

07 de Abril 2022

THE WEEKLY ISSUE

El Semanario

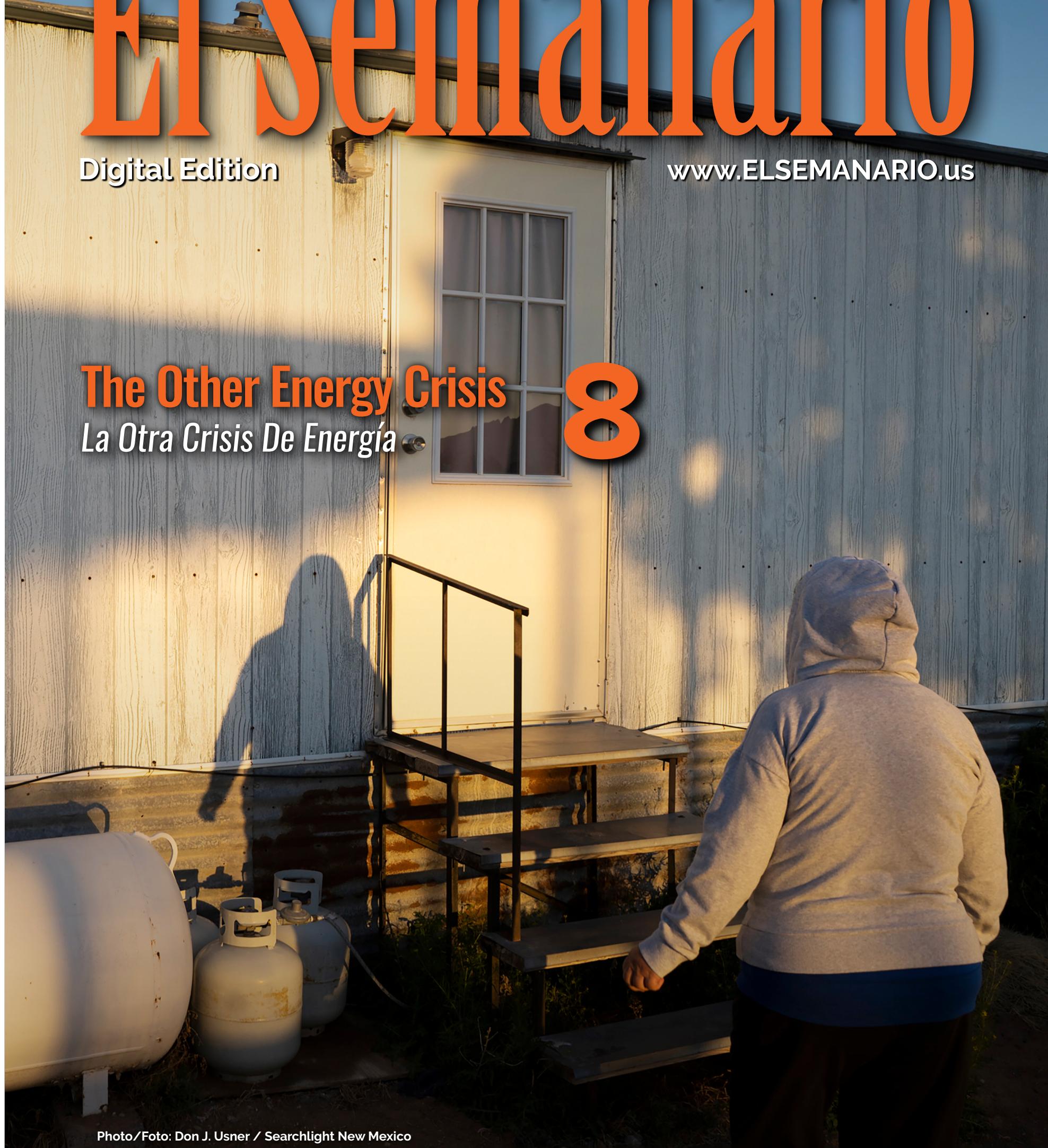
Digital Edition

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The Other Energy Crisis

La Otra Crisis De Energía

8



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

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**Swansea Centro De Recreacion Piscina Interior
Swansea Recreation Center Indoor Pool**

COMUNIDAD COMMUNITY REUNIÓN MEETING

**¡GUARDAR LA FECHA!
SAVE THE DATE!**

*Estás invitado a una reunión de la comunidad
You're invited to a Community Meeting*

Este proyecto ampliará el Centro de Recreación existente para incluir una piscina cubierta y servicios.

This project will expand the existing Recreation Center to include an indoor pool and support services.

Únase a nosotros mientras iniciamos el Centro de Recreación de Swansea Proyecto de Renovación y Adición de Piscina Cubierta. Todos están invitados a visitar el centro de recreación para aprender más sobre este proyecto. Esta es una oportunidad para compartir su visión y esperanzas para la nueva piscina cubierta que está trayendo a su comunidad.

Se proporcionarán servicios de interpretación en español. Se proporcionará un intérprete de lengua de signos o CART si se solicita. Se requiere un preaviso de tres días hábiles. Contacte con SignLanguageServices@denvergov.org Para cualquier otra solicitud / inquietud de alojamiento público, DisabilityAccess@denvergov.org

Please join us as we kick-off the Swansea Recreation Center Renovation and Indoor Pool Addition Project. Everyone is invited to visit the recreation center to learn more about this project. This is an opportunity to share your vision and hopes for the new indoor pool that you are bringing to your community.

Spanish language interpretation services will be provided. A sign language interpreter or CART will be provided upon request. Three business days' notice is requested. Contact [SignLanguageServices@ denvergov.org](mailto:SignLanguageServices@denvergov.org) For any other public accommodation requests/ concerns, contact DisabilityAccess@denvergov.org

**¡ESPERAMOS VERTE ALLÍ!
WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

*Para más información / For more information:
molly.lanphier@denvergov.org*

**HORA
TIME** 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

**FECHA
DATE** jueves, 7 de abril, 2022
Thursday, April 7, 2022

**DÓNDE
WHERE** En Persona / In Person
Swansea Recreation Center
2650 E. 49th Avenue

Commentary/Commentario

The False Migrant 'Invasion'

Maribel Hastings and David Torres

Faithful to his style, and as the main spokesperson for demagoguery in the Republican Party, former President Donald Trump said in a rally in Michigan this past weekend that the elimination of Title 42 would result in the U.S. "invasion" of between "10 and 12 million" undocumented immigrants.

His exaggeration, of course, is the electoral energy his faithful followers need to once again feel that they cannot only applaud a lie, but consolidate a false campaign that brings their hollow leader close to power once again.

"We're being invaded by millions and millions of people," affirmed Trump. "We will be deluged by illegal immigration."

Scheduled for May 23, the end of a policy implemented by Trump to keep asylum seekers from doing so in the United States, using the COVID-19 pandemic as an excuse, is already generating the expected response from Republicans, who see an opening to exploit, once again, the issue of migration, with political-partisan ends in a midterm

election year. This despite the fact that even if this worked well during the Trump era, it ultimately did not serve them to turn immigrants into scapegoats four years later, when they failed tremendously—losing the White House—due to a majority of voters being fed up with his xenophobic and anti-immigrant profile.

In the first place, the idea that between 10 and 12 million undocumented immigrants would "invade" the United States due to the ending of Title 42 is a fallacy.

But add to the Republicans some moderate and conservative Democrats who face close reelections in November and, like always, the easiest way out is to evoke an "out of control" border.

In the first place, the idea that between 10 and 12 million undocumented immigrants would "invade" the United States due to

the ending of Title 42 is a fallacy. If we're using statistics, since it was first implemented two years ago, the policy has removed approximately 1.7 million undocumented people who had intended to request asylum. And let us emphasize that—"intended"—what we're really talking about is exercising a right, whether or not the answer becomes "no." We repeat, not everyone obtains asylum like Trump and his minions want it to seem, with this "invasion" that only exists in his head and their most anti-immigrant nightmares.

It's worth pointing out also that, obviously, after two years of keeping people from legally seeking asylum in the United States, an uptick at the border is to be anticipated, fueled by political and economic crises around the world exacerbated by the pandemic. That is, human displacement is such a logical and most ancient phenomenon that the foolishness of those who want to impede it—with walls, armies, and public policies—is surprising, and will surely shame future generations.

That's not all. Annually, when winter is over and spring and summer arrive, the number of migrants



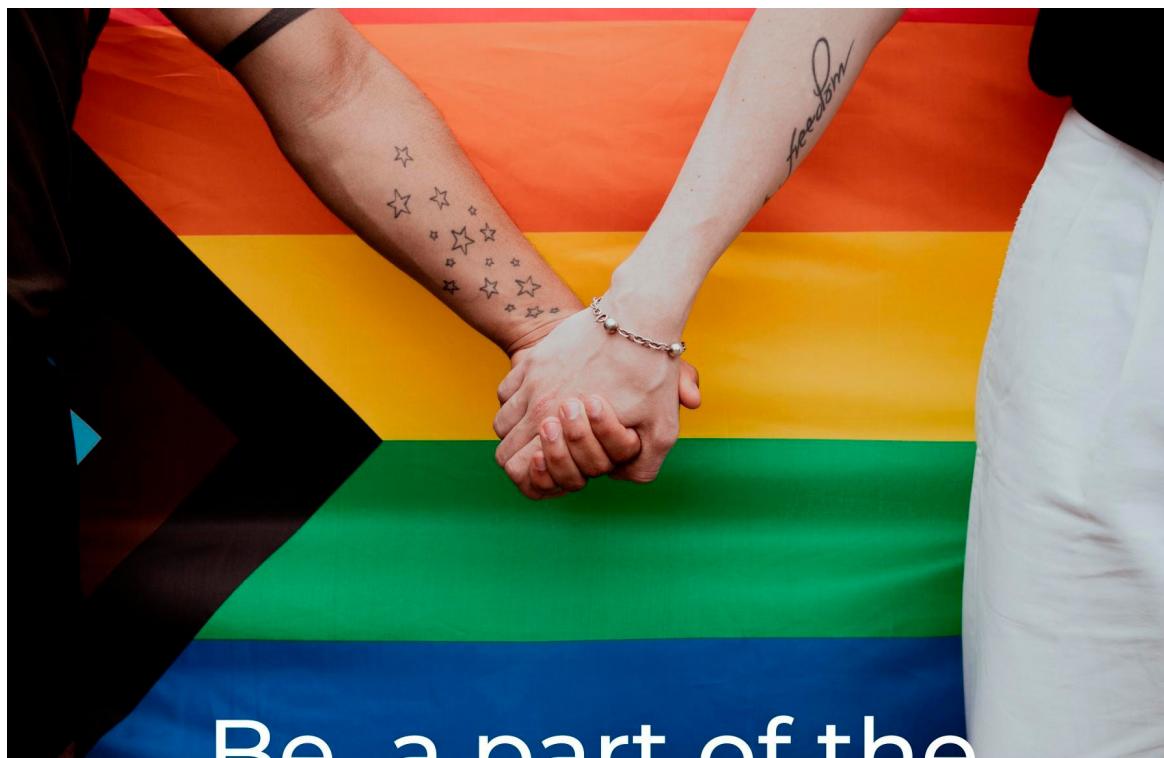
Photo/Foto: América's Voice

who try to cross the border always rises, and that includes asylum seekers, not only migrants trying to enter without documents and without being detected, for whatever reason.

We cannot forget that Republicans and some of those moderate and conservative Democrats have had no problem with the fact that Title 42 is not being applied to refugees from Ukraine, for example. It's only when talking about Latin American, Caribbean, or African immigrants, to mention a few, that they wield the argument about an "invasion." And that is where we see the hypocrisy of their disagreements and criticism of something they don't understand very well, such as the migration phenomenon and its roots, while they

In fact, 80% of the people who have been detained at the border during the Biden administration have been removed from the country, a figure that automatically refutes the Republican position that there is no control and that an "invasion" is in development. Moreover, almost **60,000 deportations** were carried out during Fiscal Year 2021, of the almost 75,000 arrests

See **Hastings/Torres** on page 16



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La Falsa 'Invasión' de Migrantes

Maribel Hastings y David Torres

Fiel a su estilo y como principal portavoz de la demagogia de su Partido Republicano, el expresidente Donald Trump dijo en un mitin en Michigan este fin de semana que la eliminación del Título 42 resultará en la "invasión" a Estados Unidos por entre "10 y 12 millones" de indocumentados.

Su exageración, por supuesto, es el alimento electoral que sus fieles seguidores necesitan para sentir nuevamente que pueden no solamente volver a vitorear una mentira, sino consolidar una campaña falsa que acerque otra vez a su hueco líder al poder.

"Estamos siendo invadidos por millones y millones de personas", afirmó Trump. "Seremos inundados por la inmigración ilegal".

La eliminación a partir del 23 de mayo de la política implementada por Trump para impedir que solicitantes de asilo lo hicieran en Estados Unidos tomando como excusa la pandemia del Covid-19, ya está generando la respuesta esperada de parte de los republi-

canos, que ven una apertura para explotar, una vez más, el tema migratorio con fines político-partidistas en año de elecciones intermedias. Eso, a pesar de que si bien les funcionó en la era de Trump, no les sirvió en absoluto tomar como chivos expiatorios a los inmigrantes cuatro años después, cuando fracasaron contundentemente al perder la Casa Blanca, debido al hartazgo que causó en la mayoría de los votantes su perfil xenófobo y antiinmigrante.

“

En primer lugar, la idea de que entre 10 y 12 millones de indocumentados "invadirán" Estados Unidos por el fin del Título 42 es una falacia.

Pero a los republicanos se suman algunos demócratas moderados y conservadores que enfrentan reelecciones cerradas en

Vea **Hastings/Torres/Esp**, página 17

A Legacy of Toxic Racism



Photo/Foto: Sierra Club/Henrik Kam

We need green roofs to protect us (Alameda, CA). / Necesitamos techos verdes para protegernos (Alameda, CA).

Javier Sierra

You may wonder why we Latinos, as well as other communities of color, receive a pollution punishment much more severe than white Americans. Why do so many of our communities breathe such noxious air?

It's not an accident. It's intentional—a legacy of toxic racism rooted in decades of segregation practices that condemned Latinos, Blacks and other people of color to live in some of the country's least desirable places.

It's called redlining, as in the color the federal Home Owner's Loan Corporation used on its maps for 30 years to mark the areas of the country that allegedly did not deserve its mortgage loans because of an "infiltration of foreign born, Negro, or lower grade population."

A new study published by Environmental Science and Tech-

nology Letters confirmed that, despite the fact that this practice was abandoned 50 years ago, its catastrophic consequences persist to this date. The residents of these redlined communities today live with more smog, particulate matter and other dangerous pollutants from cars, buses, trucks, coal burning plants and other toxic sources than their white counterparts.

In short, 45 million disadvantaged people breathe noxious air in the US.

UC Berkeley Professor Joshua Apte, one of the study's coauthors, told the Washington Post that, "if you just look at the number of people that get killed by air pollution, it's arguably the most important environmental health issue in the country."

To add insult to injury, a disproportionate number of sources of pollution, such as freeways, refineries, ports and other facilities

"

Our children and grandchildren do not deserve this legacy of toxic racism but to inherit a livable, healthy and thriving planet.

of great toxicity are built in these communities.

Out of the 202 cities where the study was conducted for two years, millions of Latinos live in the worst four—Los Angeles, Atlanta, Chicago and Essex County/Newark. Even in the same polluted areas, people of color breathe air more polluted than their white counterparts.

This report agrees with countless previous surveys and studies that underline these systemic and systematic environmental injustices. A Sierra Club and Green Latinos poll found that pollution impacts the lives of 89 percent of Latinos voters; that 40 percent live, study or work dangerously close to a toxic site—such as a freeway, a refinery or a coal burning plant—and that high or very high percentages suffer from asthma, chronic bronchitis or cancer.

The solution to this national tragedy is the accelerated transition from fossil fuels to an economy of clean energy and energy efficiency. A just-released report by the American Lung Association concluded that switching to electric vehicles and clean energy

could save 110,000 lives, \$1.2 trillion in public health benefits across the US, and \$1.7 trillion in climate benefits in the next 30 years.

The report focused on the 100 counties with the highest percentages of people of color—3 percent of the national total—and concluded that only in those, the cumulative benefits of clean energy would total \$155 billion.

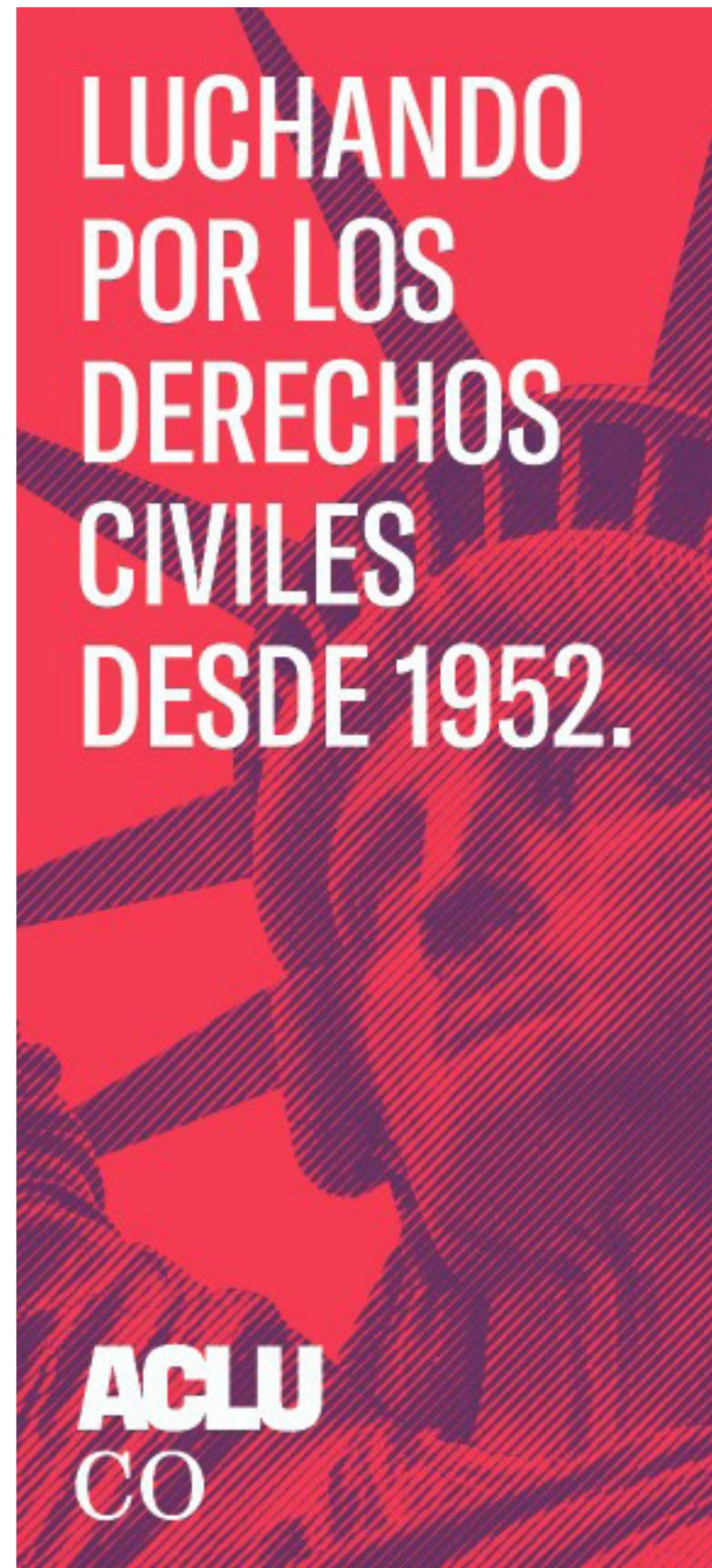
This generationally critical transformation would also meet the prescriptions of climate science. According to the conclusions of the UN Intergovernmental Panel

on Climate Change, humanity must cut its dirty energy use by 43 percent by 2030 and by 100 percent by 2050 if we all are to avoid the truly catastrophic consequences of the climate crisis.

Our children and grandchildren do not deserve this legacy of toxic racism but to inherit a livable, healthy and thriving planet.

Javier Sierra writes the monthly bilingual column *Sierra & Tierra*.

Read More Commentary:
ELSEMANARIO.US



Un Legado de Racismo Tóxico

Javier Sierra

Se habrá preguntado por qué nuestra gente, al igual que otras comunidades de color, recibe un castigo de contaminación mucho más severo que los estadounidenses blancos. ¿Por qué tantas de nuestras comunidades respiran un aire tan tóxico?

No es un accidente. Es intencional —una herencia de racismo tóxico producto de casi un siglo de prácticas segregacionistas que condenaron a nuestra gente a vivir en algunos de los lugares más indeseables de Estados Unidos.

En inglés se llama "redlining", por el color rojo que la Corporación de Préstamos a Dueños de Casas (HOLC) usó durante 30 años en sus mapas para marcar las áreas del país que no se merecían reci-

bir préstamos hipotecarios debido a la "infiltración de extranjeros, negros o poblaciones inferiores".

"

Nuestros hijos y nietos no merecen este legado de racismo tóxico, sino heredar un planeta viable, saludable y próspero.

Un nuevo estudio publicado en Environmental Science and Technology Letters confirma que pese a que esta práctica racista se eliminó hace 50 años, sus catastróficas consecuencias perduran. Comparados con la población blanca, los residentes de las áreas marcadas en rojo viven hoy con más

smog, materia particulada y otros peligrosos contaminantes procedentes de carros, camiones, plantas térmicas de carbón y otras fuentes tóxicas que sus contrapartes blancos. En resumen, 45 millones de personas respiran aire tóxico en Estados Unidos.

El catedrático Joshua Apte, coautor del reporte, dijo al Washington Post que, "si solo miramos al número de personas que mueren debido a la contaminación del aire, este es probablemente el problema de salud ambiental más importante del país".

El abuso contra estas comunidades se acentúa si consideramos que en ellas es donde se construyen un desproporcionado número de focos de contaminación, como

Vea [Sierra/Esp](#), página 16

Commentary / Comentario

Cuentos De Mi Chante Chicano: Pachuco, Cholo y Chundos

Daniel Stange

Yo soy Chicano. A veces Vato Loco, but seldom, hijo de la chingada. I grew up without understanding or speaking Spanish. My abuela was raised in Trinidad, Colorado and told me that back in the 1920's the nuns would punish her for speaking Spanish, so she never taught her children. She would not even dare to learn Native Tewa or Apache words like Genízaro. She would tell my Tios, "We are Spanish Americans, NOT Indians." Although some people would look at her and say: "Sorry, Señora, you don't look Spanish." Then she might yell back at them:

"I'm Mexican, so what! We have Spanish blood." And I did discover that my Mother had about a quarter of Spanish DNA when I sent my sample in for genetic testing.

“We can no longer look into the mirror of another's eyes and forget that we are *familia*. One human family.

She also has 20% African ancestry. The double challenge that Chicanos faced has two historic occurrences. There are native people from California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona and

Southwest *pueblos* along the Rio Grande river that begins in the San Luis Valley of Colorado, runs across New México and now divides the state of Texas from México. The people of these nations were subject to Spanish colonization and then after the Mexican American war ended in 1848, they again became oppressed by the Anglos of English speaking culture. So, their resilience has been a double conflict and the descendants span the spectrum of complete assimilation to defiant revolutionaries. We are seldom referenced in the slave history of América, but it has been documented that "Indian" babies were being sold in New México up until 1952. Now, this practice

is condoned through Immigration Customs and Enforcement (ICE) by locking up children and reportedly hundreds of them are still missing from the administration archives. Most Native men from Anahuac that were captured during these conquest years and sold into slavery had to be shipped away to the Caribbean islands or other continents because they would easily escape in their homeland. Many of those who remained, also could blend into the American labor forces and agriculture fields where they retained their ancestral connection to the earth. They became López, Luján's and García's or Archuleta's. Their grandmothers held on to some old Mexican culture and



Photo: Daniel Stange

Catholic *curanderismo* practices and they never forgot that they are not immigrants.

Our distinct identity has manifested in a variety of characteristics and

See Stange on page 19

If Construction Firms Need Workers, They Should Turn to Unions

Mark Ziegler

Competition is the foundation of our free enterprise system.

Just as business success requires an ability to compete for customers, it also depends on attracting and retaining qualified workers.

As COVID 19 has disrupted just about every industry that relies on in-person or face-to-face work, there have been plenty of complaints about "labor shortages." But not nearly enough discussion about what it takes to compete for labor.

Construction is the fastest growing sector of our state's economy. For the past 40 years I have

worked in the industry and am the former president of Amerect Inc. We specialize in the erection of structural steel and precast concrete for commercial and industrial buildings. It is highly skilled and physically demanding work that must be done in person.

Our company's success is largely driven by our partnership

with union ironworkers, operating engineers and their hiring halls across the state and country.

And every day, I hear industry peers concerned they won't find workers with the requisite skills for projects.

As our industry is being tasked with the work of building 21st century commercial facilities, sufficient housing supply, and the critical work of modernizing our roads, bridges, schools, utilities, and transit systems, it's the kind of claim that gets your attention.

Often, I'll ask if they are parties to a collective bargaining agreement with the trade unions who supply us with the craft workers we use on our projects.

Very often, the answer is no.

Yes, union construction workers earn higher wages, and most have health and retirement benefits.

They also complete years of apprenticeship training to learn their craft with the highest standards of safety and productivity. This training is funded exclusively by union members and signatory contractors through hourly contributions to the joint apprenticeship fund. These joint apprenticeship programs produce 10 times the skilled trade workers in Minnesota as non-union programs, despite having nowhere near that level of overall market share.

In the union construction model, pay rates, working conditions and apprenticeship funding is privately negotiated between unions and individual employers or groups of employers.

In exchange for a per-hour investment in workers — whose unions also take on the cost of

“

Our company's success is largely driven by our partnership with union ironworkers, operating engineers and their hiring halls across the state and country.

administering health and pension programs — employers receive a steady labor supply. We get access to the specific skills and documented certifications we need, when we need them — whether it's heavy equipment operators, truck drivers, structural and reinforcing ironworkers or carpenters.

The non-union side of the industry operates very differently. There's no comparable financing mechanism for recruiting and training apprentices. A recent study revealed that workers earn as much as 32% less and are half as likely to have health insurance or retirement benefits. Nearly 13% rely on food stamps — effectively a government subsidy of low-wage construction employers.

Ultimately, lower wages attract workers with lower skill levels. And research has shown these factors can contribute to lower productivity, more safety problems on the jobsite, and costly problems with employee turnover and craftsmanship. This is a major reason why researchers have concluded there is no real difference in cost between projects built by union or non-union construction workers.

While it is true that the construction industry needs to recruit

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WOMEN+FILM AWARDS LUNCHEON

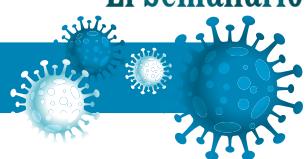
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Denver Film THE ROBERT AND JUDI NEWMAN CENTER UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

See Ziegler on page 18



Pandemic Funding Is Running Out for Community Health Workers

By Lauren Weber

As a community health worker, 46-year-old Christina Scott is a professional red-tape cutter, hand-holder, shoulder to cry on, and personal safety net, all wrapped into one.

She works in an office in the shadow of the steel mill that employed her grandfather in this shrinking city in the Greater St. Louis area. Gone with many of the steel jobs is some of the area's stability — almost a fifth of Granite City's residents live in poverty, far higher than the national average.

Then another destabilizer — covid-19 — hit. And so Scott stepped in: She knows how to access rental assistance for those out of work as they isolate at home with covid. She can bring people cleaning supplies or food from a local food bank. She'll stay on the phone with clients, helping them budget their finances to keep the lights on. And the calls keep coming because people know she understands.

"I've been hungry. I've not had a car," Scott said. "I've been through those things."

Scott is one of the over 650 community health workers the IL

inois Department of Public Health hired through local, community-based organizations starting last March. This Pandemic Health Navigator Program workforce was made possible by a nearly \$55 million grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention through the federal pandemic relief passed by Congress. The team has completed at least 45,000 assistance requests, which were referred to them through contact tracing of covid cases.

As the workers have gained the community's trust, Scott said,

See [Workers](#) on page 18



Christina Scott (left) and Brandi Camren load groceries into a car at Community Care Center's food bank in Granite City, Illinois. Scott planned to take them to one of her clients. / Christina Scott (izq.) y Brandi Camren cargan comestibles del banco de alimentos del Community Care Center en Granite City, Illinois. Scott los distribuye entre sus clientes.

Photo/Foto: Lauren Weber

Se Acaban los Fondos para los Trabajadores de Salud de la Comunidad

Por Lauren Weber

Como trabajadora de salud comunitaria, Christina Scott, de 46 años, es experta en trámites burocráticos, una mano siempre disponible, un hombre para llorar y una red de segu-

ridad personal, todo en una sola persona.

Scott trabaja en una oficina a la sombra de la fábrica de acero que empleaba a su abuelo en esta ciudad cada vez más pequeña en el área metropolitana de St. Louis. Con muchos de los trabajos del

acero se ha ido parte de la estabilidad del área: casi una quinta parte de los residentes de Granite City viven en la pobreza, mucho más que el promedio nacional.

Luego golpeó covid-19, otro desestabilizador. Y ahí fue cuando Scott intervino: asistiendo a

los que se quedaron sin trabajo, tienen covid y necesitan pagar la renta. Llevando artículos de limpieza o alimentos de un banco de alimentos local. Aconsejando sobre cómo mantener las finanzas para pagar las cuentas y no tener que cerrar negocios. Y las lla-

madas siguen llegando porque la gente sabe que ella entiende y ayuda.

"He tenido hambre. No he tenido auto", dijo Scott. "He pasado por esas cosas".

Vea [Trabajadores](#), página 24

CDC Discusses Current Status Of COVID-19 and Vaccines

By Karen Gutiérrez

Experts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported on the state of the pandemic in the United States and across the world, during a recent news briefing organized by Ethnic Media Services in collaboration with the CDC.

Panelists included Dr. John Brooks, senior science adviser to the CDC's Covid-19 Emergency Response team and Dr. Shannon

Stokely, co-lead of the Vaccine Task Force at the CDC's COVID-19 Emergency Response team.

The CDC stressed that it is necessary to be prepared for the arrival of a new variant or the next pandemic and assured that the vaccination remains the safest and most preventive measure for all ages.

Two years after the start of the pandemic, COVID-19 cases have decreased, and the CDC reports that more individuals have some immunity against the virus.

One of the most significant topics addressed by Dr. Brooks, was the high level of transmission from the BA.2 variant, which today accounts for 35% of new Covid infections in the U.S.

"As we're learning from our colleagues in Europe, Asia and South Africa, the BA.2 has resulted in varied peaks of cases. But there is no evidence that the BA.2 variant results in more severe disease, nor does it appear to be more likely to

See [Vaccines](#) on page 20



Vaccinations remain the most effective and safe way to prevent COVID-19. / Las vacunas siguen siendo la forma más efectiva y segura de prevenir la COVID-19.

Photo/Foto: AdobeStock

Estado Actual del COVID-19 y las Vacunas

Por Karen Gutiérrez

Expertos del Centro para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades (CDC en inglés) informaron sobre el estado de la pandemia en Estados Unidos y el mundo, esto se dio en

medio de una conferencia organizada por Ethnic Media Services y CDC.

Resaltaron que es necesario estar preparados para la llegada de una nueva variante o una próxima pandemia, pero también que la vacunación sigue siendo la medida

más segura y preventiva para todas las edades.

Uno de los temas más sobresalientes tratados por John T. Brooks, MD, asesor científico senior de los CDC, fue el alto nivel de transmisión que se da por la variante BA.2 la cual hoy repre-

resenta el 35% de las variantes que circulan a nivel nacional sin embargo él menciona "no hay evidencia de que la variante BA2 provoque una enfermedad más grave ni parece tener más probabilidades de evadir la protección inmunológica".

Otro tema tratado por el experto es el monitoreo que se está realizando a las aguas residuales en las diferentes ciudades de Estados Unidos, han sido según el panelista un factor importante

Vea [Vacunas](#), página 19

Provided to you by:



Thousands of Households Are Struggling to Keep the Lights On



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

Berenice Reza has no heating or air conditioning in her home: She relies on portable electric heaters during cold weather and fans when it's hot. / Berenice Reza no tiene calefacción ni aire acondicionado en su casa: Depende de calentadores eléctricos portátiles cuando hace frío y de ventiladores cuando hace calor.

By Alicia Inez Guzmán and Luciana Perez Uribe Guinassi

APNM lineman stood outside Rebeca Kueber's mobile home in Tesuque, New México about to cut off her service. The single mother of five had received several past-due no-

tices in the mail in the months prior, a burden that got heavier and heavier with each new balance.

Kueber had left a steady job as hostess at La Choza in early 2020, when the restaurant downsized due to the pandemic. A second restaurant job came and went months later, leaving her with a

meager unemployment check. When her kids' schools went remote, she was forced to stay home, which further whittled away the family budget. That meant trips to food pantries in Santa Fe and no new school clothes or shoes for the two youngest children, 11 and 12.

"The simple truth was that at times, we didn't have the means for anything," Kueber said in Spanish.

She applied for aid from the state's emergency rental assistance program ([ERAP](#)), which helps underwrite utilities for families in need. She didn't qualify. There were few options but to take out a loan, which she did, leaving a ding on her credit.

Bills piled up with each passing month — car payment, insurance, electricity, gas and rent on the space where her mobile home was parked.

Now, as the lineman waited outside, Kueber made a frantic call to PNM (Public Service Company of New Mexico). Yes, her federal assistance had gone through, she was assured. The shutoff would be dodged for now.

Kueber's struggle is shared by tens of thousands of New Mexicans — families on the verge of a utility disconnection. Many of them make trade-offs, sacrificing food, medicine or medical care to keep the lights on, homes heated or cooled, water running. They fear that the alternative could be far worse.

Children bear the heaviest burden. "Cutting off utilities doesn't just mean that a house goes dark," said Jennifer Ramo, executive director of New Mexico Appleseed, an anti-poverty group devoted to helping children in Santa Fe. "It affects mental health and child welfare, it affects [kids'] ability to do homework. ... They're bearing the impact, and yet they have no power to fix the problem or pay the debt."

Help has been fragmentary. Chainbreaker Collective and Adelante, two advocacy organizations based in Santa Fe, have been lifelines for Kueber during the months when she couldn't pay a utility bill or the rent on her mobile home space. Churches and faith-based organizations have similarly triaged resources for people in need, piecing together a couple hundred bucks here and there — usually just enough to tide households over another month, enough to keep a shutoff at bay.

"Starting to fall behind on utilities — that's the canary in the coal mine that shit is about to hit the fan," said Cathy Garcia, a community organizer with Chainbreaker. By the time a shutoff looms, she continued, "clearly someone is in crisis and everyone in that household is going to be affected."

Unseen struggles

An eviction is a highly visible affair, with people desperately packing up and moving out. A disconnection, in contrast, is private and unseen. Families keep food and medicine in coolers on ice rather than in the refrigerator. They go to the local community center to take showers and suffer freezing cold or sweltering weather with little recourse. And it all happens behind closed doors.



"Cutting off utilities doesn't just mean that a house goes dark. It affects mental health and child welfare, it affects [kids'] ability to do homework."

Jennifer Ramo, New Mexico Appleseed

In March 2020, New México tried to anticipate the coming deluge of pandemic-related shutoffs by placing a moratorium on utility disconnections. The moratorium ended last August, leaving some customers with balances in the thousands of dollars. Utility companies urged them to get on payment plans, apply for assistance through ERAP or the federally-funded Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program ([LIHEAP](#)), which helps low-income families pay utility bills and weatherize their homes.

Tens of thousands of New Mexicans applied and received some form of aid. According to the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA), the agency that oversees the state budget, New México has made 24,372 utility awards since April 2021, totaling approximately \$18.7 million. In certain rural areas, utility requests outnumbered requests for rental assistance "at a rate of two to one," according to ERAP spokesman Henry Valdez.

But the programs didn't help everyone. Though the application process didn't require a social security number, most undocumented families never applied. Many feared deportation. Others may not have realized that the programs even existed; some preferred seeking assistance through churches, schools and nonprofits, organizations that typically don't

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EARLY LEARNING

Miles de Hogares Luchan por Mantener las Luces Encendidas



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

Sister Chabela "Chabelita" Galbe of Flor y Canto convent, has been piecing together funds for utilities and other costs over the course of the pandemic. / La hermana Chabela "Chabelita" Galbe, del convento de Flor y Canto, ha estado reuniendo fondos para los servicios públicos y otros gastos en el transcurso de la pandemia.

**Por Alicia Inez Guzmán y
Luciana Pérez Uribe Guinassi**

Un técnico de la PNM se encontraba frente a la casa móvil de Rebeca Kueber en Tesuque, Nuevo México, a punto de cortarle el servicio. La madre soltera de cinco hijos había recibido varios avisos de impago en el correo en los meses anteriores, una carga que se hacía más y más pesada con cada nuevo saldo.

Kueber había dejado un trabajo fijo como anfitriona en La Choza a principios de 2020, cuando el restaurante redujo su plantilla debido a la pandemia. Un segundo trabajo en un restaurante llegó y se fue meses después, dejándola con un escaso cheque de desempleo. Cuando los colegios de sus hijos se quedaron sin escuela, se vio obligada a quedarse en casa, lo que redujo aún más el presupuesto familiar. Eso significó viajes a las despensas de Santa Fe y la ausencia de ropa o zapatos escolares nuevos para los dos niños más pequeños, de 11 y 12 años.

"La verdad es que a veces no teníamos medios para nada", dijo Kueber en español.

Solicitó ayuda del programa estatal de asistencia de emergencia para el alquiler (ERAP), que ayuda a sufragar los servicios públicos de las familias necesitadas. No cumplió los requisitos. No le quedaban más opciones que pedir un préstamo, lo que hizo, dejando una marca en su crédito.

Las facturas se acumulaban con el paso de los meses: el pago

del coche, el seguro, la electricidad, el gas y el alquiler del espacio donde estaba aparcada su casa móvil.

Ahora, mientras el técnico esperaba fuera, Kueber hizo una llamada frenética a PNM (Public

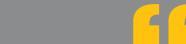
Service Company of New Mexico). Le aseguraron que su ayuda federal había sido aprobada. De momento, el corte de suministro se ha evitado.

La lucha de Kueber es compartida por decenas de miles de

neo-mexicanos, familias al borde de la desconexión de los servicios públicos. Muchos de ellos hacen concesiones, sacrificando alimentos, medicinas o atención médica para mantener las luces encendidas, las casas calentadas o refrigeradas, el agua corriente. Temen que la alternativa pueda ser mucho peor.

Los niños son los que soportan la carga más pesada. "Cortar los servicios públicos no sólo significa que una casa se quede a oscuras", dijo Jennifer Ramo, directora ejecutiva de New Mexico Appleseed, un grupo de lucha contra la pobreza dedicado a ayudar a los niños en Santa Fe. "Afecta a la salud mental y al bienestar infantil, afecta a la capacidad [de los niños] de hacer los deberes. ... Están soportando el impacto, y sin embargo no tienen poder para arreglar el problema o pagar la deuda".

La ayuda ha sido fragmentaria. Chainbreaker Collective y Adelante, dos organizaciones de defensa con sede en Santa Fe, han sido salvavidas para Kueber durante los meses en los que no podía pagar la factura de los servicios públicos o el alquiler de su casa móvil. Las iglesias y las organizaciones



"Cortar los servicios públicos no sólo significa que una casa se quede a oscuras. Afecta a la salud mental y al bienestar infantil, afecta a la capacidad [de los niños] de hacer los deberes".
Jennifer Ramo, New Mexico Appleseed

religiosas también han gestionando los recursos para las personas necesitadas, reuniendo un par de cientos de dólares aquí y allá, normalmente lo suficiente para ayudar a los hogares a pasar otro mes, lo suficiente para mantener a raya un corte de suministro.

"Empezar a retrasarse con los servicios públicos es la señal de que la mierda está a punto de llegar al ventilador", dijo Cathy García, organizadora comunitaria de Chainbreaker. En el momento en que se avecina un corte de suministro, continuó, "está claro que

Vea **Luchan**, página 21

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

Tepeyac Community Health Center Close to Completion of New Facility

COLORADO**By Belen Pizarro**

Tepeyac Community Health Center (formerly Clinica Tepeyac) has served the Denver area's uninsured for nearly three decades, filling our community's health gap inequities.

This year Tepeyac Community Health Center is preparing for their most ambitious endeavor, opening a new clinic at 48th Ave. and Vine St., just a few blocks from the National Western Complex. The Health Center will feature integrated health services that will include expanded medical, dental, mental health services and preventive care.

One of the unique features of this project is that, above Tepeyac's new clinical facility, there will be 150 units of affordable housing, along with retail space that will offer fresh food and grocery options in a neighborhood that is a food desert.



"As I look out from the high point on this bridge,

I can see the Elyria, Swansea and Globeville neighborhoods, our new building, as well as the skyline of Denver. More than anything, I see hope for a community that has struggled to overcome adversity."

Jim García,
Community Health Center

The Tepeyac Community Health Center and Viña apartments represent the first phase of an affordable mixed-use development that encompasses six acres across an entire city block in the Elyria-Swansea neighborhood in northeast Denver.

The Urban Land Conservancy (ULC), Columbia Ventures, and Tepeyac Community Health Center broke ground on the project in October of 2020.

"Denver is extremely proud to have made a key land investment here years ago through the ULC, and to continue investing in much-needed affordable housing that will serve the community for generations to come," said Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock.

Developed by Columbia Ventures, the Viña apartments offers

units ranging from studios to three bedrooms, with a focus on serving lower income families. Forty-five units are income restricted to households earning up to 30 percent of the area median income (AMI), which is up to \$21,000 for a single-person household or up to \$30,000 for a four-person household.

Thirty units are income restricted for households earning up to 50 percent of the AMI, and 75 units are restricted for those earning up to 80 percent AMI.

Viña offers more units at 30 percent AMI than all 19 affordable projects in the defined market area. This range of affordability was reached following a number of community meetings with neighborhood stakeholders to help drive the need for deeply affordable housing options in this part of the city.

Throughout the process, Jim García, Chief Executive Officer of Tepeyac Community Health Center, has been instrumental ensuring that Tepeyac stays true to its original mission, to ensure that the most vulnerable members of our community have access to high quality healthcare.

"The real test will be, if we can keep the same focus that we've always had in terms of ensuring that every person who walks through our doors feels as though they are an honored guest in our home and that they know that they will be treated with the highest level of respect and compassion," said García.

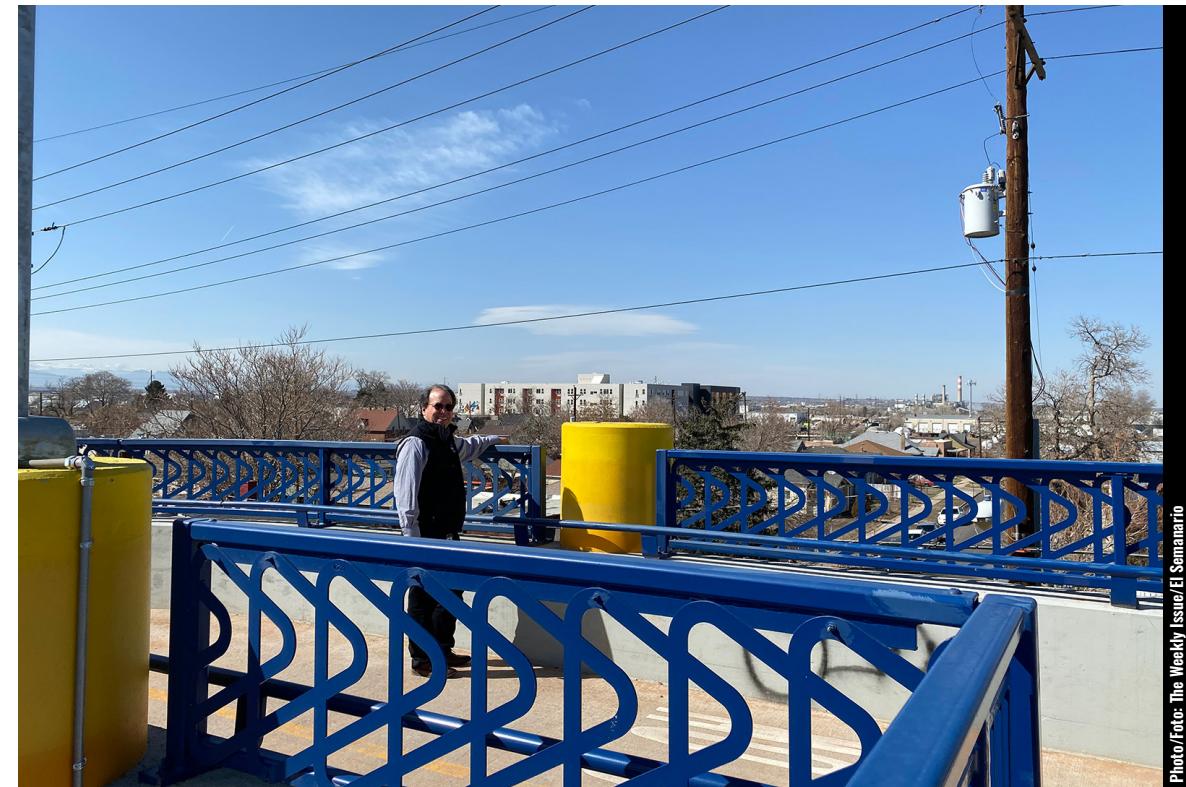
Over the past two years, García has made it his daily routine to visit the construction site monitoring the project's progress. According to García, the Health Center plans to open its doors in October or November of this year.

García recently spoke with Chris Frésquez, Publisher of *El Semanario*, and gave a tour of the new facility and shared how this innovative project was launched.

"The project here started about four and a half years ago when the Urban Land Conservancy invited us to be one of the collaborating partners involved in developing the six-acre site that ULC had purchased with a loan from the city of Denver," said García.

"Aaron Miripol, Urban Land Conservancy's CEO, approached us, as a health organization with a long history of serving the community, to be the anchor organization for the project," explained García.

"Prior to our involvement, ULC



Jim García, CEO for Tepeyac Community Health Center on the pedestrian bridge overlooking the Center's new facility. / Jim García, director general del Centro Comunitario de Salud Tepeyac, en el puente peatonal que domina las instalaciones del Centro.

Photo/Foto: The Weekly Issue/El Semanario



Tepeyac Community Health Center is scheduled to open in October or November this year. / La apertura del Centro de Salud Comunitario del Tepeyac está prevista para octubre o noviembre de este año.

Photo/Foto: The Weekly Issue/El Semanario

coordinated a series focus groups within the Elyria/Swansea community, asking residents what services they would like to see at the six-acre site. The priorities that came out of the focus groups were, access to quality healthcare, affordable housing and a grocery store that offered fresh food" said García, noting that these priorities aligned perfectly with Tepeyac's vision for a healthy community.

García shared that the process for financing the project was an arduous journey that required intensive collaboration between the

three partners – Tepeyac, ULC and Columbia Ventures, the developer for the project.

To get the project off the ground, Columbia Ventures, with the support of Tepeyac and ULC, applied for the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC), through the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA)," explained García.

"We were told early on that we shouldn't expect our LIHTC application to be approved the first time around, but in this case, the CHFA board approved it, noting the unique blend of affordable hous-

ing, healthcare, and fresh food/retail," said García.

While touring the neighborhood near the future site of the new clinic, García pointed out, the pedestrian bridge that provides safe passage for residents crossing the railroad tracks, connecting the Elyria/Swansea neighborhoods.

"As I look out from the high point on this bridge, I can see the Elyria, Swansea and Globeville neighborhoods, our new building, as well as the skyline of Denver," he said.

See **Tepeyac** on page 25

El Centro de Salud Comunitario del Tepeyac está a punto de concluir sus nuevas instalaciones

COLORADO

Por Belén Pizarro

El Centro Comunitario de Salud Tepeyac (antes Clínica Tepeyac) ha servido a los no asegurados del área de Denver por casi tres décadas, llenando las desigualdades de salud de nuestra comunidad.

Este año el Centro de Salud Comunitario Tepeyac se está preparando para su esfuerzo más ambicioso, abriendo una nueva clínica en la Avenida 48 y la calle Vine, a pocas cuadras del Complejo Nacional del Oeste. El Centro de Salud contará con servicios de salud integrados que incluirán servicios médicos, dentales, de salud mental y de atención preventiva ampliados.

Una de las características únicas de este proyecto es que, encima de las nuevas instalaciones clínicas de Tepeyac, habrá 150 unidades de vivienda asequible, junto con un espacio comercial que ofrecerá alimentos frescos y opciones de compra en un barrio que es un desierto alimentario.

El Centro Comunitario de Salud Tepeyac y los apartamentos Viña representan la primera fase de un desarrollo de uso mixto asequible que abarca seis acres a lo largo de

do en viviendas asequibles muy necesarias que servirán a la comunidad durante generaciones", dijo el alcalde de Denver Michael B. Hancock.

Desarrollado por Columbia Ventures, los apartamentos Viña ofrecen unidades que van desde estudios a tres dormitorios, con un enfoque en el servicio a las familias de bajos ingresos. Cuarenta y cinco unidades están restringidas a los hogares que ganan hasta el 30% de la renta media de la zona (AMI), que es de hasta 21.000 dólares para un hogar de una sola persona o hasta 30.000 dólares para un hogar de cuatro personas.

Treinta unidades están restringidas a los ingresos de los hogares que ganan hasta el 50 por ciento del AMI, y 75 unidades están restringidas a los que ganan hasta el 80 por ciento del AMI.

Viña ofrece más unidades en el 30 por ciento AMI que todos los 19 proyectos asequibles en el área de mercado definida. Este rango de asequibilidad se alcanzó después de una serie de reuniones de la comunidad con las partes interesadas del barrio para ayudar a impulsar la necesidad de opciones de vivienda profundamente asequible en esta parte de la ciudad.

A lo largo del proceso, Jim García, director ejecutivo del Centro de Salud Comunitario Tepeyac, ha sido fundamental para garantizar que el Tepeyac se mantenga fiel a su misión original, para garantizar que los miembros más vulnerables de nuestra comunidad tengan acceso a una atención sanitaria de alta calidad.

"La verdadera prueba será si podemos mantener el mismo enfoque que siempre hemos tenido en términos de asegurar que cada persona que atraviesa nuestras puertas se sienta como un invitado de honor en nuestra casa y que sepa que será tratado con el más alto nivel de respeto y compasión", dijo García.

En los últimos dos años, García ha convertido en su rutina diaria la visita a las obras para supervisar el progreso del proyecto. Según García, el Centro de Salud tiene previsto abrir sus puertas en octubre o noviembre de este año.

García habló recientemente con Chris Frésquez, editor de *El Semanario*, y dio un recorrido por las nuevas instalaciones y compartió cómo se puso en marcha este innovador proyecto.

"El proyecto aquí comenzó

“Cuando miro desde el punto más alto de este puente, puedo ver los barrios de Elyria, Swansea y Globeville, nuestro nuevo edificio, así como el horizonte de Denver. Más que nada, veo esperanza para una comunidad que ha luchado por superar la adversidad”.

Jim Garcia, Centro Comunitario de Salud Tepeyac

toda una manzana en el barrio de Elyria-Swansea, en el noreste de Denver.

Urban Land Conservancy (ULC), Columbia Ventures y Tepeyac Community Health Center pusieron la primera piedra del proyecto en octubre de 2020.

"Denver está muy orgullosa de haber realizado una inversión clave en terrenos aquí hace años a través de la ULC, y de seguir invirtien-



En el Centro de Salud Comunitario Tepeyac y en la comunidad de vecinos de Viña hay un mural realizado por el artista local Jeremy Silas Ulibarri (aka Jolt), que expresa la belleza de las mariposas monarca en relación con la migración. / The Tepeyac Community Health Center and Viña living community features a mural by local artist Jeremy Silas Ulibarri (aka Jolt), expressing the beauty of monarch butterflies in relation to migration.



El parque infantil de Viña acoge a los niños y a las familias para que disfruten del aire libre. / The playground at Viña welcomes children and families to enjoy the outdoors.

hace unos cuatro años y medio cuando Urban Land Conservancy nos invitó a ser uno de los socios colaboradores involucrados en el desarrollo del sitio de seis acres que ULC había comprado con un préstamo de la ciudad de Denver", dijo García.

"Aaron Mirpol, director general de Urban Land Conservancy, se puso en contacto con nosotros, como organización sanitaria con una larga trayectoria de servicio a

la comunidad, para que fuéramos la organización ancla del proyecto", explicó García.

"Antes de nuestra participación, ULC coordinó una serie de grupos de discusión dentro de la comunidad de Elyria/Swansea, preguntando a los residentes qué servicios les gustaría ver en el terreno de seis acres. Las prioridades que surgieron de los grupos de discusión fueron el acceso a una atención sanitaria de calidad, una

vivienda asequible y una tienda de comestibles que ofreciera alimentos frescos", dijo García, señalando que estas prioridades se alineaban perfectamente con la visión de Tepeyac de una comunidad saludable.

García compartió que el proceso de financiación del proyecto fue un camino arduo que requirió una intensa colaboración entre los tres

Vea **Tepeyac/Esp**, página 22

State News / Noticias del Estado

Display of 'Community Resilience' at 21st Annual César Chávez Celebration

COLORADO

By Belen Pizarro

True to its 2022 theme, "Community Resilience as an Essential Pathway to Justice", the 21st Annual César Chávez Celebration featured a community gathering full of pride and spirit.

For the past two years, the César Chávez Peace and Justice Committee of Denver (CCPJC) hosted virtual celebrations due to the pandemic.

It was apparent, after a two-year hiatus, that Colorado activists were primed and ready to uplift their communities, inspired by the work and ideologies of César Chávez.

Hundreds gathered in person on April 2nd to commemorate the late César Chávez with a day-long celebration in Denver, that honored the work of the late labor leader.

The event began with a traditional mass at St. John Francis Regis Chapel, followed by a procession or *marcha* through the streets of north Denver to the César Chávez Park on 44th Ave., and Tennyson.

Ricardo LaFore, a revered humanitarian presented a passionate speech, urging the younger generations to be present and continue the fight for justice for our people, and all of society.

The CCPJC presented their annual awards to members of the community through an open nomination process. Two youth were presented with Leadership Awards, Alondra Gil Gonzales and José Palacios Casillas.

The awardees are honored for their work in the community that align with Chávez's efforts in organizing and fighting for the rights of workers. Lisa Lucero and Anthony García, Sr. were honored with the Adult Leadership Awards.

Noted for their dedication to their communities, Carlos Castañeda was presented with the Anciano Leadership Award and Christina Sigala received the Anciana Leadership Award. The CCPJC also recognizes the efforts of organizations in Colorado and this year's Community Awards were given to the Acequia Institute and Su Teatro.

The event also offered local vendors and organizations an opportunity to present their work, through art, literature and social events.

This year, the Denver Election Commission attended the event with their mobile voter registration bus and information center. Denver's Clerk and Recorder, Paul D. Lopez, encouraged voter registration and voter participation, and emphasized the importance of voting integrity.

This year's event was highlighted by a special performance by Denver's own Los Mocochetes, a Chicano funk band, with music that inspires justice. They will open for the Chicano Batman concert, at the Holiday Theater in Denver this Friday.

The annual event has attracted a genuine core of organizations that support the rights of workers and safety of the community.

A large core of union carpenters from Millwright Local 1607 marched and participated in the event showing solidarity with Chávez and his work with the United Farm Workers. The camaraderie and effectiveness of union workers has been a long-standing value of Local 1607.

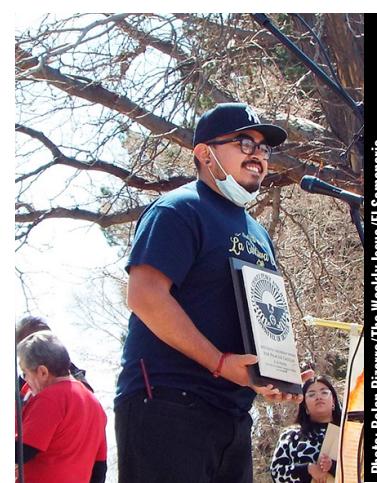
UFCW Local 7 has been a long-time sponsor of the Chávez event, and has had a successful year in obtaining a fair and equitable contract for King Sooper grocery



See CCPJC on page 26

Ricardo LaFore speaks at the 21st Annual César Chávez Celebration.

Alondra Gil Gonzales received the CCPJC Youth Leadership Award.



José Palacios Casillas received the CCPJC Youth Leadership Award.



Lisa Lucero was honored with the CCPJC Adult Leadership Award.



Anthony García, Sr. was presented with the CCPJC Adult Leadership Award.



Carlos Castañeda was presented with the CCPJC Anciano Leadership Award.



Christina Sigala received the CCPJC Anciana Leadership Award.

Photo: Belen Pizarro/The Weekly Issue/El Semanario

Landmark Bill Affirming Abortion Rights Signed Into Law by Gov. Polis

COLORADO

By Sara Wilson

Colorado Gov. Jared Polis signed a bill into law on Monday that codifies a person's right to have an abortion, as the fate of Roe v. Wade hangs in the balance and as conservative state legislatures pass significant abortion restrictions.

"It's likely only a matter of time that the federal protections at the Supreme Court simply cease to exist. We in Colorado simply don't want to take that risk. We want to

act proactively to protect the rights that women already have in federal precedent in state law," Polis, a Democrat, said during the signing ceremony at the Governor's Residence in Denver, surrounded by bill sponsors and supporters.

The state Legislature passed the [Reproductive Health Equity Act](#) along party lines last month after a historic 24-hour debate in the House of Representatives and 12-hour debate in the Senate fueled by Republican stall tactics.

The law affirms a person's right to choose whether to have an abortion or continue a pregnancy

and whether to use contraception. It prohibits state and local governments from denying, restricting or interfering with those reproductive rights and bans discrimination against people for their reproductive health care choices. It also declares that a fertilized egg, embryo or fetus does not have personhood rights.

In a signing statement to the state Legislature, Polis emphasized that the new law does not change much, but codifies existing protections.

See [Rights](#) on page 16



Photo: Sara Wilson/Colorado Newsline

Gov. Jared Polis signs the Reproductive Health Equity Act into law on April 4, 2022, at the Governor's Residence in Denver.

CO Website Spotlights Neighborhood-Level Risks of Climate Change

COLORADO

By Eric Galatas

Coloradans already are seeing the impacts of climate change - rising temperatures, more frequent and severe wildfires, flooding and prolonged drought - and economists are step-

ping into the fray to help communities identify and mitigate the risks. Pegah Jalali, environmental policy analyst with the Colorado Fiscal Institute, said [their new website](#) allows Coloradans to see, for example, how air pollution - from highways, power plants and refineries, and wildfires - is impacting their neighborhoods.

"These are all impacting the health of our communities, and also they are impacting our economy," said Jalali. "Because our economy in Colorado is heavily dependent on our environment, because of our outdoor recreation industry and our agriculture." Jalali said "[Coloradolclimatexchange.com](#)" was created in part

to help Colorado residents see how climate change is projected to play out by 2050, and what can be done to avoid the most catastrophic scenarios. An interactive map shows a range of hazards projected by scientists if steps are taken quickly to stop burning fossil fuels.

See [Climate](#) on page 24



"We need to transition to clean energy as quickly as possible, and stop burning fossil fuels. We need to hold polluters accountable."

Pegah Jalali, Colorado Fiscal Institute



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State News / Noticias del Estado

Family of Valente Acosta-Bustillos Grieve and Seek Justice

NEW MEXICO

By Austin Fisher

As Valente Acosta-Bustillos' family gathered near the site of his death to remember his life, advocates joined in solidarity, pointing to a history of wellness checks by Albuquerque police that turn deadly.

One of his sons, Valente Acosta, usually doesn't speak to anyone or put himself out there, he said, fending off being exposed "to remembering what they did to my father."

"Because it brings me pain every day," he said. "I don't like to cry. It's not something I do."

Last Wednesday evening, heartbreak crossed Acosta's face before he shared it in his words.

He walked back and forth around the *descanso* built for his dad at the corner of Edith Boulevard and Cromwell Avenue, feet away from the house where two Albuquerque police officers killed his father in March 2020.

Acosta put his hands up to his temples, looking into the distance, his face framed by his beard and baseball cap. As he raised the mic,



Surviving members of Valente Acosta-Bustillos' family embrace during a vigil on March 30. / Los miembros supervivientes de la familia de Valente Acosta-Bustillos se abrazan durante una vigilia el 30 de marzo.

he called over to his son to hold him while he spoke.

"It's a false bravado that I tried to do," he said, "to make it through the day, because at the end of the day, I know my dad's gone, that I'm not going see him no more."

He said his brothers told him never to cry. But his dad told him just the opposite.

"My dad tells me, 'it's OK to cry. You're a man. You can cry. Just because you're a man doesn't mean you can't,'" Acosta said. "But he said 'Look at me. I cry all the time.' I said 'Hey, me too, but I'm alone in my room.'"

'An indescribable grief'

Elaine Maestas, a police accountability strategist for the American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico, also lost a loved one who was experiencing a mental health crisis to police violence.

Bernalillo County Sheriff's deputies shot Maestas' sister, Elisha Lucero, 21 times in July 2019, killing her right outside her home. Lucero's death became one of the driving forces behind the Albuquerque city government forming a new department to respond to some emergency calls without police.



The permanent descanso built for Valente Acosta-Bustillos. / El descanso permanente construido para Valente Acosta-Bustillos.

Photo/Foto: Austin Fisher / Source NM

In Acosta-Bustillos' case, his family had called police for the wellness check, because none of his relatives had heard from him for four or five days, his phone was off, and he had not shown up to work or to pick up his latest paycheck.

Maestas showed up to the vigil on Wednesday to show support for the Valente family and to urge everyone there to pressure lawmakers to fundamentally change the way policing works in New Mexico.

"I just wanted to come out and support the family and offer my condolences because this grief that they're going through, it's an indescribable grief. How can you cope with losing a loved one at the hands of somebody that took an oath to protect and serve them?" Maestas asked.

It takes a lot for a family to keep pushing for justice, but it's necessary, Maestas said.

"Contact your legislators, contact the governor, and let them know that change needs to happen," Maestas said.

Maestas said New Mexico has a huge problem with police violence. Since 2015, New Mexico has had the second-highest rate of deadly police shootings, *The Guardian* reported.

The year before, the U.S. Department of Justice found that APD officers frequently misused Tasers, including in cases where people were "observably nonthreatening but unable to comply with orders due to their mental state."

"A significant amount of the force we reviewed was used against persons with mental illness and in crisis," the DOJ wrote.

It found that APD's policies, training, and supervision fail to make sure that police who encounter people with mental illness or in distress "do so in a manner that respects their rights and is safe for all involved."

"The use of excessive force by APD officers is not isolated or sporadic," the investigators wrote. "The pattern or practice of excessive force stems from systemic deficiencies in oversight, training, and policy."



"Contact your legislators, contact the governor, and let them know that change needs to happen."

**Elaine Maestas,
American Civil Liberties
Union of New Mexico**

As part of the settlement agreement that resulted from the DOJ investigation, APD agreed to "minimize the necessity for the use of force against" people in crisis like Lucero and Acosta-Bustillos.

But according to the latest report by the court's independent monitor from last May, APD has shown a "lack of progress" and still has "a great deal to accomplish" to come into compliance with that part of the settlement.

"Contact all of the elected officials that you can and let them know that we need change, because that's where it's gonna start," Maestas said. "We need these people to be held accountable."

See Justice on page 22

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La Familia de Valente Acosta-Bustillos Llora y Busca Justicia

NEW MEXICO

Por Austin Fisher

Mientras la familia de Valente Acosta-Bustillos se reunía cerca del lugar de su muerte para recordar su vida, los defensores se unieron en solidaridad, señalando un historial de controles de bienestar por parte de la policía de Albuquerque que resultan mortales.

Uno de sus hijos, Valente Acosta, no suele hablar con nadie ni ponerse en evidencia, dijo, evitando exponerse "a recordar lo que le hicieron a mi padre".

"Porque me produce dolor todos los días", dijo. "No me gusta llorar. No es algo que haga".

El pasado miércoles por la tarde, la angustia cruzó el rostro de Acosta antes de compartirlo con sus palabras.

Caminó de un lado a otro alrededor del descanso construido para su padre en la esquina de Edith Boulevard y Cromwell Avenue, a metros de la casa donde dos policías de Albuquerque mataron a su padre en marzo de 2020.

Acosta se llevó las manos a las sienes, mirando a lo lejos, con el rostro enmarcado por su barba y su gorra de béisbol. Cuando levantó el micrófono, llamó a su hijo para que lo sostuviera mientras hablaba.



"Póngase en contacto con sus legisladores, con el gobernador y hágales saber que el cambio tiene que ocurrir".

Elaine Maestas, Unión Americana de Libertades Civiles de Nuevo México

"Es una falsa bravuconada que intenté hacer", dijo, "para pasar el día, porque al final del día, sé que mi padre se ha ido, que no lo voy a ver más".

Dijo que sus hermanos le dijeron que nunca llorara. Pero su padre le dijo todo lo contrario.

"Mi padre me dice, 'está bien llorar. Eres un hombre. Puedes llorar. El hecho de que seas un hombre no significa que no puedas'", dijo Acosta. "Pero me dijo 'Mírame. Lloro todo el tiempo'. Le dije 'Oye, yo también, pero estoy solo en mi habitación'".

Un dolor indescriptible

Elaine Maestas, estratega de responsabilidad policial de la Unión



Elaine Maestas habló el 30 de marzo en apoyo de la familia de Valente Acosta-Bustillos. / Elaine Maestas spoke on March 30 in support of the family of Valente Acosta-Bustillos.

Americana de Libertades Civiles de Nuevo México, también perdió a un ser querido que sufrió una crisis de salud mental a causa de la violencia policial.

Los agentes del sheriff del condado de Bernalillo dispararon a la hermana de Maestas, Elisha Lucero, 21 veces en julio de 2019, matándola justo en la puerta de su casa. La muerte de Lucero se convirtió en una de las fuerzas impulsoras para que el gobierno de la ciudad de Albuquerque formara un nuevo departamento para responder a algunas llamadas de emergencia sin policía.

En el caso de Acosta-Bustillos, su familia había llamado a la policía para el control de bienestar, porque ninguno de sus familiares había tenido noticias de él durante cuatro o cinco días, su teléfono estaba apagado y no se había presentado a trabajar ni a recoger su última nómina.

Maestas se presentó a la vigilia el miércoles para mostrar su apoyo a la familia Valente y para instar a todos los presentes a presionar a los legisladores para que cambien fundamentalmente la forma en que funciona la policía en Nuevo México.

"Sólo quería salir y apoyar a la familia y ofrecer mis condolencias porque este dolor que están pasando, es un dolor indescriptible. ¿Cómo se puede sobrellevar la pérdida de un ser querido a manos de alguien que juró protegerlo y servirlo?" preguntó Maestas.

Se necesita mucho para que una familia siga presionando para que se haga justicia, pero es necesario, dijo Maestas.

"Póngase en contacto con sus legisladores, con el gobernador y hágales saber que el cambio tiene que ocurrir", dijo Maestas.

Maestas dijo que Nuevo México tiene un gran problema con la violencia policial. Desde 2015, Nuevo

dades mentales y en crisis", escribió el DOJ.

Encontró que las políticas, el entrenamiento y la supervisión de APD no logran asegurar que la policía que se encuentra con personas con enfermedades mentales o en crisis "lo haga de una manera que respete sus derechos y sea segura para todos los involucrados".

"El uso de la fuerza excesiva por parte de los agentes del APD no es aislado ni esporádico", escribieron los investigadores. "El patrón o la práctica de la fuerza excesiva se deriva de las deficiencias sistémicas en la supervisión, la formación y la política".

Como parte del acuerdo de conciliación que resultó de la investigación del DOJ, el APD acordó "minimizar la necesidad del uso de la fuerza contra" personas en crisis como Lucero y Acosta-Bustillos.

Sin embargo, según el último informe del monitor independiente del tribunal del pasado mes de mayo, la APD ha mostrado una "falta de progreso" y todavía tiene "mucho que lograr" para cumplir con esa parte del acuerdo.

Póngase en contacto con todos los funcionarios electos que

pueda y hágales saber que necesitamos un cambio, porque ahí es donde va a empezar", dijo Maestas. "Necesitamos que estas personas rindan cuentas".

"Póngase en contacto con todos los funcionarios electos que pueda y hágales saber que necesitamos un cambio, porque ahí es donde va a empezar", dijo Maestas. "Necesitamos que estas personas rindan cuentas".

Maestas dijo que la solución no va a venir sólo de nuevas políticas o más formación, sino de "tener realmente algo tangible para poder hacerlos responsables de esas políticas y esas formaciones".

Acosta-Bustillos quería llevar una sonrisa a todo el mundo, dijo Acosta. Un vecino habló de cómo Acosta-Bustillos se paseaba por el barrio en zancos.

"Me hace sonreír todos los días, porque recuerdo que sigue aquí, porque es una parte de mí, y eso nunca me lo van a quitar", dijo Acosta. "A él se lo llevaron, pero a mí no me pueden quitar a mi papá. Está dentro de mi corazón".

Numerosas sobrinas, sobrinos, hijos y nietos hablaron de echar de

Vea Justicia, página 20

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that occurred this same period, 28% less than in 2020.

The arrests and deportations, on the other hand, have focused on cases of people encountered who have committed serious crimes, which numbered more than 12,000 in 2021, almost 50% more than in 2020, when the figure only approached 6,815.

Title 42 was implemented to prevent the entry of migrants due to the pandemic, but in reality it tried to stop the entry of foreigners legally seeking asylum. Not even public health authorities were sure about the necessity of this public policy. In other words, the Trump administration took advantage of

the nexus with public health to restrict asylum seekers, not only to show the type of power they had, but the real racial intentions that emanated from their anti-immigrant politics.

Upon Biden's arrival, of course, the program continued to be applied. And now, upon announcing its end, the calls for it to remain are being elevated: because it's simpler to hide behind health policy than to really reform immigration laws. Moreover, the Republican end goal is to decimate the asylum system.

This seesaw of positions that is used to accommodate, politically and in electoral times, shows, with

clarity, that what really matters to them is not the human aspect of an issue like migration, but rather the political points that can be won from their supporters. Only that.

The United States, the nation that values being a beacon of hope for the downtrodden, is capable of absorbing and managing an up-tick of migrants at its borders. We reiterate, as we said some weeks ago, that today with the Russian invasion in Ukraine, smaller nations have received millions of Ukrainian refugees. And the United States is a world power with the necessary resources and capacity to confront a wave of migrants who arrive at the border seeking asylum. This is what it has said and maintained practically since its founding, and that is why the rest of the world, the

devalued and unprotected, risk everything in order to encounter salvation here. If it's no longer going to be like that, this country also has to clarify things.

Moreover, they talk about the process as if it were a guarantee. That is, not all who come to seek asylum will obtain it. That's what it's about. Presenting a credible case that merits the petition's processing. If not, it is rejected and that's it. This follows International Law, along with the asylum laws of these United States.

But what is not correct is to continue putting obstacles in the way of the legitimate process of seeking asylum and using it for electoral-partisan gains, due to the incapacity of Congress to reform immigration laws. The easy way

out is always demagoguery and using images of a large number of migrants at the border to inject fear and prejudice. What is difficult is to do their job in Congress and make correct decisions, even though they are not the most popular.

As we have previously said here, on migration matters the Republicans' problems continue to be prejudice, xenophobia, demagoguery, and obstructionism. And the Democrats' is that they continue to be afraid of the Republicans.

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

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Sierra/Esp

autopistas, refinerías, puertos y otras instalaciones de gran toxicidad donde se queman cantidades industriales de combustibles fósiles.

De las 202 ciudades donde se realizó el estudio, en las cuatro peores —Los Ángeles, Atlanta, Chicago y Essex County/Newark— viven millones de latinos. Incluso en las mismas áreas indeseables, los residentes de color respiran peor calidad de aire que los residentes blancos no hispanos.

El reporte concuerda con los resultados de infinidad de encuestas y otros estudios que resaltan estas sistemáticas injusticias ambientales. Un sondeo del Sierra Club y Green Latinos reveló que la contaminación impacta la calidad de vida del 89% de los votantes latinos; que el 40% vive, estudia o trabaja peligrosamente cerca de un

lugar tóxico, como una autopista, una refinería o una planta térmica de carbón, y que elevados o muy elevados porcentajes sufren de asma, bronquitis crónica y cáncer.

La solución a esta tragedia nacional es el abandono acelerado de los combustibles fósiles y abrir de par en par las puertas a una economía de energía limpia y eficiencia energética. Un reciente estudio de la Asociación Pulmonar Americana indica que optar por vehículos y energía limpia, como la solar y la eólica, salvaría 110.000 vidas y ahorraría \$1,2 billones (trillones) en beneficios a la salud y \$1,7 billones en beneficios climáticos en los próximos 30 años.

El reporte se centró en los 100 condados con el mayor porcentaje de personas de color, el 3% del total nacional, y concluyó que solo en ellos los beneficios de la energía

limpia ascenderían a \$155.000 millones.

Esta transformación absolutamente esencial cumpliría también con las prescripciones de la ciencia climática. Según las conclusiones del Panel Intergubernamental sobre Cambio Climático de la ONU, para evitar las consecuencias más catastróficas del calentamiento global, la humanidad tiene que reducir su consumo de combustibles sucios en un 43% para el año 2030 y en su totalidad para 2050.

Nuestros hijos y nietos no merecen este legado de racismo tóxico, sino heredar un planeta viable, saludable y próspero.

Javier Sierra escribe la columna mensual bilingüe del [Sierra & Tierra](#).

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Rights

"This bill will also prevent any person from being forced to end or continue a pregnancy, and ensure that no one is forced to perform or have an abortion against their will or conscience. Such is already the case in Colorado today. This bill simply maintains this status quo regardless of what happens at the federal level and preserves all existing constitutional rights and obligations," Polis wrote.

Democratic sponsors introduced the bill in response to the possible overturning of Roe v. Wade, the 1973 precedent that protects the right to abortion, by a conservative United States Supreme Court. The court heard arguments for a case challenging a 15-week abortion ban in Mississippi and could return a decision as soon as

early summer. Legislatures in Texas, Arizona and Kentucky have all recently passed bills that ratchet back abortion rights.

RHEA faced fierce opposition from Republicans and anti-abortion activists, who crammed into the Capitol to testify against the bill during its committee hearings. On Monday, two protestors stood outside the signing ceremony.

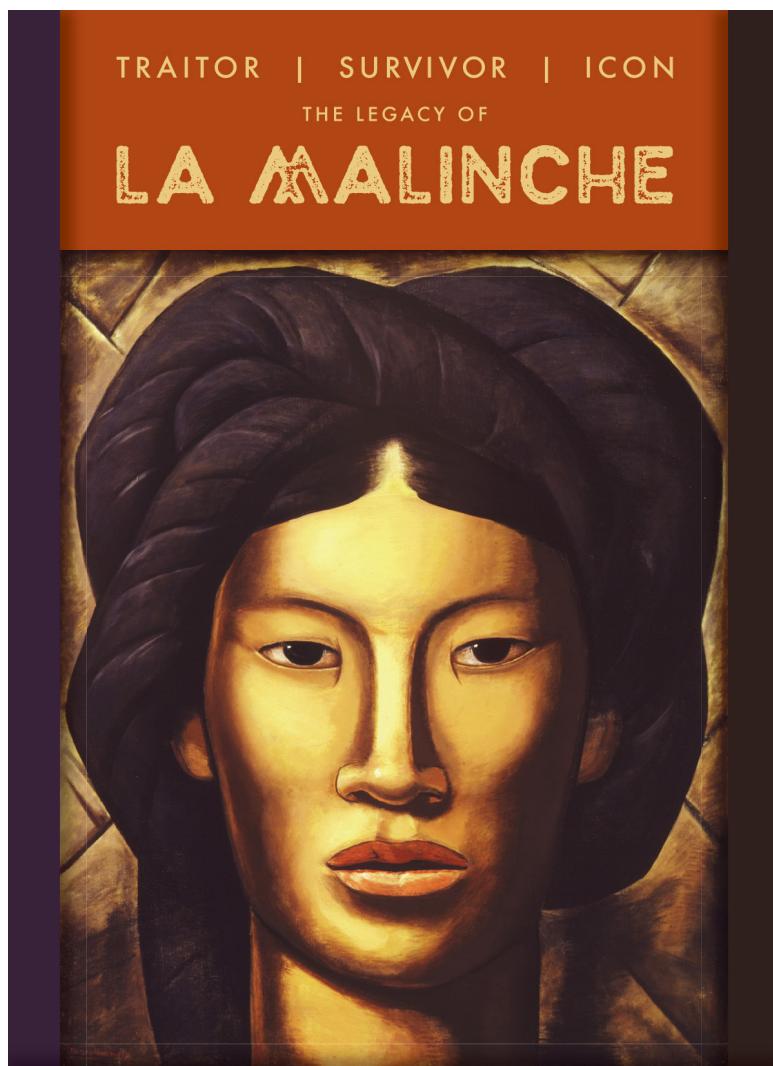
"This is the response to the anti-abortion attacks that we've seen move forward in the courts and in conservative state legislatures across the country and that have been attempted right here in Colorado, despite repeated and overwhelming rejection by voters," Sen. Julie Gonzales, a Denver Democrat, said. Colorado voters have rejected various anti-abortion ballot mea-

sures over the years.

"In response to those voters, and in response to the consistent and sustained support for reproductive health care by Coloradans in every corner of the state — urban, rural, and everywhere in between — the people, speaking unanimously through their democratic elected representatives in both chambers, have affirmed that we should trust Coloradans to make their own reproductive health care decisions," Gonzales said.

Sara Wilson is a Reporter with Colorado Newsline. This article is republished from Colorado Newsline under a Creative Commons license.

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Image: Alfredo Ramos Martínez, *La Malinche (Young Girl of Yalala, Oaxaca)*, 1940. Oil paint on canvas; 50 x 40½ in. Phoenix Art Museum: Museum purchase with funds provided by the Friends of Mexican Art, 1979.86. ©The Alfredo Ramos Martínez Research Project, reproduced by permission. *Traitor, Survivor, Icon: The Legacy of La Malinche* is organized by the Denver Art Museum. This exhibition has been made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Democracy demands wisdom. Additional funding is provided by Furthermore: a program of the J. M. Kaplan Fund, University of Denver: College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences, the donors to the Annual Fund Leadership Campaign, and the residents who support the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD). Promotional support is provided by 5280 Magazine and CBS4. Special thanks to the National Institute of Anthropology and History and Mexico's Secretary of Culture.

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noviembre y, como siempre, la salida fácil es invocar una frontera "descontrolada".

En primer lugar, la idea de que entre 10 y 12 millones de indocumentados "invadirán" Estados Unidos por el fin del Título 42 es una falacia. Si a cifras vamos, el Título 42, desde que fue implementado hace dos años, ha removido a aproximadamente 1.7 millones de indocumentados que han intentado solicitar asilo. Y se recalca eso, "intentado", pues de lo que se trata es de ejercer un derecho, independientemente de que la respuesta sea negativa. Repetimos, no todo mundo logra el asilo, como quieren hacer ver ahora Trump y los suyos con esa "invasión" que solo existe en su cabeza y en sus pesadillas más antiinmigrantes.

Cabe señalar además que, obviamente, tras dos años de impedir que personas legalmente solicitaran asilo en Estados Unidos, es de anticiparse un repunte en la frontera alimentado por las crisis políticas y económicas a través del mundo, exacerbadas por la pandemia. Es decir, el desplazamiento humano es un fenómeno lógico y natural tan antiquísimo, que sorprende la insensatez de quienes quieren impedirlo a base de muros, militares y políticas públicas que seguramente avergonzarán a generaciones futuras.

Y no únicamente eso. Anualmente, cuando pasa el invierno y llegan la primavera y el verano, la cifra de migrantes que intentan cruzar la frontera siempre aumenta, y eso incluye a solicitantes de asilo, no únicamente migrantes que tratan de ingresar sin documentos sin ser detectados, por las razones que sean. Y ha ocurrido bajo administraciones republicanas y demócratas.

No olvidemos que los republicanos y algunos de esos demócratas moderados y conservadores no han tenido ningún problema con que el Título 42 no se aplique a refugiados de Ucrania, por ejemplo. Es únicamente cuando se trata de inmigrantes latinoamericanos, caribeños o africanos, por mencionar algunos, que se esgrime el argumento de la "invasión". Y es ahí donde radica la hipocresía de sus desacuerdos y críticas hacia algo que no entienden muy bien, como es el fenómeno migratorio y sus raíces, pero que aplican muy conscientemente a partir de su visión racista del mundo.

Igualmente, aunque los republicanos acusan a Biden de fomentar "fronteras abiertas", la realidad

es que durante la administración demócrata la mayor parte de los migrantes interceptados han sido deportados, removidos o detenidos.

En efecto, el 80% de las personas que han sido detenidas en la frontera durante la administración Biden han sido removidas del país, lo que refuta automáticamente la posición republicana de que no hay control y que una "invasión" se está desarrollando. Además, casi 60,000 deportaciones fueron realizadas durante el año fiscal 2021, de los casi 75,000 arrestos ocurridos en dicho periodo, un 28% menos que en 2020.

Los arrestos y las deportaciones, por otro lado, se han enfocado en casos de quienes han cometido delitos graves y son detectados, cuya cifra en 2021 llegó a más de 12,000, casi 50% más que en 2020, cuando dicha cantidad solo llegó a 6,815.

Además, el Título 42 se implementó para evitar el ingreso de migrantes debido a la pandemia, pero en realidad se pretendía frenar el ingreso de extranjeros que buscaban, legalmente, asilo. Ni siquiera las autoridades sanitarias estaban seguras de la necesidad de dicha política pública. En otras palabras, el gobierno de Trump aprovechó la coyuntura de la salud pública para restringir a solicitantes de asilo, no solo para demostrar el tipo de poder que tenía, sino las verdaderas intenciones raciales que emanaban de sus políticas antiinmigrantes.

Al llegar Biden, es cierto, se sigue aplicando el programa; y ahora, al anunciar su eliminación, se elevan los llamados para que permanezca porque es más sencillo escudarse en una política sanitaria, que realmente reformar las leyes de inmigración. Además, la finalidad republicana es diezmar el programa de asilo.

Ese vaivén de posiciones que se utiliza para irse acomodando políticamente en época electoral pone de manifiesto con claridad que lo que en verdad les importa no es el aspecto humano de un tema como el migratorio, sino los puntos políticos que pudieran ganar entre sus huestes. Solo eso.

Estados Unidos, la nación que se precia de ser un faro de esperanza para los desprotegidos, es capaz de absorber y manejar un repunte de migrantes en sus fronteras. Reiteramos, como hace unas semanas, que ahora con la invasión rusa en Ucrania, naciones más pequeñas han recibido a millones de refugiados ucranianos. Y Estados Unidos es una potencia mundial con los recursos y la ca-

pacidad necesarios para enfrentar un alza de migrantes que llegan a la frontera en busca de asilo. Eso es lo que ha dicho y sostenido prácticamente desde su fundación y es por ello que el resto del mundo, sus desvalidos y desprotegidos, se arriesgan a todo con tal de hacer caso a ese discurso de salvación. Si ya no va a ser así, este país también tendría que aclararlo.

Además, se habla del proceso como si fuera garantizado. Es decir, no todo el que llegue a pedir asilo lo obtendrá. De eso se trata. De presentar un caso creíble que

amerite que la petición se procese. De lo contrario se rechaza y punto. Eso lo avala el Derecho Internacional, además de la propia ley de asilo de Estados Unidos.

Pero lo que no es correcto es seguir poniéndole trabas al proceso legítimo de solicitar asilo y utilizarlo con fines político-partidistas por la incapacidad del Congreso de reformar las leyes de inmigración. La salida más fácil siempre es la demagogia y el emplear imágenes de una gran cantidad de migrantes en la frontera para infundir miedo y prejuicio. Lo difícil es hacer su trabajo en el Congreso y tomar las

decisiones correctas, aunque no sean las más populares.

Como hemos dicho previamente en este espacio, en materia migratoria los problemas de los republicanos siguen siendo el prejuicio, la xenofobia, la demagogia y el obstrucionismo. Y el de los demócratas sigue siendo el miedo a los republicanos.

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new requests have poured in from people who have heard about the catch-all program, which does more than what many people may think of as public health work.

But the money is set to run out at the end of June. Workers such as Scott are uncertain about their futures and those of the people they help each day. Dr. Georges Benjamin, executive director of the American Public Health Association, said that's the tragedy of the boom-bust nature of public health funding in the United States.

"As the dollars go away, we're going to see some people falling off the cliff," he said. The problem, as Benjamin sees it, is the country's lack of a systematic vision for public health. "If you did this with your army, with your military, you could never have a sound security system."

Community health workers were positioned as key to President Joe Biden's public health agenda. Ideally, they are one and the same as those they serve — like a neighbor who can be trusted when help is needed. Popular in countries such as Costa Rica, Liberia, and Brazil, community health workers have been difficult to maintain in the United States without consistent ways to pay them.

Hundreds of millions of dollars were supposed to go to building a

community health workforce after the American Rescue Plan Act was signed into law last March, said Denise Smith, the founding executive director of the National Association of Community Health Workers. But, she said, much of the money is being quickly spent on health departments or national initiatives, not local, community-based organizations. And a lot of it has been going to AmeriCorps workers who may not be from the communities they work in — and make poverty-line salaries, Smith said.

"For bills and a car note, rent, or children, that's just not sustainable," she said. "We can't do it for free."

By contrast, Illinois' program tries to hire workers from within communities. Two-thirds of its workers identify as Latino/Hispanic or Black. About 40% were previously unemployed, and hiring them injects money into the communities they serve. The jobs pay \$20 to \$30 an hour, and almost half include health insurance or a stipend toward it.

That's by design, said Tracey Smith, who oversees the Pandemic Health Navigator Program for the Illinois Department of Public Health and is not related to Denise Smith. She believes paying for such workers is a necessity, not a luxury, in helping people navigate the na-

tion's broken health care system and disjointed government assistance programs.

Angelia Gower, a vice president of the NAACP in Madison, Illinois, is now one of those paid community health workers. "They see you out there week after week and month after month and you're still there, they start trusting," she said. "You're making a connection."

But as covid cases have waned, the number of Illinois' pandemic health workers has decreased by nearly a third, to roughly 450, in part because they have found other opportunities.

Smith is optimistic the program will secure money to keep an estimated 300 community health workers on staff and then use the goodwill they've built up in communities to focus on disease prevention. The fragmented American health care system — and its systemic inequities — won't disappear with covid, she said. Plus, millions of people are poised to lose their Medicaid coverage as pandemic benefits run out, Benjamin said, creating a hole in their safety net.

Part of the long-term funding challenge is quantifying what workers like Scott do in a day, especially if it doesn't relate directly to covid or another communicable disease. How do you tabulate

the difference made in a client's life when you're securing beds for their children, laptops for them to go to school, or tapping into Federal Emergency Management Agency funds to pay funeral costs after a loved one dies of covid? How do you put a dollar amount on wrap-around services that may keep a family afloat, especially when a public health emergency isn't occurring?

As Scott likes to point out, most of the time she's helping people use resources already available to them.

The National Association of Community Health Workers' Denise Smith is worried that even though programs like Illinois' are doing the work to help with health inequities, they may go the way that many Affordable Care Act grants did. In 2013, she was working as a community health worker in Connecticut, helping cut the uninsured rate in her area by 50%. But the money ran dry, and the program disappeared.

She said North Carolina is an example of a state that has designed its pandemic-inspired community health worker program to be more permanent. But, nationally, Congress has yet to approve more money for covid testing and vaccines — much less for longer-term public health investments.

Meanwhile, Scott can't help but worry about people such as 40-year-old Christina Lewis.

As she leaves Lewis' mobile home after dropping off a load of

groceries, Scott reminds Lewis to keep wearing her mask even as other people are shedding theirs. Scott used her own family as an example, saying they all wear their masks in public even though people "look at me like I've got five heads."

Lewis said Scott's help — bringing over groceries, talking through budgeting — has been invaluable. Lewis has stayed home throughout the pandemic to protect her 5-year-old daughter, Briella, who was born prematurely and has chronic lung disease. The struggle to make ends meet is far from over amid rising inflation. Briella knows to turn off the lights as soon as she's out of a room. And now they are eyeing rising gasoline prices.

"I already know I'm going to have to get a bike," Lewis said.

Over the past months, Scott has listened and consoled Lewis as she cried over the stress of staying afloat and losing family members to covid. Scott isn't sure what will happen to all her clients if her support disappears.

"What happens to people when it goes away?" Scott asked.

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

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Ziegler

more workers, it is equally true that skilled craft unions and their signatory employers are not struggling nearly as much as our non-union peers. We have developed a scalable model that's competitive in the labor market and expanding the diversity of our industry.

The workers our industry needs are already here, if we're willing to invest in them. Many are in union halls ready to be dispatched to a jobsite. Others are getting ready in apprenticeship classes and at trade schools. Still others are in high school and eager to learn about the debt-free alternative to college that a career in the skilled construction trades can deliver.

We need to do more to tell that story in schools, in the halls of government — and all points in between. We need to encourage more contractors to join collective bargaining agreements, because the lower wage and lower skill model hasn't saved custom-

ers or taxpayers any money, nor has it proven to be an effective recruitment and retention strategy.

Especially in today's risk environment.

The partnership between signatory contractors and building trades unions is a win-win-win proposition for our workers, communities and the bottom line. Not because we always agree, but because we've built a best-in-class model to develop and compete for the skilled professionals that neither our businesses nor our industry can function without.

Mark Ziegler is the former president of Amerect, Inc., and a director of Minnesota's Construction Industry Labor and Employers Council. This commentary is republished from Minnesota Reformer under a Creative Commons license.

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WARMER DAYS ARE RETURNING AND WE'RE GETTING TOGETHER MORE...

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DENVERGOV.ORG/VAX

unfortunately, many of the "stereotypes" of Chicanos were negatively portrayed in American media. The term *Pachuco* is becoming less well known today, but was popularized because El Paso, Texas was nicknamed 'Chuco' and when Chicanos in California went there, often to pick up marijuana, they would say; "Vamos Pa Chuco." The zoot suits style and swing dance era gave *Pachucos* their distinction with artists like Lalo Guerrero. The phrase gave an easy transition when a subculture of our *gente* began calling ourselves *Cholos*, which was connected to the dog, Xolotl-Ixquintli, and brought us closer to today's Azteco-Mexica terms. We endure a division among our own people through the Spanish-English restrictions that modern education and the Anglo/U.S. imposed border. They are cultural tensions that pit us against one another. Mexicans called us *pochos*, and we called them *mojados*. We practice internalized racism when we say that we only talk trash about our own people. In México, they long ago developed a poor self-image when they blended Spanish and Nahuatl words. They created a word that too many of us Chicanos was the first "bad" word in Spanish that we knew; *chingar*. "Vamos a la *chingada*" was a phrase used when men went off to get drunk, using alcohol to cope with our historical

traumas. So today many Spanish dictionaries think it means "to get drunk" but Mexicans and Chicanos know the terminology is not so restricted. Because we are all *Chingon!* And we are not talking about booze when we say *Chinga Tu Madre!* After reading Octavio Paz's book *Labyrinth of Solitude*, he detailed the *Pachuco* subculture and made a reference to the origin of the word *chingar* that he says may have come from Xinachtli - meaning a seed that grows a flower. When the Spanish invaders raped women of Anahuac, their offspring were not accepted as legitimate children to the Europeans. Often their mothers were killed, and many would not raise a child born of violence and for a hundred years the Meztizos were torn between two worlds. One, of their Mothers' that was slowly being buried beneath temples and the abusive fathers that didn't want them. So, they did much of the labor and stonework sculpting churches and transforming the Nahuatl landscape, yet they still had access to their wise elder women and men of Anahuac. They complained of their station and the elders would tell them, "you are Piltzin inic Xinachtli", children of the seed of both cultures, from each side of the world. The flowering of humanity! Hijo de la Xinachtli. And they responded: "Hijo de Xi-Nada!" Yo no tengo nada, ni

madre, ni padre me quiere. So, Xi-nada became *chingada*. And *hijos de la chingada*, meant something like: "Bastard children of the bitch that forsakes us."

During the same time the religion was indoctrinating the people into stories of the Garden of Eden. All the sins of the world blamed on Eve because she was "tempted by the snake." Paradise lost, and their national identity remembered the arrival of Cortez and the conquest of Tenochtitlan. Cortez was accompanied by a young woman named Malintzin. She told him the secrets of how to defeat the Aztec empire. She became a traitor symbol and her name converted to Malinche. She is the *chingada madre* who we despise and at the same time, we are her loving children; born into conflict and condemned by our beliefs. "Por mi culpa, por mi culpa, por mi grande culpa." We drown our afflictions in tequila and songs of "Volver, Volver." But we can remember the original words of our *abuelitos* of Anahuac that had been telling us: "You are the children of the Xinachtli" - the seed that brings about the flowering of humanity. Our Meztizaje is the culmination of all the cultures of the world - *La Raza Cómica!*

We are the strength of this land. We work the farms and run the factories and fix the machines and invent the new ideas that make

América great. We fought the battles and stand guard on the walls that divide us from ourselves. We can no longer look into the mirror of another's eyes and forget that we are *Familia*. One human family.

We plant the seeds into the soils where our ancestors are laid to rest. The ancestors respond by pushing the plant up into the world to produce the flowers and the fruits of our labors. When we eat the food that we plant with our own hands, we complete the cycle of connecting with our ancestors. By connecting with our ancestors, we return to the sacred and can change the self-talk to no longer hinder our paths. Give ourselves new titles

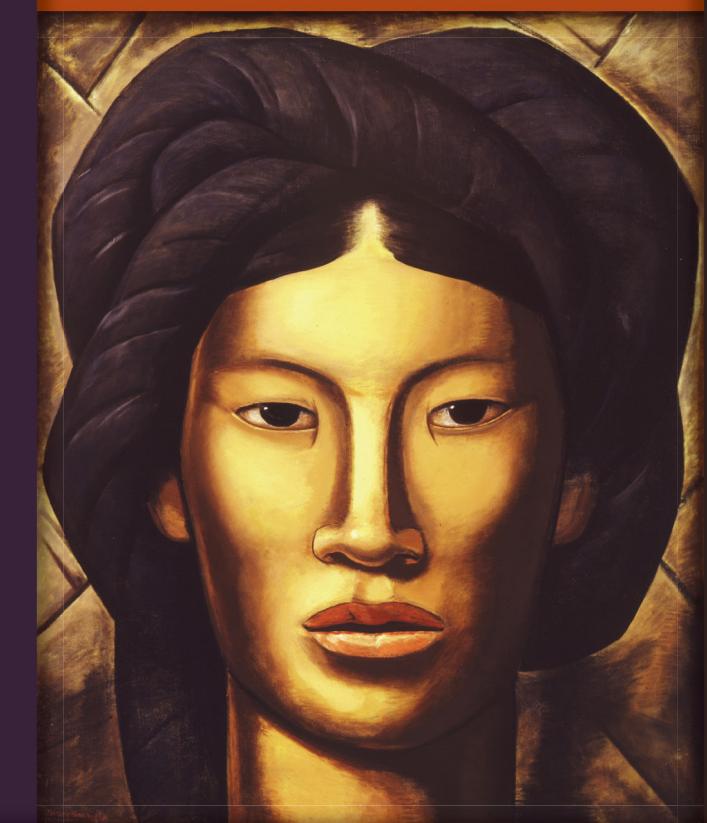
like Tolteca - "Those who practice the art of living in harmony." Toltecayotl is the mastery of art in its multiple forms. Next week, I want to discuss Mitotiliztli - Dance. The wisdom of our culture is encoded into the traditions of México, the Southwest and all throughout Anahuac. Ometeotl.

Daniel Stange is the Grant Manager with Sisters of Color United for Education in Denver, Colorado. Read the fourth edition of *Cuentos De Mi Chante Chicano* [here](#).

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TRAIDORA | SOBREVIVIENTE | ÍCONO EL LEGADO DE

LA MALINCHE



Del 6 de febrero al 8 de mayo de 2022

Explore el legado perdurable de una de las figuras más enigmáticas y fascinantes de la historia de México.

DENVER
art
MUSEUM

Imagen: Alfredo Ramos Martínez, *La Malinche (Muchacha de Yalala, Oaxaca)*, 1940. Óleo sobre lienzo; 50 x 401/2 in. Phoenix Art Museum: Adquisición del museo con fondos proporcionados por Amigos del Arte Mexicano, 1979.86. ©Proyecto de Investigación Alfredo Ramos Martínez, reproducido con autorización.

Traidor, sobreviviente, ícono. *El legado de la Malinche* ha sido organizada por el Denver Art Museum. La exposición ha sido posible en parte gracias a una subvención del National Endowment for the Humanities: La democracia exige sabiduría. Asimismo, recibe el apoyo de Furthermore, un programa del fondo J. M. Kaplan Fund, University of Denver: College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences, así como de los donantes a la campaña beneficia Annual Fund Leadership Campaign y los residentes que brindan su apoyo al Distrito de Organizaciones Científicas y Culturales (SCFD), por sus siglas en inglés). Apoyo promocional proporcionado por 5280 Magazine y CBS4. Un agradecimiento especial al Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia y a la Secretaría de Cultura de México.

Cualquier opinión, resultado, conclusión o recomendación expresados en esta exposición no representan necesariamente los del National Endowment for the Humanities.



Karen Gutiérrez es periodista en Colorado.

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Vacunas

para evidenciar aumentos potenciales de casos y transmisión de COVID-19. El objetivo es según él, "Esperamos que el sistema capte una señal incluso antes de que nos demos cuenta de que algo está pasando en la comunidad".

Desde los CDC se han hecho diferentes análisis sobre la situación del COVID-19 en diferentes partes del mundo como Europa Occidental, Reino Unido y Asia, ellos resaltan que "la situación en los EE.UU. tiene una diferencia importante" pues el nivel de inmunidad en los estadounidenses es del 95% en comparación con estos países, ya sea por haber sido vacunados o infectados con COVID.

Es por esto que ellos consideran que los test son una forma importante para seguir controlando y monitoreando la enfermedad. "Las pruebas de COVID-19 en los Estados Unidos son gratuitos y están ampliamente disponibles", permitiendo que el gobierno centre sus esfuerzos en la prevención y el tratamiento del COVID-19.

"La infección por COVID-19 no tratada es la fuente de nue-

vas variantes. Las personas que no están vacunas y se infectan pueden convertirse en fuente de nuevas variantes", dijo Dr. Brooks, y es por eso que recomienda de forma enfática que se proporcione la vacuna a todo el mundo posible.

La pandemia no ha llegado a su fin y en esta conferencia los CDC recomiendan a todos los ciudadanos seguir cuidándose y cuidar a los demás pues a lo largo de la historia se ha evidenciado que no será ni la primera ni la última pandemia en el mundo, pero si es posible prepararse para una próxima.

"Hemos administrado más de 559 millones de dosis de vacunas contra la COVID-19, y eso es tres veces la cantidad de vacunas que generalmente se administra en una temporada de gripe", dijo Dra. Stokely. "Una buena mayoría de eso han sido vacunas de mRNA que han demostrado ser seguras y efectivas para prevenir complicaciones de COVID-19 incluidas hospitalización y muerte".

En la actualidad hay diferentes fabricantes de vacunas que

siguen realizando ensayos clínicos para identificar la seguridad y eficacia de la vacuna COVID en niños menores de cinco años.

"La FDA (Administración de Drogas y Alimentos) revisará los datos y, si hay buena evidencia de seguridad y eficacia, autorizará el uso de emergencia de la vacuna para niños en este grupo de edad".

Por otro lado la inmunidad de quienes se han vacunado puede disminuir con el tiempo es por eso que los expertos del CDC recomiendan una dosis de refuerzo de la vacuna.

"Lo que realmente nos preocupa allí es prevenir la hospitalización y la muerte. Y estas vacunas son muy buenas para prevenir estos resultados graves", dijo Dr. Stokely.

Es por esto que se hace evidente y necesario que las personas tengan dosis de refuerzo de la vacuna.

Karen Gutiérrez es periodista en Colorado.

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evade immune protection," said Dr. Brooks.

Another issue addressed by Dr. Brooks, is the monitoring of wastewater surveillance systems in different cities throughout the U.S., which according to the panelist have been an important factor in providing evidence of potential increases in cases and transmission of COVID-19. "We expect the system to pick up a signal even before we realize that something is going on in the community," said Dr. Brooks.

According to the CDC, various analysis has been reported about COVID-19 in different parts of the

world such as Western Europe, the United Kingdom and Asia. Dr. Brooks pointed out the variances in U.S. data compared to other countries.

"The situation in the U.S. has an important difference," said Dr. Brooks, because the level of immunity in Americans is 95% compared to these countries, either because they have been vaccinated or infected with COVID.

The CDC considers testing an important way to continue controlling and monitoring the disease. "Testing in the United States is free and widely available," prompting the government to fo-

cus its efforts on preventing and treating COVID-19.

"Untreated COVID-19 infection is the source of new variants," stressed Dr. Brooks. "People who are not vaccinated and become infected can become a source of new variants."

Dr. Brooks said he strongly recommends the vaccine be provided to everyone possible.

The pandemic has not come to an end. The CDC recommends that individuals continue to take care of themselves and others, because throughout history it has been evident that it will not be the first or the last pandemic in the

world, but it is possible to prepare for the next one.

"We have administered more than 559 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines, and that is three times the number of vaccines that are usually administered in a flu season," said Dr. Stokley. "A good majority of that have been mRNA vaccines that have been shown to be safe and effective in preventing complications of COVID-19 including hospitalization and death."

Currently, different vaccine manufacturers continue to conduct clinical trials to identify the safety and efficacy of the COVID vaccine in children under the age of five.

"The FDA (Food and Drug Administration) will review the data and, if there is good evidence of safety and efficacy, will authorize the emergency use of the vaccine

for children in this age group," said Dr. Stokley.

The CDC noted that the immunity of those who have been vaccinated may decrease over time, which is why the CDC experts recommend a booster dose of the vaccine.

"What really worries us here, is preventing hospitalization and death. And these vaccines are very good at preventing these serious outcomes," stated Dr. Stokley.

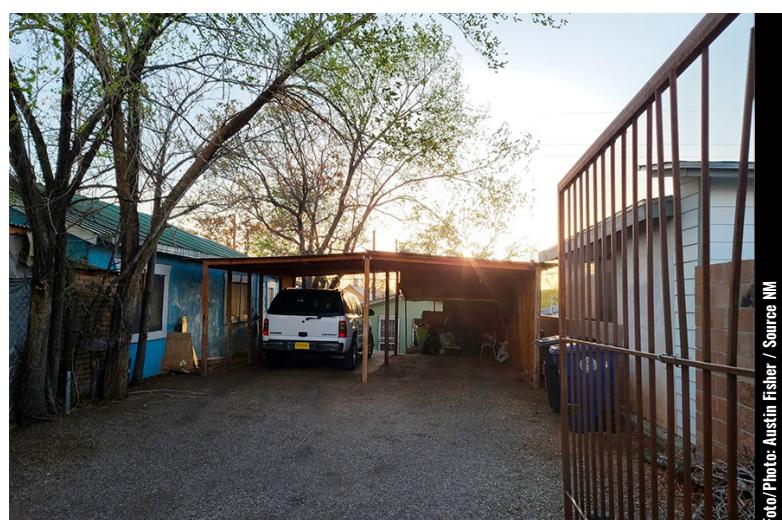
This is why it becomes apparent and necessary for people to have booster doses of the vaccine.

"Vaccinations remain the most effective and safe way to prevent COVID-19," she said.

Karen Gutiérrez is a Journalist in Colorado.

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Justicia



Foto/Photo: Austin Fisher / Source NM
La casa donde dos agentes de la APD mataron a Valente Acosta-Bustillos en marzo de 2020. / The house where two APD officers killed Valente Acosta-Bustillos in March 2020.

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menos a Acosta-Bustillos, especialmente los dulces que hacía y la comida que le daban. Una nieta dijo que se llamaba a sí misma "el monstruo de las galletas". Pero muchos de los jóvenes miembros de la familia tuvieron dificultades para articular su dolor.

"Lo que más me duele es que se hayan llevado al abuelo de mis sobrinos", dijo Acosta. "Están tan dolidos que no son capaces de hablar. Saben que lo que la policía le hizo a mi padre está mal, y están tan dolidos que no pueden poner en palabras lo que quieren de-

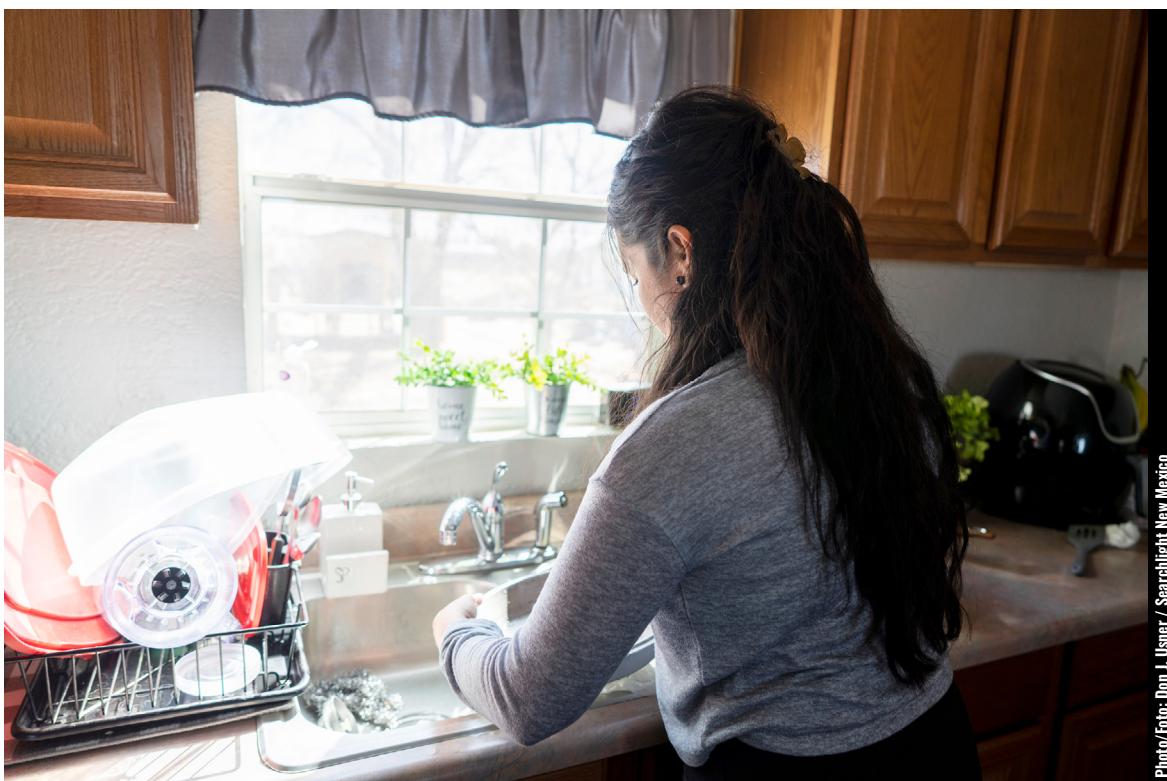
cir. Pero saben que no decir nada tiene el mismo impacto".

Austin Fisher es periodista de Source New Mexico. Este artículo ha sido publicado por Source New Mexico bajo una licencia Creative Commons.

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

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

During the pandemic, Cristina, a mother of two, stopped buying items like meat and soap, and clothes for her two daughters. Her electricity bill this winter climbed to \$300 a month. / Durante la pandemia, Cristina, madre de dos hijas, dejó de comprar artículos como carne y jabón, y ropa para sus dos hijas. Su factura de electricidad este invierno subió a 300 dólares al mes.

alguien está en crisis y todos los miembros de ese hogar se van a ver afectados".

Luchas invisibles

Un desahucio es un asunto muy visible, en el que la gente hace las maletas desesperadamente y se marcha. Una desconexión, en cambio, es privada y no se ve. Las familias guardan los alimentos y las medicinas en neveras con hielo en lugar de en el refrigerador. Van al centro comunitario local para ducharse y sufren un frío glacial o un clima sofocante sin apenas recursos. Y todo ocurre a puerta cerrada.

En marzo de 2020, Nuevo México trató de anticiparse a la avalancha de cortes relacionados con la pandemia estableciendo una moratoria en las desconexiones de servicios públicos. La moratoria terminó el pasado agosto, dejando a algunos clientes con saldos de miles de dólares. Las empresas de servicios públicos les instaron a acogerse a planes de pago, a solicitar asistencia a través del ERAP o del Programa de Asistencia Energética para Hogares de Bajos Ingresos (LIHEAP), financiado con fondos federales, que ayuda a las familias de bajos ingresos a pagar las facturas de los servicios públicos y a climatizar sus hogares.

Decenas de miles de nuevos mexicanos solicitaron y recibieron algún tipo de ayuda. Según el Departamento de Finanzas y Administración (DFA), la agencia que supervisa el presupuesto estatal, Nuevo México ha realizado 24.372 concesiones de servicios públicos desde abril de 2021, por un total de aproximadamente 18,7 millones de

dólares. En ciertas áreas rurales, las solicitudes de servicios públicos superaron las solicitudes de asistencia de alquiler "a una tasa de dos a uno", según el portavoz de ERAP, Henry Valdez.

Pero los programas no ayudaron a todos. Aunque el proceso de solicitud no requería un número de seguridad social, la mayoría de las familias indocumentadas nunca lo solicitaron. Muchos temían ser deportados. Otros quizás no se dieron cuenta de que los programas existían; algunos prefirieron buscar ayuda a través de iglesias, escuelas y organizaciones sin ánimo de lucro, organizaciones que normalmente no hacen pública la cantidad de gente a la que ayudan.

Por ello, es difícil cuantificar el alcance total del problema. Aunque la Comisión de Regulación Pública ha exigido que se informe sobre las desconexiones de las 66 empresas de servicios públicos que supervisa, no existe un centro de intercambio de información que haga un seguimiento de todas las desconexiones y facturas de servicios públicos atrasadas en todo el estado. En Nuevo México, la electricidad, el gas y el agua son suministrados por un mosaico de cooperativas rurales, empresas propiedad de inversores y municipios.

En una presentación reciente, PNM informó de que unos 23.000 clientes residenciales -aproximadamente la población de Gallup- corrían el riesgo de ser desconectados a partir de enero de 2022. En total, sus facturas impagadas ascendían a casi 10 millones de dólares. Ocho meses antes, en mayo de 2021, el número de hogares

en riesgo debía la cantidad de 20 millones de dólares. De no ser por la moratoria, casi 35.000 hogares podrían haber sufrido un corte de luz.

Los escolares sienten el impacto

New Mexico Appleseed considera que los cortes de los servicios públicos son una catástrofe particular

para los niños, que los empuja al borde de la falta de vivienda.

"Eso es lo que me llamó la atención cuando vi que se producían todos los cortes", dijo Ramo, fundador y director de la organización. "Oh, vaya, acaban de dejar a todos estos niños sin hogar".

Se refería a la definición prevista en la Ley McKinney Vento, una ley federal que establece que las escuelas deben identificar y poner a disposición de los estudiantes considerados sin hogar determinados servicios. Según esa ley, no es necesario que los niños y jóvenes vivan en la calle o en un coche para que se les considere sin hogar; la medida de la falta de hogar abarca un espectro de circunstancias, entre las que se incluyen las "viviendas deficientes" que carecen de "servicios básicos como agua, electricidad o calefacción".

Una pléthora de estudios nacionales lo corrobora, con investigaciones según las cuales los niños en tales circunstancias son más "propensos a la inseguridad alimentaria, a las hospitalizaciones, a peores calificaciones de salud y a problemas de desarrollo que los niños en hogares con "seguridad energética".

Un corte de suministro suele producir un efecto dominó. Cuando se corta el gas, las familias se

las arreglan comiendo alimentos enlatados, sopa de fideos ramen preenvasada o sándwiches de mantequilla de cacahuete y mermelada. Cuando hay un corte de agua, los niños tienen que desplazarse a las casas de familiares y amigos para ducharse. Los estudiantes que no tienen calefacción pueden llegar a clase demasiado cansados para concentrarse porque han pasado frío y no han podido dormir. Sin electricidad, no pueden terminar los deberes ni los proyectos que requieren conexión a Internet.

Noemí Sánchez, trabajadora social de Adelante, una organización sin ánimo de lucro que ayuda a los estudiantes con problemas de vivienda en las escuelas públicas de Santa Fe, ha visto ese efecto dominó en movimiento. Recuerda a una adolescente que dejó de asistir a la escuela porque no podía ducharse y se sentía avergonzada.

Sánchez también ha visto a familias sufrir en silencio, dudando en pedir recursos a la escuela de sus hijos. Muchas de esas familias son indocumentadas. "Todo tiene que ver con el miedo: a que el CYFD se involucre, a que Adelante les niegue ayuda, a que los deporten", dijo Sánchez. "Hay muchas

Vea Luchan 1, página 6



VUELVEN LOS DIAS MAS CALIDOS Y NOS ESTAMOS REUNIENDO MAS...

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<https://serviciosdelaraza.org/covid-safety/>

para que los miembros de la comunidad de confianza respondan a tus preguntas

socios: Tepeyac, ULC y Columbia Ventures, el promotor del proyecto.

Para poner en marcha el proyecto, Columbia Ventures, con el apoyo de Tepeyac y ULC, solicitó el Crédito Fiscal para Viviendas de Bajos Ingresos (LIHTC), a través de la Autoridad de Financiación y Vivienda de Colorado (CHFA)", explicó García.

"Desde el principio nos dijeron que no debíamos esperar que nuestra solicitud de LIHTC se aprobara a la primera, pero en este caso, la junta de la CHFA la aprobó, destacando la combinación única de vivienda asequible, atención sanitaria y alimentos frescos/comercio minorista", dijo García.

Mientras recorría el barrio cerca del futuro emplazamiento de la nueva clínica, García señaló el puente peatonal que proporciona un paso seguro a los residentes que cruzan las vías del tren, conectando los barrios de Elyria/Swansea.

"Cuando miro desde el punto más alto de este puente, puedo ver los barrios de Elyria, Swansea y Globeville, nuestro nuevo edificio, así como el horizonte de Denver", dijo. "Más que nada, veo esperanza para una comunidad que ha luchado por superar la adversidad".

Varias de las viviendas están completas y cuentan con comodidades bien pensadas. Cada unidad tiene una lavadora y una secadora (importante para los inquilinos de viviendas asequibles), un diseño y una distribución actualizados, y algunas ofrecen baños con accesibilidad para sillas de ruedas en las duchas.

Las zonas comunes del edificio son luminosas y acogedoras para las familias y los niños.

"Han prestado mucha atención a los detalles para crear un espacio acogedor, incluso hasta los colores elegidos en las zonas comunes", añadió García.

Varios espacios de reunión y una pequeña biblioteca ofrecen a los residentes una sensación de comunidad.

Viña ofrece parrillas al aire libre con espacio para que los residentes disfruten de zonas de estilo patio. También hay una zona para guardar bicicletas y, potencialmente, estaciones de carga para vehículos eléctricos.

García también señaló que con el tiempo se añadirá un aparcamiento. "Hemos reservado fondos para un garaje, pero eso no ocurrirá hasta dentro de un par de años", dijo.

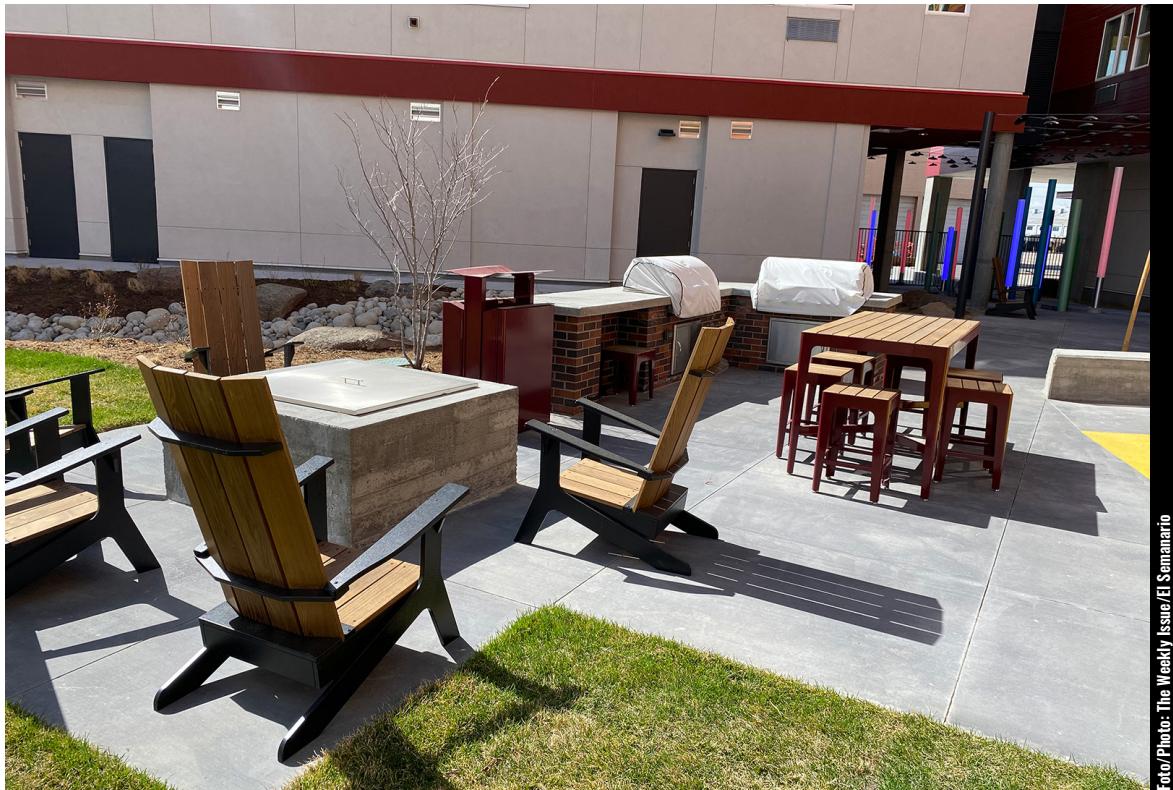
Una parte del exterior presenta un mural de colores brillantes pintado por el artista local Jeremy Silas Ulibarri (alias Jolt). En él aparecen mariposas monarca, "los patrones de migración de nuestra comunidad, una hermosa metamorfosis", explicó García.

Para más información sobre el Centro de Salud Comunitario Tepeyac visite tepeyachealth.org o llame al 303-458-5302. el Centro de Salud se encuentra actualmente en 5075 Lincoln St., Denver, CO.

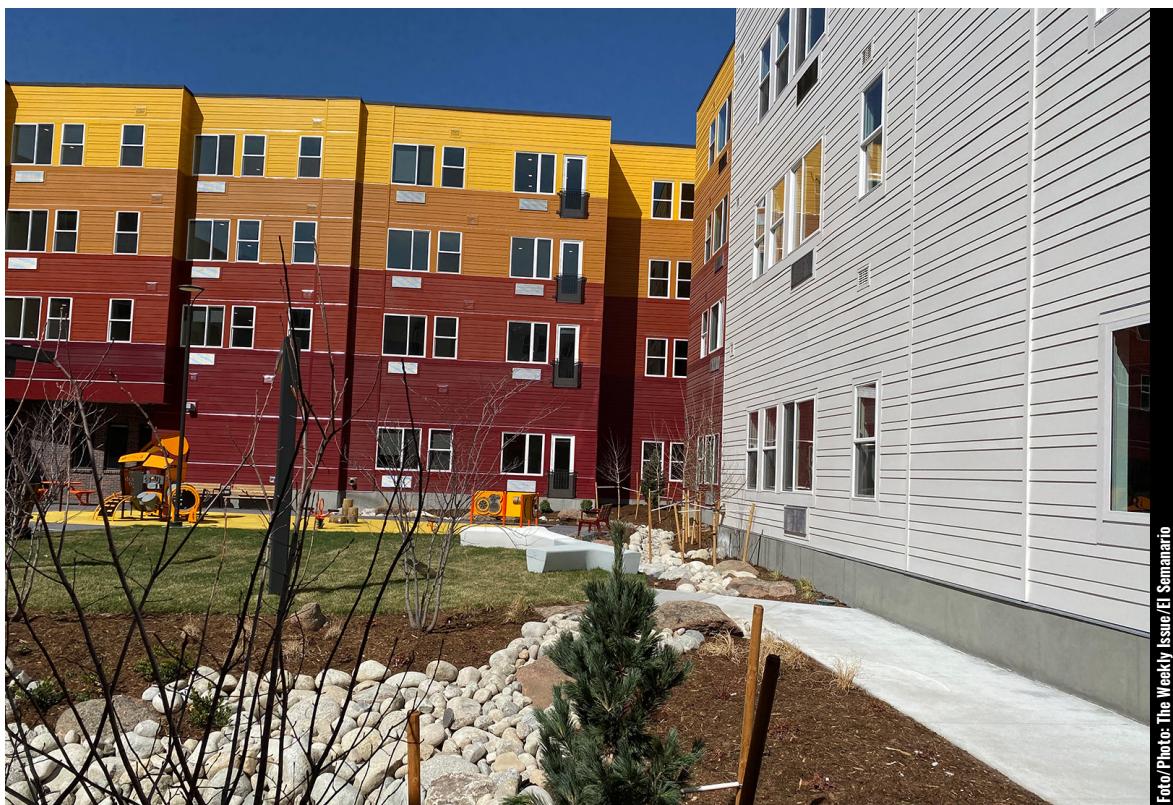
Belén Pizarro es reportera de The Weekly Issue/El Semanario.

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

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El patio de Viña ofrece servicios orientados a la familia y espacios de reunión al aire libre. / Viña's courtyard offers family-oriented amenities and outdoor gathering spaces.



El exterior del Centro de Salud Comunitario Tepeyac y Viña es luminoso y acogedor. / The exterior of Tepeyac Community Health Center and Viña is bright and welcoming.

Justice

Maestas said the solution is not going to come from just new policies or more training, but from "actually having something tangible to be able to hold them accountable to those policies and those trainings."

Acosta-Bustillos wanted to bring a smile to everybody, Acosta said. A neighbor spoke about how Acosta-Bustillos would walk around the neighborhood on stilts.

"He brings a smile on my face every day, because I remember that he's still here, 'cause he's a part of me, and that's never gonna be taken away from me," Acosta said.

ta said. "They took him away, but they can't take away my dad from me. That's inside my heart."

Numerous nieces, nephews, sons and grandchildren spoke about missing Acosta-Bustillos, especially the candies he would make and the food they would give him. One granddaughter said he called himself "the cookie monster." But many of the young family members struggled to articulate their pain.

"The thing that hurts the most to me is that they took away my nephews' and nieces' grandparent," Acosta said. "They're so hurt

that they're not able to speak. They know what the police did to my father is wrong, and they're so hurt, they can't even put into words what they wanna say. But they know that not saying nothing is just as impactful."

Austin Fisher is a Journalist with Source New Mexico. This article is republished from Source New Mexico under a Creative Commons license.

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

Many families in Chaparral, New México seek help from Sister Chabela Galbe of Flor y Canto Convent. / Muchas familias de Chaparral, Nuevo México, buscan la ayuda de la hermana Chabela Galbe del convento Flor y Canto.



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

Chaparral is one of about 150 colonias in southern New México, where it is not uncommon to see garden hoses and extension cords stretching from one trailer home to another. / Chaparral es una de las 150 colonias del sur de Nuevo México, donde no es raro ver mangueras de jardín y cables de extensión que se extienden de una casa rodante a otra.

publicize how many people they help.

As a result, it's difficult to quantify the full extent of the problem. While the Public Regulation Commission has mandated reporting on disconnections for the 66 utilities it oversees, there is no single clearinghouse that tracks all shutoffs and past-due utility bills around the state: In New México, electricity, gas and water are provided by a patchwork of rural cooperatives, investor-owned companies and municipalities.

In a recent filing, PNM reported that some 23,000 residential customers — roughly the population of Gallup — were at risk of a disconnection as of January 2022. Altogether, their unpaid bills amounted to almost \$10 million. Eight months

earlier, in May 2021, the number of households at risk owed a staggering \$20 million. If not for the moratorium, almost 35,000 households could have had their power cut.

Schoolchildren feel the impact
New Mexico Appleseed regards utility cutoffs as a particular catastrophe for children, one that thrusts them to the very edge of homelessness.

"That's the thing that struck me when I saw all of the shutoffs happening in the first place," said Ramo, the organization's founder and director. "Oh wow, they just made all these kids homeless."

She was referring to the definition as provided by the McKinney Vento Act, a federal law that says schools must identify and make

available certain services to students who are considered homeless. Under that law, children and youths need not be living on the streets or in cars to qualify; the measure of homelessness covers a spectrum of circumstances, including "substandard housing" that lacks "fundamental utilities such as water, electricity, or heat."

A plethora of national studies bears that out, with research that children in such circumstances are more "prone to food insecurity, hospitalizations, poorer health ratings, and developmental concerns than children in 'energy secure' homes."

A utility shutoff often produces a domino effect. When the gas is disconnected, families cope by eating canned foods, prepackaged ramen noodle soup or peanut butter and

jelly sandwiches. When there is a water shutoff, children have to shuffle around to relatives' and friends' houses to take showers. Students who don't have heat may show up to class too tired to focus because they were cold and couldn't sleep. Without electricity, they are unable to finish homework and complete projects that require an internet connection.

Noemi Sánchez, a caseworker at Adelante, a nonprofit that helps housing-insecure students in Santa Fe Public Schools, has seen that domino effect in motion. She remembers one teenage girl who stopped attending school altogether because she couldn't shower and felt embarrassed.

Sánchez has also seen families suffer in silence, hesitant to ask for resources from their children's school. Many of those families are undocumented. "All of it has to do with fear — of CYFD getting involved, of Adelante denying them help, of being deported," Sánchez said. "There's so much that other people do not see, but we see it."

The high cost of poverty

The utilities crisis didn't just appear when COVID-19 swept the country and globe, spurring waves of unemployment and illness. For decades, families living paycheck to paycheck have spent a disproportionate amount of their total income on utility bills. That's the Catch-22 of poverty: When families can't afford a house that's insulated or equipped with energy-efficient appliances, utility bills are higher.

Research by Greenlink Analytics, a national nonprofit specializing in clean energy and equity research, has found that the amount a household spends on utilities in relation to income should not exceed 3 or 4 percent.

In fact, energy burdens can be more than four times that rate in parts of New México. Greenlink's most recent data, from 2019, shows that families who live in certain areas of McKinley County, where much of the energy for the state has been extracted or produced, spend close to 18 percent of their income on gas and electric bills. Families in parts of Doña Ana County spend up to 15 percent.

The New Mexico Legislature recently approved a \$10 million block grant to reduce utility bills through the replacement of old appliances and updating of inefficient air conditioning and heating systems. But that amount is only a tiny fraction of what's needed and will, in the end, help no more than 5,000 families.

"It would take about \$500 million to update and weatherize all

low-income homes in New México," said House Rep. Kristina Ortiz (D-Taos), who sponsored HB37. What's needed, she and other advocates argue, is a discounted rate for low-income customers. That's already being done in California and a few other states.

Many advocates believe that utility debt accrued during the pandemic should be forgiven altogether.

In New México, where nearly one in five people lives below the poverty line, a "low-income rate would protect the poorest people and it would have a nominal impact on shareholders — pennies," said Mariel Nanasi, the head of New Energy Economy, a renewable-energy advocacy group based in Santa Fe.

What is home?

Homelessness is pervasive on the streets, roads and underpasses of New México. It's instantly recognizable in the cardboard signs of people asking for money and the shopping carts filled with worldly possessions. In its rawest form, it's self-evident.

But what is a home if not a place of reprieve and security? A place to rest, eat, thrive and spend time with family? Not having water to drink or bathe, electricity for warmth and gas for cooking can make those four walls feel virtually unlivable.

Yet the impacts of the utilities crisis on children have largely gone unnoticed. Until now. If anything useful has come out of the pandemic, it's a recognition of this problem. In response, New México Appleseed has proposed a state-wide disconnection moratorium to extend throughout the entire school year for low-income families.

Because in Ramo's estimation, the only true way to gauge the problem is through the impact on kids.

For more information or help applying to HB37's block grant, email Tammy Fiebelkorn at tfeibelkorn@swenergy.org.

Alicia Inez Guzmán is a Staff Writer with Searchlight New Mexico and Luciana Perez Uribe Guinassi is a Roy W. Howard Fellow at Searchlight New Mexico. Searchlight New Mexico is a non-partisan, nonprofit news organization dedicated to investigative reporting in New México. This story was produced with generous funding from the Education Writers Association.

Scott es una de los más de 650 trabajadores de salud comunitarios que el Departamento de Salud Pública de Illinois contrató a través de organizaciones comunitarias locales desde marzo pasado. Esta fuerza laboral del Programa de Navegadores de Salud para Pandemias fue posible gracias a una subvención de casi \$55 millones de los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades (CDC) a través del alivio federal aprobado por el Congreso.

El equipo ha completado al menos 45.000 solicitudes de asistencia, que les fueron remitidas a través del rastreo de contactos de casos de covid.

A medida que los trabajadores se han ganado la confianza de la comunidad, Scott dijo que han llegado nuevas solicitudes de personas que han oído hablar del programa general, en donde los navegadores hacen más que ayudar en cuestiones de salud pública.

Pero el dinero se acabará a fines de junio. Trabajadores como Scott no están seguros de su futuro y el de las personas a las que ayudan cada día. El doctor George Benjamin, director ejecutivo de la Asociación Estadounidense de Salud Pública, dijo que es lo que ocurre históricamente con la fi-

nanciación de salud pública. "A medida que los dólares desaparezcan, veremos a algunas personas caer al precipicio", dijo.

Los trabajadores de salud comunitarios se posicionaron como un componente clave de la agenda de salud pública del presidente Joe Biden. Idealmente, son como el vecino en quien se puede confiar cuando se necesita ayuda. Pero ha sido difícil que estos programas reciban fondos de manera consistente.

Se suponía que cientos de millones de dólares se destinarián a construir una fuerza laboral de salud comunitaria después de que el American Rescue Plan Act se convirtiera en ley en marzo pasado, dijo Denise Smith, directora ejecutiva fundadora de la Asociación Nacional de Trabajadores de Salud Comunitarios.

Pero, agregó, gran parte del dinero se gasta rápidamente en departamentos de salud o iniciativas nacionales, no en organizaciones comunitarias locales. "Para las facturas y la deuda del auto, el alquiler o los niños, eso simplemente no es sostenible", dijo. "No podemos hacerlo gratis".

El programa de Illinois trata de contratar trabajadores dentro de las comunidades. Dos tercios se identifican como latinos, o ne-

gros no hispanos. Alrededor del 40% estaba desempleado anteriormente, y contratarlos inyecta dinero en las comunidades a las que sirven. Cobran de \$20 a \$30 por hora, y casi la mitad de los empleos incluyen seguro médico o un estipendio para cubrirlo.

Tracey Smith, quien supervisa el Pandemic Health Navigator Program para el Departamento de Salud Pública de Illinois y no está relacionada con Denise Smith, considera que pagar por tales trabajadores es una necesidad, no un lujo, para ayudar a las personas a navegar el sistema de atención médica quebrado de la nación y los programas de asistencia gubernamentales inconexos.

Angelia Gower, vicepresidenta de la NAACP en Madison, Illinois, es ahora una de esas trabajadoras comunitarias de salud pagas. "Te ven semana tras semana, y mes tras mes, y todavía estás ahí, empiezan a confiar", dijo. "Estás haciendo una conexión".

Pero a medida que disminuyeron los casos de covid en Illinois, la cantidad de trabajadores de salud durante la pandemia se redujo en casi un tercio, a aproximadamente 450, en parte porque encontraron otras oportunidades.

Smith es optimista de que el programa obtendrá dinero para mantener a unos 300 trabajadores de salud comunitarios en el personal, y aprovechar la credibilidad que han construido en las comunidades para enfocarse en la prevención de enfermedades.

El sistema de salud estadounidense fragmentado, y sus desigualdades sistémicas, no desaparecerán con covid, dijo.

Además, millones de personas están a punto de perder su cobertura de Medicaid a medida que se agoten los beneficios por la pandemia, dijo Benjamin, creando una brecha en su red de seguridad.

Parte del desafío de financiamiento a largo plazo es cuantificar lo que hacen los trabajadores como Scott en un día, especialmente si no se relaciona directamente con covid u otra enfermedad transmisible.

¿Cómo tabula la diferencia que se hace en la vida de un cliente cuando está asegurando camas para sus hijos, computadoras portátiles para que vayan a la escuela o aprovechando los fondos de FEMA para pagar por el funeral de un ser querido que murió por covid? ¿Cómo asigna un monto en dólares a los servicios integrales que pueden mantener a flote a una familia, especialmente cuando no hay una emergencia de salud pública?

Denise Smith teme que ocurra lo mismo que con muchas subvenciones de la Ley de Cuidado de Salud a Bajo Precio (ACA). En 2013, trabajaba como trabajadora de salud comunitaria en Connecticut, ayudando a reducir la tasa de personas sin seguro en su área en un 50%. Pero el dinero se acabó y el programa simplemente desapareció.

Mientras se esperan más fondos, Scott no puede evitar preocuparse por personas como Christina Lewis, de 40 años.

Cuando sale de la casa móvil de Lewis después de dejar una caja de alimentos, Scott le recuerda a Lewis que siga usando máscara incluso cuando otras perso-

nas ya no la usan. Lewis dijo que la ayuda de Scott ha sido invaluable. Lewis se ha quedado en casa durante la pandemia para proteger a su hija de 5 años, Briella, quien nació prematura y tiene una enfermedad pulmonar crónica. La lucha por llegar a fin de mes está lejos de terminar en medio de la creciente inflación.

Bromeando sobre el precio de la gasolina, Lewis dijo: "Ya sé, voy a tener que conseguir una bicicleta".

En los últimos meses, Scott escuchó y consoló a Lewis mientras lloraba por el estrés de mantenerse a flote y perder familiares a causa de covid. Scott no está segura de qué pasará con todos sus clientes si su apoyo desaparece.

"¿Qué le sucede a la gente cuando todo desaparece?", se preguntó.

Lauren Weber es corresponsal 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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Climate

or if business continues as usual. Climate change is expected to exacerbate existing barriers and inequalities, and Jalali said some Coloradans are more vulnerable than others. She pointed to the recent Marshall Fire that destroyed more than a thousand Front Range homes and businesses. "If you don't have a car, you are less likely to be able to get out of the area," said Jalali. "If you don't speak English, you might not be able to get the same information to prepare yourself to evacuate." The site also offers a road map for avoiding worst-case scenarios. Jalali said investments are needed in neighborhoods that will be disproportionately affected by a warming planet, and fossil-fuel dependent communities need help finding jobs that pay a living wage. "We need to transition to clean energy as quickly as possible, and stop burning fossil fuels," said Jalali. "We need to hold polluters accountable. We need to tax pollution. We need to prepare our communities to build resiliency."

Eric Galatas is a producer with Public News Service.

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The units at Viña are nicely designed with open floor plans. / Las unidades de Viña están muy bien diseñadas con planos abiertos.

"More than anything, I see hope for a community that has struggled to overcome adversity."

Several of the housing units are complete and feature well-thought-out amenities. Each unit has a washer and dryer (important for affordable housing tenants), updated design and layout, and some offer bathrooms with wheelchair accessibility in the showers.

The common areas of the building are bright and welcoming to families and children. "They paid a lot of attention to detail in creating a welcoming space, even down to the colors that were selected in the common areas," added García.

Several gathering spaces and a small library offer the residents a sense of community.

Viña offers outdoor barbecue grills with space for residents to enjoy patio style areas. There is also a storage area for bikes and potentially charging stations for electric vehicles.

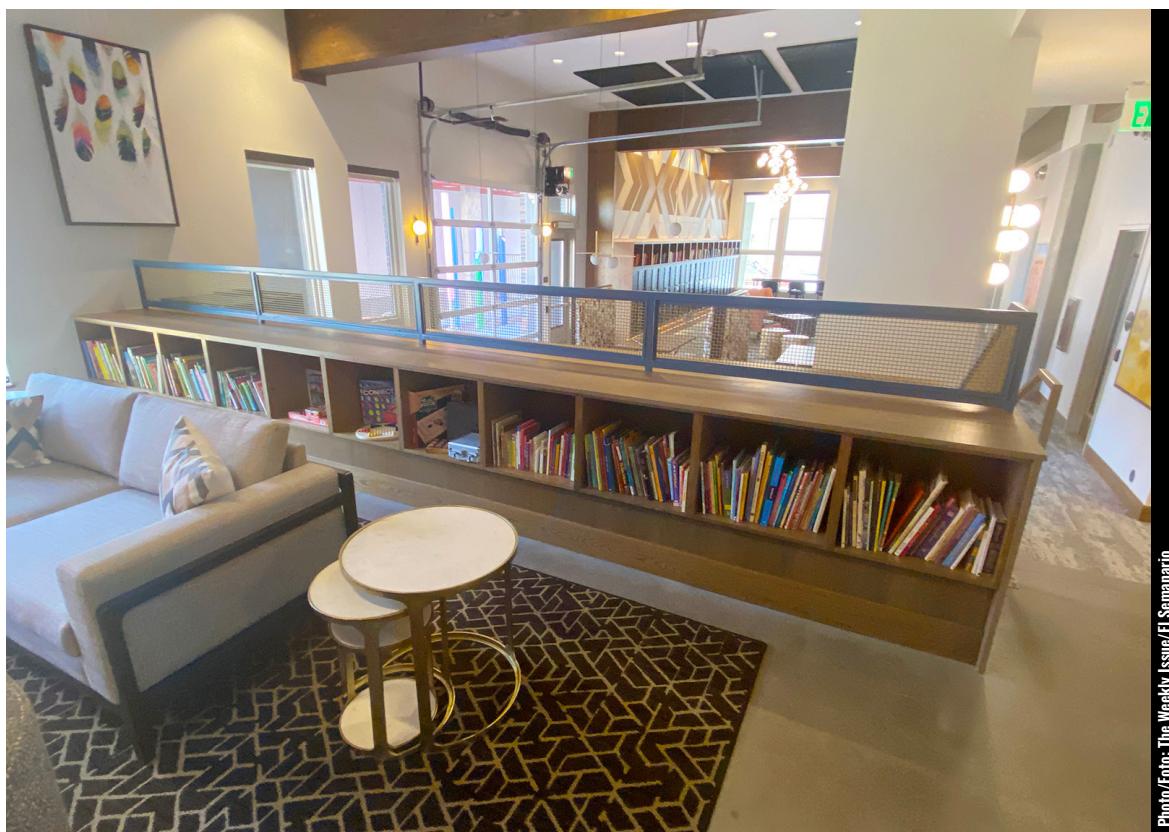
García also noted that a parking garage will be added over time. "We have set aside funding for a parking garage, but that won't happen for at least a couple of years," he said.

A portion of the exterior features a brilliantly colored mural painted by local artist, Jeremy Silas Ulibarri (aka Jolt). It features monarch butterflies, "the monarch patterns of migration of our community – a beautiful metamorphosis," explained García.

For more information about Tepeyac Community Health Center visit tepeyachealth.org or call 303-458-5302, the Health Center is currently located at 5075 Lincoln St., Denver, CO.

Belén Pizarro is an Intern Reporter with The Weekly Issue/El Semanario.

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Photo/Foto: The Weekly Issue/El Semanario

Viña's indoor common areas feature a library, a media room and gathering spots. / Las zonas comunes interiores de Viña cuentan con una biblioteca, una sala multimedia y puntos de encuentro.

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One of the CCPJC Community Awards were given to the Acequia Institute.



Su Teatro was presented with the CCPJC Community Award.



Los Mocochetes performed at the CCPJC Celebration.

workers who went on strike earlier this year.

Colorado's local chapter of La Ley (Latin American Law Enforcement Association) participated in this year's march, hoping to bring peaceful unified efforts between police and Latino communities.

The Colorado community is grateful to the CCPJC for its long-standing commitment and dedication to the annual event.

Belén Pizarro is an Intern Reporter with The Weekly Issue/El Semanario.

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Denver Clerk and Recorder, Paul D. Lopez, and staff.



Members of Carpenters Local 1607.

Photo: Belén Pizarro/The Weekly Issue/El Semanario

Photo: Belén Pizarro/The Weekly Issue/El Semanario

Luchan 1

cosas que otras personas no ven, pero nosotros sí".

El alto costo de la pobreza

La crisis de los servicios públicos no sólo apareció cuando el COVID-19 arrasó el país y el mundo, provocando olas de desempleo y enfermedad. Durante décadas, las familias que viven al día han gastado una cantidad desproporcionada de sus ingresos totales en facturas de servicios públicos. Ese es el Catch-22 de la pobreza: Cuando las familias no pueden permitirse una casa aislada o equipada con electrodomésticos eficientes desde el punto de vista energético, las facturas de los servicios públicos son más elevadas.

Una investigación realizada por Greenlink Analytics, una organización nacional sin ánimo de lucro especializada en energías limpias e investigación de valores, ha descubierto que la cantidad que un hogar gasta en servicios públicos en relación con los ingresos no debería superar el 3 o el 4 por ciento.

De hecho, las cargas energéticas pueden ser más de cuatro veces esa tasa en algunas partes de Nuevo México. Los datos más

recientes de Greenlink, de 2019, muestran que las familias que viven en ciertas áreas del condado de McKinley, donde se ha extraído o producido gran parte de la energía para el estado, gastan cerca del 18 por ciento de sus ingresos en facturas de gas y electricidad. Las familias de algunas zonas del condado de Doña Ana gastan hasta el 15 por ciento.

La Legislatura de Nuevo México aprobó recientemente una subvención en bloque de 10 millones de dólares para reducir las facturas de los servicios públicos mediante la sustitución de electrodomésticos viejos y la actualización de sistemas de aire acondicionado y calefacción inefficientes. Pero esa cantidad es sólo una pequeña fracción de lo que se necesita y, al final, no ayudará a más de 5.000 familias.

"Se necesitarían unos 500 millones de dólares para actualizar y climatizar todos los hogares de bajos ingresos en Nuevo México", dijo la representante de la Cámara de Representantes Kristina Ortez (D-Taos), que patrocinó la HB37. Lo que se necesita, según ella y otros defensores, es una tarifa con descuento para los clientes de bajos

ingresos. Esto ya se hace en California y en otros estados.

Muchos defensores creen que la deuda de los servicios públicos acumulada durante la pandemia debería ser condonada por completo.

En Nuevo México, donde casi una de cada cinco personas vive por debajo del umbral de la pobreza, una "tarifa para personas de bajos ingresos protegería a los más pobres y tendría un impacto nominal en los accionistas: centavos", dijo Mariel Nanasi, directora de New Energy Economy, un grupo de defensa de la energía renovable con sede en Santa Fe.

¿Qué es un hogar?

La falta de hogar es omnipresente en las calles, carreteras y pasos subterráneos de Nuevo México. Se reconoce al instante en los carteles de cartón de la gente pidiendo dinero y en los carros de la compra llenos de cosas mundanas. En su forma más cruda, es evidente.

Pero, ¿qué es un hogar sino un lugar de descanso y seguridad? ¿Un lugar para descansar, comer, prosperar y pasar tiempo con la familia? La falta de agua para beber o bañarse, de electricidad

para calentarse y de gas para cocinar puede hacer que esas cuatro paredes parezcan prácticamente inhabitables.

Sin embargo, los efectos de la crisis de los servicios públicos en los niños han pasado en gran medida desapercibidos. Hasta ahora. Si algo útil ha surgido de la pandemia es el reconocimiento de este problema. En respuesta, New Mexico Appleseed ha propuesto una moratoria de desconexión en todo el estado que se extienda durante todo el año escolar para las familias de bajos ingresos.

Porque, en opinión de Ramo, la única forma real de medir el problema es a través del impacto en los niños.

Para obtener más información o ayuda para solicitar la subvención

en bloque de la HB37, envíe un correo electrónico a Tammy Fiebelkorn en tfiebelkorn@swenergy.org.

Alicia Inez Guzmán es redactora de Searchlight New Mexico y Luciana Perez Uribe Guinassi es becaria de Roy W. Howard en Searchlight New Mexico, una organización de noticias no partidista y sin fines de lucro dedicada al reportaje de investigación en Nuevo México. Esta historia fue producida con el generoso financiamiento de la Asociación de Escritores de Educación.

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

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