

13 Mayo 2021

THE WEEKLY ISSUE El Semanario

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Reluctant Activists
Activistas Renuentes

8

Photo/Foto: AL J. Thompson for Kaiser Health News

SUPPORT INDEPENDENT MEDIA

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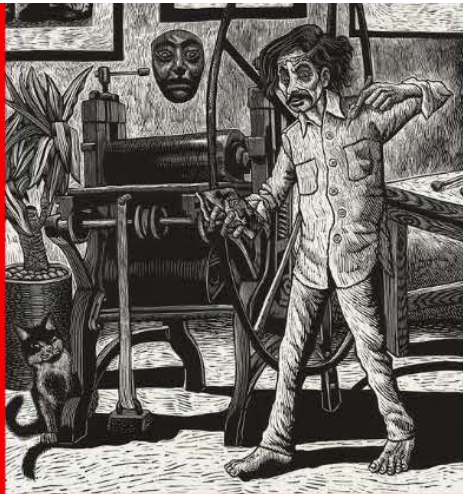
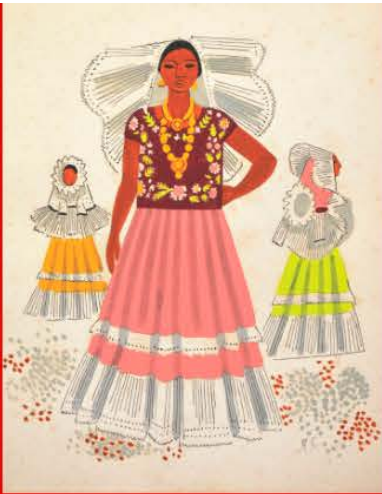


The views expressed in our commentary section
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ART WITH A CONSCIENCE

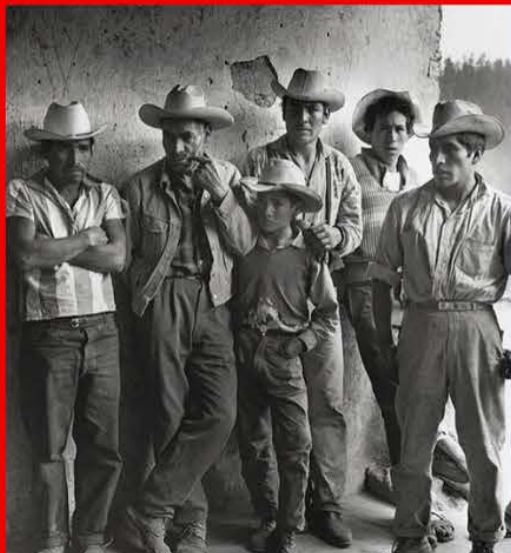
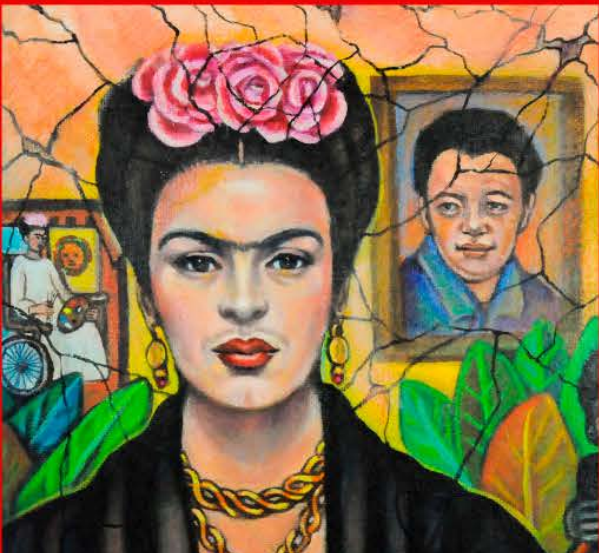
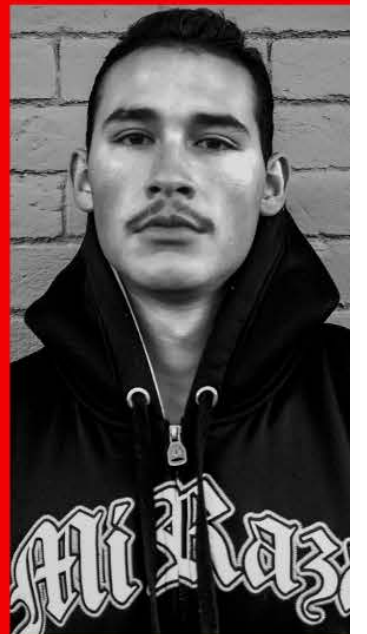
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Commentary/Commentario

Oppose Pollution: Support Environmental Legislation

Luis A. Torres, Ph.D.

If you breathed air today and/or drank water, thank the environment. If you breathed clear and clean and fresh air, and you drank pure and healthy water, thank your social milieu and class standing, including most likely your racial and ethnic identity. Not everyone is so lucky.

Issues about the natural ecosystem, global warming, air pollution, and various other forms of environmental degradation are or should be of major concern to everyone in the United States, including, and perhaps especially, to racial and ethnic marginalized communities. *The Weekly Issue/El Semanario* is committed to environmental justice, and we pledge to our readers to continue to publicize through our newspaper such issues in our communities.

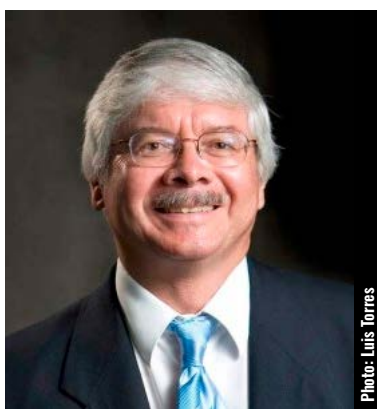


Photo: Luis Torres

We realize the environment is an all-encompassing actuality in our lives, eminently corporeal and yet of such an incalculable presence as to perhaps recede into abstraction for us. Until something goes wrong. And something always goes wrong. The air becomes polluted where large numbers of our community live, with our children most affected. The land becomes contaminated

from toxic chemicals and other substances. Our water becomes infiltrated with lead traces, far beyond the nominal Environmental Protection Agency limits—Did you know, for example, there are allowable limits of both lead and arsenic in water? And our beautiful mountains, wonderful refuge for our souls, lose forests because the pine beetle is rampant due to global warming.

Denver, Colorado provides unfortunate, glaring examples of such negative effects of environmental degradation especially on the Latino, African American, and Asian American communities. An April 29, 2021 article in *The Denver Post* (reprinted from *The New York Times*), entitled "People of color breathe more hazardous air; sources everywhere," demonstrates this troubling fact. It shows African Americans, Latinos, and

Asian Americans are much more negatively affected than Whites, from pollution of virtually every type. "Nearly all emissions sources caused disproportionate exposures for people of color, on average, as well as separately for Black, Latino and Asian people.... The disparities were seen nationally as well as at the state level, across income levels and across the urban-rural divide".

The largely Latino population in north Denver and its neighboring Commerce City have been long sufferers of such pollution, including from the Suncor Energy oil refinery, located in Commerce City. *The Denver Post* article, "Residents demand oil refinery's closure," published last week, recounts recent online hearings during which local residents are "targeting Suncor's 89-year-old refinery... as a toxic relic of the fos-

“

If you breathed clear and clean and fresh air, and you drank pure and healthy water, thank your social milieu and class standing, including most likely your racial and ethnic identity. Not everyone is so lucky.

See Dr. Torres on page 18

COLOR Applauds Groundbreaking Healthcare Bill

Karla Gonzales García

Editor's Note: Karla Gonzales García, Policy Director of Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR) offered remarks on the Senate passage of Senate Bill 9, which enhances access to contraception for undocumented people and low-income families in the state Medicaid program:

Right now, thousands of women in our state are facing structural barriers to obtaining an affordable, reliable contraception method to ensure

they can manage their health and plan their families and futures. Sometimes the obstacles come from how much money someone has and that they cannot afford to pay for care out of pocket. Sometimes the gaps are a result of immigration status, which is made even more infuriating by the fact that the immigration system is broken and already causing so much harm to our families and our communities.

We should not just stand by and allow people to be left without the services they need because they use Medicaid to get their healthcare. Medicaid is supposed to be

about making services more affordable for low-income people. It has helped us to build stronger, healthier communities. This legislation would ensure that this critical mission is reached when it comes to undocumented people in our state being able to access an important piece of reproductive healthcare – contraception.

Senate Bill 9 is ambitious, forward thinking and the right thing to do. It builds on the legacy we have set forth as a state of working to close gaps in care, of being a place where all people are treated with respect, and of actively striving to advance racial and reproductive justice. This bill is a first step, but certainly a very important one. It not only directly takes on the arbitrary and discriminatory limits placed on undocumented people,



Photo: COLOR

“

For undocumented women who are too often either demonized or ignored in our policymaking, Senate Bill 9 truly breaks new ground.

but also puts into law stronger standards around providing expanded access to contraceptive care.

Requiring someone to get to a pharmacy for a refill every month may result in a gap in time without contraceptives. This is of particular concern for low- and middle-income women whose work hours

may not be predictable or women who live in rural communities that have difficulty getting to a pharmacy. That's why many states have already passed legislation to allow people to get a year of their prescription at a time. This helps to reduce disparities in health care and outcomes and increase opportunities for people to access contraception with fewer barriers, as part of a healthy sexual and reproductive life. Senate Bill 9 would put this best practice into place in our state Medicaid program.

This bill is innovative. It would help to reduce health disparities. It is just plain good health policy. We are so grateful to our sponsor and to every senator who voted today to pass this bill. We have work to do to make sure this bill is signed into law, but today we are so grateful to the lawmakers who stood by our side today and took action to support women and families. We are so grateful to the nearly 50 groups who have signed on in support of this legislation. And we are so grateful to the hundreds of people

See García on page 18

THE WEEKLY ISSUE

El Semanario

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Essentially Heroic Women

Javier Sierra

The next time that you eat fruits or vegetables, thank the *campesinas* whose back-breaking labor under inhumane conditions bring them to your table. Extreme heat, pesticide exposure, sexual abuse and vulnerability to COVID-19 contribute for these women's job to be one of the country's riskiest.

When it comes to the grave dangers of excessive heat, cattle enjoy more protection than *cam-*

“The next time that you eat fruits or vegetables, thank the *campesinas* whose back-breaking labor under inhumane conditions bring them to your table.”

pesinas. Between 1992 and 2017, high temperatures caused the deaths of 815 workers and gravely sickened 70,000. The ones who are most impacted by this danger are farm workers because of their exhausting toiling under the hot sun, without access to cool water, shady spaces or mandatory breaks.

“The Centers for Disease Control recommended in 1972 that the federal government estab-

See [Sierra](#) on page 21



Campesinas working in the fields. / Campesinas trabajando en los campos.

Photo/Foto: National Alliance of Campesinas

Mujeres Esencialmente Heroicas

Javier Sierra

La próxima vez que comas fruta o verdura, da las gracias a las campesinas que se parten el espinazo recolectándolas en condiciones inhumanas. Calor extremo, exposición a pesticidas, abusos sexuales y vulnerabilidad a COVID-19 contribuyen a que el trabajo de estas mujeres sea de los más arriesgados del país.

En el caso de los graves peligros del calor excesivo, el ganado goza de más protecciones que las campesinas. Entre 1992 y 2017, las altas temperaturas causaron la muerte de 815 trabajadores y enfermaron gravemente a más de 70,000. Quienes más sufren esta amenaza son los campesinos y campesinas, debido a su agotadora labor de sol a sol, sin acceso a agua fresca, lugares con sombra ni descansos obligatorios.

“Los Centros para el Control de Enfermedades recomendaron en 1972 que el gobierno federal estableciera un estándar de estrés por calor para los trabajadores”, dice María de Luna, directora de Política y Defensa de la Alianza Nacional de Campesinas (ANC). “Pero nada se ha hecho en casi 50 años. Lo que ya tenemos es un estándar de calor para proteger al ganado, pero no a los trabajadores del campo”.

La crisis climática empeora aún

más esta grave amenaza. Las altas temperaturas y la deshidratación pueden causar males respiratorios, cerebrales y cardiovasculares, golpe de calor y la muerte.

Estas heroicas campesinas arriesgan también su salud al estar expuestas a pesticidas de gran toxicidad. Según la ANC, cada año, se aplican 1.1 millones de libras de pesticidas y herbicidas en Estados Unidos, lo cual causa hasta 20,000 envenenamientos. Esta exposición

“La próxima vez que comas fruta o verdura, da las gracias a las campesinas que se parten el espinazo recolectándolas en condiciones inhumanas.”

puede causar cáncer, infertilidad y trastornos neurológicos.

Vea [Sierra/Esp](#), página 24

We Cannot Forget Damage of Past Administration



Photo: Robert Reich

Robert Reich

América prefers to look forward rather than back. We're a land of second acts. We move on.

This can be a strength. We don't get bogged down in outmoded traditions, old grudges, obsolete ways of thinking. We constantly reinvent. We love innovation and disruption.

The downside is a collective amnesia about what we've been through, and a corresponding reluctance to do anything about it or hold anyone accountable.

Now, with Covid receding and the economy starting to rebound—and the 2020 election and the attack on the Capitol behind us—the future looks bright.

But at the risk of being the skunk at the picnic, let me remind you:

We have lost more than 580,000 people to COVID-19. One big reason that number is so high is our former president lied about the virus and ordered his administration to minimize its danger.

“Pretending nothing happened promotes América's dangerous amnesia, which invites more attempts to distort the truth.”

He also lied about the results of the last election. And then—you remember, don't you?—he tried to overturn the results.

See [Reich](#) on page 18

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MEANS POLLUTION REDUCTIONS

Tell your state legislators to vote yes on SB 200, HB 1189, and HB 1266!



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Commentary / Comentario

The Reunification of Immigrant Families Begins

David Torres

It once seemed practically impossible that hundreds of families separated during the prior administration could be reunited once again. In the midst of cruel, anti-immigrant rhetoric, a "Zero Tolerance" policy at the border and, above all, a White House overrun by xenophobia for four long years, the hope that immigrant fathers and mothers would see their kids once again was almost at zero.

Bryan Chávez' reunification with his mother, Sandra Ortiz, last



Photo/Photo: America's Voice

week in San Ysidro, California, after more than three years apart

—since 2017— when he was just 15 years old, opens the possibility that the more than 1,000 migrant children who still have not been able to see their parents will be able to embrace them once again, soon. That comes as a result of the work of the special task force created this past February by the current government for this very purpose, and especially thanks to the clamor of a majority of U.S. Americans and the pressure of pro-immigrant organizations who fought side by side for a long time to achieve this.

Indeed, more than 5,500 families were separated during the Donald Trump presidency as part of its deterrence strategy so that, for fear of an imminent separation, migrants would stop trying to arrive at the southern border with the goal of entering U.S. territory.

Obviously, this was one of the most infamous and cruel immigration policies that comes to mind in the recent history of the United States, initiated not to enhance border security, but to inflict severe physical and above

“

The crime against humanity that remains latent in each and every one of the family separation cases is a cruelty that will surely echo in the historic retelling of this moment that seemed eternal.

See Torres on page 19

Comienza la Reunificación de las Familias Inmigrantes

David Torres

Parecía prácticamente imposible que cientos de familias separadas durante el gobierno anterior se pudieran reunir de nuevo alguna vez. En medio de una cruel retórica antiinmigrante, de una política de "tolerancia cero" en la frontera y, sobre todo, de una Casa Blanca tomada por la xenofobia durante cuatro largos años, la esperan-

za de que padres y madres migrantes volvieran a ver a sus hijos era casi nula.

La reunificación de Bryan Chávez con su madre Sandra Ortiz la semana pasada en la garita de San Ysidro, California, después de más de tres años separados —desde 2017—, cuando él contaba apenas con 15 años de edad, abre la posibilidad de que los más de 1,000 niños migrantes que aún no han

podido ver a sus padres logren abrazarlos de nuevo en alguna fecha próxima. Ello, como resultado de las gestiones del equipo especial creado en febrero pasado por el presente gobierno para ese propósito, pero sobre todo gracias al clamor de la mayoría estadounidense y a la presión de organizaciones pro inmigrantes que lucharon codo con codo durante largo tiempo para conseguirlo.

En efecto, fueron más de 5,500 familias las que resultaron separadas durante el gobierno de Donald Trump como parte de su estrategia de disuasión para que, por medio del temor a una separación inminente, los migrantes dejaran de intentar el arribo a la frontera sur con el fin de ingresar luego a territorio estadounidense.

Vea Torres/Esp, página 20

“

El crimen de lesa humanidad que cometieron sigue latente en todos y cada uno de los casos de separación familiar, una crueldad que seguramente hará eco en el recuento histórico de esa etapa que parecía eterna.

REDUCIR LA CONTAMINACIÓN PARA LA JUSTICIA AMBIENTAL

Dígale a su representante estatal que vote SÍ a SB 200, HB1266 y HB 1189

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I Live in the Neighborhood Where Adam Toledo Was Killed

María Serrano

Like 13-year-old Adam Toledo's mom, I am also a mom in Chicago's Little Village neighborhood. I can't imagine her grief, and I don't know her personally. But I know that the people who judge or blame her for his death, as she herself has said many do, don't understand what it means to raise a child in our neighborhood today.

Little Village, a largely Latinx neighborhood where Adam was fatally shot by a Chicago police officer on March 29, is a community that needs a lot of resources. For example, he attended Gary Elementary, where 95% percent of students are from low-income families. Our neighborhood's working parents, especially, struggle financially. Even some families that have lived here for 15, 20, or more years work multiple jobs just to afford the rent that's increasing due to gentrification.

Many in our community are also undocumented, which means that even during the COVID-19 pandemic, they have not been eligible for stimulus checks, food stamps, or other government supports.

That has made the economic situation even more dire.

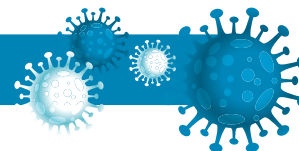
Of course, we as parents and caregivers want to provide our children with the best life possible. But we don't have the support that we need to overcome poverty

“

The responsibility of keeping our children and neighbors safe belongs to all of us — not just the parents, not just the mothers.

and invest in our children the way they deserve. Kids in other wealthier neighborhoods have access to a wide range of after-school activities. We have a neighborhood YMCA, but even that is too expensive for many families. Instead, everything we earn has to go to feed our family or to pay for the car that takes our kids to school and us to work. It's not right.

See Serrano on page 19



Serious Covid Cases on the Rise in Younger Adults

By Will Stone

After spending much of the past year tending to elderly patients, doctors are seeing a clear demographic shift: young and middle-aged adults make up a growing share of the patients in covid-19 hospital wards.

It's both a sign of the country's success in protecting the elderly through vaccination and an urgent reminder that younger generations will pay a heavy price if the outbreak is allowed to simmer in communities across the country.

"We're now seeing people in their 30s, 40s and 50s — young people who are really sick," said Dr. Vishnu Chundi, a specialist in infectious diseases and chair of the Chicago Medical Society's covid-19 task force. "Most of them make it, but some do not. ... I just lost a



Serious cases of covid-19 have grown in recent weeks in Americans 50 and younger. / En semanas recientes, los casos graves de covid en menores de 50 años han aumentado de manera preocupante.

32-year-old with two children, so it's heartbreaking."

Nationally, adults under 50 now account for the most hospitalized covid patients in the country —

about 36% of all hospital admissions. Those ages 50 to 64 account for the second-highest number of hospitalizations, or about 31%. Meanwhile, hospitalizations among

adults 65 and older have fallen significantly.

About 32% of the U.S. population is now fully vaccinated, but the vast majority are people older than 65 — a group that was prioritized in the initial phase of the vaccine rollout.

Although new infections are gradually declining nationwide, some regions have contended with a resurgence of the coronavirus in recent months — what some have called a "fourth wave" — propelled by the B.1.1.7 variant, first identified in the United Kingdom, which is estimated to be somewhere between 40% and 70% more contagious.

As many states ditch pandemic precautions, this more virulent strain still has ample room to spread among the younger population, which remains broadly susceptible to the disease.

“

"A lot of them are requiring ICU care. I think we will continue to see that, especially if there's not a lot of vaccine uptake in these groups."

Dr. Michelle Barron,
UCHealth

The emergence of more dangerous strains of the virus in the U.S. — including variants first discovered in South Africa and Brazil — has made the vaccination effort all the more urgent.

"We are in a whole different ballgame," said Judith Malmgren.

See Rise on page 24

Dramático Aumento de Casos en Adultos Jóvenes

Por Will Stone

Después de pasar gran parte del año pasado atendiendo a pacientes de edad avanzada, los médicos están viendo un cambio demográfico claro: los adultos jóvenes y de mediana edad constituyen una parte cada vez mayor de los pacientes en las salas de covid-19 de los hospitales.

Es tanto una señal del éxito del país en la protección de los adultos mayores con la vacunación como un recordatorio urgente de que las generaciones más jóvenes pagarán un alto precio si se permite que siga habiendo brotes en todo el país.

"Ahora vemos personas de 30, 40 y 50 años, jóvenes que están realmente enfermos", dijo el doctor Vishnu Chundi, especialista en enfermedades infecciosas y presidente del grupo de trabajo de covid de la Sociedad Médica de Chicago. "La mayoría de ellos lo superan, pero algunos no... acabo de perder a un hombre de 32 años con dos hijos, es desgarrador".

Aproximadamente el 32% de la población de los Estados Unidos

ya está completamente vacunada, pero la gran mayoría son personas mayores de 65 años, un grupo al que se le dio prioridad en la fase inicial de inmunización.

A nivel nacional, los adultos menores de 50 años representan ahora los pacientes con covid más hospitalizados en el país, alrededor del 36% de todas las admisiones. Las personas de 50 a 64 años representan el segundo grupo con más internaciones, alrededor del 31%. Las hospitalizaciones entre los adultos mayores de 65 años se han reducido significativamente.

Aunque las nuevas infecciones están disminuyendo gradualmente en todo el país, algunas regiones han enfrentado un resurgimiento del coronavirus en los últimos meses, lo que algunos han llamado una "cuarta ola", impulsado por la variante B.1.1.7, identificada por primera vez en el Reino Unido, que se estima que es entre un 40% y un 70% más contagiosa.

Como muchos estados abandonan las precauciones por la pandemia, esta cepa más virulenta todavía tiene un amplio margen para propagarse entre la población

más joven, que sigue siendo ampliamente susceptible a la enfermedad.

La aparición de cepas más peligrosas del virus en el país, incluidas las variantes descubiertas por primera vez en Sudáfrica y Brasil, ha hecho que el esfuerzo de vacunación sea aún más urgente.

"Estamos en un juego completamente diferente", dijo Judith Malmgren, epidemióloga de la Universidad de Washington.

El aumento de las infecciones entre los adultos jóvenes crea un "reservorio de enfermedad" que eventualmente "se extiende al resto de la sociedad", sociedad que aún no ha alcanzado la inmunidad colectiva, y presagia un aumento más amplio de casos, dijo.

Afortunadamente, la posibilidad de morir por covid sigue siendo muy pequeña para las personas menores de 50 años, pero este grupo de edad puede enfermarse gravemente o experimentar síntomas a largo plazo después de la infección inicial. Las personas con afecciones subyacentes, como obesidad y enfermedades cardíacas, también

tienen más probabilidades de enfermarse gravemente.

"B.1.1.7 no discrimina por edad, y cuando se trata de jóvenes, nuestro mensaje al respecto sigue siendo demasiado suave", dijo Malmgren.

En todo el país, la afluencia de pacientes más jóvenes con covid ha sorprendido a los médicos que describen salas de hospital llenas de pacientes, muchos de los cuales parecen estar más enfermos de lo que se vio durante las oleadas anteriores de la pandemia.

"Muchos de ellos requieren atención en terapia intensiva", dijo la doctora Michelle Barron, jefa de prevención y control de infecciones en UCHealth, uno de los grandes sistemas hospitalarios de Colorado.

La edad promedio de los pacientes con covid en los hospitales de UCHealth ha disminuido en más de 10 años en las últimas semanas, de 59 a 48 años, agregó Barron.

"Creo que seguiremos viendo eso, especialmente si no hay mucha aceptación de la vacuna en estos grupos", dijo.

Si bien la mayoría de los hospitales están lejos de la avalancha

“

"Muchos de ellos requieren atención en terapia intensiva. Creo que seguiremos viendo eso, especialmente si no hay mucha aceptación de la vacuna en estos grupos".

Dra. Michelle Barron,
UCHealth

de casos durante el invierno, la explosión de casos en Michigan subraya las posibles consecuencias de flexibilizar las restricciones cuando una gran parte de los adultos aún no están vacunados.

Existe una fuerte evidencia de que las tres vacunas que se están utilizando en el país rindan una buena protección contra la variante del Reino Unido.

Un estudio sugiere que la variante B.1.1.7 no causa complicaciones graves, como se pensaba anteriormente. Sin embargo, los pacientes infectados con esta variante parecen tener más prob-

Vea Aumento, página 20

Provided to you by:



Violence Forces One Family to Rethink American Justice

By Sarah Varney

The beer bottle that cracked over Christian Pean's head unleashed rivulets of blood that ran down his face and seeped into the soil in which Harold and Paloma Pean were growing their three boys. At the time, Christian was a confident high school student, a football player in the suburbs of McAllen, Texas, a border city at the state's southern tip where teenage boys — Hispanic, Black, white — sung along to rap songs, blaring out the N-word in careless

refrain. "If you keep it up, we're going to fight," Christian warned a white boy who sang the racial epithet at a party one evening in the waning years of George W. Bush's presidency. And they did.

On that fall evening in 2005, Christian pushed and punched, his youthful ego stung to action by the warm blood on his face. A friend ushered Christian into a car and drove through the bedroom community of Mission, passing manicured golf greens, gable roofs and swimming pools, to the well-appointed home of Dr. Harold and

Paloma Pean, who received their son with care and grace. At the time, even as he stitched closed the severed black skin on his son's forehead, Dr. Pean, a Haitian exile and internal medicine physician, believed his family's success in America was surely inevitable, not a choice to be made and remade by his adopted country's racist legacy.

Christian's younger brother, Alan, a popular sophomore linebacker who shunned rap music and dressed in well-heeled, preppy clothes, agitated to find the boy and fight him. "Everybody shut up and sit down," Paloma ordered. Inside her head, where thoughts roiled in her native Spanish, Paloma recalled her brother's advice when they were kids growing up in Mexico: *No temas nada. Eres una chica valiente. Never be scared. You are a brave girl.* She counseled restraint, empathy even. "Christian, we need to forgive. We don't know how the life of this guy is that he took that reaction." *This is a country that recognizes wisdom*, Paloma thought.

The Pean family's tentative truce with America's darker forces would not last long. In August 2015, when Alan was 26 and under care at a Houston hospital where he had sought treatment for bipolar delusions, off-duty police officers working as security guards would shoot him through the chest in his hospital room, then handcuff him as he lay bleeding on the floor. Alan would survive, only to be criminally charged by the Houston police.

The shot fired into Alan's chest would extinguish the Pean family's belief that diligent high achievers could outwit the racism that shadows the American promise. Equality would not be a choice left up to a trio of ambitious boys.

Nearly six years later, the Peans remain haunted by the ordeal, each of them grappling with what



Dr. Harold and Paloma Pean at their home in Mission, Texas. Nearly six years after their son was shot by off-duty police officers while seeking help for a mental health crisis, the Peans remain haunted by the ordeal. / El doctor Harold Pean y su esposa Paloma en su casa de Mission, Texas. A seis años de que un policía fuera de servicio le dispara a su hijo mientras buscaba ayuda por una crisis de salud mental, los Peans todavía reviven esa pesadilla.

it means to be Black in América and their role in transforming American medicine. Christian and Dominique, the youngest Pean brother, both aspiring doctors, like their father, have joined forces with the legions of families working to expose and eradicate police brutality, even as they navigate more delicate terri-

their sons, propel them to the future they have earned — even as they wonder whether the America they once revered doesn't exist.

"People don't want to admit we have racism," Paloma told me. "But Pean and me, we know the pain."

Harold Pean doesn't recall being raised Black or white. His native Haiti was fractured by schisms beyond skin color.

Harold was 13 when he, his sister and five brothers woke on a May morning in 1968 to find that their father, a prominent judge, had fled Port-au-Prince on one of the last planes to leave the island before another anti-Duvalier revolt pitched the republic into a season of executions. His father had received papers from President François Duvalier demanding he sign off on amendments to Haiti's Constitution to allow Duvalier to become president for life. Harold's father refused. Soldiers arrived at the Pean house days after his father escaped.

The Republic of Haiti was marked by Duvalier's capricious cruelty during Harold's youth, but as the son of a judge and grandnephew of a physician, he enjoyed a comfortable life in which the Pean children were expected to excel in school and pursue professional careers: engineering, medicine, science or politics. In school, the children learned of their ancestors' brave heroics, African slaves who revolted against French colonialists and established a free republic, and they saw Black men and women running fruit stands, banks, schools and the government. "I didn't experience racism as a kid," Harold remembers. "When you find racism as a kid, that makes you doubt yourself. But I never doubted myself."

“

"People don't want to admit we have racism. But Pean and me, we know the pain."

Paloma Pean

tory cultivating careers in a largely white medical establishment.

Alan has seen his studies derailed. He remains embroiled in a lawsuit with the hospital and wavers over his responsibility to the fraternity of Black men who did not survive their own racist encounters with police.

And Paloma and Harold, torn from their Mexican and Haitian roots, look to buoy and reassure

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La Violencia Obliga a una Familia a Replantearse la Justicia Estadounidense

Por Sarah Varney

La botella de cerveza que se rompió sobre la cabeza de Christian Pean desató hilos de sangre que cayeron por su rostro y se filtraron en la tierra en la que Harold y Paloma Pean estaban criando a sus tres hijos.

En ese momento, Christian era un estudiante seguro de sí mismo, jugador de fútbol americano en una secundaria de los suburbios de McAllen, Texas, una ciudad fronteriza en el extremo sur del estado donde los adolescentes varones — hispanos, negros y blancos no hispanos — cantaban juntos canciones de rap a los gritos, introduciendo la palabra "N..." casi sin darse cuenta. "Si lo sigues diciendo, vamos a pelear", le advirtió Christian a un joven blanco que estaba cantando el epíteto racial en una fiesta, una noche en los últimos años de la presidencia de George W. Bush. Y pelearon.

En esa noche de otoño de 2005, Christian empujó y golpeó, su ego juvenil se activó al sentir la sangre caliente en su rostro. Un amigo acompañó a Christian a un automóvil y condujo a través de la comunidad de Mission, pasando por campos de golf bien cuidados, techos a dos aguas y piscinas, hasta la casa del doctor Harold y Paloma Pean, quienes recibieron a su hijo con cuidado y compasión.

En ese momento, incluso mientras suturaba la piel cortada de la frente de su hijo, el doctor Pean, un exiliado haitiano y médico de medicina interna, creía que su familia iba a tener éxito en los Estados Unidos, a pesar del legado racista de su país adoptivo.

El hermano menor de Christian, Alan, también un popular jugador de décimo grado que evitaba la música rap y se vestía con ropa elegante tuvo el impulso de buscar al muchacho para enfrentarlo.

"Todos se callan y se sientan", ordenó Paloma. En su mente, donde los pensamientos se agitaban en su español nativo, Paloma recordó el consejo de su hermano cuando eran niños y crecían en México: No temas nada. Eres una chica valiente. Nunca tengas miedo. Ella aconsejó moderación, incluso empatía. "Christian, tenemos que perdonar. No sabemos cómo es la vida de este joven que reaccionó así". Este es un país que reconoce la sabiduría, pensó Paloma.

La tentativa tregua de la familia Pean con las fuerzas más oscuras de Estados Unidos no duraría mucho. En agosto de 2015, cuando



De izq. a der.: Dominique, Alan y Christian Pean cerca de la casa que comparten en la ciudad de Nueva York. Casi seis años después de que los agentes de seguridad del hospital le dispararan a Alan, los hermanos están lidiando con lo que significa ser negro en Estados Unidos y su papel en la transformación de la medicina estadounidense. "Han pasado tantos años y no obtuvimos justicia", dice Dominique. / From left: Dominique, Alan and Christian Pean near their shared home in New York City. Nearly six years after Alan was shot by hospital security officers, the brothers are grappling with what it means to be Black in America and their role in transforming American medicine. "It's been so many years, and we didn't get justice," Dominique says.

Alan tenía 26 años y estaba siendo atendido en un hospital de Houston donde había buscado tratamiento por delirio bipolar, dos agentes de policía fuera de servicio que trabajaban como guardias de seguridad le dispararon en el pecho en su habitación y lo esposaron mientras sangraba en el suelo. Alan sobrevivió, solo para recibir cargos criminales de la policía de Houston.

El disparo en el pecho de Alan extinguiría la creencia de la familia Pean de que los grandes triunfadores diligentes podrían burlar el racismo que ensombrece el sueño americano. La igualdad no sería una opción dejada en manos de un trío de jóvenes ambiciosos.

Casi seis años después, los Pean siguen obsesionados por la terrible experiencia, cada uno de ellos lidiando con lo que significa ser negro en los Estados Unidos y su papel en la transformación de la medicina estadounidense. Christian y Dominique, el hermano menor, ambos aspirantes a médicos, como su padre, han unido fuerzas con legiones de familias que trabajan para exponer y erradicar la brutalidad policial, incluso mientras navegan por territorios más delicados cultivando carreras en un establecimiento médico mayoritariamente blanco.

Alan ha visto sus estudios descarrilados. Sigue envuelto en una demanda con el hospital y duda sobre su responsabilidad con la fraternidad de hombres negros que no sobrevivieron a sus propios encuentros racistas con la policía.

Y Paloma y Harold, arrancados de sus raíces mexicanas y haitianas, buscan animar y tranquilizar a sus hijos, impulsarlos hacia el futuro que se han ganado, incluso mientras se preguntan si la América que una vez veneraron no existe.

dre, un juez prominente, había huido de Puerto Príncipe en uno de los últimos aviones que abandonaron la isla ante otra revuelta anti-Duvalier, revuelta que lanzó a la república a una temporada de ejecuciones.

Su padre había recibido documentos del presidente François Duvalier exigiendo que firmara las enmiendas a la Constitución de Haití para permitir que Duvalier se convirtiera en presidente vitalicio. El padre de Harold se negó. Los soldados llegaron a la casa de Pean días después de que su padre escapara.

La República de Haití estuvo marcada por la crueldad caprichosa de Duvalier durante la juventud de Harold, pero como hijo de un juez y sobrino nieto de un médico, disfrutó de una vida privilegiada en la que se esperaba que los niños Pean sobresalieran en la escuela y siguieran carreras: ingeniería, medicina, ciencia o política.

En la escuela, los niños aprendieron de los valientes actos heroicos de sus antepasados, los esclavos africanos que se rebelaron contra los colonialistas franceses y establecieron una república libre, y vieron a hombres y mujeres negros dirigiendo puestos de frutas,

bancos, escuelas y el gobierno. "No experimenté el racismo cuando era niño", recuerda Harold. "Cuando te encuentras con el racismo de niño, eso te hace dudar de ti mismo. Pero nunca dudé de mí mismo".

Dos años después de que el padre de Harold huyera de Haití, su madre se reunió con su esposo en Nueva York, dejando a los niños Pean al cuidado de otros familiares.

“

"La gente no quiere admitir que tenemos racismo. Pero Pean y yo conocemos el dolor".

Paloma Pean

En 1975, Harold y sus hermanos abandonaron Haití y emigraron a la ciudad de Nueva York. Nueva York era fría y sus calles muchos más anchas que las de Puerto Príncipe. Su padre había encontrado trabajo como ascensorista en el Rockefeller Center.

En ese momento, el hermano mayor de Harold, Leslie, asistía a la

Vea **Justicia**, página 23

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State News / Noticias del Estado

Denver Public Schools names three finalists for superintendent

COLORADO

By Melanie Asmar

Three school district administrators — from Florida, New York, and the Colorado city of Aurora — are finalists for the position of superintendent of Denver Public Schools, according to a district announcement Friday.

The three are Andre Wright, chief academic officer for Aurora Public Schools; Stephanie Soliven, assistant superintendent for secondary leading and learning in Brevard Public Schools in Florida; and Alex Marrero, interim superintendent for the City School District of New Rochelle in New York.

"Each is bold, each is a rising star in the field of education, and each would be an excellent leader for Denver Public Schools," school board President Carrie Olson said.

Denver Public Schools is Colorado's largest school district with 93,000 students. The previous superintendent, Susana Cordova, left in December to take a job in Texas. The school board has spent the past five months searching for a new leader. The board is expected to vote on hiring a new superintendent next month.

In surveys and meetings, parents, teachers, students, and community members have said they want the board to hire a

person of color who has experience as an educator, knowledge of Denver education issues, and a demonstrated commitment to equity.

The next superintendent will take the helm of a district recovering from pandemic learning disruptions. The school board is also grappling with the financial implications of declining enrollment and the need to write a new strategic plan for the district. The board has shifted away from past education reform strategies such as closing schools with low test scores, and has asked tough questions of autonomous district-run schools and independent charter schools.

About the three finalists:



Andre Wright

In neighboring Aurora Public Schools, a diverse 38,000-student district southeast of Denver, Wright's job involves helping Aurora's schools improve their academics. He has held the position

"Each is bold, each is a rising star in the field of education, and each would be an excellent leader for Denver Public Schools."

Carrie Olson, DPS Board President

for more than three years. Wright has been in Aurora since 2014. He previously oversaw 10 schools, including Hinkley High School and East Middle School, as one of the district's learning directors.

See Denver on page 25

Las Escuelas Públicas de Denver Nombran a Tres Finalistas para Superintendente

COLORADO

Por Melanie Asmar

Tres administradores de distritos escolares — de Florida, Nueva York y la ciudad de Aurora, en Colorado — son los finalistas para el puesto de superintendente de las Escuelas Públicas

de Denver, según anunció el distrito el viernes.

Los tres son Andre Wright, director académico de las Escuelas Públicas de Aurora; Stephanie Soliven, superintendente adjunta para la dirección y el aprendizaje en secundaria de las Escuelas Públicas de Brevard en Florida; y Alex Marrero, superintendente in-

terino del Distrito Escolar de la Ciudad de Nueva Rochelle en Nueva York.

"Cada uno es audaz, cada uno es una estrella en ascenso en el campo de la educación, y cada uno sería un excelente líder para las Escuelas Públicas de Denver", dijo la presidenta del consejo escolar Carrie Olson.

Las Escuelas Públicas de Denver son el mayor distrito escolar de Colorado, con 93,000 alumnos. La anterior superintendente, Susana Cordova, se marchó en diciembre para aceptar un trabajo en Texas. El consejo escolar ha pasado los últimos cinco meses buscando un nuevo líder. Se espera que la junta vote sobre la contratación de un

"Cada uno es audaz, cada uno es una estrella en ascenso en el campo de la educación, y cada uno sería un excelente líder para las Escuelas Públicas de Denver".

Carrie Olson, Presidenta del Consejo Escolar

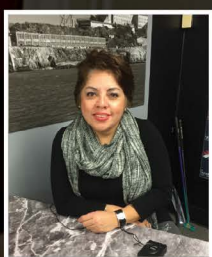
nuevo superintendente el próximo mes.

En las encuestas y reuniones, los padres, los profesores, los estudiantes y los miembros de la comunidad han dicho que quieren que la junta contrate a una persona de color que tenga experiencia como educador, conocimiento de los problemas educativos de Denver y un compromiso demostrado con la equidad.

El próximo superintendente tomará el timón de un distrito que se está recuperando de una pandemia de interrupción del aprendizaje. El consejo escolar también está lidiando con las implicaciones financieras de la disminución de las inscripciones y la necesidad de escribir un nuevo plan estratégico para el distrito. El consejo se ha alejado de las estrategias de reforma educativa del pasado, como el cierre de las escuelas con bajas calificaciones en los exámenes, y ha planteado preguntas difíciles a las escuelas autónomas gestionadas por el distrito y a las escuelas chárter independientes.

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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State News / Noticias del Estado

Free Whitewater Rafting for San Luis Valley Youth

COLORADO

By Eric Galatas

Middle- and high-school students in Colorado's San Luis Valley will get to go whitewater rafting for the first time this summer, for free, as part of Conejos Clean Water's slate of programs designed to get kids away from their screens and connected with nature.

Michele Trujillo, an associate professor at Metro State University and the nonprofit's board chair, said one goal is to get students outdoors for exercise and elevate their heart rates to promote the value of a healthy lifestyle at an early age.



The San Luis Valley in southwest Colorado is looking for local students interested in outdoor water activities. / El Valle de San Luis, en el suroeste de Colorado, busca estudiantes locales interesados en actividades acuáticas al aire libre.

"Also, it really promotes the idea of environmental wellness, environmental justice," she said. "Students are becoming stew-

ards of the environment, and they're keeping their environment healthy and clean."

She said they'll learn the basics of rafting as a team, and wilderness awareness, alongside experts from the Rocky Mountain Outdoor Center, spending two days and one night on the Arkansas River near Browns Canyon National Monument outside Buena Vista. Families interested in signing up for these and other activities, including river surfing and lake paddle-boarding, can contact Conejos by e-mail at info@CCCwater.org.

Trujillo said many young people in the San Luis Valley, especially kids of color, face barriers

“

"Students are becoming stewards of the environment, and they're keeping their environment healthy and clean."

Michele Trujillo,
Metropolitan State
University of Denver

to accessing outdoor recreation that many Coloradans take for granted. She said participating

See Galatas on page 21

Rafting Gratuito para los Jóvenes del Valle de San Luis

COLORADO

Por Eric Galatas

Los estudiantes de secundaria y preparatoria en el Valle de San Luis de Colorado tendrán la oportunidad de ir de rafting por primera vez este verano, de forma gratuita, como parte de la pizarra de Conejos Clean Water de los programas diseñados para obtener los niños lejos de sus pantallas y conectado con la naturaleza.

Michele Trujillo, profesora asociada de la Metro State University y presidenta de la junta directiva de la organización, dijo que uno de los objetivos es hacer que los estudiantes hagan ejercicio al aire libre y

eleven su ritmo cardíaco para promover el valor de un estilo de vida saludable a una edad temprana.

"Además, fomenta la idea del bienestar medioambiental y la justicia medioambiental", afirma. "Los estudiantes se convierten en administradores del medio ambiente y mantienen su entorno sano y limpio".

Dijo que aprenderán los fundamentos del rafting en equipo, y la conciencia de la naturaleza, junto a expertos del Rocky Mountain Outdoor Center, pasando dos días y una noche en el río Arkansas, cerca del Monumento Nacional Browns Canyon, en las afueras de Buena Vista. Las familias interesadas en inscribirse en estas y otras actividades, como el surf en el río

y el paddle-boarding en el lago, pueden ponerse en contacto con Conejos por correo electrónico en info@CCCwater.org.

Trujillo dijo que muchos jóvenes en el Valle de San Luis, especialmente los niños de color, se enfrentan a las barreras para acceder a la recreación al aire libre que muchos habitantes de Colorado dan por sentado. Ella dijo que los estudiantes participantes podrían obtener una ventaja en el aterrizaje de trabajos de verano bien pagados, ganando horas para la certificación de rafting y una insignia de mérito. También pueden certificarse en RCP y primeros auxilios.

"No se trata sólo de sacar a los estudiantes al exterior, sino también de formarlos para que

puedan convertirse en guías", dijo. "Y también pueden aprender a ser

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"Los estudiantes se convierten en administradores del medio ambiente y mantienen su entorno sano y limpio".

Michele Trujillo,
Metropolitan State
University of Denver

socorristas y conseguir un empleo en verano".

Como miembro de la junta directiva cofundadora, Trujillo

dijo que ha sido gratificante ver cómo Conejos beneficia a las comunidades locales, incluso en un nuevo invernadero e instalación de educación al aire libre construido en un sitio histórico en la ciudad de Antonito. El grupo está buscando cubrir puestos en la junta directiva, y ella anima a cualquier persona interesada en la justicia medioambiental, alimentaria y social a ponerse en contacto.

Eric Galatas es productor de Public News Service. Traducción por Juan Carlos Uribe-The Weekly Issue/El Semanario.

Para Noticias de Colorado:
ELSEMANARIO.US

House Votes to Expand Reproductive Health Care Access

COLORADO

The House on May 11, advanced Colorado Reps. Yadira Caraveo and Julie McCluskie's bill to remove barriers to allow survivors of sexual violence on Medicaid to access a full range of reproductive health care options, including abortion, closer to their homes. The vote was 39-24.

"As a doctor, I won't stand by and let the type of insurance coverage someone has, their income, or their zip code determine what kind of care they can have in Colorado," said Rep. Yadira Caraveo, D-Thornton, a physician. "All women in Colorado should have access to the full range of reproductive health care, and this bill brings us a



Rep. Yadira Caraveo



Rep. Julie McCluskie

step closer to making that a reality."

"Survivors of sexual violence should have access to the reproductive care they need, regardless of their income level, zip code, or what type of health insurance they have," said Rep. Julie McCluskie,

D-Dillon. "Colorado has repeatedly defended women's access to reproductive care, and now, we're taking an important step forward to ensure that all women in our state have access to the care they may need."

Current law only allows public funds to be used for abortion care in highly specific locations and requires that they only be performed by a physician – despite the fact that safe abortion care is offered in several out-patient care facilities across the state, including primary care offices, OBGYN offices, abortion clinics, etc. and are routinely performed by other kinds of certified healthcare providers like nurse practitioners.

These restrictions solely and exclusively impact Medicaid-eligible sexual violence survivors because people with private insurance are not subject to facility or physician-only restrictions when seeking abortion care. SB21-142 would allow sexual violence survivors on Medicaid to access all re-

“

"As a doctor, I won't stand by and let the type of insurance coverage someone has, their income, or their zip code determine what kind of care they can have in Colorado."

Rep. Yadira Caraveo

productive care options closer to home by removing restrictions on the types of buildings where certain care is covered and removing the physician requirement barriers.

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State News / Noticias del Estado

Navajo Nation Faces Impact of Oil, Gas Methane Pollution

NEW MEXICO

By Roz Brown

The Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency is considering adopting an air-permitting program to address methane emissions - and it could be a lifesaving decision for 300,000 Indigenous people who live there.

A new report shows methane waste and pollution is a growing problem for residents of the country's largest Indian reservation.

Joseph Hernández, an organizer with the [NAVA Education Project](#), said air pollution from extractive industries no longer affects only one

area of Navajo lands, but is found everywhere.

He added it's common to know many families who have lost loved ones to cancer.

"Health disparity in the region is known," said Hernández. "I have many family members who suffer from asthma, and it's something that is not normal in other communities."

The analysis shows pollution isn't the only problem - as 5% of the natural gas produced is wasted annually through methane leaks, venting and flaring. Curbing the waste would add more than \$1 million to tribal royalties each year.

The Environmental Defense Fund report follows a recent vote in the U.S. Senate to restore federal



Joseph Hernández, an organizer with the NAVA Education Project. / Joseph Hernández, organizador del Proyecto Educativo Alianza de Electores Nativos Americanos.

rules to reduce methane pollution in oil and gas operations.

In addition to New México, the Navajo Nation stretches across portions of northeastern Arizona and southeastern Utah. The re-

source-rich land has made many Native economies dependent on extraction in the past century, starting with coal and uranium.

Hernández noted a recent government report showed almost 30% of the Native population had 'poor' or 'fair' health status in 2018, compared to about 16% of the white population.

"What is common between all of us," said Hernández, "is that we all live in this area that's being extracted by not just one industry, but many industries here in the Four Corners region."

The report was prepared by the Environmental Defense Fund, Diné C.A.R.E., the NAVA Education Project, Grand Canyon Trust and Western Leaders Network.

“

"Health disparity in the region is known. I have many family members who suffer from asthma, and it's something that is not normal in other communities."

Joseph Hernández,
NAVA Education Project

Roz Brown is a Producer with
Public News Service.

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La Nación Navajo se Enfrenta al Impacto de la Contaminación por Petróleo y Gas Metano

NEW MEXICO

Por Roz Brown

La práctica del desfogue de metano y la quema de aceite y gas por parte de las empresas gaseras en el Suroeste, no sólo contamina sino que además desperdicia millones de dólares, según un análisis reciente realizado por el Fondo de Defensa Ambiental y socios colaboradores. Muestra que las emisiones de metano en tierras Navajo son más del doble que el promedio nacional. Comenta Joseph Hernández, organizador en el Proyecto Educativo NAVA quien evalúa un programa de autorizaciones para manejar las emisiones de metano, lo que pudiera ser un salvavidas para 300 mil indígenas. [Un](#)

reporte muestra que los desperdicios y la contaminación de metano son un problema creciente para la mayor reservación India del país. Joseph Hernández, organizador del Proyecto Educativo Alianza de Electores Nativos Americanos (Native American Voters Alliance, NAVA), dice que la contaminación de las industrias extractivas ya está por todas partes y que es común ver familias que han perdido a sus seres amados víctimas de cáncer.

"La disparidad de salud es conocida en la región. Tengo muchos miembros de la familia que sufren de asma y eso es anormal en otras comunidades."

El análisis muestra que la contaminación no es el único problema; el 5% del gas natural producido se desperdicia por fugas, ventilación y "venting". Frenar este

desperdicio agregaría ganancias por más de un millón de dólares

“

"La disparidad de salud es conocida en la región. Tengo muchos miembros de la familia que sufren de asma y eso es anormal en otras comunidades".

Joseph Hernández,
Proyecto Educativo
Alianza de Electores
Nativos Americanos

cada año. El reporte del Fondo de Defensa Ambiental sigue a una votación del Senado de los Estados Unidos para restaurar las

reglas federales y reducir la contaminación por metano en las operaciones de petróleo y gas.

Además de Nuevo México, la Nación Navajo se extiende en el noreste de Arizona y el sureste de Utah. La tierra, rica en recursos, hizo que en el siglo pasado muchas economías nativas dependieran de la extracción de carbón y uranio. Hernández destaca un [reporte del Gobierno](#) que mostró que casi el 30 por ciento de la población nativa tuvo un nivel de salud entre 'pobre' y 'ajustado' en 2018, comparado con cerca del 16 % de la población blanca.

"Lo común entre todos nosotros es que vivamos en esta área que fue de extracción no sólo para una industria, sino para muchas industrias en la región de las Cuatro Esquinas."

Reporte elaborado por el Fondo de Defensa Ambiental Diné C.A.R.E., el Proyecto Educativo NAVA, el Fideicomiso Grand Canyon Trust y la Red de Líderes del Oeste (Western Leaders Network).

La Agencia de Protección Ambiental de la Nación Navajo (NNEPA) evalúa un programa de autorizaciones de aire para manejar las emisiones de metano que pudiera ser un salvavidas para 300 mil indígenas.

Roz Brown es productor de
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Alfonso López-Collada Public
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Senator Luján Announces Vaccine Assistance

NEW MEXICO

U.S. Senator Ben Ray Luján announced that caseworkers in his state offices have been trained by the New México Department of Health to help New Mexicans register to receive COVID-19 vaccines. Dozens of New Mexicans have already received vaccination casework assistance through Senator Luján's office, but this new training will allow constituents struggling to sign up to do so by contacting Senator Luján's office through his website - [lujan.senate.gov](#) - or by calling 202-224-6621.



U.S. Senator Ben Ray Luján

Senator Luján's caseworkers have also received Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) training to protect

the health information of New Mexicans.

"Vaccines are being deployed at a quickening rate to communities across New México, with nearly 50 percent of New Mexicans fully vaccinated against COVID-19. However, some seniors and individuals without reliable Internet access still face challenges navigating the process. In order to support the Department of Health's efforts, my caseworkers have been trained to register New Mexicans on the Department's vaccination portal and soon all of my state staff will be trained," said Luján. "My team is just a phone call away and

ready to help our communities get vaccinated."

Constituents have shared their experiences working with Senator Luján's office to obtain vaccine appointments.

"It was suggested that I contact the Office of Senator Ben Ray Luján to help my 78-year-old neighbors secure their COVID vaccines. They had been notified several times via cell phone and computer, however, were not able to hear the cell phone or able to manage the computer site. They put their faith in me, and I put my faith in Senator Lujan's office," said Linda from Albuquerque. "The following morning the Department of

“

"My team is just a phone call away and ready to help our communities get vaccinated."

U.S. Senator Ben Ray
Luján

Health called me to set up their appointments."

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State News / Noticias del Estado

Arizona Audit: 'There Are No Rules or Accountability'

ARIZONA

By Mark Hedin

As Arizona processes a new audit of Maricopa County's 2.1 million November votes, the nonprofit National Task Force on Election Crises hosted a panel discussion of the unusual process.

Washington Secretary of State Kim Wyman has an almost 30-year background as an election's official and is the only Republi-

can official elected state-wide there. She was joined in the May 4 telebriefing by former Maricopa County elections official Tammy Patrick, and Matthew Masterson, former lead Senior Cybersecurity Advisor for the Department of Homeland Security.

Despite multiple previous audits of the election results, which found no evidence of mistakes or wrongdoing, State Sen. Karen Fann convinced her fellow Republicans controlling the legislative body to do a top-to-bottom examination

of the ballots, voting machines and voting materials.

The Senate justified seeking the audit on grounds of ensuring future elections are properly conducted. Whatever the audit finds, there's no chance of reversing the result of the presidential election of six months ago.

The audit is being conducted by a small Florida-based company called Cyber Ninjas, that has no prior relevant experience in such work, and has hired subcontractors.

"I think the thing that I'm most disturbed about with what's happening in Arizona," Wyman said, "is this partisan nature of the recount or audit. The biggest problem with it is that there are no rules or accountability that are built into the system in the way you would with election laws and procedures and policies.

"They're not defining who's eligible to participate, or watch, or challenge the outcome of the re-

See [Accountability](#) on page 21



"They're not defining who's eligible to participate, or watch, or challenge the outcome of the recount. Who set the rules, who's paying for it? All of these things are hidden from public view. We're putting our democracy at risk."

Kim Wyman, Washington Secretary of State

Auditoría de Arizona: 'No Hay Reglas Ni Responsabilidad'

ARIZONA

Por Mark Hedin

Mientras Arizona procesa una nueva auditoría de los 2.1 millones de votos del condado de Maricopa en noviembre, la organización sin ánimo de lucro National Task Force on Election Crises organizó una mesa redonda sobre el inusual proceso.

La Secretaria de Estado de Washington, Kim Wyman, tiene una experiencia de casi 30 años como funcionaria electoral y es la única funcionaria republicana elegida en todo el estado. En la sesión informativa del 4 de mayo la acompañaron Tammy Patrick, ex funcionaria electoral del condado de Maricopa, y Matthew Masterson, ex asesor principal de ciberseguridad del Departamento de Seguridad Nacional.

A pesar de las múltiples auditorías previas de los resultados de las elecciones, que no hallaron pruebas de errores ni de infracciones, la senadora estatal Karen Fann convenció a sus compañeros republicanos que controlan el órgano legislativo para que hicieran un examen exhaustivo de las papeletas, las máquinas de votación y el material electoral.

El Senado justificó la solicitud de la auditoría con el fin de garan-

tizar que las futuras elecciones se lleven a cabo correctamente. Sea cual sea el resultado de la auditoría, no hay posibilidad de revertir el resultado de las elecciones presidenciales de hace seis meses.

La auditoría está siendo realizada por una pequeña empresa con sede en Florida llamada Cyber Ninjas, que no tiene experien-

Vea [Auditoria](#), página 26



"No se define quién puede participar, o mirar, o impugnar el resultado del recuento. ¿Quién establece las reglas, quién paga por ello? Todas estas cosas están ocultas a la vista del público. Estamos poniendo en riesgo nuestra democracia."

Kim Wyman, Secretaria de Estado de Washington

Californians Urged to Sign Up for Healthcare Insurance

CALIFORNIA

By Bernard J. Wolfson

If you are uninsured because health coverage seemed too expensive the last time you looked, it's time to look again.

A new federal law could make it a whole lot cheaper to buy your own insurance if you don't get coverage through an employer or a government insurance program such as Medicare or Medicaid.

The law, the American Rescue Plan, provides billions of federal dollars to reduce premiums for people who buy their coverage through the insurance exchange-

es established by the Affordable Care Act.

The aid expands a federal tax credit created by the ACA that you can take upfront as a discount on your premium or claim when you file your taxes the following year. It is not available for those who buy individual or family policies in the open market outside an ACA exchange. So, if you are in an off-exchange health plan, you might save a lot of money by switching to one inside the exchange.

Covered California, the state's ACA exchange, opened a special enrollment period on April 12 for people who want to take advan-



Covered California, the state's ACA exchange, opened a special enrollment period on April 12 for people who want to take advantage of the new aid by enrolling or switching coverage. / Covered California, el mercado de seguros de salud de ACA del estado, abrió un periodo de inscripción especial el 12 de abril para las personas que quieran aprovechar la nueva ayuda al inscribirse o cambiar de cobertura.

tage of the new aid by enrolling or switching coverage. The period runs through December — 4½ months later than the [Aug. 15 special enrollment end date](#) on the federally run exchanges.

Covered California estimates the new money will reduce its customers' monthly premium bills by an average of \$180 per household. Nearly 90% of Covered California enrollees already get financial aid, and many will now get more. Some enrollees who didn't previously qualify for tax credits may now be eligible.

See [Insurance](#) on page 24

Se Insta a los Californianos a Contratar un Seguro Médico

CALIFORNIA

Por Bernard Wolfson

Una nueva ley federal podría hacer que sea mucho más barato comprar tu propio seguro si no tienes cobertura a través de un empleador o un programa del gobierno como Medicare o Medicaid.

La ley proporciona miles de millones de dólares federales para reducir las primas de las personas que compran cobertura a través de los mercados de seguros establecidos por la Ley de Cuidado de Salud a Bajo Precio (ACA).

Esta ayuda amplía un crédito fiscal federal creado por ACA que se puede recibir por adelantado como un descuento en tu prima, o como un reclamo en tus impues-

tos del año siguiente. Estos subsidios está disponible para quienes compran pólizas individuales o familiares en el mercado privado por fuera de los intercambios de ACA. Por lo tanto, si tienes un plan de salud por fuera de estos mercados, podrías ahorrar mucho dinero si cambias a uno que ofrezcan los mercados de ACA.

Si ya estás inscrito en un plan del mercado de seguros, po-

drías ver una cuenta más baja, en muchos casos mucho más baja, comenzando tan pronto como con tu prima de mayo.

Covered California, el mercado de seguros de salud de ACA del estado, abrió un periodo de inscripción especial el 12 de abril para las personas que quieran aprovechar la nueva ayuda al inscribirse o cambiar de cobertura. El periodo se extiende hasta diciem-



"Me sorprendió la cantidad de reducción de costos".

Darci Gutiérrez, Agente de Seguros

bre. Los subsidios recientemente mejorados entran en vigencia con

Vea [Seguro](#), página 25

Laid-off Workers Left with Little Resources

FLORIDA

By Trimmel Gomes

Laid-off workers who had to fight through Florida's broken unemployment system were promised relief with increased benefits. But, Gov. Ron DeSantis rejected the plan, telling them to prepare to get back to work.

The Florida Senate wanted to increase unemployment benefits from \$275 to \$375 a week, with an extended eligibility period from 12 to 14 weeks. When DeSantis said he wouldn't support it, focusing instead on getting people back to work, the plan died in the House.

Dr. Rich Templin, director of politics and public policy for the Florida AFL-CIO, said Senate Bill 1906 was a bipartisan effort that could have fixed the many wrongs in the system.

"We still have an unemployment insurance system that is not working," Templin contended. "And it doesn't matter if we're in a pandemic or the normal ups and downs of our economic cycles. Our unemployment insurance system is a joke."

Templin pointed out instead of working to support the modest increase to help those out of work, lawmakers passed legislation to spend \$4 billion to fix the unem-

ployment computer system and cover the insurance premiums businesses would have to pay. The changes would overhaul the Department of Economic Opportunity and use money collected from online sales taxes.

However, advocates still celebrate moving the needle on the so-called alternative base period, which the Senate approved, to increase eligibility.

Karen Woodall, executive director of the Florida Center for Fiscal and Economic Policy at the Florida People's Advocacy Center, said it's a long-overdue technical change currently in place in 42 other states and Washington, D.C. that allows a

worker to claim their most recent worked quarter for benefits.

"Who it affects are low-wage seasonal workers who work 'til the very last minute that they can and often make their highest wages in the last quarter of work. They are unable to count that," Woodall explained.

Woodall added she believes the victory in the Senate added momentum to next year's attempts to make the changes into law.

Templin noted there is a good chance for positive changes now that taxpayers pay a disproportionate share of the unemployment system.

"We're hopeful we will be able



"We still have an unemployment insurance system that is not working."

Rich Templin, AFL-CIO

to get some fixes," Templin remarked. "Because it's always been the business community that wants to keep unemployment insurance payments low as humanly possible because they see that as their money."

DeSantis has indicated anyone receiving unemployment benefits

See [Workers](#) on page 19

Los Trabajadores Despedidos se Quedan con Pocos Recursos

FLORIDA

Por Trimmel Gomes

A los trabajadores despedidos que han tenido que luchar con el colapsado sistema de desempleo en Florida se les prometió un alivio con los mayores beneficios. Pero el gobernador Ron DeSantis rechazó el plan y les dijo que se prepararen para volver al trabajo.

El Senado de Florida quiso aumentar los beneficios por desempleo de 275 a 375 dólares por semana, con un periodo de elegibilidad extendido de 12 a 14 semanas. Cuando DeSantis dijo que no lo apoyaría, y se centró en cambio en hacer que la gente volviera a trabajar, el plan murió en la Cámara.

El Dr. Rich Templin de la AFL-

CIO de Florida dice que el Proyecto de Ley del Senado 1906 fue un esfuerzo bipartidista que podría haber solucionado los muchos errores del sistema.

"Todavía tenemos un sistema de seguro de desempleo que no funciona y no importa si estamos en una pandemia o en los altibajos normales de nuestros ciclos económicos," asegura Templin. "Nuestro sistema de seguro de desempleo es una broma."

Templin opina que en lugar de trabajar para apoyar el modesto aumento para ayudar a los desempleados, los legisladores aprobaron una legislación para gastar cuatro billones de dólares para arreglar el sistema informático de desempleo y así cubrir las primas de seguros que tiene que pagar la empresa. Los cambios reformarían el Departamento de

Oportunidades Económicas y se utilizaría el dinero recaudado de los impuestos sobre las ventas en línea.

Sin embargo, los defensores aún celebran mover la aguja en el llamado periodo base alternativo, aprobado por el Senado, lo que aumentaría la elegibilidad.

Karen Woodall, del Centro de Política Fiscal y Económica de Florida, dijo que es un cambio técnico muy atrasado actualmente vigente en otros 42 estados y DC, que permite a un trabajador reclamar los beneficios de su trimestre trabajado más reciente.

"A quien afecta es a los trabajadores temporales con salarios bajos que trabajan hasta el ultimo minuto que pueden y a menudo obtienen sus salarios mas altos en el ultimo trimestre de trabajo," explica Woodall.

Woodall dice que cree que la victoria en el Senado dará un impulso a los intentos del próximo año de convertir los cambios en ley.

Templin dice que hay una buena posibilidad de cambios positivos ahora que los contribuyentes pagan una parte desproporcionada del sistema de desempleo.

"Tenemos la esperanza de poder obtener algunas soluciones porque siempre ha sido la comunidad empresarial la que quiere mantener los pagos del seguro de desempleo lo mas bajos posible porque ven eso como su dinero", asegura Templin.

DeSantis ha indicado que cualquier persona que reciba beneficios de desempleo ahora deberá comprobar que ha estado buscando trabajo a finales de mayo. Preciso ese requisito al comienzo de la pandemia.



"Todavía tenemos un sistema de seguro de desempleo que no funciona".

Rich Templin, AFL-CIO

Según [FileUnemployment.org](#), Florida se encuentra entre los cinco últimos estados de la nación en cuanto a compensación por desempleo.

Trimmel Gomes es productor de Public News Service. Traducción por

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Military Hunger Prevention Act Addresses Food Insecurity

NEVADA

Last week, U.S. Senator Jacky Rosen (D-NV), a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP), announced her original co-sponsorship of the *Military Hunger Prevention Act*, bipartisan, bicameral legislation to support active-duty military families experiencing food insecurity by creating a basic needs allowance to help military families in need put food on the table.

"No one who is willing to serve this nation should ever have to

struggle to put food on the table. Sadly, that is a reality for too many military families in Nevada and across our nation," said Senator Rosen. "I'm proud to join my colleagues to help introduce this important piece of bipartisan legislation, which will create a basic needs allowance to help military families in need put food on the table. While Congress works to address the unfortunate fact that some of our brave men and women in uniform would even require food assistance, this legislation will make sure that those servicemembers are properly cared for and given access to this crucial aid and support."

When the military is unable to provide servicemembers with on-base housing, wherever they are stationed, servicemembers receive a Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) to pay for off-base or privatized military housing. Because of how the qualification calculations for federal food assistance programs, like SNAP, currently work, servicemembers are excluded from receiving food assistance benefits if they receive BAH. This is especially detrimental to junior enlisted troops and their families. The current flaw in federal law often forces military families to rely on food pantries and food banks for emergency

food assistance. The basic needs allowance created by the *Military Hunger Prevention Act* would help correct this flaw.

The *Military Hunger Prevention Act* (S.1488) was co-led in the Senate by Senators Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) and Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) and co-sponsored by Senator Rosen and 12 of her Senate colleagues, including Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV). Identical bipartisan companion legislation was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by U.S. Representatives Jimmy Panetta (D-CA-20) and Don Young (R-AK-AL).

Then-Representative Rosen co-sponsored similar legislation in



"No one who is willing to serve this nation should ever have to struggle to put food on the table. Sadly, that is a reality for too many military families in Nevada and across our nation."

Senator Jacky Rosen

2017 when she was a member of the House Armed Services Committee.

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He twisted the arms of state election officials. He held a rally to stop Congress from certifying the election, followed by the violent attack on the Capitol. Five people died. Senators and representatives could have been slaughtered.

Several Republican members of Congress joined him in the big lie and refused to certify the election. They thereby encouraged the attempted coup.

This was just over four months ago, yet we seem to be doing everything we can to blot it out of our collective memory.

Last Tuesday, the *Washington Post* hosted a [live video chat](#) with Missouri Republican senator Josh Hawley, a ringleader in the attempt to overturn the results of the election. Hawley had even made a fist-pump gesture toward the mob at

the Capitol before they attacked.

But the *Post* billed the interview as being about Hawley's new book on the "tyranny of big tech." It even posted a biography of Hawley that made no mention of Hawley's sedition, referring instead to his supposed reputation "for taking on the big and the powerful to protect Missouri workers," and as "a fierce defender of the Constitution."

Last week, "CBS This Morning" interviewed Florida Republican senator Rick Scott, another of the senators who tried to overturn the election by not certifying the results. But there was no mention of any of his sedition. The CBS interviewer confined his questions to Biden's spending plans, which Scott unsurprisingly opposed.

Senators Ted Cruz and Ron Johnson, and House minority lead-

er Kevin McCarthy also repeatedly appear on major news programs without being questioned about their attempts to undo the results of the election.

What possible excuse is there for booking them if they have not publicly retracted their election lies? At the least, if they must appear, ask them if they continue to deny the election results and precisely why.

Pretending nothing happened promotes America's dangerous amnesia, which invites more attempts to distort the truth.

Trump is consolidating his power over the Republican Party, based on his big lie. The GOP is about to purge one of its leaders, Wyoming Representative Liz Cheney, for telling the truth.

The big lie is being used by Republican state legislatures to

justify new laws to restrict voting. Last Thursday, hours after Florida installed a rash of new voting restrictions, Texas's Republican-led Legislature pushed ahead with its a bill that would make it one of the hardest states in which to cast a ballot.

The Republican-controlled Arizona senate is mounting a private recount of the 2020 presidential election results in Maricopa County—farming out 2.1 million ballots to GOP partisans, including at least one who participated in the January 6 raid on the Capitol.

Last Monday, Trump even lied about his big lie, issuing a "proclamation" to co-opt the language of those criticizing the lie. "The Fraudulent Presidential Election of 2020 will be, from this day forth, known as the BIG LIE!" he wrote.

Most Republican voters believe him.

It is natural to want to put all this unpleasantness behind us. We are finally turning the corner on the pandemic and the economy.

Why look back to the trauma of the 2020 election? Because we cannot put it behind us. Trump's big lie and all that it has provoked are still with us. If we forget what has occurred the trauma will return, perhaps in even more terrifying form.

Robert Reich, is the Chancellor's Professor of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley, and a senior fellow at the Blum Center for Developing Economies.

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Garcia

ple who have shared their stories, written letters of support, made calls and helped to build momentum for this important bill.

We are ready to keep it up and see this through until Senate Bill 9 is signed into law! With such a strong and robust coalition of legislators, advocates and activists we know that we can make it happen. This bill will make a positive differ-

ence for so many people. We are honored to lead this campaign!

**Karla Gonzales García,
Policy Director of Colorado
Organization for Latina
Opportunity and Reproductive
Rights (COLOR).**

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Dr. Torres

the refinery legally could emit, while reducing others, state officials said at the hearings, for an overall reduction by 217 tons from the current allowable 866,100 tons a year of heat-trapping and toxic air pollution".

A brief review of that last sentence reveals the enormity of the situation. This "new permit" follows a period during which the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment officials have allowed the refinery to operate using one permit issued in 2006 and another from 2012, "even though permits are meant for five years." Between March 27 and April 22—a period of only 19 days—"the refinery broke limits 15 times" according to state data the newspaper reviewed. The inaptly-named Colorado Air Pollution Control Division is apparently able to "Control" the assurance that there will be air pollution, since they would permit an "increase in the annual tonnage of some pollutants." Granted, they assert there will be a reduction "by 217 tons from the current allowable 866,100 tons a year." By my calculation, they would reduce the overall tonnage by 0.025%, a negligible number since the amount of certain pollutants would be interchanged with others. Note especially that these are "tons" at 866,100, minus 217, per year. While this refinery is extremely large, it is but "one of 250 facilities around Colorado where state officials issue permits allowing air pollution".

Despite this troubling history, in Colorado, thanks to three Legislature bills, we now have perhaps the best opportunity in our

history to ensure environmental justice for members of our community. The identifying numbers, with terms by which they are known, are as follows: HB21-1266: Environmental Justice: Disproportionate Impacted Community Bill; SB21-200: Reduce Greenhouse Gases Increase Environmental Justice; and HB21-1189 Regulate Air Toxics. All three include references to "Disproportionately Impacted Communities," including but not limited to racial and ethnic marginalized communities.

For example, in its preamble paragraph, Senate Bill 21-2000 states, "Concerning measures to further environmental protections, and, in connection therewith, adopting measures to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and adopting protections for disproportionately impacted communities." It would set "strong, enforceable rules to limit pollution from the electricity, oil and gas, transportation, and building sectors and [create] the tools to engage and empower disproportionately impacted communities." One of the most salient propositions in SB21-2000 is in Section 5, which "creates an environmental justice ombudsperson position and an environmental justice advisory board in the department of public health and environment." It also calls for seeking and enabling "input from disproportionately impacted communities" regarding proposals from the Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC).

House Bill 21-1189 highlights the "serious health impacts for workers and community mem-

bers" of such toxic air emissions as Benzene, Hydrogen Cyanide, and Hydrogen Sulfide, the latter two which cause damage to the respiratory system, exacerbating for example Covid 19 illness. And House Bill 21-1266 asserts in its preamble, "Environmental justice means that everyone—regardless of race, ethnicity, language, income, or other factors—has the right to live, learn, work, and play in a clean, safe, and healthy environment." It highlights the past practices—effects of which are still with us—of "redlining and other racist policies [against] Black, Latinx, Indigenous, low-wealth, and working communities" and the resulting egregious health effects.

These above examples of environmental discrimination, and efforts to undo and eliminate their consequences, only sketch the contours of the all-encompassing problems resulting from the too-various forms of pollution. The three above-named bills provide the pathway to better health and lives for our community. *The Weekly Issue/El Semanario* will continue to publicize and promote such pathways, and we ask our readers to join with us as we support such efforts and travel down these healthier pathways.

Dr. Luis Torres is an Educator, former Deputy Provost for Academic and Student Affairs at Metropolitan State University of Denver and member of The Weekly Issue/El Semanario Advisory Board.

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all, psychological damage on migrants, especially children.

We don't yet know the full extent of the consequences familial separation will have in the short, medium, and long term for migrant children, who were suddenly unable to continue alongside their parents at the time they most needed them in their lives.

That is, while it is really positive that they have already found a way to make family reunification a reality, little by little, it cannot be forgotten that this familial separation, for common sense, humanity, and ethical principles, never should have occurred. Not in this United States that considers itself multicultural and multi-ethnic, a defender of human rights and other historic battles since the civil rights era of the previous century.

To be humanitarian, of course, is nothing that could be asked nor expected of Donald Trump, much less his main advisor on the matter, the xenophobe Stephen Miller. It's not in their nature.

For now, Bryan and his mother are together, after the odyssey that forced them to leave their birthplace of Michoacán, México to avoid being recruited by local gangs, or meet the same fate as his father who, according to *The Washington Post* and the group *Al Otro Lado*, was disappeared in 2010. His body was found days later with gunshot wounds. Other people close to his family met the same end. Therefore, they had to

flee to save their lives.

Without knowing it, however, their destiny in the U.S. would be marked by another type of cruelty —the family separation from which they will still have to recover as the years pass. Bryan knows better than anyone: now with impeccable English and working for a refugee assistance organization, Immigrant Defenders, he is himself on a path he never imagined. And now he knows first-hand how to advocate for refugees.

Cases like that of Bryan and his mother will begin to multiply at some point in time. There is no doubt about that. But their story will not be complete if a very important and also overwhelming fact is overlooked: given that the human rights of these migrant families were violated by the very same White House —which Donald Trump presided over and Stephen Miller controlled in the area of immigration policy— accountability is something that must be high on the list, even when such people are no longer in power.

The crime against humanity that remains latent in each and every one of the family separation cases is a cruelty that will surely echo in the historic retelling of this moment that seemed eternal.

David Torres is a Spanish-language Advisor at América's Voice.

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This pattern repeats itself in institutions throughout Chicago: affluent, white communities have access to resources that lower-income and marginalized communities don't. I've seen this play out in my work with SexEd Works, a campaign to get sexual health education in all Chicago Public Schools. We — a group of survivors of gender-based violence — organized the campaign because we believe that learning about what healthy relationships look like can help prevent community violence. We created this campaign because, as survivors, sharing this information allowed us to recognize violent patterns and support each other in healing. We are community members who want change for our schools and our children, and we believe this investment is one of many that our city and Board of Education officials can make.

While creating this campaign in 2018, we found that 70% of Chicago Public Schools are not in compliance with the mandatory sexual health education program. The majority of these schools are on the city's South and West sides. We believe that providing community resources, such as sex education, mental health counselors and nurses in every school, and free after-school programming will

prevent violence in our communities. When our children have more knowledge about consent, how to say "no," and ultimately have stronger boundaries in relationships with confidence, they are more prepared to navigate social pressures. Many people are putting all the responsibility on parents who are struggling without providing us with the support we deserve.

The people of Little Village and other marginalized communities are tired of the constant news cycle that wants us to accept that this violence is normal or somehow not preventable. Our elected officials see us as "empty votes" due to systemic barriers and don't put in the effort to help us unless they can take advantage of a photo opportunity or add this project to their resumes.

We — teachers, caregivers, community members, elected officials, everyone — need to invest in more community-led efforts so that our children can live in a world free from violence, a world where they can thrive and not just focus on surviving poverty and the police. We need to organize campaigns that center the needs of our communities and especially the health, joy, and safety of the next generation. The responsibility of keeping our children and neighbors safe

belongs to all of us — not just the parents, not just the *mothers*.

Adam Toledo deserved more support from this city. His mother and all mothers of Little Village deserve everyone's support now. We are all responsible for keeping one another safe.

María Serrano is a resident of the Little Village neighborhood of Chicago and a leader of Healing to Action, a grassroots organization working to fight gender-based violence in Chicago. Originally published at Chalkbeat.

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Workers

will have to start showing proof that they've been looking for work by the end of May. He lifted that requirement early in the pandemic.

According to [FileUnemployment.org](https://fileunemployment.org), Florida is ranked among the bottom five states in the nation for unemployment compensation.

Trimmel Gomes is a Producer with Public News Service.

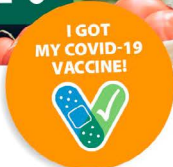
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abilidades de tener más virus en sus cuerpos que aquellos con la cepa que dominaba antes, lo que puede ayudar a explicar por qué se propaga más fácilmente.

"Creemos que esto puede estar causando más de estas hospitalizaciones en personas más jóvenes", dijo la doctora Rachael Lee en el hospital de la Universidad de Alabama-Birmingham.

El hospital de Lee también ha observado un aumento en los pacientes más jóvenes. Al igual que en otros estados del sur, Alabama tiene una tasa baja de absorción de vacunas.

Pero incluso en el estado de Washington, donde gran parte de la población está optando por vacunarse, las hospitalizaciones han aumentado constantemente desde principios de marzo, especialmente entre los jóvenes. En el área de Seattle, actualmente se interna a más personas de 20 años por covid que personas de 70, según el doctor Jeff Duchin, director de salud pública de Seattle y el condado de King.

"Todavía no tenemos suficientes adultos jóvenes vacunados para contrarrestar la mayor facilidad con la que se propagan las variantes", dijo Duchin en una conferencia de prensa reciente.

A nivel nacional, alrededor del 32% de las personas de 40 años están completamente vacuna-

das, en comparación con el 27% de las personas de 30 años. Esa proporción se reduce a aproximadamente el 18% para los jóvenes de 18 a 29 años.

“

Entiendo que los jóvenes se sientan invencibles, pero lo que les diría es que no tengan miedo de morir, tengan miedo de la insuficiencia cardíaca, el daño pulmonar y no poder hacer las cosas que amas hacer”.

Dr. Nathaniel Schlicher, Asociación Médica del Estado de Washington

"Tengo la esperanza de que la curva de muerte no aumente tan rápido, pero está ejerciendo presión sobre el sistema de salud", dijo el doctor Nathaniel Schlicher, médico de emergencias y presidente de la Asociación Médica del Estado de Washington.

Schlicher, también de unos 30 años, recuerda con horror a dos de sus pacientes recientes, cercanos a su edad y previamente sanos, que ingresaron con insu-

ficiencia cardíaca causada por covid.

"Lo he visto de cerca y eso es lo que más me asusta", dijo.

"Entiendo que los jóvenes se sientan invencibles, pero lo que les diría es que no tengan miedo de morir, tengan miedo de la insuficiencia cardíaca, el daño pulmonar y no poder hacer las cosas que amas hacer".

Los médicos y los expertos en salud pública esperan que el preocupante aumento de las hospitalizaciones entre la población más joven sea temporal, algo que las vacunas contrarrestarán pronto. Solo desde el 19 de abril todos los adultos se volvieron elegibles para la vacuna.

Pero algunas encuestas nacionales preocupantes indican que una parte considerable de los adolescentes y adultos de entre 20 y 30 años no necesariamente tienen planes de vacunarse.

"Solo tenemos que hacer que sea muy fácil, sin inconvenientes", apuntó Malmgren, el epidemiólogo de Washington. "Tenemos que pensar un poco diferente".

Will Stone, Kaiser Health News. Esta historia es parte de una asociación que incluye a NPR y Kaiser Health News.

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Obviamente esta fue una de las políticas migratorias más infames y crueles de que se tenga memoria en la historia reciente de Estados Unidos, pensada no para resguardar la seguridad en la frontera, sino para infligir un severo daño físico y sobre todo psicológico a los migrantes, en especial a los menores de edad.

Todavía está por saberse la evaluación en ese terreno y las secuelas que a corto, mediano y largo plazos dejará la separación familiar en los niños migrantes, a los que abruptamente les impidieron la posibilidad de seguir al lado de sus padres en la etapa en que más los necesitaban para su formación.

Es decir, si bien es realmente positivo que se haya encontrado ya la manera de concretar poco a poco la reunificación de las familias afectadas, no debe pasarse por alto que nunca debió ocurrir dicha separación, por sentido común, por humanidad y por principio ético. No en este Estados Unidos que se decía multicultural, multiétnico, defensor de los derechos humanos y de otras conquistas históricas desde la lucha por los derechos civiles del siglo pasado.

Ser humanitario, por supuesto, no es algo que se podía pedir ni esperar de Donald Trump, ni mucho menos de su principal asesor en esta materia, el xenófo-

bo Stephen Miller. No está en su naturaleza.

Por lo pronto, Bryan y su mamá ya están juntos, después de la odisea que los obligó a salir de su natal Michoacán, México, para evitar que él fuese reclutado por las pandillas locales; o bien, que le ocurriera lo que a su padre, quien, según *The Washington Post* y el grupo Al Otro Lado, fue desaparecido en 2010 y su cadáver encontrado días después con heridas de bala. Otra gente cercana a su familia tuvo el mismo fin. De tal modo que había que huir para salvar la vida.

Sin saberlo, sin embargo, su destino en Estados Unidos estaría marcado por otro tipo de crueldad con la separación familiar de la que aún tendrán que recuperarse al paso de los años. Bryan lo sabe mejor que nadie: ahora con un inglés impecable y trabajando para un grupo de ayuda a refugiados, Immigrant Defenders, se enfila por un camino que jamás imaginó, pero que ahora conoce de primera mano para abogar por los refugiados.

Casos como el de Bryan y el de su madre empezarán a multiplicarse en algún momento. De eso no hay duda. Pero su historia no estará completa si se pasa por alto un hecho tan importante como contundente: dado que los derechos humanos de este grupo de familias migrantes se vieron violentados desde la mismísima Casa Blanca —que presidía Donald Trump y controlaba Stephen Miller en el área de políticas migratorias—, la rendición de cuentas es algo que debería estar en la lista de urgencias, aun cuando dichos personajes ya no estén en el poder.

El crimen de lesa humanidad que cometieron sigue latente en todos y cada uno de los casos de separación familiar, una crueldad que seguramente hará eco en el recuento histórico de esa etapa que parecía eterna.

David Torres es Asesor en Español de América's Voice.

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lished a heat stress standard for workers," says María de Luna, director of Policy and Advocacy at the National Alliance of Campesinas (NAC). "But nothing has been done in almost 50 years. What we do have is a federal heat standard to protect cattle, but not for farm workers."

The climate crisis makes this situation even worse. High temperatures and dehydration can trigger respiratory, brain and cardiovascular illnesses, heat stroke and death.

These heroic *campesinas* also risk their good health by being exposed to pesticides of great toxicity. According to NAC, each year, 1.1 million pounds of pesticides and herbicides are sprayed on the country's fields, which causes some 20,000 poisoning cases. This exposure can trigger cancer, infertility and neurological disorders.

"Pesticide exposure causes farmworkers to suffer more chemical-related injuries and illnesses than any other workforce in the nation," says Milly Treviño-Sauceda, executive director of NAC. "In California, for instance, there are clusters of *campesina* communities whose children have special medical needs because of their mothers' pesticide exposure."

You've got to admire the courage and generosity of these women by confronting yet another terrible danger. According to a study by the University of California, Santa Cruz UCSC, up to 80 percent of them have suffered some form of sexual abuse.

"In a report we conducted among 60 of our members, we found that nine out of ten had suffered sexual abuses in the fields or in their own homes," says Treviño-Sauceda. "This is something perverse. It's very rare for

any agricultural company not to have had instances of sexual abuse. Since they are isolated in the fields, it's very easy for them to be raped or violated."

The UCSC study also found that less than 7 percent of the cases of sexual abuse are reported, in part because the vast majority of *campesinas* lack legal immigration status and that up to 97 percent of them suffer reprisals from their abusers or employers.

Moreover, during the pandemic, *campesinas* are considered essential workers, yet all too often that distinction turns out to be just a phrase.

"Very many companies did not take the necessary precautions to avoid contagions and because many of the *campesinas* lack health insurance, they had no option but to go to work sick," Treviño-Sauceda adds.

The consequences have been terrible. A Purdue University study found that some 9,100 farm workers have died of COVID-19 out of 554,000 cases.

"Enough!", clamor Treviño-Sauceda and the 700,000 *campesinas* her organization represents and demand that solutions must be taken to put an end to these abuses, such as the passing or reauthorization of the Asunción Valdivia Heat Illness and Fatality Prevention Act, the Protect America's Children from Toxic Pesticides Act, the Violence Against Women Act and the Citizenship for Essential Workers Act.

Society owes it to these women for being essentially heroic.

Javier Sierra is a columnist with the Sierra Club.

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Galatas

students could get a leg up on landing good-paying summer jobs, by earning hours toward whitewater rafting certification and a merit badge. They also can become certified in CPR and first aid.

"It's not only getting students outside, it's also getting them trained, so that they can also become guides themselves," she said. "And they can also learn how to become a lifeguard and get summer employment."

As a co-founding board member, Trujillo said, it's been reward-

ing to see how Conejos benefits local communities, including at a new greenhouse and outdoor education facility built on a historical site in the town of Antonio. The group is looking to fill board positions, and she encouraged anyone with an interest in environmental, food and social justice to get in touch.

Eric Galatas is a Producer with Public News Service.

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count. Who set the rules, who's paying for it? All of these things are hidden from public view."

"We're putting our democracy at risk."

Official results from the Nov. 3 election showed a 73.8% turnout, with challenger Joe Biden defeating incumbent Donald Trump for president by 45,000 votes.

The Arizona Senate has allocated \$150,000 for the audit, but Cyber Ninjas is expecting to be paid more than that, although it's not saying by whom.

GOP-friendly sources such as the lawyer Sidney Powell, who led Trump campaign post-election challenges to its results, and the America One News Network are reportedly also raising funds for the effort, under way since April 23 in a coliseum space the Senate has rented through May 14.

In response to a lawsuit filed by the Arizona Democratic Party and Maricopa County officials, Cyber Ninjas has been ordered to be more open about its audit methodology, but has been slow to comply.

Patrick described some of the mysteries surrounding the current audit's reported use of ultraviolet lights, pens capable of altering or spoiling ballots that would normal-

ly be prohibited, examination of folds and variations in the printing of the ballots that are common in any election.

Also unknown is who is inspecting the ballots, and who is allowed to observe them at work. Typically, recounts are done by bipartisan teams and with rules about how election materials are to be handled.

"This is not something that occurs in a healthy democratic process," Patrick said. "There were officially sanctioned audits already, by both parties. A hand-count audit has already been done."

"This election in the midst of a global pandemic was fair and accurate, run securely, audited and litigated," Masterson said. He also cited intelligence community studies finding "no evidence of any successful infiltration of election infrastructure."

What the intelligence community did find, however, he said, was "a pervasive campaign to undermine trust in elections," conducted in part by Russia and Iran.

"The degradation of trust is nothing less than a security threat."

"Other states are watching," said Wyman, who expects the audit, given its partisan nature, to conclude there were anomalies in the

election, even if it has no authority to change the outcome.

"Once the election is over, we move forward together. This is problematic. Other states are looking at this," Patrick said.

"They're setting forth policies to be surer than sure that there's going to be differences."

The real purpose of the audit, the panelists concurred, is to stoke distrust in the election process and raise money for those who don't like the latest outcomes.

By law, ballots and election materials are stored and protected for almost two years, but the current audit, with its lack of transparency and seeming obliviousness to established protocols about how election materials are to be handled, has eroded hopes of maintaining trustworthy records.

"I don't think you can make the process credible at this point," Wyman said. "They have now contaminated and corrupted those 2.1 million ballots that Maricopa County so meticulously protected."

Mark Hedin is a Reporter with Ethnic Media Services.

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Two years after Harold's father fled Haiti, his mother joined her husband in New York, leaving the Pean children in the care of relatives. In 1975, Harold and his siblings left Haiti and immigrated to New York City. New York was cold, like being inside a refrigerator, and the streets were much wider than in Haiti. His father had found a job as an elevator operator at Rockefeller Center.

At the time, Harold's older brother, Leslie, was attending medical school in Veracruz, México, where tuition was cheaper than in the States, and his father urged Harold to join him. A native French speaker who knew no Spanish, Harold learned anatomy, pathology and biochemistry in a foreign tongue. And he was fluent in Spanish by the time he met María de Lourdes Ramos González, known as Paloma, on Valentine's Day 1979 at a party in Veracruz. Harold remembers the moment vividly: a vivacious young woman spilling out of a car in the parking lot, shouting her disapproval at the low-energy partygoers. "Everybody is *sitting* here!"

"They were so quiet," Paloma remembers. She pointed to the man she would eventually marry. "You! Dance with me!"

Growing up as the only girl in her parents' modest ranch in Tampico, a port city on the Gulf of México, Paloma was expected to stay inside sewing, cleaning and reading while her three brothers ventured out freely. She felt loved and pro-

tected but fumed at her circumscribed life, pleading for a car for her *quinceañera* and pushing her fa-



Two months after the shooting, Christian Pean (second from left) summoned the family to New York to march in a #RiseUpOctober protest against police brutality, even as he worried about the potential fallout on his medical career. / A dos meses del tiroteo, Christian Pean (segundo desde la izq.) convocó a su familia a Nueva York a una marcha de #RiseUpOctober contra la brutalidad policial, incluso estando preocupado por que afectara su carrera médica.

ther, the boss at a petroleum plant, to allow her to become a lawyer. Her father thought she should instead become a secretary, teacher or nurse. "I said, 'Why are you telling me that?' He said, 'Because you are going to get married, you are going to end up in your house. But I want you to have a career in case you don't have a good husband, you can leave.'" That good husband, Paloma understood, could be Mexican or white. She remembers her father saying, "I don't want Black or Chinese people in my family."

After earning a degree to teach elementary school, Paloma moved

to Veracruz. When she was 21, her father installed her in a boarding house for women. Watched over

suing medicine. He inspected day care schools for sanitary violations. As he traveled around the city's streets, he never felt imperiled by the color of his skin. "People said there was racism, but I didn't see it." On the few occasions he noticed a police officer or shop security trailing him, he put it out of his mind, trying not to pursue the logic of what had happened. "We never talked about it in the house," he said. "We were concentrating on achieving whatever goals we had to do."

Moving with common purpose, Harold and Paloma went wherever the young doctor could find work. Caguas, Puerto Rico, where Alan was born in 1989; back to New York for Harold's residency in internal medicine at the Brooklyn Hospital Center; then Fort Pierce, Florida, where Dominique was born in 1991; and eventually to McAllen, Texas. Harold's brother, Leslie, had established his practice in Harlingen, 20 miles north of the Mexican border. Harold was comforted to have family nearby and Paloma wanted to reach her family in Mexico more easily. Still, the first hospital that recruited Harold offered an uncharitable contract; he had to cover half the costs of running the medical practice while seeing only a few patients.

Her father was skeptical. He had spent a few months in Chicago and seen America's racial unrest. "He told me, 'My daughter, I don't have any objections. He's a good man, but I'm scared for you. I'm scared for my grandkids because, let me tell you, your kids are going to be Black. And I don't know if you are ready to raise Black kids in the U.S.," Paloma remembers. "At that moment I didn't understand what he meant."

In the early 1980s, as Harold and Paloma started their lives together, the news from America spoke to racial divisions. The country was seized by a presidential campaign, in which the actor and former California Gov. Ronald Reagan courted segregationist Southern voters at a Mississippi fairground a few miles from where civil rights workers had been murdered in 1964. In Miami, Black residents protested after an all-white, all-male jury acquitted four white police officers who had beaten an unarmed Black motorcyclist, Arthur McDuffie, to death with their fists and nightclubs. Beaten him "like a dog" McDuffie's mother, Eula McDuffie, told reporters. Over three days of violent street protests, 18 people died, hundreds were injured, buildings burned and President Jimmy Carter called in the National Guard.

The couple lived in Queens, where Christian was born in 1987, and Harold found work while pur-

doctor and you are not paying what he deserves. If you don't pay him, we are going to move." Stunned, the administrator, who was white, agreed to her demands, and Paloma returned triumphant.

“

"Why is it so hard to register that an unarmed person should not be shot?"

Alan Pean

Daily life was a blur. The couple worked assiduously at the medical practice, finding allies at the hospital who applauded their diligence and, by Harold's account, rooted for their success. But race was never far from the surface. When a medical assistant at the office told Paloma that another doctor had asked her repeatedly if she was still working with "the Black doctor," Paloma fumed. At the medical center's Christmas party that year, Paloma approached the doctor. "Are you so and so, the doctor?" I said. "Well, I'm Paloma Pean, and I'm here just to let you know the name of my husband. My husband is Harold Pean. P-E-A-N. His last name is not Black." And I said, "Thank you, and nice to



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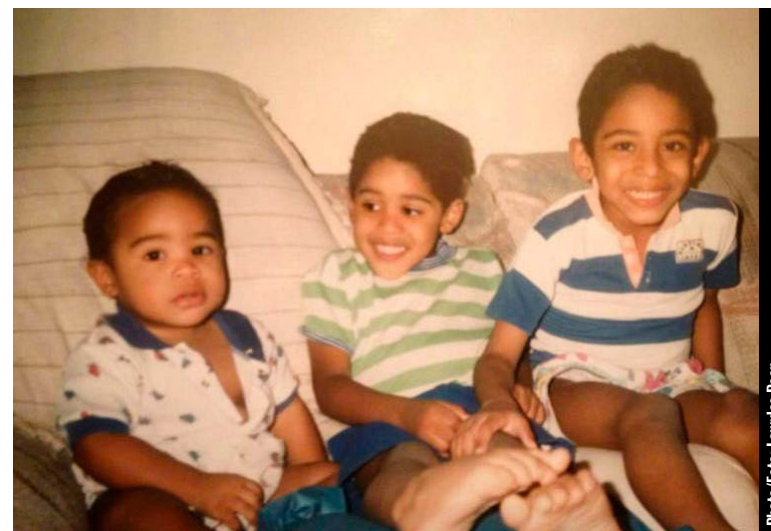
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(From left) Dominique, Alan and Christian Pean in Mission, Texas. Their father, Harold, pushed his three boys in the ways his own parents in Haiti had pushed him. / Dominique, Alan y Christian Pean en Mission, Texas. Su padre, Harold, impulsó a sus hijos de la misma manera que lo hicieron sus propios padres en Haití.

Harold remembers few, if any, other Black doctors in the area. Paloma was more certain about the dearth of diversity in the medical ranks: "We were among the only Blacks in the [Rio Grande] Valley and the only [primary care] doctor." Three months into the contract, Paloma, who managed the office's finances, could see they were losing money. She pressed her husband to renegotiate. When he refused, she went to the hospital herself. "I love the Valley," she told the administrator, her optimism unimpeachable. "But I came here to work. My husband is a very good

meet you.' He opened his eyes big, and then I left."

At home, Paloma insisted on a Catholic upbringing, and the family prayed every evening after dinner in three languages (Paloma in Spanish, Harold in French, the boys in English). Harold pushed his three boys in the ways his own parents had. "I was expecting them to be either a doctor or a professional, like my parents expected us to be professionals."

That was the period in which the three Pean boys — Christian, Alan

escuela de medicina en Veracruz, México, donde la matrícula era más barata que en los Estados Unidos, y su padre instó a Harold a unirse a él. Su idioma era el francés y no sabía español, así que Harold aprendió anatomía, patología y bioquímica en una lengua extranjera. Pero ya hablaba español con fluidez cuando conoció a María de Lourdes Ramos González, a la que llamaban Paloma, el día de San Valentín de 1979 en una fiesta en Veracruz. Harold recuerda el momento vívidamente: una joven vivaz saliendo de un auto y gritando "¡qué hacen todos sentados!" (porque no estaban bailando).

en una pensión para mujeres. Vigilada por una matrona indiscreta, el noviazgo de Paloma y Harold se desarrolló bajo el disfraz de Harold enseñándole inglés a Paloma. La pareja salió durante varios años antes de que Paloma le dijera a su padre que quería casarse con el joven y apuesto estudiante de medicina. Harold había regresado a Nueva York y Paloma estaba ansiosa por reunirse con él.

Su padre se mostró escéptico. Había pasado unos meses en Chicago y había sido testigo de los disturbios raciales. "Me dijo: 'Hija mía, no tengo ninguna objeción. Es un buen hombre, pero tengo miedo

cuatro policías blancos que habían matado a golpes a Arthur McDuffie, un motociclista negro desarmado. Lo golpearon 'como a un perro', dijo la madre de McDuffie, Eula McDuffie, a los periodistas. Durante tres días de violentas protestas callejeras, 18 personas murieron, cientos resultaron heridas, hubo edificios incendiados y el presidente Jimmy Carter llamó a la Guardia Nacional.

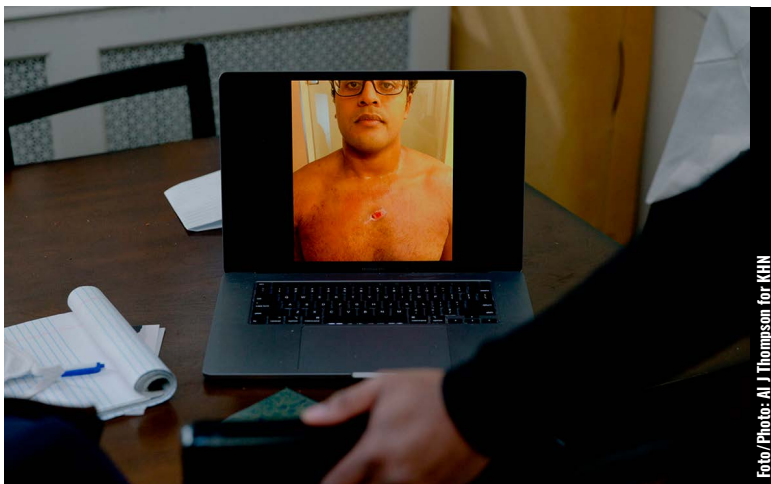
La pareja vivía en Queens, donde nació Christian en 1987, y Harold encontró trabajo mientras estudiaba medicina. Inspeccionaba guarderías en busca de violaciones sanitarias. Mientras viajaba por las calles de la ciudad, nunca se sintió amenazado por el color de su piel. "La gente decía que había racismo, pero yo no lo vi". En las pocas ocasiones en que notó que un oficial de policía o el personal de seguridad de la tienda lo seguía, lo olvidó, tratando de no seguir la lógica de lo que había sucedido. "Nunca hablamos de eso en la casa", dijo. "Nos estábamos concentrando en lograr cualquier objetivo que tuviéramos".

Con un propósito común, Harold y Paloma iban a donde el joven médico pudiera encontrar trabajo. Caguas, Puerto Rico, donde nació Alan en 1989; de regreso a Nueva York para la residencia de Harold en medicina interna en el Brooklyn Hospital Center; luego Fort Pierce, Florida, donde nació Dominique en 1991; y finalmente a McAllen, Texas.

El hermano de Harold, Leslie, había establecido su práctica en Harlingen, a 20 millas al norte de la frontera mexicana. Harold se sintió reconfortado por tener familiares cerca y Paloma quería poder ir más fácilmente a ver a su familia en México. Aún así, el primer hospital que reclutó a Harold ofreció un contrato poco caritativo; tuvo que cubrir la mitad de los costos de funcionamiento de la práctica médica mientras atendía solo a unos pocos pacientes.

Harold recuerda pocos, si alguno, médicos negros en el área. Paloma estaba más segura de la escasez de diversidad en las filas médicas: "Estábamos entre los únicos negros en el Valle [del Río Grandel] y el único médico [de atención primaria]".

A tres meses de iniciar el contrato, Paloma, que administraba las finanzas del consultorio, pudo ver que estaban perdiendo dinero. Presionó a su marido para que renegociara. Cuando él se negó, ella misma fue al hospital. "Amo el Valle", le dijo al administrador, su optimismo intachable. "Pero vine aquí para trabajar. Mi marido es un muy buen médico y no le está pagando lo que se merece. Si no le paga, nos vamos a mudar". Atónita, la admin-



Sobrevivir le ha dado a Alan Pean una libertad incómoda: teme desperdiciar la potencia emocional de su experiencia, pero sigue siendo aprensivo ante el tedio de repetir su historia frente a extraños, sin saber si su desgracia está impulsando el progreso social o se está explotando una tragedia privada. / *Survival has bought Alan Pean an uneasy liberty: He fears squandering the emotional potency of his experience, but remains squeamish at the tedium of repeating his story in front of strangers, uncertain whether his misfortune is fueling social progress or exploiting a private tragedy.*

"Estaban tan callados", recuerda Paloma. Señaló al hombre con el que eventualmente se casaría y le dijo: "¡Tú! ¡Baila conmigo!".

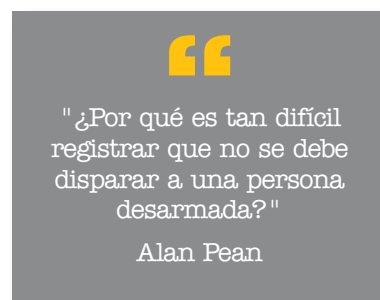
Al crecer como la única niña en el modesto rancho de sus padres en Tampico, una ciudad portuaria en el Golfo de México, se esperaba que Paloma se quedara en su casa cosiendo, limpiando y leyendo mientras sus tres hermanos entraban y salían libremente. Se sentía amada y protegida, pero furiosa por su vida circunscrita, suplicando un auto para su fiesta de quinceañera y presionando a su padre, que era jefe de una planta petrolera, para que le permitiera convertirse en abogada.

Su padre pensó que, en cambio, debería convertirse en secretaria, maestra o enfermera. "Le dije, '¿Por qué me estás diciendo eso?' Él dijo, 'Porque te vas a casar, vas a terminar en tu casa. Pero quiero que tengas una carrera en caso de que no tengas un buen marido'. Paloma entendió que ese buen marido podía ser mexicano o blanco. Recuerda que su padre dijo: 'No quiero personas negras o chinas en mi familia'".

Después de obtener un título para enseñar en escuela primaria, Paloma se mudó a Veracruz. Cuando tenía 21 años, su padre la instaló

por ti. Tengo miedo por mis nietos porque, déjame decirte, tus hijos van a ser negros. Y no sé si estás lista para criar niños negros en los Estados Unidos", recuerda Paloma. "En ese momento no entendí a qué se refería".

A principios de la década de 1980, cuando Harold y Paloma comenzaron su vida juntos, las noticias de Estados Unidos hablaban de las divisiones raciales. El país estaba bajo campaña presidencial, en la que el actor y ex gobernador de California Ronald Reagan cortejaba a los votantes segregacionistas del sur en un recinto ferial de Mississippi, a pocas millas de donde los



trabajadores de derechos civiles habían sido asesinados en 1964.

En Miami, los residentes negros protestaban después que un jurado compuesto exclusivamente por hombres blancos absolviera a



Alan Pean sigue envuelto en una demanda con el hospital donde le dispararon y duda sobre su responsabilidad con la fraternidad de hombres negros que no sobrevivieron a sus propios encuentros racistas con la policía. '¿Por qué es tan difícil registrar que no se debe disparar a una persona desarmada?', se pregunta. / *Alan Pean remains embroiled in a lawsuit with the hospital where he was shot and wavers over his responsibility to the fraternity of Black men who did not survive their own racist encounters with police. "Why is it so hard to register that an unarmed person should not be shot?" he says.*

istradora, que era blanca, accedió a sus demandas y Paloma regresó triunfante.

La pareja trabajaba asiduamente en la práctica médica, encontrando aliados en el hospital que aplaudían su diligencia y, según el relato de Harold, apoyaron su éxito. Pero la raza nunca estuvo lejos de la superficie. Cuando un asistente médico en la oficina le dijo a Paloma que otro médico le había preguntado repetidamente si todavía estaba trabajando con "el médico negro", Paloma se enfure-

ció. En la fiesta de Navidad del centro médico de ese año, Paloma se acercó al médico. "¿Es usted fulano de tal, el médico?", le dijo. "Bueno, soy Paloma Pean, y estoy aquí solo para hacerle saber el nombre de mi esposo. Mi esposo es Harold Pean. P-E-A-N. Su apellido no es Black". Y le dijo: "Gracias, y encantado de conocerte". Abrió mucho los ojos y me fui".

En casa, Paloma insistía en una educación católica y, después de

Vea **Justicia 1**, página 27



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an epidemiologist at the University of Washington.

Rising infections among young adults create a “reservoir of disease” that eventually “spills over into the rest of society” — one that has yet to reach herd immunity — and portends a broader surge in cases, she said.

Fortunately, the chance of dying of covid remains very small for people under 50, but this age group can become seriously ill or experience long-term symptoms after the initial infection. People with underlying conditions such as obesity and heart disease are also more likely to become seriously ill.

“B.1.1.7 doesn’t discriminate by age, and when it comes to young people, our messaging on this is still too soft,” Malmgren said.

Across the country, the influx of younger patients with covid has startled clinicians who describe hospital beds filled with patients, many of whom appear sicker than what was seen during previous waves of the pandemic.

“A lot of them are requiring ICU care,” said Dr. Michelle Barron, head of infection prevention and control at UCHHealth, one of Colorado’s large hospital systems, as

compared with earlier in the pandemic.

The median age of covid patients at UCHHealth hospitals has dropped by more than 10 years in the past few weeks, from 59 down to about 48 years old, Barron said.

“I think we will continue to see that, especially if there’s not a lot of vaccine uptake in these groups,” she said.

While most hospitals are far from the onslaught of illness seen during the winter, the explosion of cases in Michigan underscores the potential fallout of loosening restrictions when a large share of adults are not yet vaccinated.

There’s strong evidence that all three vaccines being used in the U.S. provide good protection against the U.K. variant.

One study suggests that the B.1.1.7 variant doesn’t lead to more severe illness, as was previously thought. However, patients infected with the variant appear more likely to have more of the virus in their bodies than those with the previously dominant strain, which may help explain why it spreads more easily.

“We think that this may be causing more of these hospital-

izations in younger people,” said Dr. Rachael Lee at the University of Alabama-Birmingham hospital.

“

“I understand young people feeling invincible, but what I would just tell them is — don’t be afraid of dying, be afraid of heart failure, lung damage and not being able to do the things that you love to do.”

Dr. Nathaniel Schlicher,
Washington State Medical
Association

Lee’s hospital also has observed an uptick in younger patients. As in other Southern states, Alabama has a low rate of vaccine uptake.

But even in Washington state, where much of the population is opting to get the vaccine, hospitalizations have been rising steadily since early March, especially among young people. In the Seattle area, more people in their

20s are now being hospitalized for covid than people in their 70s, according to Dr. Jeff Duchin, public health chief officer for Seattle and King County.

“We don’t yet have enough younger adults vaccinated to counteract the increased ease with which the variants spread,” said Duchin at a recent press briefing.

Nationwide, about 32% of people in their 40s are fully vaccinated, compared with 27% of people in their 30s. That share drops to about 18% for 18- to 29-year-olds.

“I’m hopeful that the death curve is not going to rise as fast, but it is putting a strain on the health system,” said Dr. Nathaniel Schlicher, an emergency physician and president of the Washington State Medical Association.

Schlicher, also in his late 30s, recalls with horror two of his recent patients — close to his age and previously healthy — who were admitted with new-onset heart failure caused by covid.

“I’ve seen that up close and that’s what scares the hell out of me,” he said.

“I understand young people feeling invincible, but what I

would just tell them is — don’t be afraid of dying, be afraid of heart failure, lung damage and not being able to do the things that you love to do.”

Doctors and public health experts hope that the troubling spike in hospitalizations among the younger demographic will be temporary — one that vaccines will soon counteract. It was only on April 19 that all adults became eligible for a covid vaccine, although they were available in some states much sooner.

But some concerning national polls indicate a sizable portion of teens and adults in their 20s and 30s don’t necessarily have plans to get vaccinated.

“We just need to make it super easy — not inconvenient in any way,” said Malmgren, the Washington epidemiologist. “We have to put our minds to it and think a little differently.”

Will Stone, Kaiser Health News.
This story is part of a partnership that includes NPR and Kaiser Health News (KHN).

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Sierra/Esp

“Los campesinos y campesinas sufren más enfermedades de origen químico que cualquier otro grupo laboral del país”, dice Milly Treviño-Sauceda, directora ejecutiva de la ANC. “En California, por ejemplo, hay comunidades campesinas cuyos hijos tienen necesidades médicas especiales por la exposición a los pesticidas de sus madres”.

Es admirable el coraje y generosidad de estas mujeres al confrontar otro terrible peligro en los campos y en sus propios hogares. Según un estudio de la Universidad de California, Santa Cruz (UCSC), hasta el 80% de ellas ha sufrido acoso sexual.

“En un reporte que realizamos nosotras entre 60 campesinas, vimos que nueve de cada diez sufrieron acoso sexual en el campo o en el hogar”, dice Treviño-Sauceda. “Esto es algo perverso. Es muy rara la compañía agrícola que no ha tenido problemas de acoso sexual. Como están apartadas en los campos, el muy fácil violar y ultrajar”.

El estudio de la UCSC también indica que menos del 7% del total de casos de abusos se reporta, ya que la inmensa mayoría de ellas carece de estatus migratorio legal y que hasta el 97% de las que lo reportan sufre represalias de los abusadores o empleadores.

Durante la pandemia, a las campesinas se las considera trabajadoras esenciales, pero con demasiada frecuencia esta distinción es meramente nominal.

“En muchísimas compañías vimos que no se tomaron las necesarias precauciones para evitar contagios y debido a que muchas carecen de seguro médico, fueron a trabajar enfermas”, dice Treviño-Sauceda.

Las consecuencias han sido terribles. Un estudio de Purdue University concluyó que unos 9.100 trabajadores agrícolas han muerto de unos 554.000 casos de COVID-19.

“¡Ya basta!”, clama la ANC y exige que se tomen soluciones para acabar con estos abusos, como la aprobación de la Ley de Prevención de Enfermedades y Muertes por Calor, la Ley de Protección de los Niños contra los Pesticidas, la Ley de Prevención de Violencia contra las Mujeres y la Ley de Ciudadanía para Trabajadores Esenciales.

La sociedad se lo debe a estas campesinas por ser esencialmente heroicas.

Javier Sierra es un columnista del Sierra Club.

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Insurance

Darci Gutierrez, an insurance agent in Dublin, California, says a client with a large family saved \$425 a month on a Blue Shield PPO at the silver tier — the second-lowest level in the ACA’s four-tier system of coverage.

“I was shocked at the amount of reduction in cost. I was like, ‘Holy cow,’” Gutierrez says.

The additional federal aid is slated to stop after 2022, which means your insurance could cost you more after that. But there is talk in Congress about extending the enhanced tax credits for longer.

The new law follows the lead of California, which provided groundbreaking state-funded tax credits starting last year to augment the ACA credits and push eligibility for aid well into the middle class. The new federal dollars will provide assistance even further up the income scale.

Covered California estimates 100,000 consumers with incomes too high to qualify for federal or state credits under prior law will now be eligible for subsidies averaging \$500 a month per household.

The share of the new money going to California could be about four times as much as those state-funded subsidies and will

completely replace them, saving the state about \$761 million this fiscal year and next.

The newly enhanced federal tax credits take effect with coverage that starts May 1. To get coverage for the first of any month, you need only sign up by the day before.

“

“I was shocked at the amount of reduction in cost.”

Darci Gutierrez,
Insurance Agent

If you are currently enrolled in Covered California, you can keep your plan and take the savings, or you could shop around and save even more — or switch to a higher level of coverage without increasing your monthly bill.

If you are a current enrollee, Covered California — unlike the federally run exchanges — will automatically calculate your lower premium, and you will see a credit for May on your June bill. You will also reap that saving retroactively for the first four

months of 2021 in the form of an additional premium reduction, in equal monthly installments, over the rest of the year.

If you are uninsured or in an off-exchange health plan, however, you need to take action. The money won’t just come to you. Research your options and enroll.

To find out if you qualify for federal assistance, log on to www.coveredca.com.

Click the “shop and compare” button to find the health plans available to you in your area, along with the monthly premium you will pay after your tax credit.

You can also click a button to get a call from a licensed health insurance agent who can help you figure it all out — without charging you. If you don’t have a computer, call Covered California at 800-300-1506.

Bernard J. Wolfson is the Managing Editor for California Healthline. This story was produced by Kaiser Health News, which publishes California Healthline, an editorially independent service of the California Health Care Foundation.

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Before coming to Aurora, Wright was an administrator in the Atlanta-area Fulton County School System. He also served as a principal and assistant principal. He began his education career teaching middle school language arts.

In a [video introduction](#) posted on Denver Public Schools' website, Wright said he values trust, transparency, and building relationships. The son of educators, Wright said engaging with teachers, students, and community members is important to him.

A key part of his leadership style is a desire to propose solutions, he said.

"I don't want to spend all of my time being someone who only presents problems," Wright said. "I want to be a leader who's actually also involved in creating solutions for our children. That's critical in this work."



Stephanie Soliven

Soliven oversees the middle and high schools in Brevard Public Schools, which serves more than 73,000 students. According to [her biography](#) on the district's website, she previously served as a high school principal for eight years, and was an assistant principal before that. As a school leader, she increased academic achievement and pushed for equitable access to programs for students, her biography says.

Soliven has won several awards during her career, including Florida Assistant Principal of the Year, her biography says. She is originally from Miami.

In a [video introduction](#), Soliven said integrity, respect, and a sense of urgency are three core values that describe how she leads. She said she'd be relentless in ensuring Denver's schools have the proper resources, and she promised to

work on her Spanish to be able to communicate with large number of families who speak the language.

Soliven praised Denver as "the dream" — a community of diverse, passionate citizens who she said consistently prioritize their public schools.

"I love the fact that in Denver, people are active," Soliven said. "People are fierce champions of programs — and vocal adversaries when necessary."



Alex Marrero

Marrero is the first Latinx educator to head the 10,400-student New Rochelle school system, according to [the district's website](#). He was appointed acting superintendent this past fall when the permanent superintendent went on medical leave. The permanent superintendent later resigned amid controversy.

Marrero joined the New Rochelle district in January 2020 as the assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction. Before that, he was an assistant superintendent in East Ramapo, New York, where he helped boost academic achievement and graduation rates, as well as an assistant principal and principal in the Bronx, his biography says.

In a [video introduction](#), Marrero said if he were hired, Denver could expect him to "disrupt the status quo" with regard to the role of superintendent.

"You will seldom find me here, in city hall, in central office," he said. "You'll find me in the schools, collaborating with leaders, collaborating with teachers, staff, and in the community, looking to learn and articulate the great work that is happening in our schools."

Answering questions in both English and Spanish, Marrero said educators helped him in mean-

ingful ways after the death of his mother when he was in college. He said one of the best parts of his current job is meeting with his own student advisory council.

The Process

Each finalist will interview with seven different groups: students, teachers and school staff, school leaders, central office staff, the senior leadership team, the school board, and a group of families and community members.

Denver Public Schools plans to livestream the student and community interviews on Thursday, **May 13**. The student-led interviews will take place at 4 p.m., followed by the community interviews at 6 p.m. You can watch the interviews at [superintendent.dpsk12.org](#).

The community is also invited to give feedback during the [public comment](#) portion of the school board's **May 20** meeting. Each speaker is allotted three minutes.

The Denver school board hired Alma Advisory Group of Chicago to lead a national search for a new superintendent. Alma CEO Monica Santana Rosen said 38 candidates applied for Denver's top job. Alma interviewed 20 of them and the school board interviewed 15.

All candidates were screened for whether their values matched what Denver community members said they wanted in a superintendent, Rosen said. And the school board asked for examples of how the candidates put those values into action.

Board Vice President Jennifer Bacon said they asked questions like, "Do you believe in parent voice? Does culturally responsive education come naturally to you?"

Olson said the board also asked about equity, a Denver Public Schools core value that has become a buzzword in education — or as she put it, "just a word on the wall."

"We probed, 'What would that look like in action?'" Olson said.

Melanie Asmar is a Senior Reporter with Chalkbeat Colorado.

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la cobertura que comienza el 1 de mayo. Para obtener cobertura el primer día de cualquier mes, solo necesitas inscribirte el día anterior.

Casi el 90% de los beneficiarios de Covered California ya reciben ayuda financiera, y muchos ahora recibirán más. Algunos afiliados que antes no calificaban para créditos fiscales ahora pueden ser elegibles.

Darci Gutiérrez, una agente de seguros en Dublin, California, dijo que un cliente con una familia numerosa ahorró \$425 al mes en una PPO de Blue Shield en el nivel Plata, el segundo nivel más bajo de cobertura.

"Me sorprendió la cantidad de reducción de costos. Yo estaba como, 'Santo cielo'", dijo Gutiérrez.

Está previsto que la ayuda federal adicional se detenga después de 2022, lo que significa que tu seguro podría costarte más después.

La nueva ley también asigna dinero para brindar una cobertura prácticamente sin prima, solo en 2021, para cualquier persona que reciba beneficios por desempleo en cualquier momento durante el año.

Si ya estás inscrito en Covered California, puedes mantener tu plan y aprovechar los ahorros, o puedes comparar precios y ahorrar aún más, o cambiar a un nivel más alto de cobertura sin aumentar tu gasto mensual.

Si no cambias, Covered California calculará automáticamente tu prima más baja y verás un crédito de mayo en tu factura de junio.

También obtendrás ese ahorro de manera retroactiva durante los primeros cuatro meses de 2021 en forma de una reducción adicional de la prima, en cuotas mensuales iguales, durante el resto del año.

Sin embargo, si no tienes seguro o tienes un plan de salud por fuera de los mercados de seguros de ACA, debes tomar medidas. Investiga tus opciones e insíbete, o cambia de plan.

Para saber si reúnes los requisitos para recibir asistencia federal, inicia una sesión en el sitio [www.coveredca.com/espanol](#).

Haz clic en el botón "busca y compara" para encontrar los planes de salud disponibles para ti en tu área, junto con la prima mensual que pagarás después que se descuento tu subsidio.

También puedes hacer clic en un botón para recibir una llamada de un agente de seguros de salud certificado que puede ayudarte a resolver todo, sin cobrarte. Si no tienes una computadora, llama a línea de Covered California en español, al 800-300-0213.

Bernard es el editor de California Healthline. Esta historia fue producida por Kaiser Health News, que publica California Healthline, un servicio editorialmente independiente de la California Health Care Foundation.

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Sobre los tres finalistas:

Andre Wright

En las vecinas Escuelas Públicas de Aurora, un distrito diverso de 38.000 alumnos al sureste de Denver, el trabajo de Wright consiste en ayudar a las escuelas de Aurora a mejorar su rendimiento académico. Lleva más de tres años en el cargo. Wright ha estado en Aurora desde 2014. Anteriormente supervisaba 10 escuelas, incluyendo la Hinkley High School y la East Middle School, como uno de los directores de aprendizaje del distrito.

Antes de llegar a Aurora, Wright fue administrador en el Sistema Escolar del Condado de Fulton, en el área de Atlanta. También fue director y subdirector. Comenzó su carrera educativa enseñando artes lingüísticas en la escuela media.

En un [video de presentación](#) publicado en el sitio web de las Escuelas Públicas de Denver, Wright dijo que valora la confianza, la transparencia y la construcción de relaciones. Hijo de educadores, Wright dijo que el compromiso con los profesores, los estudiantes y los miembros de la comunidad es importante para él.

Una parte clave de su estilo de liderazgo es el deseo de proponer soluciones, dijo.

"No quiero pasar todo mi tiempo siendo alguien que sólo presenta problemas", dijo Wright. "Quiero ser un líder que realmente también

participe en la creación de soluciones para nuestros hijos. Eso es fundamental en este trabajo".

Stephanie Soliven

Soliven supervisa las escuelas medias y secundarias de las Escuelas Públicas de Brevard, que atienden a más de 73.000 estudiantes. De acuerdo con su [biografía](#) en el sitio web del distrito, anteriormente se desempeñó como directora de la escuela secundaria durante ocho años, y fue un director asistente antes de eso. Como líder escolar, aumentó el rendimiento académico e impulsó el acceso equitativo a los programas para los estudiantes, dice su biografía.

Soliven ha ganado varios premios durante su carrera, incluyendo el de Subdirectora del Año de Florida, dice su biografía. Es originaria de Miami.

En un [video presentación](#), Soliven dijo que la integridad, el respeto y el sentido de la urgencia son tres valores fundamentales que describen su forma de dirigir. Dijo que sería implacable para asegurar que las escuelas de Denver tengan los recursos adecuados, y prometió trabajar en su español para poder comunicarse con un gran número de familias que hablan el idioma.

Soliven elogió a Denver como "el sueño": una comunidad de ciudadanos diversos y apasionados que, según dijo, priorizan sistemáticamente sus escuelas públicas.

"Me encanta el hecho de que en Denver la gente es activa", dijo Soliven. "La gente es feroz defensora de los programas - y adversarios vocales cuando es necesario".

Alex Marrero

Marrero es el primer educador latino que dirige el sistema escolar de New Rochelle, de 10.400 alumnos, según el [sitio web del distrito](#).

Fue nombrado superintendente en funciones el pasado otoño cuando el superintendente permanente se fue de baja médica. El superintendente permanente dimitió más tarde en medio de la controversia.

Marrero se unió al distrito de New Rochelle en enero de 2020 como superintendente asistente para el plan de estudios y la instrucción. Antes de eso, fue un superintendente asistente en East Ramapo, Nueva York, donde ayudó a impulsar el rendimiento académico y las tasas de graduación, así como un subdirector y director en el Bronx, dice su biografía.

En un [video de presentación](#), Marrero dijo que, de ser contratado, Denver podría esperar que "alterara el statu quo" en lo que respecta al papel de superintendente.

"Rara vez me encontrarán aquí, en el ayuntamiento, en la oficina central", dijo. "Me encontrarán en las escuelas, colaborando con los líderes, colaborando con los

maestros, el personal y en la comunidad, buscando aprender y articular el gran trabajo que está sucediendo en nuestras escuelas".

Respondiendo a preguntas tanto en inglés como en español, Marrero dijo que los educadores le ayudaron de manera significativa tras la muerte de su madre cuando estaba en la universidad. Dijo que una de las mejores partes de su trabajo actual es reunirse con su propio consejo asesor de estudiantes.

El proceso

Cada finalista se entrevistará con siete grupos diferentes: estudiantes, profesores y personal de la escuela, líderes de la escuela, personal de la oficina central, el equipo de liderazgo superior, la junta escolar, y un grupo de familias y miembros de la comunidad.

Las Escuelas Públicas de Denver tienen previsto retransmitir en directo las entrevistas con los estudiantes y la comunidad el **jueves 13 de mayo**. Las entrevistas con los estudiantes tendrán lugar a las 4 p.m., seguidas por las entrevistas con la comunidad a las 6 p.m. Puede ver las entrevistas en [superintendent.dpsk12.org](#).

La comunidad también está invitada a dar su opinión durante la parte de [comentarios públicos](#) de la reunión de la junta escolar del **20 de mayo**. Cada orador tiene tres minutos.

La junta escolar de Denver contrató a Alma Advisory Group de

Chicago para dirigir una búsqueda nacional de un nuevo superintendente. La directora general de Alma, Monica Santana Rosen, dijo que 38 candidatos solicitaron el puesto más importante de Denver. Alma entrevistó a 20 de ellos y el consejo escolar entrevistó a 15.

Todos los candidatos fueron examinados para ver si sus valores coincidían con lo que los miembros de la comunidad de Denver dijeron que querían en un superintendente, dijo Rosen. Y la junta escolar pidió ejemplos de cómo los candidatos ponen esos valores en acción.

La vicepresidenta de la junta, Jennifer Bacon, dijo que se hicieron preguntas como: "¿Cree usted en la voz de los padres? ¿La educación culturalmente responsable es algo natural para usted?"

Olson dijo que la junta también preguntó sobre la equidad, un valor central de las Escuelas Públicas de Denver que se ha convertido en una palabra de moda en la educación - o como ella lo dijo, "sólo una palabra en la pared".

"Nos preguntamos: ¿Cómo se vería eso en acción?" dijo Olson.

Melanie Asmar es reportera senior de Chalkbeat Colorado.

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

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Auditoría

cia previa relevante en este tipo de trabajos, y que ha contratado a subcontratistas.

"Creo que lo que más me preocupa de lo que está ocurriendo en Arizona", dijo Wyman, "es esta naturaleza partidista del recuento o la auditoría. El mayor problema es que no hay normas ni responsabilidad en el sistema, como ocurre con las leyes, procedimientos y políticas electorales".

"No se define quién puede participar, o mirar, o impugnar el resultado del recuento. ¿Quién establece las reglas, quién paga por ello? Todas estas cosas están ocultas a la vista del público".

"Estamos poniendo en riesgo nuestra democracia".

Los resultados oficiales de las elecciones del 3 de noviembre mostraron una participación del 73,8%, y el aspirante Joe Biden derrotó al actual presidente Donald Trump por 45.000 votos.

El Senado de Arizona ha asig-

nado 150.000 dólares para la auditoría, pero Cyber Ninjas espera recibir más que eso, aunque no dice por quién.

Fuentes afines al Partido Republicano, como el abogado Sidney Powell, que dirigió las impugnaciones a los resultados de la campaña de Trump tras las elecciones, y la red de noticias America One News Network, también habrían recaudado fondos para el esfuerzo, en marcha desde el 23 de abril en un espacio del coliseo que el Senado ha alquilado hasta el 14 de mayo.

En respuesta a una demanda presentada por el Partido Demócrata de Arizona y funcionarios del condado de Maricopa, se ha ordenado a Cyber Ninjas que sea más abierto sobre su metodología de auditoría, pero ha tardado en cumplirla.

Patrick describió algunos de los misterios que rodean el uso de luces ultravioletas, bolígrafos capaces de alterar o estropear

papeletas que normalmente estarían prohibidos, el examen de los pliegues y las variaciones en la impresión de las papeletas que son comunes en cualquier elección.

También se desconoce quién inspecciona las papeletas y a quién se le permite observar su trabajo. Normalmente, los recuentos son realizados por equipos bipartidistas y con normas sobre el manejo de los materiales electorales.

"Esto no es algo que ocurre en un proceso democrático sano", dijo Patrick. "Ya hubo auditorías sancionadas oficialmente, por ambos partidos. Ya se hizo una auditoría de recuento manual".

"Estas elecciones, en medio de una pandemia mundial, fueron justas y precisas, se llevaron a cabo de forma segura, se auditaron y se litigaron", dijo Master-son. También citó los estudios de la comunidad de inteligencia que

no encontraron "ninguna prueba de infiltración exitosa en la infraestructura electoral".

Sin embargo, lo que la comunidad de inteligencia encontró fue "una campaña generalizada para socavar la confianza en las elecciones", llevada a cabo en parte por Rusia e Irán.

"La degradación de la confianza es nada menos que una amenaza a la seguridad".

"Otros estados están observando", dijo Wyman, que espera que la auditoría, dada su naturaleza partidista, concluya que hubo anomalías en las elecciones, aunque no tenga autoridad para cambiar el resultado.

"Una vez terminadas las elecciones, avanzamos juntos. Esto es problemático. Otros estados están estudiando esto", dijo Patrick.

"Están estableciendo políticas para estar más seguros de que va a haber diferencias".

El verdadero propósito de la auditoría, coincidieron los pan-

elistas, es avivar la desconfianza en el proceso electoral y recaudar dinero para aquellos a los que no les gustan los últimos resultados.

Por ley, las papeletas y el material electoral se guardan y protegen durante casi dos años, pero la actual auditoría, con su falta de transparencia y su aparente olvido de los protocolos establecidos sobre el manejo del material electoral, ha erosionado las esperanzas de mantener registros fiables.

"No creo que se pueda hacer creíble el proceso en este momento", dijo Wyman. "Ahora han contaminado y corrompido esos 2,1 millones de papeletas que el condado de Maricopa protegió tan meticulosamente".

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and Dominique — tried to sort out their Blackness in a place that was almost entirely Hispanic and white. Accustomed to being surrounded by Latinos in Florida and later in McAllen, Paloma recalled her father's warnings. When the boys started nursery school, they were the only Black babies. "That's when I thought, I need to start to make them very proud of what they are."

The questions about skin color came early for Dominique, the youngest brother. His fellow kindergartners watched Paloma, a Latina, drop off her son for school in the mornings, and a cousin, who was Chinese, pick him up after the last bell. (Paloma's brother had married a Chinese woman.) "They asked me if I was adopted," Dominique remembers clearly. He told his mother, "I don't look like you." Would his father, *pretty-please*, pick him up at school to show the kids, once and for all that, no, he was not adopted? It was a conclusive victory. "The kids stopped bringing it up. 'OK, you're Black!'"

The boys steered in different directions, employing sports, fashion and culture to signal their preferences to the perplexed children of

McAllen. "I really identified with my Hispanic side, but when people see me, they see a Black kid," remembers Dominique. He ventured to look "more Black," braiding his hair into cornrows and wearing FUBU, a line of clothing that telegraphed Black street pride. Meanwhile, Alan forged a collegiate look. He listened to "corny, white boy music" (Christian's words) and dressed in Abercrombie & Fitch.

The boys were left to their own to make sense of the off-handed remarks at school and on the football field. *You're Black, you're supposed to jump farther. Do Black kids have extra muscles in their legs? You sound smart for a Black kid. You sound white.*

"There was open ignorance back then," Christian remembers. The boys absorbed and repelled the remarks, protesting vigorously only when the N-word exploded in front of them. One of Alan's friends on the football team asked him, "What's up, d...igger?" replacing the N and smirking knowingly. Alan responded, "Why would you even do that?"

It never occurred to Dr. Pean to give his teenage boys "the talk," the

dreaded conversation Black parents initiate to prepare their sons for police encounters. The day Christian came home, blood running down his forehead, Harold argued against pressing charges. "The chief of police was my friend, and I had a lot of police patients," Harold said. "I would meet white people or Black or Hispanic, and I never thought they would see me differently."

Where Harold was silent, Paloma was explicit. The history of African Americans amazed her. Dominique remembers his mother saying, "Being Black is beautiful. They came to the United States as slaves, and now they are doctors. That blood runs in you, and you are strong."

Of all the sons, the oldest boy, Christian, seemed the most curious about exactly what his heritage and his skin color had to do with who he was. Why hadn't his mother married a Mexican man? Why did other kids want to know if his dark skin rubbed off? Could they touch his hair? At age 6, Christian told his mother a Hispanic girl at school had called him the N-word and his mother a "wetback" as he sat in the cafeteria sipping a Capri Sun.

The racist lexicon of American youth befuddled Paloma. She asked Christian, "What does that mean?" "That word is bad," he responded.

Christian's doubts about his father's faith in American meritocracy emerged early. After he endured racist slurs and other offensive remarks at school, Christian told Harold that he felt he was treated differently "because I'm Black."

"No, Chief," his father responded, "hard work gets rewarded. It's not going to help anybody to get down on your race."

As mixed-race children, the legitimacy of the Pean brothers' Blackness trailed them into adulthood. At Georgetown University, Christian found an abundance of Black students for the first time — African Americans and immigrants from Nigeria, Ghana and the Caribbean — and unfamiliar fault lines began to emerge.

"When I was in high school, there was never Black immigrants vs. Black Americans," Christian said. But in college and later in medical school at Mount Sinai in East Harlem, Christian fielded questions from other Black stu-

dents about whether scholarships for people of color should be set aside for African Americans descended from slaves, not children of Black immigrants like him.

At the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., Dominique was facing similar questions about his racial camp. When he joined the board of the Student Organization of Latinos, he was asked, "Are you Latino enough?"

"When I'm on the street, people see a Black man. But when I'm with my Black friends, they're like, Dom, you're not really Black," he said. The questions followed them into their personal lives: African American women berating Christian and Dominique for dating women who were not Black.

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Justicia 1

la cena la familia rezaba en tres idiomas (Paloma en español, Harold en francés, los niños en inglés). Harold impulsó a sus tres hijos como lo habían hecho con él sus propios padres. "Esperaba que fueran médicos o profesionales, como mis padres esperaban que fuéramos profesionales".

Ese fue el período en el que los tres hijos, Christian, Alan y Dominique, intentaron adaptar su "negritud" en un lugar que era casi en su totalidad hispano y blanco. Acostumbrada a estar rodeada de latinos en Florida y luego en McAllen, Paloma recordó las advertencias de su padre. Cuando los niños empezaron la guardería, eran los únicos bebés negros. "Ahí fue cuando pensé, tengo que empezar a hacer que se sientan muy orgullosos de lo que son".

Las preguntas sobre el color de la piel llegaron temprano para Dominique, el hermano menor. Sus compañeros de jardín de infantes veían a Paloma, latina, dejar a su hijo en la escuela por las mañanas, y un primo, que era chino, lo recogía después de la última campaña. (El hermano de Paloma se había casado con una mujer china). "Me preguntaban si era adoptado", recuerda claramente Dominique. Le dijo a su madre: "No me parezco a ti". ¿Podía recogerlo su padre para mostrarles a los niños, de una

vez por todas, que no era adoptado? Fue una victoria contundente. "Los niños dejaron de mencionarlo. '¡Está bien, eres negro!'".

Los muchachos tomaron diferentes direcciones, empleando deportes, moda y cultura para indicar sus preferencias a los perplejos niños de McAllen. "Realmente me identifiqué con mi lado hispano, pero cuando la gente me ve, ven a un niño negro", recuerda Dominique. Se aventuró a lucir "más negro", trenzándose el cabello y vistiendo FUBU, una línea de ropa ícono del orgullo callejero de los negros. Mientras tanto, Alan se forjó un look universitario. Escuchaba "música cursi para chicos blancos" (palabras de Christian) y comparaba ropa en Abercrombie & Fitch.

Corrió por cuenta de ellos entender los comentarios despreocupados en la escuela y en el campo de fútbol americano. Eres negro, se supone que debes saltar más lejos. ¿Los niños negros tienen músculos adicionales en las piernas? Suenas inteligente para ser un niño negro. Suenas blanco.

"Había una ignorancia abierta en ese entonces", recuerda Christian. Los muchachos absorbieron y repelieron los comentarios, protestando vigorosamente solo cuando la palabra "N..." explotaba frente a ellos. Uno de los amigos de Alan en el equipo de fútbol le

preguntó: "¿Qué pasa, d...igger?" reemplazando la N y sonriendo con complicidad. Alan respondió: "¿Por qué haces eso?".

Al doctor Pean nunca se le ocurrió tener esa "charla" con sus hijos adolescentes, la temida conversación que los padres negros inician para preparar a sus hijos para los encuentros con la policía. El día que Christian llegó a la casa con la sangre corriendo por su frente, Harold se opuso a presentar cargos. "El jefe de policía era mi amigo y tenía muchos pacientes policías", dijo Harold. "Me encontraría con personas blancas, negras o hispanas, y nunca pensé que me verían de manera diferente".

Donde Harold guardaba silencio, Paloma era explícita. La historia de los afroamericanos la asombró. Dominique recuerda a su madre diciendo: "Ser negro es hermoso. Vinieron a los Estados Unidos como esclavos y ahora son médicos. Esa sangre corre dentro de ti y eres fuerte".

De todos los hijos, el mayor, Christian, parecía el más curioso acerca de qué tenía que ver exactamente su herencia y el color de su piel con su identidad. ¿Por qué no se había casado su madre con un mexicano? ¿Por qué otros niños querían saber si su piel oscura se había borrado? ¿Podrían tocar su cabello? A los 6 años,

Christian le dijo a su madre que una niña hispana en la escuela lo había llamado la palabra "N..." y a ella "mojada" mientras estaba sentado en la cafetería tomando un Capri Sun.

El léxico racista de la juventud estadounidense desconcertó a Paloma. Le preguntó a Christian: "¿Qué significa eso?". "Esa palabra es mala", respondió.

Las dudas de Christian sobre la fe de su padre en la meritocracia estadounidense surgieron temprano. Después de soportar insultos racistas y otros comentarios ofensivos en la escuela, le dijo a Harold que sentía que lo trataban de manera diferente "porque soy negro".

"No, jefe", respondió su padre, "el trabajo duro es recompensado. A seguir adelante con tu carrera".

Como niños de raza mixta, los hermanos Pean arrastraron las preguntas sobre "su parte negra" hasta la edad adulta. En la Universidad de Georgetown, Christian encontró por primera vez una gran cantidad de estudiantes negros (afroamericanos e inmigrantes de Nigeria, Ghana y el Caribe) y comenzaron a surgir líneas divisorias desconocidas.

"Cuando estaba en la escuela secundaria, nunca hubo inmigrantes negros vs. estadounidenses negros", dijo Christian.

Pero en la universidad y luego en la escuela de medicina en Mount Sinai, en East Harlem, Christian respondió preguntas de otros estudiantes negros sobre si las becas para personas de color deberían reservarse para afroamericanos descendientes de esclavos, no para hijos de inmigrantes negros como él.

En la Universidad Católica de América en Washington, D.C., Dominique se enfrentaba a preguntas similares. Cuando se unió a la junta de la Organización Estudiantil de Latinos, le preguntaron: "¿Eres lo suficientemente latino?".

"Cuando estoy en la calle, la gente ve a un hombre negro. Pero cuando estoy con mis amigos negros, dicen, Dom, tú no eres realmente negro", dijo. Las preguntas los siguieron en sus vidas personales: mujeres afroamericanas que reprendían a Christian y Dominique por salir con mujeres que no eran negras.

Sarah Varney es corresponsal principal de Kaiser Health News. 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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