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Racism, Discrimination, and Xenophobia, the Real Republican Invasion

Maribel Hastings and David Torres

The Republican governor of Texas, Greg Abbott, believes that the anticipated increase in the flow of migrants at the border when the so-called Title 42 policy is eliminated is an "invasion" and, to that end, has forecast the possibility that military intervention by the state, without violating federal law, may be justified. But according to the dictionary, "invasion" is defined as "entering a place by force in order to occupy it," or "introducing oneself into matters or functions unrelated to you, without right or justification." With Abbott's simplistic and anti-immigrant affirmations it can easily be inferred that this governor doesn't have the foggiest idea about geopolitics, and especially does not understand how to differentiate analytical categories to approach a concrete regional problem, as is the U.S.-México border. Above all, the Texas leader does not approach discerning that, upon irresponsibly invoking "articles of war," he must justify before the law that the "invader" has a military strategy—that is, with weapons—which, of course,

is false, as the only thing immigrants want is to seek asylum, and hope is their only "weapon." Whether this happens or not remains to be seen, but an action of this type has all the characteristics of culminating in a court battle. Even beyond this, the intentions of Abbott and other Republicans is to exploit the perception that a growing presence of

Of course, that is nothing new. For several years we have read about the existence of paramilitary groups who assigned themselves the duty of "patrolling" the southern border, suited up in military protective gear, carrying high-caliber weapons, driving all-terrain vehicles and—especially—with that threatening, Hollywood-style look on their faces, to intimidate whoever dares come close. Groups like the Minutemen jumped onto the news scene some years ago, with their officially unregulated actions at the southern border. Essentially, the fact that his words may influence those anti-immigrants who will no doubt literally take up arms to "defend" the border does not seem to matter to Abbott. We already saw their presence in 2019 when an unbalanced person, incited by the hate speech that Abbott and other anti-immigrants espoused, fired in a Walmart in El Paso, Texas, killing 22 people and wounding dozens more. The victims were mostly Hispanic. The attacker, a white man, was accused (among other things) of committing hate crimes. It is a fact the incendiary rhetoric generates violence, but this matters little to Republican figures like



Photo/Foto: América's Voice



Photo/Foto: América's Voice

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It's unbelievable that the same Republicans who are talking about an "invasion" by undocumented people are the very ones who have obstructed all attempts at regularizing the status of the millions of human beings who are already among us.

migrants at the border line—many of whom are waiting for the elimination of Title 42 to seek asylum in the United States—constitutes an "invasion," with the goal of influencing public opinion and riling up their anti-immigrant base.

Abbott. They are only focused on exploiting the migration issue, not looking for solutions to what is not working in the immigration system. But if they want to talk about real invasions, let's mention a recent one: the bloody seizure of the federal Capitol on January 6, 2021 by Donald Trump fanatics, who intended to block certification of Joe Biden's victory as President of the United States. That did constitute a violent invasion that resulted in deaths and injuries. And it was provoked by incendiary rhetoric from Trump himself, and his lieutenants, who, to this day, continue to minimize what the entire world witnessed: a racist, angry mob that was trying to topple the state, convinced

that the election had been "stolen" from Trump, something that the ex-president continues to affirm. More invasions? Grenada, Panama, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, Central America, Haiti, México, and a million more. Get it? For that reason, it's unbelievable that the same Republicans who are talking about an "invasion" by undocumented people are the very ones who have obstructed all attempts at regularizing the status of the millions of human beings who are already among us, because that way they can continue to exploit immigrants' hard work in essential areas of our economy

See **Hastings/Torres** on page 27

Racismo, Discriminación Y Xenofobia, la Verdadera Invasión Republicana

Maribel Hastings y David Torres

El gobernador republicano de Texas, Greg Abbott, asegura que la anticipada alza en el flujo de migrantes en la frontera cuando se elimine el llamado Titulo 42 es una "invasión" y, por ende, prevé la posibilidad de que se justifique la intervención militar del estado sin violar las leyes federales. Pero, según el diccionario, invadir se define como "entrar por la fuerza en un lugar para ocuparlo" o "introducirse sin derecho o justificación en asuntos o funciones ajenas".

Con esa simpleza que caracteriza las afirmaciones antiinmigrantes

de Abbott se puede inferir fácilmente que el señor gobernador no tiene la más mínima idea de geopolítica, y sobre todo que no sabe diferenciar categorías de análisis para abordar una problemática regional concreta, como en este caso la frontera México-Estados Unidos; pero sobre todo, el mandatario texano no alcanza a discernir que, al invocar irresponsablemente "poderes de guerra", debe justificar ante la ley que el "invasor" tiene una estrategia militar —léase, con armas—, lo cual, por supuesto, es una falsedad, pues lo único que quieren los inmigrantes es solicitar asilo, usando como única arma su propia esperanza.

El caso es que, si esto ocurrirá o no, está por verse, pues una acción de ese tipo tiene todas las características de culminar en una batalla en los tribunales. Pero más allá de eso, las intenciones de Abbott y de otros republicanos es explotar la percepción de que la creciente presencia de migrantes en la franja fronteriza —muchos de ellos a la espera de la eliminación del Título 42 para solicitar asilo en Estados Unidos— constituye una "invasión", ello con el fin de influir en la opinión pública y atizar a su base más antiinmigrante.

Y por supuesto que esto no es nuevo. A lo largo de los años se ha reportado sobre la existencia de

grupos paramilitares que se han dado a la tarea de "vigilar" la frontera sur, ataviados con chalecos militares protectores, portando armas de grueso calibre, manejando vehículos todoterreno y, sobre todo, con esa mirada adusta estílo hollywoodense para intimidar a quien se acerque. Grupos como los Minutemen hace algunos años saltaron a la palestra noticiosa por sus acciones no reguladas oficialmente en la frontera sur.

Es decir, lo que parece no importar a Abbott es la influencia que sus palabras puedan tener en aquellos antiinmigrantes que no duden en, literalmente, tomar las armas para "defender" la frontera.

“

Es inaudito que los mismos republicanos que hablan de "invasión" de indocumentados son los que han obstruido todos los intentos de regularizar a millones de seres humanos que ya están entre nosotros.

Ya lo presenciamos en 2019 cuando un desequilibrado, impulsado por la retórica de odio que Abbott

Vea **Hastings/Torres/Esp**, página 16

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Never Before Did So Many Demand Something So Urgently

Javier Sierra

Time flies for every inhabitant of this planet, especially our children and grandchildren.

While the climate alarms scream ever more loudly, and corporate polluters cover their ears ever more tightly, the public, including Latinos, demand action now.

Our planet speaks out much more clearly than our politicians. Even before the summer time, India and Pakistan have experienced unprecedented heatwaves that are testing the viability of the Earth, with temperatures that have hit 140 degrees. In a tragic example of irony, the region's coal-burning plants could not manage the demand for electric power caused by the climate crisis they originated.

Global heating is more noticeable in the poles than in any other region on Earth. In March, the Conger Ice Shelf, bigger than the Island of Manhattan, collapsed, the first one of its size to do so in four decades of satellite observations.

Meantime, the US Congress, perhaps the entity that can do the

most in the global climate fight, remains in an unforgivable parliamentary limbo. The Democrats should give up negotiating with a party of climate deniers who keeps playing the violin while the planet burns. Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-SD), for instance, stated that, "It's not near the crisis that the alarmists have made it out to be."

“

Voters not only see the climate crisis unravel in front of their very eyes. They also realize that the solutions are obvious.

It's past time for President Biden and the Democratic leadership to reject this nonsense and deliver on their promises of action on climate, care, jobs, and justice. Our communities and our planet urgently need investments in transitioning to clean energy, reducing pollution, cutting costs for working families, creating good jobs, and promoting environmental justice.

In recent days, Fight for Our Future rallies drew tens of thousands of people across the country saying "enough is enough" to Biden, Senator Chuck Schumer, and Democratic members of Congress. Our elected leaders have had enough time to hem and haw over a bold package of climate investments. Now, we ask that they show true leadership and swiftly create and pass a budget reconciliation bill that invests in climate action at the scale necessary while ensuring economic equity and environmental justice for all.

The support for this bold climate action is overwhelming. According to a recent Pew Research Center survey, 81 percent of Latino voters support tackling the climate crisis, including almost 40 percent who declare that doing so is a top priority. For 71 percent, this is not a distant problem but a crisis that impacts their lives directly.

In general, Americans also overwhelmingly support climate action. A recent national Gallup poll revealed backing for credits to install clean energy systems in homes (89%), setting higher fuel efficiency standards for vehicles



Fight for Our Future rally in Washington, DC. / Manifestación 'Fight for Our Future' en Washington, DC.

Photo/Foto: Courtesy Christine Irvine @Christinebydesign

(71%) and providing tax credits to individuals who purchase electric vehicles (61%).

Voters not only see the climate crisis unravel in front of their very eyes. They also realize that the solutions are obvious. On May 30th, for the first time ever, California, the world's fifth largest economy, was 100 percent powered by renewable energy.

Once again, it has been demonstrated that humanity does possess the resources, the technol-

ogy and the popular will to solve the climate crisis. What we still lack is the will of our representatives.

Ladies and gentlemen of the US Congress, listen: Never before did so many demand something so urgently.

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

Read More Commentary:
ELSEMANARIO.US

Nunca Antes Tantos Exigieron Algo con Tanta Urgencia

Javier Sierra

El tiempo vuela, y mucho más cuando cada minuto cuenta para todos los habitantes de nuestro planeta, especialmente para nuestros hijos y nietos.

Mientras las alarmas climáticas suenan con cada vez más estruendo, y los contaminadores climáticos se tapan los oídos con más vigor, el público, incluidos nosotros los latinos, exige actuar ya.

viabilidad de nuestro planeta, con temperaturas hasta los 140 grados. En un trágico ejemplo de ironía, las plantas térmicas de carbón no dan abasto para satisfacer la demanda de electricidad causada por la crisis climática que originan.

El calentamiento se está notando más en los polos que en cualquier otra región del planeta. En marzo, la plataforma antártica de hielo Conger, más grande que la Isla de Manhattan, colapsó, la primera en hacerlo tras cuatro décadas de observaciones satelitales.

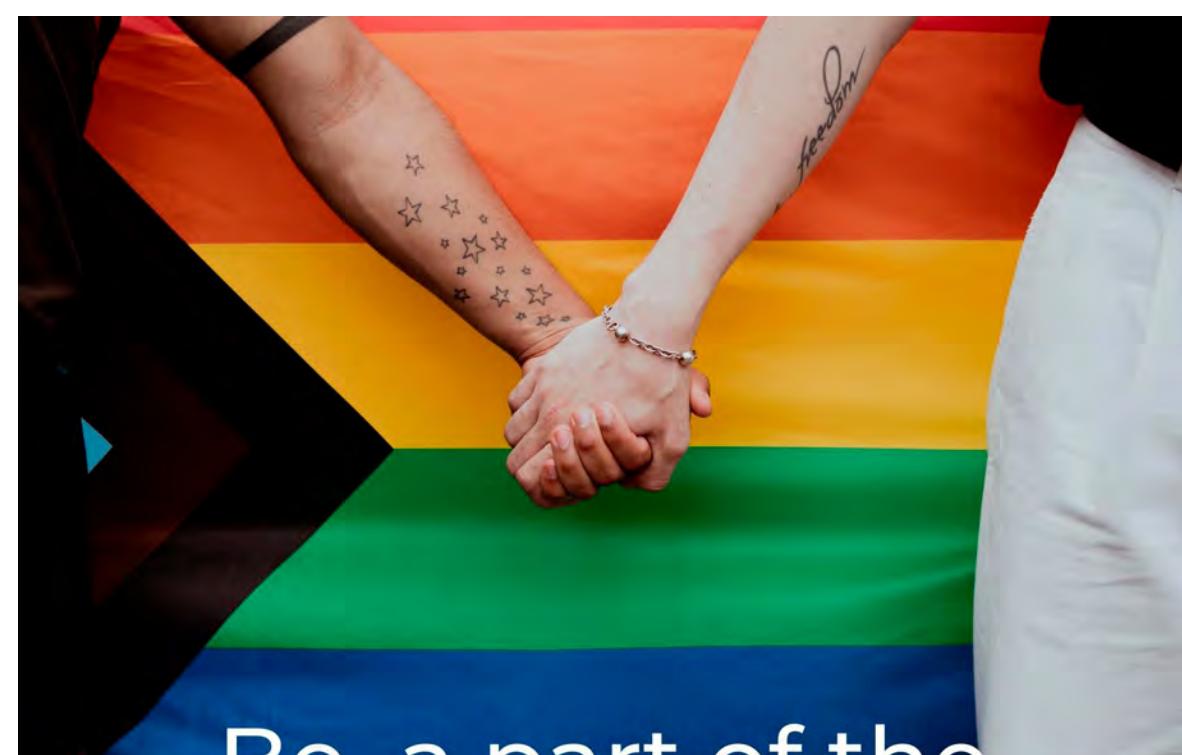
Mientras tanto, el Congreso de Estados Unidos, quizás el ente mundial que más puede hacer para combatir la crisis climática, continúa en un imperdonable limbo parlamentario. La bancada demócrata del Senado debe renunciar a negociar con un partido de negacionistas climáticos que siguen tocando el arpa mientras arde nuestro mundo. El Senador Kevin Cramer (R-SD), por ejemplo, opina al respecto que "no está clara esta crisis que los alarmistas se han inventado".

“

Los votantes no solo ven la crisis climática desplegarse enfrente de ellos. También ven que las soluciones son obvias.

Nuestro planeta habla mucho más claro que los políticos del mundo. Incluso antes del verano, India y Pakistán están sufriendo unas olas de calor sin precedentes que están testando los límites de

Vea Sierra/Esp, página 16



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Commentary / Commentario

OVERTURNING ROE IS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF THE THREATS TO WOMEN

Taylor Hirth

When I was raped in 2016, one of my attackers reached inside me and pulled out my NuvaRing, an internal birth control device, and asked me what it was.

When I told him, he cast it aside where it was lost until police retrieved it a couple days later.

Following my attack, because of the abrupt removal of my birth control, I was at an increased risk of pregnancy. I was given the morning after pill, something anti-abortion legislators and activists have long sought to outlaw, and thankfully avoided pregnancy. Had I become pregnant, I would absolutely have chosen to have an abortion.

Would that unborn life have deserved to be punished for rape? No. But I didn't deserve to be punished either. I didn't deserve to be

forced to carry and birth and raise my rapist's baby.

Thanks to Roe, I wouldn't have had to.

Now, six years later, I watch as the conservative majority on the Supreme Court threatens to take away a woman's right to her own body.



I'm ready to demand that candidates for office be vocally and unapologetically pro-choice before I give them a dime or a vote. I'm ready to fight.

So many fail to see the far-reaching impact overturning Roe will have on even those who have never themselves been in a position where they have sought an

abortion. Here in Missouri we have a trigger law that will make terminating a pregnancy at any stage illegal except in the case of medical emergencies.

No exceptions for rape. No exceptions for incest.

The young girls who end up pregnant due to abuse by family members in this state will be forced to carry their babies to term or flee the state seeking a doctor who can perform an abortion.

For women who struggle with polycystic ovary syndrome or premenstrual dysphoric disorder, or those with conditions for whom pregnancy would be a death sentence, may no longer have access to many of the birth control methods that provide life-changing relief.

For those women who seek to become mothers, overturning Roe introduces new barriers.

With doctors at increased risk of prosecution over extra embryos

that cannot safely be transferred into an awaiting uterus, in vitro fertilization treatments would likely become slower, less successful and more cost prohibitive.

Women across the country who have the devastating experience of pregnancy loss will also face the added burden of proving that the miscarriage was not their own doing. As if these mothers don't already blame themselves. Across the country women have already been investigated and charged for risky behavior during pregnancy, and miscarriage.

Women with planned but tragically non-viable pregnancies will be forced to carry and deliver dead children, instead of being allowed to mercifully end their unborn child's suffering.

And women will die.

For decades now, when women become pregnant unintentionally, they have sought out termination



Photo: Taylor Hirth

without the headache of consulting the other party. There are so many men who have no idea how close they were to 18 plus years of child support, had the woman they were involved with not called up a friend and "handled" the situation without him. Goodbye hook-up culture.

Legislators in Missouri have even discussed prosecuting women traveling out of state for an

See **Hirth** on page 17

THE GOP WAR AGAINST THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY IS NOT COMING. IT'S HERE.

James Esseks

Many commentators in the LGBTQ space are talking about how the draft U.S. Supreme Court opinion in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization might affect various constitutional rights that the LGBTQ community has secured over decades of advocacy and struggle. A common theme is that "they're coming for us next," after abortion. But make no mistake, the war against LGBTQ people in America is already raging. While

the Dobbs draft opinion may preview a new front in that war (and I fear it does), attacks against LGBTQ people — especially youth — have been growing in intensity for several years and have already reached a fever pitch. The fight is upon us and we need to mobilize now.

First, even before the leak of the Dobbs draft, we were in the midst of the most aggressive attack on LGBTQ people — and especially trans youth — that our country has ever seen. Over 300 anti-trans and anti-LGBTQ bills have been proposed in state legislatures just in

2022, and over 20 new anti-trans bills have become law over the past three years. Those new laws restrict access to health care, bar trans people from restrooms, prevent any discussion of the existence of LGB or trans people in schools, bar trans youth from participating in sports, or prevent updating government-issued ID documents to reflect our actual identities.

We have even returned to a place where the primary narrative from our opponents is that LGBTQ people are child molesters,

or "groomers" in today's parlance. That was the central theme of Anita Bryant's successful 1977 "Save Our Children" campaign to repeal Miami-Dade County's sexual orientation non-discrimination ordinance. Many of us thought that America had moved beyond thinking of LGBTQ people as child molesters, but Texas' governor has declared that parents who follow doctor's advice to provide necessary health care for their trans kids are child abusers, and Florida has restricted discussion of the existence of gay or trans people in schools to prevent the supposed recruitment of kids to be LGBTQ. We are going backwards on LGBTQ acceptance and understanding, not forwards. This didn't start with the Dobbs draft.

Second, the Dobbs draft does represent a new front in the ongoing anti-LGBTQ war, and its impact (if this draft becomes the decision of the court) would be immediate. That's because the restrictions on abortion that the Dobbs draft would authorize are a direct attack on LGBTQ people, who need access to abortion health care just like many cisgender and heterosexual people do. In the wake of a Dobbs decision that follows the draft, many states will ban abortion outright or start enforcing bans that are already on the books, and that will cause intense suffering for many people, including many LGBTQ people. The Dobbs draft



Photo: ACLU

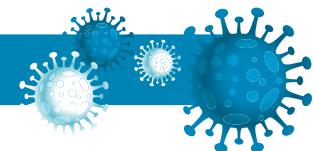
is terrible news for everyone in America who can get pregnant, and for everyone who loves them and values their independence and autonomy. This is our fight now.



It's why I'm very concerned about what this draft opinion could mean for the freedom to marry and the right to form intimate relationships.

But what's scary about the Dobbs draft is not just what it does directly, but also what it previews as the next steps the court may take in the future. To be sure, the draft opinion says specifically that its holding is limited to what it calls the unique context of abortion.

See **Esseks** on page 18



A Guide to Help You Keep Up with the Omicron Subvariants

By Louis Jacobson

Two years into the coronavirus pandemic, Americans can be forgiven if they've lost track of the latest variants circulating nationally and around the world. We've heard of the alpha, beta, gamma, delta, and omicron variants, but a new Greek-letter variant hasn't come onto the scene in almost half a year.

Instead, a seemingly endless stream of "subvariants" of omicron, the most recent Greek-letter variant, has emerged in the past few months.

How different are these subvariants from one another? Can infection by one subvariant protect someone from infection by another subvariant? And how well are the existing coronavirus vaccines — which were developed before omicron's emergence — doing against the subvariants?

We asked medical and epidemiological experts these and other questions. Here's a rundown.

Q: What are the subvariants? How much do they differ from one another?

The omicron subvariants seem like an alphabet soup of letters and numbers. The original omicron variant was called B.1.1.529. The initial omicron variant begat such subvariants as BA.1; BA.1.1; BA.2; BA.2.12.1; BA.3; and the most recent, BA.4 and BA.5.

"They all differ from each other by having different mutations in the spike protein," which is the part of the virus that penetrates host cells and causes infection, said Dr. Monica Gandhi, a professor of medicine at the University of California-San Francisco.

The minor-to-modest mutations in these subvariants can make them marginally more transmissible from person to person. Generally, the higher the number following "BA" in the subvariant's name, the more transmissible that subvariant is. For instance, BA.2 is thought to be about 30% to 60% more transmissible than previous subvariants.

These mutations have enabled subvariants to spread widely, only to be overtaken by a slightly more transmissible subvariant within a few weeks. Then the process repeats.

In the United States, for instance, BA.1 was dominant in late January, having overtaken the initial variant, B.1.1.529. But by mid-March, BA.1 began losing ground to BA.2, which became dominant by early April. By late April, another subvariant — BA.2.12.1 — was gaining steam, accounting for almost 29% of infections, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (The delta wave of late 2021 has been a non-factor during this time frame.)

Q: What about the severity of illness?

Fortunately, the illnesses caused by omicron have typically been less severe than those caused by previous variants — a pattern that seems to hold for all the subvariants studied so far. One analy-



The higher the number following "BA" in the subvariant's name, the more transmissible that subvariant is. / En general, cuanto más alto sea el número que sigue a "BA" en el nombre de la subvariante, más transmisible será.

sis from Denmark showed that BA.2 doesn't cause more hospitalizations than the BA.1 subvariant, Gandhi said.

Even the most recent subvariants that have been discovered, BA.4 and BA.5, show "no evidence to suggest that it is more worrisome than the original omicron, other than a potentially slight

increase in transmissibility," said Brooke Nichols, an infectious-disease mathematical modeler at Boston University.

Dennis Cunningham, the system medical director of infection control and prevention at Henry Ford Health in Detroit, told NBC

See **Variants** on page 18

Guía para Entender a las Subvariantes de Ómicron

Por Louis Jacobson

A dos años de la pandemia de coronavirus, muchos estadounidenses han perdido el hilo de la larga cadena de variantes de covid. Luego de conocer a alfa, beta, gamma, delta y ómicron, ya hace casi seis meses que no se agrega una nueva letra griega a la lista.

En cambio, ha surgido un flujo aparentemente interminable de "subvariantes" de ómicron en los últimos meses.

¿Qué tan diferentes son estas subvariantes entre sí? ¿Puede la infección por una subvariante proteger a alguien de la infección por otra? Y, ¿qué tan bien funcionan contra estas variantes las vacunas que se desarrollaron antes de la aparición de ómicron?

Expertos médicos clarifican.

P: ¿Cuáles son las subvariantes? ¿Cuánto se diferencian entre sí?

Las subvariantes de ómicron parecen una sopa de letras y números. La variante ómicron original se llamó B.1.1.529. Esa variante inicial engendró subvariantes como BA.1; BA.1.1; BA.2; BA.2.12.1; BA.3; y las más recientes, BA.4 y BA.5.

"Todas se diferencian entre sí por tener diferentes mutaciones en la proteína espiga (spike)", que es la parte del virus que penetra en las células huésped y causa la infección, explicó la doctora Monica Gandhi, profesora de medicina en la Universidad de California-San Francisco.

Las mutaciones en estas subvariantes pueden hacerlas ligeramente más transmisibles de persona a persona. En general, cuanto más alto sea el número que sigue a "BA" en el nombre de la subvariante, más transmisible será. Por ejemplo, se cree que BA.2 es entre un 30 % y un 60 % más transmisible que las subvariantes anteriores, catalogadas con el número 1.

Estas mutaciones han permitido que las subvariantes se propaguen ampliamente, solo para ser superadas por una subvariante ligeramente más transmisible en unas pocas semanas. Luego el proceso se repite.

En Estados Unidos, por ejemplo, BA.1 fue dominante a finales de enero, después de haber superado a la variante inicial, B.1.1.529. Pero a mediados de marzo, BA.1 comenzó a perder terreno frente a BA.2, que se convirtió en dominante a principios de abril.

Para finales de abril, otra subvariante, BA.2.12.1, cobró fuerza y representó casi el 29% de las infecciones, según datos de los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades (CDC).

P: ¿Qué pasa con el nivel de gravedad de las variantes?

Afortunadamente, las enfermedades causadas por ómicron han sido en general menos graves

que las causadas por variantes anteriores, un patrón que parece mantenerse para todas las subvariantes estudiadas hasta ahora. Un análisis en Dinamarca mostró que BA.2 no causa más hospitalizaciones que la subvariante BA.1, dijo Gandhi.

Incluso las subvariantes más recientes que se han descubierto, BA.4 y BA.5, no muestran "ninguna evidencia que sugiera que son más preocupantes que ómicron original, más allá de un aumento potencialmente leve en la transmisibilidad", dijo Brooke Nichols, matemática modeladora de enfermedades infecciosas en la Universidad de Boston.

Dennis Cunningham, director médico del sistema de control y prevención de infecciones en Henry Ford Health en Detroit, dijo a NBC News que los síntomas de las subvariantes de ómicron "han sido bastante consistentes. Hay menos incidencia de personas

que pierden el sentido del gusto y el olfato. En muchos sentidos, es un fuerte resfriado, muchos síntomas respiratorios, congestión nasal, tos, dolor corporal y fatiga".

P: Si te infectas con una subvariante, ¿estarás protegido contra otras?

Hasta ahora, en todas las variantes hasta la fecha, la capacidad del virus para evadir la protección inmunitaria existente "es solamente parcial, como lo es para la gripe estacional", dijo Colin Russell, profesor de biología evolutiva aplicada en el centro médico de la Universidad de Amsterdam.

Si bien algunas personas que tenían BA.1 también contrajeron BA.2, la investigación inicial sugiere que la infección por BA.1 "brinda una fuerte protección contra la reinfección", indicó la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS).

Vea **Variants**, página 18

Provided to you by:



Cover /Portada

To Avoid High Medical Costs, Family Travels to México for Health Care

By Paula Andalo

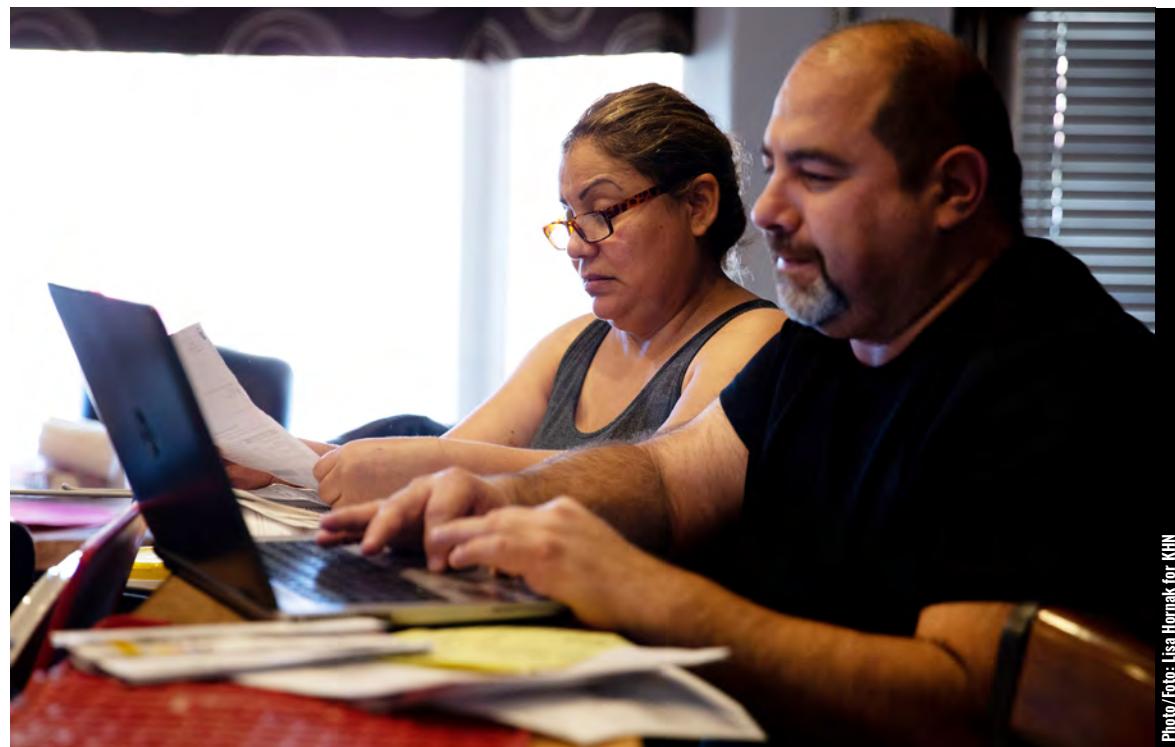
The Fierro family of Yuma, Arizona, had a string of bad medical luck that started in December 2020.

That's when Jesús Fierro Sr. was admitted to the hospital with a serious covid-19 infection. He spent 18 days at Yuma Regional Medical Center, where he lost 60 pounds. He came home weak and dependent on an oxygen tank.

Then, in June 2021, his wife, Claudia, fainted while waiting for a table at the local Olive Garden. She

felt dizzy one minute and was in an ambulance on her way to the same medical center the next. She was told her magnesium levels were low and was sent home within 24 hours.

The family has health insurance through Jesús Sr.'s job. But it didn't protect the Fierros from owing thousands of dollars. So, when their son Jesús Fierro Jr. dislocated his shoulder, the Fierros — who hadn't yet paid the bills for their own care — opted out of U.S. health care and headed south to the U.S.-México border.



Photo/Foto: Lisa Hornak for KHN

Jesús and Claudia Fierro of Yuma, Arizona, review their high medical bills. They report paying \$1,000 a month for health insurance premiums yet still owed more than \$7,000 in deductibles and coinsurance after two episodes of care at the local hospital. / Jesús y Claudia Fierro, de Yuma, Arizona, revisan sus altas cuentas médicas. Dicen que pagan \$1,000 por mes por las primas de su seguro de salud y así todo, debían más de \$7,000 en deducibles y coseguros después de dos situaciones médicas en un hospital local.

And no other bills came for at least one member of the family.

The Patients: Jesús Fierro Sr., 48; Claudia Fierro, 51; and Jesús Fierro Jr., 17. The family has Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas health insurance through Jesús Sr.'s employment with NOV Inc., formerly National Oilwell Varco, a multinational oil company.

Medical Services: For Jesús Sr., 18 days of inpatient care for a severe covid infection. For Claudia, less than 24 hours of emergency care after fainting. For Jesús Jr., a walk-in appointment for a dislocated shoulder.

Total Bills: Jesús Sr. was charged \$3,894.86. The total bill was \$107,905.80 for covid treatment. Claudia was charged \$3,252.74, including \$202.36 for treatment from an out-of-network physician. The total bill was \$13,429.50 for less than a day of treatment. Jesús Jr. was charged about \$5 (70 pesos) for an outpatient visit that the family paid in cash.

Service Providers: Yuma Regional Medical Center, a 406-bed, nonprofit hospital in Yuma, Arizona. It's in the Fierros' insurance network. And a private doctor's office in Mexicali, México, which is not.

What Gives: The Fierros were trapped in a situation that more and more Americans find themselves in: They are what some experts term "functionally uninsured." They have insurance — in this case, through Jesús Sr.'s job, which pays \$72,000 a year. But their health plan is expensive, and they don't

have the liquid savings to pay their "share" of the bill. The Fierros' plan says their out-of-pocket maximum is \$8,500 a year for the family. And in a country where even a short stay in an emergency room is billed at a staggering sum, that means minor encounters with the medical system can take virtually all of the family's disposable savings, year after year. And that's why the Fierros opted out.

According to the terms of the insurance plan, which has a \$2,000 family deductible and 20% coinsurance, Jesús Sr. owed \$3,894.86 of a total bill of nearly \$110,000 for his covid care in late 2020.

“

"We thought about taking a second loan on our house."

Jesús Fierro Sr.

Kraft, a spokesperson for the insurer, wouldn't discuss why his covid bill was not waived.

(More than two years into the pandemic and with vaccines now widely available to reduce the risk of hospitalization and death, most insurers again charge patients their cost sharing.)

On Jan. 1, 2021, the Fierros' deductible and out-of-pocket maximum reset. So when Claudia fainted — a fairly common occurrence and rarely indicative of a serious problem — she was sent by ambulance to the emergency room, leaving the Fierros with another bill of more than \$3,000. That kind of bill is a huge stress on the average American family; fewer than half of U.S. adults have enough savings to cover a surprise \$1,000 expense. In recent polling by Kaiser Family Foundation, "unexpected medical bills" ranked second among family budget worries, behind gas prices and other transportation costs.

The new bill for a fainting spell destabilized the Fierros' household budget. "We thought about taking a second loan on our house," said Jesús Sr., a Los Angeles native. When he called the hospital to ask for financial assistance, he said, people he spoke with strongly discouraged him from applying. "They told me that I could apply but that it would only lower Claudia's bill by \$100," he said.

So when Jesús Jr. dislocated his shoulder boxing with his brother, the family headed south.

See **Costs** on page 24

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Para Evitar los Altos Costes Médicos, la Familia Viaja a México para Recibir Atención Médica



Jesús Fierro Sr. y su familia se han convertido en "compradores sabios" de atención de salud. Cuando su hijo mayor se dislocó el hombro, en vez de ponerse en riesgo de otra cuenta exorbitante, lo llevaron a atenderse a México. La familia Fierro (de izq. a der.), Jesús Jr., de 17 años, Jesús Sr., Claudia, y Fernando, de 15. / Jesús Fierro Sr. and his family are becoming savvy health care shoppers. When their oldest son dislocated his shoulder, rather than risk another exorbitant bill, they took him across the border to México for care. The Fierro family (from left): Jesús Jr., 17, Jesús Sr., Claudia, and Fernando, 15.

Por Paula Andalo

En diciembre de 2020, la familia Fierro, de Yuma, Arizona, comenzó a tener una racha de mala suerte médica.

Ese mes, a Jesús Fierro Sr. lo internaron con una cuadro grave de covid-19. Pasó 18 días en el Yuma Regional Medical Center, en donde perdió 60 libras. Volvió a su casa débil y cargando un tanque de oxígeno para poder respirar. Una infección grave por covid. Para Claudia, menos de 24 horas de atención de emergencia luego de un desmayo. Para Jesús Jr., la atención en un consultorio por un hombro dislocado, sin cita previa.

Luego, en junio de 2021, su esposa, Claudia, se desmayó mientras la familia esperaba una mesa en el restaurant Olive Garden. Un segundo se sintió mareada, y al siguiente estaba en una ambulancia camino al mismo centro de salud en donde había estado su esposo. Le dijeron que sus niveles de magnesio estaban bajos y la enviaron a casa en menos de 24 horas. bró \$3,894.86. La factura total fue de \$107,905.80 por el tratamiento de covid. A Claudia se le cobró \$3,252.74, incluidos \$202.36 por el tratamiento de un médico fuera de la red. La factura total fue de \$13,429.50 por menos de un día de atención. A Jesús Jr. se le cobró \$5 (unos 100 pesos mexicanos) por una visita ambulatoria que la familia pagó en efectivo.

La familia tiene seguro de salud a través del trabajo de Jesús Sr. Pero la cobertura no los protegió de acumular una deuda de miles de dólares. Entonces, cuando su hijo Jesús Fierro Jr. se dislocó un hombro, el matrimonio —que todavía está pagando sus propias cuentas médicas — optó por no buscar atención en los Estados Unidos, y se dirigió al sur, a la frontera con México.

Así, evitaron que llegara otra

Proveedores de servicios

Yuma Regional Medical Center, un hospital sin fines de lucro de 406 camas en Yuma, Arizona. Está en la red del plan de los Fierro. Y un doctor que tiene un consultorio privado en Mexicali, México, que obviamente no está en la red.

Análisis de situación: los Fierro quedaron atrapados en una situación en la que se encuentran cada vez más estadounidenses son lo que algunos expertos defin-

Así, evitaren que llegara otra cuenta, al menos para uno de los miembros de la familia.

Los pacientes: Jesús Fierro Sr., de 48 años; Claudia Fierro, de 51; y Jesús Fierro Jr., de 17. La familia tiene seguro de salud de Blue caso a través del trabajo de Jesus Sr., quien gana \$72,000 anuales. Pero su plan de salud es costoso, y no tienen la liquidez —el efectivo

dinero en el banco— para pagar su "parte" de la factura. El plan médico de los Fierro dice que su máximo de gasto de bolsillo es \$8,500 al año para la familia. Y en un país donde incluso un paso rápido por una sala de emergencias se factura a una suma asombrosa, eso significa que un contacto mínimo con el sistema de salud pueden consumir prácticamente todos los ahorros disponibles de la familia, año tras año. Por eso los Fierros optaron por salir del sistema.

De acuerdo con los términos de su plan, que tiene un deducible familiar de \$2,000 y 20% de coseguro, Jesús Sr. debía \$3,894.86 de una cuenta total cercana a los \$110,000 por la atención médica cuando tuvo covid a fines de 2020.

Los Fierro están pagando la factura en cuotas —\$140 al mes— y todavía deben más de \$2,500.

En 2020, la mayoría de las aseguradoras acordaron no cobrar los pagos de costos compartidos para el tratamiento de covid-19 después de la aprobación de los paquetes federales de ayuda de covid que proporcionaron fondos de emergencia a los hospitales.

Pero, según la ley, dejar de lado los costos del tratamiento era opcional. Y aunque Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas tiene en un sitio de internet una síntesis de su política que dice que renunciaría a cobrar los costos compartidos hasta fines de 2020, la aseguradora no hizo eso con la factura de Jesús Sr. Carrie Kraft, vocera de la aseguradora, no explicó por qué.

(A más de dos años de pandemia y con las vacunas ahora ampliamente disponibles para reducir el riesgo de hospitalización y muerte, la mayoría de las aseguradoras han vuelto a cobrar a los pacientes los costos compartidos).

66

“Pensamos en pedir un segundo préstamo sobre nuestra casa”.

Jesús Fierro Sr

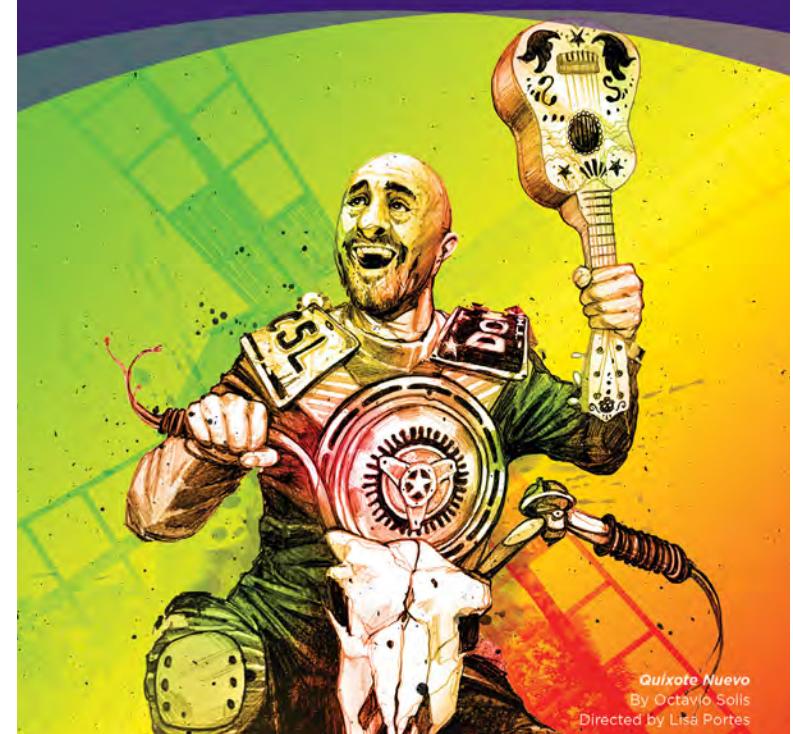
- toparon con otra factura de más de \$3,000.

Este tipo de cuentas implican un gran estrés para la familia estadounidense promedio; menos

Vea **Costes**, página 25

A WILDLY THEATRICAL REIMAGINING OF DON QUIXOTE

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State News / Noticias del Estado

Elyria-Swansea Neighborhood Celebrates Opening of Viña Apartments

COLORADO

Columbia Ventures has created a new, landmark community in the Elyria-Swansea neighborhood of Denver that's under dramatic displacement pressure due to rising prices. Featuring 150 units of quality housing with a significant medical clinic and ancillary retail, the development is a permanent commitment to workforce and affordable housing.

"We've now carved out the first phase of this community just steps from the 48th and Brighton National Western Center Station RTD station," said Columbia Ventures' Managing Partner Dillon Baynes. "And it delivers—half of the apartments are targeted at teacher and first responder incomes (80% of area median income), and half target incomes at the 30% and 50% of area median income levels. This is real affordability."

Viña Apartments offers units ranging from studios to three bedrooms with a suite of modern amenities.

"The City and County of Denver is proud to partner to deliver affordable housing, enabling house-



Erin Clark, Chief Real Estate Investment Officer, Denver Housing Authority, speaks at La Viña Apartments official opening on May 4, 2022; (left) Alfonso Espino, GES Coalition / Erin Clark, Jefa de Inversiones Inmobiliarias de la Autoridad de la Vivienda de Denver, habla en la inauguración oficial de los Apartamentos La Viña el 4 de mayo de 2022; (izquierda) Alfonso Espino, de la Coalición GES.

holds of all income levels to benefit from mass transit for generations to come," said Britta Fisher, executive director of [Denver's Department of Housing Stability](#).

Columbia Ventures worked closely with the community and neighborhood stakeholders to ensure that the development will serve the needs of families teetering on the edge of displacement and looking for quality affordable housing options in the area.

The community provided input on everything from unit mix

to levels of affordability, to muralist selection and desired uses for the retail space," according to Diana Stoian, who developed Viña on behalf of Columbia Ventures. "Most importantly, we were able to partner with Tepeyac Community Health Center to ensure affordable housing is paired with quality healthcare, which will ultimately lead to improved health outcomes in the community."

Early entitlement work and acquisition by Denver based [Urban Land Conservancy](#) (ULC) yielded



Cris White, Executive Director and CEO, Colorado Housing and Finance Authority speaks at La Viña Apartments official opening on May 4, 2022. / Cris White, directora ejecutiva y consejera delegada de la Autoridad de Financiación y Vivienda de Colorado, habla en la inauguración oficial de los apartamentos La Viña el 4 de mayo de 2022.

a unique public private partnership through a 99-year renewable land lease. ULC utilized the Metro Denver Impact Facility (MDIF) a dedicated revolving loan source made available through FirstBank and other Colorado-based foundations, as well as a \$1.5 million loan from the City and County of Denver, to acquire the property. The \$57 million development has been four years in the making.

This is an important milestone because it demonstrates the power of collaboration between three

distinct partners and the community," said Baynes.

Public finance partners for Viña included Denver's Department of Housing Stability (HOST), Colorado Housing and Finance Authority, and the Colorado Division of Housing, which enabled deeper levels of affordability. HOST provided a \$3,750,000 cash flow loan to support construction.

Future phases will provide additional housing, retail, and offices

See [Viña](#) on page 23

El Barrio de Elyria-Swansea Celebra la Apertura de los Apartamentos Viña

COLORADO

Columbia Ventures ha creado una comunidad nueva e histórica en el vecindario Elyria-Swansea de Denver que está bajo una gran presión de desplazamiento debido al aumento de los precios. Con 150 unidades de vivienda de calidad con una importante clínica médica y tiendas minoristas auxiliares, el desarrollo es un compromiso permanente con la fuerza laboral y la vivienda asequible.

"Ya hemos creado la primera fase de esta comunidad a solo unos pasos de la estación RTD 48th & Brighton National Western Center Station", dijo el socio gerente de Columbia Ventures, Dillon Baynes. "Y cumple: la mitad de los apartamentos están destinados a los ingresos de los maestros y los socorristas (80 % del [ingreso medio del área](#)) y la mitad tienen como objetivo los ingresos del 30 % y el 50 % de los niveles de ingresos medios del área. Esto es asequibilidad real".

Viña Apartments ofrece unidades que van desde estudios



Jim García, Director General del Centro de Salud Comunitario Tepeyac habla en la inauguración oficial de los Apartamentos La Viña el 4 de mayo de 2022. / Jim García, Chief Executive Officer of Tepeyac Community Health Center speaks at La Viña Apartments official opening on May 4, 2022.

hasta apartamentos de tres habitaciones con un conjunto de comodidades modernas.

"La ciudad y el condado de Denver se enorgullecen de asociarse para ofrecer viviendas asequibles, lo que permite que los hogares de todos los niveles de ingresos se beneficien del transporte público para las generaciones venideras", dijo Britta Fisher, directora ejecutiva del Departamento de Estabilidad de Vivienda de Denver.

"La comunidad brindó información sobre todo, desde la

Vea [Viña/Esp](#), página 27

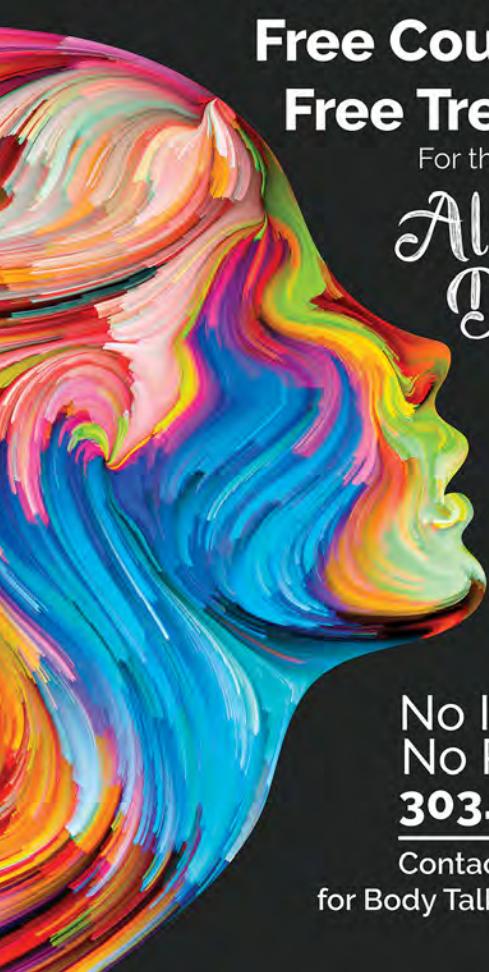
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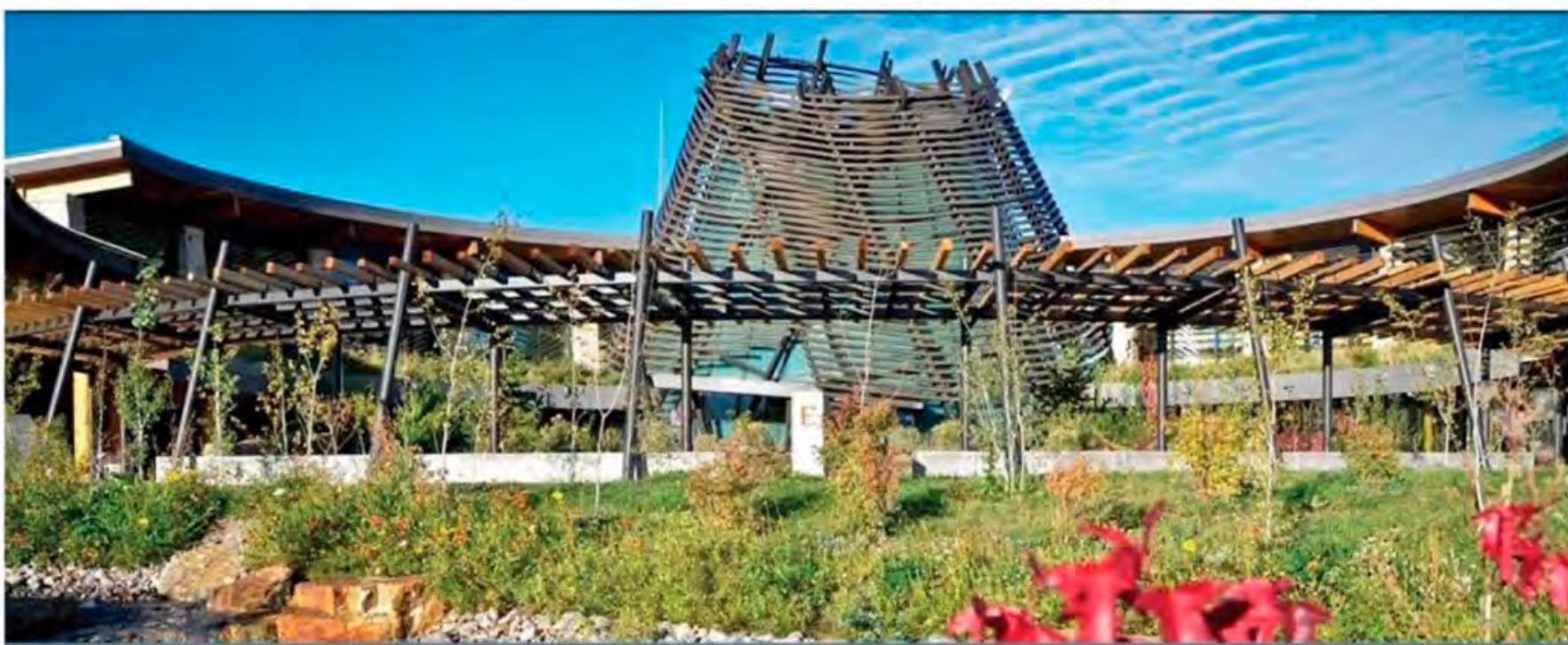
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State News / Noticias del Estado**DPS Superintendent Proposes Plan to Invest in Four Initiatives****COLORADO****By Melanie Asmar**

The millions of dollars that Denver Public Schools (DPS) will save by cutting central office employees will be spent on four initiatives, including creating "community hubs" to provide services for families such as GED classes, mental health support, and help with job placement.

That's according to a plan laid out by Superintendent Alex Mar-

ro at a school board meeting on May 5. Two days prior, on May 3, the district told 131 central office employees their jobs were being cut. Because some positions are being reposted, in some cases with new job titles, the net reduction of central office positions is 76, a district spokesperson said.

Eliminating those 76 positions will save the district \$9 million next year, officials said. The district's total budget is about \$1.2 billion.

Marrero told the school board that he plans to invest that \$9 million in:

Opening six community hubs this fall in partnership with the city of Denver and community organizations, including the Denver Housing Authority, the Montbello Organizing Committee, Westwood Unidos, and others. The community hubs would use a two-generation approach, providing services to young students and their families.

Those services could include assistance with basic needs such as food, clothing, and housing; workforce development help such as resume building and interview preparation; GED, citizenship, and English language classes; and

See DPS on page 25

Photo/Foto: DPS

Denver Public School Superintendent Dr. Alex Marrero presented a plan to spend \$9 million on four initiatives next year. To support DPS teachers and lend a hand in the classroom, Superintendent Dr. Alex Marrero stopped by Janie Darone's Music class at Samuels Elementary for a special visit last week and to help co-teach a lesson for kindergarten and ECE. / El Superintendente de las Escuelas Públicas de Denver, Dr. Alex Marrero, presentó un plan para gastar 9 millones de dólares en cuatro iniciativas el próximo año.

El Superintendente del DPS Propone un Plan para Invertir en Cuatro Iniciativas**COLORADO****Por Melanie Asmar**

Los millones de dólares que las Escuelas Públicas de Denver (DPS) ahorrarán al recortar los empleados de la oficina central se gastarán en cuatro iniciativas, incluyendo la creación de "centros comunitarios" para proporcionar servicios a las fa-

milias, tales como clases de GED, apoyo a la salud mental y ayuda con la colocación de empleo.

Eso es lo que dice el plan presentado por el superintendente Alex Marrero en una reunión del consejo escolar el 5 de mayo. Dos días antes, el 3 de mayo, el distrito dijo a 131 empleados de la oficina central que sus puestos de trabajo iban a ser recortados. Debido a que algunos puestos están sien-

do reubicados, en algunos casos con nuevos títulos de trabajo, la reducción neta de los puestos de la oficina central es de 76, dijo un portavoz del distrito.

La eliminación de esos 76 puestos ahorrará al distrito 9 millones de dólares el próximo año, dijeron los funcionarios. El propuesto total presupuesto total del

Vea DPS/Esp, página 20**Aztec Community Mourning Loss of Mexica Dance Icon Raul Chávez Portillo****COLORADO**

The Colorado Aztec dance community is mourning the loss of renowned Mexica dance icon and curandero, Raul Chávez Portillo who died on May 7th, 2022.

Chávez was born on February 29, 1952, in Mazatlán, México into a family of Mexica Aztec *danzantes* and healers. He was given the name of Tlaloc at the age of five by his grandfather, in order to preserve the traditions of his ancestors. He spent his formative years studying and perfecting his knowledge and skills.

In 1969, he immigrated to Colorado and in 1981, helped local Chicano youth establish their own *danzante* group, under his family name of Grupo Tlaloc, he remained with them for a decade. In 1992, he formed a small family dance group under the name of Huizilopochtli.

See Portillo on page 20

Photo/Courtesy Renée Fajardo

Raul Chávez Portillo (February 29, 1952-May 7, 2022)



Disappearing Murals Causing Heritage, Cultural Identity to Vanish



"San Luis-Sierras y Colores," by Carlos Sandoval in San Luis. / 'San Luis-Sierras y Colores,' de Carlos Sandoval en San Luis.

COLORADO

Last week, the National Trust for Historic Preservation named the historic Chicano/a/x Community Murals of Colorado across the state to its 2022 list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. The Chicano/a/x community murals illuminate an often untold, overlooked, or erased history in cities where Hispanics, Chicanos, and Mexican Americans were key to their development. Although the exact number is unknown, it is believed that more than 40 historic Chicano/a/x community murals exist across the state of Colorado,

including the Denver region, Greeley, Pueblo, and San Luis.

Chicano/a/x Murals of Colorado Project (CMCP) nominated these heritage murals to the "11 Most" list, due to increasing threats including rapidly gentrifying neighborhoods in communities across Colorado and a lack of legal protections that put murals at high risk of destruction and erasure. Colorado's harsh climate can also cause deterioration and fading that threatens murals. As muralists of the Chicano movement age or pass away, there is limited time to restore original

“

The murals represent the memory of a people. They say 'I am here' and validate voices who are facing ever fewer cultural support systems."

Lucha Martínez de Luna,
Chicano/a/x Murals of
Colorado Project

murals, and some have already been lost or painted over.

See [Murals](#) on page 19

La Desaparición de los Murales Hace que Desaparezca el Patrimonio y la Identidad Cultural

COLORADO

La semana pasada, el National Trust for Historic Preservation [Fideicomiso Nacional para la Preservación Histórica] nombró a los históricos Murales Comunitarios Chicano/a/x de Colorado en todo el estado en su lista del 2022 de los 11 Lugares Históricos Más Amenazados de Estados Unidos. Los murales de la comunidad Chicano/a/x iluminan una historia a menudo no contada, pasada por alto o borrada en ciudades donde los Hispanos, Chicanos y Mexicoamericanos fueron clave para su desarrollo. Aunque



Vea [Murals/Esp](#), página 21

Mural de Alicia Cardenas en Denver en el 2700 de Larimer St. / Mural by Alicia Cardenas in Denver at 2700 Larimer St.

New Program Will Pay for Indigenous Students' Higher Education

COLORADO

By Corey Phare

Thanks to a combination of federal, state and institutional grants, Metropolitan State University of Denver will fully cover Indigenous and Native students' tuition and fees beginning in the fall semester.

Eligible students must be Colorado residents enrolled with one of the 574 federally recognized nations and must register for at least one credit toward a badge, certificate or first bachelor's degree up to 125 credits.

This effort builds upon a legislative bill passed last year requiring state higher-education institutions to offer an in-state tuition classifi-

cation to Native students who are members of Indigenous nations with historical ties to Colorado.

"I'm really excited — it's an opportunity for me, my siblings and other family members that hadn't existed before," said Kyla Aguirre, an MSU Denver Political Science junior with a minor in Sustainability Studies and a member of the Chickasaw Nation.

The grant follows the University's previous efforts to expand access for underserved populations, said Will Simpkins, Ed.D., vice president of Student Affairs, and is part of a mission-driven effort to offset "the almost 400-year history of an American higher-education system built to serve the privileged few.

It's a long-tailed legacy to unravel. As reported by the Ameri-

“

I'm really excited — it's an opportunity for me, my siblings and other family members that hadn't existed before."

Kyla Aguirre, Student,
MSU Denver

can Indian Graduate Center, 14.5% of the American Indian and Alaska Native population has completed a bachelor's degree or higher (compared with 31.3% of the overall population). Additionally, the national six-year graduation rates among those enrolled are 41% vs. 62%, respectively.

See [Indigenous](#) on page 21

Ursula von Rydingsvard

El contorno del sentimiento

30 DE ABRIL - 11 DE SEPT. DE 2022



Ursula von Rydingsvard, *Terror de hilo*, cedro y grafito, 2016, 269 x 256 x 33 centímetros. Artwork © Ursula von Rydingsvard. Foto de Jerry L. Thompson, cortesía de Ursula von Rydingsvard y la Galerie Lelong & Co., Nueva York. Ursula von Rydingsvard: el contorno del sentimiento está organizado por The Fabric Workshop and Museum, Filadelfia.

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State News / Noticias del Estado

Families Gather in Farmington to Raise Awareness About MMIWR

NEW MEXICO

By Hannah Grover

Rose Yazzie last spoke to her daughter, Ranelle Rose Bennett, in June of last year. They were talking about a birthday party for Bennett's daughter, Yazzie's granddaughter.

Yazzie recalls that her daughter hugged her for longer than usual. Looking back, she wonders if she missed the signs that something was wrong.



"This is not just a Native American problem. This is a U.S. problem."

Darlene Gomez, Attorney

She hasn't seen or heard from her daughter since, and Yazzie is frustrated with the lack of attention the police have given the case.

Bennett, Diné, is one of an unknown number of missing or murdered Indigenous people in New México whose case remains unsolved.

Yazzie attended a rally on May 5, in Farmington, New México, to raise awareness about the number of Native Americans who are missing or murdered. This rally took place on the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and on what would have been Zachariah Juwaun Shorty's 25th birthday. He was murdered in July 2020.

His mother, Evangeline "Vangie" Randall-Shorty, Diné, was one of the organizers as she seeks information about her son's death and who killed him.

"It's heartbreaking. It's a nightmare that I live every single day," she said. "I carry this heaviness. And it's like, there's a hole in my heart, but it's so damn heavy. It's heartbreaking."

She said she wants her son's murderer caught and she wants to sit in the courtroom as the killer is sentenced.

"He was a fun-loving person," she said about her son. "He wasn't done because life was just beginning. He had a beautiful daughter who he loved very much. I love him. He loved me. I have no hesitation in expressing that."

The group of primarily Native American families gathered on the side of San Juan Boulevard in Farmington outside of Berg Park and next to a billboard that, at times, displays information about two Native Americans who were killed and whose cases have not been solved. Shorty is one of those two people. Paying for that billboard took a concerted fundraising effort.

A woman with a megaphone called out "Justice for" and another person responded by shouting the name of a Native American who has gone missing or has been murdered.

Resources needed

Late last month New México Attorney General Hector Balderas, surrounded by representatives of missing and murdered Indigenous individuals, spoke to the media about his frustration over a lack of legislative funding and resources to help the families of missing and murdered Indigenous women and men.

"Many have incomplete investigative work with next to no victim advocacy; they have no answers on where the status of their case is," Balderas said.



Becky Martinez wipes away tears, May 5, 2022, while talking about her brother, Calvin Martinez, who went missing about three years ago. / Becky Martinez se seca las lágrimas, el 5 de mayo de 2022, mientras habla de su hermano, Calvin Martinez, que desapareció hace unos tres años.

Photo/Foto: Hannah Grover/NM Political Report

He also said he was implementing SB 12, which mandates the Attorney General's office to create the position of a missing Indigenous person specialist.

But he said the bill was "not good enough and not strong enough."

Balderas spoke of the jurisdictional issues that also plague missing and murdered Indigenous individuals which advocates have called a crisis.

Randall-Shorty said during Balderas' press conference that her family had put up a \$10,000 reward

to help find the person responsible for her son's death.

"There is a \$10,000 reward that comes out of our pockets. We don't have the resources and that's what we need," she said.

New México releases response plan

The epidemic of violence that Indigenous people face led to the state releasing a response plan on May 5.

See [MMIWR](#) on page 26
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NEW MEXICO

Por Hannah Grover

La última vez que Rose Yazzie habló con su hija, Ranelle Rose Bennett, fue en junio del año pasado. Hablaban de una fiesta de cumpleaños de la hija de Bennett, nieta de Yazzie.

Yazzie recuerda que su hija la abrazó durante más tiempo del habitual. Mirando hacia atrás, se pregunta si no vio las señales de que algo iba mal.

No ha vuelto a ver a su hija ni a saber de ella, y Yazzie está frustrada por la falta de atención que la policía ha prestado al caso.

Bennett, de la etnia diné, es una de las muchas personas indígenas desaparecidas o asesinadas en Nuevo México cuyo caso sigue sin resolverse.

Yazzie asistió a una concentración el 5 de mayo en Farmington, Nuevo México, para concientizar sobre el número de indígenas americanos desaparecidos o asesinados. Esta concentración tuvo lugar en el Día Nacional de Concienciación sobre las Mujeres y

Niñas Indígenas Desaparecidas y Asesinadas y en el que habría sido el 25º cumpleaños de Zachariah Juwaun Shorty. Fue asesinado en julio de 2020.



"Este no es sólo un problema de los nativos americanos. Es un problema de Estados Unidos".

Darlene Gomez, Abogada

Su madre, Evangeline "Vangie" Randall-Shorty, de la etnia diné, fue una de las organizadoras mientras buscaba información sobre la muerte de su hijo y sobre quién lo mató.

"Es desgarrador. Es una pesadilla que vivo cada día", dijo. "Llevo esta pesadez. Y es como, hay un agujero en mi corazón, pero es tan condenadamente pesado. Es desgarrador".

Ella dijo que quiere que el asesino de su hijo sea capturado y

Vea [MMIWR/Esp](#), página 23

Deputy Interior Secretary Discusses Water Infrastructure During Visit to Belén



Photo/Foto: Hannah Grover/NM Political Report

Deputy Interior Secretary Tommy Beaudreau and U.S. Rep. Melanie Stansbury stand beside the New Belén Wasteway on May 4, 2022 in Belén, New México.

NEW MEXICO

By Hannah Grover

The New Belén Wasteway is an example of how infrastructure funding can accomplish the shared goals of resiliency and protecting water for both people and the ecosystem, Deputy Secretary of the Interior Tommy Beaudreau said during a tour of the facility this week in Belen.

“

New México is currently ground zero for wildfires, we have the largest wildfires in the nation raging across the state right now. And it is really a symptom of climate change.”

U.S. Rep. Melanie Stansbury

The New Belén Wasteway is located at the intersection of several canals and allows water managers to better regulate the flow of water for irrigation as well as returning water to the Rio Grande to meet the needs of the endangered silvery minnow.

Beaudreau and U.S. Rep. Melanie Stansbury, a Democrat representing New México's 1st Congressional District, visited the site on May 4 and spoke about funding for water projects that is now available through the infrastructure package President Joe Biden signed in November.

They met with officials from various groups including the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District.

MRGDC Chief Engineer and CEO Jason Casuga told them that the district strives toward what he

describes as a “triangle of equal sides.” Those equal sides are the commitments to the irrigators, commitments to the ecosystem and commitments to other regions as laid out in the Rio Grande Compact. He acknowledged that currently the sides are not equal. For example, New México currently owes Texas water.

The New Belén Wasteway helps in an effort to rebalance the three sides. It replaces old infrastructure with a new facility that returns water to the river, benefits irrigators and helps meet the commitments made to protect the silvery minnow.

Stansbury, a self-described water nerd, said the conversations they had on May 4 are different from what would have been discussed ten years ago because of a paradigm shift in water management.

“There’s a generational shift in water management happening that’s been going on for several decades, that recognizes rivers as whole systems,” she said.

She said that shift includes looking at how infrastructure is managed at scale to benefit communities, towns and tribes as well as to keep rivers healthy and meet the needs of wildlife and fish, as well as ensuring the rivers are there for generations to come.

Stansbury said that translates into policy work and on-the-ground work in the way that agencies like the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation “deploy money, how they operate these systems at scale, and how they partner on the ground with local partners, because our communities really have the best solutions. And for far too long, we weren’t empowering our communities to actually deploy those solutions on the ground.”

The New Belén Wasteway is an example of the community coming up with a solution to meet the

needs. The MRGDC entered into a partnership with the Bureau of Reclamation and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, a non-profit group, in 2018 in an effort to improve the response to drought.

This partnership led to the New Belén Wasteway, which is located in a strategic location that allows return flows to the Rio Grande in the Isleta Reach. Naturally-occurring flows in the Isleta Reach are not enough to prevent the river from going dry, which impacts the fish.

Casuga told the congresswoman and deputy interior secretary that the MRGDC designed the plans for the wasteway in house before sending it out to bid. The bid was awarded to Wilson & Co., Inc., a locally-owned company.

Beaudreau said that it is important for the solutions to come from the communities rather than from federal organizations. He said going to see the MRGDC didn’t expect or wait for a plan from the Department of Interior. Instead, they requested funds to help support this work. He said this reinforces “that these solutions for these communities re-

ally do come from the ground up rather than from Washington, D.C. and that’s how to make it work the best.”

Casuga said as the climate changes, leading to less water in the upper basins, infrastructure changes are needed to meet those challenges.

But, he said later in the tour, that addressing the new challenges doesn’t always mean building new infrastructure. He said in some instances, uses of existing infrastructure can be reimaged.

Investments in water infrastructure are crucial amid a changing climate, Stansbury said.

“New México is currently ground zero for wildfires, we have the largest wildfires in the nation raging across the state right now,” Stansbury said. “And it is really a symptom of climate change. We are experiencing the worst drought in a millennium, which is really the signature of climate change, which is impacting the ability of our ecosystems to respond to both human and natural things that are happening with drying and fire. And these fires, of course, are being exacerbated by that extreme drought. And that

is why it’s so crucial that we use the infrastructure dollars that are coming through the bipartisan infrastructure law, and all of the various funding that has been allocated by Congress and by President Biden to help build structures like this structure we’re seeing here today.”

She said the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has been allocated \$8.3 billion “to address the water crisis across the West.”

“This is the largest single influx of funding for drought resilience that our nation has seen,” Stansbury said.

At the same time, she said the funding that has been allocated only begins to scratch the surface. Stansbury said a massive investment in infrastructure, coupled with a coordinated approach, is needed.

Beaudreau said investments are being made “through tried and true programs that will help safeguard local water supplies, support efficiency, and rebuild infrastructure and support wildlife conservation just as this project here does.”

See Water on page 19



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y otros antiinmigrantes esbozan, disparó en un Walmart de El Paso, Texas, matando a 22 personas e hiriendo a decenas más. Las víctimas eran mayormente hispanas. El atacante, un hombre blanco, fue acusado, entre otras cosas, de cometer delitos de odio.

Es decir, es un hecho que la retórica incendiaria genera violencia, pero eso poco importa a figuras republicanas como Abbott. Solamente tienen la mira puesta en explotar el tema migratorio; no en buscar soluciones a lo que no funciona en dicho sistema migratorio.

Pero si quieren hablar de verdaderas invasiones, mencionemos una muy reciente: la sangrienta toma del Capitolio federal el 6 de enero de 2021 por fanáticos de Donald Trump, que tuvo la intención de evitar que se certificara el triunfo de Joe Biden como presidente de Estados Unidos. Esa sí constituyó una invasión violenta que resultó en muertos y heridos. Y fue provocada por la retórica incendiaria del propio Trump y sus lugartenientes que, al sol de hoy, siguen minimizando lo que el mundo entero presenció: una turba rac-

ista enardecida que buscaba dar un golpe de estado, convencida de que a Trump le habían "robado" la elección, algo que el expresidente sigue afirmando.

¿Más invasiones?: Granada, Panamá, Vietnam, Irak, Afganistán, Centroamérica, Haití, México y un larguísimo etcétera. ¿Suena familiar?

Por ello, es inaudito que los mismos republicanos que hablan de "invasión" de indocumentados son los que han obstruido todos los intentos de regularizar a millones de seres humanos que ya están

entre nosotros, porque de esa forma siguen explotando su mano de obra en áreas esenciales de nuestra economía sin brindarles protecciones laborales. El capitalismo en su máxima expresión, oferta y demanda que no los incomoda hasta que llega la temporada electoral. Entonces son más papistas que el Papa, como "defensores" de la ley y el orden.

Hablando de ley y orden, los republicanos también se quejan del narcotráfico en la frontera y al interior del país, y culpan solamente a México. Pero todos sabemos que ese narcotráfico que en México ha cobrado cientos de miles de vidas es impulsado por el consumo de drogas en Estados Unidos.

Ante esa realidad que les revienta en la cara todo el tiempo, solo esgrimen excusas revictimizando a la sociedad que consume estupefacientes, pues de ningún modo se les ocurriría terminar con un negocio multimillonario internacional, cuyas ganancias también extienden sus tentáculos en territorio estadounidense, pues como dice el dicho "hacen falta dos para bailar tango".

En resumen, la palabra "invasión" es utilizada por los antiin-

migrantes con mucha facilidad. Los inmigrantes no abandonan sus países por amor al arte. Hacen la travesía al Norte buscando una mejor vida. Su arma es su trabajo que es explotado con sueldos de hambre y sin beneficios ni protecciones. Y la reforma migratoria que regularizaría a los que ya viven entre nosotros y que establecería mecanismos para que quienes quieran venir a trabajar lo hagan sin necesidad de cruzar sin documentos es irónicamente bloqueada por los mismos republicanos que acusan a los migrantes de "invadirnos".

Son esos republicanos los que realmente han "invadido" a su partido convirtiéndolo en una colectividad dominada por xenófobos y racistas enfrascados en una guerra contra la diversidad, que ha sido la carta de presentación de este experimento social que llamamos Estados Unidos.

Maribel Hastings es Asesora Ejecutiva de América's Voice.

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

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Sierra/Esp

Ya es hora de que el Presidente Biden y los líderes demócratas rechacen este sinsentido y cumplan con sus promesas de abordar la crisis climática, y las crisis de cuidado de la salud, los empleos y la justicia social. Las comunidades y el planeta requieren urgentemente inversiones en la transición hacia la energía limpia, la reducción de la contaminación y de costos para las familias trabajadoras, la creación de buenos empleos y la promoción de justicia ambiental.

En días recientes, decenas de miles de manifestantes por todo el país dijeron "ya basta!" al Presidente Biden, el Senador Mayoritario Chuck Schumer y los congresistas demócratas. Todos han tenido suficiente tiempo para confeccionar un audaz paquete de inversiones climáticas. Ahora, deben actuar para aprobar con premura un presupuesto de reconciliación que invierta en la acción climática al tiempo que se aseguren de la equidad económica y la justicia ambiental.

El apoyo a esta audacia climática es abrumador. Según una reciente [encuesta](#) de Pew Research Center, el 81% de los votantes latinos apoya abordar la crisis climática, incluyendo casi el 40% que declara que hacerlo es una gran prioridad. Para el 71%, este tema no es algo distante, sino una crisis

que les afecta directamente en sus vidas.

En general, los estadounidenses también [defienden](#) abrumadamente la acción climática. Una encuesta nacional de Gallup revela el apoyo a los créditos fiscales para instalar energía limpia en sus hogares (89%), establecer estándares más exigentes de eficacia de vehículos (71%) y créditos fiscales para la compra de vehículos eléctricos (61%).

Los votantes no solo ven la crisis climática desplegarse enfrente de ellos. También ven que las soluciones son obvias. El 30 de mayo, por primera vez, la energía renovable [abasteció](#) por completo las necesidades de California, la quinta economía del mundo.

Una vez más se ha demostrado que la humanidad tiene los recursos, la tecnología y la voluntad popular para solucionar la crisis climática. Pero nos sigue faltando la voluntad política en el Congreso de Washington.

Señoras y señores congresistas, escuchen: Nunca antes tantos exigieron algo con tanta urgencia.

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

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abortion. Imagine living in a country where traveling for a medical procedure is deemed a criminal offense. Because that's where we could be headed.

For years, we've seen conservatives chip away at abortion rights. We were called crazy for our panic when Ruth Bader Ginsburg died. We were called crazy when we decried Democrats refusal to make abortion a litmus test.

Let me assure you, I am well aware of the precious gift that motherhood is.

When I was younger, my dad would tell me that my views on abortion would change when I became a parent. But if anything, becoming a mother solidified my belief in the necessity of choice.

My daughter was not planned. I was not in a relationship with her father when she was conceived. I remember telling him I was pregnant and asking him what we should do — unable to bear the weight of this decision myself.

And as I waited for his response, I realized I was hoping for a specific answer. That was when I knew I was keeping her. Before he responded, I had made my decision. I decided that I loved this child inside me and I was going to keep her and raise her and be her mother. She may not have been planned, but she was still a choice that I got to make out of love.

It was also a choice that I was truly blessed to be able to make because I had access to paid maternity leave and a decent income, and had access to an affordable childcare option. In the United

States, maternity leave isn't guaranteed. Most single mothers live below the poverty level, and the cost of childcare is akin to extortion.

To say nothing of the constant chipping away of welfare programs that allow low-income households to provide for children, and the nationwide formula shortage. For a country so eager to force women into motherhood, it sure seems eager to ensure that they struggle every step of the way.

My goodness, if you look on social media you'd be convinced that most mothers in this country can't do anything right, anyway.

According to Matt Gaetz, we are over-educated and lonely cat women who eat microwave dinners. According to elected officials in Texas, parents who provide their transgender child with gender-affirming care are abusive. I seem to recall, after enrolling my daughter in a vaccine trial last year, quite a few people telling me I should be shot or have my child taken away from me. Why would you force me to bear a child if you can't even trust me to make medical decisions on my living child's behalf?

As a well-connected white woman of middle class means, I am well aware that when Roe is overturned my access to abortion won't be nearly as restricted as my Black and Brown sisters, trans women and those in lower income households. They are the ones whose miscarriages are about to be investigated and prosecuted. They are the ones whose desperate self-induced abortions

will land them in jail or the morgue. They are the ones who are going to find it harder to escape abusive relationships. They are the families who are going to be pushed deeper into poverty.

Women like me, along with the daughters and mistresses of Missouri politicians, will continue to have access to abortions through our networks. The only difference being that now we, along with anybody who assists us, will risk prosecution for murder.

The bottom line is, this was my body before it was ever home to my child. I have a right to stand

my ground within it. I have a right to dictate who lives in my body and who is sustained by my body. I have a right to revoke that welcome at any point in time because this body remains mine.

I have a right to say that a baby cannot use or access my body the same way I have the right to say that a man cannot use or access my body. I'm not ready to give up that right.

I'm done marching. I will not don a red robe in protest. I'm ready to demand that candidates for office be vocally and unapologetically pro-choice before I give

them a dime or a vote. I'm ready to fight.

You will have to pry my autonomy from my cold dead hands. Period. Exclamation point. Middle finger.

Taylor Hirth is a freelance writer, public speaker, and dedicated advocate for survivors of sexual violence. This article is republished from Missouri Independent under a Creative Commons license.

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News that the symptoms from the omicron subvariants "have been pretty consistent. There's less incidence of people losing their sense of taste and smell. In a lot of ways, it's a bad cold, a lot of respiratory symptoms, stuffy nose, coughing, body aches, and fatigue."

Q: If you get infected by one subvariant, will you be protected against others?

So far, in all variants to date, the ability of the virus to evade existing immune protection "is only partial," much like it is for the seasonal flu," said Colin Russell, a professor of applied evolutionary biology at the University of Amsterdam's medical center.

While some people who had BA.1 have also gotten BA.2, the initial research suggests that infection with BA.1 "provides strong protection against reinfection with BA.2," the World Health Organization has said.

"This may explain why our BA.2 surge in the U.S. was not that large as the very large BA.1 surge over the winter," Gandhi said.

The level of protection can vary depending on how sick you were, with mild cases boosting immunity for perhaps a month or two and recovery from a severe illness granting up to a year.

Q: How do existing covid-19 vaccines stack up against these subvariants?

Although the current vaccines and boosters aren't quite as successful in protecting against omicron as they are against earlier variants, they will generally protect people from severe disease if they are infected by one of the new subvariants.

"We're steady as she goes with the vaccines we're using," said Dr. William Schaffner, a professor of preventive medicine and health policy at Vanderbilt University. "I have not seen a single study from the field that shows a substantial distinction between the vaccine responses to omicron subvariants."

The vaccines generate cells known as "memory B cells" and have been shown to recognize different variants as they emerge, Gandhi said. The vaccines also trigger the production of T cells, which protect against severe disease, she said.

"While B cells serve as memory banks to produce antibodies when needed, T cells amplify the body's response to a virus and help recruit cells to attack the pathogen directly," Gandhi said.

The end result is that a breakthrough infection for a vaccinat-

ed individual "should remain mild with the subvariants," she said.

The wide spread in the U.S. of a relatively mild strain of the virus likely paid dividends by providing many Americans with some immunity, whether or not they had been vaccinated. Research shows that people who had been vaccinated and then were infected had even greater protection than people who had been vaccinated and not gotten covid.

"This family of omicron could indeed offer a bright side" in the course of the pandemic, Schaffner said.

Looking ahead, vaccine manufacturers are beginning to design vaccines that specifically target omicron, and some would combine a coronavirus vaccine with a seasonal influenza vaccine in one shot. But these vaccines are in their early stages, and Schaffner said he suspects they won't be ready and approved by this fall's flu vaccination season.

Whether such new vaccines represent the next step in the fight against covid will be up to the FDA and the CDC.

Q: Are any entirely new variants on the horizon?

Experts agreed that the only newcomers in recent weeks have been

incremental subvariants — certainly nothing that seems as game changing as delta or omicron were when they first appeared.

"There's nothing we know of that's lurking yet, and the surveillance is pretty darn aggressive," Schaffner said.

There are estimates that more than 60% of the world's population has been exposed to omicron and over 65% of the world's population has received at least one dose of the vaccine, Gandhi said. "so I am keeping my fingers crossed the development of new variants will slow with this degree of population immunity."

Gandhi acknowledged some surprise at how quiet the horizon is right now, but she sees it as a positive development.

"We have now gone five months since hearing about a new variant, which I hope is reflective of increasing immunity in the world's population," she said.

Louis Jacobson, PolitiFact 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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and it declares that the ruling does not undermine other fundamental rights cases, including both Lawrence (the right to form intimate relationships) and Obergefell (the freedom to marry for same-sex couples). But it's hard to take much comfort in that statement.

If and when the legal challenges to Obergefell and Lawrence come, we will cite those lines in Dobbs and our side will win in the lower federal courts. But when and if the issues get to this Supreme Court, I fear that the calming statements in the Dobbs draft will make little difference.

If the Supreme Court approaches the Obergefell question or the Lawrence question the same way it approaches the abortion question in the Dobbs draft, both of those rights are in danger. In the Dobbs draft, SCOTUS focused on whether there was a history of protecting the right to abortion in America, and refused to frame the right more broadly, as a right of personal autonomy and of control over one's own body. That narrow framing led to the overruling of Roe.

If the court asks the same crabbed question in the context of marriage equality or the right to form intimate relationships — is there a long history and tradition of protecting specifically the right of same-sex couples to marry or of the right of same-sex couples to be intimate — the extreme conservative majority on this court could easily answer that question "no." Never mind that the Supreme Court itself said in Lawrence and in Obergefell that that framing of the right was too narrow; choosing to narrow the scope of a long-established right is precisely what the Dobbs draft does. It's why I'm very concerned about what this draft opinion could mean for the freedom to marry and the right to form intimate relationships.

So let's put the Dobbs draft in perspective — it represents a new and profoundly disturbing front in the current attack on LGBTQ people in America, but it's just one aspect of a war that is already well underway. That's not an effort to downplay the significance of this draft opinion for LGBTQ people, it just means we all need to wake up to the fact that we are already deep in the fight for our lives.

James D. Esseks is Director of the American Civil Liberties Union. Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer & HIV Project.

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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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Murals



Pueblo's Plaza Verde Park, a 1978 mural by Leo Lucero. / Parque de la Plaza Verde de Pueblo, un mural de 1978 de Leo Lucero.

Photo/Foto: Courtesy CMPC



"Huitzilopochtli," by David Ocelotl Garcia, on 8th Avenue between Federal and Decatur in Denver. / "Huitzilopochtli", de David Ocelotl Garcia, en la 8^a Avenida entre Federal y Decatur en Denver.

Photo/Foto: Courtesy CMPC

"The Chicano/a/x community believes that erasure of these murals is more than a loss of artwork, it is an erasure of cultural identity and a signal that Chicano/a/x heritage 'does not matter.' In many instances, the murals were created by the community, for the community—literally illustrating the significance of these neighborhoods," says Lucha Martinez de Luna, the Director of CMCP. She continues, "The murals represent the memory of a people. They say 'I am here' and validate voices who are facing ever fewer cultural support systems."

As a part of its efforts to preserve these murals, CMCP sought support from local partners at History Colorado's State Historic Preservation Office, non-profit Historic Denver, and the City and County of Denver's Landmark Preservation staff. To make its case to be on the 11 Most list, CMCP highlighted a representative sample of five Chicano/a/x community murals they are seeking to protect and preserve, in addition to many others.

"These murals are enduring artistic expressions of cultural identity and are powerful representations of history, creativity, and pride," says National Trust Chief Preservation Officer Katherine Malone-France. "These murals should be recognized as significant contributions to our American cultural landscape that help ensure that our country's full story is told."

The Chicano/a/x Community Murals of Colorado represent the Hispano history and culture of the Chicano/a/x people of Colorado. They were inspired by the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s and 70s, which used art as a means to educate young people and citizens-at-large about the significant contributions of Hispanics, Chicanos, Mexican Americans, and Latinos to American society. The Chicano Movement seeks to address civil rights, land rights, labor rights, educational equity and equal representation, and artist-activists have helped to create murals in Latinx neighborhoods to inspire pride and strengthen community.

The murals are not just works of art, they are designed to publicly share important stories about Chicano/a/x, Mexican American, Latinx and Colorado history and are an integral part of the Chicano/a/x cultural identity. The murals provide a sense of place and legitimize the Chicano/a/x presence in the community, linking past, present, and future.

"These murals help tell the stories of our Latino, Chicano, and Mexican-American history, and have an important place in our communities. The City and County of Denver is a proud partner in helping CMCP preserve this legacy, which includes helping develop preservation tools for the murals, establishing cultural districts like in the La Alma Lincoln

Park neighborhood, and working with our communities to protect meaningful places where murals like these exist," said Laura E. Aldrete, executive director of Denver Community Planning and Development's Landmark Preservation team.

It is hoped the 11 Most Endangered Historic Places nomination will create awareness about why these legacy murals are significant and in turn propel efforts to survey, designate, protect, and preserve these important historical visual texts. While numerous murals have already been lost, new technology promises to help restore these cherished works of art that have been painted over.

These five murals submitted by CMCP as a representative sample of Chicano/a/x community murals are:

- In San Luis, "San Luis-Sierras y Colores," by Carlos Sandoval, painted in 1986, commemorates the oldest town in Colorado, San Luis de la Culebra, founded in the 1840s by Hispano settlers when the area was still part of Mexico.

- In Pueblo's Plaza Verde Park, a 1978 mural by Leo Lucero, symbolizes the spirit of the Indigenous people and the land before colonialism.

- In Denver, on 8th Avenue between Federal and Decatur, 2008's "Huitzilopochtli," by David Ocelotl Garcia uses symbolism to represent spiritual philosophies specific to the healing of the mind, body and soul.

- In Denver at 2700 Larimer St., a 2020 mural by Alicia Cardenas symbolizes taking down statues and representations of the history "we thought we knew," to empower those harmed by it.

- Finally, in Denver at 1325 W. 11th Ave (La Alma Recreation Center), Emanuel Martinez's 1978 "La Alma," commemorates the birthplace of the Chicano Mural Movement in Colorado that began in the La Alma Lincoln Park neighborhood. Specifically, the mural celebrates the legacy of Indigenous and Mestizo descendants over the past and present, and seeks to inspire youth to create a promising future.

This is the first time the National Trust has included murals on the 11 Most Endangered list, and it reflects the growing commitment of the Preservation Movement to include places that reflect the diversity of the nation. Previous Colorado designees to the 11 Most Endangered Historic Places list include Mesa Verde National Park,

Denver's Larimer Square, the Valley Floor of Telluride and the towns of Central City and Black Hawk. Concludes Malone-France, "By focusing greater awareness on these community landmarks, we can encourage their protection and preservation for generations to learn from and celebrate."

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Water

He gave examples of projects like the Eastern New México Rural Water System, which has been allocated \$160 million. This project involves building a pipeline to transport water from Ute Reservoir to communities like Clovis.

"Our shared priority is to build resilient communities and protect our water supplies for people and for the natural environment," he said.

Hannah Grover is a reporter with New Mexico Political Report. This story was originally published by [New Mexico Political Report](#).

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Huitzilopochtli's circle is currently made up of dancers from México and Colorado, along with their families, and those that have been guided to this path. Every year Grupo Huitzilopochtli donates more than 600 volunteer hours to neighborhoods, churches, food banks, and nonprofits. Chávez helped communities from Topeka Kansas to Breckenridge Colorado to MSU Denver and state-wide kick start their own *Día de Los Muertos* celebrations many years before the holiday was popular. He believed this holiday was a means to connect all people to their common

humanity. Chávez also was a yearly participant for 25 years at the free Aurora Fox Theater Cultural Concerts series, where he made his last performance on May 4th for the Colorado Folk Arts Council.

Chávez guided Grupo Huitzilopochtli on a journey to enrich the lives of thousands of Mexican/Chicano youth and their families, as they struggled to connect to their cultural roots. Chávez always maintained an open-door policy, welcoming all who wished to join his troupe, regardless of their ancestry. He recognized the Indigenous heritage of all people and

he embraced diversity while striving to instill community stewardship and tolerance.

In 2013, Chávez was the César Chávez Peace and Justice Committee of Denver, *Male Leadership* recipient. "To Raul as a society, we are one. Even though we are not all blood-related, we are a family. Even when you're not a part of the group, just being near him you can feel the energy given off, that sends a strong bond through anyone who meets Raul. He fights for the peace and dignity of his community and fights to better the lives of the working people. He welcomes all

to his group," stated a young Metropolitan State University of Denver student Lisa Rosales in 2012 when writing his nomination letter.

In 2016, the Denver's Mayors Awards for Excellence in the Arts honored Chávez's group Huitzilopochtli with the 2016 Arts & Culture Impact Award. He was instrumental in bridging the gap between Mexican youth and Chicano/Colorado youth, demonstrating for the past 40 years how the arts can heal through cultural inclusivity and respect for one another.

Recently Chávez, after years of searching for a permanent home to practice, relocated his dance troupe to Lakewood United Methodist Church in the 40 West Arts Dist. He followed long-time partners Chicano Humanities and Arts Council, Fiesta Colorado, and the Pirate Art Gallery here to help establish a Latinx presence in the neighborhood.

He leaves behind a legacy of compassion, inclusivity, and kindness. His services will take place on Thurs. May 19th and are open to the public.

Raul Chavez Celebration of Life will be held on May 19, 2022, the services are as follows:

Latina Funeral, 3020 Federal Blvd., 9am- 2pm; Viewing 9 am-11 am; Funeral Service Mass at 11:30 am; Danzantes Tribute 12:30 pm -2 pm.

Graveside Service will be held at Crown Hill Cemetery, 2:30 pm, 7777 W. 29th Ave., Wheat Ridge, CO 80215.

A Go Fund Me has been established to help with funeral cost: Raul Chavez Memorial Fund <https://gofund.me/908fa5a0>.

For more information contact jtoh2016@gmail.com

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DPS/Esp

distrito es de unos 1.200 millones de dólares.

Marrero dijo a la junta escolar que planea invertir esos 9 millones de dólares en:

Abrir seis centros comunitarios este otoño en asociación con la ciudad de Denver y organizaciones comunitarias, incluyendo la Autoridad de Vivienda de Denver, el Comité Organizador de Montbel- lio, Westwood Unidos, y otros. Los centros comunitarios utilizarían un enfoque de dos generaciones, prestando servicios a los jóvenes estudiantes y a sus familias.

Estos servicios podrían incluir asistencia para cubrir necesidades básicas como la alimentación, la ropa y la vivienda; ayuda para el desarrollo de la mano de obra, como la elaboración de currículos y la preparación de entrevistas; clases de GED, ciudadanía e inglés; y servicios de salud mental para adultos, entre otras cosas.

Marrero dijo que aún no se ha decidido la ubicación de los centros comunitarios, pero espera que haya uno en cada región de la ciudad. Las ubicaciones serán probablemente temporales, ya que el distrito pilotará los centros el próximo año escolar, dijo.

Aumentar los salarios de los trabajadores por hora, incluidos los paraprofesionales, los trabajadores del servicio de alimentos, los conserjes, los técnicos de salud que ayudan en las oficinas de las enfermeras escolares, y otros. Mar- rero dijo que alrededor de 1.200 empleados del distrito ganan actualmente el salario mínimo de la ciudad de \$ 15.87, y esta inversión

aumentaría eso, aunque no dijo por cuánto. El objetivo, dijo, es aumentar los salarios con el tiempo a 20 dólares por hora, una prioridad del vicepresidente de la junta Tay Anderson.

Compensar el aumento de los costes sanitarios de todos los empleados del distrito. Las primas de los planes de salud más grandes del distrito aumentaron un 10% este año, dijo Marrero. El distrito tiene la intención de utilizar algunos de los ahorros de la oficina central para pagar eso por lo que los empleados no asumir el costo total.

Apoyar a las escuelas con disminución de la matrícula complementando sus presupuestos. Las escuelas de Denver se financian por estudiante, y menos estudiantes significan menos dinero para contratar a profesores y otro personal. Mientras el distrito debate cómo cerrar o consolidar las escuelas pequeñas, Marrero dijo que este dinero ayudaría a las escuelas a capear los descensos de financiación.

La presentación de Marrero no especificó cómo se dividirán los 9 millones de dólares entre las cuatro iniciativas. La junta escolar está programada para votar el presupuesto del próximo año a principios de junio.

*Melanie Asmar es reportera senior de Chalkbeat Colorado.
Esta historia fue publicada originalmente por Chalkbeat.*

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

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Foto/Foto Courtesy CMCP

Emanuel Martinez "La Alma" de 1978, en Denver, en el 1325 W. 11th Ave (Centro Recreativo La Alma). / Emanuel Martinez's 1978 "La Alma," in Denver at 1325 W. 11th Ave (La Alma Recreation Center).

se desconoce el número exacto, se cree que existen más de 40 murales históricos de la comunidad Chicana/a/x en todo el estado de Colorado, incluyendo las regiones de Denver, Greeley, Pueblo y San Luis.

Chicano/a/x Murals of Colorado Project (CMCP) [Proyecto de los Murales Chicano/a/x de Colorado] nominó estos murales patrimoniales a la lista de los "11 Más", debido a las crecientes amenazas que incluyen vecindarios que se están gentrificando rápidamente en comunidades de todo Colorado y la falta de protecciones legales que ponen a los murales en alto riesgo de destrucción y borradura. El clima duro de Colorado también puede provocar el deterioro y la decoloración que amenazan los murales. A medida que los muralistas del movimiento Chicano envejecen o fallecen, el tiempo para restaurar los murales originales es limitado y algunos ya se han perdido o se han pintado por encima.

"La comunidad Chicana/a/x cree que el borrado de estos murales es más que una pérdida de obras de arte, es un borrar de la identidad cultural y una señal de que la herencia Chicana/a/x 'no importa'. En muchos casos, los murales fueron creados por la comunidad, para la comunidad, ilustrando literalmente la importancia de estos vecindarios", dice Lucha Martínez de Luna, directora de CMCP. Continúa: "Los murales representan la memoria de un pueblo. Dicen 'aquí estoy' y validan voces que enfrentan cada vez menos sistemas de apoyo cultural."

Como parte de sus esfuerzos para preservar estos murales, CMCP buscó el apoyo de socios locales en la Oficina Estatal de Preservación Histórica de History Colorado, la organización sin fines de lucro Historic Denver y el personal de Landmark Preservation [Preservación de Sitios de Interés] de la Ciudad y el Condado de Denver. Para hacer su caso para estar en la lista de los 11 Más, CMCP destacó una muestra representativa de cinco murales comu-

nitarios Chicanos/a/x que buscan proteger y preservar, además de muchos otros.

"Estos murales son expresiones artísticas perdurables de la identidad cultural y son representaciones poderosas de la historia, la creatividad y el orgullo", dice Katherine Malone-France, directora de conservación del National Trust. "Estos murales deben ser reconocidos como contribuciones significativas a nuestro panorama cultural estadounidense que ayudan a garantizar que se cuente la historia completa de nuestro país".

Los Murales de la Comunidad Chicano/a/x de Colorado representan la historia y cultura Hispana del pueblo Chicano/a/x de Colorado. Se inspiraron en el Movimiento de Derechos Civiles de las décadas de 1960 y 1970, que utilizó el arte como un medio para educar a los jóvenes y ciudadanos en general sobre las importantes contribuciones de los Hispanos, Chicanos, Mexicoamericanos y Latinos a la sociedad estadounidense. El Movimiento Chicano busca abordar los derechos civiles, los derechos a la tierra, los derechos laborales, la equidad educativa y la representación igualitaria, y los artistas-activistas han ayudado a crear murales en los vecindarios Latinos para inspirar orgullo y fortalecer la comunidad.

Los murales no son sólo obras de arte, están diseñados para compartir públicamente historias importantes sobre la historia Chicana/a/x, Mexicoamericana, Latinx y de Colorado y son una parte integral de la identidad cultural Chicana/a/x. Los murales brindan un sentido de lugar y legitiman la presencia Chicano/a/x en la comunidad, vinculando pasado, presente y futuro.

"Estos murales ayudan a contar las historias de nuestra historia Latina, Chicana y Mexicoamericana, y tienen un lugar importante en nuestras comunidades. La ciudad y el condado de Denver se enorgullecen de ayudar a CMCP a preservar este legado, lo que incluye ayu-

dar a desarrollar herramientas de preservación para los murales, establecer distritos culturales como en el vecindario de La Alma Lincoln Park y trabajar con nuestras comunidades para proteger lugares significativos donde los murales como estos existen", dijo Laura E. Aldrete, directora ejecutiva del equipo de Preservación de Sitios de Interés del departamento de Planificación y Desarrollo Comunitario de Denver.

Se espera que la nominación en los 11 Lugares Históricos más Amenazados cree conciencia sobre por qué estos murales con legado son significativos y, a su vez, impulse los esfuerzos para inspeccionar, designar, proteger y preservar estos importantes textos históricos visuales. Si bien ya se han perdido numerosos murales, la nueva tecnología promete ayudar a restaurar estas preciadas obras de arte que han sido pintadas por encima.

Estos cinco murales presentados por CMCP como una muestra representativa de los murales comunitarios Chicano/a/x son:

- En San Luis, "San Luis-Sierras y Colores", de Carlos Sandoval, pintado en 1986, conmemora el pueblo más antiguo de Colorado, San Luis de la Culebra, fundado en la década de 1840 por colonos Hispanos cuando el área aún era parte de México.

- En el Parque Plaza Verde de Pueblo, un mural de 1978 de Leo Lucero, simboliza el espíritu de los indígenas y la tierra antes del colonialismo.

- En Denver, en 8th Avenue entre Federal y Decatur, "Huitzilopochtli" de 2008, de David Ocelotl Garcia, usa simbolismo para representar filosofías espirituales específicas para la curación de la mente, el cuerpo y el alma.

- En Denver, en 2700 Larimer St., un mural del 2020 de Alicia Cárdenas simboliza la eliminación de estatutos y representaciones de la historia que "pensábamos que sabíamos", para empoderar a los perjudicados por ella.

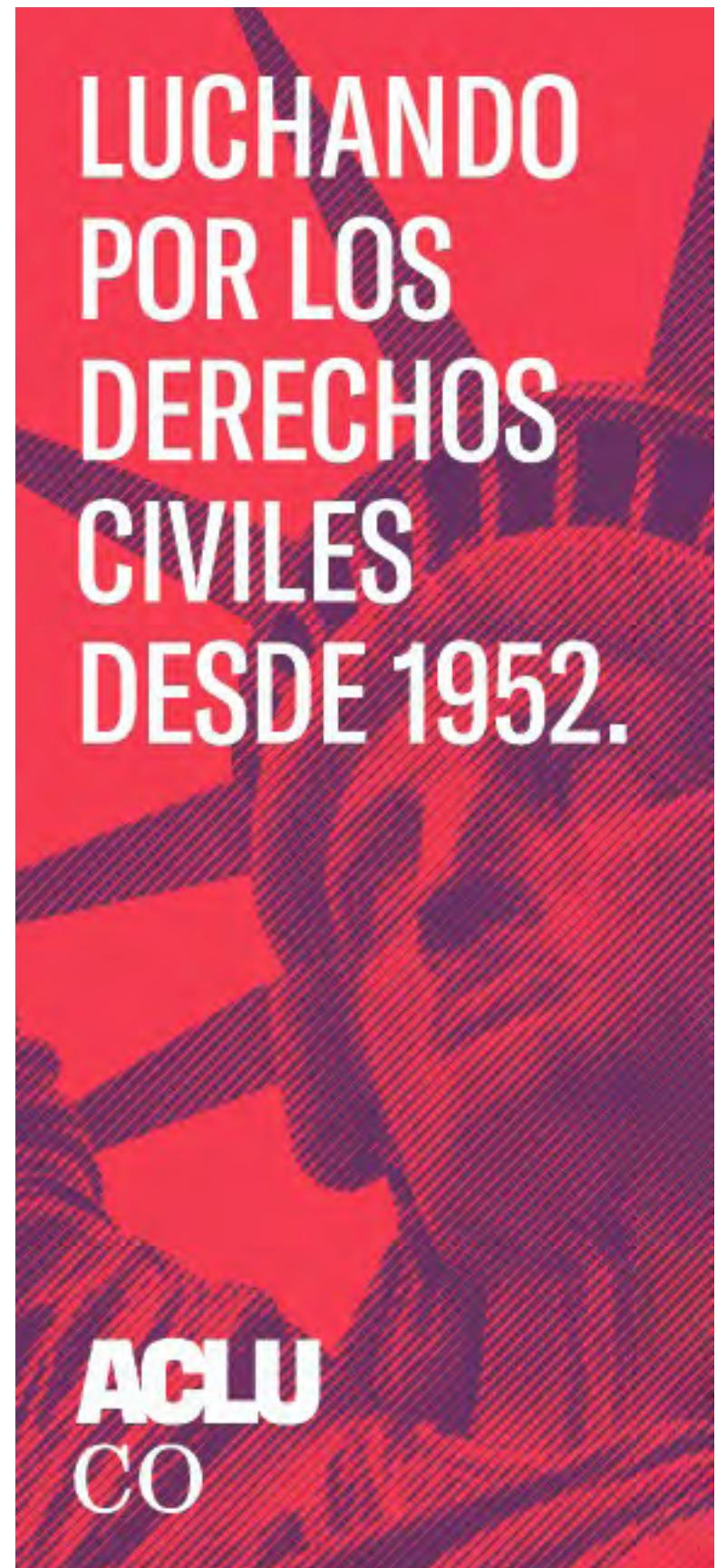
- Finalmente, en Denver en 1325 W. 11th Ave (La Alma Recreation Center), "La Alma" de 1978 de Emanuel Martinez conmemora el lugar de nacimiento del Movimiento Mural Chicano en Colorado que comenzó en el vecindario de La Alma Lincoln Park. Específicamente, el mural celebra el legado de los descendientes de indígenas y mestizos sobre el pasado y el presente, y busca inspirar a la juventud para crear un futuro prometedor.

Esta es la primera vez que el National Trust incluye murales en la lista de los 11 más Amenazados y refleja el compromiso creciente del Movimiento de Conservación de incluir lugares que reflejen la diver-

sidad de la nación. Los anteriores designados de Colorado para la lista de los 11 Lugares Históricos Más Amenazados incluyen el Parque Nacional Mesa Verde, la Plaza Larimer de Denver, el Valley Floor de Telluride y las ciudades de Central City y Black Hawk. Malone-France concluye: "Al enfocar una mayor conciencia sobre estos sitios de interés de la comunidad, podemos fomentar su protección y preservación para que las generaciones aprendan y celebren".

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

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"Like our Roadrunner Promise program, Displaced Aurarians scholarship (now poised for funding in perpetuity with help from HB22-1393) and longstanding advocacy for Dreamer students, this is a way of providing critical financial opportunities to students we know benefit from the MSU Denver experience," Simpkins said.

"It's an important first step," he said, "and one we're committed to for our individuals, families and communities."

To move this commitment forward, the University is working with Indigenous leaders, including a recent Auraria Campus meeting with elders from the Cheyenne and Arapaho nations, along with other

internal and external communities, Simpkins added.

Similar programs exist at institutions such as Fort Lewis College and the University of Minnesota-Morris but are rare in their widespread scope and support, said David Heska Wanblei Weiden, Ph.D., a professor of Political Science at MSU Denver.

"This is long overdue — it's time for the State of Colorado and MSU Denver to honor the obligations to Indigenous people whose land we are living on," he said.

Weiden, a member of the Sicangu Lakota Nation who leads the University's Native American Studies program, underscored the importance of education to improve

socioeconomic mobility, along with "opening up worlds of literature, music, science and more."

And as 72% of Indigenous people live in urban or suburban areas, MSU Denver has a unique opportunity and responsibility to further support this student population.

"Many students coming to us from their reservations often feel ostracized, so it's important to find that space of belonging," Weiden said. "My hope is to continue building on the work we're doing to attract many more students to have that critical mass, along with more professors and expanded clubs and scholarships."

Aguirre emphasized the importance of community-building, noting



Photo: Abraham Gheegzahier

Thanks to a combination of federal, state and institutional grants, Metropolitan State University of Denver will fully cover tuition and fees for Indigenous students like Deserea Richards (pictured) beginning in the fall semester.

ing that she didn't receive support after graduating from high school in Oklahoma and attending one of the state's flagship institutions before leaving for medical reasons.

She was drawn to MSU Denver in 2018 and is now vice president of MSU Denver's Native and Indigenous Student Alliance, which is involved in organizing the Auraria Campus' tri-institutional powwow to bring awareness to Indigenous culture, education and inclusion.

"The community here is very accepting and supportive in trying to help Indigenous students," she said.

The University's grant program is a step in the right direction to reconcile a colonial past of brutalization and forced displacement, said Darius Smith, director of the City of Denver's Anti-Discrimination Office and staff liaison for the Denver American Indian Commission.

"What MSU Denver's doing is very forward-thinking and really puts action to words," said Smith, a member of the Navajo Nation. "Land Acknowledgment observes the past, but something like this recognizes the current reality and is an investment in the future."

Smith, a former college track participant, also noted the importance of access to a well-rounded educational experience including sports, having introduced Road-

runner alumnus Charlie Blueback for the 2017 MSU Denver Athletics Hall of Fame.

"Being able to further open that top-notch college experience to Indigenous students is huge. Kudos to that," he said.

Aguirre's plans include attending law school and returning to the Chickasaw Nation to advocate for environmental issues and give back to her home community. And though her initial steps were fraught, she's reassured that the ones to follow are leading to someplace greater.

"My previous experience (with college) hadn't been that great for different multicultural groups," she said. "But I came here with hope and have been pleasantly surprised there's actually follow-through in supporting communities like mine."

"It's been a journey, and I'm glad to be at MSU Denver."

For full grant details, visit the Scholarships for MSU Denver Students page.

Corey Phare, Communications, Metropolitan State University of Denver. This story originally appeared on MSU Denver RED.

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Vangie Randall-Shorty habla de su hijo, Zachariah, durante un mitin en Farmington, Nuevo México. / Vangie Randall-Shorty talks about her son, Zachariah, during a rally in Farmington, New Mexico.

quiere sentarse en la sala del tribunal cuando el asesino sea sentenciado.

"Era una persona divertida", dijo sobre su hijo. "No había terminado porque la vida acababa de empezar. Tenía una hija preciosa a la que quería mucho. Yo le quería. Él me quería. No dudo en expresarlo".

El grupo de familias, principalmente de nativos americanos, se reunió en el lateral del bulevar San Juan de Farmington, a las afueras del parque Berg y junto a una valla publicitaria que, en ocasiones, muestra información sobre dos nativos americanos que fueron asesinados y cuyos casos no se han resuelto. Shorty es una de esas dos personas. Pagar esa valla publicitaria requirió un esfuerzo concertado de recaudación de fondos.

Una mujer con un megáfono gritó "Justicia para" y otra persona respondió gritando el nombre de un nativo americano desaparecido o asesinado.

Recursos necesarios

A finales del mes pasado, el fiscal general de Nuevo México, Héctor Balderas, rodeado de represen-

tantes de personas indígenas desaparecidas y asesinadas, habló con los medios de comunicación sobre su frustración por la falta de financiación legislativa y de recursos para ayudar a las familias de mujeres y hombres indígenas desaparecidos y asesinados.

"Muchos tienen un trabajo de investigación incompleto con una defensa de las víctimas casi nula; no tienen respuestas sobre el estado de su caso", dijo Balderas.

También dijo que estaba implementando el proyecto de ley SB 12, que ordena a la Fiscalía General crear el puesto de especialista en personas indígenas desaparecidas.

Pero dijo que el proyecto de ley "no es lo suficientemente bueno ni fuerte".

Balderas habló de las cuestiones jurisdiccionales que también afectan a las personas indígenas desaparecidas y asesinadas, que los defensores han calificado de crisis.

Randall-Shorty dijo durante la conferencia de prensa de Balderas que su familia había puesto una recompensa de 10.000

dólares para ayudar a encontrar al responsable de la muerte de su hijo.

"Hay una recompensa de 10.000 dólares que sale de nuestros bolsillos. No tenemos recursos y eso es lo que necesitamos", dijo.

Nuevo México publica un plan de respuesta

La epidemia de violencia a la que se enfrentan los indígenas llevó al estado a publicar un plan de respuesta el 5 de mayo.

"Es fundamental que utilicemos todas las herramientas disponibles para proporcionar recursos críticos a los seres queridos de las mujeres indígenas desaparecidas y a sus familiares en todo Nuevo México, para concientiar y llamar la atención del público sobre estos importantes casos y garantizar que sus familias reciban el apoyo que merecen", dijo la Gobernadora Michelle Luján Grisham en un comunicado de prensa la semana pasada en el que anunciaba el plan de respuesta.

Nuevo México tiene el mayor número de nativos americanos desaparecidos y asesinados en el país y dos ciudades -Albuquerque y Gallup- han sido reportadas con más mujeres y niñas nativas americanas desaparecidas o asesinadas en un período de cinco años que casi 70 otros centros urbanos en los Estados Unidos, según la introducción en el plan de respuesta recién publicado.

Raza y respuesta

Para la abogada Darlene Gómez, estas historias son demasiado familiares. Gómez tiene una docena de clientes a los que representa con familiares desaparecidos o asesinados. Dice que empezó en ese camino en 2001, después de que Betty Lee, Diné, fuera asesina-

da. Gómez era una interna en ese momento. Robert Fry, residente en Farmington, fue finalmente condenado y sentenciado a muerte. También ha sido condenado por otros asesinatos. Fry es uno de los tres habitantes de Nuevo México que están en el corredor de la muerte, ya que fue condenado antes de que el estado prohibiera la pena capital.

Más tarde, una de las amigas de Gómez, Melissa Montoya, desaparecería. Hasta la fecha sigue desaparecida.

Gómez formó parte del grupo de trabajo que se encargó de elaborar un plan de respuesta del estado que se hizo público el 5 de mayo. Lo describió como un buen primer paso.

"Este no es sólo un problema de los nativos americanos", dijo durante un discurso en la manifestación. "Es un problema de Estados Unidos".

Dijo que la raza desempeña un papel en los crímenes que permanecen sin resolver durante años. No todos sus clientes han sido nativos americanos. Gómez dijo que cuando una persona blanca desapareció y ella representó a la familia de la persona blanca, hubo una mayor atención de los medios de comunicación y el cuerpo fue encontrado rápidamente.

Algunos de los asistentes a la manifestación mencionaron la búsqueda que se llevó a cabo en todo el país cuando desapareció Gabby Petito, una mujer blanca que escribía en un blog sobre la vida en una furgoneta mientras viajaba con su prometido. Su cuerpo no tardó en ser encontrado. Si se prestara ese tipo de atención a los nativos americanos que han desaparecido, tal vez sus casos podrían resolverse también, dijeron algunas personas.

Yazzie dijo que si se hubiera dado ese tipo de respuesta a la desaparición de su hija, quizás ya se hubiera encontrado a Bennett.

Gómez dijo que la desaparición de Petito atrajo más atención al tema de las personas desaparecidas, incluyendo a los nativos americanos.

"Quiero que la gente sepa que estos individuos asesinados, hombres y mujeres indígenas, son tú y yo y sus vidas importan como las de cualquier otra persona", dijo Gómez. "Tienen madres, tienen hermanos, tienen hijos y nadie ha sido puesto en esta tierra para ser asesinado".

Tener el día en el tribunal donde pueden enfrentarse a la persona que mató a su ser querido es importante para las familias, dijo Gómez.

Pero no lo arregla todo, como señaló Heaven Howland, apache jicarilla. El hermano de Howland, Travis Howland, fue secuestrado, torturado y asesinado por sus primos. Sus primos fueron declarados culpables tras un largo proceso judicial.

"Aunque atrapen a los asesinos, tu ser querido sigue desaparecido", dijo Howland durante un breve discurso que pronunció en la manifestación.

Hannah Grover es reportera de New Mexico Political Report.

Susan Dunlap, reportera de NM Political Report contribuyó a este informe. Publicado originalmente en New Mexico Political Report.

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

Para Más Noticias de New México: ELSEMARIO.US

Viña

and are expected to break ground in 2023.

Tepeyac Community Health Center, a community health center currently operating at capacity in the Globeville neighborhood, will expand its core medical, dental and behavioral health services at a 24,500 square-foot facility at Viña at the end of this year. Tepeyac has been a trusted medical care provider to the community for more than 27 years.

"Many of our patients are essential frontline workers who are an integral part of our economy and live with disproportionate health risks, like COVID-19," said Jim García, Chief Executive Officer of Tepeyac Community Health Center. "Our

families often need a combination of services and resources that we will be able to offer in our new, and significantly larger, clinical facility."

Viña is the latest city-supported affordable housing development to open in Denver. A total of 1,202 affordable units that have received city financing are currently under construction at 25 sites throughout Denver. An additional 779 income-restricted units are in the planning stage.

To learn more about Viña Apartments visit their website or call 303-228-3299.

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Foto/Foto: Lisa Homak for KHN

The Fierro family (from left): Jesús Jr., 17, Jesús Sr., Claudia, and Fernando, 15. / La familia Fierro (de izq. a der.), Jesús Jr., de 17 años, Jesús Sr., Claudia, y Fernando, de 15.

Jesús Sr. asked his son, "Can you bear the pain for an hour?" The teen replied, "Yes."

Father and son took the hour-long trip to Mexicali, Mexico, to Dr. Alfredo Acosta's office.

The Fierros don't consider themselves "health tourists." Jesús Sr. crosses the border into Mexicali every day for his work, and Mexicali is Claudia's hometown. They've been traveling to the neighborhood known as La Chinesca ("Chinatown") for years to see Acosta, a general practitioner who treats the asthma of their youngest son, Fernando, 15. Treatment for Jesús Jr.'s dislocated shoulder was the first time they had sought emergency care from the physician. The price was right, and the treatment effec-

tive.

A visit to a U.S. emergency room likely would have involved a facility fee, expensive X-rays, and perhaps an orthopedic specialist's evaluation — which would have generated thousands of dollars in bills.

Acosta adjusted Jesús Jr.'s shoulder so that the bones aligned in the socket and prescribed him ibuprofen for soreness. The family paid cash on the spot.

Although the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention doesn't endorse traveling to another country for medical care, the Fierros are among millions of Americans each year who do so. Many of them are fleeing expensive care in the U.S., even with health insurance.

Acosta, who is from the Mexican state of Sinaloa and is a graduate of the Autonomous University of Sinaloa, moved to Mexicali 20 years ago. He witnessed firsthand the growth of the medical tourism industry.

He sees about 14 patients a day (no appointment necessary), and 30% to 40% of those are from the U.S. He charges \$8 for typical visits.

In Mexicali, a mile from La Chinesca, where the family doctors have their modest offices, are medical facilities that rival those in the United States. The facilities have international certification and are considered expensive, but they are still cheaper than hospitals in the U.S.

Resolution: Both Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas and Yuma Regional Medical Center declined to discuss the Fierros' bills with Kaiser Health News, even though Jesús Sr. and Claudia gave written permission for them to do so.

In a statement, Yuma Regional Medical Center spokesperson Machele Headington said, "Applying for financial support starts with an application — a service we extended, and still extend, to these patients."

In an email, Kraft, the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas spokesperson, said: "We understand the frustration our members experience when they receive a bill containing COVID-19 charges that they do not understand, or feel may be inappropriate."

The Fierros are planning to apply to the hospital for financial support for their outstanding debts. But Claudia said never again. "I told Jesús, 'If I faint again, please drive me home,'" rather than calling an ambulance, she said.

"We pay \$1,000 premium monthly for our employment-based insurance," added Jesús. "We should not have to live with this stress."

The Takeaway: Be aware that your deductible "meter" starts over every year and that virtually any emergency care can generate a bill in the thousands of dollars and may leave you owing most of your deductible and out-of-pocket maximum.

Also be aware that even if you seem not to qualify for financial assistance based on a hospital's policy, you can apply and explain

your circumstances. Because of the high cost of care in the U.S., even many middle-income people qualify. And many hospitals give their finance departments leeway to adjust bills. Some patients discover that if they offer to pay cash on the spot, the bill can be reduced dramatically.

All nonprofit hospitals have a legal obligation to help patients: They pay no tax in exchange for providing "community benefit." Make a case for yourself, and ask for a supervisor if you get an initial "no."

For elective procedures, patients can follow the Fierros' example, becoming savvy health care shoppers. Recently, Claudia needed an endoscopy to evaluate an ulcer. The family has been calling different facilities and discovered a \$500 difference in the cost of an endoscopy. They will soon drive to a medical center in Central Valley, California, two hours from home, for the procedure.

The Fierros didn't even consider going back to their local hospital. "I don't want to say 'hello' and receive a \$3,000 bill," joked Jesús Sr.

Paula Andalo is the Ethnic Media Editor with Kaiser Health News. Bill of the Month is a crowdsourced investigation by Kaiser Health News and NPR that dissects and explains medical bills. Do you have an interesting medical bill you want to share with us? Tell us about it.

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Variantes

"Esto puede explicar por qué nuestro aumento de BA.2 en EE.UU. no fue tan grande como el gran aumento de BA.1 durante el invierno", dijo Gandhi.

El nivel de protección puede variar dependiendo de cuán enferma estuvo la persona, en casos leves la inmunidad aumenta quizás durante un mes o dos y la recuperación de una enfermedad grave concede hasta un año.

P: ¿Cómo se posicionan las vacunas contra estas subvariantes?

Aunque las vacunas y los refuerzos actuales no son tan exitosos en la protección contra ómicron como lo son contra variantes anteriores, generalmente protegerán a las personas de enfermedades graves si están infectadas por una de las nuevas subvariantes.

Las vacunas generan células conocidas como "células B de

memoria" y se ha demostrado que reconocen diferentes variantes a medida que surgen, explicó Gandhi. Las vacunas también desencadenan la producción de células T, que protegen contra enfermedades graves, dijo.

"Mientras que las células B sirven como bancos de memoria para producir anticuerpos cuando es necesario, las células T amplifican la respuesta del cuerpo a un virus y ayudan a reclutar células para atacar directamente al patógeno", dijo Gandhi.

El resultado final es que una infección avanzada para un individuo vacunado "debe seguir siendo leve con las subvariantes", dijo.

La amplia propagación en EE.UU. de una cepa relativamente leve del virus probablemente tuvo un resultado beneficioso porque proporcionó cierta inmunidad a muchos estadounidenses, va-

cunados o no. La investigación muestra que quienes habían sido vacunados y luego se infectaron, tuvieron una protección aún mayor que las personas que habían sido vacunadas y no contrajeron covid.

De cara al futuro, los fabricantes de vacunas empiezan a diseñar vacunas dirigidas específicamente a ómicron, y algunos combinarían una vacuna contra el coronavirus con otra contra la influenza estacional en una sola inyección. Pero estas vacunas están en sus primeras etapas de producción.

P: ¿Hay variantes completamente nuevas en el horizonte?

"No hay nada que sepamos que esté al acecho todavía, y la vigilancia es bastante agresiva", dijeron los expertos.

Se estima que más del 60% de la población mundial ha estado expuesta a ómicron y más del 65%

de la población mundial ha recibido al menos una dosis de la vacuna, dijo Gandhi, "así que cruzo los dedos para que el desarrollo de nuevas variantes se ralentice con este grado de inmunidad de la población".

Gandhi reconoció cierta sorpresa por lo tranquilo que se vislumbra el horizonte en este momento, algo que ve como un desarrollo positivo.

"Ya han pasado cinco meses desde que oímos hablar de una

nueva variante, lo que espero refleje el aumento de la inmunidad en la población mundial", resumió.

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

Leer Más Noticias de COVID-19: ELSEMANARIO.US



Costes



Foto/Photo: Lisa Hornak for KHN

Jesús Fierro Sr. revisa las facturas médicas en su casa en Yuma, Arizona. Fierro y su familia debían más de \$7,000 por dos cuentas de un hospital local. /Jesús Fierro Sr. sorts through medical bills at home in Yuma, Arizona. Fierro and his family owed more than \$7,000 on two medical bills from the local hospital.

de la mitad de los adultos tienen suficientes ahorros para cubrir un gasto inesperado de \$1,000. En una encuesta reciente de KFF, las "facturas médicas inesperadas" ocuparon el segundo lugar entre las preocupaciones presupuestarias familiares, detrás del precio de la gasolina y otros costos de transporte.

La factura médica por el desmayo de Claudia desestabilizó el presupuesto familiar de los Fierro. "Pensamos en pedir un segundo préstamo sobre nuestra casa", dijo Jesús Sr., oriundo de Los Ángeles. Cuando llamó al hospital para pedir asistencia financiera, contó que las personas con las que habló lo desanimaron enfáticamente. "Me dijeron que podía presentar una solicitud, pero que solo reduciría la factura de Claudia en \$100", dijo.

Entonces, cuando Jesús Jr. se dislocó el hombro jugando a luchar con su hermano, la familia se dirigió al sur.

Jesús Sr. le preguntó a su hijo: "¿Puedes soportar el dolor por una hora?". El adolescente respondió: "Sí".

Padre e hijo hicieron el viaje de una hora a Mexicali, México, a la oficina del Dr. Alfredo Acosta.

Los Fierro no se consideran "turistas de salud". Jesús Sr. cruza la frontera a Mexicali todos los días por su trabajo, y Mexicali es la ciudad natal de Claudia. Hace años que viajan al barrio conocido como La Chinesca para ver a Acosta, un médico generalista que ha tratado el asma de su hijo menor, Fernando, de 15 años. El tratamiento para el hombro dislocado de Jesús Jr. fue la primera vez que buscaron atención de emergencia en Méxi-

co. El precio fue correcto y el tratamiento, efectivo.

Una visita a una sala de emergencias en los Estados Unidos probablemente habría implicado una tarifa solo por el uso de las instalaciones, radiografías costosas y quizás la evaluación de un especialista en ortopedia, lo que habría generado miles de dólares en facturas. Acosta recolocó el hombro de Jesús Jr. para que los huesos se alinearan bien, y le recetó ibuprofeno para el dolor. La familia pagó en efectivo al final de la cita.

Aunque los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades (CDC) no respaldan viajar a otro país para recibir atención médica, los Fierro se encuentran entre los millones de estadounidenses que lo hacen cada año. Muchos de ellos escapando de la costosa atención en los Estados Unidos, incluso teniendo seguro médico.

Acosta, quien es oriundo del estado mexicano de Sinaloa y egresado de la Universidad Autónoma de Sinaloa, se mudó a Mexicali hace 20 años. Fue testigo de primera mano del crecimiento de la industria del turismo médico.

Atiende un promedio de 14 pacientes por día (no es necesario hacer una cita) y del 30 al 40% llegan de los Estados Unidos. Cobra \$8 por una visita típica.

En Mexicali, a una milla de La Chinesca, en donde los médicos de familia tienen sus modestos consultorios, hay centros médicos que no tienen nada que envidiarle a los del norte. Estas instalaciones cuentan con certificación internacional y se consideran caras, pero aún así son más económicas que los hospitales de los Estados Unidos.

Resolución: Tanto Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas como Yuma Regional Medical Center se negaron a discutir las facturas de los Fierro con KHN, a pesar de que Jesús Sr. y Claudia firmaron permisos por escrito.

En un comunicado, Machele Headington, vocera de Yuma Regional Medical Center, dijo: "Solicitar apoyo financiero comienza con una solicitud, un servicio que extendimos, y aún extendemos, a estos pacientes".

En un correo electrónico, Kraft, la vocera de Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas, dijo: "Entendemos la frustración que experimentan nuestros miembros cuando reciben una factura que contiene cargos por COVID-19 que no entienden o que sienten que pueden ser inapropiados".

Los Fierro planean solicitar apoyo financiero al hospital para sus deudas pendientes. Pero Claudia dijo "nunca más". "Le dije a Jesús: 'Si me desmayo otra vez, por favor llévame a casa, no llames a una ambulancia'".

"Pagamos una prima mensual de \$1,000 por nuestro seguro a través de mi empleo", agregó Jesús. "No deberíamos tener que vivir con este estrés".

La conclusión: ten en cuenta que el "medidor" de tu deducible comienza de nuevo cada año y que prácticamente cualquier atención de emergencia puede generar una factura de miles de dólares, y puede dejarte debiendo la mayor parte de tu deducible y tu desembolso máximo.

También recuerda que incluso si pareciera que no eres elegible para recibir asistencia financiera según la política de un hospital,

puedes presentar una solicitud y explicar tus circunstancias.

Debido al alto costo de la atención en el país, incluso muchas personas de ingresos medios califican. Y muchos hospitales dan a sus departamentos de finanzas un margen de maniobra para ajustar las facturas. Algunos pacientes descubren que si ofrecen pagar en efectivo en el acto, la factura puede reducirse drásticamente.

Todos los hospitales sin fines de lucro tienen la obligación legal de ayudar a los pacientes: no pagan impuestos a cambio de brindar un "beneficio comunitario". Defiende tu caso y pide hablar con un supervisor si lo primero que escuchas es un "no".

Para los procedimientos electivos, los pacientes pueden seguir el ejemplo de los Fierro y convertirse en "compradores inteligentes" de atención médica. Recientemente, le dijeron a Claudia que tenía una úlcera y que debía hacerse una

endoscopia. La familia ha estado llamando a diferentes centros y descubrió una diferencia de hasta \$500, dependiendo del proveedor. Pronto conducirán a un centro médico en el Valle Central, en California, a dos horas de casa, para el procedimiento.

Los Fierro ni siquiera consideraron regresar a su hospital local. "No quiero decir 'hola' y recibir una cuenta de \$3,000", bromeó Jesús Sr.

Paula Andalo es la editora de medios étnicos de Kaiser Health News. *Bill of the Month* (*La cuenta del mes*) es una investigación colaborativa de *Kaiser Health News* y *NPR* que disecciona y explica las facturas médicas. ¿Tienes una factura médica interesante que deseas compartir con nosotros? ¡Cuéntanos!

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DPS

mental health services for adults, among other things.

The locations of the community hubs haven't been finalized, Marrero said, but he hopes there will be one in every region of the city. The locations would likely be temporary as the district pilots the hubs next school year, he said.

Increasing wages for hourly workers, including paraprofessionals, food service workers, custodians, health technicians who help in school nurses' offices, and others. Marrero said about 1,200 district employees currently earn the city's minimum wage of \$15.87, and this investment would boost that, though he didn't say by how much. The goal, he said, is to raise wages over time to \$20 an hour, a priority of board Vice President Tay Anderson.

Offsetting rising health care costs for all district employees. Premiums for the district's largest health care plans rose by 10% this year, Marrero said. The district intends to use some of the central

office savings to pay that down so employees won't shoulder the entire cost.

Supporting schools with declining enrollment by supplementing their budgets. Denver schools are funded per student, and fewer students means less money to hire teachers and other staff. As the district debates how to close or consolidate small schools, Marrero said this money would help schools weather funding decreases.

Marrero's presentation did not specify how the \$9 million would be divided among the four initiatives. The school board is set to vote on next year's budget in early June.

Melanie Asmar is a senior reporter for Chalkbeat Colorado. This story was originally published by Chalkbeat.

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"It is critical that we use every available tool to deliver critical resources to the loved ones of missing Indigenous women and relatives across New México, bringing more awareness and public attention to these important cases and ensuring their families have the support they deserve," Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham said in a press release last week announcing the response plan.

New México has the highest number of missing and murdered Native Americans in the country and two cities—Albuquerque and Gallup—are reported to have had more Native American women and girls go missing or be murdered in a five-year time frame than nearly 70 other urban centers in the United States, according to the introduction in the newly-released response plan.

Race and response

For Darlene Gomez, an attorney, these stories are all too familiar. Gomez has a dozen clients she represents who have missing or murdered relatives. She said she started on that path in 2001 after

Betty Lee, Diné, was murdered. Gomez was an intern at the time. Robert Fry, a Farmington resident, was ultimately convicted and given the death sentence. He has also been convicted of several other murders. Fry is one of three New Mexicans on death row, having been sentenced prior to the state banning capital punishment.

Later one of Gomez' friends, Melissa Montoya, would go missing. She remains missing to this date.

Gomez was part of the task force that worked to compile a state's response plan that was released on May 5. She described it as a good first step.

"This is not just a Native American problem," she said during a speech at the rally. "This is a U.S. problem."

She said race plays a role in the crimes remaining unsolved for years. Not all of her clients have been Native American. Gomez said when a white person went missing and she represented the white person's family, there was greater attention from the media and the body was quickly found.



Photo/Foto: Hannah Grover/NM Political Report

A rally in Farmington, NM, raises awareness about missing and murdered Indigenous women and relatives. / Una concentración en Farmington, Nuevo México, sensibiliza sobre las mujeres indígenas desaparecidas y asesinadas y sus familiares.

Some people at the rally mentioned the nationwide search that ensued when Gabby Petito, a white woman who was blogging about van life while traveling with her fiance, went missing. It didn't take long for her body to be found. If that type of attention was given to the Native Americans who have gone missing, perhaps their cases could be solved as well, some people said.

Yazzie said if there had been that kind of response to her daughter's disappearance, perhaps Bennett would already have been found.

Gomez said Petito's disappearance brought more attention to the issue of people going missing, including Native Americans.

"I want people to know that these individuals murdered Indigenous men and women, they are

you and they are me and their lives matter just like anyone else's lives," Gomez said. "They have mothers, they have siblings, they have children and no one is put on this earth to be killed."

Having the day in court where they can face the person who killed their loved one is important to the families, Gomez said.

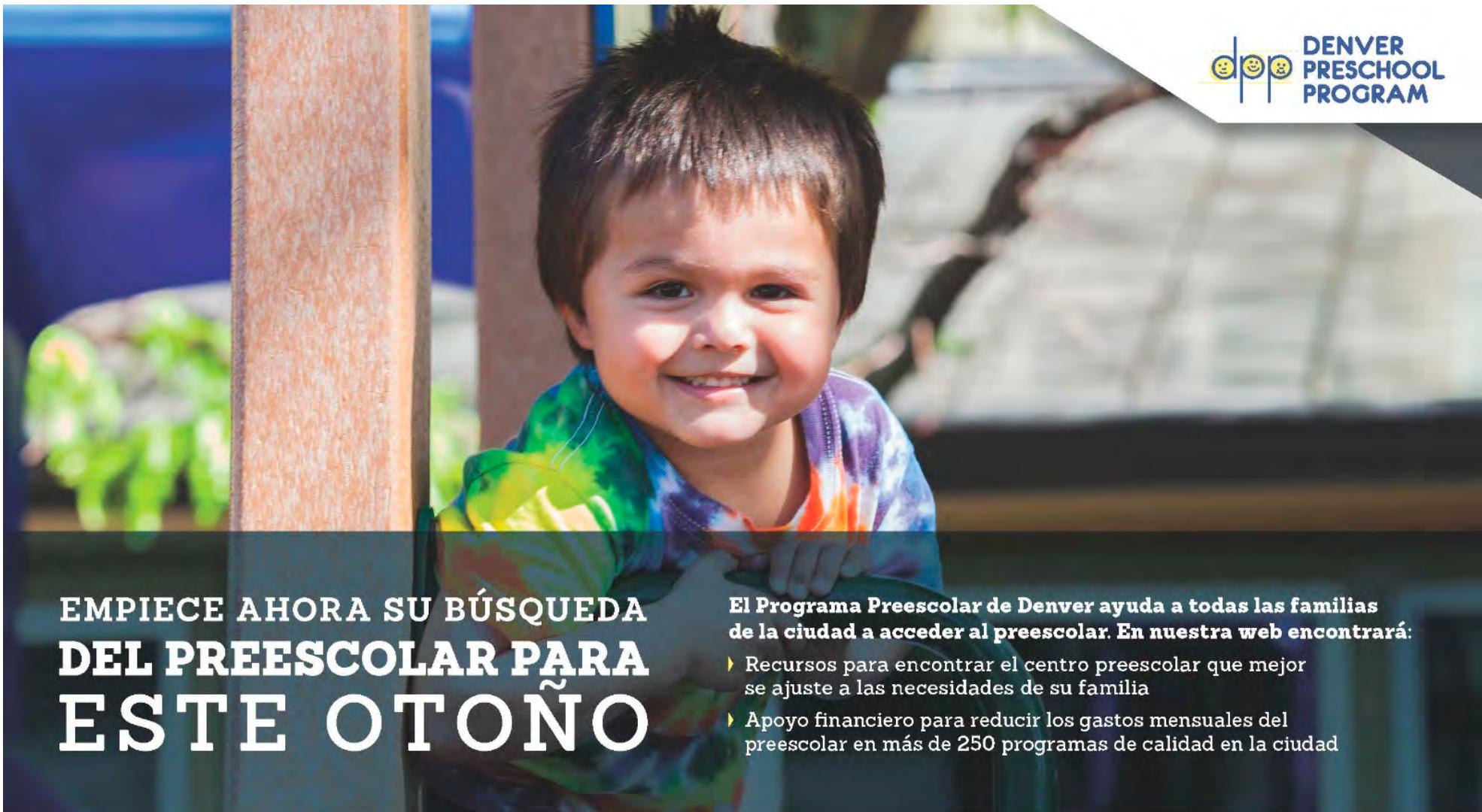
But it doesn't fix everything, as Heaven Howland, Jicarilla Apache, pointed out. Howland's brother, Travis Howland, was abducted, tortured and killed by their cousins. Their cousins were found guilty after a lengthy judicial process.

"Even though they catch the killers, your loved one is still gone," Howland said during a short speech she gave at the rally.

Hannah Grover is a Reporter with New Mexico Political Report. Susan Dunlap, Reporter, NM Political Report contributed to this report. This story was originally published by New Mexico Political Report.

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Jenna Nelson Shopwork Architecture, Nicholas Esquibel Shopwork Architecture, Ivan Anaya Columbia Ventures y Cesar Olivas Shopwork Architecture participaron en la ceremonia de inauguración de La Viña Apartment. / Jenna Nelson Shopwork Architecture, Nicholas Esquibel Shopwork Architecture, Ivan Anaya Columbia Ventures, and Cesar Olivas Shopwork Architecture participated in La Viña Apartment grand opening ceremony.

combinación de unidades hasta los niveles de asequibilidad, la selección de muralistas y los usos deseados para el espacio comercial", según Diana Stoian, quien desarrolló Viña en nombre de Columbia Ventures. "Lo que es más importante, pudimos asociarnos con el Centro de Salud Comunitario de Tepeyac para garantizar que las viviendas asequibles se

combinen con atención médica de calidad, lo que en última instancia conducirá a mejores resultados de salud en la comunidad".

El trabajo inicial de titulación y la adquisición por parte de Urban Land Conservancy (ULC) con sede en Denver dio como resultado una asociación pública privada única a través de un arrendamiento de tierras renovables de 99 años. ULC

utilizó Metro Denver Impact Facility (MDIF), una fuente de préstamo renovable dedicada disponible a través de FirstBank y otras fundaciones con sede en Colorado, así como un préstamo de \$1.5 millones de la ciudad y el condado de Denver, para adquirir la propiedad. El desarrollo de \$ 57 millones ha tardado cuatro años en realizarse.

"Este es un éxito importante porque demuestra el poder de la colaboración entre tres socios distintos y la comunidad", dijo Baynes.

Los socios financieros públicos de Viña incluyeron el Departamento de Estabilidad de la Vivienda (HOST) de Denver, la Autoridad de Finanzas y Vivienda de Colorado y la División de Vivienda de Colorado, lo que permitió niveles más profundos de asequibilidad. HOST proporcionó un préstamo de flujo de caja de \$3,750,000 para apoyar la construcción.

Las fases futuras proporcionarán viviendas, tiendas minoristas y oficinas adicionales y se espera que comiencen a construirse en 2023.

El Centro de Salud Comunitario de Tepeyac, un centro de salud comunitario que actualmente opera

a plena capacidad en el vecindario de Globeville, ampliará sus servicios básicos de salud médica, dental y conductual en una instalación de 24,500 pies cuadrados en Viña a fines de este año. Tepeyac ha sido un proveedor de atención médica de confianza para la comunidad durante más de 27 años.

"Muchos de nuestros pacientes son trabajadores esenciales de primera línea que son una parte integral de nuestra economía y viven con riesgos de salud desproporcionados, como el COVID-19", dijo Jim García, Director Ejecutivo del Centro de Salud Comunitario Tepeyac. "Nuestras familias a menudo necesitan una combinación de servicios y recursos que podremos ofrecer en nuestra nueva insta-

lación clínica, significativamente más grande".

Viña es el último desarrollo de vivienda asequible respaldado por la ciudad que se inauguró en Denver. Actualmente se están construyendo un total de 1,202 unidades asequibles que han recibido financiamiento de la ciudad en 25 sitios en todo Denver. Otras 779 unidades con restricción de ingresos se encuentran en la etapa de planificación.

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

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Maribel Hastings is a Senior Advisor to América's Voice.

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