

4 de Mayo 2023

El Semanario

THE WEEKLY ISSUE

Edition

v.ELSEMANARIO.us

Humanitarian Crisis 8
Crisis Humanitaria 8

4 de Mayo 2023
Volume No. XXXIII Issue 26

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THE WEEKLY ISSUE / El Semanario

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Table of Contents

Tabla de contenidos

Biden's Challenge Includes Delivering for Immigrants	4
El Reto De Biden Incluye Cumplir a los Migrantes	4
We Need to Broaden the Conversation About Guns to Include Manufacturers	5
Stop the War on LGBTQ Teachers	5
Widespread Newborn DNA Sequencing Will Worsen Risks to Genetic Privacy	6
Border Mayor Declares State of Emergency Regarding Migrant Arrivals	8
Alcalde de la Frontera Declara el Estado de Emergencia por la Llegada de Inmigrantes	9
Immigration Advocates Condemn New ICE Surveillance Technology Pilot Project in Colorado	10
COLOR Celebrates 25 Years of Reproductive Justice in Colorado	11
Colorado Bill Would Give Parents Who Don't Speak English More Access to Translated Documents	12
State of Colorado Adds to Property Tax Relief Options	13
South Valley Residents Reflect on How They Are Perceived	14
Los Residentes del Sur del Valle Reflexionan Sobre Cómo se les Percibe	15
Latinos Continue to Fight to Play Crucial Roles in Hollywood	16

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"Nuestros barrios merecen más que migas de los desarrolladores. La gente del Distrito 9 necesita un líder que tiene el valor de exigir más, cada vez."



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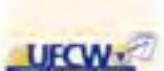
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Biden's Challenge Includes Delivering for Immigrants

Maribel Hastings and David Torres

President Joe Biden announced his intention to seek reelection in 2024 just days before his administration will put an end to Title 42 at the border, a public health measure that was invoked by the Donald Trump administration amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, and permitted the expedited expulsion of migrants at the border. Title 42 has become a political battering ram that undermined asylum law.

There have been more than a few stories about the lives that have been harmed by the implementation of this measure which, instead of containing or deterring migration, has created waves of asylum seekers who, in turn, have given a new look to the social dynamics at the most-transited border in the world.

In that context, Biden's announcement is a reminder that we find ourselves in the runup to a presidential election without having had any resolution on the issue of the elusive immigration reform. From here on out, then, it's expected that the president will return to the promises he made four years ago, not to implement them as per his campaign speeches, but to make them a reality in his second term if he is able to keep the White House.

In fact, the Biden administration faces a litmus test in the coming weeks,



to see how it will manage the anticipated migration flows that have arisen in the shadow of putting an end to Title 42. Hundreds of thousands of migrants from diverse parts of the world, but especially countries from this hemisphere like Venezuela, Guatemala, Honduras, Cuba, and Haití, have gathered at the border in hopes of obtaining asylum in the U.S.

Over the last three years of Title 42's implementation, horror stories from migrants who have taken and continue to take dangerous journeys to the United States, with children and even pets, facing hunger, all types of abuse, illness, accidents, and death have been the order of the day.

At the same time, diverse civil rights and pro-immigrant organizations have denounced the violation of U.S. asylum laws, while Republicans in Congress have used Title 42 as a battering ram to crush those laws. They have also used it to accuse the Biden administration of having "lost" control of the border. This

rhetoric, which only responds to partisan interests, falls under its own weight when taking stock of the long history of the border and its multiple political uses to this day.

President Biden must use this moment to explain to U.S. residents that the lack of broad reform of the broken migration system is what has provoked the situation we are facing. Title 42 has simply exposed the already obvious deficiencies in our asylum laws and others that regulate the entry of workers or even relatives, as well as programs that offer temporary protection—like Temporary Protected Status (TPS)—to migrants from nations at war or dealing with disasters and other extraordinary circumstances.

In fact, under the reality that immigration reform will not be achieved at this time—with the obstructionist and anti-immigrant Republican Party controlling the House of Representatives—Biden should make use of his executive authority to advance measures

that provide immigration relief to the largest group of people possible. One of those would be not only extending TPS to people who are already beneficiaries, like citizens of El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua, but also extending it to migrants from these countries who arrived after the initial cut-off date, and to benefit people from other nations, like Guatemala.

This petition was formulated by the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) Chair and Vice-Chair, Reps. Nanette Barragán and Adriano Espaillat respectively, stating that "these new TPS designations can help stabilize the region by allowing families to access vital resources through remittances sent by loved ones here in the U.S."

The immigration system is more than useless walls and cruel family separation policies, family detention, and persecution of people of faith and activists who assist migrants, which is what makes up the Republican immigration plan.

Biden must avoid ceding to Republican pressure at all costs, because to this day many of his decisions are not that different from those made by his predecessor, Donald Trump.

And it is precisely in the face of anti-immigrant pressure that Biden must lean into and implement pro-immigrant measures, with the goal of separating and differentiating himself from the racist and xenophobic cauldron

that has put up an ideological wall in a nation wanting to believe the Republicans—Trump followers, mainly—and their accusations about immigrants in their absurd "replacement theory."

“

Now is the time for the president to show that there can be a balance between enforcing the law and welcoming migrants who come seeking protections that are their human rights.

Every nation has the right to control its borders, but there are humane and inhumane ways to do it. Now is the time for the president to show that there can be a balance between enforcing the law and welcoming migrants who come seeking for protections that are their human rights, in addition to identifying mechanisms to regularize the status of those who are already here and have contributed (and continue contributing) to our economy and our strength as a nation.

That is the balance that most U.S. voters want to see, as a recent survey from Global Strategy Group for the

See **Hastings & Torres** on page 19

El Reto De Biden Incluye Cumplir a los Migrantes

Maribel Hastings y David Torres

El presidente Joe Biden anunció sus intenciones de buscar la reelección en 2024 a escasos días de que su gobierno ponga fin al Título 42 en la frontera, la medida sanitaria que se invocó en medio de la pandemia del Covid-19 durante el gobierno de Donald Trump, permitiendo la expulsión expedita de migrantes en las fronteras, y que se ha tornado en un arma política que ha minado las leyes de asilo.

No han sido pocas las historias de vida que han sido truncadas por la implementación de esta medida que, más que contener o disuadir la migración, ha creado oleadas de solicitantes de asilo que, a su vez, le han dado un nuevo panorama a la dinámica social de la frontera más transitada del mundo.

En ese contexto, el anuncio de Biden es recordatorio de que nos encontramos ante otra elección presidencial sin que se haya resuelto el tema de la esquiva reforma migratoria. A partir de ahora, entonces, se esperaría que el presidente retomara las promesas de hace

cuatro años, no para implementarlas tal cual en sus discursos de campaña, sino para volverlas realidad, ahora sí, en un segundo periodo si logra conservar la Casa Blanca.

“

Este es el momento para que el presidente demuestre que puede haber un balance entre hacer cumplir las leyes y acoger a los migrantes que llegan buscando protecciones que constituyen un derecho humano.

El gobierno de Biden, de hecho, enfrenta en las próximas semanas una prueba de fuego sobre cómo manejará los anticipados flujos migratorios que han ido al alza ante la expectativa del fin del Título 42. Cientos de miles de migrantes de diversas partes del mundo,

Vea **Hastings y Torres/Esp**, página 19

DESCUBRA LOS VERDADEROS COSTOS DE LA ENERGÍA SUCIA

SIERRA CLUB

The advertisement features a dark background with a green car in the foreground. The text "DESCUBRA LOS VERDADEROS COSTOS DE LA ENERGÍA SUCIA" is displayed in large white letters. The Sierra Club logo is visible in the top right corner.

We Need to Broaden the Conversation About Guns to Include Manufacturers

Nyla Samee and Khury Petersen Smith

There is a familiar pattern after the mass shootings that have become a well-known feature of American life.

The initial shock and grief gives way to demands for greater regulation of gun ownership by Democrats, while Republicans dismiss such measures and blame mental illness instead. But if we actually want to do something about it, we need to have new conversations.

We often talk about where and how weapons are purchased — but rarely where and how they are manufactured. These realities challenge the conventional way we talk about guns in terms of a “culture war” between red and blue states.

For example, the blue states of Massachusetts and Connecticut have some of the strictest regulations on firearms carrying and possession. But they are also major sites of gun manufacturing in this country. The weapons used in the 2018 Parkland shooting, for example, were manufactured by Smith and Wesson, a gun manufacturer based in Massachusetts.

The deeper and bigger point is that the U.S. is the world's principal supplier of weapons.



The U.S. weapons industry makes both heavy weapons like military aircraft, bombs, and missiles, and small arms like rifles and handguns. As of 2021, over 40% of the world's exported arms came from the United States — many of them manufactured in deep blue states.

Blue states with strict gun laws often suffer gun violence when weapons are trafficked in from red states with looser gun laws. Similarly, many countries surrounding the U.S. with high rates of gun violence, like Mexico, obtain guns both legally and illegally from this country.

With no system to effectively control and track who ends up with those guns, these weapons are often obtained by military units or police that have committed human rights abuses or who work with criminal groups.

For example, in September 2014, local police in the state of Guerrero, Mexico were responsible for the disappearance and murder some 43 students from the Ayotzinapa Ru-

“

The deeper and bigger point is that the U.S. is the world's principal supplier of weapons.

ral Teachers College. The police were armed with rifles that were supplied legally from Colt, a prominent U.S. gun manufacturer headquartered in Connecticut.

Most Americans, including most gun owners, support some level of gun

control or background checks. But gun lobbies like the NRA, which are so influential in red states, don't really represent gun owners — they represent gun manufacturers. In fact, of the NRA's corporate partners, several are gun manufacturers based in blue states.

As long as these corporations flood the U.S. and the world with guns, debate over who accesses these guns won't get us very far.

So our current conversation serves the status quo. It further divides people in this country according to a “culture war” narrative, where politicians clash in rhetoric, but everyone knows that the actual situation will not change.

From the perspective of ending bloodshed, this isn't working. We need to try something different, and

it will mean some deeper interrogation about where these weapons come from.

As with any product that causes far-reaching harm, this could mean reviewing the practices and impacts of gun manufacturing, demanding greater regulation, and having a public conversation about whether companies should be allowed to make these weapons at all.

The mass production of guns has been a disaster — one that has dire consequences not only for U.S. communities, but for those all over the world. New ways of thinking will help us fulfill our responsibility to protect vulnerable people not just in the U.S., but people everywhere.

Nyla Samee is a Next Leader at the Institute for Policy Studies. Khury Petersen is an Institute for Policy Studies fellow. This commentary is republished from Minnesota Reformer under a Creative Commons license.

Read More Commentary:
ElSemanarioOnline.com



Stop the War on LGBTQ Teachers

Randy Fair



Messages keep coming in to me from LGBTQ teachers throughout the South who have been fired or threatened with firing. These teachers have years of experience and exemplary records. Many have advanced degrees.

LGBTQ teachers are increasingly fearful. The Stonewall National Education Project, which educates teachers about inclusive classroom practices, reports that its annual symposium was sparingly attended due to fear of repercussions. One teacher who did attend wore a mask and asked not to be photographed.

“

These lawmakers are preying on people's ignorance to score political points.

This trepidation is not new, but it's been heightened by the current climate. Conservative leaders like Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and state lawmakers across the country have fed a

national hysteria against the LGBTQ community. With much of the fear mongering focused on schools, LGBTQ teachers have good reason to be afraid.

Teachers contact me because they know I was also threatened with being fired during my teaching career for writing for an LGBTQ publication in the 1990s. Sometimes I want to tell them it might be a blessing in disguise. I want to say, “In your new job you will probably be appreciated more and almost certainly paid more.”

But this flippant response would be totally inappropriate. The people who contact me don't see teaching as a job. They see it as a calling. This profession is something they have trained for and dedicated their lives to.

See Fair on page 17

The poster features a large image of a woman with a pink afro singing into a microphone. To the left is a QR code with the text "SCAN FOR INFO". To the right, the text reads "five points JAZZ FESTIVAL DENVER COLOMBO 20 YEARS". Below the main image, a black box contains the text: "SATURDAY JUNE 10TH 12PM - TO - 8PM FREE EVENT 26TH & WELTON STREET FIVE POINTS FAMILY FRIENDLY". To the right of the main image, another box says "MORE THAN 40 BANDS & 10 STAGES". At the bottom, a list of performers includes "COLORADO MAMBO ORCHESTRA", "• ANISHA RUSH AND THE ENCOUNTER •", "THE RAJDULARI EXPERIENCE", "STAFFORD HUNTER", "• THE DELTA SONICS •", and "& MANY MORE". The bottom bar has the website "ARTSANDVENUES.COM/FIVEPOINTSJAZZ".

Widespread Newborn DNA Sequencing Will Worsen Risks to Genetic Privacy

Crystal Grant

Newborn screening programs are a vital public health measure implemented in the U.S. and across the world, with about one third of babies born globally undergoing some screening. As part of this program in the U.S., nearly every baby born has blood drawn soon after birth, and that blood is tested for a panel of potential-life threatening inherited disorders. Current newborn screening programs have been invaluable, both in lowering medical costs through early detection and intervention and in decreasing the toll of human suffering that comes from a late diagnosis. Unfortunately, innovation in this field is rapidly outpacing the law, leaving families vulnerable to privacy invasions.

In October 2022, a global consortium of scientists and other newborn DNA sequencing researchers convened to discuss a bold possibility for future care: Every baby born in the U.S. could have their full genome sequenced as an addition to existing newborn screening programs. This means that doctors would have on record all of the baby's DNA, in addition to drawing their blood and testing for specific, known inherited disorders that can cause seri-



ous health problems at birth. The data derived from the blood samples now is fairly limited and only relevant to the baby's health at birth. This includes data on the date, location, and time of birth; the mother's name and address, the disorder being screened for, and a value indicating whether the baby is likely to have a particular hereditary disorder.

Police Access to Newborn DNA Sequencing Data

It doesn't take much imagination to guess how this full genome sequencing could be abused. Last year, a public records lawsuit in New Jersey revealed a worrying new trend of police subpoenaing a newborn's blood sample to implicate a child's relative in a crime. Because of the lack of regulations surrounding DNA privacy, police in some

states are able to access these samples, generate wildly detailed genetic profiles from them, and then use those profiles in criminal investigations. These samples, which were intended only to protect babies from life-threatening diseases, are instead being used by law enforcement to gather our highly personal and detailed genetic infor-

“
Last year, a public records lawsuit in New Jersey revealed a worrying new trend of police subpoenaing a newborn's blood sample to implicate a child's relative in a crime.

mation, and to generate family trees dating back generations by uploading the DNA profile to consumer genetic databases operated by companies like GEDMatch.

Moreover, police departments' systematic mistreatment of marginalized Americans may place them in greater danger of their genetic information being used against them and/or compelled from them. In an abhorrent

practice that is currently the subject of a lawsuit, police in Orange County, California have been compelling genetic samples from people in exchange for dropping minor charges against them as part of a "Spit and Acquit" program. Additionally, police across the country have already constructed their own, unregulated genetic databases and have accessed medical samples of relatives — in one case using cells derived from a woman who had undergone a routine pap smear — all in the name of acquiring more detailed genetic data of people often not even accused of a crime.

If states expand their screenings to include the genome sequencing of newborns without new legal protections in place to prevent law enforcement access to this data, we will almost certainly see it abused. Widespread adoption of full genome sequencing would allow police to not only continue their current process of acquiring highly sensitive genetic information as part of criminal investigations, but could streamline it.

Without ironclad protections, a database containing genetic sequences of every baby born in a state will become a one-stop-shop for police. This poses a tremendous cost to public health: If parents are concerned about the privacy of their child's genetic data, they may hesitate to participate in screening programs or opt out entirely, putting their babies at risk. This makes state regulation of newborn screening programs — including the samples themselves, as well as any data derived from them — essential.

A Patchwork of State Protections for Blood Sample Data

Currently, different states have differing policies on the length of time these blood samples are stored, with some states storing samples for only a few months and others storing them indefinitely. Similarly, policies governing the data associated with the blood samples vary state to state. For example, more than a quarter of states have no policy barring law enforcement access; some states protect the blood sample but not the associated data, and few states protect both.

In our previous blog post on this topic, Iowa was mentioned as a standard for other states to follow, but even Iowa's law needs improvement in the face of proposals to optionally sequence newborn DNA. Although the Iowa law explicitly bars law enforcement access to newborn blood *samples*, it offers no such protections to the *data* associated with these samples. This is particularly worrying because it means even a state that has taken preventative steps to prevent law enforcement abuse of this public health program will see its policies easily circumvented if and when newborn DNA sequencing is incorporated into newborn screening.

These expanded newborn screening programs will likely result in the data associated with the blood sample being more revealing than the sample itself. Some states have tried to address the current privacy problems by destroying the blood samples, or shortening the length of time they are stored. However, this would do little if testing is expanded to the full genome, because data analyzed from these samples is not subject to the same rules. For this reason, states must act quickly to amend their newborn screening programs, and clarify that legal protections safeguard access to both the blood sample itself and any data associated with the sample.

Lawmakers and Researchers Should Act to Ensure Privacy

The need for state legislators to act is clear, but newborn DNA sequencing researchers and whole genome sequencing companies must also do their part. While researchers are eager to enroll communities of color in their pilot studies to gather more and genetically diverse data, it is unclear whether the researchers, their academic institutions, or the federally-regulated Institutional Review Board (which approves the use of human participants in research studies) are requiring participants be informed that the genetic information of their newborns may potentially be legally accessed and misused by police.

Additionally, companies involved in the sequencing, data transfer, and/or storage of newborn DNA sequencing data must also agree not to voluntarily allow police access to this data. With researchers encouraging thousands of parents to enroll their child in pilot studies for sequencing at no financial cost, the cost of this new technology to their genetic privacy must be conveyed to research participants.

Some states, such as New Jersey, have proposed new bills aimed at limiting police's ability to access newborn screening samples. While bills like these are a step in the right direction, they must also explicitly prohibit law enforcement from accessing both the sample itself and any data associated with the screening program. The newborn screening program is too vital a public health intervention to be hijacked by police's constant search for new methods to access our most personal information. Just as this program may change as technology advances, so must the protections states put in place.

Crystal Grant, Technology Fellow, American Civil Liberties Union Speech, Privacy, and Technology Project.

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Border Mayor Declares State of Emergency Regarding Migrant Arrivals

By Cindy Ramírez

El Paso Mayor Oscar Leeser on Sunday issued a disaster declaration over the recent influx of migrants into the city – with many more expected in the days leading up

to the lifting of Title 42 at midnight on May 11.

"Effective 12:01 May 1, I am declaring a state of emergency in our community," Leeser said during a press conference at City Hall. "And the reason why we're declaring a state of emergency is



A group of migrants asks a woman for information along Fourth Street in South El Paso on Saturday. / Un grupo de migrantes pide información a una mujer en la calle Cuarta, en el sur de El Paso, el sábado. (Photo/Foto: Cindy Ramírez/El Paso Matters)

to make sure that we can stand up and be prepared for May 11."

Leeser during the press conference said the city will stand up mega-shelters as needed and may have to again provide busing to help get migrants to their destination if they arrive in larger numbers than the region can manage.

But those shelters – and others that operate with federal funds – cannot serve migrants who are in the country without proper documentation. Leeser said the city will enforce local laws that prohibit camping in public streets and sidewalks – essentially tearing down makeshift encampments – but will not enforce immigration laws.

The mayor did not respond when asked what would happen to those migrants without documentation, only repeating that city police do not enforce federal law.

The declaration, which can be renewed by the mayor every seven days, will go before the City Council next week for ratification.

The declaration allows the city to tap into federal and state funds and partner with the American Red Cross to manage the humanitarian crisis, city leaders said. But when Leeser last invoked a disaster declaration in December, city officials were unclear on what new federal or state services were made available.

More than 500 migrants have crowded around Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Segundo Barrio the past week after crossing the border – some with documents allowing them to be in the country legally to await their asylum hearing and many others without having been processed by the U.S. Border Patrol.

The majority of those on the streets around the church are Venezuelan men, although men, women and children from Guatemala, Ecuador, Cuba,

Colombia and other countries have also made their way there.

Many crossed into the United States with the hopes that Title 42, the health policy that allows for the rapid expulsion of migrants, will expire as planned and that they will have a chance to apply for asylum here. The policy is set to expire when the COVID-19 public health emergency under which it was enacted ends May 11.

"They've come in with a false pretense that the border will be open on May 11 ... and that is an untrue statement," Leeser said Sunday. "We're not opening the borders and the borders are not open today and they will not be open on May 12."

“

*We're here to work. We know there's farms and companies and industries that need workers. Aquí estamos.”
Migrant from Ecuador*

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has said that people crossing after Title 42 ends will be subject to longstanding immigration law that could lead to deportation. However, many migrants are released while courts hear any claims of asylum or other relief from deportation.

The American Red Cross will help the city stand up shelters as needed, including in two closed El Paso Independent School District schools with which it has had standing agreements since the last major migrant influx in December, Deputy City Manager Mario D'Agostino said.

D'Agostino also asked the public to take donations to nongovernmental agencies, food banks, churches and org-

anizations that get food and other essentials to migrants.

"We're asking the public not to take donations to the streets," D'Agostino said. "The main thing is we don't want to start leaving them in the streets because it encourages those large congregations of people to stay in the streets."

First time around

Leeser last issued a disaster declaration on Dec. 17. The declaration was ratified by the City Council on Dec. 23 and extended through Jan. 17, when city leaders let it expire.

Gov. Greg Abbott's sent National Guard and Texas Department of Public Safety troopers to El Paso to patrol the border after Leeser's initial declaration, part of his controversial initiative called Operation Lone Star. Abbott had previously deployed forces under Operation Lone Star in other border areas, including counties without disaster declarations.

That first time around, the Texas National Guard put up concertina wire and about a dozen shipping containers along the Rio Grande to try to cut off migrants crossing into El Paso and DPS troopers were deployed to patrol the streets in large numbers.

But the state's intervention did not provide two major pieces of assistance city leaders had hoped for when they issued the first disaster declaration: short-term shelter for the migrants and short-distance travel to cities with large transportation hubs. Operation Lone Star bused just over 300 people, most to New York, in six charter buses in December at the height of the record migrant influx.

Without providing details, Leeser on Sunday said additional help from the state for "public safety" will be needed, saying DPS has been helping

See **Migrants** on page 21

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Alcalde de la Frontera Declara el Estado de Emergencia por la Llegada de Inmigrantes

Por Cindy Ramírez

El alcalde de El Paso, Oscar Leeser, emitió el domingo una declaración de desastre por la reciente afluencia de migrantes a la ciudad, y se esperan muchos más en los días previos al levantamiento del Título 42 a la medianoche del 11 de mayo.

“A partir de las 12:01 del 1 de mayo, declaro el estado de emergencia en nuestra comunidad”, declaró Leeser durante una rueda de prensa en el Ayuntamiento. “Y la razón por la que estamos declarando el estado de emergencia es para asegurarnos de que podemos levantarnos y estar preparados para el 11 de mayo”.

“

Estamos aquí para trabajar. Sabemos que hay granjas y empresas e industrias que necesitan trabajadores. Aquí estamos”.

Migrante de Ecuador

Durante la rueda de prensa, Leeser afirmó que la ciudad habilitará los megaalbergues que sean necesarios y que es posible que tenga que volver a proporcionar transporte en autobús para ayudar a llevar a los inmigrantes a su destino si llegan en mayor número del que la región puede gestionar.

Pero esos albergues -y otros que funcionan con fondos federales- no pueden atender a inmigrantes que se encuentren en el país sin la documentación adecuada. Leeser dijo que la ciudad hará cumplir las leyes locales que prohíben acampar en las calles y aceras públicas -esencialmente derribar campamentos improvisados- pero no hará cumplir las leyes de inmigración.

El alcalde no respondió a la pregunta de qué ocurriría con los inmigrantes sin documentación, y se limitó a repetir que la policía municipal no aplica la ley federal.

La declaración, que puede ser renovada por el alcalde cada siete días, se someterá al Consejo Municipal la próxima semana para su ratificación.

La declaración permite a la ciudad recurrir a fondos federales y estatales y asociarse con la Cruz Roja estadounidense para gestionar la crisis humanitaria, según los dirigentes municipales. Pero cuando Leeser invocó por última vez la declaración de desastre en diciembre, los responsables municipales no tenían claro qué nuevos servicios federales o estatales se ponían a su disposición.

Más de 500 inmigrantes se han agolpado alrededor de la iglesia católica del Sagrado Corazón, en Segundo Barrio, la semana pasada tras cruzar la frontera: algunos con documentos que les permiten estar en el país legalmente a la espera de su audiencia de asilo y muchos otros sin haber sido procesados por la Patrulla Fronteriza estadounidense.

La mayoría de los que están en las calles alrededor de la iglesia son venezolanos, aunque también han llegado hombres, mujeres y niños de Guatemala, Ecuador, Cuba, Colombia y otros países.

Muchos cruzaron a Estados Unidos con la esperanza de que el Título 42, la política sanitaria que permite la expulsión rápida de los migrantes, expire según lo previsto y tengan la oportunidad de solicitar asilo aquí. La política expirará cuando finalice el 11 de mayo la emergencia de salud pública COVID-19 en virtud de la cual se promulgó.

“Han venido con la falsa pretensión de que la frontera estará abierta el 11 de mayo... y esa es una afirmación falsa”, dijo Leeser el domingo. “No vamos a abrir las fronteras y las fronteras no están abiertas hoy y no estarán abiertas el 12 de mayo”.

El Departamento de Seguridad Nacional de EE.UU. ha dicho que las personas que crucen después de que termine el Título 42 estarán sujetas a la ley de inmigración de larga data que podría conducir a la deportación. Sin embargo, muchos migrantes son puestos en libertad mientras los tribunales atienden cualquier solicitud de asilo u otro tipo de alivio de la deportación.

La Cruz Roja Americana ayudará a la ciudad a levantar refugios según sea necesario, incluso en dos escuelas cerradas del Distrito Escolar Independiente de El Paso con las que ha tenido acuerdos permanentes desde la última gran afluencia de migrantes en diciembre, dijo el subdirector de la ciudad Mario D’Agostino.

D’Agostino también pidió al público que lleve donaciones a agencias no gubernamentales, bancos de alimentos, iglesias y organizaciones que hacen llegar alimentos y otros artículos de primera necesidad a los migrantes.

“Pedimos al público que no saque donativos a la calle”, dijo D’Agostino. “Lo principal es que no queremos empezar a dejarlas en la calle porque eso anima a esas grandes congregaciones de personas a quedarse en la calle”.

La primera vez

Leeser emitió por última vez una declaración de desastre el 17 de diciembre. La declaración fue ratificada por el



Tropas de la Guardia Nacional de Texas vigilan a la multitud de migrantes en las calles del sur de El Paso el sábado. /Texas National Guard troops keep watch over the crowd of migrants on the streets of South El Paso on Saturday. (Foto/Photo: Cindy Ramirez/El Paso Matters)

Consejo de la Ciudad el 23 de diciembre y se extendió hasta el 17 de enero, cuando los líderes de la ciudad la dejaron expirar.

El gobernador Greg Abbott envió tropas de la Guardia Nacional y del Departamento de Seguridad Pública de Texas a El Paso para patrullar la frontera tras la declaración inicial de Leeser, como parte de su controvertida iniciativa denominada Operación Estrella Solitaria. Abbott ya había desplegado fuerzas en el marco de la Operación Lone Star en otras zonas fronterizas,

incluidos condados sin declaración de catástrofe.

Esa primera vez, la Guardia Nacional de Texas colocó concertinas y una docena de contenedores de transporte a lo largo del Río Grande para tratar de cortar el paso a los inmigrantes que cruzaban hacia El Paso, y se desplegaron patrullas del Departamento de Seguridad Pública para patrullar las calles en gran número.

Pero la intervención del Estado no proporcionó dos de las principales ayudas que los dirigentes de la ciudad es-

peraban cuando emitieron la primera declaración de catástrofe: refugio a corto plazo para los inmigrantes y viajes de corta distancia a ciudades con grandes centros de transporte. La Operación Lone Star transportó a poco más de 300 personas, la mayoría a Nueva York, en seis autobuses fletados en diciembre, en el punto álgido de la afluencia récord de migrantes.

Sin proporcionar detalles, Leeser dijo el domingo que se necesitará ayuda

Vea Migrantes, página 17

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Immigration Advocates Condemn New ICE Surveillance Technology Pilot Project in Colorado

COLORADO

The Colorado Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) office last week announced a pilot program deploying a for-profit Bi-Veri wrist device. The obtrusive watch is part of the ICE detention program and combines the use of two technologies, the Smart-link facial recognition application and GPS monitoring, to unnecessarily track and surveil immigrants who are awaiting court dates.

"Immigrants overwhelmingly appear in court, including those not enrolled in surveillance programs and those that lack an attorney. When people have access to counsel and case support through a non-profit like ours, the rate of appearance is over 98%. Our tax dollars should go to effective, low-cost programs designed to provide due process and integration services," said Laura Lunn, Director of Advocacy & Litigation for Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (RMIAN).

Immigrant advocates decry the increasing surveillance, calling on ICE to immediately halt the pilot program and end the practice of testing surveillance technologies on Colorado communities. In fiscal year 2022, congress granted \$442.7 million to ICE for non-detained approaches to immigrant case management, which they primarily funneled into Behavioural Interventions Inc (BI), a subsidiary of GEO Group, the world's second largest for-profit prison corporation.



Jordan Garcia, Program Director for American Friends Service Committee's Colorado speaks at a rally in front of ICE's GEO Group detention center in Aurora, Colorado on May 1, 2023. / Jordan García, director de programa del Comité de Servicio de Amigos Americanos AFSC de Colorado, habla en un mitin frente al centro de detención de GEO Group de ICE en Aurora, Colorado, el 1 de mayo de 2023.

"Congress and ICE throw away millions every year contracting with for-profit organizations instead of investing in humane and effective ways

to streamline our process to welcome others. We welcome people every day

See [Surveillance](#) on page 21

Defensores de los Inmigrantes Denuncian un Nuevo Proyecto Tecnológico de Vigilancia del ICE

COLORADO

El lunes pasado, 24 de abril de 2023, la oficina de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas de Colorado (ICE, por sus siglas en inglés) anunció una programa piloto que despliegue un dispositivo nuevo hecho por la corporación

BI. El intruso reloj es parte del programa de detención de ICE y combina el uso de dos tecnologías, la aplicación de reconocimiento facial Smart-link y el monitoreo por GPS, para rastrear y vigilar innecesariamente a los inmigrantes que esperan sus citas en la corte.

"Los inmigrantes comparecen abrumadoramente en los tribunales, incluidos los que no están inscritos en programas de vigilancia y los que carecen de un abogado.¹ Cuando las personas tienen acceso a un abogado y apoyo en casos a través de una organización sin fines de lucro como la nuestra, la tasa de comparecencia supera el 98 %. Nuestros dólares de impuestos deben destinarse a programas efectivos y de bajo costo diseñados para brindar servicios de debido proceso e integración", dijo Laura Lunn, Directora de Defensa y Litigios de Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (RMIAN).

Los defensores de los inmigrantes denuncian el aumento de la vigilancia y piden a ICE que detenga de inmedi-

ato el programa piloto y ponga fin a la práctica de probar tecnologías de vigilancia en las comunidades de Colorado. En el año fiscal 2022, el Congreso otorgó \$ 442,7 millones a ICE para enfoques no detenidos para la gestión de casos de inmigrantes, que canalizaron principalmente a Behavioral Interventions Inc (BI), una subsidiaria de GEO Group, la segunda corporación penitenciaria con fines de lucro más grande del mundo.

Andrea Loya de Casa de Paz dice, "El Congreso y el ICE invierten millones cada año contratando organizaciones con fines de lucro en lugar de invertir en formas humanas y efectivas de agilizar nuestro proceso para dar la bienvenida a otros. En nuestra organización, damos la bienvenida a personas

todos los días cuando salgan de la detención. Están comprometidos de usar su libertad para construir una vida aquí y seguir el proceso. El presidente Biden debe detener este piloto".

Según el Comité de Servicio de los Amigos Americanos (AFSC), los monitores de tobillo y otras tecnologías invasivas tienen consecuencias dañinas para la salud, inhiben la capacidad de las personas para trabajar y cuidar de sus familias, y violan las libertades civiles. Tampoco han reducido el número de personas detenidas y representan una expansión del sistema de detención en lugar de una alternativa a él. "La verdadera alternativa a la detención es la libertad", dice Amy Goettlib, Directora de Migración Justa de AFSC. "El reloj representa una expansión de las prácticas dañinas de detención. Estas tecnologías causan resultados negativos documentados para la salud y la salud mental, incluida la limitación de la capacidad de las personas para mantener a sus familias debido al estigma asociado con la vigilancia. El secretario Mayorkas debe detener al piloto".

El Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas celebró una breve reunión de partes interesadas con poca antelación el lunes, menos de unas pocas horas antes de anunciar públicamente el programa piloto. Al día siguiente, el contratista con fines de lucro BI comenzó a llamar a las personas y les pidió que usaran el nuevo dispositivo de vigilancia.

"ICE comenzó de inmediato a implementar esta expansión: el martes, los empleados de BI contactaron repentinamente a nuestros miembros, exigiendo que vinieran el mismo día o a la mañana siguiente y sin dar información sobre el motivo, sembrando miedo e incertidumbre. Estos miembros de la comunidad siempre han cumplido con todos los requisitos en su caso y nunca faltaron a una cita. Nuestro gobierno ahora les exige que usen un reloj inusual y grueso las 24 horas del día, los siete días de la semana, espiando a las personas sin motivo. Cuando

Vea [Vigilancia](#), página 21

COLOR Celebrates 25 Years of Reproductive Justice in Colorado

COLORADO

By Victoria Acuña

The Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR) celebrated its 25th anniversary at Skylight in Denver's Santa Fe Arts District last Thursday.

COLOR began in 1998, in response to the growing need for Latina voices in the area of reproductive health and freedom in Colorado. Since then, the organization has had many victories and accomplishments in this area.

Last year, COLOR championed a bill that would make Colorado a safe haven for people seeking abortion care. It was also in response to the growing number of anti-abortion bills passing in states like Texas. The Reproductive Health Equity Act (RHEA), sponsored by House Majority Leader Daneya Esgar (D-Pueblo), Rep Meg Froelich (D-Littleton), and Senator Julie Gonzales (D-Denver), passed through both

chambers unamended and without losing a single vote. Since being signed by Governor Polis on April 4, 2022, RHEA ensures that every individual has the fundamental right to choose or refuse contraception; continue a pregnancy and give birth or to have an abortion; and that a fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus does not have independent rights under state law.

The RHEA team created a broad cross-movement coalition of over 55 organizations across the state and the country, and over 800 individuals signed our petition. The House floor debate was the longest in Colorado history at 24 grueling hours," wrote COLOR in their [2022 policy report](#).

Dusti Gurule, President and CEO of COLOR, began the evening program and discussed COLOR's history and introduced a video highlighting the organization's achievements. "Our story begins 25 years ago, when a group of Latinas searching for strategies to overcome issues impacting our community founded COLOR to ensure Latinas and

their families have the power, access, and resources to make healthy decisions about their bodies, their sexuality, and their family," said Gurule in the video. "COLOR became and continues to be the only Latina-led multi-entity reproductive justice organization in Colorado."

For this year's legislative session, COLOR worked on a package of bills in collaboration with some of its partner organizations, including [New Era](#) and [Cobalt](#). Building on the success of RHEA, COLOR saw a need to continue improving and protecting access to reproductive and gender-affirming care.

"The Safe Access to Protected Health Care Package is a set of three bills that build on Colorado's ability to strengthen our shared values of protecting bodily autonomy and abortion care. Each of these bills has been designed to address existing barriers that prevent patients from being able to access their right to care," stated COLOR in a [press release](#). The three bills—[SB23-188](#), [SB23-189](#), and [SB23-190](#)—were all



Dusti Gurule, President and CEO of Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights, (COLOR) speaks at 25th anniversary celebration on April 27, 2023. (Photo/Foto: Victoria Acuña for El Semanario)

signed into law by Gov. Polis on April 14th. Two of the bills increased and protected access, but one of them, a bill limiting deceptive practices by what's known as anti-abortion centers or fake pregnancy clinics, was unique and one of the first of its kind in the country.

COLOR also celebrated their youth programs, Latinas Increasing Political Strength (LIPs) and Youth of COLOR (YoC). "Part of COLOR's mission is the commitment to developing leadership among Latinas in the state, building and nurturing those leaders as we see today as we continue this legacy for the leaders of tomorrow," said Gurule.

The celebration commenced with entertainment provided by [Grupo Kaoba](#), a local music group, closed the night with a performance filled with live music and dance.

To learn more about COLOR and their work by visiting their [website](#). If you'd like to get involved, you can check out volunteer and donation opportunities [here](#).

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

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COLOR Celebra 25 Años de Justicia Reproductiva en Colorado

COLORADO

Por Victoria Acuña

La Organización de Colorado para la Oportunidad y los Derechos Reproductivos de las Latinas (COLOR) celebró su 25 aniversario en Skylight, en el Distrito de las Artes de Santa Fe, en Denver, el jueves pasado.

COLOR comenzó en 1998, en respuesta a la creciente necesidad de voces latinas en el ámbito de la salud reproductiva y la libertad en Colorado. Desde entonces, la organización ha conseguido muchas victorias y logros en este ámbito.

El año pasado, COLOR defendió un proyecto de ley que haría de Colorado un refugio seguro para las personas que buscan servicios de aborto. También fue una respuesta al creciente número de proyectos de ley contra el aborto que se aprueban en estados como Texas. La Ley de Equidad de Salud Reproductiva (RHEA), patrocinada por la Líder

de la Mayoría de la Cámara Daneya Esgar (D-Pueblo), la Rep Meg Froelich (D-Littleton), y la Senadora Julie Gonzales (D-Denver), pasó por ambas cámaras sin enmiendas y sin perder un solo voto. Desde que fue [firmada](#)

por el gobernador Polis el 4 de abril de 2022, la RHEA garantiza que cada individuo tiene el derecho fundamental a elegir o rechazar la anticoncepción; continuar un embarazo y dar a luz o abortar; y que un óvulo fertilizado, embrión o feto no tiene derechos independientes bajo la ley estatal.

El equipo de la RHEA creó una amplia coalición entre movimientos de más de 55 organizaciones de todo el estado y del país, y más de 800 personas firmaron nuestra petición. El debate en el pleno de la Cámara fue el más largo de la historia de Colorado, con 24 agotadoras horas", escribió COLOR en su [informe](#) sobre la política de 2022.

Dusti Gurule, Presidente y CEO de COLOR, comenzó el programa de la noche y discutió la historia de la or-

ganización y presentó un video destacando su trabajo en toda la comunidad y los logros progresivos de los derechos reproductivos. "Nuestra historia comienza hace 25 años, cuando un grupo de latinas en busca de estrategias para superar los problemas que afectan a nuestra comunidad fundó COLOR para asegurar que las latinas y sus familias tengan el poder, el acceso y los recursos para tomar decisiones saludables sobre sus cuerpos, su sexualidad y su familia", dijo Gurule en el video. "COLOR se convirtió y sigue siendo la única organización de justicia reproductiva multientidad liderada por latinas en Colorado".

Para la sesión legislativa de este año, COLOR trabajó en un paquete de proyectos de ley en colaboración con algunas de sus organizaciones asociadas, incluidas [New Era](#) y [Cobalt](#). Basándose en el éxito de RHEA, COLOR vio la necesidad de seguir mejorando y protegiendo el acceso a la atención reproductiva y de afirmación de género.

"El Paquete de Acceso Seguro a la Atención Sanitaria Protegida es un conjunto de tres proyectos de ley que se basan en la capacidad de Colorado para fortalecer nuestros valores compartidos de protección de la autonomía corporal y la atención del aborto. Cada uno de estos proyectos de ley ha sido diseñado para hacer frente a las barreras existentes que impiden que los pacientes puedan acceder a su derecho a la atención", declaró COLOR en un [comunicado de prensa](#). Los tres proyectos de ley—[SB23-188](#), [SB23-189](#), y [SB23-190](#)—fueron firmados por el gobernador Polis el 14 de abril. Dos de los proyectos de ley aumentaron y protegieron el acceso, pero uno de ellos, un proyecto de ley que limita las prácticas engañosas de lo que se conoce como centros anti-aborto o falsas clínicas de embarazo, fue único y uno de los primeros de su tipo en el país.

COLOR también celebró sus programas juveniles, Latinas Increasing Political Strength (LIPs) y Youth of

COLOR (YoC). "Parte de la misión de COLOR es el compromiso de desarrollar el liderazgo entre las latinas en el estado, construyendo y nutriendo a esas líderes como vemos hoy mientras continuamos este legado para las líderes del mañana", dijo Gurule.

La celebración comenzó con entretenimiento proporcionado por el Grupo Kaoba, un grupo de música local, cerró la noche con una actuación llena de música en vivo y baile.

Para saber más sobre COLOR y su labor, visite su [sitio web](#). Si desea participar, puede consultar las oportunidades de voluntariado y donación [aquí](#).

Victoria Acuña es un Reportera Independiente para The Weekly Issue/El Semanario.

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

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Colorado Bill Would Give Parents Who Don't Speak English More Access to Translated Documents

COLORADO

By Erica Meltzer

The personalized education plans that spell out how a school intends to support a student with a disability can run dozens of pages and be full of technical language.

And in many Colorado school districts, parents who speak a language other than English don't see a copy of their child's plan in the language they

understand best until they're being asked to sign a legally binding final version.

A bill in the Colorado legislature would change that, requiring that final education plans be translated, as also required by federal law, and allowing parents to request draft documents in their preferred language. A separate school finance bill would allocate \$500,000 to offset school district costs for translating more documents.

By law, parents are a part of the team that comes up with each student's educational plan — known as an IEP or individualized education program — alongside teachers and other school professionals. And federal law requires that the final version of an IEP be translated into a language parents can understand.

But community organizers and parent advocates said that's too late in the process for parents to play their role effectively. Parents need to be able

to understand draft documents and information from assessments so they can ask questions and provide feedback to the teachers who work with their children, they said.

“

Non-English-speaking parents are signing legal documents that they cannot understand and are not able to participate in the decision-making process to support their children.

Natalia Álvarez, Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition

“Non-English-speaking parents are signing legal documents that they

cannot understand and are not able to participate in the decision-making process to support their children,” said Natalia Álvarez, an organizer with the Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition who has worked with Spanish-speaking parents in the Boulder Valley School District to secure more translation.

Bri Buentello, director of government affairs for the advocacy group Stand for Children, is a former special education teacher. She said hearing from parents was a critical part of the IEP process, in particular for students with autism. Parents could provide valuable information about what works and what doesn't for their child, and parents and teachers could work together to support a student's learning and behavior.

See **Parents** on page 18

La Legislación Daría a los Padres que no Hablan Inglés Más Acceso a los Documentos

COLORADO

Por Erica Meltzer

Los planes individuales de educación, que explican cómo una escuela planifica apoyar a un estudiante discapacitado, pueden tener docenas de páginas y estar llenos de lenguaje técnico.

Y en muchos distritos escolares de Colorado, los padres que hablan un idioma que no es inglés no ven una copia del plan de su hijo en el idioma que entienden hasta que se les pide que firmen una versión final legalmente vinculante.

Un proyecto de ley en la legislatura de Colorado cambiaría esta situación, requiriendo que los planes de educación finales se traduzcan, como también lo requiere la ley federal, y permitiendo a los padres pedir ver los borradores de los documentos en su idioma preferido.

Otro proyecto de ley separado sobre financiación escolar asignaría \$500,000 para compensar los gastos de traducción de los distritos escolares.

Por ley, los padres son parte del equipo que prepara el plan de educación de cada estudiante — conocido como programa individual de educación o IEP, por sus siglas en inglés — junto con los maestros y otros profesionales de la escuela. Y la ley federal

requiere que la versión final de un IEP se traduzca a un idioma que los padres puedan entender.

Pero los organizadores de la comunidad y los defensores de los padres dijeron que es demasiado tarde en el proceso para que los padres desempeñen su papel de manera efectiva. Los padres deben ser capaces de entender los borradores de los documentos y la información de las evaluaciones para poder

“

Los padres que no hablan inglés están firmando documentos legales que no pueden entender, y no pueden participar en el proceso de toma de decisiones para apoyar a sus hijos.

Natalia Álvarez, Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition

hacer preguntas y dar su opinión a los maestros que trabajan con sus hijos, dijeron ellos.

“Los padres que no hablan inglés están firmando documentos legales que no pueden entender, y no pueden participar en el proceso de toma de decisiones para apoyar a sus hijos”, dijo Natalia Álvarez, organizadora de la Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition que ha trabajado con padres hispanohablantes en el Distrito Escolar del Valle de Boulder para conseguir más traducciones.

Bri Buentello, directora de asuntos gubernamentales del grupo de defensa Stand for Children, fue maestra de educación especial. Dijo que escuchar a los padres era una parte fundamental del proceso del IEP, en particular para los estudiantes con autismo. Los padres podrían aportar información valiosa sobre lo que funciona y no funciona para su hijo, y los padres y maestros podrían colaborar para apoyar el aprendizaje y el comportamiento del estudiante.

“Un IEP no es un buen IEP si los padres no están aportando lo que saben”, dice Buentello.

El Proyecto de Ley 1263 ha sido aprobado por la Cámara de Representantes y por el Senado. El proyecto de ley ha recibido un amplio apoyo bipartidista.

Los representantes demócratas Loren García y Mary Young están patrocinando el proyecto de ley. García también es directora ejecutiva de la

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

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

Mujeres de COLOR

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter: @colorlatina Instagram: @color_latina Para mayor información llama al (303) 393-0382. Organización de Colorado Para la Oportunidad y Derechos Reproductivos de las Latinas P.O. Box 40991 Denver, CO 80204

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

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

Listen online at onda1150am.com

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

Escuchanos en línea por vía del onda1150am.com

Mujeres de COLOR

1150-AM

El Semanario

Vea **Padres**, página 18

Colorado Aztec Dance Community Commemorates Raúl Chávez Portillo



Raúl Chávez Portillo (Photo courtesy Renee Fajardo) Denver, Co.-

COLORADO

Group Huitzilopochtli will commemorate the life of renowned Mexica dance icon and *curandero*, Raúl Chávez with a tribute on Sunday, May 7th, Noon-4pm, at Crown Hill Cemetery (7777 W. 29th Ave., Wheat Ridge, CO 80215). His commemoration services are open to the public.

The event marks the one-year anniversary of Chávez's untimely death last May 7th, 2022, which left the entire Colorado Aztec Dance community in mourning.

Chávez was born on February 29, 1952 in Mazatlán, México into a family of Mexica Aztec *danzantes* and healers. He was given the name of Tlaloc

See Chávez on page 19

State of Colorado Adds to Property Tax Relief Options

COLORADO

The Colorado State Treasurer Dave Young reminded homeowners of the Property Tax Deferral Programs. Colorado's Property Tax Deferral Programs have traditionally helped seniors and active military personnel continue to afford to live in their homes by deferring the payment of their property taxes. This service was expanded this year to provide relief to homeowners affected by increased property taxes in 2020, 2021, and 2022.

"Sticker shock is hitting Coloradans as they receive their property assessments. By expanding the Property Tax Deferral Program, we're continuing to

provide financial relief for homeowners," Colorado State Treasurer Dave Young stated. "Anytime we can keep folks in their homes and help them find tax relief at the same time is a win."

Homeowners can check eligibility at: colorado.propertytaxdeferral.com.

This year, 51 homeowners applied under Active Military, 170 under Tax Growth, and 957 under Seniors, for a total of \$3,685,648 in deferred tax payments for 2023.

Previously managed by counties, the expansion will allow all homeowners to defer a portion of property taxes if they exceed the property tax growth

See Property on page 18



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South Valley Residents Reflect on How They Are Perceived

NEW MÉXICO

By Austin Fisher

Unless there is a murder in the South Valley, local media doesn't typically come here.

If you watch or read the local news, anytime you hear about the area bordering southwest Albuquerque, "it's always because someone got shot or someone got robbed," said Robert Ryan, who was born in New Mexico's largest city and recently moved to this unincorporated area just outside the city limits in Bernalillo County.

"It's not the wild west out here," he said.

"But it's not dangerous," said his spouse, Arden Ryan. "That is a product of 24-hour news."

A lot of public perceptions and media coverage of this place focus on crime, the presence of asylum seekers, or Dia de Los Muertos, residents said.

But the Ryans have had zero problems with their neighbors in the two years they've lived here.

The people of the South Valley are very stigmatized, said Sue Enriquez, a caregiver at an assisted living facility here.

"They're always saying that there's a lot of criminality going on, there's a lot of deviancy going on, that our kids are deviant, all those things," said Enriquez, who has lived here for 18 years after moving from Phoenix to get away from the heat and the crowds.

Last month, Enriquez and her family watched the 30th annual South Valley Pride parade from the back of her son Luis Moreno's truck in their driveway.

They were joined by hundreds of their neighbors who flocked to see lowriders and catch candy thrown by students from Rio Grande High School, state lawmakers, and candidates for the local school and community college boards.

Enriquez said the parade made them feel special and acknowledged the South Valley. It reminded her there are a lot of programs for children here, including dance clubs, karate and baseball teams.

"Stop stigmatizing us, we're not bad people," Enriquez said.

A diverse, neglected community

Those perceptions discourage people from moving to the Valley and seeing it for what it truly is, said Moreno, a member of the New Mexico National

Guard and service worker at a local bar and grill.

Various dialects of Spanish-speaking people live here, along with a more recent community of immigrants, and people with deep ties to the Pueblo of Isleta. It's rich in agriculture, with some landowners building wealth on pockets of large farms.

The community is not incorporated into the city of Albuquerque, so many services like ambulances and fire fighting end at the Five Points intersection or Rio Bravo Boulevard.

What's more, locals typically go into the city to shop, meaning the sales taxes they pay for goods and services do not go back into their community.

The patchwork of private and public lands in the nearby Pajarito Mesa has left many without utility connections or publicly maintained roads, according to the New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty. The state's constitution prohibits the government from building or maintaining roads that cross private land, because it would legally be considered a "donation" to those landowners.

The federal government in 1990 passed the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act which defines a *colonia* as a community in Ari-



South Valley residents lined Isleta Boulevard to catch candy thrown from floats and the driver's seats of custom lowriders. / Los residentes de South Valley se alinearon en Isleta Boulevard para coger los caramelos lanzados desde las carrozas y los asientos de los conductores de los lowriders personalizados. (Photo/Foto: Gino Gutierrez for Source NM)



Dancers from Flamenca Albuquerque dance and wave to the parade crowd. / Bailadoras de Flamenca Albuquerque bailan y saludan a la multitud en el desfile. (Photo/Foto: Gino Gutierrez for Source NM)

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zona, California, New Mexico, or Texas within 150 miles of the U.S.-Mexico border and lacking a potable water supply, adequate sewage systems, and safe, clean housing.

The South Valley meets all of the substantive criteria of a *colonia*: it has exceedingly high rates of poverty, a large number of Mexican immigrants or their descendants, and is largely rural in nature.

However, it is technically too far away from the border to meet that formal designation, which would make the community eligible for infrastructure money, according to the Resource Center for Raza Planning at UNM.

A lot of the people living here live in trailers without utility connections, including many Mexican immigrants who bought subdivided lots on a real estate contract with no infrastructure, according to the New Mexico Law Review.

Princeton University's Eviction Lab found the South Valley had some of the highest eviction rates in the state in 2016.

Arden Ryan, a prep chef originally from Los Lunas, moved to the South Valley in 2021 because rents are cheaper here.

"They need to come and see that we're not actually bad, you know, and our kids are not actually that bad," Enriquez said. "I mean, they're kids! You know, some of them are more trouble than others but yeah, our kids, I think they're pretty awesome."

Better public transit would be more inclusive

Ryan, who uses a cane, said her biggest pet peeve about the South Valley is how dangerous it is to cross the intersection of 98th Street and Gibson Boulevard.

She wants to see the community be more walkable, and believes better public transportation would make the South Valley more inclusive for disabled people.

Even though the Ryans live within walking distance of their daughter's charter school in the South Valley, she has had to drive to school because it is so dangerous to walk.

"There's a good chance that she won't be able to learn how to drive because of her special needs," Ryan said. "How does she get around?"

There is only one bus that serves the Westgate Heights neighborhood, Robert Ryan said, while parts of Albuquerque have multiple buses per route.

Ryan wishes the public transportation system in the Albuquerque area was more reliable, specifically the Sun Van, which is for people who are either elderly or disabled.

Her daughter rode the van last year with success, but in 2022 her school schedule changed, and it was "impossible" to adjust her pickup time. To take the van, you must wait for 30 minutes before and after the scheduled pickup time.

See South Valley on page 17

Los Residentes del Sur del Valle Reflexionan Sobre Cómo se les Percibe

NEW MÉXICO

Por Austin Fisher

A menos que haya un asesinato en el Valle Sur, los medios de comunicación locales no suelen venir aquí.

Si ves o lees las noticias locales, cada vez que oyes hablar de la zona que bordea el suroeste de Albuquerque, “siempre es porque alguien recibió un disparo o alguien fue robado”, dijo Robert Ryan, quien nació en la ciudad más grande de Nuevo México y recientemente se mudó a esta área no incorporada justo fuera de los límites de la ciudad en el condado de Bernalillo.

“Esto no es el salvaje oeste”, afirma.

“Pero no es peligroso”, dijo su cónyuge, Arden Ryan. “Eso es producto de las noticias 24 horas”.

Muchas de las percepciones públicas y la cobertura mediática de este lugar se centran en la delincuencia, la presencia de solicitantes de asilo o el Día de Los Muertos, dijeron los residentes.

Pero los Ryan no han tenido ningún problema con sus vecinos en los dos años que llevan viviendo aquí.

La gente del Valle Sur está muy estigmatizada, dijo Sue Enríquez, cuidadora en un centro de vida asistida aquí.

“Siempre dicen que hay mucha delincuencia, que hay mucha desviación, que nuestros hijos son desviados, todas esas cosas”, dijo Enríquez, que ha vivido aquí durante 18 años después de mudarse de Phoenix para alejarse del calor y las multitudes.

El mes pasado, Enríquez y su familia presenciaron el 30º desfile anual del Orgullo de South Valley desde la parte trasera del camión de su hijo Luis Moreno, en la entrada de su casa.

A ellos se unieron cientos de vecinos que acudieron en masa a ver a los lowriders y a coger los caramelos que lanzaban los estudiantes del instituto Rio Grande, los legisladores estatales y los candidatos a los consejos de las escuelas y colegios comunitarios locales.

Enríquez dijo que el desfile les hizo sentirse especiales y reconoció al Valle Sur. Le recordó que hay muchos programas para niños aquí, incluyendo clubes de baile, karate y equipos de béisbol.

“Dejen de estigmatizarnos, no somos mala gente”, dijo Enríquez.

Una comunidad diversa y desatendida

Esas percepciones desalientan a la gente a mudarse al Valle y verlo como lo que realmente es, dijo Moreno, miembro de la Guardia Nacional de Nuevo México y trabajador de servicio en un bar y parrilla local.

Aquí viven varios dialectos de hispanohablantes, junto con una comu-

nidad más reciente de inmigrantes y personas con profundos lazos con el Pueblo de Isleta. Es rica en agricultura, y algunos terratenientes se han enriquecido con grandes explotaciones.

La comunidad no está incorporada a la ciudad de Albuquerque, por lo que muchos servicios, como ambulancias y bomberos, terminan en el cruce de Five Points o en el bulevar Río Bravo.

Además, los habitantes suelen ir a la ciudad a comprar, lo que significa que los impuestos que pagan por bienes y servicios no reversionen en su comunidad.

El mosaico de tierras privadas y públicas en la cercana Mesa de Pajarito ha dejado a muchos sin conexiones de servicios públicos o carreteras de mantenimiento público, según el Centro de Derecho y Pobreza de Nuevo México. La constitución del estado prohíbe al gobierno construir o mantener carreteras que atravesen tierras privadas, porque legalmente se consideraría una “donación” a esos propietarios.

En 1990, el gobierno federal aprobó la Ley Nacional de Vivienda Asequible Cranston-González, que define una colonia como una comunidad de Arizona, California, Nuevo México o Texas situada a menos de 240 km de la frontera entre Estados Unidos y México y que carece de suministro de agua potable, sistemas de alcantarillado adecuados y viviendas seguras y limpias.

El Valle del Sur cumple todos los criterios sustantivos de una colonia: tiene unos índices de pobreza extremadamente altos, un gran número de inmigrantes mexicanos o sus descendientes y es en gran medida de carácter rural.

Sin embargo, técnicamente está demasiado lejos de la frontera para cumplir esa designación formal, que haría a la comunidad elegible para el dinero de la infraestructura, según el Centro de Recursos para la Planificación de la Raza en UNM.

Muchos de sus habitantes viven en remolques sin conexión a los servicios públicos, entre ellos muchos inmigrantes mexicanos que compraron lotes subdivididos mediante un contrato inmobiliario sin infraestructuras, según la New Mexico Law Review.

El Laboratorio de Desalojos de la Universidad de Princeton encontró que el Valle Sur tuvo algunas de las tasas de desalojo más altas del estado en 2016.

Arden Ryan, un chef de preparación originario de Los Lunas, se mudó al Valle del Sur en 2021 porque los alquileres son más baratos aquí.

“Tienen que venir y ver que en realidad no somos malos, ya sabes, y nuestros hijos no son en realidad tan malos”, dijo Enríquez. “Quiero decir, ¡son niños! Ya sabes, algunos son más problemáticos que otros, pero sí, nuestros hijos, creo que son bastante impresionantes”.

Un mejor transporte público sería más inclusivo

Ryan, que utiliza un bastón, dijo que su mayor manía sobre el Valle del Sur es lo peligroso que es cruzar la intersección de la calle 98 y Gibson Boulevard.

Quiere que la comunidad sea más transitante y cree que un mejor transporte público haría que South Valley fuera más inclusivo para las personas discapacitadas.

Aunque los Ryan viven a poca distancia de la escuela concertada de su hija en South Valley, ella ha tenido que ir en coche a la escuela porque es muy peligroso ir andando.

“Es muy probable que no pueda aprender a conducir debido a sus necesidades especiales”, afirma Ryan. “¿Cómo va a desplazarse?

Sólo hay un autobús que sirve el barrio de Westgate Heights, dijo Robert Ryan, mientras que partes de Albuquerque tienen varios autobuses por ruta.

Ryan desearía que el sistema de transporte público de la zona de Albuquerque fuera más fiable, en concreto la Sun Van, destinada a personas mayores o discapacitadas.

Vea [Sur del Valle](#), página 21



Los niños montan sus bicicletas personalizadas en el 30º desfile anual del Orgullo del Valle Meridional. / Kids ride their custom bikes in the 30th annual South Valley Pride parade. (Foto/Photo: Gino Gutierrez for Source NM)



En el 30º desfile anual del Orgullo del Valle Meridional, los vecinos mantienen la esperanza de una comunidad más integradora. / At the 30th Annual South Valley Pride parade, locals hold on to hope for a more inclusive community. (Foto/Photo: Gino Gutierrez for Source NM)



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Latinos Continue to Fight to Play Crucial Roles in Hollywood

By Daniel Ogas

Whether it is *quinceañeras* or *Día de los Muertos*, Latinos have plenty of occasions to celebrate. But in recent years, Hollywood has given the community little to praise.

Even as Hollywood execs talk of a changing industry that embraces a diverse landscape of filmmakers and artists, data show Latino acting roles in film and entertainment at large have steadily declined.

Some Latino-driven films have become hits, like biopics "La Bamba," which celebrated the life of rock 'n' roller Ritchie Valens, or "Selena," about the late Tejano singer Selena Quintanilla-Pérez, but their respective directors didn't get the subsequent projects that might have been their next hit.

"Latinos, we get one shot, while other directors and other filmmakers get various shots. Somehow we don't get the same opportunity," said Luis I. Reyes, author of "Viva Hollywood:

The Legacy of Latin and Hispanic Artists in American Film."

Likewise, Hollywood has produced Latino movie stars like Jennifer Lopez, Eva Longoria, Javier Bardem and others, but they are seldom cast in roles that celebrate their heritage.

One of the most famous Latino stars ever, Anthony Quinn, is best known for playing a non-Latino role as "Zorba the Greek," a hit movie in 1964. Likewise, Raquel Welch, Martin Sheen and Rita Hayworth all had Latino heritage that was largely unknown to movie audiences.

A study by the Annenberg Inclusion Initiative at the University of Southern California found Latinos are missing from films and television shows.

Latino characters in speaking roles in 1,300 films examined increased in the decade leading up to 2017, when it peaked at 7.2%. However, over the next two years, that number dropped to just under 6%, according to the study. By 2022, a similar report showed that number unchanged.

But Latino representation also fared poorly when it came to content made for streaming services like Netflix, Hulu, and HBO Max: Latinos held 9% of the on-screen roles despite accounting for 19% of the total U.S. population.

Asian and Black actors not only had double-digit representation, but they, along with white actors, all had higher numbers than for their percentage of the population as a whole, found a study by the Latino Donor Coalition via Nielsen.

Despite being poorly represented on big and small screens, Latino audiences are responsible for 20% to 30% of revenue across the entertainment industry.



Ben Dejesus with John Leguizamo on the set of their project. (Photo courtesy of Espada PR)

dustry, and especially resonates with Latinos in the LGBTQ+ community.

"You see your own community struggle to make space for one another," said Damien Navarro, executive director of Outfest, which bills itself as the world's largest LGBTQ+ film and media organization. "We can be so fearful that there is not enough to go around."

“

You see your own community struggle to make space for one another." **Damien Navarro, Outfest**

Navarro says now that he is at the executive level, he can more easily recognize how Latinos pull together to try to give others a shot at getting a foothold in the industry. He knows his status is a precious tool when it comes to increasing Latino representation throughout the industry.

Creating those stories is something that Ben Dejesus has made a focal point throughout his career.

"From an early age I already could feel the lack of representation," said Dejesus, partner and president of NGL (which stands for New Generation Latinx) Studios.

Dejesus says he's disappointed that Latinos have not made big inroads in the movies and TV.

Dejesus says that the low numbers of Latinos across entertainment is a collective missed opportunity, even from a business perspective. With Latinos making up almost a third of audiences but with only relatively few of their stories being told, "it's a major disconnect," he said.

Looking toward the future, there is no shortage of optimism that the disconnect can be erased.

Dejesus and actor John Leguizamo have created a partnership through NGL Studios to ensure change.

Most recently, the two were co-creators on "American Historia with John Leguizamo," which premieres this fall on PBS. The three-part series follows Leguizamo's efforts to highlight the

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See Hollywood on page 19

Migrantes



Una familia de migrantes sentada bajo una tienda improvisada con mantas de la Cruz Roja y cajas de cartón en un callejón junto a la iglesia católica del Sagrado Corazón en el sur de El Paso el sábado. / A family of migrants sit underneath a makeshift tent of Red Cross blankets and cardboard boxes in an alley next to Sacred Heart Catholic Church in South El Paso on Saturday. (Foto/Photo: Cindy Ramirez/El Paso Matters)

adicional del estado para la “seguridad pública”, diciendo que el DPS ha estado ayudando al departamento de policía de la ciudad según sea necesario desde diciembre.

A pesar de que la primera declaración de catástrofe expiró, los guardias y las tropas permanecieron en la ciudad; la alambrada de concierta se extendió por kilómetros. Ha hecho poco por contener a los migrantes, que caminan kilómetros hasta un punto en el que podrían cruzar el Río Grande y entregarse a la Patrulla Fronteriza o entrar en el país por cualquier hueco en el muro fronterizo que encuentren.

Casi 3.800 personas estaban bajo custodia de la Oficina de Aduanas y Protección Fronteriza de Estados Unidos el sábado, según el tablero de control de migrantes de la ciudad. El tablero de mandos también mostraba que las agencias de control fronterizo informaban de más de 1.500 encuentros diarios con migrantes.

Comida, agua, una ducha y un trabajo

El sábado, un puñado de efectivos de la Guardia Nacional vigilaba a la multitud de migrantes desde la esquina de las calles Mesa y Padre Rahm, mientras la policía de El Paso y las tropas estatales patrullaban la zona.

Al menos 10 migrantes fueron detenidos en el plazo de una hora esa misma mañana por supuestas peleas o por fumar marihuana, según dijeron algunos migrantes, aunque la policía que se encontraba en el lugar no quiso confirmar las acusaciones. Algunos de los detenidos fueron trasladados por agentes de la Patrulla Fronteriza y otros por la policía municipal.

Equipos municipales recogieron botellas de agua vacías, cajas de pizza, cartones y otros desperdicios de la zona y vaciaron las papeleras, a veces con la ayuda de los inmigrantes.

Alrededor de la iglesia, la gente se

movía buscando un lugar a la sombra donde sentarse o colocando mantas y cartones en tiendas improvisadas para cubrirse mientras la fresca mañana se volvía cálida bajo el cielo despejado.

Algunos buscaban monedas por las calles y aceras para comprar una botella de agua de 50 céntimos en una tienda de la esquina que también les permitía cargar sus teléfonos.

“Alabaré, alabaré, alabaré a mi señor”, sonaba en un altavoz mientras un pequeño grupo de migrantes se reunía para cantar en oración. “Alabaré a mi Señor”.

Con una Biblia en la mano, María Maris, de El Paso, leyó las Escrituras a los hombres y mujeres bajo un sol abrasador. Un hombre en un camión rojo de modelo antiguo pasó y gritó “¡vuelvan a casa!”.

Todas esas escenas son habituales, dijo una mujer de Ecuador que llegó a El Paso hace 10 días.

Dijo que ha pasado la mayor parte del tiempo en las aceras de los alrede-

dores del Sagrado Corazón y que sólo pide cuatro cosas: Comida, agua, una ducha y un trabajo.

“Tenemos miedo de cruzar la calle para comprar un burrito porque nos pueden detener. Estamos aquí para trabajar. Sabemos que hay granjas y empresas e industrias que necesitan trabajadores”, dijo en español. “Aquí estamos”.

Un hombre de Ecuador dijo que tenía un mensaje para el gobierno estadounidense: “No queremos que nos den nada gratis. Queremos que nos dejen trabajar y ganar un sueldo. Y queremos un proceso rápido y justo para ganarnos ese derecho a trabajar”.

Cindy Ramirez es reportera de El Paso Matters. Este artículo fue publicado originalmente por El Paso Matters.

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

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South Valley

“If you’re elderly, if you have special needs, that can be really hard,” Ryan said, “and if you don’t qualify for other services, like a home health worker, you’re doing that by yourself, and that makes it even harder.”

Enriquez said she would like to see the government help develop more local businesses. Moreno said the South Valley needs more schools and places for children to play.

“Someone can just take their time,

visit the Valley and explore what it has to offer, not just go based on what people say about it,” Moreno said, “because every part of New Mexico has its good and bad sides.”

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

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Fair

Now political gamesmanship threatens to turn them away from it.

Where I currently live, the so-called “free state of Florida,” conservatives are doing everything possible to restrict people’s freedom of speech. Republican lawmakers are banning books, curtailing classroom discussions, and weakening laws that protect journalists from political persecutions. Teachers can even face felony charges for keeping classroom libraries.

These lawmakers are preying on people’s ignorance to score political points. But even if we give the politicians the benefit of the doubt and believe that they are sincere, their outrageous claims about Queer people don’t stand up to scrutiny.

In particular, the hateful smear that LGBTQ teachers are pedophiles or “groomers” has been successfully refuted since the 1970s.

In 1978, the “Briggs Initiative” sought to ban gay teachers from the California school system. During that debate, those against the initiative used research to disprove the myth of the LGBTQ teachers as pedophiles — and the public agreed by defeating the measure. Conservative icon Ronald Reagan was one of the many politicians to speak out against banning LGBTQ teachers from the school system.

Still, the political witch hunt continues — and it’s doing damage to the lives of real people. The present hysteria may eventually pass, but how many

lives and careers will be sacrificed before the madness comes to an end?

During my 31 years in the school system, the LGBTQ educators I knew were some of the most dedicated teachers. Beyond their teaching, many were also responsible for some of the most meaningful extracurricular activities our schools offered students. Why would anyone want to root out these employees, especially during a national teacher shortage?

As we watch politicians destroy the lives and careers of dedicated educators, we should think about the cost to the students, our society, and most of all to our own sense of morality.

Randy Fair taught English in Fulton County, Georgia schools for 31 years. He co-founded the Atlanta chapter of the Gay Lesbian Straight Teachers Network and is the author of the book “Southern. Gay. Teacher.” This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org.

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visit the Valley and explore what it has to offer, not just go based on what people say about it,” Moreno said, “because every part of New Mexico has its good and bad sides.”

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Property

cap of 4 percent, averaged from the preceding two years. The State Treasurer paid tax deferrals of approximately \$23 million in 2021.

The expanded deferral program does not exempt taxes; it is a loan to assist Coloradans with the payment of property taxes if an application is submitted and the applicant is eligible. The deferral loan is recorded as a junior lien against a participant's property, accrues interest, and does not have to be repaid until a later date.

"We're committed to doing all we can to alleviate rising property taxes," Leah Marvin-Riley, Policy Director said. "The Property Tax Deferral program is one option that Coloradans can utilize, we encourage Coloradans to decide which program works best for them."

Applications for 2023 were open from January 1, 2023, to April 1, 2023.

Claims must be filed after January and on or before April 1 of each year in which the taxpayer claims the deferral. Applicants must reapply each year to determine eligibility and continue using the program. Applications will open again on January 1, 2024.

Homeowners can visit colorado.propertytaxdeferral.com to learn more about Colorado's expanded Property Tax Deferral Program.

If Homeowners Have Questions:

1. Visit colorado.propertytaxdeferral.com/faq.

Padres

Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition. Young es maestra jubilada de educación especial.

En el distrito de Boulder Valley, los funcionarios ya están implantando gradualmente servicios de traducción para las reuniones de IEP. La Directora de Educación Especial, Michelle Brenner, dijo que antes el distrito ofrecía interpretación de los puntos principales de un plan de educación, pero no les proporcionaba una traducción escrita de los borradores de los IEP ni de las evaluaciones de las capacidades y dificultades de los estudiantes.

El personal de la escuela se encargaba de llamar intérpretes de una lista aprobada y a veces se olvidaba o no encontraba a alguien a tiempo.

Tras escuchar durante varios años de padres y defensores de los derechos de los niños que muchos padres sentían que no podían participar de forma significativa en las reuniones del IEP, el distrito escolar renovó su proceso, comenzando por tres escuelas bilingües y expandiéndolo después a todas las escuelas de Lafayette, donde hay una mayor concentración de familias que hablan español.

"Aunque cumplímos las normas y la ley, al saber que nuestras familias no podían participar de forma significativa quisimos hacer algo al respecto", dijo Brenner.

Don McGinnis, gerente de servicios de traducción e interpretación del distrito, dijo que esto significaba cen-

tralizar el sistema de peticiones para que al personal de la escuela le tomara unos segundos hacer una petición, cambiar los plazos para asegurar que los documentos pudieran traducirse y corregirse con detenimiento, y desarrollar grandes bases de datos de terminología adecuada y lenguaje legal en español.

"Eliminar esas barreras significa que las escuelas están utilizando más los servicios y los padres se sienten más cómodos pidiéndolos", dijo McGinnis.

Si antes el distrito gastaba \$35,000 en servicios de traducción e interpretación, este año espera gastar \$100,000.

El distrito también ha tenido capacitación de los maestros para mejorar la comunicación con los padres y ha buscado la opinión de ellos sobre cómo está funcionando el sistema nuevo. Los ser-

vicios expandidos son nuevos este año, pero, según Brenner, las escuelas están pidiendo más servicios de traducción e interpretación, lo cual incluye peticiones de interpretación para llamadas telefónicas entre maestros y padres.

McGinnis animó a cualquier distrito que desee expandir la traducción de documentos de educación especial a reunirse con los padres y preguntarles qué ellos necesitan.

"Tienen que averiguar en persona qué necesidades no se están cubriendo", dijo.

Erica Meltzer es directora de la oficina de redacción para Chalkbeat Colorado. Esta artículo historia fue publicada originalmente por Chalkbeat.

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ElSemanarioOnline.com

Parents

"An IEP isn't a good IEP unless the parents are providing their input," Buentello said.

House Bill 1263 received broad bipartisan support in both chambers.

Democratic state Reps. Lorena García and Mary Young are sponsoring the bill. García also serves as the chief executive officer of the Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition. Young is a retired special education teacher.

In the Boulder Valley district, officials already are doing a phased rollout of expanded translation services for IEP meetings. Special Education Director Michelle Brenner said the district previously offered oral translation of the main points in an education plan but didn't provide written translation of draft IEPs or assessments of students' skills and challenges.

School staff were responsible for calling interpreters off an approved list, and sometimes that task fell through the cracks.

After hearing over a period of years from parents and advocates that many parents felt like they couldn't participate meaningfully in IEP meetings, the school district revamped its process, starting with three bilingual schools and then expanding to all the schools in Lafayette, where there's a larger concentration of Spanish-speaking families.

"Even though we met the rules and the letter of the law, hearing that our families could not meaningfully participate, we wanted to do something about it," Brenner said.

Don McGinnis, manager of translation and interpretation services for the

district, said this meant centralizing the request system so that it just takes a few seconds for school staff to make a request, changing timelines to make sure documents can be translated and proofread with care, and developing large databases of appropriate terminology and legal language in Spanish.

"Removing those barriers means schools are using the services more, and parents feel more comfortable asking for them," McGinnis said.

Where the district once spent \$35,000 a year on IEP-related translation and interpretation services, it expects to spend more than \$100,000 this year and possibly more going forward, as the service expands to all schools.

The district also has conducted training for teachers to improve communication with parents and sought out parent feedback on how the new system is working. Expanded services are new this year, but anecdotally, Brenner said, schools are making more requests for translation and interpretation, including more requests for interpretation for phone calls between teachers and parents.

McGinnis encouraged any district looking to expand translation of special education documents to meet with parents and ask them what they need.

"They need to figure out face to face what needs are not being met," he said.

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

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Hastings y Torres/Esp

pero en especial de países de este hemisferio como Venezuela, Guatemala, Honduras, Cuba y Haití han atiborrado la frontera con la esperanza de obtener asilo en Estados Unidos.

En estos pasados tres años de implementando el Título 42 las historias de horror han sido la orden del día entre migrantes que han realizado y continúan realizando peligrosas travesías hacia Estados Unidos con niños y hasta con mascotas, enfrentando hambre, abusos de todo tipo, enfermedades, accidentes y la muerte.

Al mismo tiempo, han sido diversas las organizaciones de derechos civiles y de los inmigrantes que han denunciado el atropello a las leyes de asilo, mientras que para los republicanos del Congreso el Título 42 ha sido un arma para debilitar dichas leyes. También lo han empleado para acusar al gobierno de Biden de haber “perdido” el control de la frontera. Ese discurso, que responde solo a cuestiones partidistas, cae por su propio peso cuando se hace un balance de la larga historia de la frontera y de sus múltiples usos políticos hasta el momento.

Los demócratas, por su parte, están temerosos precisamente ante el impacto político que puedan tener las imágenes de miles de migrantes en la frontera. Temen también que el gobierno de Biden no esté adecuadamente preparado para lidiar con la situación.

El presidente Biden debería utilizar este momento para explicar a los estadounidenses que la falta de una reforma amplia a un sistema migratorio quebrantado es lo que ha provocado la situación que enfrentamos. El Título 42 ha puesto sobre el tapete las ya sabidas deficiencias de las leyes de asilo y de otras que regulan el ingreso de trabajadores e incluso las peticiones de familiares, o los programas que ofrecen protección temporal a migrantes de naciones en guerra, desastres o circunstancias extraordinarias, como el Estatus de Protección Temporal (TPS).

De hecho, ante la realidad de que una reforma migratoria no se logaría en este momento con un obstrucciónista y antiinmigrante Partido Republicano controlando la Cámara Baja, Biden debe echar mano de su poder ejecutivo para avanzar medidas que provean alivio migratorio a la mayor cantidad posible de personas. Una de esas sería no solo extender el TPS a quienes ya son beneficiarios, como ciudadanos de El Salvador, Honduras y Nicaragua, sino ampliarlo para sumar migrantes de esos países que llegaron aquí después de la fecha inicial de designación, y reasignarlo para beneficiar a migrantes de otras naciones, como Guatemala.

Esa petición la formularon la presidenta y el vicepresidente de la bancada

latina del Congreso (CHC), Nanette Barragán y Adriano Espaillat, respectivamente, indicando que “estas nuevas designaciones de TPS pueden ayudar a estabilizar la región al permitir que las familias accedan a recursos vitales a través de las remesas enviadas por sus seres queridos aquí en los Estados Unidos”.

El sistema migratorio es más que inútiles muros y políticas crueles de separación familiar, de detención de familias, de persecución de religiosos y activistas que asistan a migrantes, que es lo que resume al plan migratorio republicano.

Biden debe evitar a toda costa ceder ante esa presión republicana porque hasta el momento muchas de sus decisiones no son del todo diferentes a las de su antecesor, Donald Trump.

Y es precisamente ante posturas antiinmigrantes donde Biden debe aprovechar e implementar medidas pro inmigrantes, a fin de apartarse y diferenciarse de toda esa cauda racista y xenófoba que ha puesto un muro ideológico en la nación haciendo creer a los republicanos —en su mayoría seguidores de Trump— en esa absurda “teoría del reemplazo” por parte de los inmigrantes.

Toda nación tiene derecho a controlar sus fronteras, pero hay formas inhumanas o humanitarias de hacerlo. Este es el momento para que el presidente demuestre que puede haber un balance entre hacer cumplir las leyes y acoger a los migrantes que llegan buscando protecciones que constituyen un derecho humano, además de buscar mecanismos para regularizar a quienes ya están aquí y han contribuido y siguen contribuyendo a nuestra economía y a nuestra fortaleza como nación.

Es el balance que quiere ver la mayoría de los votantes de Estados Unidos, como reveló una reciente encuesta de Global Strategy Group para el Immigration Hub y Voto Latino entre electores de estados competitivos.

Al menos para un sector electoral que ha apoyado a Biden y a los demócratas esperando progreso en materia migratoria, el récord actual del presidente no está en su mejor momento, sobre todo de cara a las elecciones. Y los retos que se aproximan no son sencillos, pero Biden todavía tiene la oportunidad de demostrar que el balance es posible y que la respuesta no es únicamente una serie de medidas punitivas.

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

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Chávez

at the age of five by his grandfather, in order to preserve the traditions of his ancestors. He spent his formative years studying and perfecting his knowledge and skills.

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

Huitzilopochtli's circle is currently made up of dancers from México and Colorado, along with their families, and those that have been guided to this path. Every year Grupo Huitzilopochtli donates hundreds of volunteer hours to neighborhoods, churches, food banks and nonprofits. Chávez helped communities from Topeka, Kansas to Breckenridge, Colorado to Metropolitan State University of Denver to Denver Santa Fe Arts District and statewide, start their own Dia de Los Muertos celebrations before the holiday was popular. He believed this holiday was a means to connect all people to their common humanity.

Chávez also was a yearly participant for 25 years at the free Aurora Fox The-

ater Cultural Concerts series, where made his last performance on May 4th, 2022.

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

In 2013, Chávez was awarded the César Chávez Peace and Justice Com-

mittee of Denver, Male Leadership award. In 2016, the Denver's Mayors Awards for Excellence in the Arts honored Chávez's group Huitzilopochtli with the 2016 Arts & Culture Impact Award.

Prior to Chávez's death, he relocated his dance troupe to Lakewood United Methodist Church in the 40 West Arts Dist, where his daughter María Chávez continues his legacy as the group's *Capitana*.

A Go Fund Me has been established to help raise funds for a grave marker for Raúl Chávez Portillo.

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Hastings & Torres

Immigration Hub and Voto Latino revealed, among voters in swing states.

For at least one electoral group that has supported Biden and the Democrats and is expecting progress on the immigration issue, the president's actual record is not the best, especially in the runup to the elections. And the coming challenges are not simple. But Biden still has the opportunity to show

that balance is possible and that the response cannot only be a series of punitive measures.

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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Hollywood

Ben Dejesus working with a camera for a shoot. (Photo courtesy of Espada PR)

history and often overlooked contributions of Latino people.--

NGL Studios merged with mitú, a leading digital media publisher, to launch a full slate of TV, film and digital content that represents the Latino point of view for universal audiences.

Dejesus said he is inspired by how Cuban-American bandleader and actor Desi Arnaz and wife Lucille Ball hatched a top studio, Desilu, in Hollywood and how, decades later, Tyler Perry created his own sprawling studio complex in Atlanta.

“Our mission is to celebrate the Latino culture in all its colors, shapes, sizes, and to be able to package that in a way that is ready for television audiences,” Dejesus said.

Collectively, the organization sees a better future for Latinos in the business while also contributing to the industry with their own personal attributes.

“We’re moving the needle. These numbers may not reflect what we want, but we are very intentional in how we hire and how we tell the stories,” Dejesus said.



Damien Navarro is executive director of Outfest, which bills itself as the world's largest LGBTQ+ film and media organization. (Photo courtesy of Outfest)

As the industry continues to evolve, a big part of ensuring more Latino representation is by creating stories that fit roles, and are appealing to the community. “If we can’t imagine and create it, then how else do we get there?” Navarro said.

Daniel Ogas is a reporter with Cronkite News. This article republished with permission by Cronkite News.

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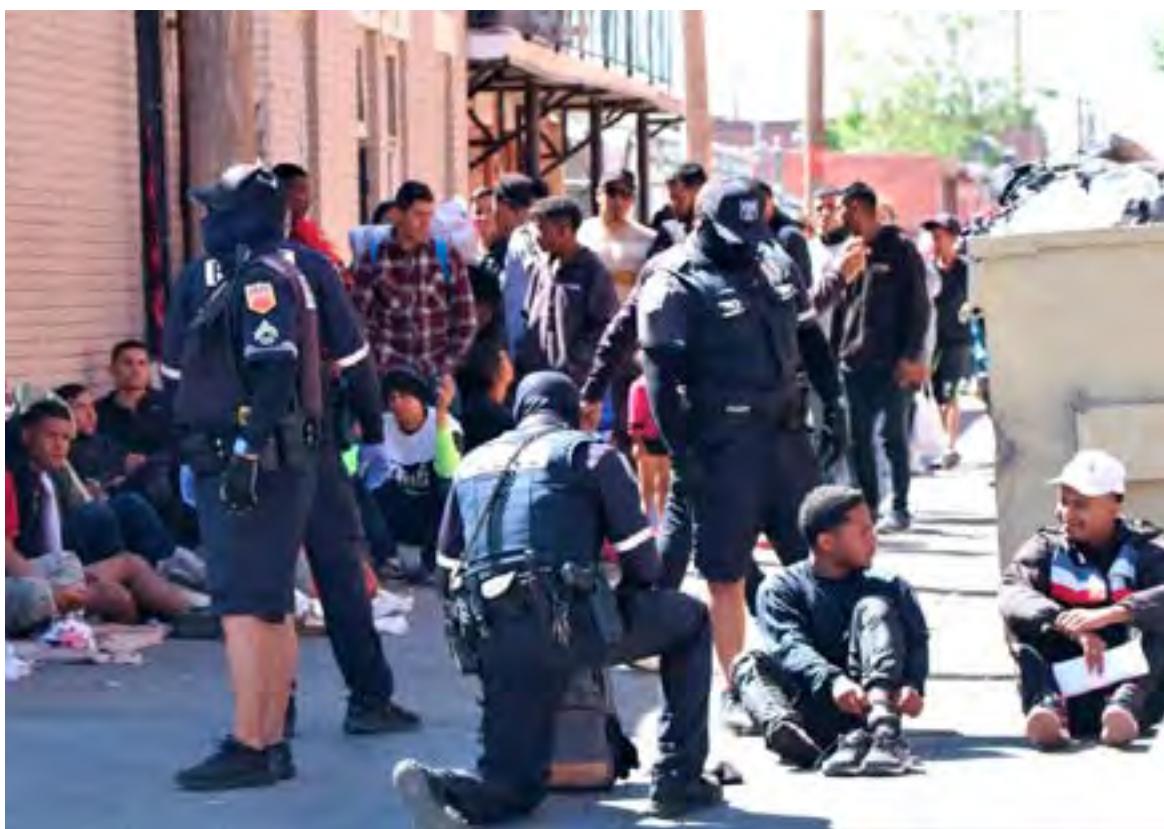
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Migrants



El Paso Police Department officers question a group of migrants in an alley next to Sacred Heart Catholic Church on Saturday. Some of the men were arrested and turned over to Border Patrol; while others were taken away in city police cars. / Agentes del Departamento de Policía de El Paso interrogan a un grupo de migrantes en un callejón junto a la iglesia católica del Sagrado Corazón el sábado. (Foto/Foto: Cindy Ramirez/El Paso Matters)

the city police department as needed since December.

Despite the first disaster declaration expiring, the guardsmen and troopers remained in the city; the concertina wire expanded by miles. It has done little to hold back the migrants, who walk miles to a point where they could cross the Rio Grande and either turn themselves in to Border Patrol or enter the country through whatever gap in the border wall they can find.

Nearly 3,800 people were in custody under U.S. Customs and Border Protection on Saturday, according to the city's migrant dashboard. The dashboard also showed border enforcement agencies reported more than 1,500 encounters with migrants daily.

Food, water, a shower and a job

On Saturday, a handful of National Guard troops looked over the crowd of migrants from the corner of Mesa and Father Rahm streets as El Paso police and state troopers patrolled the area.

At least 10 migrants were arrested within an hour that morning for al-

legedly fighting or smoking pot, some migrants said, though police at the scene would not confirm the allegations. Some of those arrested were taken away by Border Patrol agents and others by city police.

City crews picked up empty water bottles, pizza boxes, cardboard and other trash from the area and emptied out trash cans – at times with migrants lending a hand.

All around the church, people moved around looking for a shaded spot to sit or set up blankets and cardboard into makeshift tents for cover as the cool morning turned warm under the cloudless sky.

Some scoured the streets and sidewalks for coins to buy a 50-cent water bottle at a corner store that also allowed them to charge their phones.

"Alabare, alabare, alabare a mi señor," blared from a speaker as a small group of migrants gathered to sing in prayer. "I will praise my Lord."

Holding a Bible, María Maris of El Paso read scripture to the men and women under the now-hot sun. A man

in an older model red truck drove by and yelled "go back home!"

All those scenes are commonplace, said one woman from Ecuador who arrived in El Paso 10 days ago.

She said she has spent most of her time on the sidewalks around Sacred Heart and is asking for just four things: Food, water, a shower and a job.

"We're afraid to cross the street to buy a burrito because we could get arrested. We're here to work. We know there's farms and companies and industries that need workers," she said in Spanish. "Aquí estamos."

A man from Ecuador said he had a message for the U.S. government: "We don't want you to give us anything free. We want you to let us work and earn a paycheck. And we want a fast and fair process to earn that right to work."

Cindy Ramirez is a Reporter with El Paso Matters. This article is republished from El Paso Matters under a Creative Commons license.

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At History Colorado



Surveillance

out of detention, committed to using their freedom to build a life here and to following the process. President Biden must halt this pilot," says Andrea Loya of Casa de Paz.

According to the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), ankle monitors and other invasive technologies have harmful health consequences, inhibit people's abilities to work and care for their families, and violate civil liberties. They also have not reduced the number of people held in detention and represent an expansion of the detention system rather than an alternative to it. "The true alternative to detention is freedom," says Amy Goettlib, Just Migration Director for AFSC. "The watch represents an expansion of harmful detention practices. These technologies cause documented negative health and mental health outcomes, including limiting people's ability to provide for their families due to the stigma associated with being surveilled. Secretary Mayorkas must halt the pilot."

Immigration and Customs Enforcement held a short stakeholder meeting with little notice Monday less than a few hours before announcing the pilot publicly. The following day for-profit contractor BI began calling people in and requiring them to use the new surveillance device.

"ICE immediately began rolling out this significant expansion — on Tuesday BI employees suddenly contacted our members, demanding they come in the same day or next morning, and giv-

Vigilancia

la gente está libre, sin vigilancia, el 96% de los miembros de la comunidad representados por un abogado asistieron a todas sus audiencias". dice Jordan García, director de programas de la oficina de Colorado de AFSC.

Según The Markup, "Además de rastrear la ubicación de una persona y extraer datos sobre la navegación web, el historial de búsqueda, las llamadas telefónicas y las videollamadas de una persona dentro de la aplicación, MarkUp descubrió que SmartLINK también puede grabar audio y video y permitir llamadas desde el teléfono de una persona, teléfono sin su conocimiento o consentimiento".

Siena Mann, directora de campaña de Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition explica que "el programa de ICE está diseñado para vigilar a los inmigrantes cada hora del día, lo cual es inhumano, intrusivo e innecesario. Hacemos un llamado a la Administración Biden para que detenga este piloto y revise el uso de los fondos asignados por ICE para alternativas a la detención. ICE y BI tienen antecedentes terribles de falta de respeto y deshumanización, como se detalla en nuestro nuevo informe".

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ing no information as to why — sowing fear and uncertainty. These community members have always complied with all requirements in their case and never missed an appointment. Our government now requires them to wear a chunky unusual watch 24 hours a day, seven days a week — spying on people without cause. When people are free, without surveillance, 96% of community members represented by a lawyer attended all of their hearings," says Jordan García, Program Director for AFSC's Colorado office.

According to The Markup, "In addition to tracking a person's location and extracting data about a person's web browsing, search history, phone and video calls within the app, the MarkUp found that SmartLINK may also record audio and video and enable calls from a person's phone without their knowledge or consent."

Siena Mann, Campaign Manager with the Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition explains "ICE's program is designed to surveil immigrants every single hour of the day, which is inhumane, intrusive and unnecessary. We call on the Biden Administration to halt this pilot and review ICE's use of funds appropriated for alternatives to detention. ICE and BI have terrible track records of disrespect and dehumanization as detailed in our new report."

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Sur del Valle

Su hija cogió la furgoneta el año pasado con éxito, pero en 2022 cambió su horario escolar y fue "imposible" ajustar la hora de recogida. Para coger la furgoneta, hay que esperar 30 minutos antes y después de la hora de recogida programada.

"Si eres anciano, si tienes necesidades especiales, eso puede ser realmente difícil", dijo Ryan, "y si no calificas para otros servicios, como un trabajador de salud en el hogar, lo estás haciendo por ti mismo, y eso lo hace aún más difícil".

Enríquez dijo que le gustaría que el gobierno ayudara a desarrollar más negocios locales. Moreno dijo que el Valle Sur necesita más escuelas y lugares para que los niños jueguen.

"Alguien puede tomarse su tiempo, visitar el Valle y explorar lo que tiene que ofrecer, no sólo ir basado en lo que la gente dice de él", dijo Moreno, "porque cada parte de Nuevo México tiene sus lados buenos y malos".

Traducido por Juan Carlos Uribe, The Weekly Issue/El Semanario. Este artículo ha sido publicado por Source New Mexico bajo una licencia Creative Commons.

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DÍA DEL NIÑO TLAOLLI PERFORMANCE

@ The Denver Art Museum

MAY

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