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Waiting and Hoping 8
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Commentary/Comentario

The Political Playing Field Has Levelled for Biden and the Democrats—for Now

Maribel Hastings and David Torres

In recent days, President Joe Biden has seen a series of pluses and minuses. Although at a personal level he contracted COVID-19, in the political realm he has racked up several victories that serve as a positive rebound to his presidency and, especially, his Democratic Party, in the face of the November elections.

It's been the sort of breath of fresh air that was needed, not only for his agenda, but the performance of his colleagues who could not find any political escape routes due to the lack of results on promised issues, in addition to Re-

“So it seems, the cards are not stacked so high against the Democrats as they were some weeks ago.”

publican attacks—with their racist and anti-immigrant rhetoric that once again rears its ugly head in the realm of politics.

At the domestic level, for example, we point to approval of the Inflation Reduction Act by a Senate that, despite being Democratic, failed to advance his agenda over a little more than a year and a half

of his presidency. That was due to Republican obstructionism and the reluctance of a pair of Democratic senators—Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona—who this time, miraculously, did not oppose an agreement that allowed the measure to advance.

This last thing, for certain, also represents a model for internal negotiation that should be put into practice for future intraparty blockades, especially now that the Democrats have demonstrated the unity needed to fight and win, and given that the midterm elections are around the corner.

Moreover, apart from a whole range of initiatives on topics such as climate change, renewable en-



Photo/Foto: América's Voice



Photo/Foto: América's Voice

ergy, health care, and taxes, one of the positive aspects of Biden's economic plan is that the anti-immigrant amendments that Republicans wanted to include remain out; in particular, one that tried to ex-

tend Title 42, which allows migrants to be denied entry in moments of public health crisis, like COVID-19. The initiative, implemented by the

See Hastings & Torres on page 16

Se Nivelan, Por Ahora, el Escenario Político para Biden y los Demócratas

Maribel Hastings and David Torres

Para el presidente Joe Biden todo ha sido una de cal y otra de arena en los últimos días. Aunque a nivel personal se contagió de Covid-19, en el ámbito político se ha apuntado varias victorias que le dan un rebote posi-

vo a su presidencia y, sobre todo, a su Partido Demócrata de cara a las elecciones de noviembre.

Ha sido una especie de bocanada de aire fresco que ya necesitaba no solo su agenda, sino el desempeño de sus correligionarios, quienes no encontraban las mejores rutas de escape a la trabazón política que representaba tanto

la falta de resultados a los temas prometidos, como la arremetida republicana con su retórica anti-inmigrante y racista que vuelve a emerger a borbotones en el ámbito público.

A nivel doméstico, por ejemplo, se destaca la aprobación de la Ley para Reducir la Inflación por parte de un Senado que, aunque

demócrata, le negó avanzar su agenda a lo largo del poco más de año y medio de su presidencia. Esto, por el obstructionismo republicano y la renuencia de un par de senadores demócratas — Joe Manchin, de West Virginia, y Kyrsten Sinema, de Arizona—, que milagrosamente esta vez no se opusieron a los acuerdos que permitieron el avance de esta medida.

Esto último, por cierto, representa al mismo tiempo un modelo de negociación interna que deberá ponerse en práctica en subsiguientes bloqueos intrapartidistas, sobre todo ahora que los demócratas mostraron unidad para luchar y ganar, y dado que los comicios intermedios están a la vuelta de la esquina.

Así, aparte de toda una suerte de iniciativas que abordan el cambio climático, fuentes de energía, atención médica, e impuestos, uno de los aspectos positivos de este plan económico de Biden es que las enmiendas antiinmigrantes que los republicanos buscaron incluir quedaron fuera; en particular, la que pretendía extender el Título 42, que permite que se niegue el ingreso a Estados Unidos de migrantes en momentos de crisis sanitarias como fue el Covid-19. Lo cierto es que la iniciativa implementada por el gobierno de Donald Trump pretendía frenar el ingreso de extranjeros que buscaban, legalmente, asilo.

Es decir, el asilo, aunque en urgente necesidad de reformas, vive para contarla por el momento.

Si a eso sumamos la buena nueva de que el programa “Quédate en México” llegará a su fin,

luego de que el mismo juez federal que ordenó al gobierno de Biden reinstalarlo en 2021 anulara hace un par de días su dictamen, el panorama para los demócratas y su agenda vuelve a ocupar el ámbito de sus prioridades. El hecho de que los migrantes que aspiran a obtener asilo ya no tendrán que quedarse en México hasta su audiencia ante un juez de inmigración es, por donde se le quiera ver, un paso en firme en la lista de asuntos migratorios pendientes de la actual administración.

“En conclusión, las cartas en contra de los demócratas no están tan claras como unas semanas atrás cuando se pensaba que ambas cámaras estaban perdidas para ellos.”

Por otro lado, Biden también ha tenido buenas noticias en el frente económico. Tan solo en el mes de julio se crearon más de 528,000 empleos, más del doble de lo que se anticipaba, esto a pesar de la inflación. La tasa de desempleo es de apenas 3.5%, colocándose a los niveles pre pandemia. Y en ramos más específicos donde la mano de obra latina es ampliamente requerida y reconocida, también hubo un crecimiento significativo, según el Departamento del Trabajo: en el área del esparcimiento y la hotelería hubo un aumento de

Veá Hastings & Torres/Esp, página 16

COLORADO VOTERS want to reduce health costs by capping what insurers charge in deductibles and other fees.

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A Great Victory, But the Fight Goes On

Javier Sierra

I have been fighting for our climate and a viable biosphere for almost 25 years. And finally, in 2022, the US Congress passed the largest climate investments in the history of the United States.

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) was dramatically approved in both chambers without one single Republican vote. The legislation—with a climate budget of \$369 billion—includes investments in environmental justice, clean energy, family-sustaining jobs, and a crucial 40-percent reduction of climate emissions by 2030.

The legislation will invest hundreds of billions of dollars in tax credits for clean energy like solar and wind, clean transportation, decarbonized buildings, and clean manufacturing here in the US—all sectors of the economy that employ millions of Latino workers. According to the BlueGreen Alliance, the IRA will create 9 million jobs in the next decade, including 5 million in fostering clean energy, 900,000 in the clean energy industry, and 150,000 in environmental justice, which we Latinos so desperately need.

Also of great importance for Latinos is the fact that the IRA includes resources for frontline communities to clean up decades of pollution and to finance clean energy projects.

“

All those who have opposed climate action for decades must ask themselves the following question: “Am I ready to tell my children they were born a generation too late?”

The legislation, however, also contains a heavy burden of dirty energy projects, opening up 20 million acres of public lands and 600 million acres of federal waters to oil and gas exploitation over the next 10 years. This is of particular concern to frontline communities like those in the Gulf South that have long been disproportionately affected by fossil fuel pollution. Sacrifice zones have no place in a climate bill. Moreover, it imposes great obstacles for the development of solar and wind on those

lands and waters.

This is but one more example of the enormous influence the fossil fuel industry has imposed on Washington and the public at large. A recent BBC documentary showcases the catastrophic sway PR firms, funded by the dirty energy industry, have had in “seeding doubt everywhere” about the climate crisis by using the same tactics the tobacco industry used to hide the lethality of its products. Today, we all are paying the price of this deception campaign.

But now no one can hide that we are living in a planetary emergency and that clean energy is the solution to this crisis. According to the influential International Energy Agency, the most advanced solar projects around the world gen-



Congress finally listened. / El Congreso finalmente escuchó.

erate “the cheapest electricity in history,” but adds that to achieve global zero emissions will require “unprecedented” efforts from every part of the world economy.

Yet much cheaper clean, renewable energy is widespread. According to an International

See Sierra on page 17

Una Gran Victoria, pero la Lucha Continúa

Javier Sierra

Llevo casi 25 años peleando por el futuro de nuestro clima y una biosfera viable. Finalmente, el Congreso Federal aprobó la mayor inversión en acción climática de la historia de Estados Unidos.

La Ley de Reducción de la Inflación (IRA) fue dramáticamente aprobada por ambas cámaras por la mínima sin un solo voto republicano. La legislación—con un presupuesto de \$369,000 millones—incluye inversiones en el clima, la justicia ambiental, la energía limpia, los buenos empleos, y una crucial reducción del 40% de las emisiones climáticas para 2030.

En concreto, la iniciativa invertirá cientos de miles de millones en créditos fiscales para la energía solar y eólica, el transporte público limpio, la descarbonización de edificios y la industria de energía limpia—todos rubros que emplean a millones de trabajadores latinos. Según la GreenBlue Alliance, la legislación creará más de 9 millones de empleos en la próxima década, incluyendo 5 millones en

el fomento de la economía de energía limpia, 900,000 en la industria de energía limpia y 150,000 en la justicia ambiental que tanto necesita nuestra comunidad.

También de gran importancia para los latinos es que la IRA incluye recursos para que comunidades en primera línea de la contaminación limpien décadas de contaminación y financien proyectos de energía limpia.

“

Todos los que se se han opuesto a la acción climática por décadas deben hacerse esta pregunta: ¿Estoy dispuesto a decirle a mis hijos que han nacido una generación demasiado tarde?

La legislación, sin embargo, también trae una pesada carga de proyectos de energía sucia, abriendo 20 millones de acres

OneCO's 2022 LGBTQ+ Equality Legislative Scorecard



How do your state legislators score when it comes to guaranteeing a fair and just state for LGBTQ+ Coloradans and their families?



Commentary / Comentario

Pesticide Exposure Killed my Husband—Farm Workers Need Better Protections

Audelia García

My husband, Alejandro, died from lung cancer in 2010. He was just 50 years old. For years, one of my husband's jobs was to tend to the lettuce fields where we worked in Greenfield. Right after spraying pesticides and weed killers, he would go into the fields, working up the soil with a short-handled hoe so that the lettuce could grow. He would get really close to the ground, breathing in the dust and also the chemical residue that was there.

A few years before he died, Alejandro developed a severe respiratory condition. He couldn't lay down because when he did, it felt

like he was drowning. A doctor told us that he needed a lung transplant. We waited, but no donors were found.

His breathing worsened to the point that he needed to be hospitalized and put on a ventilator. One day, as the nurses were getting him ready for his walk, he suffered a stroke. I rushed to his side. He died there in my arms, saying "mis hijos, mis hijos." [My kids, my kids]

This is my family's story, but it's like too many others. Each year as many as 20,000 farmworkers are poisoned and an estimated 11,000 fatalities occur worldwide. Consider: In a country where the average life expectancy is 78 years, the people who work in the fields tend to live to be just 42.

The families left behind have few resources to turn to. When Alejandro passed away, a doctor who knew that he was a farmworker told me that the cause of his death was most likely the result of regular exposure to pesticides at work. Then a lawyer who heard about what happened told us that we could sue the company that manufactured the chemicals that Alejandro had been exposed to.

But we didn't. One problem was a lack of direct evidence. Another issue was that my husband's employer never told him or the workers the names of the chemicals that were used on the farm.

I felt depressed, helpless, and alone when Alejandro passed away. He was too young. We were confi-

dent we knew why he died, but we couldn't do anything about it.

As for myself: working thirteen years on grape vineyards and also with chemicals has left me with asthma and psoriasis. I was seriously injured specifically after I fell while tying grape vines in one orchard, which has required multiple surgeries and regular medical attention. I had to leave work completely.

What has helped me turn all this pain into positive action was in 2013 getting involved in the California-based group, Lideres Campesinas. Connecting with other women who run the group, I have learned that what happened to my husband is all too common. Our country's approximately three million farm-

“Our country's approximately three million farmworkers daily risk their lives when they work with hazardous chemicals so that the rest of us can eat.”

workers daily risk their lives when they work with hazardous chemicals so that the rest of us can eat.

Pesticides have been linked to cause birth defects, neurodevelopmental delays and cognitive

See García on page 23

Abortion Should Be a Kitchen Table Conversation

Alison Egbers

My mom began dating an obstetrician-gynecologist when I was in high school. While she always spoke openly about reproductive health care with me, our kitchen table conversations quickly turned into

question and answer sessions with her new partner.

When asked about his day, he described the differences in birth control methods, new technology for hysterectomies, and the side effects of menopause. With a changing body and a fascinating new person at the table, I was cap-

tivated. Miscarriages, abortions, and births were also discussed, but our tone never changed. For us, pregnancy outcomes were a fundamental fact of life.

I was 18 years old when I found out I was pregnant. Even with a plethora of sexual education in my adolescence, I made a mistake,

and I immediately decided I would join the nearly 1 in 4 Americans who will have an abortion in their lifetime.

My first call was my mom's boyfriend. After a year of kitchen table conversations, I could count on him for straightforward information without judgment or stigma. We hung up and I nervously called my mother. I wasn't scared to tell her I wanted an abortion, but I felt ashamed that she entwined my childhood with age-appropriate reproductive information and I still ended up unintentionally pregnant. I'm not embarrassed anymore now that I know how common it is, as 6 in 10 unplanned pregnancies globally will end in abortion, and 75% of teenage pregnancies in the U.S. are unplanned.

My worst fears about pregnancy were validated when I became very ill over the next few weeks. I'll never forget the sudden sickness that left me gripping the toilet bowl in a restaurant bathroom during a dance team event, trying to be quiet when other patrons entered. I called my mom crying in between episodes and she reassured me that it would be OK.

It was a gray Tuesday in late winter when I had my abortion. My mom drove us to the clinic about 20 minutes away from our house and we began filling out paperwork. The clinic staff called my name to begin the appointment and my mom waited in the lobby until it was time for the procedure. I was scared but I never felt alone. The Planned Parenthood workers were kindly affirming and gently led me through the process, which was in-

“We must elect lawmakers who unapologetically support abortion access.”

timate for a teenager with very little gynecological experience. I had only been in stirrups twice before.

We met my mom in the procedure room, she held my hand and maintained eye contact the entire time. She was dedicated to giving me a life I dreamed of, whatever that meant for me. It felt sacred, a mother giving this ultimate gift to her child, and I realized abortion is an act of love.

As my mom was a federal employee, we could not use our health insurance. Thankfully, my family was financially stable, I was able to miss class, and my mom could take time off work. Amid horrifying abortion headlines, I am grateful for the ease in my own process and procedure. Although it was abrupt and stressful, I had access to the care I needed. I wish every abortion story could be like this.

A few years later I transferred to the University of Colorado Colorado Springs. I flourished in my new home, became president of a student group, studied abroad twice, was nominated for a leadership award, and made the dean's list. After graduating in 2016, I moved to Denver and planted roots in the community. I've registered hundreds of young people to vote, worked for a library foundation, fundraised for youth experiencing

See Egbers on page 23

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The Debt Crisis That Sick Americans Can't Avoid

By Elisabeth Rosenthal

President Joe Biden's campaign promise to cancel student debt for the first \$10,000 owed on federal college loans has raised debate about the fairness of such lending programs. While just over half of Americans surveyed in a June poll supported forgiving that much debt incurred for higher education, 82% said that making college more affordable was their preferred approach.

But little public attention has been focused on what is — statistically, at least — a bigger, broader debt crisis in our country: An estimated 100 million people in the U.S., or 41% of all adults, have health care debt, compared with 42 million who have student debt.

The millions under the weight of medical debt deserve help, both because medical debt is a uniquely unfair form of predatory lending and because of its devastating ripple effects on American families.

Unlike college tuition or other kinds of debt, outlays for med-

ical treatments are generally not something we can consider in advance and decide — yes or no — to take on. They are thrust upon us by illness, accident, and bad luck. Medical treatment generally has no predictable upfront price and there is no cap on what we might owe. And, given our health system's prices, the amount can be more than the value of the family home if incurred for a hospital stay.

“Half of adults in the U.S. say they don't have the cash to pay an unexpected \$500 medical bill.”

When it was time for my kids to choose a college, I knew in advance almost exactly what it would cost. We could decide which of the different tuitions was “worth it.” We made a plan to pay the amount using bank accounts, money saved in college savings plans, some finan-

cial aid, a student job, and some money loaned by a grandparent. (Yes, we had enough resources to make a financially considered choice.)

Think about how different educational debts are from those incurred in health care. In one case, profiled by Kaiser Health News, the parents of twins, who were born at 30 weeks, faced out-of-pocket bills of about \$80,000 stemming from charges in neonatal intensive care and other care that insurance didn't cover. In another case, a couple ended up owing \$250,000 when one spouse went to the emergency room with an intestinal obstruction that required multiple surgeries. They had to declare bankruptcy and lost their home. Even smaller bills lead to trashed credit ratings, cashing in retirement accounts, and taking on second jobs; in surveys, half of adults in the U.S. say they don't have the cash to pay an unexpected \$500 medical bill.

In “taking on” medical debt, patients sign only the sort of vague



The millions of people under the weight of medical debt deserve help. / Los millones bajo el peso de la deuda médica merecen ayuda.

financial agreement that has become ubiquitous in American health care: “I agree to pay for charges my insurance doesn't cover,” presented on the stack of forms to sign on arrival at an emergency room or a doctor's office. But no one can fully consider options or say “no” to care while in pain or medical distress or even properly agree to pay an unknown amount.

Student debt causes hardships because it hits people who've just

started careers, with salaries at the bottom of the pay scale, forcing them to delay life choices, like purchasing a home or starting a family. But medical debt often comes with all that plus medical woes: In a Kaiser Family Foundation poll, 1 in 7 people with health care debt said they'd been denied care by a provider because of unpaid bills. Sometimes a bill for as little as a

See [Debt](#) on page 19

La Crisis de Deuda que los Estadounidenses Enfermos No Pueden Evitar

By Elisabeth Rosenthal

La promesa de campaña del presidente Joe Biden de cancelar la deuda estudiantil por los primeros \$10,000 adeudados en préstamos universitarios federales ha generado un debate sobre la equidad de estos programas de préstamos.

“En las encuestas, la mitad de los adultos en el país dicen que no tienen el efectivo para pagar una factura médica inesperada de \$500.”

En un sondeo de junio, poco más de la mitad de los estadounidenses encuestados apoyaron que se condonara la deuda universitaria, pero el 82% dijo que el mejor enfoque sería hacer que fuera más asequible.

Sin embargo, poca atención pública se ha centrado en lo que es, al menos estadísticamente, una crisis de deuda más grande y más amplia: se estima que 100 millones de personas, o el 41% de todos los adultos del país, tienen deudas de atención médica, en comparación con 42 millones con deuda estudiantil.

Los millones bajo el peso de la deuda médica merecen ayuda, tanto porque la deuda médica es una forma excepcionalmente injusta de préstamos depredadores como por sus efectos devastadores en las familias estadounidenses.

A diferencia de la matrícula universitaria u otros tipos de deudas, los desembolsos por tratamientos médicos generalmente no son algo que se pueda considerar por adelantado, y decidir si asumir o no. Es algo que impone la enfermedad, el accidente y la mala suerte.

Por lo general, el tratamiento médico no tiene un precio inicial

predecible y no hay un límite en lo que se puede llegar a deber. Y, dados los costos de nuestro sistema de salud, la cantidad puede ser mayor que el valor de la propia vivienda si la atención incluye una hospitalización.

Cuando llegó el momento de que mis hijos eligieran una universidad, sabía de antemano casi exactamente lo que costaría. Podríamos decidir cuál de las diferentes matrículas “valía la pena”. Hicimos un plan para pagar la cantidad usando cuentas bancarias, dinero ahorrado en fondos universitarios, algo de ayuda financiera, un trabajo de estudiante y algo de dinero prestado por un abuelo. (Sí, teníamos suficientes recursos para tomar una decisión financiera segura).

Las deudas educativas son completamente diferentes de las contraídas en la atención de salud. En un caso descrito por KHN, los padres de mellizos, que nacieron a las 30 semanas, enfrentaron gas-

tos de bolsillo de alrededor de \$80,000 derivados de cargos en cuidados intensivos neonatales y otros cuidados que el seguro no cubría.

En otro caso, una pareja terminó debiendo \$250,000 cuando uno de los cónyuges fue a la sala de emergencias con una obstrucción intestinal que requirió múltiples cirugías. Tuvieron que declararse en quiebra y perdieron su casa.

Incluso las facturas más pequeñas destruyen el historial de crédito, y estos costos llevan a la pérdida del dinero de la jubilación, a tener que tomar un segundo trabajo. En las encuestas, la mitad de los adultos en el país dicen que no tienen el efectivo para pagar una factura médica inesperada de \$500.

Al “asumir” una deuda médica, los pacientes firman solo el tipo de acuerdo financiero vago que se ha vuelto omnipresente en la atención médica estadounidense: “Estoy de acuerdo en pagar los cargos que

mi seguro no cubre”, presentado en una pila de formularios para firmar en la sala de emergencias o el consultorio de un médico.

Pero nadie puede considerar completamente las opciones, o decir “no” a la atención, mientras siente dolor o angustia médica.

La deuda estudiantil causa dificultades porque afecta a las personas que acaban de comenzar una carrera, con ingresos en la parte inferior de la escala salarial, obligándolos a retrasar opciones de vida, como comprar una casa o formar una familia.

Pero la deuda médica a menudo viene con todo eso más problemas médicos: en una encuesta de KFF, una de cada 7 personas con deudas de atención médica dijeron que un proveedor les había negado la atención debido a facturas impagas. A veces, una cuenta de tan solo unos pocos cientos de dólares puede convertirse en una

Vea [Deuda](#), página 19

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Children Make Up a Third of Migrants in Documentation Limbo

By Athena Ankrah

Around the world, millions of people are leaving their homes to seek refuge or asylum in safer, more prosperous countries. From Syria and Ukraine to Venezuela and Haiti, about 82.4 million people who have been forcibly displaced must leave everything they've known to seek a better life.

Tens of thousands of them end up in Tapachula, an ancient city of 350,000 people less than 20 miles from México's border with Gua-

temala. It's also more than 2,000 miles from Nogales, Sonora, on the U.S. border.

Tapachula is a gateway into México for thousands of migrants moving north every year. Many have plans to reach the U.S., but all have to wait in Tapachula for Mexican immigration offices to process their requests for documents to work in the country or leave the city.

The crush of migrants and refugees is overwhelming the immigration system, so it often takes months to get the necessary ap-



Two teenage migrants sit in the courtyard of the Hospitalidad y Solidaridad shelter in Tapachula, México, on March 5, 2022, sharing stories of their families, interests and hopes for life outside the shelter walls. / Dos adolescentes migrantes se sientan en el patio del albergue Hospitalidad y Solidaridad en Tapachula, México, el 5 de marzo de 2022, compartiendo historias de sus familias, intereses y esperanzas de vida fuera de los muros del albergue.

Photo/Foto: Emilee Miranda/Cronkite Borderlands Project



pointments with them. While the process grinds on, public parks are sleeping grounds, local shelters are at capacity and tensions seem only to rise.

In Tapachula, the site of one of the largest humanitarian crises in the Western Hemisphere, about a third of those stranded are younger than 18, according to UNICEF.

Some kids traveling with parents or older family members are able to find space in one of the city's shelters.

(To protect identities, everyone in this story will be referred to by first name only).

Carlos, 16, who's from Honduras, is one of those fortunate enough to have a place to stay. In March, Carlos had been in Tapachula for a little more than a week, traveling with his 23-year-old cousin to join Carlos' parents and sisters in Puebla, México, further north.

"My case has been difficult, it was sudden, but with God's help I've kept going," he said.

Carlos spends his days at Hospitalidad y Solidaridad, a shelter for refugees and asylum seekers. He and his cousin walked from Honduras through Guatemala to México in a day and a half.

"Two or three days ago, I had an anxiety attack or depression because I hadn't had time to process everything that had happened," he said. "Then it hit me; running out and not being like a locked up prisoner. But now, thank God, I have calmed down, and I have no choice but to come here ... and because of the circumstances, I can't return" to Honduras.

His parents and sisters, who had left home eight or nine months earlier to get permanent residence and documentation, also passed through Hospitalidad y Solidaridad on the way. At a picnic table outside the shelter, Carlos talked about what brought him here.

"Gang threats," he said. "My dad apparently had problems with them, but it had been mostly because of misunderstandings ... And I had no choice but to come here to look for my dad."

Directors at the shelter said Carlos' father must come to Tapachula from Puebla to go through a formal family reunification process with immigration officials.

In 2021, Tapachula reported receiving more than 130,000 asylum seekers. The monthly number of refugee-status applications received by COMAR, the Mexican office for refugee assistance, went from about 6,000 in 2019 to almost 11,000 in 2021.

A large number of migrants stuck here are from Haiti. Some left their Caribbean nation recently, but many had worked in Brazil, Colombia, Chile and Venezuela over the past decade. In 2019, COMAR reported that less than 10% of asylum seekers were Haitian. By 2021, 51,000 Haitians were seeking asylum, making up nearly 40% of all such applicants in México.

All migrants, but especially Haitian migrants, say it has been extremely difficult waiting in Tapachula for weeks, sometimes months, to get permission to stay and work in México or continue to the U.S. or Canada.

"They sell us everything more expensive," said Freddy, 42, a Haitian migrant who arrived in August 2021. "Even the house, the apartment. The rent is much more expensive because you're a migrant."

“

"We don't want kids to keep leaving on their own because a parent is in jail in Siglo XXI, we want kids to be able to go to school, so somehow we have to keep fighting."

Freddy, Haitian Refugee

Freddy is one of two Creole translators working in Tapachula to help others through the Mexican immigration process.

"Most of them, you know, have been here for eight months, one year, so if you have no documents, you are not able to go to school, to get proper health care, you have nothing," he said. "It's like they tell you here: You are not a person."

For parents of young kids, Freddy said, securing a safe place to sleep or even finding their next meal are daily challenges. And enrolling in school isn't an option until their documents are in order.

"Not even five percent of migrant kids go to school," Freddy said.

Haiti has seen more than its share of political and environmental disasters in the past year, including

Los Niños: Un Tercio de los Inmigrantes Sin Documentación



Manifestantes que exigen rendición de cuentas y ayuda para los migrantes se reúnen en el Parque Bicentenario en Tapachula, México, el 11 de marzo de 2022, el día en que el presidente Andrés Manuel López Obrador visitó la ciudad. / Protesters demanding accountability and aid for migrants gather in Bicentennial Park in Tapachula, Mexico, on March 11, 2022, the day President Andrés Manuel López Obrador visited the city.

Por Athena Ankra

En todo el mundo, millones de personas abandonan sus hogares para buscar refugio o asilo en países más seguros y prósperos. Desde Siria y Ucrania hasta Venezuela y Haití, unos 82.4 millones de personas desplazadas por la fuerza deben dejar todo lo que han conocido para buscar una vida mejor.

Decenas de miles de ellos acaban en Tapachula, una antigua ciudad de 350.000 habitantes situada a menos de 30 kilómetros de la frontera de México con Guatemala. También está a más de 3.000 kilómetros de Nogales, Sonora, en la frontera con Estados Unidos.

Tapachula es una puerta de entrada a México para miles de migrantes que se dirigen al norte cada año. Muchos tienen planes de llegar a Estados Unidos, pero todos tienen que esperar en Tapachula a que las oficinas de inmigración mexicanas tramiten sus solicitudes de documentos para trabajar en el país o salir de la ciudad.

La avalancha de migrantes y refugiados está desbordando el sistema de inmigración, por lo que a menudo se tarda meses en conseguir las citas necesarias con ellos. Mientras el proceso se alarga, los parques públicos se convierten en lugares para dormir, los albergues locales están al límite de su capacidad y las tensiones sólo parecen aumentar.

En Tapachula, el lugar donde se ha producido una de las mayores crisis humanitarias del hemisferio occidental, cerca de un tercio de

las personas varadas son menores de 18 años, según UNICEF.

Algunos niños que viajan con sus padres o con familiares mayores pueden encontrar espacio en uno de los refugios de la ciudad.

(Para proteger las identidades, todos los que aparecen en esta historia serán referidos sólo por su nombre de pila).

Carlos, de 16 años, procedente de Honduras, es uno de los afortunados que tiene un lugar donde alojarse. En marzo, Carlos llevaba poco más de una semana en Tapachula, viajando con su primo de 23 años para reunirse con los padres y hermanas de Carlos en Puebla, México, más al norte.

“

No queremos que los niños sigan saliendo solos porque uno de los padres está en la cárcel en Siglo XXI, queremos que los niños puedan ir a la escuela, así que de alguna manera tenemos que seguir luchando”.

Freddy, Refugiado Haitiano

“Mi caso ha sido difícil, fue repentino, pero con la ayuda de Dios he seguido adelante”, dijo.

Carlos pasa sus días en Hospitalidad y Solidaridad, un albergue para refugiados y solicitantes de asilo. Él y su primo caminaron desde Honduras a través de Gua-

temala hasta México en un día y medio.

“Hace dos o tres días, tuve un ataque de ansiedad o depresión porque no había tenido tiempo de procesar todo lo que había pasado”, dijo. “Entonces me di cuenta; salir corriendo y no estar como un preso encerrado. Pero ahora, gracias a Dios, me he calmado, y no tengo más remedio que venir aquí... y por las circunstancias, no puedo volver” a Honduras.

Sus padres y hermanas, que habían abandonado su país ocho o nueve meses antes para conseguir la residencia permanente y la documentación, también pasaron por Hospitalidad y Solidaridad en el camino. En una mesa de picnic fuera del refugio, Carlos habló de lo que le trajo aquí.

“Las amenazas de las bandas”, dijo. “Al parecer, mi padre tenía problemas con ellos, pero había sido sobre todo por malentendidos. ... Y no tuve más remedio que venir aquí a buscar a mi padre”.

Los directores del albergue dijeron que el padre de Carlos debe venir a Tapachula desde Puebla para pasar por un proceso formal de reunificación familiar con funcionarios de inmigración.

En 2021, Tapachula reportó haber recibido más de 130.000 solicitantes de asilo. El número mensual de solicitudes de estatus de refugiado recibidas por la COMAR, la oficina mexicana de asistencia a los refugiados, pasó de unas 6.000 en 2019 a casi 11.000 en 2021.

Un gran número de migrantes atrapados aquí son de Haití. Algunos dejaron su nación caribeña

recientemente, pero muchos habían trabajado en Brasil, Colombia, Chile y Venezuela durante la última década. En 2019, la COMAR informó que menos del 10% de los solicitantes de asilo eran haitianos. Para 2021, 51.000 haitianos buscaban asilo, constituyendo casi el 40% de todos los solicitantes de este tipo en México.

Todos los migrantes, pero especialmente los haitianos, dicen que ha sido extremadamente difícil esperar en Tapachula durante semanas, a veces meses, para obtener el permiso para quedarse y traba-

jar en México o continuar hacia Estados Unidos o Canadá.

“Nos venden todo más caro”, dijo Freddy, de 42 años, un migrante haitiano que llegó en agosto de 2021. “Hasta la casa, el apartamento. El alquiler es mucho más caro por ser migrante”.

Freddy es uno de los dos traductores de criollo que trabajan en Tapachula para ayudar a otros en el proceso migratorio mexicano.

“La mayoría de ellos, ya sabes, han estado aquí durante ocho

Vea [Children/Esp](#), página 21

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State News / Noticias del Estado

DACA Opens Doors to Education, But Obstacles Remain

COLORADO

By Yesenia Robles

When Flor Camarena was getting ready to graduate from her Denver high school, there was a moment she wasn't sure she'd be able to go to college.

But her counselors, to whom she had confided her lack of legal status, helped her find schools that were supportive and programs that gave her hope for financial assistance.

This fall, she's entering Metropolitan State University of Denver. Because she's already earned some credits, she'll be starting as a sophomore. But not having legal status in this country, where she's lived since she was a baby, is impacting her educational choices and prospects.

Camarena has applied for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals or DACA program that would protect her from deportation and give her permission to work and apply for financial aid,

but she doesn't know if her application will ever be processed.

Instead of studying criminal justice to become a detective as she had wanted, Camarena instead will major in business management.

"I started thinking about how DACA might be removed and I just thought about the outcome," she said. "Once I study, yes, I'll get my diploma and certification but then getting into working for the law — I wouldn't get a good job because of my legal status. Even if I do get DACA, that's still not a very lawful status to have to work with the law. I just didn't see it happening."

But she's making the most of it. She hopes that with a degree in business, she'll be able to help her parents grow their restaurant business.

"I was initially very disappointed," Camarena said. "I just started thinking about if I had a different legal status here, I could be somebody much more important — maybe have a better career."

Her mom was sad. Her dad was proud that she thought of the family business and was thinking practically.

The political immigrant advocacy group FWD.us estimates there are 600,000 students like Camarena without legal status in U.S. K-12 schools, including about 8,000 in Colorado.

This June, advocates celebrated the 10-year anniversary of the creation of DACA, and the impacts it's had for many. DACA is a program that offers work authorizations and temporary relief from deportation for people who were brought into the country illegally as children.

Before the creation of DACA, young people without legal status described hitting demoralizing barriers in high school. Students lost their motivation as they realized college was out of reach without typical access to financial aid or in-state tuition. Other opportunities including internships and trades that require professional certifications were also off limits.

When legislative efforts to help these students stalled, President Barack Obama created DACA through an executive order.

Some recipients are now parents themselves. The impact of status reaches beyond the recipients. In Colorado, it's estimated that 20,000 U.S. citizens live with DACA recipients.

Educators and advocates have anecdotal stories showing that the creation of DACA helped motivate some young people to have hope



This June, advocates celebrated the 10-year anniversary of the creation of DACA, and the impacts it's had for many. / Este pasado junio, los defensores celebraron el 10mo aniversario de la creación de DACA y el impacto que ha tenido para muchos.

for the future and to pursue education. One of the requirements to apply is to either be in school or have a high school diploma or GED.

Researchers published a study in 2019 based on findings from the National UnDACAmented Research Project at Harvard University that tracked the impact of DACA across many years in hundreds of recipients. The study found that among students who had dropped out of high school, earning DACA status motivated them to reengage in their education. Many others went on to complete college degrees and started careers.

Marissa Molina, the Colorado state director for FWD.us, herself was once a DACA recipient. She was in college, with her parents paying her out-of-state tuition, just before DACA was introduced.

"Because I had this huge tuition burden, I was going to drop out," Molina said. "I didn't see a point of continuing because I had no prospects to ever be able to use what I was learning. For me, DACA was truly transformational."

Unlike most, Molina has since found an unrelated path to adjust her legal status.

DACA itself gives recipients temporary status, two years at a time, but doesn't provide a way to earn permanent residency or citizenship.

Since former President Trump first tried to end DACA in 2017, the government has only been allowed to process new applications for limited windows of time. Camarena applied during one of those windows last year, but her application hasn't been processed.

Although the Supreme Court handed Trump a defeat in 2020 and restored DACA, a legal challenge again put processing of new applications on hold.

This time, states in a case led by Texas argue that DACA was flawed

from its inception, created without going through legal and administrative procedures, and that it's harming their states. A federal judge agreed. The Biden administration has appealed the case and oral arguments were heard last month.

“There’s students now who have never known a world without DACA.”
Marissa Molina, FWD.us

A decision is expected this fall, but advocates aren't hopeful. Instead, they are pressing Congress to pass legislation to broaden and enshrine a new pathway for legal status for those who have been brought into the country as children.

Because the original rules for DACA have not changed — including having been in the U.S. before 2007 — FWD.us estimates that the majority of undocumented students in U.S. schools now wouldn't be eligible for DACA even if new applications were being processed. This year's high school seniors were born in 2004 and 2005, and if eligibility isn't expanded, soon no high school students will qualify.

Although the program is in jeopardy, Molina believes that young people even without legal status now have more expectations than she did growing up.

"There's students now who have never known a world without DACA," Molina said. "We live in a different space. Particularly for Colorado. Our state has truly understood this issue and has tried to do better and do right by our stu-

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DACA Abre las Puertas a la Educación, Pero Sigue Habiendo Obstáculos



DACA es un programa que ofrece permisos de trabajo y alivio temporero del riesgo de deportación para personas que llegaron ilegalmente al país cuando eran menores de edad. / DACA is a program that offers work authorizations and temporary relief from deportation for people who were brought into the country illegally as children.

COLORADO

Por Yesenia Robles

Cuando Flor Camarena estaba a punto de graduarse de secundaria en Denver, hubo un momento en que no sabía si podría ir a la universidad.

Sin embargo, sus orientadores académicos (a quienes les había confiado que no era residente legal) la ayudaron a encontrar universidades que la apoyaran y programas que le dieran esperanza de conseguir asistencia financiera.

do, pero luego no voy a poder trabajar en el ámbito policial. No voy a conseguir un buen empleo debido a mi estatus legal. Aunque me den el programa DACA, de todos modos no voy a ser residente legal y eso me impedirá trabajar como detective. No veo la manera de que eso sea posible."

No obstante, ella está aprovechando la oportunidad al máximo. Espera que con un diploma en administración de empresas pueda ayudar a sus padres a hacer crecer su restaurante.

"Al principio estaba bien decepcionada", dijo Camarena. "Empecé a pensar que si tuviese un estatus legal distinto, podría ser alguien mucho más importante — quizás hasta tener una mejor profesión."

Su mamá estaba triste. Su papá estaba orgulloso de que ella pensara en el negocio familiar y que estuviera siendo práctica.

FWD, un grupo político que defiende a los inmigrantes, calcula que en las escuelas K-12 de Estados Unidos hay unos 600,000 estudiantes sin estatus legal, como Camarena, y eso incluye unos 8,000 en Colorado.

Este pasado junio, los defensores celebraron el 10mo aniversario de la creación de DACA y el impacto que ha tenido para muchos. DACA es un programa que ofrece permisos de trabajo y alivio temporero del riesgo de deportación para personas que llegaron ilegalmente al país cuando eran menores de edad.

Antes de la creación de DACA, los menores de edad sin estatus legal describen haber enfrentado barreras desmoralizantes en la escuela secundaria. Los estudiantes perdían motivación al darse cuenta de que nunca podrían ir a la universidad por no tener acceso a ayuda financiera y no calificar para pagar matrícula como residente. Otras

oportunidades, entre ellas internados y oficios que requieren certificaciones profesionales, también estaban fuera de su alcance.

Cuando los esfuerzos de la legislatura para ayudar a estos estudiantes no estaban progresando, el presidente Barack Obama creó el programa DACA mediante una orden ejecutiva.

Algunos de los beneficiados en ese momento ahora son padres. El impacto del estatus migratorio va más allá de los que se benefician del programa DACA. Se calcula que en Colorado hay unos 20,000 ciudadanos estadounidenses que viven con recipientes del programa DACA.

Tanto maestros como defensores de estos estudiantes tienen anécdotas de cómo la creación de DACA ayudó a motivar a algunos estudiantes, a darles esperanza por el futuro, y a optar por estudiar. Uno de los requisitos para solicitar es estar estudiando o tener un diploma de secundaria o GED.

Los investigadores publicaron un estudio en 2019 basado en los hallazgos del *National Undocumented Research Project* de la Universidad de Harvard, un proyecto que llevó cuenta por muchos años

del impacto del programa DACA en cientos de estudiantes. El estudio encontró que, entre los estudiantes que habían abandonado la secundaria, recibir el estatus DACA fue motivación para reanudar sus estudios. Muchos otros completaron estudios universitarios y comenzaron carreras profesionales.

Marissa Molina, directora en Colorado de la organización FWD.us, fue una vez recipiente del programa DACA. Estaba en la universidad (y sus padres pagaban la matrícula a precio de alguien que no es residente del estado) justo antes de que DACA comenzara.

"Como sentía el peso de esa matrícula tan cara, estaba pensando abandonar la universidad", dijo Molina. "No le veía sentido a continuar porque no había manera de poder usar lo que estaba aprendiendo. En mi caso, DACA fue realmente transformador".

A diferencia de la mayoría, Molina pudo encontrar otra manera de ajustar su estatus legal.

DACA les da estatus temporero a los estudiantes cada dos años, pero no ofrece una manera para conseguir residencia permanente o ciudadanía.

Desde que el entonces presidente Trump intentara eliminar DACA por primera vez en 2017, el gobierno solamente ha procesado solicitudes nuevas durante ventanas limitadas de tiempo. Camarena solicitó durante una de esas oportunidades el año pasado, pero su solicitud todavía no ha sido procesada.

Aunque la decisión del Tribunal Supremo fue en contra de Trump en 2020 y restauró el programa DACA, otro caso legal nuevamente detuvo el procesamiento de solicitudes nuevas.

Esta ocasión, un grupo de estados dirigido por Texas alega que DACA tenía deficiencias desde que empezó, que fue creado sin pasar por los debidos procedimientos legales y administrativos, y que les está haciendo daño a sus estados. Un juez federal estuvo de acuerdo. La administración del presidente Biden ha apelado el caso y los argumentos ya se escucharon el mes pasado.

Se espera que el tribunal tome la decisión este otoño, pero los defensores no tienen mucha esperanza. Pero eso, como alternativa

Vea DACA/Esp, página 18



"Ahora hay estudiantes que no conocen un mundo sin DACA".

Melissa Molina, FWD.us

Este otoño comenzará a estudiar en Metropolitan State University of Denver. Como ya tiene algunos créditos universitarios, empezará el programa como estudiante de segundo año. No tener residencia legal en este país, en el que ha vivido desde que era bebé, está teniendo un impacto en sus opciones y prospectos educativos.

Camarena ha solicitado ser parte del programa DACA (*Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals*), que la protegería de ser deportada y le daría permiso para trabajar y solicitar ayuda financiera, pero ella no sabe si su solicitud va a ser procesada.

En vez de estudiar justicia criminal para ser detective, como siempre quiso, Camarena tendrá que estudiar una carrera en administración de empresas.

"Empecé a pensar en que DACA quizás se elimine, y a considerar cuál sería el efecto", dijo. "Si estudio, tendré mi diploma y certifica-

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State News / Noticias del Estado

State Aims to Better Serve Underrepresented Coloradans

COLORADO

Coloradans have another option in getting the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) services they need as the Division shifts its DMV2GO mobile office program into drive, literally.

The new program — which fully launched following a public reveal of these mobile offices in Pagosa Springs on Aug. 12 — is part of the DMV's sweeping efforts to better serve Coloradans, especially those who might be underserved such as rural Coloradans, long-term care facility residents and people experiencing homelessness.

The program currently includes the DMV2GO RV — an office on

wheels — and two DMV2GO pop-up driver license offices, which can be set up almost anywhere in the state.

"One of our priorities is to continue to find innovative ways to offer our services, and our DMV2GO does just that — bringing DMV offices to our customers in an easy and convenient manner," DMV Senior Director Electra Bustle said. "We are excited to bring more flexibility to doing work with the DMV and add to our other convenient service delivery options like myDMV, kiosks, @Home Driving Knowledge test and the myColorado™ App."

DMV2GO offers Coloradans the same services as a standard driver license office, with Driving Knowl-

edge tests and endorsement exams being the only exception. DMV2GO also offers access to online vehicle registration and driver record services as well.

The DMV2GO reveal in Pagosa Springs was the culmination of about three years of planning and testing, which was delayed by supply chain issues, particularly vehicle microchip shortages.

"We are so excited to get DMV2GO on the road," DMV Deputy Senior Director Rosalie Johnson said. "DMV2GO really helps us provide services to Coloradans who don't have easy access to driver license offices because not having a valid form of identification can present significant barriers for



Photo/Foto: Derek Kuhn/DOR

DMV2GO is the Colorado Division of Motor Vehicles new program that offers a mobile way to DMV. / DMV2GO es el nuevo programa de la División de Vehículos Motorizados de Colorado que ofrece un acceso móvil al DMV.

people. The Colorado DMV wants to help put people on the road to success and with DMV2GO we are."

The DMV started piloting DMV2GO in July 2021 and began serv-

ing Coloradans throughout the Centennial State, including helping dozens affected by the Marshall

See DMV on page 16

DMV de Colorado Está Listo para Rodar con DMV2GO

COLORADO

Los habitantes de Colorado tienen otra opción para obtener los servicios de la División de Vehículos Motorizados (DMV) que necesitan, ya que la División pone en marcha su programa de oficina móvil DMV2GO, literalmente.

El nuevo programa, que se lanzó por completo luego de una presentación pública de estas oficinas móviles en Pagosa Springs el viernes 12 de agosto, es parte de los amplios esfuerzos del DMV para brindar un mejor servicio a los habitantes de Colorado, especialmente a aquellos que podrían estar desatendidos, como los habitantes

de zonas rurales de Colorado, residentes de centros de atención a largo plazo y personas que experimentan la falta de vivienda.

El programa actualmente incluye el DMV2GO RV, una oficina sobre ruedas, y dos oficinas móviles de licencias de conducir DMV2GO, que se pueden instalar en casi cualquier lugar del estado.

"Una de nuestras prioridades es continuar encontrando formas innovadoras de ofrecer nuestros servicios, y nuestro DMV2GO hace exactamente eso: acercar las oficinas del DMV a nuestros clientes de una manera fácil y conveniente", dijo Electra Bustle, directora sénior del DMV. "Estamos entusiasmados de brindar más flexibilidad para trabajar con el DMV y agregar a nuestras otras opciones convenientes de prestación de servicios como myDMV, quioscos, prueba de conocimiento de manejo @Home y la aplicación myColorado™".

DMV2GO ofrece a los habitantes de Colorado los mismos servicios que una oficina de licencias de conducir estándar, con excepción de las pruebas de conocimiento de manejo y los exámenes de aprobación. DMV2GO también ofrece acceso a servicios de registros de conductores y registro de vehículos en línea.

La presentación del DMV2GO en Pagosa Springs fue la culminación de unos tres años de planificación y pruebas, que se retrasó por problemas de la cadena de suministro, en particular la escasez de microchips para vehículos.

"Estamos muy emocionados de poner en marcha a DMV2GO", dijo la subdirectora sénior del DMV, Rosalie Johnson. "DMV2GO realmente



Foto/Foto: Derek Kuhn/DOR

Los miembros del equipo de DMV2GO atienden a los Coloradenses dentro del RV de DMV2GO en el centro de Pagosa Springs, Colorado. / DMV2GO Team Members serve Coloradans inside the DMV2GO RV in downtown Pagosa Springs, Colorado.

nos ayuda a brindar servicios a los habitantes de Colorado que no tienen fácil acceso a las oficinas de licencias de conducir porque no tener una forma de identificación válida puede presentar barreras importantes para las personas. El DMV de Colorado quiere ayudar a poner a las personas en el camino hacia el éxito y con DMV2GO lo estamos haciendo".

El DMV comenzó a probar DMV2GO en julio de 2021 y comenzó a brindar servicios a los habitantes de Colorado en todo el estado de Colorado, incluida la ayuda a decenas de personas afectadas por el incendio de Marshall. Durante la fase piloto desde julio de 2021 hasta el 30 de junio, el DMV visitó 191 ubicaciones, ayudó a más de 3,000 habitantes de Colorado y emitió 2,933 tarjetas de identificación y licencias de conducir.

Actualmente, DMV2GO no requiere citas para oficinas móviles programadas. Los habitantes de Colorado interesados en que DMV2GO visite su centro comunitario sin fines de lucro, centro para personas mayores, biblioteca o centro

correcional pueden solicitar una visita en línea en DMV.Colorado.gov/DMV2GO (para ver la información en español, utilice el traductor automático al pie de la página web).

Para obtener más información, visite DMV.Colorado.gov/DMV2GO. Es importante tener en cuenta que DMV2GO no realiza visitas a domicilio.

Otras opciones para obtener los servicios del DMV incluyen opciones en línea, myDMV.Colorado.gov y la aplicación [myColorado™](https://myColorado.com), así como quioscos de MV de auto-servicio y, por supuesto, servicios en la oficina.

El DMV se compromete a brindar servicios a todos los habitantes de Colorado donde más se necesiten, ya sea en la oficina, en línea o en movimiento. Visite dmv.colorado.gov/anywhere (para ver la información en español, utilice el traductor automático al pie de la página web) para averiguar cómo puede DMV donde sea.

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State News / Noticias del Estado

Climate-Friendly School Buses Introduced by Gov. Polis, EPA



Photo: Chase Woodruff/Colorado Newswire

Gov. Jared Polis joined Environmental Protection Agency officials in Aurora to promote grant programs that help Colorado school districts purchase new electric buses.

COLORADO

By Chase Woodruff

Every weekday, more than 25 million children across the United States ride the bus to school — and before long, environmental advocates hope, most of them will be riding in battery-powered, zero-emission electric vehicles.

Gov. Jared Polis joined Colorado lawmakers and officials with the federal Environmental Protection Agency to promote efforts to electrify school bus fleets in Aurora on August 10. Flanked by Aurora Public Schools administrators and two of the district's newly purchased

electric buses, Polis said the rapidly maturing EV technology comes with a wide range of benefits.

"These are more reliable than diesel buses, lower-cost to operate, better for the bus drivers and better for the kids, and free up money for better teacher pay and smaller class sizes," Polis said. "What could be better?"

Clean-air legislation passed by Democrats in the General Assembly and signed into law by Polis this year included \$65 million in grant funding to help Colorado school districts purchase new electric buses and retire older diesel models. At the federal

See [Climate](#) on page 18

Treasurer Young Wants to Return \$20 Million to Pueblo Residents

COLORADO

In Pueblo alone, there are 180,560 unclaimed properties, including \$20,405,805 in cash, 190 items from safety deposit boxes, and 2,254,196 stock shares available to be claimed.

In Pueblo County, there are 204,843 unclaimed properties, including \$22,480,689 in cash, 209 items from safety deposit boxes, and 2,353,107 stock shares available to be claimed.

"The Great Colorado Payback wants to make sure that you're reunited with your money. And there's a chance — at least 1 in 10 — that there's unclaimed property, like gift certificates, unpaid wages, or uncashed checks, with your name on it," Dave Young, Colorado State Treasurer and former President of the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators said. "It only takes 30 seconds to check colorado.find-yourunclaimedproperty.com to see if you have money waiting to be claimed."



Photo: Colo. Dept. of Treasury

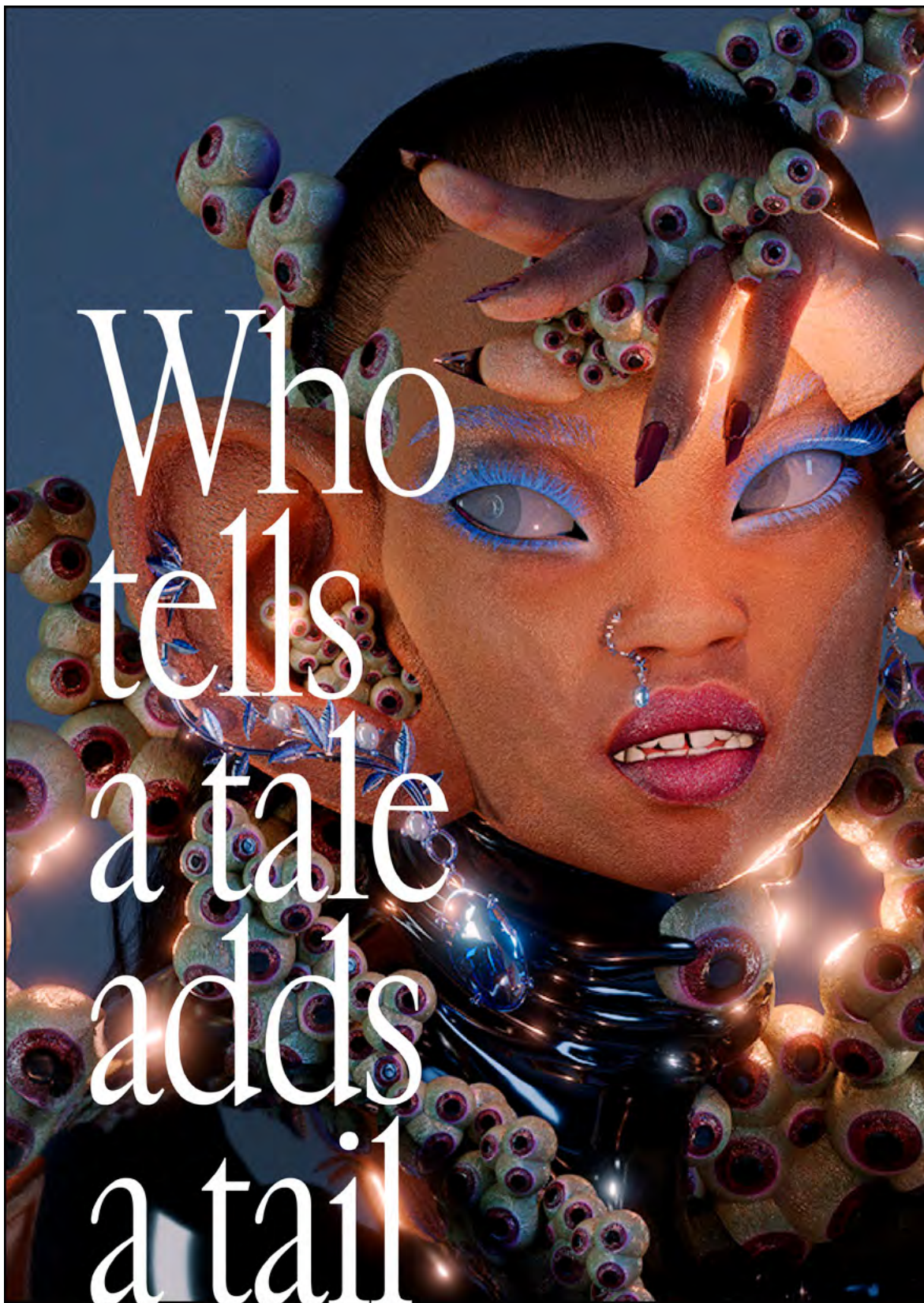
Dave Young, Colorado State Treasurer and former President of the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators.

to see if you have money waiting to be claimed."

The Great Colorado Payback

During the 2020-2021 fiscal year, The Great Colorado Payback re-

See [Young](#) on page 22



Who tells a tale adds a tail

Latin America and contemporary art



Discover works from 19 cutting-edge Latin American artists. Now on view

IMAGE: Vitória Cribb, *VIGILANTE, EXTENDED* (video still detail), 2022. Film and digital installation; duration: 8 minutes, 44 seconds. © and courtesy Vitória Cribb

Who tells a tale adds a tail: Latin America and contemporary art is organized by the Denver Art Museum. It is presented with the generous support of The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. Additional support is provided by the Birnbaum Social Discourse Project, donors to the Annual Fund Leadership Campaign, and the residents who support the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD). Promotional support is provided by *S280 Magazine* and CBS4.



DENVER art MUSEUM

State News / Noticias del Estado

Lawmakers Hear from Alamogordo Educators on Time Limitations and Absences

NEW MEXICO

By Austin Fisher

As many New México public schools choose not to extend their school years, teachers in Alamogordo with decades of experience say for a longer year to make sense, districts should first give students the support they need to be able to make it into the classroom in the first place.

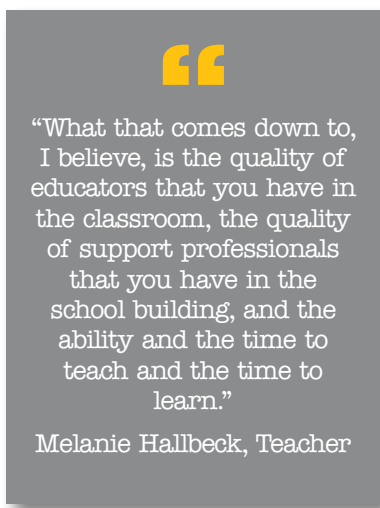
Legislative Education Study Committee Vice Chair Rep. G. Andrés Romero (D-Albuquerque) asked a panel of highly experienced teachers at Alamogordo Public Schools for their opinions of extended learning time near the end of a recent hearing inside The Tays

Center at New Mexico State University's campus in Alamogordo.

The question came two days after the head of the state Public Education Department told lawmakers that it is "not acceptable" that school districts aren't using \$400 million meant to extend the number of days in the school year.

Alamogordo Public Schools extended its previous school year by 10 days, said Melanie Hallbeck, a government and economics teacher at Alamogordo High School. She is opposed to statewide pressure and said districts should be able to choose.

The amount of days already allotted for public education in New Mexico is "incredibly sufficient," she said.



"I don't think it's effective unless the systems are in place already for effective learning," she said. "I don't necessarily agree that quantity is better than quality."



Educators say districts should give students the support they need to be able to make it into the classroom. / Los educadores dicen que los distritos deben dar a los estudiantes el apoyo que necesitan para poder llegar a las aulas.

Sarah Johnston, a teaching coach in Alamogordo, questioned

See [Alamogordo](#) on page 24

Los Educadores Cuestionan el Tiempo de Aprendizaje Extendido

NEW MEXICO

Por Austin Fisher

Mientras muchas escuelas públicas de Nuevo México optan por no extender sus años escolares, maestros de Alamogordo con décadas de experiencia dicen que para que un año más largo tenga sentido, los distritos deben primero dar a los estudiantes el apoyo que necesi-

tan para poder llegar al salón de clases en primer lugar.

El vicepresidente del Comité Legislativo de Estudio de la Educación, el representante G. Andrés Romero (demócrata de Albuquerque), pidió a un panel de maestros con gran experiencia en las escuelas públicas de Alamogordo sus opiniones sobre el tiempo de aprendizaje extendido, cerca del final de una reciente audiencia dentro del Centro Tays en el campus

de la Universidad Estatal de Nuevo México en Alamogordo.

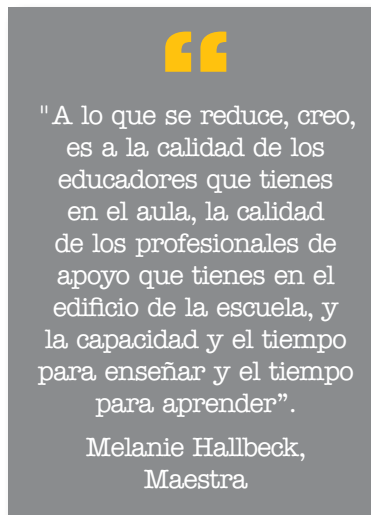
La pregunta llegó dos días después de que el jefe del Departamento de Educación Pública del estado dijera a los legisladores que es "inaceptable" que los distritos escolares no estén utilizando 400 millones de dólares destinados a extender el número de días en el año escolar.

Las Escuelas Públicas de Alamogordo extendieron su año es-

colar anterior en 10 días, dijo Melanie Hallbeck, una maestra de gobierno y economía en la Escuela Secundaria de Alamogordo. Ella se opone a la presión estatal y dijo que los distritos deberían poder elegir.

La cantidad de días ya asignados a la educación pública en Nuevo México es "incrediblemente suficiente", dijo.

"No creo que sea efectivo a menos que los sistemas ya estén



establecidos para un aprendizaje efectivo", dijo. "No estoy necesariamente de acuerdo en que la cantidad sea mejor que la calidad".

Sarah Johnston, una entrenadora de maestros en Alamogordo, cuestionó si el tiempo de aprendizaje extendido es algo que puede funcionar si las escuelas no pueden hacer que los estudiantes vengan a clase.

El distrito de Alamogordo tuvo dificultades para localizar a los estudiantes durante el año pasado, dijo, por lo que creó un grupo de trabajo que trabaja con los maestros para encontrar a los estudiantes y averiguar por qué están ausentes.

"Han estado trabajando muy duro -a veces yendo de puerta en puerta- tratando de averiguar dónde están y cómo lo están haciendo, y cómo podemos traerlos de vuelta a nuestras escuelas", dijo.

No es sólo un problema en Alamogordo: a finales de 2021, había 2.010 estudiantes en todo Nuevo México que estaban oficialmente

Albuquerque City Council Reaffirms \$250K for Planned Parenthood



Albuquerque City Hall

Photo: Andy Lyman/NM Political Report

would reallocate funds the city council already approved in May that would be allocated to Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains.

Fiscal Year 2023 began July 1 with the city budget already signed by the mayor, which included the allocation to PPRM.

Fiebelkorn introduced an amendment to the proposed ordinance that would leave the

\$250,000 already allocated to PPRM intact while allocating an additional \$100,000 to each of the nonprofits, Barrett House shelter and Prosperity Works for a community energy efficiency project.

The council voted in favor of Fiebelkorn's amended resolution 6-3 after an effort to table it failed.

Fiebelkorn sponsored the original Albuquerque City Council

resolution in May that allocated \$250,000 to PPRM. Fiebelkorn told *NM Political Report* she is proud of sponsoring the original bill and said she was a patient of Planned Parenthood herself when she was a college student.

"It's important to maintain Planned Parenthood clinics in Albuquerque so everyone in our city

See **ABQ** on page 19

NEW MEXICO

By Susan Dunlap

Albuquerque City Councilor Tammy Fiebelkorn helped thwart an effort to reroute city funds already allocated to Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains for the current year's budget on Monday evening during a city council meeting.

Earlier this summer, Albuquerque City Councilor Renee Grout introduced R-22-46, a resolution that



"It's important to maintain Planned Parenthood clinics in Albuquerque so everyone in our city has access to all types of reproductive services."

Tammy Fiebelkorn,
Albuquerque City Councilor

Luján Tours Southern New México



U.S. Senator Ben Ray Luján visited Ruidoso in Lincoln County on August 15 to review damage caused by the McBride Fire.

Photo: Office of Sen. Luján

NEW MEXICO

U.S. Senator Ben Ray Luján (D-N.M.) visited Ruidoso in Lincoln County on Monday to review damage caused by the McBride Fire and the steps taken in the aftermath to address flooding concerns. Following the tour, Senator Luján met with local officials about related responses, including Ruidoso's efforts to secure long-term housing for local workers displaced by the loss of residences.

Following their meeting, Senator Luján toured a portion of the Holloman Air Force Base, hosted

by the 49th Wing leadership, to become acquainted with several important projects and to meet Air Force leaders.

"Today's tour and meetings with the communities impacted by the McBride Fire is a clear example why it was critical to pass the Inflation Reduction Act, and build on the several actions I've taken to make New Mexicans whole once again," said Senator Luján. "Ruining over 200 homes and taking two innocent lives, the McBride Fire has devastated these families—just as they

See **Luján** on page 22

96,000 nuevos puestos; en servicios médicos, 70,000; en construcción, 32,000, mientras que en la manufactura 30,000.

El precio del combustible, además, se va reduciendo.

En otras palabras, Biden y los demócratas han acumulado algunos puntos políticos, aunque queda por ver si los votantes lo recuerdan cuando acudan a las urnas en noviembre, pues en términos electorales tres meses son un mundo y cualquier cosa puede suceder; sobre todo con una oposición que está echando mano de estrategias cargadas de esa esencia antiinmigrante, de mentiras y de odio que tienen tan bien ensayada para agitar a sus seguidores e impulsarlos a rebasar los límites de la cordura. Como el 6 de enero de 2021, ni más ni menos.

A eso agregamos el efecto que pueda tener sobre algunos votantes de que hay temas que han quedado en el tintero, como medidas que al menos legalicen a un sector de los 11 millones de indocumentados, como los Dreamers, los trabajadores agrícolas o los beneficiarios del TPS.

Y no podemos pasar por alto el efecto Trump en todo este proceso, en especial tras el allanamiento de su mansión de Mar-a-Lago

por agentes del FBI en busca de documentos clasificados. El suceso y sus secuelas pueden, como un arma de doble filo, lastimar los planes del expresidente de lanzarse al ruedo político una vez más; o puede beneficiarlo, al aumentar su apoyo entre sus seguidores con base en el argumento, como ya lo hizo, de que lo "persiguen" para frustrar sus aspiraciones políticas. Claro que el papel de "víctima" no le queda, ni en esta ni en ninguna otra circunstancia, sobre todo si comparamos la "redada" del FBI a su mansión con los operativos que él ordenó durante su presidencia contra trabajadores inmigrantes en sus lugares de empleo, redadas que sí destruyeron familias enteras y proyectos de vida para siempre.

En conclusión, las cartas en contra de los demócratas no están tan claras como unas semanas atrás cuando se pensaba que ambas cámaras estaban perdidas para ellos. De momento, la competencia parece más reñida.

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

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Trump administration, sought to prevent the entry of foreign-born people who were legally seeking asylum.

Title 42 remains in place, but the underlying asylum program is alive and breathing—for now.

Add to that the good news about the "Remain In Mexico" program ending, since the same federal judge who ordered the Biden administration to reinstate it in 2021 annulled his opinion a couple of days ago, and the landscape for Democrats and their agenda returns again to the realm of their priorities. The fact that migrants who aspire to obtain asylum no longer have to remain in Mexico until their hearing before an Immigration Judge is, at any rate, a concrete step forward on the current administration's list of pending migration issues.

Biden has also had good news on the economic front. In the month of July alone, more than 528,000 jobs were created, more than double the anticipated, despite inflation. The unemployment rate is just 3.5%, reaching pre-pandemic levels. And in more specific branches of the economy where Latino workforce participation is widely required and recognized, there was also significant growth,

according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics: in the area of recreation and hotels, there was an increase of 96,000 new positions; in health care, 70,000; in construction, 32,000; and in manufacturing, 30,000.

Moreover, the price of fuel is going down.

In other words, Biden and the Democrats have scored some political points, although it remains to be seen whether voters will remember when they head to the polls in November since, in electoral terms, three months is a lifetime and anything can happen—especially with an opposition that uses strategies charged with an anti-immigrant essence, of lies and hate that they have rehearsed so well to agitate their followers and push them past the limits of sanity. Like January 6, 2021, no more, no less.

To that, add the effect that could be had on some voters since there are issues that remain untapped, like measures that would legalize at least a group of the 11 million undocumented people, like Dreamers, farm workers, and people with TPS.

And we can't ignore the Trump effect on this whole process, especially after FBI agents entered

his Mar-a-Lago mansion, looking for classified documents. This event and its aftermath could, like a double-barrel shotgun, hurt the ex-president's plans to enter the political arena once again or, they could benefit it, increasing support among followers with the argument that, as he already said, Trump is being "persecuted" in order to frustrate his political ambitions. Of course, the role of "victim" is not his, not in this moment nor in any other, especially if we compare the FBI "raid" of Trump's mansion with the operations he ordered against immigrant workers in their places of employment during his presidency—true raids that destroyed entire families and futures, forever.

So it seems, the cards are not stacked so high against the Democrats as they were some weeks ago, when it seemed that both chambers were lost to them. Right now, the competition seems tighter.

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

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

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

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Con Gina

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Contact us at (303) 393-0382 for more information.
Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights
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Denver, CO 80204

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Organización de Colorado Para la Oportunidad y Derechos Reproductivos de las Latinas
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Denver, CO 80204

Escucha a la COLORista Gina Millan cada martes de 9 a 10 de la mañana en tu radio en la 1150am.

Topics such as reproductive justice, immigrant rights, health insurance, sex and sexuality among others will be discussed. Phone lines will be open for listeners. Please call (303) 337-1150 to speak with Gina.

Listen online at **onda1150am.com**

Hablamos de temas como la justicia reproductiva, derechos del inmigrante, cobertura médica, sexo y sexualidad, entre otros. Las líneas telefónicas están abiertas a los radioescuchas. Por favor comuníquese a la radio llamando al (303) 337-1150 y comparte tus preguntas y comentarios.

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1150-AM

El Semanario THE WEEKLY ISSUE Community Partners

DMV

Fire. During the pilot phase from July 2021 through June 30, the DMV visited 191 locations, helped more than 3,000 Coloradans and issued 2,933 identification cards and driver licenses.

Currently, DMV2GO does not require appointments for scheduled pop-up offices. Coloradans interested in having DMV2GO visit their nonprofit, community center, senior living facility, library or correctional facility can request a visit online at DMV.Colorado.gov/DMV2GO.

For more information, visit DMV.Colorado.gov/DMV2GO. It's important to note that DMV2GO does not make house calls.

Other options to get DMV services include online options, mydmv.colorado.gov and the myColorado™ app, as well as self-service MV Kiosks, and of course, in-office services.

The DMV is committed to providing services for all Coloradans where they are needed most, whether it's in-office, online or on the go. Visit dmv.colorado.gov/anywhere to find out how you can DMV anywhere.

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Sierra/Esp

de terrenos y 600 millones de aguas públicos a la explotación de petróleo y gas en los próximos 10 años. Esto es particularmente preocupante para comunidades castigadas por la contaminación en el Golfo de México. Estas zonas de sacrificio no tienen cabida en una legislación climática.

Esto prueba la enorme influencia que durante décadas la industria de combustibles fósiles ha ejercido en Washington y el público en general. Un documental de la BBC muestra la catastrófica efectividad que firmas de relaciones públicas, financiadas por la industria de energía sucia, han tenido en enturbiar el debate sobre la crisis climática usando las mismas tácticas que las tabaqueras usaron para ocultar la letalidad de sus productos. Hoy, todos estamos pagando las consecuencias de esta campaña de engaños.

Pero ahora nadie puede ocultar que estamos en una emergencia planetaria y que la energía limpia es la solución del problema. Según la influyente Agencia Internacional de Energía, los proyectos de energía solar más avanzados generan "la electricidad más barata de la historia" y agrega que pese al espectacular incremento en la generación de energía solar, la economía mundial tiene que realizar esfuerzos sin precedentes para limitar el calentamiento global a menos de 1.5 grados centígrados.

Sierra

Renewable Energy Agency study, the overall costs of the sector have plunged by 71 percent since 2010. The firm TransitionZero concludes that now it's cheaper to transition from coal to renewables than from coal to gas. And a Stanford University report indicates that the world can adopt 100 percent renewable energy and recover its investment in only six years.

We only have to open the window to realize that we live in a climate emergency. A report sponsored by The Guardian warns that global heating is fostering extreme climate worldwide at "astounding speed." "The analysis of hundreds of scientific studies," it adds,

El abaratamiento de la energía renovable es generalizado. Según un estudio de la Agencia Internacional de Energía Renovable, el costo de este sector ha descendido un 71% desde 2010. La firma TransitionZero concluye que ahora es más barato pasar del carbón a las renovables que del carbón al gas. Y un reporte de Stanford University indica que el mundo puede adoptar un 100% de energía renovable y recuperar su inversión en solo seis años.

Aún así, solo tenemos que abrir la ventana para concienciarnos de que vivimos en una emergencia climática. Un informe de The Guardian advierte que el calentamiento global está fomentando el clima extremo en todo el mundo a "una velocidad asombrosa". "El análisis de cientos de estudios", agrega, "demuestra sin lugar a dudas que las emisiones de carbono de la humanidad están empujando al clima a extremos desastrosos".

Todos los que se se han opuesto a la acción climática por décadas deben hacerse esta pregunta: ¿Estoy dispuesto a decirle a mis hijos que han nacido una generación demasiado tarde?

Yo desde luego que no. La lucha continúa.

Javier Sierra escribe la columna mensual bilingüe del Sierra & Tierra.

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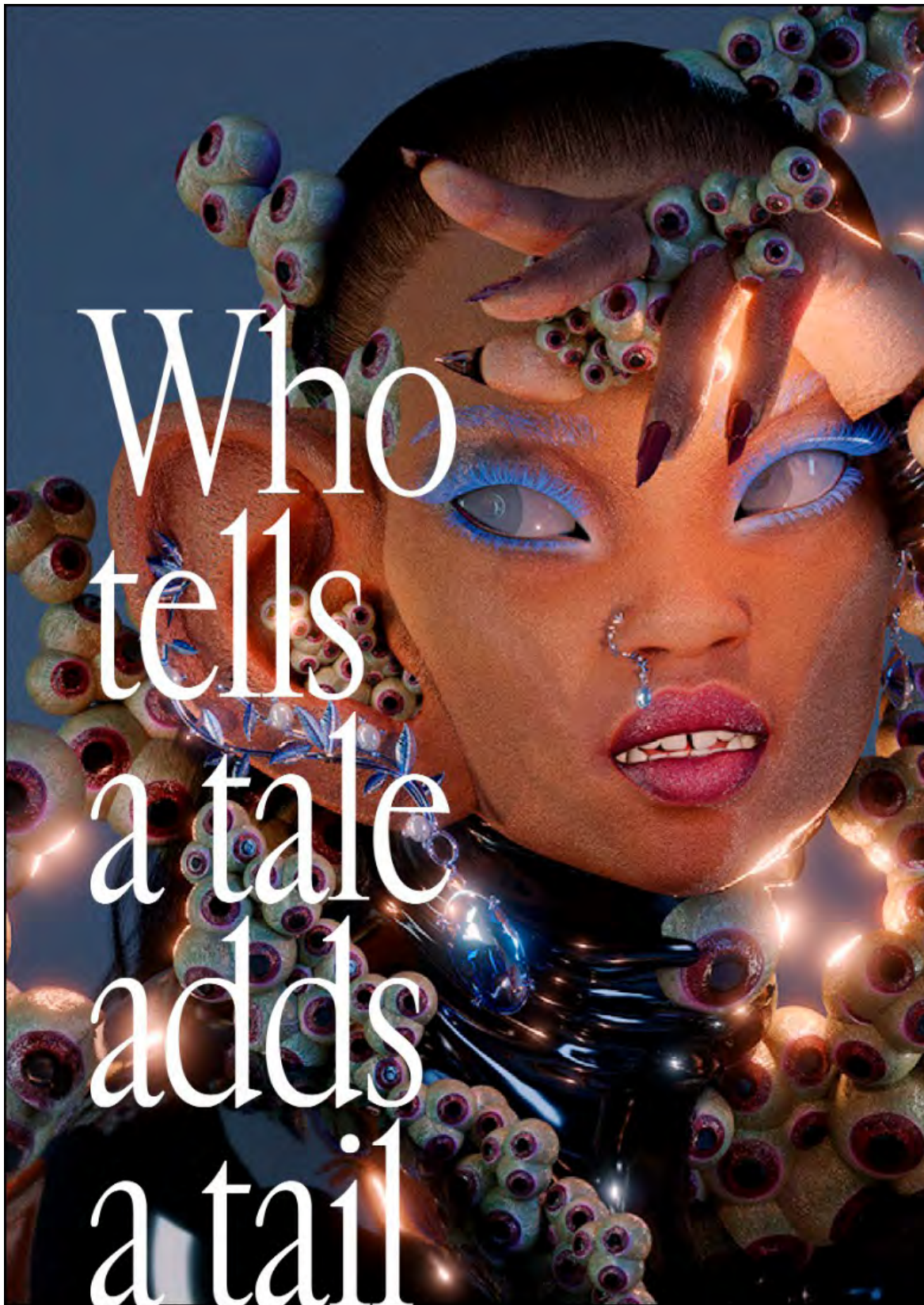
"demonstrates beyond any doubt how humanity's vast carbon emissions are forcing the climate to disastrous new extremes."

All those who have opposed climate action for decades must ask themselves the following question: "Am I ready to tell my children they were born a generation too late?"

I am most definitely not, because the fight continues.

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

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Who tells a tale adds a tail

Latin America and contemporary art



Descubre obras de 19 artistas de vanguardia procedentes de América Latina.
En exhibición

IMAGEN: Vitoria Cribb, VIGILANTE_EXTENDED (detalle de fotografía de video), 2022. Película e instalación digital; duración: 8 minutos, 44 segundos. © y cortesía de Vitoria Cribb

Quien cuenta un cuento, añade un poco: América Latina y el arte contemporáneo está organizada por el Denver Art Museum. La exposición se presenta con el generoso apoyo de la Fundación Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. Asimismo, recibe el apoyo de Birnbaum Social Discourse Project, de los donantes a la campaña benéfica Annual Fund Leadership Campaign y de los residentes que brindan su apoyo al Distrito de Organizaciones Científicas y Culturales (SCFD, por sus siglas en inglés). El apoyo promocional lo proporciona 5280 Magazine y CBS4.



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están presionando al Congreso para que apruebe leyes que amplíen y establezcan una ruta nueva a conseguir estatus legal para quienes vinieron al país como niños.



“Tu estatus legal no impide que te gradúes. Mis orientadores se aseguraron de que yo supiera que era posible. Siempre me hicieron sentir protegida.”

Flor Camarena,
Estudiante, Metropolitan
State University de
Denver

Como las reglas originales de DACA no han cambiado — incluida la de haber llegado a Estados Unidos antes del 2007 — la organización FWD.us calcula que la mayoría de los estudiantes indocumentados en las escuelas de Estados Unidos ahora no serían elegibles para el programa DACA aunque se estuviesen procesando solicitudes nuevas. Este año, los estudiantes de duodécimo grado nacieron en-

tre 2004 y 2005, y si la elegibilidad no se extiende, muy pronto ningún estudiante de secundaria podrá calificar.

Aunque el programa está en riesgo, Molina cree que los estudiantes, aunque no tengan estatus legal, ahora tienen más expectativas que ella cuando estaba creciendo.

“Ahora hay estudiantes que no conocen un mundo sin DACA”, dijo Molina. “Nosotros vivimos en un mundo diferente. Particularmente en Colorado. Nuestro estado realmente ha entendido este problema y ha tratado de hacerlo mejor y apoyar a los estudiantes. Tenemos acceso a ayuda financiera como residentes del estado. Hemos continuado escuchando mensajes positivos y a nuestro gobernador hablando acerca de DACA. Quizás sea más difícil que un estudiante se imagine un mundo sin eso”.

Los maestros y orientadores también han aprendido mucho en la última década, dijo Molina, y tienen más acceso a recursos para ayudar a los estudiantes.

“Tu estatus legal no impide que te gradúes”, dijo Camarena. “Mis orientadores se aseguraron de que yo supiera que era posible. Siempre me hicieron sentir protegida”.

Cuando Camarena no estaba segura de poder ir a la universidad y pagar por la matrícula, sus orientadores también fueron los que la ayudaron a encontrar una manera de hacerlo.

“También pienso que, como hay más historias de gente que se graduó y ha emprendido carreras, la comunidad está enterada de la situación”, dijo Molina. “Hoy en día es mucho más difícil que te digan que no puedes ir a la universidad”.

Aunque Camarena ha tenido algunas decepciones, poder obten-

er una educación es una expectativa y por eso ella continúa siendo optimista. Sin embargo, eso no significa que los obstáculos hayan desaparecido.

Este verano ella tuvo la oportunidad de hacer servicio a la comunidad con el programa *Immigrant Services Program* de la Metropolitan State University en Denver. Aunque no califica para programas de estudio y trabajo, sí va a recibir un estipendio a través de otro programa de asistencia. Y si el programa DACA no la ayuda, no está segura de poder continuar teniendo suficientes alternativas de ayuda financiera para completar sus estudios universitarios.

Dice que todo lo que quiere es tener las mismas oportunidades que tienen sus compañeros — la habilidad de hacer internados, prácticas, y programas de estudio y trabajo.

De todos modos, nos dijo que por ahora decidió enfocarse en lo que puede hacer: comenzar el semestre de otoño y continuar sus planes de trabajar con el restaurante de sus padres.

“He hablado con gente que me ha inspirado a querer trabajar por mi cuenta, no para otros”, Camarena dijo. “En este punto, lo he puesto todo a un lado y decidí trabajar en lo que tengo”.

Yesenia Robles es reportera para Chalkbeat Colorado y cubre asuntos relacionados con los distritos escolares K-12 y la educación multilingüe. Traducido por Milly Suazo-Martinez. Esta historia fue publicada originalmente por Chalkbeat.

Para Noticias de Colorado:
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level, the bipartisan infrastructure law enacted by Congress last year provided more than \$5 billion for electric school bus rebates to be distributed by the EPA over the next five years.

Noting the health and climate hazards posed by air pollution from diesel engines, EPA Deputy Administrator Janet McCabe said it was “time to reimagine what riding the bus to school looks like for kids across this country.”

“It’s time to imagine a school bus without a tailpipe — and in fact, we don’t have to imagine it, because they exist. There are a couple of them right here,” McCabe said.

The buses parked outside Edna and John W. Mosley P-8 on Wednesday were two of seven purchased by APS earlier this year, thanks to a previous \$2.2 million grant from the Denver-area Regional Air Quality Council, which covered 80% of the upfront cost. District superintendent Rico Munn said APS will quickly recoup the remainder in lower operating and maintenance costs.

“This is just a win-win-win all the way around, for everyone,” Munn said.

More grant funding is on the way. KC Becker, head of the EPA’s Region 8 headquarters in Denver, said that the agency’s Clean School Bus Program had already received applications for about 80 new buses in Colorado, part of an initial round of \$500 million in rebate funding to be doled out before the beginning of the 2023-24 school year. The deadline for applications is Aug. 19.

It will take time — and more money — to transition the thousands of school buses in operation across Colorado to electric models. But advocates are hopeful that

advances in battery technology and a rapidly growing market will continue to push down the significant upfront costs, which currently can run to \$375,000 per vehicle.

“As the program continues to grow, the cost of school buses will go down,” Becker said. “So we don’t know exactly how much money it will take to replace every school bus. We’ll see over time, as we replace older ones, and as the adoption rate increases, just how the costs go down.”

The EPA will award its first round of grants, which will cover the full cost of new electric buses as well as charging infrastructure, in October.

The state’s program, the final details of which will be released later this year, is intended to “fill the holes” by covering the cost difference between new diesel buses and electric models, Polis said.

“With the combination of this program and the state one when it rolls out, nearly all new buses that are purchased in the state will likely be electric within a couple years,” Polis said.

“You’re talking five to six years for a majority of the fleet to be electric,” he added. “This is rolling on fast. There’s going to be more and more electric school buses every year, and each year that will free up more of school districts’ budgets.”

Reporter Chase Woodruff covers the environment, the economy and other stories for Colorado Newline. This article is republished from Colorado Newline under a Creative Commons license.

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www.chfainfo.com/mi-hogar



Deuda

pesadilla si termina en una agencia de cobros.

El gobierno federal ya está interviniendo para ayudar con los préstamos estudiantiles. Ha frenado los pagos de la deuda estudiantil durante la pandemia, y la administración Biden ha anunciado que perdonará la deuda estudiantil de decenas de miles de trabajadores del sector público.

A fines del año pasado, el Departamento de Educación anunció que ya no contrataría a cobradores de deudas externos, sino que se ocuparía de los incumplimientos de pago de préstamos para "apoyar mejor a los prestatarios".

El cobro de deudas médicas generalmente se ha subcontratado a agentes privados agresivos y a la industria de cobro de deudas médicas con fines de lucro; no hay respiro. Recientemente, las agencias de informes de crédito han dicho que ya no incluirán las pequeñas deudas médicas en los informes crediticios y eliminarán las deudas médicas que se hayan pagado.

Para muchas personas, eso llevará años. Alrededor del 18% de los estadounidenses con deudas de atención médica dijeron que nunca esperan poder pagar su deuda.

La ironía aquí es que las organizaciones benéficas, como RIP

Medical Debt y grupos religiosos, pagan centavos por dólar para que la deuda médica pendiente de los pacientes desaparezca. Lo absurdo de este arreglo quedó demostrado cuando el comediante John Oliver, en un número en su show nocturno, liquidó \$15 millones de la deuda de los estadounidenses después de comprarla por \$60,000.

Pero la deuda médica no es una broma y ahora perjudica a una amplia franja de estadounidenses. El gobierno podría actuar a corto plazo para aliviar esta forma de sufrimiento exclusivamente estadounidense comprando las deudas a un precio modesto. Y luego, debería abordar la causa subyacente: un sistema de atención médica que niega a millones de personas una atención adecuada y sigue siendo el más costoso del mundo.

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

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ABQ

has access to all types of reproductive services," she told *NM Political Report* prior to the City Council meeting.

Fiebelkorn's amendment came after around an hour of public comment both for and against R-22-46. Grout did not speak about why she proposed the resolution during the city council meeting and she did not respond to *NM Political Report's* requests for an interview, but she made the following statement prior to the council meeting:

"Our response as a City to the current homelessness crisis is more crucial and urgent than supporting Planned Parenthood at this time. We have a clear need for emergency services for women and children. This allocation will have a much greater impact on our community than funding services that not all taxpayers agree with and many believe is immoral," she said.

Councilor Dan Lewis, who represents District 5, asked numerous questions about where the money was going and if it would support Planned Parenthood political advocacy activities.

Fiebelkorn said Planned Parenthood Votes New Mexico is the political action committee and it is a 501c4 nonprofit organization, fiscally separate from Planned Par-

enthood of the Rocky Mountains. Albuquerque City Department of Family and Community Services Department Director Carol Pierce said the contract specifies that the funds can only be used for women's health care such as sexually transmitted disease diagnosis, contraception, cancer screenings and prevention and wellness visits. Abortion services is not listed as one of the healthcare aspects the funds PPRM can use the funds for.

Fiebelkorn said she was disappointed that the city's contract did not allow the funding to go towards PPRM's abortion services.

Lewis asked Fiebelkorn where the resolution to allocate funds to PPRM originated.

"Did they help you?" he asked.

Fiebelkorn said she is "pro-choice" and a "supporter of Planned Parenthood period."

Fiebelkorn called R-22-46 a "cheap political ploy."

"It's incredibly frustrating," she told *NM Political Report*.

Kayla Herring, director of public affairs for PPRM, said in a statement to *NM Political Report* that creating an either/or scenario for the two nonprofits – that the money should go either to Barrett House or to PPRM – is "disgusting."

"It's disgusting to watch some city councilors use unhoused relatives and survivors of violence as political pawns, shifting money to their housing while restricting access to reproductive and sexual healthcare for those exact same people. If those councilors were truly invested in the wellbeing of our community, they would have genuinely allocated money before this meeting, not just when it's politically convenient," she said.

Fiebelkorn said she introduced the amendment because she called the move to reallocate the funds "unconscionable."

"To pit two nonprofits that do such good...that is insane," she said.

Susan Dunlap is a Reporter with New Mexico Political Report. This story was originally published by New Mexico Political Report.

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EXPANSIÓN DE LA MESA POR LA JUSTICIA
ACLU Colorado

Debt

few hundred dollars can turn into a collections nightmare.

Already, the federal government is stepping in to assist student loan borrowers. It has paused student debt payments during the pandemic, and the Biden administration has announced that it would forgive student debt for tens of thousands of public sector workers. Late last year, the Department of Education announced that it would no longer contract with outside debt collectors but would instead deal with loan defaults and potential defaults itself to better "support borrowers."

Medical debt collection has typically been outsourced to aggressive private agents and the for-profit medical debt collection industry; there are few guardrails. Recently, consumer credit reporting agencies have said they will no longer put small medical debts on credit reports and remove medical debts that have been paid. For many people, that will take years. Some 18% of Americans with health care debt said they never expect to be able to pay off their debt.

The irony here is that medical debt is sometimes discharged in

bulk by charities, like RIP Medical Debt and church groups, which will pay pennies on the dollar to make patients' outstanding medical debt disappear. The absurdity of this fix was shown when the comedian John Oliver, in a late-night stunt, cleared \$15 million of Americans' debt after buying it for \$60,000.

But medical debt isn't a joke and now harms a broad swath of Americans. The government could act in the short term to relieve this uniquely American form of suffering by buying the debts for a modest price. And then, it needs to tackle the underlying cause: a health care system that denies millions of people adequate care while still being the most expensive in the world.

Elisabeth Rosenthal is the Editor-in-Chief for 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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Photo/Foto: Juliette Rihl/Cronkite Borderlands Project

Migrants wait at dawn outside the immigration office in Tapachula, México, on March 8, 2022. / Los migrantes esperan al amanecer fuera de la oficina de inmigración en Tapachula, México, el 8 de marzo de 2022.



Photo/Foto: Daisy Gonzalez-Pérez/Cronkite Borderlands Project

Freddy, one of two Creole translators helping other Haitian migrants in Tapachula, México, talks with a member of the Cronkite Borderland Project on March 8, 2022. / Freddy, uno de los dos traductores de criollo que ayudan a otros migrantes haitianos en Tapachula (México), habla con un miembro del Cronkite Borderland Project el 8 de marzo de 2022.

the assassination of Prime Minister Jovenel Moïse and an enormous earthquake, quickly followed by tropical storm Grace. An earlier wave of Haitian migration to South America was spurred by a 2010 earthquake that displaced more than 1.5 million people.

In southern México, Haitian migrants face extreme xenophobia and racism from locals. Many Black immigrants say they face discrimination when looking for jobs, housing and immigration services. They also say Mexican officials help migrants from Spanish-speaking countries navigate the complex immigration system.

Officials in Tapachula defended the government's treatment of Black migrants. They said the system is simply overwhelmed and

lacks resources, including Creole translators.

Last November, the Mexican government held a conference on the mistreatment of migrants, sponsored by COMAR, in which it denounced racism and xenophobia aimed at migrants.

"People in transit have historically faced prejudices and stigmas that have caused the normalization of false beliefs that are an attempt to justify them receiving unequal treatment and injustice," the commission said in a news release. "Their vulnerable situation increases because of the language and attitudes of xenophobia that they experience in this country."

The news release said the government, and COMAR specifically, is committed to eradicating ste-

reotypes, prejudices, and stigmas against migrants – through training and education.

In mid-July, COMAR official Cinthia Pérez Trejo told Cronkite News in an email there is "no difference in treatment" for migrants seeking refugee status. Pérez noted "procedures within the office of the Secretary of Governance of México for sanctioning any public official who commits such acts."

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) provides legal aid and other resources to some migrants, depending on their vulnerability. That office has said it is adding Creole interpreters, scheduling and facilitating appointments with COMAR, and building a labor integration program to alleviate some of the pressure.

We're sitting in the small chapel outside Casa del Migrante Sca-labrini Albergue Belén, a shelter that has exceeded its 150-bed capacity. It's midday, and cots are strewn about the chapel floor and backpacks full of clothes fill the pews. Several families sit under the chapel roof in the rain.

Nati, 28, of Haiti, has been in Tapachula for nine months awaiting documents. She and her family were denied humanitarian visas in December, and had to start the application process over again. Those visas would have cleared them for travel through México.

"It was difficult at COMAR because of so much waiting, they gave me a negative result. It was very difficult for us. ... It's like we are here with nothing because we have nothing, because we are without papers," Nati said.

"When a Black person goes to get help, they don't give it to you, and if you're white, they do give it. I've asked UNHCR for help three times, all three times they've told me no."

Nati, her husband, Panchi, and 2-year-old daughter Ana spent two years in Brazil before traversing the Darién Gap, the extremely dangerous jungle between Colombia in South America and Panama in Central America.

"We encountered many things, a lot of danger to get here," she said. "In all the countries it was hard, but here it is the most difficult – everything takes longer. ... This country has been the hardest. We have passed through ten countries and had the most difficulty here in México. They (children) don't understand that to get here we have come far, we have been in the jungle, in the rain, risked our lives – they don't understand this."

Nati and her family want to make it to Tijuana, south of San Diego, but all they've been able to do is wait and watch as others, mostly Central Americans, pass through the shelter.

"When you're here you have to wait, appeal a case for another year – that's going to be two years, and wait a year just to be told no. ... It's unfair," she said.

In March, President Andres Manuel López Obrador (known by his initials AMLO) visited Tapachula. As a couple hundred migrants protested outside the news conference tent, AMLO presented a plan to address the crisis by stimulating the economies of the countries of origin. An immediate solution to the mass of refugees sleeping in public parks wasn't mentioned.

AMLO did commit to giving out 950 humanitarian visas to refugees (a status that takes months to achieve), but the National Institute of Migration and the U.N.'s humanitarian aid offices continue to draw crowds by the early hours of the morning, as thousands of refugees demand action.

All remain without work or clearance to leave the city; otherwise, they could be arrested and detained. Nati said she's left with no options.

"All I can do is wait, and wait for them to give me another result," she said.

Freddy said he and other Haitian refugees will be continuing to work together over the next few years to help one another to navigate daily challenges and parents detained at the migrant detention center known as Siglo XXI.

"We don't want kids to keep leaving on (their) own because a parent (is) in jail in Siglo XXI, we want kids to be able to go to school, so somehow we have to keep fighting," he said.

Carlos said he's hopeful for his future, with more opportunities for education in Tapachula than in Honduras. The shelter where he stays has a minischool with a teacher who teaches kids and adults throughout the week.

"Personally, my goal is, first of all, to be with my parents. Second, finish the school cycle, go to high school and then study a trade," Carlos said.

Until he reunites with his father, he'll be in his room.

"In my opinion," he said, "it is better to know people from afar. That is, to see them and how they behave. See them as they are and not interact so much with them. Because in my experience, in my life, I have had quite a few people who have hurt me."

Despite stacked odds and untenable delays, young adults and child migrants in Tapachula have no choice but to remain resilient, still waiting and hoping to make it out of the city.

Athena Ankra is a reporter Cronkite Borderlands Project, Cronkite News. Additional reporting by Salma Reyes and Natalie Skowlund; photos and videos by Mikenzie Hammel, Emilee Miranda, Daisy Gonzalez-Pérez, Salma Reyes and Juliette Rihl.

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meses, un año, así que si no tienes documentos, no puedes ir a la escuela, obtener una atención médica adecuada, no tienes nada", dijo. "Es como si te dijeran aquí: No eres una persona".

Para los padres de niños pequeños, dijo Freddy, conseguir un lugar seguro para dormir o incluso encontrar su próxima comida son retos diarios. Y matricularse en la escuela no es una opción hasta que sus documentos estén en orden.

"Ni siquiera el 5% de los niños migrantes van a la escuela", dijo Freddy.

En el último año, Haití ha sufrido más de una catástrofe política y medioambiental, como el asesinato del Primer Ministro Jovenel Moïse y un enorme terremoto, al que siguió rápidamente la tormenta tropical Grace. Una ola anterior de migración haitiana a Sudamérica fue estimulada por el terremoto de 2010, que desplazó a más de 1,5 millones de personas.

En el sur de México, los inmigrantes haitianos se enfrentan a una xenofobia y un racismo extremos por parte de la población local. Muchos inmigrantes negros dicen que son discriminados cuando buscan trabajo, vivienda y servicios de inmigración. También afirman que los funcionarios mexicanos ayudan a los inmigrantes de países hispanohablantes a desenvolverse en el complejo sistema de inmigración.

Los funcionarios de Tapachula defendieron el trato que el gobierno da a los inmigrantes negros. Dijeron que el sistema está simplemente desbordado y carece de recursos, incluidos los traductores de criollo.

El pasado mes de noviembre, el gobierno mexicano celebró una conferencia sobre el maltrato a los migrantes, patrocinada por la COMAR, en la que denunció el racismo y la xenofobia dirigidos a los migrantes.

"Las personas en tránsito se han enfrentado históricamente a prejuicios y estigmas que han provocado la normalización de falsas creencias que intentan justificar que reciban un trato desigual e injusto", dijo la comisión en un comunicado de prensa. "Su situación de vulnerabilidad aumenta por el lenguaje y las actitudes de xenofobia que experimentan en este país".

El comunicado de prensa dice que el gobierno, y la COMAR en concreto, se ha comprometido a erradicar los estereotipos, prejuicios y estigmas contra los migrantes, a través de la formación y la educación.

A mediados de julio, la funcionaria de la COMAR, Cinthia Pérez Trejo, dijo a Cronkite News en un correo electrónico que "no hay diferencia en el trato" para los migrantes que buscan el estatus de refugiado. Pérez señaló "los procedimientos dentro de la oficina de la Secretaría de Gobernación de México para sancionar a cualquier funcionario público que cometa tales actos".

El Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Refugiados (ACNUR) proporciona ayuda legal y otros recursos a algunos migrantes, dependiendo de su vulnerabilidad. Esa oficina ha dicho que está añadiendo intérpretes de criollo, programando y facilitando citas con la COMAR, y creando un programa de integración laboral para aliviar parte de la presión.

Estamos sentados en la pequeña capilla fuera de la Casa del Migrante Scalabrini Albergue Belén, un refugio que ha superado su capacidad de 150 camas. Es mediodía, y los catres están esparcidos por el suelo de la capilla y las mochilas llenas de ropa llenan los bancos. Varias familias están sentadas bajo el techo de la capilla bajo la lluvia.

Nati, de 28 años, de Haití, lleva nueve meses en Tapachula esperando documentos. A ella y a su familia se les denegó el visado humanitario en diciembre, y tuvieron que volver a empezar el proceso de solicitud. Esos visados les habrían permitido viajar a través de México.

"Fue difícil en la COMAR por tanta espera, me dieron un resultado negativo. Fue muy difícil para nosotros. ... Es como si estuviéramos aquí sin nada porque no tenemos nada, porque estamos sin papeles", dijo Nati.

"Cuando una persona negra va a buscar ayuda, no te la dan, y si eres blanco, sí te la dan. He pedido ayuda al ACNUR tres veces, y las tres veces me han dicho que no".

Nati, su marido, Panchi, y su hija Ana, de 2 años, pasaron dos años en Brasil antes de atravesar la brecha del Darién, la peligrosísima selva que separa Colombia, en Sudamérica, y Panamá, en Centroamérica.

"Nos encontramos con muchas cosas, con mucho peligro para llegar hasta aquí", dijo. "En todos los países fue duro, pero aquí es el más difícil: todo lleva más tiempo. ... Este país ha sido el más duro. Hemos pasado por diez países y lo más difícil ha sido aquí en México. Ellos (los niños) no entienden que para llegar hasta aquí hemos venido de lejos, hemos estado en



Cientos de migrantes ansiosos por salir de Tapachula, México, se reúnen frente a la oficina de refugiados COMAR el 10 de marzo de 2022. / Hundreds of migrants eager to leave Tapachula, Mexico, gather outside the refugee office COMAR on March 10, 2022.



Charles Robeson sostiene a su hija dormida fuera de la oficina del Instituto Nacional de Migración en Tapachula, México, el 10 de marzo de 2022. / Charles Robeson holds his sleeping daughter outside the National Institute of Migration office in Tapachula, Mexico, on March 10, 2022.

la selva, en la lluvia, arriesgando nuestras vidas - no lo entienden".

Nati y su familia quieren llegar a Tijuana, México, al sur de San Diego, pero lo único que han podido hacer es esperar y ver cómo otros, en su mayoría centroamericanos, pasan por el refugio.

"Cuando estás aquí tienes que esperar, apelar un caso por otro año -que van a ser dos- y esperar un año sólo para que te digan que no... Es injusto", dijo.

En marzo, el presidente Andrés Manuel López Obrador (conocido por sus iniciales AMLO) visitó Tapachula. Mientras un par de centenares de migrantes protestaban frente a la carpa de la conferencia de prensa, AMLO presentó un plan para enfrentar la crisis estimulando las economías de los países de origen. No se

mencionó una solución inmediata a la masa de refugiados que duermen en los parques públicos.

AMLO sí se comprometió a entregar 950 visas humanitarias a los refugiados (un estatus que tarda meses en conseguirse), pero el Instituto Nacional de Migración y las oficinas de ayuda humanitaria de la ONU siguen atestando de gente a primera hora de la mañana, mientras miles de refugiados exigen medidas.

Todos siguen sin trabajo ni autorización para salir de la ciudad; de lo contrario, podrían ser arrestados y detenidos. Nati dice que se ha quedado sin opciones.

"Lo único que puedo hacer es esperar, y esperar a que me den otro resultado", dijo.

Freddy dijo que él y otros refugiados haitianos seguirán traba-

jando juntos en los próximos años para ayudarse mutuamente a sortear los desafíos diarios y a los padres detenidos en el centro de detención de migrantes conocido como Siglo XXI.

"No queremos que los niños sigan saliendo solos porque uno de los padres está en la cárcel en Siglo XXI, queremos que los niños puedan ir a la escuela, así que de alguna manera tenemos que seguir luchando", dijo.

Carlos dijo que tiene esperanzas en su futuro, ya que en Tapachula hay más oportunidades de educación que en Honduras. El albergue donde se aloja tiene una miniescuela con un profesor que da clases a niños y adultos durante toda la semana.

turned almost \$43 million to 23,462 claimants through the Unclaimed Property Division. In the past year, the Treasury has instituted new rules to simplify the claims process, including launching a pilot program which proactively returns funds.

Even businesses lose track of property and payments, occasionally resulting in unclaimed property which can be claimed. Corporations, municipalities, schools, nonprofits, hospitals, and small businesses are also listed among the many individuals whose assets are in the possession of the State.

Money or property turned over to the State Treasury for safekeeping is held for the owner or heir of the account and there are no time limits for filing a claim. The Colorado State Treasurer currently maintains a list of over 1.7 million names of individuals as well as businesses for whom property is available.

Go to colorado.findyourunclaimedproperty.com to search for unclaimed property for individuals, nonprofits, and businesses.

Unclaimed Property Laws

Unclaimed Property laws began in the United States as a consum-

er protection program and they have evolved to protect not only the owners, but also their heirs and estates. Unclaimed property is tangible or intangible property that has had no activity for a specific period of time. Unclaimed property includes, but is not limited to, abandoned financial assets such as stocks and dividends, mutual funds, checking and savings accounts, unpaid wages, securities, life insurance payouts, uncashed checks that are without activity for a certain period of time, as well as the contents of safe deposit boxes for which the rent has been expired for at least five (5) years. It does not include real estate or vehicles.

The organization holding the original obligation is required to make every effort to contact the owner and establish activity. If they are not able to make contact, that asset is reported to the state of the owner's last known address.

Once the property is in the custody of the state of Colorado, outreach begins through mailings, the website, advertisements, and local media coverage.

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dents. We have access to in-state financial rates. We continue to hear positive messages and our governor speaking up about DACA. It might be hard for a young person to imagine a world without that in place."

“Your legal status does not prevent you from graduating school. My counselors, they made sure I was aware that it was possible. They always made me feel safe.”

Flor Camarena, Student,
Metropolitan State
University of Denver

Teachers and counselors have also learned a lot in the last decade, Molina said, and have more access to resources to help students.

"Your legal status does not prevent you from graduating school," Camarena said. "My counselors, they made sure I was aware that it was possible. They always made me feel safe."

And when Camarena wasn't sure she could go to college and pay for it, her counselors also were the ones who helped her find a way.

"I also think that because there are more stories of people who have graduated and gone on to have careers there's also community knowledge," Molina said. "It's much harder to be told today that you can't go to college."

Though Camarena's had some disappointments, being able to get an education is an expectation so she continues to be hopeful. But it doesn't mean her obstacles are gone.

This summer, she's had the opportunity to do some community service work with Metro's Immigrant Services Program. Though she doesn't qualify for work study, she will get a stipend for the work through another assistance program. But if DACA doesn't come through eventually, she's not sure if she'll continue to have enough alternative financial support to finish college.

She says that all she wants is the same opportunities she sees her peers have — the ability to access internships, apprenticeships, work-study.

Still, she said she's decided to focus on what she can do for now: starting her fall semester and looking forward to working with her parents' restaurant.

"I have talked to people that inspired me to want to work for me, not for somebody else," Camarena said. "At this point, I just put it all aside and decided to work on with what I got."

Yesenia Robles is a reporter for Chalkbeat Colorado covering K-12 school districts and multilingual education. This story was originally published by Chalkbeat.

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Garcia

impairment among pregnant farmworkers.

These facts of farmworker life are not simply tragedy. They are the result of policy decisions the U.S. government can change right now.

For instance, the Environmental Protection Agency and Occupational Safety and Health Agency should make greater efforts to conduct unannounced inspections. As is, OSHA's workplace inspection policy authorizes such workplace inspections, while the EPA according to a rule from 2020, recognizes that inspections may or may not be announced. The problem is that many farmworker women report that their employers too often receive advance notice before inspectors arrive. Without unannounced inspections, employers superficially improve their work environments to just pass inspection, avoiding to make real, necessary changes that would actually benefit worker welfare."

The EPA also needs to reverse recent decisions that have drawn lawsuits from Alianza Nacional de Campesinas, along with other advocacy and community health groups. The first is the agency's 2020 decision to weaken safeguards—namely a rule saying that pesticides can't be applied when anyone is within 100 feet of the site—that prevented farmworkers and rural residents from being accidentally sprayed with toxins. The other problematic decision is the EPA's 2021 approval of the contin-

ued use of the deadly pesticide paraquat for 15 more years, even though this chemical is currently banned in 32 countries and has been linked to Parkinson's Disease. The safeguards should be restored, and paraquat banned from use.

U.S. lawmakers have a role to play too. The Protect America's Children from Toxic Pesticides Act, introduced last year by Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ), aims to remove dangerous pesticides within our farm system by updating the 1972 Fungicide and Rodenticide Act to ban the most damaging pesticides that have been scientifically proven to harm the safety of people and our environment.

Improved oversight and new laws will not bring my husband back. Yet in working together, I hope that in Alejandro's memory we can make changes that would help heal those of us who have been harmed by working in our country's food system, and prevent more senseless deaths.

Audelia García was a farmworker for over 13 years before becoming the board president of the California-based organization, Lideres Campesinas. She is also a board member of the nationwide farmworker women organization, Alianza Nacional de Campesinas.

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Children/Esp 1

"Personalmente, mi objetivo es, en primer lugar, estar con mis padres. En segundo lugar, terminar el ciclo escolar, ir al instituto y luego estudiar un oficio", dice Carlos.

Hasta que se reúna con su padre, estará en su habitación.

"En mi opinión", dijo, "es mejor conocer a la gente de lejos. Es decir, verlas y ver cómo se comportan. Verlas como son y no interactuar tanto con ellas. Porque en mi experiencia, en mi vida, he tenido bastantes personas que me han hecho daño".

A pesar de las dificultades y los retrasos insostenibles, los jóvenes

y niños migrantes de Tapachula no tienen más remedio que seguir resistiendo, y siguen esperando y deseando salir de la ciudad.

Athena Ankrah/Proyecto Cronkite Borderlands, Ankrah Cronkite News. Reportaje adicional de Salma Reyes y Natalie Skowlund; fotos y videos de Mikenzie Hammel, Emilee Miranda, Daisy González-Pérez, Salma Reyes y Juliette Rihl.

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

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Egbers

homelessness, and volunteered with a variety of different organizations. I may not have done any of that without access to abortion. Unfortunately, the Planned Parenthood that provided me with impeccable care was shut down in 2017 due to budget cuts from the Iowa state Legislature.

I graduated with a master's degree in social work in May and for the second year of my program interned at Cobalt Advocates, where I advocated for the Reproductive Health Equity Act in the Colorado Capitol while pledging funding to abortion care. My work on their abortion fund demonstrated the many different ways abortion can be an act of love. It opens opportunities to have a healthy pregnancy, raise children with capable parents, and improve outcomes for families. Please donate to abortion funds so that everybody who wants an abortion can access one.

The Dobbs decision leaked shortly before my commencement ceremony, and I found myself back at the kitchen table with my soon-to-be step-dad. With more education and experience under my belt, we launched into the conversations from my teenage years. He recounted his fight

for comprehensive sexual education in schools and lamented about the future of his retired profession. This evening brought an epiphany that other households didn't discuss these subjects openly. Although comprehensive reproduction education that includes all pregnancy outcomes is supported by a plethora of research, many families don't talk about it. If we don't talk about it, people will die.

We must elect lawmakers who unapologetically support abortion access. Colorado voters have consistently proved it matters to them, so let's stop with the euphemisms. This begins with saying the "A word" with intention and conviction. If they believe that abortion is health care, we must demand

that they specifically state it. Do our elected officials stutter saying colonoscopy?

Our community is a better place when abortion is accessible, when our representatives support our reproductive health, and when we work to destigmatize the topic of abortion. Donate to abortion funds, vote because lives are depending on it, and ask yourself, have you heard your elected official say abortion lately?

Alison Egbers is a social worker specializing in community and policy interventions in Denver, Colorado. This oped is republished from Colorado Newslines under a Creative Commons license.

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Luján

were recovering from Covid-19. Thankfully, the Inflation Reduction Act will help communities invest in wildfire mitigation, and I also worked to secure a commitment from USDA to waive the cost share requirements for debris removal and other watershed protection measures for impacted communities." Luján continued, "It was also a

special honor to tour the Holloman Air Force Base and learn how they're preparing airmen in New Mexico. I look forward to continuing to support their mission work through critical appropriations during this year's Defense budget negotiations."

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whether extended learning time is something that can work if schools cannot get students to come to class.

The Alamogordo district had difficulty tracking down students over the past year, she said, so it created a task force that works with teachers to find students and figure out why they're absent.

"They've been working really hard — sometimes going door to door — just trying to figure out where they're at and how they're doing, and how we can pull them back into our schools," she said.

It's not just a problem in Alamogordo: By the end of 2021, there were 2,010 students across New México who were officially unaccounted for, Searchlight New Mexico reported.

How teachers and students spend time in the classroom has a greater effect on the quality of education than the length of the school year, Hallbeck said.

Hallbeck, who graduated from

Capitan High School in 1990, said she said her education from that very small school with very limited technology, "is the equivalent of anything I could have gotten anywhere in the country."

"What that comes down to, I believe, is the quality of educators that you have in the classroom, the quality of support professionals that you have in the school building, and the ability and the time to teach and the time to learn," she said.

If you can reduce the amount of white noise that comes at teachers and students all the time about other things that have to get done, Hallbeck said, you can focus on the meat and potatoes of teaching and learning.

A lot of students' time is taken up with multiple tests, while teachers' time is taken up preparing and assessing those tests, Hallbeck said. Teachers are also required to go through a lot of impractical training that doesn't have tangible

results in the classroom, she said.

Districts are not required to participate in extended learning, and Hallbeck said she does not think they should be.

"So I am not a proponent of extended learning time or K5 Plus, unless a school district actively chooses that and sees it as a very essential need," she said.

District officials are trying to help students navigate the underlying issues that may be causing the attendance problems, Hallbeck said, by allowing teachers to refer them to "The Hub" where there are services, social workers and health care in one place.

Jackie Holycross, an English teacher at Alamogordo High School, said it's important to find out why a student is absent.

"We can put all the systems in place, but we need to know what's going on in their lives," she said. "Parent contact is a huge part of that."

She said the district lets teach-

ers take the time to contact parents of students who don't show up. She saw more attendance simply from telling parents that their student was missing or from texting the student: "What's going on in your life? Why aren't you here?"

But it does take time, she acknowledged, which is in short supply for teachers.

Romero said lawmakers should think about what the school day for teachers looks like, how that is divided up, and give them the leeway to do what they need to do. He is a social studies teacher and said

he often calls parents on weekends because he doesn't have time during the school day.

"For all of us here, how that school day looks for educators, not just the school year, is something we need to keep in mind," he said.

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

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Alamogordo/Esp

en paradero desconocido, informó Searchlight New Mexico.

La forma en que los maestros y los estudiantes pasan el tiempo en el aula tiene un mayor efecto en la calidad de la educación que la duración del año escolar, dijo Hallbeck.

Hallbeck, que se graduó de la Escuela Secundaria Capitán en 1990, dijo que su educación en esa escuela muy pequeña con tecnología muy limitada, "es el equivalente a cualquier cosa que podría haber obtenido en cualquier parte del país".

"A lo que se reduce, creo, es a la calidad de los educadores que tienes en el aula, la calidad de los profesionales de apoyo que tienes en el edificio de la escuela, y la capacidad y el tiempo para enseñar y el tiempo para aprender", dijo.

Si se puede reducir la cantidad de ruido blanco que llega a los profesores y a los estudiantes todo el tiempo sobre otras cosas que hay que hacer, dijo Hallbeck, se puede centrar en la carne y las patatas de la enseñanza y el aprendizaje.

Gran parte del tiempo de los estudiantes se dedica a los múltiples exámenes, mientras que el tiempo de los profesores se dedica a preparar y evaluar esos exámenes, dijo Hallbeck. También se exige a los profesores una formación poco práctica que no tiene resultados tangibles en el aula, dijo.

Los distritos no están obligados a participar en el aprendizaje ampliado, y Hallbeck dijo que no cree que deban hacerlo.

"Así que no soy partidaria del tiempo de aprendizaje extendido o K5 Plus, a menos que un distrito escolar lo elija activamente y lo vea como una necesidad muy esencial", dijo.

Los funcionarios del distrito están tratando de ayudar a los estudiantes a navegar por los problemas subyacentes que pueden estar causando los problemas de asistencia, dijo Hallbeck, al per-

mitir que los maestros los refieran a "The Hub", donde hay servicios, trabajadores sociales y atención médica en un solo lugar.

Jackie Holycross, profesora de inglés en la escuela secundaria de Alamogordo, dijo que es importante averiguar por qué un estudiante está ausente.

"Podemos poner todos los sistemas en su lugar, pero necesitamos saber lo que está pasando en sus vidas", dijo. "El contacto con los padres es una parte importante de eso".

Dijo que el distrito permite que los profesores se tomen el tiempo de contactar con los padres de los estudiantes que no se presentan. Ella vio más asistencia simplemente por decirles a los padres que su estudiante faltaba o por enviar un mensaje de texto al estudiante: "¿Qué está pasando en tu vida? ¿Por qué no estás aquí?".

Pero reconoce que se necesita tiempo, algo que escasea entre los profesores.

Romero dijo que los legisladores deberían reflexionar sobre cómo es la jornada escolar de los profesores, cómo se divide, y darles el margen de maniobra para hacer lo que necesitan. Él es profesor de estudios sociales y dijo que a menudo llama a los padres los fines de semana porque no tiene tiempo durante la jornada escolar.

"Para todos nosotros, la forma en que el día de la escuela se ve para los educadores, no sólo el año escolar, es algo que tenemos que tener en cuenta", dijo.

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

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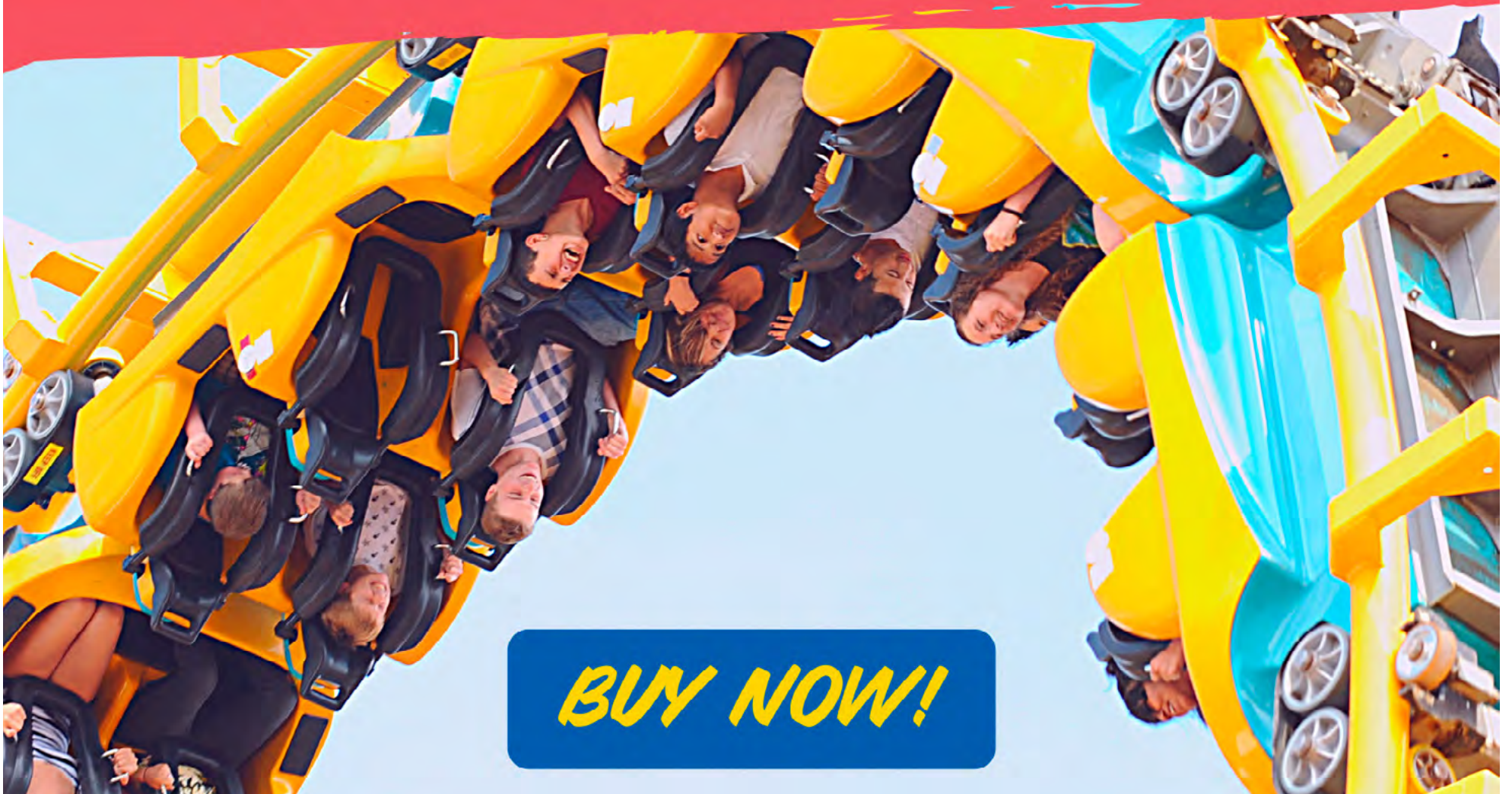
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