. "This conver-

"What is going to happen after?" he said. "When we need you, we pay you. When we don't need you, 'Bye-bye.'"

"That's a very fair assessment," said Susan Watson, program director for the Together Toward Health initiative of the Public Health Institute, the philanthropic funder behind some of El Sol's work. "There's an opportunity here for people to be thinking about the future, and how we do things that doesn't necessarily leave community groups permanently on the outside, only tapped into when there's an emergency."

Community Coalition, a South Los Angeles nonprofit founded in 1990, also received grants from the public-private partnership to raise awareness about covid vaccines, but no additional funding to deliver vaccines to the people. Still, it mobilized staff to knock on doors, text and email eligible people to turn out for a two-



Barbara Ferrer echoed that sentiment. "They were there before the pandemic started, they've been there the entire time during the pandemic, and they'll be here long after the pandemic," she said.

Whether or not those promises hold up, community groups say, they want to be part of the vaccination effort.

"Even if they don't give us money, we'll keep doing the work," said Fajardo.

**Anna Almendrala** is a Correspondent with Kaiser Health News, a nonprofit news service covering health issues. It is an editorially independent program of the Kaiser Family Foundation, which is not affiliated with Kaiser Permanente.

Staff members and students from Loma Linda University Health in San Bernardino County guide people into the church hall for vaccinations at El Sol's pop-up event. / Personal y estudiantes de Loma Linda University Health del condado de San Bernardino, guían a las personas para que se vacunen en el evento de El Sol.

week pop-up vaccination event at a neighborhood park in early March — providing 4,487 people with their first vaccine dose, said the group's chief operating officer, Corey Matthews.

Dr. Mark Ghaly, the state's secretary for health and human services, promised to provide more

money for groups that are getting their communities vaccinated. "This is not a volunteer job," he told Kaiser Health News at a news briefing. "This is real work, and I want to be part of the team that makes that a reality for all of them."

Los Angeles County department of public health Director

into more or retreating into less."

**Melanie Asmar** is a Senior Reporter with Chalkbeat, Colorado.

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**“**

**“Growing up, budgeting wasn’t a thing because we barely had enough money to make ends meet. This conversation, we’ve been kept out of all too often.”**

**Liloni S. Ramos, Denver Public School Graduate**

sation, we've been kept out of all too often."

At West Early College, the impetus to offer a personal finance class grew out of a districtwide effort to improve education for Black students. Each Denver school was required to write a [Black Excellence Plan](#) this year. When West asked families what improvements they wanted the school to make and what courses it should offer, financial literacy was among the most requested, said Principal Mia Martinez Lopez.

Walter was already teaching an economics class that briefly touched on personal finance, and he'd seen how powerful those lessons were to his students.

"Their ears perked up that week," he said.

So, with the backing of school leaders, Walter designed a personal finance class. About 60 students are enrolled this quarter, with some students learning in person and others joining the class virtually from home. The class starts in the 1500s with the birth of modern-day

credit. Students learn about the stock market, credit scores, interest, loans, and insurance.

Denver Public Schools alumni have been meeting with West leadership to give input on the course. The alumni are part of Ednum, a new group of graduates from ages 17 to 30, most of whom are people of color. Kai Suematsu, who graduated from Denver Public Schools in 2018, said helping to design the curriculum feels like a concrete step.

"I'm only 20 years old but I can look at it and say, 'What would I want from a high school perspective?'" said Suematsu, who took a similar class on wealth management when he was in high school. "I can say, 'This would have really helped.'"

West junior Jordan Johnson said he thinks the class should be required for all students. He is not currently enrolled but plans to sign up when it's offered again.

"Some kids have the blueprint at home where their parents teach them about financial literacy," Johnson said. "For a lot of people that's not the case. ... Those are the tools you're going to need to survive to get to retirement and take care of your family."

Johnson was sitting in on Walter's class the day he taught about supply and demand, human capital, and the importance of investing in yourself to acquire the education and training needed to be financially successful. Walter asked the students to write a quote summarizing that idea.

One student who was participating virtually turned in pure poetry. Walter asked her to read her quote twice so her classmates could hear it over the tinny computer speakers.

"Every moment of one's existence," she read, "one is growing

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distrito dijo que está agradecido por su colaboración con los alumnos y aprecia "su defensa para hacer de esto una prioridad."

Liloni S. Ramos, quien se graduó de las Escuelas Públicas de Denver en 2011, dijo que no recibió ninguna lección de finanzas personales en la escuela secundaria. No fue hasta que tomó un taller ofrecido a través de una fundación de becas que aprendió sobre temas como la elaboración de presupuestos.

"Al crecer, la elaboración de un presupuesto no era una cosa porque apenas teníamos dinero para llegar a fin de mes", dijo Ramos. "Esta conversación, se nos ha mantenido al margen con demasiada frecuencia".

En el West Early College, el impulso para ofrecer una clase de finanzas personales surgió de un esfuerzo de todo el distrito para mejorar la educación de los estudiantes negros. Este año, todas las escuelas de Denver tuvieron que redactar un Plan de Excelen-

cia Negra. Cuando West preguntó a las familias qué mejoras querían que hiciera la escuela y qué cursos debía ofrecer, la educación financiera fue una de las más solicitadas, dijo la directora Mia Martínez López.



**"Al crecer, la elaboración de un presupuesto no era una cosa porque apenas teníamos dinero para llegar a fin de mes. Esta conversación, se nos ha mantenido al margen con demasiada frecuencia".**

Liloni S. Ramos, Graduó de las Escuelas Públicas de Denver

Walter ya impartía una clase de economía en la que se abordaban brevemente las finanzas personales, y había comprobado el

poder de esas lecciones para sus alumnos.

"Esa semana, sus oídos se agudizaron", dijo.

Así que, con el apoyo de los responsables de la escuela, Walter diseñó una clase de finanzas personales. Este trimestre están inscritos unos 60 alumnos, algunos de los cuales aprenden en persona y otros se unen a la clase virtualmente desde casa. La clase comienza en el año 1500 con el nacimiento del crédito moderno. Los alumnos aprenden sobre el mercado de valores, las puntuaciones de crédito, los intereses, los préstamos y los seguros.

Los antiguos alumnos de las escuelas públicas de Denver se han reunido con la dirección de West para dar su opinión sobre el curso. Los antiguos alumnos forman parte de Ednium, un nuevo grupo de graduados de entre 17 y 30 años, la mayoría de los cuales son personas de color. Kai Suematsu, que se graduó en las Escuelas Públicas

de Denver en 2018, dijo que ayudar a diseñar el plan de estudios se siente como un paso concreto.

"Solo tengo 20 años, pero puedo mirarlo y decir: ¿Qué quería yo desde la perspectiva de la escuela secundaria?", dijo Suematsu, que tomó una clase similar sobre gestión de la riqueza cuando estaba en la escuela secundaria. "Puedo decir: 'Esto me habría ayudado mucho'".

Jordan Johnson, estudiante de tercer año de West, dijo que cree que la clase debería ser obligatoria para todos los estudiantes. Actualmente no está inscrito, pero planea apuntarse cuando se ofrezca de nuevo.

"Algunos niños tienen el proyecto en casa, donde sus padres les enseñan sobre la educación financiera", dijo Johnson. "Para mucha gente ese no es el caso... Esas son las herramientas que van a necesitar para sobrevivir para llegar a la jubilación y cuidar de su familia".

Johnson estaba sentado en la

clase de Walter el día que éste enseñó sobre la oferta y la demanda, el capital humano y la importancia de invertir en uno mismo para adquirir la educación y la formación necesarias para tener éxito financiero. Walter pidió a los alumnos que escribieran una cita que resumiera esa idea.

Una estudiante que participaba prácticamente entregó una poesía pura. Walter le pidió que leyera su cita dos veces para que sus compañeros pudieran escucharla por los altavoces del ordenador.

"En cada momento de la existencia", leyó, "uno está creciendo en más o retrocediendo en menos".

**Melanie Asmar es reportera senior de Chalkbeat, Colorado.**

**Traducción por Juan Carlos Uribe-The Weekly Issue/El Semanario.**

**Para Noticias de Colorado:**  
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## ACLU/Esp

olds no tenía antecedentes penales y no tenía idea de que se había emitido una orden de arresto contra ella. Fue detenida e ingresada en la cárcel del condado de Mesa. Debido a que no se había fijado una fianza en la orden, la Sra. Reynolds se vio obligada a permanecer prisionera hasta comparecer ante un juez que establecería la fianza.

Pasaron cuatro días antes de que la Sra. Reynolds apareciera en video ante un juez del condado de Mesa para su primera comparecencia judicial. La ley de Colorado claramente requería que el juez fijaría una fianza para la Sra. Reynolds, pero el juez no lo hizo. Según la demanda de la ACLU, una orden administrativa emitida un año antes por el juez principal Flynn, en violación de la ley de Colorado, instruyó a los jueces del condado de Mesa que no establezcan ni modifiquen la fianza para los acusados que son arrestados por órdenes de

otros condados.

Las oficinas del alguacil de Mesa y Boulder acordaron compartir la responsabilidad de transportar a la Sra. Reynolds a Boulder, donde podría comparecer ante un juez que establecería una fianza. La denuncia de la ACLU, basada en comunicaciones intercambiadas entre las oficinas del alguacil, alega que ambas sabían que los tribunales del condado de Mesa no establecerían fianza y que la Sra. Reynolds languidecerá en la cárcel hasta que comparecerá ante un juez de Boulder. Sin embargo, retrasaron el transporte hasta que fue conveniente para ellos, lo que provocó un retraso de 15 días antes de que la Sra. Reynolds finalmente apareciera en Boulder.

El juez de Boulder la liberó con una fianza de reconocimiento personal, lo que significa que no era un riesgo de fuga, ni una amenaza para la seguridad pública, y no

estaba obligada a depositar dinero. Poco después, se retiraron los cargos en su contra.

"Desde el día en que arrestaron a la Sra. Reynolds, ambas oficinas del alguacil sabían que un juez del condado de Mesa no establecería fianza y que ella permanecería en la cárcel hasta que pudiera comparecer ante un juez de Boulder," dijo John A. Culver, del despacho de abogados de Denver, Benezra & Culver, PC, quien está litigando el caso como abogado colaborador de la ACLU. "Cada día que demoraban cruelmente su transporte significaba otro día que la obligaban a permanecer en la cárcel, en violación de su derecho constitucional a la oportunidad de una pronta liberación antes del juicio.

Su liberación bajo una fianza de reconocimiento personal y la rápida retirada posterior de los cargos muestra que no había razón válida para hacerla pasar por el su-

frimiento de más de dos semanas de encarcelamiento previo al juicio innecesario e injustificado."

Mientras esperaba la liberación previa al juicio, la Sra. Reynolds perdió su trabajo como cuidadora de cuidados paliativos. Fue agredida en la cárcel del condado de Mesa y pasó los días siguientes aterrorizada de que pudiera volver a suceder. "Los eventos traumáticos que ocurrieron durante mis 15 días encarcelados injustamente no terminaron una vez que fui liberada," dijo la Sra. Reynolds. "La angustia emocional estará conmigo por el resto de mi vida. Es absolutamente trágico y espantoso lo quebrado que es realmente el sistema legal."

A lo largo de los años, la ACLU ha recibido repetidas quejas de que las personas detenidas en un condado con una orden judicial de otro condado experimentan demoras injustificadas para ver a

un juez o fijar una fianza. En 2017, la ACLU demandó en nombre de un hombre que pasó 52 días en la cárcel del condado de Teller por una orden judicial fuera del condado sin ver a un juez.

"Para proteger el derecho constitucional a una oportunidad inmediata de libertad previa al juicio, la legislatura debe asegurarse de que la fianza se establezca a más tardar 48 horas después del arresto," dijo Silverstein. "Un proyecto de ley actualmente pendiente en la legislatura de Colorado, HB 21-1280, haría exactamente eso."

La Sra. Reynolds está representada por Silverstein y Culver, así como por la abogada del personal de la ACLU, Arielle Herzberg, y la abogada cooperante de la ACLU, Anna Fullerton.

Aprende más sobre [HB 21-1280](#)

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## Crisis

are announcing today, comprised of law enforcement, tribal leaders, federal partners, service providers, and survivors, who will ensure that the Departments work together to protect Native women and to address the epidemic of missing persons, murder, and trafficking of American Indians and Alaska Natives. Savanna's Act, named in honor of Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, would require federal law enforcement to create standard guidelines on responding to these

crimes and increase data collection on them.

Tribal communities across the country are experiencing an epidemic of violence. More than 80% of Native men and women will experience violence in their lifetimes, and 34% of Native women will experience sexual violence or assault. Additionally, Native women and girls are disproportionately likely to become victims of sex trafficking, contributing to the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous wom-

en and girls. While there are many federal programs and resources that can be directed to address the problems of violent crime in Indian Country against American Indians and Alaska Natives, there was no plan or strategy to do so until Cortez Masto and Murkowski took on this challenge for communities in Nevada, Alaska, and across the country.

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## Indígenas

caso de los estudiantes indígenas, las consecuencias pueden ser aún mayores.

Muchos estudiantes nativos viven en zonas remotas sin acceso a Internet en casa. Algunos viven sin necesidades básicas como la electricidad y el agua corriente, y muchos cargan con el peso de la pérdida sobre sus hombros, después de haber visto cómo el virus arrasaba sus comunidades, familias y aldeas, a veces arrebatando a los miembros de la familia uno a uno.

Sólo en la Nación Navajo, al menos 30.267 personas han dado positivo en las pruebas del coronavirus; 1.262 han muerto. Y es ampliamente conocido que el país indio en su conjunto ha sufrido de forma desproporcionada la pandemia, debido a la negligencia del gobierno y a generaciones de atención sanitaria inadecuada. Un estudio reciente de los CDC descubrió que la incidencia acumulada de COVID-19 era 3.5 veces mayor en los pueblos indígenas que en los blancos.

He aquí cómo describen sus experiencias algunos estudiantes indígenas.

**Makai Tsosie, Diné**

"Siento que es un verdadero desafío, y es difícil hacer mis tareas solo", dice Makai. "En quinto grado, nos enseñaron a aprender en grupos y a trabajar juntos, y no solos".

Cuando estás en una clase presencial, "los profesores te enseñan el trabajo, resuelven los problemas contigo". En casa, no recibe la misma orientación.

Y cuando sus padres intentan ayudar, sigue faltando algo. "Nuestros padres no recuerdan realmente cómo hacer ciertas tareas que estamos haciendo".

Echa de menos los deportes organizados; por ejemplo, fue miembro del equipo de baloncesto. Para llenar el vacío, ha pasado mucho tiempo practicando su cordada de terneros utilizando dos maniquíes de cordada fuera de la casa.

"Cuando veo a otros niños de fuera de la reserva, se involucran realmente en los deportes y pueden seguir jugando porque tienen lugares para hacerlo. Nosotros no. Nuestros amigos viven lejos, y nosotros no tenemos un lugar al que ir".

Para la mayoría de los niños navajos, la reserva es un patio de recreo de tierra. Los niños no tienen acceso a las canchas de baloncesto porque la mayoría están en los gimnasios de las escuelas, y éstas están cerradas. La mayoría de los niños no tienen entradas de cemento, calles pavimentadas o

campos de césped para practicar deportes. Y no pueden jugar en los parques cercanos, ya que normalmente no hay ninguno.

Para empeorar las cosas, Makai perdió a un tío a causa del virus, un pariente que le animó a seguir con sus tareas escolares y le ayudó a practicar la cordada. Tras la muerte de su tío, Makai empezó a dormir más y se retrasó en la escuela. Como para muchos niños navajos, su familia extendida era tan importante para él como su familia inmediata.

La pandemia acercó a su familia, dice. "Una cosa buena es que nosotros, como familia, estamos mucho tiempo juntos, estamos más en casa con los demás. ... Antes de esta pandemia, nunca estábamos en un mismo lugar a la vez. Siento que hemos crecido juntos más y que nos queremos mucho más".

**Elishah Tsosie**

Elishah, alumno de sexto grado, dice que echa de menos que su madre sea sólo su madre, y no su maestra. Al igual que su hermano, también echa de menos estar en un aula de verdad, donde los profesores dan instrucciones paso a paso. "Mi madre se limita a explicarla una o dos veces y nos deja solos".

Después de la escuela -la mejor parte del día- le gusta montar a caballo. Y ha comenzado a aprender a hacer joyas navajo, junto con su hermano.

Pero echa de menos a sus amigos. A veces ve en la televisión o en público a niños que visitan a una multitud de familiares y amigos, y le gustaría tener ese lujo. Pero ha aprendido que no puede hacer esas cosas en la reserva. Es demasiado peligroso.

"Mi experiencia es diferente", dice. "Quiero quedarme en casa porque no me apetece coger el virus".

**Thalia Lee, Diné**

Al menos tres veces a la semana, Thalia Lee, de 15 años, se levanta a las 5 de la mañana, preparándose para un largo día de aprendizaje en línea, tanto en la escuela secundaria como en la universidad.

Se levanta temprano para hacer las tareas y, a veces, para hacer ejercicio, y luego desayuna justo antes de conectarse a las clases en el instituto Volcano Vista de Albuquerque, donde cursa el segundo año. Más tarde, pasa a sus clases en el Central New Mexico Community College. Por la noche se dedica a hacer los deberes y luego se va a la cama a las 8 de la tarde.

"A veces, antes de irme a dormir, pienso que no sé cómo voy a hacer todo esto. A veces, llorar es mi forma de afrontar el estrés".

No tiene que ser una estudiante de doble crédito, que toma clases de la escuela secundaria y de la universidad, pero quiere ser doctora, una meta que tiene desde hace mucho tiempo. Como estudiante indígena, dice que tiene que trabajar el doble para tener éxito. También se esfuerza más porque es una estudiante kinestésica, alguien que aprende mejor a través de la experiencia práctica.



**"Una cosa buena es que nosotros, como familia, estamos mucho tiempo juntos, estamos más en casa con los demás. ... Antes de esta pandemia, nunca estábamos en un mismo lugar a la vez. Siento que hemos crecido juntos más y que nos queremos mucho más".**

Makai Tsosie, Diné

"En el caso de la ciencia, aprendiendo viendo a alguien hacerlo y luego lo hago yo misma". Eso incluye trabajar con productos químicos por su cuenta para la clase de química, "una asignatura muy dura", añade. "No sé si我真的 estoy aprendiendo algo. A veces dudo mucho de lo que sé, pero también me sorprendo a mí misma".

Para añadir a sus preocupaciones y estrés, Thalia contrajo el COVID-19 a finales del año pasado y dice que lo contagió a su familia inmediata y extensa. Aunque no se perdieron vidas, lleva la culpa con ella a diario.

Los adultos enfermaron más que ella. "Por eso me sentí mal. Me sentí un poco culpable y me culpé a mí misma. Me hizo darme cuenta de lo malo que es realmente el COVID".

**Geoffrey Hugte, Zuni Pueblo**

El año pasado por estas fechas, Geoffrey Hugte, estudiante de tercer año de la Escuela Secundaria de Zuni, se deleitaba con la idea de que las vacaciones de primavera se prolongaran a causa de la pandemia. El joven de 17 años estaba deseando salir con sus amigos y practicar sus habilidades de conducción. Pero la diversión no duró mucho: El virus desencadenó órdenes de quedarse en casa, y el aislamiento resultó no tener fin.

"La vida se ralentizó drásticamente. Sabía que era algo que daba mucho miedo. ... Hubo partes en las que, sinceramente, no parecía real. Perdí a mi tío por parte de mi padre y a algunos otros de mi familia extensa".

La dificultad añadida vino al darse cuenta de que él y su familia tenían poco o ningún control sobre lo que podría pasar si se exponían al virus. Todo "era realmente confuso", tanto a nivel global como a su alrededor. "Teníamos nuestras propias luchas personales, y el virus se sumaba a la complejidad de lo que ya estaba ocurriendo en el mundo". Además de preocuparse por terminar los deberes y mantener las amistades, tuvo que preocuparse por cómo se estaba propagando el COVID-19 y quién sería el siguiente en sucumbir.

Pasó la mayor parte del año pasado en su habitación, ocupándose de las tareas escolares y viendo videos de YouTube, que le ofrecían una vía de escape de su pequeño Pueblo rural. Vive en un hogar multigeneracional y su madre trabaja en el ámbito de la sanidad, lo que a veces provoca un estrés y una preocupación añadidos.

"Daba miedo porque, de hecho, nosotros también teníamos que pasar la cuarentena. Mi madre va a Gallup, NM, por trabajo, y trabaja con personas mayores". Empezó a decirle "ten cuidado" antes de que

se fuera a trabajar, y lo sigue haciendo. Afortunadamente, añade, "nunca le ha pasado nada".

La gestión de las tareas escolares se hizo más difícil a medida que avanzaba la pandemia. Como muchos de sus compañeros, dice que llegó a un punto de ruptura y se sintió abrumado por el aislamiento y la agitación. "Después de estar encerrada tanto tiempo, se te empieza a meter mucho en la cabeza. Entré en una pequeña depresión durante el verano, y sentí que mucha gente también lo hizo".

Algunos estudiantes recurrieron a las drogas o al alcohol para sobrellevar la situación, pero él siguió centrado en sus estudios. "A veces sientes que es un infierno, pero es el momento el que te domina", dice. "No puedes dejar que te atrapen. Sólo tienes que darte cuenta de que es sólo en ese momento, y que pasará".

**Sunnie R. Clahchischiligi** es escritora colaboradora de *Searchlight New Mexico*, una organización de noticias no partidista y sin fines de lucro dedicada al reportaje de investigación en Nuevo México.

Traducción por Juan Carlos Uribe-The Weekly Issue/El Semanario.

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## Mujeres

de los republicanos y el 5% de los demócratas dijeron que definitivamente no recibirían la vacuna.

Steiner, quien planea retirarse a fin de mes como editora de una revista para la Asociación de Salud Católica, dijo que estaba ansiosa por vacunarse. Tiene un trastorno inmunológico que la pone en alto riesgo de contraer una forma grave de covid, y no ha visto a algunos de sus nietos en un año y medio.

Pero dijo que algunos de los hombres de su vida estaban dispuestos a esperar más tiempo para recibir las dosis y que algunos sobrinos ni siquiera las querían. Su hermano, de 65 años, recibió la vacuna de Johnson & Johnson de un sola dosis a principios de abril después que su hija lo ayudara con la cita.

Steiner, que ahora ha recibido ambas dosis de la vacuna de Moderna, dijo que no se arrepiente de haber dado viajado cinco horas de ida y vuelta para recibir su primera dosis en febrero. (Pudo encontrar un lugar más cercano para su segunda dosis).

"Es por mi seguridad, por la seguridad de mis hijos, por la segu-

ridad de mis vecinos, por la gente que va a mi iglesia", dijo. "Realmente no entiendo la resistencia".



**"En mi familia, las mujeres son un millón de veces más proactivas para la vacunación contra covid. Generalmente, las mujeres son más proactivas con respecto a la salud de la familia".**

Mary Ann Steiner

Laura Ungar es la Editora/Corresponsal de la oficina de Kaiser Health News en St. Louis.

Esta historia fue producida por Kaiser Health News, un programa editorialmente independiente de la Kaiser Family Foundation que no está relacionado con Kaiser Permanente.

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Photo/Foto: Don J. Usner/Searchlight New Mexico

Geoffrey Hugte stands in the driveway to his home in Zuni Pueblo. / Geoffrey Hugte en la entrada de su casa en Zuni Pueblo.

The pandemic brought his family closer, he says. "One good thing is us as a family being together a lot, being at home with each other more. ... Before this pandemic, we were never at one place at one time. I feel like we have grown together more and loved one another just that much more."

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"One good thing is us as a family being together a lot, being at home with each other more. ... Before this pandemic, we were never at one place at one time. I feel like we have grown together more and loved one another just that much more."

Makai Tsosie, Diné

### Elishah Tsosie

Elishah, a sixth-grader, says he misses his mom being just his mom — and not his teacher. Like his brother, he also misses being in a real classroom, where teachers give step-by-step instructions. "My mom, she kind of just explains it like one or two times and she'll leave us on our own."

After school — the best part of the day — he likes to ride horses. And he's started learning how to make Navajo jewelry, along with his brother.

But he misses his friends. Sometimes he sees kids on television or in public who are visiting a crowd of family and friends, and he wishes he had that luxury. But he's learned that he can't do those things on the reservation. It's too dangerous.

"My experience is different," he says. "I want to stay home because I don't feel like getting the virus."

### Thalia Lee, Diné

At least three times a week, 15-year-old Thalia Lee is up at 5 a.m., getting ready for a long day of both high school and college online learning. She's up early to do chores and sometimes to exercise, then she eats breakfast just before logging in to classes at Volcano Vista High School in Albuquerque, where she's a sophomore. Later in the day, she switches to her classes at Central New Mexico Community College. Her evenings are dedicated to homework and then it's time for bed at 8 p.m.

"Sometimes before I go to sleep, I'm like, I don't even know how I'm going to get all this done. Sometimes crying is my own way of coping with my stress."

She doesn't have to be a dual-credit student, taking both high school and college classes, but she wants to become a doctor, a goal she's had for a very long time. As an Indigenous student, she says she has to work twice as hard to succeed. She also puts in more work because she's a kinesthetic learner, someone who learns best through hands-on experience.

"For science, I learn through watching someone do it and then I do it myself." That includes working with chemicals on her own for chemistry class — "a very hard subject," she adds. "I don't know if I'm really learning anything. Sometimes I really doubt myself on how much I know, but I also surprise myself."

Adding to her worries and stress, Thalia contracted COVID-19 late last year and says she spread it to

her immediate and extended family. Though no lives were lost, she carries the guilt with her daily.

The adults got more ill than she did. "That's why I felt bad. I felt kind of guilty, and I blamed myself. It made me realize how bad COVID really is."

### Geoffrey Hugte, Zuni Pueblo

Around this time last year, Geoffrey Hugte, a junior at Zuni High School, reveled in the idea that spring break was prolonged because of the pandemic. The 17-year-old looked forward to hanging out with friends and practicing his driving skills. But the amusement didn't last long: The virus triggered stay-at-home orders, and the isolation turned out to have no end.

"Life just slowed down drastically. I knew it was something that was really scary. ... There were parts where it honestly didn't feel real. I lost my uncle on my dad's side and a few others in my extended family."

The added difficulty came with realizing that he and his family had little to no control over what might happen if they were exposed to the virus. Everything "was just really confused," both globally and all around him. "We had our own personal struggles, and [the virus] added to the complexity of what was already going on in the world." In addition to worrying about finishing homework and maintaining friendships, he had to worry about how COVID-19 was spreading and who would be the next to succumb.

He spent most of the past year in his room, tending to schoolwork

and watching YouTube videos, which offered an escape from his small rural Pueblo. He lives in a multi-generational home and his mother works in the health-care field, which at times causes added stress and worry.

"It was scary because we actually had to quarantine ourselves, too. My mom goes to Gallup, NM, for work, and she works with elder people." He began telling her "just be careful" before she went to work, and he still does. Thankfully, he adds, "nothing has ever happened to her."

Managing schoolwork got more difficult as the pandemic wore on. Like many of his peers, he says he reached a breaking point and felt overwhelmed by the isolation and turmoil. "After being locked up for so long, it starts to get in your head a lot. I went into a little depression over the summer, and I felt like a lot of people did, too."

Some students turned to drugs or alcohol to cope, but he remained focused on his studies. "Sometimes you feel like it's hell, but it's just the moment that has a grasp on you," he says. "You can't let it get a hold of you. You just have to realize it's just in that moment, and it will pass."

*Sunnie R. Clahchischiligi is a Contributing Writer with Searchlight New Mexico, a non-partisan, nonprofit news organization dedicated to investigative reporting in New Mexico.*

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### ACLU

Reynolds was forced to remain a prisoner until she appeared before a judge who would set bond.

It took four days before Ms. Reynolds appeared by video before a Mesa County judge for her first judicial appearance. Colorado law clearly required the judge to set bond for Ms. Reynolds, but the judge did not. According to the ACLU's lawsuit, an administrative order issued a year earlier by Chief Judge Flynn, in violation of Colorado law, instructed Mesa County judges not to set or modify bonds for defendants who are arrested on warrants from other counties.

The Mesa and Boulder Sheriff's Offices agreed to share responsibility for transporting Ms. Reynolds to Boulder, where she could appear before a judge

who would set bond. The ACLU's complaint, based on communications exchanged between the sheriff's offices, alleges that both knew that the Mesa County courts would not set bond and that Ms. Reynolds would languish in jail until she appeared before a Boulder judge. Nevertheless, they delayed transport until it was convenient for them, causing a delay of 15 days before Ms. Reynolds finally appeared in Boulder.

The Boulder judge released her on a personal recognizance bond, meaning that she was not a flight risk, nor a threat to public safety, and was not required to post any money. Shortly afterwards, the charge against her was dropped.

"From the day Ms. Reynolds

was arrested, both sheriff's offices knew that a Mesa County judge would not set bond and that she would remain in jail until she could appear before a Boulder judge," said John A. Culver, of the Denver law firm, Benezra & Culver, PC, who is litigating the case as an ACLU Cooperating Attorney. "Every day that they callously delayed transporting her meant another day they were forcing her to remain in jail, in violation of her constitutional right to an opportunity to prompt pretrial release. Her release on a PR bond and the quick subsequent dropping of the charges shows that there was no valid reason to put her through the suffering of more than two weeks of unnecessary and unjustified pretrial incarceration."

While waiting for pretrial release, Ms. Reynolds lost her job as a hospice caregiver. She was assaulted in the Mesa County Jail and spent succeeding days terrified that it could happen again. "The traumatic events that occurred during my wrongfully incarcerated 15 days did not end once I was released," Ms. Reynolds said. "The emotional distress will be with me for the rest of my life. It's absolutely tragic and appalling how broken the legal system truly is."

Over the years, the ACLU has fielded repeated complaints that persons held in one county on a warrant from a different county experience unjustified delays in seeing a judge or in setting bail. In 2017, the ACLU sued on behalf of a man who spent 52 days in

the Teller County Jail on an out-of-county warrant without seeing a judge.

"To protect the constitutional right to a prompt opportunity for pretrial release, the legislature should ensure that bond is set no later than 48-hours after an arrest," Silverstein said. "A bill currently pending in the Colorado legislature, HB 21-1280, would do exactly that."

Ms. Reynolds is represented by Silverstein and Culver as well as ACLU Staff Attorney Arielle Herzberg and ACLU Cooperating Attorney Anna Fullerton.

Read the full [complaint](#). Learn the facts about [HB 21-1280](#).

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LCAC

mission behind his organizing and academic work is to synthesize, practice, and disseminate what is needed to dismantle injustice and build meaningful peace.

LCAC also announced Mayara Smith, Camila Parreiras, Dailey Gonçalves, Jéssica Goés, Leticia Moreno from Negráfrica, as the inaugural artists. Negráfrica is a Brazilian artist collective specializing in different mediums such as comics, photography, painting, drawing and poetry. Their art is focused on investigating identity, race, and their experiences as Black women.

Together, Wilson-Becerril and Negráfrica will focus on the themes of "Peace and Conflict in Latin America: Violence, Resistance, and Social Justice"—creating eight workshops this Spring on how to make change, from everyday *artivism* and grassroots organizing to institutional and international advocacy.

The world needs answers now more than ever: how do we transform violence and build peace? *Popul/Arte* will take an interdisciplinary approach while centering Latin American arts, cultures, and histories in pursuit of this question. The materials from this artist-scholar residency will be available online to the widest audience possible through free and engaging multimedia. Michael and Negráfrica will be available to provide technical assistance and resources to artists and educators interested in these topics.

*Popul/Arte* will culminate in the public presentation of a co-created art project that lives in the LCAC Library and is accessible to all.

**Popul/Arte Workshop Schedule:** *Popul/Arte* will offer two weekly virtual workshops over four weeks, launching May 18th, 2021, at 6 PM, that are free to all. On Tuesdays, at 6pm, lectures will explore decolonial approaches to peace, conflict and environmental justice. In conjunction with the weekly topics, on Saturdays, at 1pm, art workshops will introduce the audience to Brazilian concepts of making art with resources around you to amplify your creative expression and voice.

**Week 1:** Tue., May 18, from 6 PM to 7:30 PM, Imagining Latin America; **and** Sat., May 22, from 1 PM to 2:30 PM, Seeing Through Your Window // O que você vê da sua janela?

**Week 2:** Tue., May 25, from 6 PM to 7:30 PM, Violence, Colonialism, and Militarism; and Sat., May 29, from 1 PM to 2:30 PM, Fanzine // Produção de zine

**Week 3:** Tue., Jun. 01, from 6 PM to 7:30 PM, Resisting Violence and Organizing Peace; and Sat., Jun. 05, from 1 PM to 2:30 PM, Improvised Art Collage // Arte da Gambiarra and Fotografia pelo telefone.

**Week 4:** Tue., Jun. 08, from 6 PM to 7:30 PM, Environmental Crisis and Decolonial Futures; and Sat. Jun. 12, from 1 PM to 2:30 PM, Eco-Painting // Terra Como Pintura.

*Popul/Arte* registration is now open at <http://bit.ly/popul-arte>.

Visit [LCAC-denver.org](http://LCAC-denver.org) to learn more about arte, cultura, and historia.

For More Colorado News:  
[ELSEMANARIO.US](http://ELSEMANARIO.US)

## NEEDED: Certified Interpreters

The New Mexico Immigrant Law Center is seeking certified interpreter volunteers to assist our staff with client appointments. This opportunity directly benefits our clients and their cases. We need you!



Our most urgent need is for certified Spanish-English interpreters but we welcome any certified interpreter willing to volunteer.

Interested? Get started at: [nmilc.org/volunteer-inquiry-form](http://nmilc.org/volunteer-inquiry-form)

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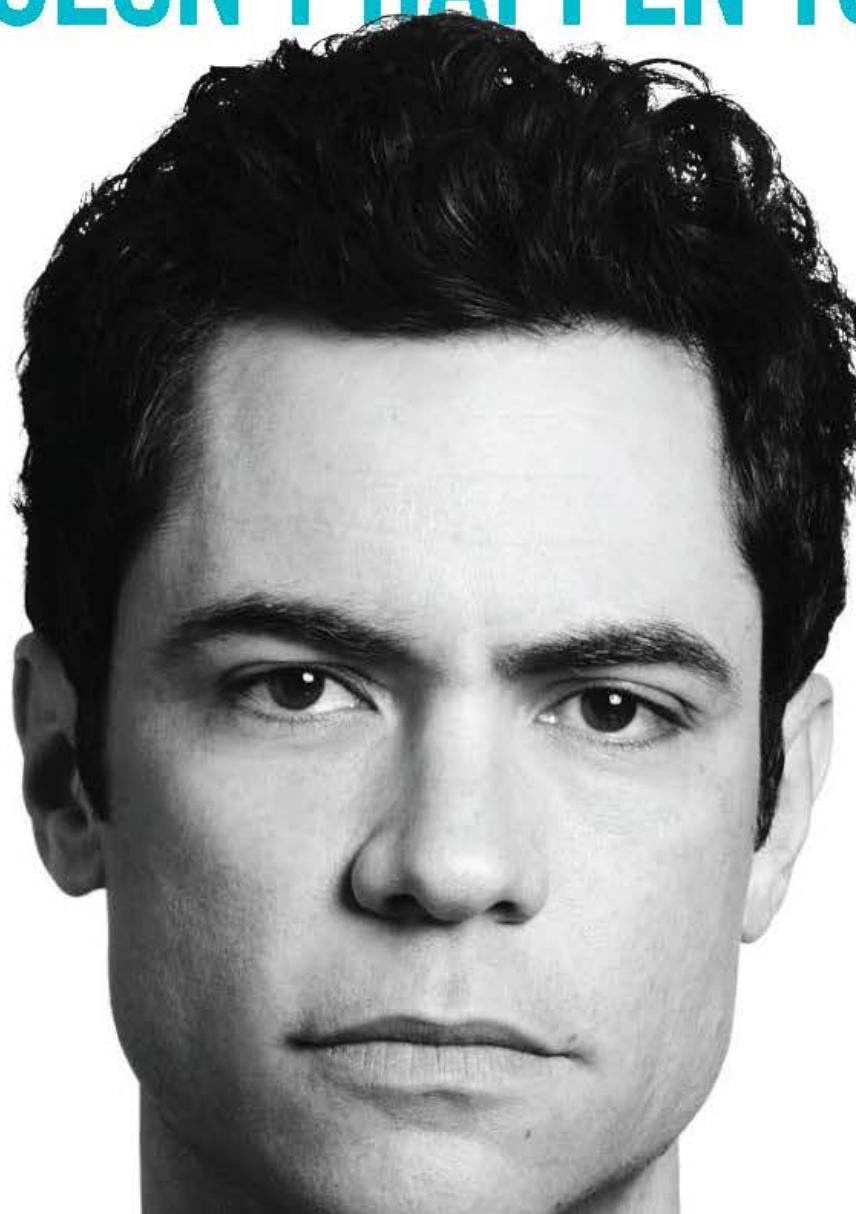
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