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Chris M. Fresquez
President / CEO - Publisher

Toni C. Fresquez
Editor

Juan Carlos Uribe
Spanish Editor

Raya Tkachenko
Layout/Production

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Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 460428, Glendale CO 80246

 800-886-4054
303-672-0800
720-368-5387 Fax

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A New Trial By Fire for Republican Extremism

Maribel Hastings and David Torres

The Republican "border security" plan stalled in the House of Representatives is so extreme that even some members of that party have lamented that it puts in danger the asylum laws of a nation that—historically—has prided itself on opening its arms to those in search of refuge for various reasons. As if the hurdles in today's asylum process were not sufficient, the author of the legislation H.R. 29, Republican Congressman Chip Roy of Texas, wants to cede the power to prohibit the entry of migrants at any entry point in the country to the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). This means that people seeking asylum with credible applications could not even attempt to do so. Some Republicans have expressed opposition to Roy's bill, including Tony Gonzales of Texas and the Cuban American congresswoman from Florida, María Elvira Salazar, because it undermines asylum laws. Considering that it has been the Republican Party that has become the executor of the worst anti-immigrant policies in recent years, there's no conclusion other than that this will be the beginning of a new rash of attacks, with eyes fixated on 2024. And if it's true that Roy's bill is causing a

sort of flinching among his own, the truth is that the white nationalist machinery intends to roll over anyone that stands in its way, even if they are from the same party. On the other hand, although the Biden administration established a process to try to bring migration of citizens from Venezuela, Cuba, Nicaragua, and Haiti in order, so that they can seek asylum without having to arrive at borders irregularly, the reality is that this safety is something that thousands of human beings from diverse

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And in the middle of all this, thousands and thousands of immigrant families are trying to readjust within a society where the political system still considers them to be a sort of election-time “prey.”

nationalities are searching for. That is, asylum is not a political issue that Congress or a government must accept or not, according to their political calculations and ideologies. It has to do with the issue of inalienable human rights, especially because of the massive displacement of human beings fleeing diverse situations that put their

lives and their very being at risk, as well as those of their families. In Puerto Rico for example, almost weekly we hear of harrowing examples. Migrants from Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and other nations near and far are victims of traffickers who, after charging them thousands of dollars for the dangerous journey to try to arrive at the shores of a U.S. territory, abandon them to fate among the smallest islands that comprise the archipelago that is Puerto Rico. Islands like Mona, Monito, and Desecheo. Other smugglers bring them near the shore and throw them to the sea like bait, resulting in the drownings of even babies just a few months old. And don't forget the case of Haitians who, in the journey to Puerto Rico, saw their babies die and then be thrown into the sea and devoured by sharks, according to one of them. The thing is, people who decide to run all of these risks don't do it for frivolous reasons, like a change of scenery. They're not leaving their country with the idea of going on a picnic or the goal of "traveling the world," like those who have the economic opportunity to do so and boast about it. There are real and urgent reasons why they cross hundreds of miles to risk their lives, and it's something that Republicans who now control the House of Representatives do not want to understand, demonst-



Photo/Foto: América's Voice



Photo/Foto: América's Voice

ing their human wretchedness and permanent attitude of rejecting the "other," the vulnerable, the person in urgent need of help. In their eagerness to accomplish their promise of closing the border and returning to the Zero Tolerance policy that Donald Trump implemented, those Republicans are saying that no one has the right to attempt to seek asylum. The egotism they have made their trademark has taken them through intricate political labyrinths that today put them in the crosshairs of history's judgment. For now, the Republicans have already aimed their cannons at the DHS Secretary, Alejandro Mayorkas, with the goal of impeaching him, even though the process would have the effect of putting the security of the country at risk, as a recent report from America's Voice concluded. They are also planning hearings about the border, promoted by Republican legislators who shame-

lessly defend the conspiracy theories of white nationalists. This panorama becomes even more discouraging when we see the Democrats take one step forward and 1,000 back on the migration issue, and they have not yet accomplished what they promised in the campaign. And in the middle of all this, thousands and thousands of immigrant families are trying to readjust within a society where the political system still considers them to be a sort of election-time "prey." Roy's bill is a new trial by fire for Republican leaders who seem to be continuing to bet on extremism and political theater, even though it continues to cost them so much at the electoral level.

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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Nueva Prueba de Fuego para el Extremismo Republicano

Maribel Hastings y David Torres

El plan republicano de "seguridad fronteriza" estancado en la Cámara Baja es tan extremista que incluso algunos miembros de ese partido han denunciado que pone en peligro las leyes de asilo de una nación que, históricamente, se ha preciado de abrir sus brazos a quienes buscan

refugio por diversas circunstancias.

Como si ya las trabas del proceso actual de asilo no fueran suficientes, el autor del proyecto HR 29, el congresista republicano de Texas, Chip Roy, busca conceder al secretario del Departamento de Seguridad Nacional (DHS) la potestad de prohibir el ingreso de migrantes en cualquier punto de entrada al país. Esto supone que solicitantes de asilo con peticiones creíbles no podrían siquiera intentarlo. Algunos republicanos han expresado su oposición al proyecto de Roy, incluyendo a Tony Gonzales, de Texas, y la congresista cubanoamericana de Florida, María Elvira Salazar, por considerar que mina las leyes de asilo.

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Y en medio de todo ello, miles y miles de familias inmigrantes tratando de reacomodarse en una sociedad, cuyo sistema político aún los considera una especie de "coto de caza" en temporada electoral.

Tomando en cuenta que ha sido el Partido Republicano el que se ha convertido en ejecutor de las peores políticas antiinmigrantes en los años recientes, no queda

más que concluir que este será el inicio de una nueva andanada de ataques con la vista fija en 2024, y que si bien el proyecto de Roy está causando cierto escozor entre algunos de los suyos, la verdad es que la maquinaria nacionalista blanca tiene la intención de arrol-

lar a quien se le ponga enfrente, así sean sus propios partidarios.

Por otro lado, aunque la administración de Joe Biden estableció un proceso para tratar de poner orden a la migración de ciudadanos de Venezuela, Cuba, Nicaragua y Haití, para que puedan so-

licitar asilo sin tratar de llegar a las fronteras de manera irregular, la realidad es que el asilo es un alivio que buscan miles de seres humanos de diversas nacionalidades.

Vea [Hastings & Torres/Esp](#), página 15

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Commentary/Commentario

Democracy Is on the Line in Peru

Maria McFarland Sánchez-Moreno

With all eyes on the fight for democratic government in Brazil, with its obvious parallels to events in the United States, it's easy to miss another equally alarming struggle in the region. Peru has been shaken by protests and violence since the Peruvian Congress removed President Pedro Castillo from office on December 7 following his own at-

tempt to shutter Congress. As of this writing, 55 people have died so far in the unrest, with 18 killed in the town of Juliaca on January 9 alone.

The deepening crisis is a cautionary tale about the risks of democratic governments' failure to do their jobs and deliver for ordinary people.

Since its independence from Spain in 1821, Peru has been riven by severe economic inequality and systemic racism. A third of the population lives in Lima, where

the bulk of government services and wealth are concentrated, while rural areas and Indigenous populations in general have significantly higher rates of extreme poverty and social exclusion. Inequality, including the lack of access to health services in many rural areas, contributed to Peru experiencing the world's highest reported death rate from COVID-19.

Poverty has shot up in the last three years, including in rural areas where it was already most acute.

Food insecurity has doubled since the start of the pandemic. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization reported in 2022 that more than half of Peruvians are food insecure — the highest rate in South America.

Meanwhile, Peru has experienced unrelenting political turmoil. In part, that's due to corruption scandals touching nearly every president in the last decade. But it's also because so many members of Congress seem more interested in horse-trading, partisan gains, and



Photo: Human Rights Watch

See Sánchez-Moreno on page 19

Walks With Wolves

Sean Seary

My love for the outdoors is tied, inherently, to my childhood: growing up in the greater New York metropolitan area, I spent a lot of time playing sports outside with my friends, going for walks with my dog, and helping my mom, grandmother, and great-grandmother in the garden. I was very much into wildlife, and was always reading and watching shows about big cats, wolves, chimps, and so many other wild critters.

I looked up to people like Steve Irwin and Jane Goodall, who had helped foster not just curiosity for the wild world, but also love and compassion for its inhabitants. These conservationists taught many young minds, like my own at the time, that we should be doing our best to protect mother earth and all of the plants and animals that call this world home. They inspired me to want to work with animals, and so I made that my dream.

I've thankfully been able to make a career out of working in

the environmental field, which is a blessing in and of itself. Throughout the various positions I've held and workplaces I've found myself in, I noticed a glaring lack of diversity in the environmental/outdoor/conservation world. As a mixed-race Latino of Puerto Rican descent, it wasn't until I was an adult that I realized how truly underrepresented our people are in the greater conversation about conservationism and environmentalism. Which explains why popular environmental figures never looked, acted, or spoke like us.



Photo: Sean Seary

SPECIAL DISTRICTS: What You Need to Know

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After spending many years bouncing around environmental careers; from education to policy, outdoor recreation, and back into education, I was finally able to make my dream a reality. I started working at the Wolf Conservation Center in early 2022, and just like that my childhood dream to work with animals had come true! It took a lot of time, energy, and effort to make it this far, but perseverance and sense of purpose goes a long way.

At the Wolf Conservation Center, I get to work with wolves on a daily basis and teach programs that discuss the history of wolves throughout North America, the ecological role they play in their habitats, in addition to the human role in protecting their future. We're currently home to 32 wolves, 30 of whom are critically endangered species who belong to a federally managed wild-release program (we're a nonprofit who help facilitate and administer the program). The other 2 wolves are our Ambassador wolves, who are essentially wolf teachers and allow folks to experience what it's like to see and be around wolves.



As a mixed-race Latino of Puerto Rican descent, it wasn't until I was an adult that I realized how truly underrepresented our people are in the greater conversation about conservationism and environmentalism.

A lot of the work that we do, not just in terms of education and advocacy, but also through conservation efforts, helps change the negative stigmas and stereotypes about wolves. Like people, wolves live in family units (or packs) and they care deeply for their pack members. They are intelligent, beautiful, and emotional beings, and have every right to exist on this earth as we do. I'm incredibly thankful that my work not only allows me to change the perception of Latinos in the environmental field, but also change how people

See Seary on page 18

Fifty Years Later, Our Lives Still at Risk

Laura Packard

Fifty years ago, a very different U.S. Supreme Court decided Roe v. Wade.

Radical right-wing extremists control the Supreme Court and serve in elective office. We have fewer freedoms than we did a generation ago. We suffer, and women die because of it. When the Supreme Court ruled last June to strip away our rights to abortion care, it opened the floodgates for states to pass abortion bans and put our health at risk.

One in three women across America have already lost access to abortion. And more restrictions are coming.

Fifty years after Roe, we all live in a separate and unequal country where you may or may not have the right to receive critical needed medical care.

We already see the effects in our communities. State abortion bans prevent cancer patients from getting chemotherapy. Women with chronic diseases can't get the medications they rely on for treatment, because they could or might become pregnant. Patients with ectopic pregnancies or undergo-

ing miscarriages can't get life-saving medical care.

States that banned abortion already had higher maternal death rates and fewer doctors. Conservative legislators in many of those states have refused to expand Medicaid to more working class families, putting their health systems further into crisis and causing more hospital shutdowns — especially in rural areas.

One in four women will have an abortion by the age of 45, which means someone you know and

“

Your legislators work for you. On this anniversary, tell them to stop attacking our health care and fight to expand it instead. And if they don't, run to replace them next year.

love has had an abortion. Our right to abortion and our right to health care itself should not depend on where we live. But here we are.

So-called "pro-life" politicians are performative politics at its worst. State-level conservative legislators in states like Texas, Florida and Georgia preach about sanctity of life yet vote against expanding health care to the poor. Their votes sentence millions with treatable diseases and medical conditions to go without help, some even to die with illnesses that could have been cured. Right-wing politicians in Congress create a crisis around the debt ceiling so they can push for more health care cuts through Medicare and Medicaid. Yet they trumpet ever more national abortion bans.

So what do we do about it?

Right wing activists and donors spent the last 50 years working towards this day. We live in the world they wanted to create. We must do the hard work of building a better world for all of us.

Vote — not just in presidential years, and not just for presidents. Elected officials in the House and Senate, in the state capitols and governors' mansions, write the laws we live under. If judges are on the ballot in your state (such as the Wisconsin Supreme Court seat up for election this spring), take the

time to research them all and only vote for the candidates who will rule in support of our rights and freedoms.

Run for office. If your local elected officials or local judges aren't representing you, run to replace them.

Fund the grassroots organizations that work year-in, year-out on defending our freedoms, including our right to health care, and advocate for expanding and improving our access to care.

Pay attention to what our municipal governments, and our state legislators are up to. Many states are considering abortion bans and other restrictions on our health care. Your legislators need to hear from you to stop it, and focus instead on making health care more affordable and available to all.

States like Oregon, New Mexico, Minnesota and West Virginia are considering health care expansions on the state level to make insurance more affordable, including a public option and Medicaid buy-in programs. And Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Wisconsin and Wyoming have yet to expand Medicaid



Photo: Laura Packard

health care to low-income working families in their states.

Your legislators work for you. On this anniversary, tell them to stop attacking our health care and fight to expand it instead. And if they don't, run to replace them next year.

Laura Packard is a stage 4 cancer survivor and Denver-based health care advocate, founder of Voices of Health Care Action and executive director of Health Care Voter. She hosts CareTalk, a weekly consumer call-in show on health care and health insurance issues in America on Mondays at 4:30pm (EST)

Read More Commentary:
ELSemenarioOnline.com

A Lesson for America 90 Years After Hitler's Ascension to Power

Werner Lange

January 30 this year marks the 90th anniversary of the corporate-facilitated appointment of Adolf Hitler as Chancellor of a deeply divided Germany. There is an alarming lesson in this disastrous historic develop-

the rise of communist representation in Parliament. At secret meetings arranged by the influential banker, Kurt von Schröder (now generally recognized as "the mid-wife of Nazism"), it was eventually agreed after some contentious negotiations that a new government headed by the fascist Hitler was the preferential option of alarmed conservatives and capitalists. As Schröder himself later testified at the Nuremberg trials: "The general desire of businessmen was to see a strong man come to power in Germany who would form a government that would stay in power for a long time." Corporate Germany got what it wanted and the rest of the world had hell to pay over the following 11 years.

Fast forward to January 2023 and the secret contentious negotiations that eventually culminated in Kevin McCarthy's election as Speaker of the House. The anti-democratic deals cut for that embattled promotion were dictated by a pack of political wolves from the far-right House Freedom

ment for a deeply divided America today: Cutting deals with fascists to catapult a voraciously power-hungry politician to high national office places a nation in grave peril.

Right-wing German corporate leaders from the *Freundenkreis der Wirtschaft* (Club of Friends of the Economy) did just that in 1933 in the wake of national elections which led to the collapse of a conservative government and

See Lange on page 18



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'Who Ever Thought I Would Be Chief?' Tribe Elects First Female Chief

By Pooja Salhotra

When Millie Thompson Williams and her cousin Myra Battise were growing up, they'd play make-believe underneath a canopy of pine trees in the Big Thicket National Preserve, pretending to be tribal council members.

It was a true fantasy for the two girls growing up during the 1960s, when the seven-member governing body of their tribe was made up entirely of men.

"We're going to say no to everything they say!" Williams (cover photo) would tell Battise, who laughed along and continued the charade.

Now, 60 years later, Williams recalls those memories fondly and realizes they are no longer the things of daydreams.

On New Year's Day, Williams, 66, was inaugurated as second chief of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, becoming the first woman elected to the post in the tribe's over-200-year history.

The second chief, along with the principal chief, acts as an ambassador of the tribe and provides

cultural advice to the tribal council and key tribal committees. Williams' ascension to power follows a string of family tragedies that left her widowed — but comes at an opportune moment for women of her tribe. Her leadership coincides with the first time that the tribal council is made up predominantly of women, not men.

"To me what this represents is not a step forward, but things coming full circle," said Nita Battise, vice chair of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribal Council and a distant cousin of Williams. "We were a matriarchal society at one time. ... Things always come full circle."

Before facing encroachment from European settlers during the 18th century, both the Alabama and the Coushatta tribes operated as matrilineal and matriarchal societies, similar to other Indigenous tribes. Women were highly regarded as key decision-makers, and children inherited their clan membership through their mothers — a tradition that has continued. Still, the influx of Christianity and white European influences brought about a shift toward a more male-dominated system



Photo/Foto: Annie Mulligan for The Texas Tribune

Myra Battise helps newly elected second chief Millie Thompson Williams with her official regalia after a press conference on Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023. Battise nominated Williams for the leadership role. Williams is the first female elected as a chief in the tribe's history. / Myra Battise ayuda a la recién elegida segunda jefa Millie Thompson Williams con su indumentaria oficial tras una rueda de prensa el martes 3 de enero de 2023. Battise propuso a Williams para el puesto de jefa. Williams es la primera mujer elegida jefa en la historia de la tribu.

of government. It wasn't until 1980 that the tribe had its first female council member.

Now, as Williams makes history and power shifts back toward women, she hopes to steer the tribe in a direction that balances economic prosperity with cultural traditions. As the oldest reservation in Texas and one of three federally recognized tribes in the state, the Alabama-Coushatta have long fought for sovereignty and respect from state and federal leaders. For years, politicians have — at best — ignored the tribe, and, at worst, have gone against their best interests. Finally, the tribe is in a place of economic growth. Last year, the tribe secured the legal right to operate an electronic gaming facility on their reservation. The operation, Naskila Gaming, has proven a boon to economic development, creating hundreds of jobs and generating millions of dollars in revenue.

Still, the tribe struggles. The tug-of-war battle for recognition from politicians continues, and the reservation faces the same challenges as other rural Texas communities — aging infrastructure, limited access to health care and low educational attainment. They are also experiencing a baby boom that threatens the tribe's connection to its past. Of the roughly 1,400 tribe members, 39% are under the age of 18, more than 1.5 times the rate in the United States at large. With fewer elders around, tribal traditions, including the Alabama language, crafts and folklore, are

at risk of disappearing. Williams is intent on preventing that.

"I want to be there for my tribe, especially the young people who are coming up," said Williams, who has a slender frame, round face and soft features. "I want them to be proud of who they are and where they come from."



"I want to be there for my tribe, especially the young people who are coming up. I want them to be proud of who they are and where they come from."

Millie Thompson Williams, Alabama-Coushatta Tribe, Second Chief

A fight for sovereignty

Williams was born and raised on a 10,200-acre reservation situated 17 miles east of Livingston. The entrance to the reservation appears as a wooden billboard between rows of pine trees on the two-lane Highway 190. Beyond the sign sits a culture center that serves as a hub for tribal activity and the seat of tribal council meetings. Across the street at Naskila Gaming, the lights of slot machines blink on and off.

Williams is one of roughly 1,400 enrolled members of the Alabama-Coushatta tribe, about half

of whom reside on the reservation. The heavily forested region sits in Deep East Texas. Her ancestors first migrated to the region from present-day Alabama during the late 18th century after facing pressure from European settlers.

Although recognized as two separate tribes, the Alabamas and Coushattas have been closely associated and share a similar history of displacement and an ongoing battle for state and federal recognition. After Texas won independence from Mexico in 1836, many tribes were expelled from the state, but the Alabama and Coushattas had maintained amicable relations with their neighbors. They had even assisted Texans in their fight for independence by caring for the troops of General Sam Houston as they retreated from the Mexican army. When Mirabeau Lamar became president of Texas, he authorized an act to purchase land for the tribes.

Since then, the tribe has had to fight for sovereignty.

In a 1918 report, the U.S. Department of the Interior investigated the status of the tribe and found that the tribe's greatest needs were for more land and vocational education. Congress appropriated land to the tribe in 1928 and authorized the acceptance of title over the land, effectively establishing a government-to-government relationship with them. But in 1954, as part of a series of

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'¿Quién Iba a Pensar Que Yo Sería Jefa?' La Tribu Elige a Su Primera Jefa

Por Pooja Salhotra

Cuando Millie Thompson Williams y su prima Myra Battise eran niñas, jugaban a ser miembros del consejo tribal bajo una copa de pinos en la Reserva Nacional de Big Thicket.

Era una auténtica fantasía para las dos niñas que crecieron en la década de 1960, cuando el órgano de gobierno de su tribu, compuesto por siete miembros, estaba formado exclusivamente por hombres.



"Quiero estar ahí para mi tribu, sobre todo para los jóvenes que se están formando", afirma Williams, de complejión delgada, cara redonda y rasgos suaves. "Quiero que estén orgullosos de quiénes son y de dónde vienen".

Millie Thompson Williams, Jefa, Tribu Alabama-Coushatta

"Vamos a decir que no a todo lo que digan", le decía Williams (foto en la portada) a Battise, que se reía y continuaba la farsa.

Ahora, 60 años más tarde, Williams recuerda con cariño aquellos recuerdos y se da cuenta de que ya no son cosa de ensueño.

El día de Año Nuevo, Williams, de 66 años, fue investida segunda jefa de la tribu Alabama-Coushatta de Texas, convirtiéndose en la primera mujer elegida para el cargo en los más de 200 años de historia de la tribu.

El segundo jefe, junto con el jefe principal, actúa como embajador de la tribu y proporciona asesoramiento cultural al consejo tribal y a los principales comités tribales. El ascenso al poder de Williams se produce tras una serie de tragedias familiares que la dejaron viuda, pero llega en un momento oportuno para las mujeres de su tribu. Su liderazgo coincide con la primera vez que el consejo tribal está formado predominantemente por mujeres, no por hombres.

"Para mí, esto no representa un paso adelante, sino el cierre del círculo", afirma Nita Battise, vicepresidenta del Consejo Tribal Alabama-Coushatta y prima lejana de Williams. "Antes éramos una sociedad matriarcal. ... Las cosas siempre cierran el círculo".

Antes de sufrir la invasión de los colonos europeos en el siglo XVIII, tanto la tribu alabama como la coushatta funcionaban como sociedades matrilineales y matriarcales, similares a otras tribus indígenas. Las mujeres gozaban de gran prestigio en la toma de decisiones y los hijos heredaban la pertenencia al clan a través de sus madres, una tradición que se ha mantenido. Sin embargo, la llegada del cristianismo y las influencias de los blancos europeos provocaron un cambio hacia un sistema de gobierno más dominado por los hombres. No fue hasta 1980 cuando la tribu tuvo su primer miembro femenino en el consejo.

Ahora que Williams hace historia y el poder vuelve a recaer en las mujeres, espera dirigir la tribu en una dirección que equilibre la prosperidad económica con las tradiciones culturales. Los alabama-coushatta, la reserva más antigua de Texas y una de las tres tribus del estado reconocidas a nivel federal, llevan mucho tiempo luchando por la soberanía y el respeto de los dirigentes estatales y federales. Durante años, los políticos -en el mejor de los casos- han ignorado a la tribu y, en el peor, han ido en contra de sus intereses.

Por último, la tribu se encuentra en un momento de crecimiento económico. El año pasado, la tribu obtuvo el derecho legal a explotar una instalación de juego electrónico en su reserva. La operación, Naskila Gaming, ha demostrado ser una bendición para el desarrollo económico, creando cientos de puestos de trabajo y generando millones de dólares en ingresos.

Pero la tribu sigue luchando. El tira y afloja por el reconocimiento de los políticos continúa, y la reserva se enfrenta a los mismos retos que otras comunidades rurales de Texas: infraestructuras envejecidas, acceso limitado a la sanidad y bajo nivel educativo. También están experimentando un baby boom que amenaza la conexión de la tribu con su pasado. De los aproximadamente 1.400 miembros de la tribu, el 39% son menores de 18 años, más de 1,5 veces la tasa de Estados Unidos en general. Con menos ancianos, las tradiciones tribales, como la lengua alabama, la artesanía y el folclore, corren el riesgo de desaparecer. Williams quiere evitarlo.

"Quiero estar ahí para mi tribu, sobre todo para los jóvenes que se están formando", afirma Williams, de complejión delgada, cara redonda y rasgos suaves. "Quiero



Mille Thompson Williams detrás de su escritorio en el edificio de Head Start en la reserva de Alabama-Coushatta el 18 de noviembre de 2022. Williams trabajó allí durante 37 años. / Mille Thompson Williams stands behind her desk at the Head Start building on the Alabama-Coushatta reservation on Nov. 18, 2022. Williams worked there for 37 years.

que estén orgullosos de quiénes son y de dónde vienen".

Una lucha por la soberanía

Williams nació y creció en una reserva de 10.200 acres situada

a 17 millas al este de Livingston.

La entrada a la reserva aparece

como un cartel de madera entre

hileras de pinos en la carretera

190, de dos carriles. Más allá de la

señal hay un centro cultural que

sirve de centro de actividad tribal

y sede de las reuniones del consejo tribal. Al otro lado de la calle, en Naskila Gaming, las luces

Vea Jefa, página 17



**DESCUBRA LOS
VERDADEROS COSTOS
DE LA ENERGÍA SUCIA**



State News / Noticias del Estado

Latino Education Coalition Initiates Educational Equity Movement

COLORADO

By Victoria Acuña

The Latino Education Coalition (LEC) held a community forum on Jan. 22, giving parents, activists, teachers, and other members of Denver Public Schools (DPS) an opportunity to discuss issues Latinx youth are facing in schools, and ways the coalition can better serve them.

The event began with a performance by *Mariachi Juvenil de Bryant-Webster*—a youth mariachi group from Denver's Bryant Webster elementary school—and featured comments from Denver City Councilwoman Amanda Sandoval and State Representative Serena Gonzales-Gutiérrez.

The forum consisted of an overview of the LEC and its past achievements, and a working lunch where a handful of various groups came together to discuss questions put forth by the coalition.

Dr. Ramón Del Castillo, a retired professor and former department chair of Chicano Studies at the Metropolitan State University of Denver, discussed how the LEC has become a strong voice for the community through its advocacy for HB19-1192 and upcoming publication of the *La Raza* report.

HB19-1192, also known as the "Inclusion of American Minorities in Teaching Civil Government" bill, requires public K-12 schools to "include the history, culture, and social contributions of American Indians, Latinos, African Americans, and Asian Americans" in their curriculum. Dr. Del Castillo noted that the bill's roots go back to the 1969 West High School Blowout walkouts against discrimination, where the students demanded that their school enforce the inclusion of their history, culture, and language in the classroom.

Dr. Del Castillo also highlighted the work he and the LEC are doing on the *La Raza* report, a qualitative and quantitative report on various issues and dynamics Latinx students and families face within DPS schools. The report will answer the overarching questions: "What are the opportunities for Latina/o student achievement within DPS, and what are the barriers hindering such achievement?" The report will be finalized this summer and presented to DPS Superintendent Dr. Alex Marrero and the DPS Board.

Alex Moncalo, the forum's emcee, introduced Dr. Kathy Escamilla, Professor Emeritus at University of Colorado Boulder. Dr. Escamilla, a member of the Congress of Hispanic Educators (CHE), gave

a brief overview on the history of the Consent Decree, which was established in 1999 to address issues Multilingual Learner (MLL) students were experiencing. The decree requires DPS to ensure that these students "receive grade-appropriate content instruction that is designed to enable them to perform at grade level, reach their full potential, and be on track to graduate from high school prepared for success in life, work, civic responsibility, and higher education". However, implementation of the decree, which was revised in 2013, has not been as successful, and this became a topic of discussion during the next part of the forum.

Forum attendees came together in various groups during lunch. Led by a facilitator, the groups had a discussion around questions regarding the academic achievement situation for Latinx students in DPS today, opportunities offered by DPS to these students and their families to further educational achievements, barriers or challenges they face, and what the LEC can do to help overcome such challenges.

Parents expressed frustrations with feeling left out and sometimes unwelcome in schools, especially for those who are undocumented. Teachers shared their struggles with trying to fit ethnic studies into



Dr. Kathy Escamilla, Professor Emeritus at the University of Colorado Boulder, speaks at the Latino Education Coalition forum on Jan. 22. / Dra. Kathy Escamilla, profesora emérita de la Universidad de Colorado Boulder, habla en un foro de la Coalición de Educación Latina en 22 de enero.

the curriculum, and the difficulties that come from an overall lack of funding for their schools. They also offered the perspective that not all teachers know how to teach ethnic studies, given that the majority of the teachers in DPS are white.

Indigenous community members were also a part of the forum, speaking to the intersection between the Latinx and Indigenous communities in Denver. A few pointed out the effects of colonization and white supremacy on the school system – "I want people to know that Indigenous people can graduate from high school," said one grandparent.

At the end of the forum, attendees settled on a few priorities that

the LEC should consider for this year, such as uplifting work that is already happening and developing Latinx leadership programs. Many felt that the LEC should move forward with enforcement of the Consent Decree. "We have the legal precedent", mentioned one attendee.

Overall, the forum was very collaborative and engaging, and a good sign of what's to come for the improvements the Latinx education community wants to make for their students and families.

Victoria Acuña is an Independent Reporter for The Weekly Issue/El Semanario.

For More Colorado News:
ElSemanarioOnline.com

La Coalición de Educación Latina Inicia un Movimiento por la Equidad Educativa

COLORADO

Por Victoria Acuña

La Coalición de Educación Latina (LEC) celebró un foro comunitario el 22 de enero, dando a los padres, activistas, maestros y otros miembros de las Escuelas Públicas de Denver (DPS) la oportunidad de discutir los problemas que los jóvenes latinos están enfrentando en las escuelas, y las formas en que la coalición puede servirles mejor.

El evento comenzó con una actuación del Mariachi Juvenil de Bryant-Webster -un grupo de mariachis de la escuela primaria Bryant Webster de Denver- y contó con los comentarios de la concejal de Denver Amanda Sandoval y la representante estatal Serena Gonzales-Gutiérrez.

El foro consistió en una presentación general de la LEC y sus logros pasados, y en un almuerzo de trabajo en el que se reunieron varios grupos para debatir cuestiones planteadas por la coalición.

El Dr. Ramón Del Castillo, profesor jubilado y ex director del departamento de Estudios Chicanos de la Universidad Estatal Metropolitana de Denver, habló de cómo la LEC se ha convertido en una voz fuerte para la comunidad a través de su defensa de la ley HB19-1192 y la próxima publicación del informe de La Raza.

El proyecto de ley HB19-1192, también conocido como "Inclusión de las minorías americanas en la enseñanza del gobierno civil", exige que las escuelas públicas K-12 "incluyan la historia, la cultura y las contribuciones sociales de los indios americanos, latinos, afroamericanos y asiático-americanos" en sus planes de estudio. La Dra. Del Castillo señaló que las raíces del proyecto de ley se remontan a las huelgas contra la discriminación que tuvieron lugar en 1969 en el West High School, en las que los estudiantes exigieron que sus escuelas incluyeran su historia, cultura e idioma en las aulas.

El Dr. Del Castillo también destacó el trabajo que él y el LEC están haciendo en el informe de La



Milo Marquez, miembro de la Coalición de Educación Latina (LEC), habla en un foro comunitario en 22 de enero. / Milo Marquez, a member of the Latino Education Coalition (LEC), speaks at a community forum on January 22.

Raza, un informe cualitativo y cuantitativo sobre diversos problemas y dinámicas que los estudiantes latinos y las familias enfrentan dentro de las escuelas de DPS. El informe responderá a las preguntas generales: "¿Cuáles son las oportunidades para el logro de los estudiantes latinos dentro de DPS, y cuáles son las barreras que obstaculizan dicho logro?" El informe será finalizado este verano y presentado al Superintendente de DPS Dr. Alex Marrero y la Junta de DPS.

Alex Moncalo, el maestro de ceremonias del foro, presentó a la Dra. Kathy Escamilla, profesora emérita de la Universidad de Colorado Boulder. La Dra. Escamilla, miembro del Congreso de Educadores Hispanos (CHE), hizo una breve reseña de la historia del Decreto de Consentimiento, que se estableció en 1999 para abordar los problemas que estaban experimentando los estudiantes

Vea LEC/Esp, página 21



THE WEEKLY ISSUE
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Foto/Foto: Anthony Maes

Overworked, Underpaid, Under Attack: Survey Shows Colorado Teacher Challenges

COLORADO

By Erica Meltzer

Colorado educators feel overworked, underpaid, and under attack, and they think students' education is suffering as a result.

Those were the findings of the [Colorado Education Association's most recent survey](#), completed in late 2022 by more than 1,600 of the union's 39,000 members and released Tuesday.

According to the survey, 85% of educators say the shortage of classroom teachers in their school is worse than in previous years and 90% say the shortage of support staff is worse.

Two-thirds of educators worry about a mass shooting at their school. Just 34% feel that elected officials respect them.

Sixty percent of educators said they're thinking about leaving the profession in the near future, with 21% saying they could be driven out by politically motivated attacks on curriculum and teaching.

That's actually an improvement from last year, when [two-thirds of respondents said they were thinking about leaving the profession soon](#), but a CEA spokesperson said the union doesn't know if morale has improved or if some of those thinking about leaving last year [have already left](#) and didn't respond to the survey.

"We obviously didn't see 67% of our educators leave the profession last year, but it is a warning sign that people are feeling defeated and deflated and burdened," CEA President Amie Baca-Oehlert said.

Burnout and high turnover lead to higher workloads for the staff who remain, which lead to more burnout and turnover, local union officials said on a press call about the survey results. It also means teachers can't teach at the level they'd like to or work together to improve instruction.

David Lockley, president of the union in Adams 12 Five Star Schools, said dozens of vacancies in special education mean 30% higher caseloads for special education teachers. And when in-

structional coaches have to fill in on special education, they aren't available to help newer teachers refine their craft.

One survey respondent told CEA, "We don't have enough aides to support our special needs behavior students. We often lose support staff in the middle of the year. Subs do not fill most of the time. ... We have had to cancel every team planning day for the last year and a half because of lack of subs."

For the first time, the union asked LGBTQ educators how safe and supported they feel at work. The results were alarming but not surprising, union officials said.

The vast majority — 85% — said they did not feel safe being out at school, and 80% said there was not a gender-inclusive bathroom in their building. Forty percent said they had witnessed students being discriminated against due to their gender identity or sexuality, and 45% said that equity work at their school didn't include LGBTQ perspectives.

Kasey Ellis, president of the Cherry Creek teachers union, said LGBTQ teachers have received derogatory notes and comments. When parents call for books with LGBTQ characters or themes to be removed from school libraries, as has happened in Cherry Creek, it also makes educators feel unsafe and unwelcome.

When educators aren't out, that also affects students, the teachers said. Last year's Healthy Kids Colorado survey found that [fewer than half of LGBTQ students felt safe at school](#).

"If an educator is not accepted, what does that mean for me as a student?" Ellis said.

Lockley said many districts have anti-discrimination policies in place, but administrators often aren't trained in how to support LGBTQ staff or navigate conflicts. The message ends up being that it's better to stay in the closet, he said.

Baca-Oehlert said political rhetoric that casts teachers as "groomers" who indoctrinate students has made the situation worse. She said there is work to do at the state and

local level to build more welcoming communities.

"That's something we've really seen wear on our educators, that they aren't trusted to teach in an age-appropriate way and teach appropriate content," she said. "We need to work harder against those attacks that teachers are indoctrinating our children."



"We obviously didn't see 67% of our educators leave the profession [last year], but it is a warning sign that people are feeling defeated and deflated and burdened."

CEA President Amie Baca-Oehlert

priority for CEA — plus affordable housing, gun safety regulations, youth mental health and more.

The survey found that while educators are worried about violence at school, a large majority said arming teachers would not make them feel safer. A fifth of teachers supported policies to beef up physical security, such as adding metal detectors and better locks, while 39% said their top priority for enhancing school safety was better mental health support.

Baca-Oehlert said it's important for school districts to hire more professional counselors rather than ask teachers to do more. They said the state needs to fund those efforts along with bolstering community mental health resources.

Gov. Jared Polis has [proposed a new Office of School Safety](#). Baca-Oehlert said CEA hopes those efforts don't lead to more students being ticketed and arrested, and don't focus on "hardening" schools without attention to student well-being.

Baca-Oehlert said there is also more the state could be doing to address the teacher shortage. They're backing legislation to increase stipends for student teach-

ers and make it easier for teachers from other states to get Colorado teaching licenses. They're also backing affordable housing policies that would make it easier for teachers to live in the communities where they work.

Increased school funding in recent years has helped fund raises in many school districts, but they [haven't kept pace with the rising price of housing](#). And Colorado teachers [pay a big penalty for going into education](#), earning almost 36% less than other workers with college degrees, the widest such gap in the nation.

Baca-Oehlert said she would like to see more political will to [find new revenue and increase school funding dramatically](#).

"What we've been doing for many years is putting Band-Aids on a gushing wound," she said. "We would love to see [lawmakers] get behind a systemic fix."

Erica Meltzer is the Bureau Chief for Chalkbeat Colorado. This story was originally published by Chalkbeat.

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State News / Noticias del Estado

Colorado SecureSavings Program to Address State's Retirement Saving Gap

COLORADO

By Benjamin Neufeld

Colorado Treasurer Dave Young recently announced the launch of Colorado's new state-run retirement program, Colorado SecureSavings. The program is designed to give non-traditional workers—such as gig-workers, seasonal workers, or small-business employees—a viable pathway to retirement.

According to Colorado SecureSavings, "Here in Colorado, more than 40% of our private-sector workforce does not have access to a retirement savings plan at work—nearly 940,000 workers. Colorado SecureSavings was created to meet this urgent need."

"We know that if we don't do something about this retirement savings gap we have here [in Colorado]...[then] over the next 15 years taxpayers will be on the hook for 18 billion dollars [in] social safety net services," said Young.

The press conference highlighted the success of the SecureSavings pilot program. It featured small business owners who par-

ticipated in the program as guest speakers and discussed the details of how the program will be implemented over the next few months. Program board members, advocates, supporters, and community members, as well as the director of the program, Hunter Railey, also spoke at the press conference which took place over Zoom due to last Wednesday's snowstorm.

The program's key feature is its transferability. It allows employers to contribute to a retirement account that is tied to the employee rather than the employer. According to coloradosecuresavings.com, "businesses can help their employees save for retirement in a convenient Roth Individual Retirement Account (IRA) that is portable even if they change or leave their job."

It also allows employees flexibility to determine and adjust their withholding rates. Workers might decide to lower their withholding rate during times of financial strain then increase their withholding rate when it becomes viable. Pilot program participant Lee Wood, the owner of Wood's High Mountain Distillery in Salida, described how his employees make significantly more income during the busy

summer tourist season and less during the winter months. His employees will be able to adjust their withholding rates according to this seasonal tempo.

Kerry Donovan, a former member of the Colorado State Senate from Vail and a prime sponsor of the Colorado SecureSavings Plan, echoed Lee, saying "growing up in a resort community" she saw many people working multiple jobs in the tourism industry who couldn't manage to save money the way people with traditional careers could. "For a lot of people, this is going to be a life changing bill," she said.

Chrissy Strowmatt, owner of the Blue Bonnet Restaurant in Denver, also testified to her success with the SecureSavings pilot program. "Most of my employees are long-term employees and have been needing something like this for a very long time," she said. "We had looked at a 401k program for our staff for years and years, and every time I asked for bids, the bids came back incredibly expensive: thousands to enroll in a program and thousands every year to administer the program. And that just wouldn't be possible for us, and I



A new state-run retirement program will offer non-traditional workers a viable pathway to retirement. / Un nuevo programa estatal de jubilación ofrecerá a los trabajadores no tradicionales una vía viable hacia la jubilación.

Photo/Foto: Adobe Stock

wouldn't think it would be possible for most small businesses."

Strowmatt says her staff embraced the program with 15 of them signed up so far, and that the process to get set up was simple and easy for both her as an employer and for her employees.

Railey, the program director, also claimed there is a "really straightforward process for onboarding." He said his team found that the average employer participating in the pilot program took about 10 to 15 minutes to upload their employee roster to the pro-

gram. To ensure the success of the program's launch, he said, "basically any industry operating in the state [was] represented in that pilot program."

All "eligible Colorado employers" that do not already offer a retirement program will be required to facilitate Colorado SecureSavings according to the program website. Businesses/employers with 50 or more employees must register by March 15 of this year. Businesses with 15-49 employees

See Retirement on page 15

Meet the authors
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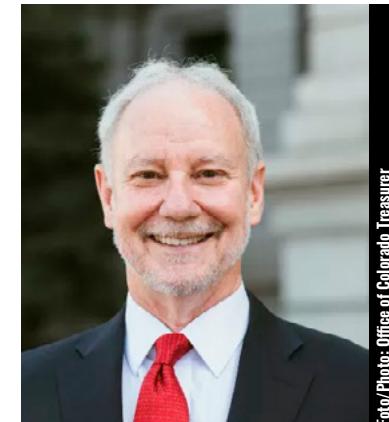
COLORADO

Por Benjamin Neufeld

El tesorero de Colorado Dave Young anunció recientemente el lanzamiento del nuevo programa de jubilación estatal de Colorado, Colorado SecureSavings. El programa está diseñado para dar a los trabajadores no tradicionales, tales como gig-trabajadores, trabajadores estacionales, o empleados de pequeñas empresas, un camino viable para la jubilación.

Según Colorado SecureSavings, "aquí en Colorado, más del 40% de nuestra mano de obra del sector privado no tiene acceso a un plan de ahorro para la jubilación en el trabajo - cerca de 940,000 trabajadores. Colorado SecureSavings se creó para satisfacer esta necesidad urgente".

"Sabemos que si no hacemos algo sobre esta brecha de ahorro para la jubilación que tenemos aquí [en Colorado]... [entonces] en los próximos 15 años los contribuyentes estarán en el gancho para 18 mil millones de dólares [en] servi-



El tesorero de Colorado Dave Young anunció recientemente el lanzamiento del nuevo programa de jubilación estatal de Colorado. / Colorado Treasurer Dave Young recently announced the launch of a new state-run retirement program.

cios de la red de seguridad social", dijo Young.

La rueda de prensa destacó el éxito del programa piloto SecureSavings. Contó con la presencia de propietarios de pequeñas empresas que participaron en el programa como oradores invitados y se debatieron los detalles de cómo se implantaría el programa en los próximos meses. Miembros del consejo del programa, defensores,

Vea Jubilación, página 21

Rep. Pettersen Joins Bipartisan Addiction and Mental Health Task Force

COLORADO

Representative Brittany Pettersen (CO-07) announced last week that she has joined the Bipartisan Addiction and Mental Health Task Force, a group focused on promoting policies to combat the addiction and mental health crises in America. Since first entering public service, Pettersen has championed efforts to address the addiction epidemic, inspired by her own mother's struggle that began with over-prescribed opioids and led to a decades-long addiction. "We've lost more people to the opioid

"I'm proud to join this bipartisan task force and bring my personal experiences fighting to save my mom's life in a broken system to the table as we work to address this public health crisis."

Rep. Brittany Pettersen

epidemic than all world wars combined, and with the increase

of fentanyl, overdose deaths continue to rise. My mom suffered with a prescription opioid addiction that led to heroin and lasted for decades until she finally got the help she desperately needed. She has been in recovery for over five years and is an example of what's possible, but there are far too many who aren't as lucky," said Pettersen. "The over-prescription of opioids, a lack of resources for addiction care, and barriers to mental health services have ravaged communities and families across Colorado and the country. I'm proud to join this bipartisan task force and bring my personal experiences fighting

to save my mom's life in a broken system to the table as we work to address this public health crisis." The Bipartisan Addiction and Mental Health Task Force, led by Representatives Annie Kuster (D-NH), David Trone (D-MD), and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), was created in 2021 and has already been instrumental in passing legislation to address both the addiction and mental health epidemics which were only worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic. Joining this task force is just the latest in Pettersen's efforts to fight

the opioid and substance use disorder epidemic that has ravaged nearly every community in Colorado. During her time in the Colorado state legislature, Pettersen passed several measures to improve the behavioral health system in the state, including creating a program to coordinate transition services for high-risk individuals, limiting prescriptions of opioids, and expanding treatment capacity in underserved communities.

For More Colorado News:
ElSemanarioOnline.com

State Asks Community for Feedback on New System

COLORADO

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment is seeking feedback on a system, designed to provide Coloradans with a centralized place to share their concerns about environmental pollution.

The complaint system will be available in English and Spanish, but complaints can be submitted in any language. The department's environmental justice ombudsman oversees the system and focuses on concerns raised by individuals living in communities that carry a heavier burden of pollution. Community members can express their concerns about air and water pollution, illegal dumping, and a wide variety of other environmental and public health issues. Individuals can fill out an [online form](#), or [email](#) mail, or call the ombudsman at

"We want to hear from Coloradans about their pollution concerns, and we recognize it can sometimes be difficult to know who to contact when those arise."

Marcus Howell, CDPHE

303-549-9988 to voice their concerns.

"We want to hear from Coloradans about their pollution concerns, and we recognize it can sometimes be difficult to know who to contact when those arise," said Marcus Howell, CDPHE's environmental justice ombudsman. "I am excited to hear from the community on how we can improve this system to serve them."

The ombudsman is independent. Because the ombudsman receives information about a wide variety of issues, it will help identify community patterns and facilitate systemic solutions. The ombudsman works with the appropriate environmental and technical staff at CDPHE to find possible solutions.

This is the first prototype of the complaint system. CDPHE is in the process of soliciting public comment on the system through March 24, 2023. Comments can be emailed to cdphe_ej@state.co.us. The system will be fully launched in mid-April after incorporating feedback from the public and the Environmental Justice Advisory Board.

Visit [this webpage](#) for more information on this new program or how to submit a complaint.

For More Colorado News:
ElSemanarioOnline.com

El Estado Pide a la Comunidad Su Opinión Sobre el Nuevo Sistema

COLORADO

El Departamento de Salud Pública y Medio Ambiente de Colorado desea recibir los comentarios del público sobre un sistema que ha sido diseñado con el fin de que los habitantes de Colorado puedan recurrir a un lugar centralizado para expresar sus inquietudes sobre la contaminación ambiental.

El sistema para presentar quejas estará disponible en inglés y en español, pero se pueden enviar quejas en cualquier idioma. El defensor del pueblo de justicia ambiental del Departamento supervisa

el sistema y se concentra en las inquietudes de las personas que viven en comunidades que soportan una carga mayor debido a la contaminación. Las y los integrantes de las comunidades pueden expresar sus inquietudes sobre la contaminación del aire y del agua, el vertido ilegal y una amplia variedad de temas relacionados con el medio ambiente y la salud pública. Para hacerlo, se puede llenar un [formulario en línea](#), enviar un mensaje por [correo electrónico](#), por correo postal o llamar por teléfono al defensor del pueblo al 303-549-9988.

"Deseamos estar al tanto de las inquietudes que tienen los habitantes de Colorado en relación con la contaminación, y estamos conscientes de que no siempre es fácil saber con quién hay que comunicarse cuando surge una inquietud".

Marcus Howell, CDPHE

la contaminación, y estamos conscientes de que no siempre es fácil

Vea Ambiental, página 14

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State News / Noticias del Estado

Advocates for Reproductive Health Clinic Gather in the Capital

NEW MÉXICO

By Danielle Prokop

There's no timeline for the future \$10 million reproductive health center in Las Cruces, N.M., but advocates turned out at the capital, touting a vision beyond abortion care.

About two dozen supporters of the health center — including advocacy nonprofits such as Forward Together, Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains and Bold Futures NM — met in a room on the third floor of the Roundhouse (State Capitol) Friday.

Adriann Barboa, a Bernalillo County Commissioner and policy director at Forward Together, said the center would not be limited to abortion, and could also be expanded to include a birthing center.

"We deserve the full spectrum of reproductive health care, the basic essential needs, abortion care, gender-affirming care — we want it all," Barboa said.

New Mexico's border region — Hidalgo, Luna and Doña Ana Counties — has higher infant mortality rates, higher rates of teen

pregnancies, and higher rates of HIV than other places in the state, a 2019 [health equity report](#) found.

The region's in close proximity to Texas, which has a near-total ban on abortion. A [state law went into effect in August](#) criminalizing abortion at any stage of pregnancy, except in the case of a life-threatening medical emergency. Doctors or other providers convicted of violating the law could face punishment of up to life in prison.



"We deserve the full spectrum of reproductive health care, the basic essential needs, abortion care, gender-affirming care — we want it all."

Adriann Barboa,
Forward Together

Few abortion clinics in Southern New Mexico offer medical abortion, which is limited to the early stages in the pregnancy. Owners of the last abortion clinic operating in Mississippi, moved to Las Cruces in June. The clinic, dubbed "Pink

House West," would be the only facility to offer surgical abortion outside of Albuquerque.

Anti-abortion groups [vowed](#) to shut down Pink House West in the summer. The Southwest Coalition for Life has demonstrated against clinics in Las Cruces and El Paso since 2014 by coordinating marches, congregating on the sidewalk in front of clinics to talk to patients and buying offices next door to clinics.

Teo Ortega is one of an 11-member advisory group determining what services the center will include and developing the center's construction.

Ortega, who grew up in New Mexico and now lives in Boston, said their options were limited in Southern New Mexico for trans-affirming health care.

"Las Cruces is in many ways a desert, and in this, a resource desert," Ortega said.

While the advisory group met with an architect late Friday, Angelique Karnes, a spokesperson for Bold Futures, said there is no timeline yet for when the clinic's plan will be completed.

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham campaigned for reelection on the



Photo/Foto: Danielle Prokop for Source NM

Midwives, doulas, and reproductive health organizers listen to Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham on Friday, Jan. 20, 2023, as she thanks them for their work in the Roundhouse (State Capitol). / Comadronas, doulas y organizadoras de salud reproductiva escuchan a la Gobernadora Michelle Lujan Grisham el viernes 20 de enero de 2023, mientras les agradece su trabajo en la Roundhouse (Capitolio del Estado).

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promise of the [\\$10 million facility](#), and [enacting a law](#) to protect abortion rights. She announced the center in August, as New Mexico abortion clinics — already short-staffed — [hit capacity](#) with a surge in out-of-state patients after the [fall of Roe v. Wade](#).

On the session's opening day last week, she again brought up the clinic.

"I'm going to ask you to make good on our commitment to invest \$10 million in full-service, reproductive health care — a center right in southern New Mexico."

And she urged legislators to [codify abortion rights](#) in New Mexico statute in her State of the State address. As things stand, abortion is legal in New Mexico, but there's no law on the books ensuring the right.

In a short appearance before the group Friday, Lujan Grisham said any bill protecting abortion would need to be "clear, concise, constructive." Narrow language in a proposed statute would prevent challenges from towns and counties to ban abortion clinics, she said. In November, Hobbs City Council [passed an ordinance](#) banning abortion clinics from opening within the city limits.

Lujan Grisham said getting the one-time investment of \$10 million to build the clinic is easy, but staffing and operating it will be the challenge.

"If we don't have reproductive health specialists and doctors ... to build a team to provide care and medical support for women and their families, it will never exist in these communities," Lujan Grisham said.

In 2021, lawmakers repealed a 1969 state law that criminalized abortions. That change removed requirements for doctors to administer abortions, said Dr. Eve Es-

pey, the chair of the Obstetrics and Gynecology department at the University of New Mexico Hospital.

The allowance of nurse practitioners and physician assistants to provide abortion care will alleviate some of the doctor staffing shortages felt nationwide, Espey said.

"I think we're going to have a really nice pipeline of providers who are really committed to providing this care," she said.

Espey said UNM would continue training doctors, and said the clinic could be an important educational resource.

"We do attract a very social justice and reproductive justice-oriented group of students and residents at the university," she said. "I am very confident that we'll be able to staff that clinic."

Stephanie Murrillo, a midwife from El Paso who attended the meeting, said the center is "out-of-the-box thinking" that will provide better care for more people in the borderlands.

"Having this birth center will change not only New Mexico, but the states around it," she said. "And that will be a wave of impact across the whole country."

Danielle Prokop is a freelance reporter based in the Borderlands. This article is republished from [Source New Mexico](#) under a Creative Commons license.

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Defensores de Una Clínica de Salud Reproductiva se Reúnen en la Capital

NEW MÉXICO

Por Danielle Prokop

No hay un calendario para el futuro centro de salud reproductiva de 10 millones de dólares en Las Cruces, N.M., pero los defensores se presentaron en la capital, promoviendo una visión más allá de la atención del aborto.

Alrededor de dos docenas de partidarios del centro de salud - incluyendo la defensa sin fines de lucro como Forward Together, Planned Parenthood de las Montañas Rocosas y Bold Futures NM - se reunieron en una sala en el tercer piso de la Roundhouse (Capitolio del Estado) el viernes.

Adriann Barboa, comisionada del condado de Bernalillo y directora de políticas de Forward Together, dijo que el centro no se limitaría al aborto, y que también podría ampliarse para incluir un centro de partos.

"Nos merecemos todo el espectro de atención a la salud reproductiva, las necesidades básicas esenciales, la atención al aborto, la atención a la afirmación del género: lo queremos todo". Adriann Barboa,

tra las clínicas en Las Cruces y El Paso desde 2014 coordinando marchas, congregándose en la acera frente a las clínicas para hablar con los pacientes y comprando oficinas junto a las clínicas.



"Nos merecemos todo el espectro de atención a la salud reproductiva, las necesidades básicas esenciales, la atención al aborto, la atención a la afirmación del género: lo queremos todo".

Adriann Barboa,
Forward Together

Teo Ortega forma parte de un grupo asesor de 11 miembros que determina qué servicios incluirá el centro y desarrolla su construcción.

Ortega, que creció en Nuevo México y ahora vive en Boston, dijo que sus opciones eran limitadas en el sur de Nuevo México para la atención médica trans.

"Las Cruces es en muchos sentidos un desierto, y en este, un desierto de recursos", dijo Ortega.

Mientras que el grupo asesor se reunió con un arquitecto a última hora del viernes, Angelique Karnes, portavoz de Bold Futures, dijo que no hay un calendario todavía para cuando el plan de la clínica se completará.

La gobernadora Michelle Lujan Grisham hizo campaña para la reelección con la promesa de la instalación de 10 millones de dólares, y la promulgación de una ley para proteger el derecho al aborto. Ella anunció el centro en agosto, cuando las clínicas de aborto de Nuevo México - ya con poco personal - llegaron a su capacidad con un aumento de pacientes de fuera del estado después de la caída de Roe v. Wade.

En la sesión inaugural de la semana pasada, volvió a hablar de la clínica.

"Voy a pedirles que cumplan nuestro compromiso de invertir 10 millones de dólares en servicios completos de salud reproductiva, un centro justo en el sur de Nuevo México".

E instó a los legisladores a codificar el derecho al aborto en la legislación de Nuevo México en su discurso sobre el Estado del Estado. Tal como están las cosas, el aborto es legal en Nuevo México, pero no hay ninguna ley en los libros que garantice el derecho.

En una breve comparecencia ante el grupo el viernes, Lujan Grisham dijo que cualquier proyecto de ley que proteja el aborto tendría que ser "claro, conciso y constructivo". El lenguaje estrecho en un estatuto propuesto evitaría los desafíos de las ciudades y condados para prohibir las clínicas de aborto, dijo. En noviembre, el Ayuntamiento de Hobbs aprobó una ordenanza que prohíbe la apertura de clínicas abortivas dentro de los límites de la ciudad.

Lujan Grisham dijo que conseguir la inversión única de 10 millones de dólares para construir la clínica es fácil, pero dotarla de personal y hacerla funcionar será el reto.

"Si no tenemos especialistas en salud reproductiva y médicos ... para construir un equipo que brinde atención y apoyo médico a las mujeres y sus familias, nunca existirá en estas comunidades", dijo Luján Grisham.

En 2021, los legisladores derogaron una ley estatal de 1969 que penalizaba los abortos. Ese cambio eliminó los requisitos para que los médicos administraran abortos, dijo la doctora Eve Espay.



La Gobernadora Michelle Lujan Grisham se reunió con los defensores de un centro de salud reproductiva de 10 millones de dólares en Las Cruces en la Roundhouse el viernes 20 de enero de 2023. / Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham met with advocates for a \$10 million reproductive health care facility in Las Cruces at the Roundhouse Friday Jan. 20, 2023.

jefa del departamento de Obstetricia y Ginecología del Hospital de la Universidad de Nuevo México. clínica podría ser un importante recurso educativo.

"Atráemos a un grupo de estudiantes y residentes de la universidad muy orientados a la justicia social y reproductiva", dijo. "Tengo mucha confianza en que seremos capaces de dotar de personal a esa clínica".

Stephanie Murrillo, una comadrona de El Paso que asistió a la reunión, dijo que el centro es una "idea innovadora" que proporcionará una mejor atención a más

Vea **Reproductiva**, página 14

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Immigration News

Legislation for Humane Immigration Reform Remain Uncertain

By Benjamin Neufeld

Following more than two years since president Trump left office, and despite the intense anti-immigrant, "build the wall" rhetoric and messaging which he promoted faltering as a subject of public discourse, not much has changed in regard to immigration policy. Two years of Democratic control in the House, Senate, and White House, have yielded few positive results for those affected by the immigration crisis and strict Trump-era policies.

On January 5th, President Joe Biden announced an expansion of the Trump-era Title 42 policy, which allows the government to impose harsher policies around migrant entry and deportation during public health emergencies--such as the COVID-19 pandemic. According to ABC News, Title 42 is a clause from the 1944 Public Health Services Law; it has allowed the U.S. to expel over 2 million migrants.

President Biden campaigned on crafting a more empathetic and reasonable immigration policy. "Trump has waged an unrelent-

ing assault on our values and our history as a nation of immigrants. It's wrong, and it stops when Joe Biden is elected president," reads the immigration section of his campaign website. "As president, Biden will finish the work of building a fair and humane immigration system--restoring the progress Trump has cruelly undone and taking it further."

"Those changes are very overdue. It's been decades since we've reformed our system."

Kerri Talbot, Immigration Hub

The White House fact sheet on the Jan. 5 announcement states that courts have prevented the lifting of Title 42 "for now." It states that the Biden-Harris Administration "is announcing new enforcement measures to increase security at the border and reduce the number of individuals crossing unlawfully between ports of entry." It continues, "These measures will expand

and expedite legal pathways for orderly migration and result in new consequences for those who fail to use those legal pathways."

Ethnic Media Services (EMS) hosted a news briefing on the White House's announcement on January 13. According to EMS, "The status of DREAMERS also remains tenuous." Texas judge Andrew Hanen declared the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program illegal on July 22. The DACA program was created by the Obama administration to provide stability to migrants brought to the U.S. at a young age--those who likely feel most at home and who have the majority of their support network in this country. Existing DACA recipients can apply for renewal status for now; however, no new applications have been allowed to be processed since President Trump terminated the program in September 2017.

According to Ariel G. Ruiz Soto, a Policy Analyst at the Migration Policy Institute who spoke at the EMS briefing, the number of DACA holders has fallen from 700,000 in 2018 to 590,000 in September 2022. This change is a result

of DACA holders adjusting status (often by marrying a U.S. citizen), falling out of status, leaving the country, or dying. For someone to be eligible for DACA they must have entered the country before 2012, been under the age of 16 when they entered, been under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012, must be enrolled in school, have their high school diploma, or have been honorably discharged from the military. They also must have no criminal charges.

Judge Hanen has been asked by the Fifth Circuit Court to evaluate the Biden administration's new DACA guidelines issued in October. Ruiz Soto believes it's possible, or even likely, that Hanen will rule against DACA in the next few weeks or months, causing the program to sunset over the next two years while the case goes to the supreme court. He says that Biden could continue to protect DREAMERS by changing immigration enforcement policies and decreasing DACA holders' likelihood of being deported.

Kerri Talbot, the Deputy Director for the Immigration Hub who also spoke at the EMS briefing, said she and other immigration

advocates had been working to enact legislation that would have protected DREAMERS and reformed the immigration/asylum system. "Those changes are very overdue. It's been decades since we've reformed our system," said Talbot. "Unfortunately," those efforts were unsuccessful.

Talbot and her allies are continuing to strategize and attempt to push forward "sensible immigration policy." However, with Republicans in control of the House, she does not feel optimistic that any progress will be achieved before 2025 at the earliest.

Benjamin Neufeld is an Independent Reporter for The Weekly Issue/El Semanario.

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EXPANSIÓN DE LA MESA POR LA JUSTICIA
ACLU Colorado

DREAMERS

MAGOS HERRERA & BROOKLYN RIDER



THE WEEKLY ISSUE
El Semanario

Entrevista con MAGOS HERRERA
por Karen Gutiérrez

www.EISemanario.us

Ambiental

saber con quién hay que comunicarse cuando surge una inquietud", manifestó Marcus Howell, el defensor del pueblo de justicia ambiental del CDPHE. "Estoy deseando escuchar las sugerencias de la comunidad para mejorar el sistema y así poder servirles mejor".

El defensor del pueblo es un organismo independiente. Puesto que el defensor del pueblo recibe información sobre una amplia variedad de temas, será de utilidad que se identifiquen las constantes y que se busquen soluciones sistemáticas para la comunidad. El defensor del pueblo trabaja con el personal técnico y del medio ambiente del CDPHE que mayor pericia tiene para encontrar una solución.

Este es el primer prototipo del sistema de quejas. El CDPHE desea recibir los comentarios del público sobre el sistema, y el plazo para presentarlos se vence el 24 de marzo de 2023. Puede enviar sus comentarios por correo electrónico a cdphe_ej@state.co.us. Se lanzará la versión definitiva del sistema a mediados de abril, tras incorporar los aportes del público

y del Consejo Consultivo de Justicia Ambiental.

Visite [esta página web](#) para aprender más sobre este nuevo programa o para informarse de cómo presentar una queja.

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Reproductiva

personas en las tierras fronterizas.

"Tener este centro de nacimiento cambiará no sólo a Nuevo México, sino a los estados que lo rodean", dijo. "Y eso será una ola de impacto en todo el país".

Danielle Prokop es una reportera independiente radicada en la región fronteriza. Este artículo ha sido publicado por Source New Mexico bajo una licencia Creative Commons.

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

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Hastings & Torres/Esp

Es decir, el asilo no se trata de un asunto político que un Congreso o un gobierno deban aceptar o no, de acuerdo con sus cálculos partidistas e ideológicos, sino que tiene que ver con un tema de derechos humanos que no se puede evadir, sobre todo ante el masivo desplazamiento de seres humanos que huyen de diversas situaciones que ponen en peligro su vida y su integridad, así como las de sus familias.

En Puerto Rico, por ejemplo, casi semanalmente se registran casos que le erizan la piel al más duro. Migrantes de Haití, de República Dominicana y de otras naciones cercanas y lejanas son víctimas de traficantes que luego de cobrarles miles de dólares por la peligrosa travesía para tratar de llegar a las costas de un territorio estadounidense, los abandonan a su suerte en las islas más pequeñas que componen el archipiélago que es Puerto Rico. Islas como Mona, Monito y Desecheo. Otros traficantes los acercan a la costa y los lanzan al mar como carnada, resultando en el ahogamiento incluso de bebés de meses de nacidos. Y ni recordar el caso de las haitianas que en la travesía hacia Puerto Rico vieron a sus bebés morir y luego ser lanzados al mar y devorados por tiburones, según uno de los relatos.

Es decir, quienes deciden correr todos estos riesgos no lo hacen por un deseo frívolo de cambiar de ambiente. Ellos no salen de su país con la idea de hacer un *picnic* o con el fin de "recorrer el mundo" como quienes tienen la oportunidad económica para hacerlo y se ufanan de ello. Hay razones urgentes y reales que llevan a cientos de miles a jugarse la vida, y eso es algo que los republicanos que ahora controlan la Cámara Baja no quieren entender, demostrando con ello su miseria humana y su permanente actitud de rechazo hacia el otro, el desvalido, el que necesita ayuda urgente.

En su afán de cumplir su promesa de cerrar la frontera y de retornar a la política de cero tolerancia que implementó Donald Trump, esos republicanos proponen que nadie tenga el derecho de aspirar a solicitar asilo. Ese egoísmo del que han hecho su propia marca regis-

trada los ha llevado por intrincados laberintos políticos que los tienen hoy por hoy en la mira del juicio de la historia.

Por lo pronto, los republicanos ya enfilaron sus cañones hacia el secretario del DHS, Alejandro Mayorkas, con la intención de destituirlo, aunque el proceso tenga el efecto de poner en peligro la seguridad del país, como concluyó un reciente *reporte* de America's Voice.

También planifican audiencias sobre la frontera promovidas por legisladores republicanos que sin pudor alguno defienden teorías conspirativas de nacionalistas blancos. Este panorama se vuelve más desalentador cuando vemos a los demócratas dar un paso adelante y mil atrás en el tema migratorio, sin cumplir todavía lo prometido en campaña. Y en medio de todo ello, miles y miles de familias inmigrantes tratando de reacomodarse en una sociedad, cuyo sistema político aún los considera una especie de "coto de caza" en temporada electoral.

El proyecto de Roy es una prueba de fuego para los líderes republicanos que parecen seguir apostando al extremismo y al teatro político, aunque siga costándoles mucho a nivel electoral.

Maribel Hastings es Asesora Ejecutiva de América's Voice.

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

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Retirement

must register by May 15, and businesses with 5-14 employees must register by June 30.

Railey says that employees who choose to sign up to make contributions through the program will be subject to a 30-day informational period. They will also be offering a financial literacy program.

Benjamin Neufeld is an Independent Reporter for The Weekly Issue/El Semanario.

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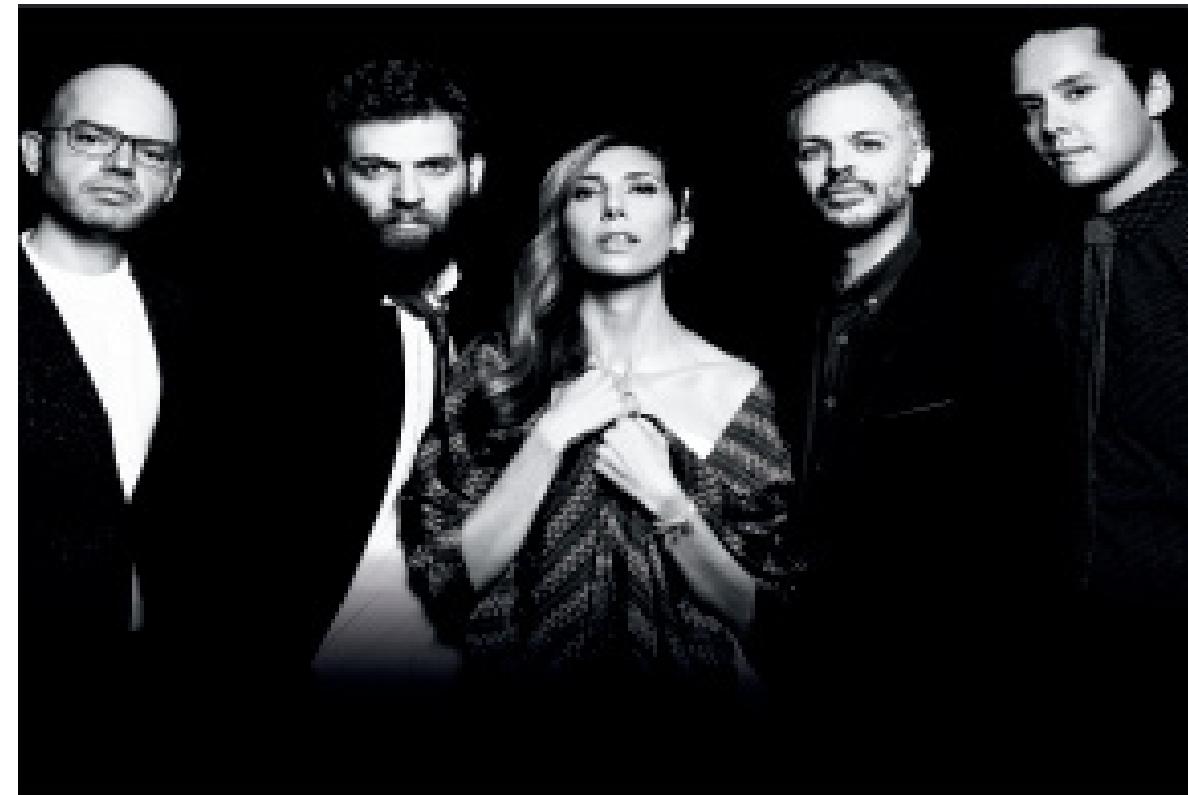
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Photo/Foto: Annie Mulligan for The Texas Tribune

Millie Thompson Williams points out a chart used for teaching children numbers in both English and the Alabama language at the Head Start building. / Millie Thompson Williams señala una tabla utilizada para enseñar a los niños los números tanto en inglés como en la lengua de Alabama en el edificio de Head Start.



Photo/Foto: Annie Mulligan for The Texas Tribune

Fog fills the air around a message for Williams on inauguration day for the new chiefs of the Alabama-Coushatta tribe on Jan. 1, 2023. / La niebla llena el aire en torno a un mensaje para Williams el día de la toma de posesión de los nuevos jefes de la tribu Alabama-Coushatta, el 1 de enero de 2023.

laws aimed at assimilating Native Americans to Western culture. Congress terminated its relationship with the tribe. The reservation became an unincorporated association subject to the same state laws as other private associations. During the following decades, the Alabama-Coushatta Tribal Council advocated for recognition, traveling to Washington, D.C., to speak before Congress and appealing to local leaders for support.

Finally, in 1987, President Ronald Reagan signed into law the Restoration Act. With this federal recognition, the Alabama-Coushatta gained the power to self-govern

and to uphold their own laws within their reservation. They were no longer subject to certain state laws and became entitled to certain federal benefits, services and protections, including federal protection over their reservation. Last summer, the tribe won a critical U.S. Supreme Court case that reaffirmed their autonomy to regulate non-prohibited gaming on their lands. The ruling ended a battle with Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton over Naskila Gaming.

The facility has created over 700 jobs and is the second-largest employer in the county, according to the tribe. But further progress

is hard to come by. Tribe leaders hope to see the passage of a federal bill that would put them under the Indian Gaming Regulation Act. That legislation would prevent the state from seeking to shut down Naskila Gaming and would allow them to operate casinos, a potential additional source of revenue for tribe members, about 20% of whom live below the poverty line, according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau. The bill has passed the U.S. House several times but has stalled in the Senate.

More fundamentally, the tribe is seeking respect from state leaders. "There's an open invitation to

the governor to come and visit the reservation," Nita Battise said. "All Texas governors have made it a point to come visit the reservation, until Rick Perry and now Greg Abbott. We want him to be here and see what's happening."

Amid personal heartbreak, a chance to make history

Williams was grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on her reservation's Head Start program, with which she had worked for 37 years, when her husband died of a heart condition. It was the first in a series of losses she'd face at the dawn of the new decade.

Williams lost a son in 2021. And another in 2022.

She felt as if half of her physical body was gone.

Amid her grief, Williams' cousin Battise called her on the phone one day, saying she planned to nominate her for the position of second chief, a lifetime appointment.

"It was time for a change," Battise said. "It was time for a woman to serve."

Williams graciously accepted the nomination but decided not to campaign for the role.

A woman of faith, she'd instead leave the results up to God.

"If He wants me to be a second chief, then he'll make a way," Williams recalled thinking. "If He says no, then I'd understand."

A few days after the election, Williams sat in the front row of her church, a modest brick building where Williams attends weekly services and teaches adult Sunday school classes in her tribal language.

From the pulpit, a community member shared the results of the election: Williams won by a slim margin. She was shocked.

"Who ever thought I would be chief?" Williams said. "I grew up in a single-parent household and was at the bottom of the totem pole all my life. I never thought I'd be here."

As one of a dwindling number of tribal elders on the reservation, Williams wants to use her position to instill cultural traditions and values in young people.

She is most focused on teaching young people Alabama, a tribal language that has been passed down orally from generation to generation.

"It's important that we know how to talk in Alabama because God gave us this language to talk," Williams said. As second chief, she plans to regularly visit the youth center, a building where kids gather on the reservation for after-school

and weekend activities. She'll use her skills as an educator to teach language classes to young children. And she'll recruit other tribal elders to teach what they know, including weaving baskets out of longleaf pine needles, cooking traditional foods such as fried bread and corn soup and making jewelry out of beads.

"I want them to want to learn," Williams said. "I love my people, and I want us to survive."

On the day of Williams' inauguration, four empty chairs sat in the front row of the pavilion, where community members gathered for a sacred ceremony. Williams had requested the chairs so she could honor her deceased husband and children.

During the weeks before the inauguration, as committees of tribe members prepared for the big day, Williams had vivid dreams. In them, her deceased family members would visit her to offer words of encouragement. In one dream, Williams thought she was in heaven with her husband. But he told her that she still had work left to do on Earth. Williams found his presence reassuring.

"He said we're going to be fine," Williams recounted. "And you'll come join us when you're done."

Pooja Salhotra is an East Texas Reporter for The Texas Tribune. The Texas Tribune is a nonprofit, nonpartisan media organization that informs Texans — and engages with them — about public policy, politics, government and statewide issues. This article is republished with permission from The Texas Tribune.

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Foto/Photo: Annie Mulligan for The Texas Tribune

Un oso de cuentas que lleva la Segunda Jefa electa Millie Thompson Williams la designa como miembro del Clan del Oso, uno de los 12 clanes de la tribu Alabama-Coushatta. / A beaded bear worn by Second Chief-elect Millie Thompson Williams designates her a member of the Bear Clan, one of the 12 clans of the Alabama-Coushatta tribe.



Foto/Photo: Anna Jaz/The Texas Tribune

Los miembros de la tribu se concentraron ante el Capitolio de Texas para que se tomaran más en serio las cuestiones tribales. / Members of the tribe rallied outside of the Texas Capitol for tribal issues to be taken more seriously.

de las máquinas tragaperras parten-padean.

Williams es uno de los cerca de 1.400 miembros inscritos en la tribu Alabama-Coushatta, de los que aproximadamente la mitad residen en la reserva. La región, densamente boscosa, se encuentra en el profundo este de Texas. Sus antepasados emigraron a la región desde la actual Alabama a finales del siglo XVIII, presionados por los colonos europeos.

Aunque reconocidas como dos tribus distintas, los alabamas y los coushattas han estado estrechamente asociados y comparten una historia similar de desplazamientos y una batalla constante por el

reconocimiento estatal y federal. Después de que Texas se independizara de México en 1836, muchas tribus fueron expulsadas del estado, pero los alabamas y los coushattas habían mantenido relaciones amistosas con sus vecinos. Incluso habían ayudado a los texanos en su lucha por la independencia cuidando de las tropas del general Sam Houston en su retirada del ejército mexicano. Cuando Mirabeau Lamar se convirtió en presidente de Texas, autorizó una ley para comprar tierras a las tribus.

Desde entonces, la tribu ha tenido que luchar por su soberanía. En un informe de 1918, el De-

partamento del Interior de EE.UU. investigó la situación de la tribu y descubrió que sus mayores necesidades eran más tierras y educación profesional. El Congreso asignó tierras a la tribu en 1928 y autorizó la aceptación de títulos sobre las mismas, estableciendo de hecho una relación de gobierno a gobierno con ellos. Pero en 1954, como parte de una serie de leyes destinadas a asimilar a los nativos americanos a la cultura occidental, el Congreso puso fin a su relación con la tribu. La reserva se convirtió en una asociación no constituida en sociedad sujeta a las mismas leyes estatales que otras asociaciones privadas. Durante las dé-

cadas siguientes, el Consejo Tribal Alabama-Coushatta abogó por su reconocimiento, viajando a Washington D.C. para hablar ante el Congreso y pidiendo apoyo a los líderes locales.

Finalmente, en 1987, el Presidente Ronald Reagan promulgó la Ley de Restauración. Con este reconocimiento federal, los alabama-coushatta obtuvieron el poder de autogobernarse y defender sus propias leyes dentro de su reserva. Dejaron de estar sujetos a ciertas leyes estatales y pasaron a tener derecho a ciertas prestaciones, servicios y protecciones federales, incluida la protección federal sobre su reserva. El verano pasado, la tribu ganó un caso crítico ante el Tribunal Supremo de Estados Unidos que reafirmaba su autonomía para regular el juego no prohibido en sus tierras. La sentencia puso fin a una batalla con el fiscal general de Texas, Ken Paxton, sobre Naskila Gaming.

La instalación ha creado más de 700 puestos de trabajo y es el segundo mayor empleador del condado, según la tribu. Pero es difícil que se produzcan nuevos avances. Los dirigentes de la tribu esperan que se apruebe un proyecto de ley federal que les someta a la Ley de Regulación del Juego Indio. Esta legislación impediría que el Estado tratara de cerrar Naskila Gaming y les permitiría explotar casinos, una posible fuente adicional de ingresos para los miembros de la tribu, de los que cerca del 20% viven por debajo del umbral de pobreza, según datos de la Oficina del Censo de EE.UU. El proyecto de ley ha sido aprobado varias veces por la Cámara de Representantes, pero se ha estancado en el Senado.

Más fundamentalmente, la tribu busca el respeto de los dirigentes estatales.

"Hay una invitación abierta al gobernador para que venga a visitar la reserva", dijo Nita Battise. "Todos los gobernadores de Texas se han empeñado en venir a visitar la reserva, hasta Rick Perry y ahora Greg Abbott. Queremos que venga y vea lo que está pasando".

En medio de la angustia personal, una oportunidad de hacer historia

Williams estaba lidiando con la pandemia de COVID-19 y su impacto en el programa Head Start de su reserva, con el que había trabajado durante 37 años, cuando su marido murió de una afección cardíaca. Fue la primera de una serie de pérdidas a las que se enfrentaría en los albores de la nueva década.

Williams perdió un hijo en 2021. Y otro en 2022.

Sentía como si la mitad de su cuerpo físico hubiera desaparecido.

En medio de su dolor, la prima de Williams, Battise, la llamó un día por teléfono para decirle que pensaba proponerla para el puesto de segunda jefa, un nombramiento vitalicio.

"Era hora de cambiar", dijo Battise. "Era hora de que sirviera una mujer".

Williams aceptó amablemente el nombramiento, pero decidió no hacer campaña para el puesto.

Como mujer de fe, dejó los resultados en manos de Dios.

"Si Él quiere que sea una segunda jefa, se las arreglará", recuerda Williams. "Si dice que no, lo entenderé".

Pocos días después de las elecciones, Williams estaba sentada en la primera fila de su iglesia, un modesto edificio de ladrillo donde asiste a servicios semanales e imparte clases de escuela dominical para adultos en su lengua tribal.

Desde el púlpito, un miembro de la comunidad compartió los resultados de las elecciones: Williams ganó por un estrecho margen. Ella estaba conmocionada.

"¿Quién iba a pensar que yo sería jefa?", dijo Williams. "Crecí en un hogar monoparental y estuve en lo más bajo del tótem toda mi vida. Nunca pensé que estaría aquí".

Como una de las pocas ancianas de la tribu en la reserva, Williams quiere utilizar su cargo para inculcar tradiciones y valores culturales a los jóvenes.

Se centra sobre todo en enseñar a los jóvenes alabama, una lengua tribal que se ha transmitido oralmente de generación en generación.

"Es importante que sepamos hablar en alabama porque Dios nos dio esta lengua para hablar", dijo Williams. Como segunda jefa, planea visitar regularmente el centro juvenil, un edificio donde los niños se reúnen en la reserva para actividades extraescolares y de fin de semana. Utilizará sus conocimientos como educadora para impartir clases de lengua a niños pequeños. Y reclutará a otros ancianos de la tribu para que enseñen lo que saben, como tejer cestas con agujas de pino de hoja larga, cocinar alimentos tradicionales como pan frito y sopa de maíz y hacer joyas con abalorios.

"Quiero que quieran aprender", afirma Williams. "Quiero a mi gente y quiero que sobrevivamos".

Caucus. They did not act alone. Alarmed by growing trends toward liberalism, even socialism, America's ruling class seized the moment of a slight Republican majority in the House to call in their chips and demand a return on their political investments.

A review of the mega-donors to the congressional campaigns of the 46 members of the House Freedom Caucus reveals it as an authoritarian gang hopelessly beholden to the most reactionary extremes of finance capital and corporate America.

The House Freedom Fund, a major financial trough for far-right House members, lavished more than \$3 million on the campaigns of 33 House Freedom Caucus members, with its Chair, Scott Perry, and its Vice-Chair, Jim Jordan, pulling in more than \$1 million and \$65,000, respectively. The Club for Growth, a billionaire-funded corporate benefactor for far-right politicians, invested another \$212,000 in Perry alone and more than \$238,000 in other House Freedom Caucus members. Weapons manufacturers (Lockheed Martin, Northrup Grumman, Boeing, Raytheon) pumped \$776,000 into the coffers of 30 members. Over \$350,000 was

organizations such as the American Bankers Association, Mortgage Bankers Association and Bank of America. The notorious corporate supporter of all that is neo-fascist, Koch Industries, threw over \$653 thousand into the campaign war chests of 28 members.

Save America, a Leadership PAC formed by the instigator of the January 6 fascist putsch attempt, Donald Trump, threw \$5 thousand apiece to 30 of its members. The Majority Committee PAC, founded by the embattled House Speaker McCarthy, injected \$545,000 into the campaigns of 31 HFC members; and the Huck PAC, founded by Christian Nationalist and former Governor of Arkansas, Mike Huckabee, helped fund the campaigns of 37 members with \$260,000. More Christian Nationalist funding to the House Freedom Caucus came from the Family Research Council, Liberty University, Publix Super Markets, and Mountaire Corporation.

Given this major funding from corporate America and its billionaires, it comes as no surprise that the first official action of the duly constituted 118th Congress was an effort to strip some \$80 billion from the IRS and thereby gravely impair

on this issue, a Democratic legislator used a classic line from *It's a Wonderful Life* to denounce the House Freedom Caucus: "Republicans support this bill, because every time a billionaire successfully cheats on his taxes, a member of the Freedom Caucus earns his wings."

Nor is it any surprise that many Republicans, the 121-member Insurrection Caucus, wanted to overthrow the 2020 election. Every HFC member, save one (Chip Roy), who was part of the 117th Congress voted to decertify the electoral college vote of 2021. Every one is also a supporter of Trump and his fascist MAGA movement. That includes all six new members (Elijah Crane; Anna Paulina Luna; Mike Collins; Josh Brecheen; Harriet Hageman; and Andy Ogles). One new member, Ogles, gave voice to their general goal: "Liberals, we're coming for you!" The NSDAP, the Nazi Party of a former Germany, had the same goal.

In fact, the House Freedom Caucus is the functional equivalent of the NSDAP.

However, there is a major difference between these two fascist forces. The HFC usurped only partial control of our lower house of

While these authoritarian legislators are hell-bent on eventually gaining totalitarian control of the government, they overplayed their hand in their disturbing grasp for power and clearly exposed themselves as fascists to the American people. That revelation, like the violent January 6 fascist putsch attempt, gives increasing rise and impetus to its dialectical opposite: a broad-based united front against fascism determined to throw these scoundrels out of office and see to it that government of, by, and for the people does not perish in America. The struggle continues, now more earnestly than ever.

Werner Lange, a retired educator and pastor, was born in the rubble that was Germany after the fascists got through with the Vaterland. He is Chair of the Ohio Peace Council and author of "Onward Christian Soldiers: the MAGA March toward a Fascist America". This commentary is republished from Common Dreams under a Creative Commons license.

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El día de la toma de posesión de Williams, había cuatro sillas vacías en la primera fila del pabellón, donde los miembros de la comunidad se reunían para una ceremonia sagrada. Williams había solicitado las sillas para poder honrar a su difunto marido y a sus hijos.

Durante las semanas previas a la toma de posesión, mientras los comités de miembros de la tribu se preparaban para el gran día, Williams tuvo sueños vividos. En ellos, sus familiares fallecidos la visitaban para ofrecerle palabras de aliento. En un sueño, Williams pensó que estaba en el cielo con su marido. Pero él le dijo que aún le quedaba trabajo por hacer en la Tierra. A Williams le tranquilizó su presencia.

"Me dijeron que íbamos a estar bien", cuenta Williams. "Y que vendrás a reunirte con nosotros cuando hayas terminado".

Pooja Salhotra es reportera de The Texas Tribune. Este artículo ha sido publicado con permiso por The Texas Tribune.

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

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perceive wolves. While I'm getting to live out this childhood dream, I haven't lost sight of the ambition that took me to this point, and will use it help make learning about wolves more accessible to disenfranchised and underrepresented communities.

Sean Seary is an environmental educator from the New York metro area; he is a Program Educator II at the Wolf Conservation Center. This article reproduced with permission by Latino Outdoors.

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pursuing petty personal agendas — such as an unpopular law weakening the university accreditation system — than in addressing the country's problems.

Since Keiko Fujimori, the daughter of the autocratic and now imprisoned former President Alberto Fujimori, lost the 2016 presidential election, her party and others aligned with it in Congress have repeatedly sought to undermine whoever held the presidency. In 2020, they successfully ousted President Martín Vizcarra on questionable legal grounds. Several members of Congress, as well as Keiko Fujimori, are themselves under criminal investigation for various offenses. In a January poll, 88 percent of Peruvians disapproved of Congress's performance.

The ousted President Castillo, a rural school teacher, was never widely popular either. But in some rural areas, he was able to gain support from communities who identified with him and believed his promises of greater inclusion.

When Castillo took office after eking out an electoral victory over Keiko Fujimori in 2021, it was clear from the behavior of some members of Congress — including false claims of electoral fraud — that they would seek to remove him as they did Vizcarra. When Congress finally did remove Castillo for what was effectively an attempted coup and Vice-President Dina Boluarte assumed the presidency, to some Peruvians this read as an effort to wrest power from them. As a result, protesters' main initial demand was for new elections in the short term.

While thousands have protested peacefully, reports of violence, arson, vandalism, and attacks on journalists have been common. Many police officers have been injured and one killed. Protesters have blocked roads, in some cases interfering with ambulances and contributing to deaths. The government has a responsibility to provide security and ensure accountability for violent acts.

At Boluarte's request, Congress voted on December 20 to move elections up from 2026 to 2024, but that decision needs to be confirmed in a second round of voting. Meanwhile, the government's brutal response to the protests is only compounding the indignation many feel.

President Boluarte has failed unequivocally to call on security forces to respect protesters' rights, even in the face of reports of excessive use of force and mass detention. The pervasive lack of accountability for police violence, and successive governments' failure

to reform the police to ensure respect for human rights, amounts to a blank check for abuse.

Instead, administration officials have blamed the protesters for causing "chaos" or dismissed them — without offering evidence — as under the control of "foreign agitators" like former Bolivian President Evo Morales.

In a January 13 speech, Boluarte apologized for protesters' deaths, but further incensed many by stating that those "truly responsible" for the violence needed to be held accountable — and suggesting that "terrorism" played a role. In Peru, the "terrorism" label is often used in reference to the Maoist Shining Path insurgency, which killed thousands in the 1980s, to stigmatize protesters, activists, Indigenous people, or left-leaning political actors.

Protests have kept spreading, affecting more than a quarter of the country on January 19, with many protesters traveling to Lima. Increasingly, their calls are for Boluarte to resign, or for a constituent assembly to review the constitution.

Democracy is very much on the line in Peru. The protesters' demand for new elections is, ultimately, democratic. But repression and denial are likely to breed more anger and despair, playing into the hands of would-be autocrats across the political spectrum.

National and regional leaders need to rise above the petty politics, corruption, and personal interests that have marred Peru's political system. Broad, genuine, and constructive dialogue that takes people's needs and aspirations into account, along with positive outcomes secured through democratic institutions and effective action to protect the right of peaceful assembly, should be the priority.

Peru is far from the only democracy where the political system is increasingly divorced from the problems of its people. Others should take heed.

Maria McFarland Sánchez-Moreno,
a Peruvian-American, is acting
deputy program director at Human
Rights Watch.

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simpatizantes y miembros de la comunidad, así como el director del programa, Hunter Railey, también intervieron en la rueda de prensa, que tuvo lugar a través de Zoom debido a la tormenta de nieve del pasado miércoles.

La principal característica del programa es su transferibilidad. Permite a los empleadores contribuir a una cuenta de jubilación vinculada al empleado y no al empleador. Según [ColoradoSecureSavings.com](#), "las empresas pueden ayudar a sus empleados a ahorrar para la jubilación en una cómoda Cuenta Individual de Jubilación (IRA) Roth que es transferible incluso si cambian de trabajo o lo abandonan".

También permite a los empleados flexibilidad para determinar y ajustar sus porcentajes de retención. Los trabajadores pueden decidir reducir su porcentaje de retención en épocas de dificultades financieras y aumentarlo cuando les resulte viable. El participante en el programa piloto Lee Wood, propietario de Wood's High Mountain Distillery en Salida, describió cómo sus empleados obtienen ingresos significativamente mayores durante la ajetreada temporada turística de verano y menores durante los meses de invierno. Sus empleados podrán ajustar sus porcentajes de retención en función de este ritmo estacional.

Kerry Donovan, ex miembro del Senado del Estado de Colo-

rado por Vail y uno de los principales patrocinadores del Plan Colorado SecureSavings, se hizo eco de Lee, diciendo que "al crecer en una comunidad turística" vio a muchas personas con múltiples empleos en la industria del turismo que no podían ahorrar dinero de la misma manera que las personas con carreras tradicionales. "Para mucha gente, esto va a ser un cambio de vida", dijo.

Chrissy Strowmatt, propietaria del restaurante Blue Bonnet de Denver, también dio testimonio de su éxito con el programa piloto SecureSavings. "La mayoría de mis empleados son de larga duración y llevaban mucho tiempo necesitando algo así", dijo. "Llevábamos años y años buscando un programa 401k para nuestro personal, y cada vez que pedía ofertas, éstas resultaban increíblemente caras: miles para inscribirse en un programa y miles cada año para administrarlo. Y eso simplemente no sería posible para nosotros, y no creo que fuera posible para la mayoría de las pequeñas empresas".

Strowmatt afirma que sus empleados han aceptado el programa, y que 15 de ellos se han inscrito hasta ahora, y que el proceso de inscripción ha sido sencillo y fácil tanto para ella como empleadora como para sus empleados.

Railey, el director del programa, también afirmó que hay un "proceso realmente sencillo

para la incorporación". Afirmó que su equipo comprobó que el empresario medio que participó en el programa piloto tardó entre 10 y 15 minutos en cargar su lista de empleados en el programa. Para garantizar el éxito del lanzamiento del programa, dijo, "básicamente cualquier industria que opera en el estado [estaba] representada en ese programa piloto".

Todos los "empleadores elegibles de Colorado" que aún no ofrecen un programa de jubilación estarán obligados a facilitar Colorado SecureSavings, según el sitio web del programa. Las empresas/empleadores con 50 o más empleados deben registrarse antes del 15 de marzo de este año. Las empresas con 15-49 empleados deben registrarse antes del 15 de mayo, y las empresas con 5-14 empleados deben registrarse antes del 30 de junio.

Railey afirma que los empleados que decidan inscribirse para realizar aportaciones a través del programa estarán sujetos a un periodo informativo de 30 días. También se ofrecerá un programa de educación financiera.

Benjamin Neufeld es un Reportero Independiente de The Weekly Issue/El Semanario. Traducido por Juan Carlos Uribe-The Weekly Issue/El Semanario.

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multilingües (MLL). El decreto exige al DPS que garantice que estos estudiantes "reciban una enseñanza de contenidos adecuada a su grado y diseñada para permitirles rendir al nivel de su grado, alcanzar su pleno potencial y estar en camino de graduarse de la escuela secundaria preparados para el éxito en la vida, el trabajo, la responsabilidad cívica y la educación superior". Sin embargo, la aplicación del decreto, que fue revisado en 2013, no ha tenido tanto éxito, y esto se convirtió en un tema de debate durante la siguiente parte del foro.

Los asistentes al foro se reunieron en varios grupos durante el almuerzo. Dirigidos por un facilitador, los grupos tuvieron una discusión en torno a preguntas sobre la situación del rendimiento académico de los estudiantes Latinx en DPS hoy en día, las oportunidades ofrecidas por DPS a estos estudiantes y sus familias para promover los logros educativos, las barreras o

desafíos que enfrentan, y lo que el LEC puede hacer para ayudar a superar tales desafíos.

Los padres expresaron frustraciones por sentirse excluidos y a veces no bienvenidos en las escuelas, especialmente para aquellos que son indocumentados. Los profesores compartieron sus dificultades para integrar los estudios étnicos en el plan de estudios y las dificultades derivadas de la falta general de financiación de sus escuelas. También ofrecieron la perspectiva de que no todos los profesores saben cómo enseñar estudios étnicos, dado que la mayoría de los profesores de DPS son blancos.

También participaron en el foro miembros de la comunidad indígena, que hablaron de la intersección entre las comunidades latina e indígena de Denver. Algunos señalaron los efectos de la colonización y la supremacía blanca en el sistema escolar: "Quiero que la gente sepa que los indígenas pueden

graduarse en el instituto", dijo un abuelo.

Al final del foro, los asistentes acordaron algunas prioridades que el LEC debería tener en cuenta este año, como potenciar el trabajo que ya se está realizando y desarrollar programas de liderazgo latino. Muchos opinaron que la LEC debería seguir adelante con la aplicación del Decreto de Consentimiento. "Tenemos el precedente legal", mencionó uno de los asistentes.

En general, el foro fue muy colaborativo y atractivo, y una buena señal de lo que está por venir para las mejoras que la comunidad educativa Latinx quiere hacer para sus estudiantes y familias.

Victoria Acuña es un Reportero Independiente de The Weekly Issue/El Semanario. Traducido por Juan Carlos Uribe, The Weekly Issue/El Semanario.

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