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Latino Times

A BILINGUAL PUBLICATION

Family and Community Pays Tribute to Mike Torres Sr.

Celebration Comes on Heels of 50th Anniversary of The Mike Torres Band

By Rhashad R. Pittman

The children of Mike Torres Sr. decided to give the patriarch his flowers while he was still here to receive them.

After more than half a century of performing with his children, and even his grandchildren, by his side, Mike Torres Sr. was honored by his family during a celebration last month that paid tribute to the leader of The Mike Torres Band. The event came on the heels of the 50th anniversary of the formation of the family band, which has developed a dedicated fan base throughout the Central Valley and beyond over the years.

Held on July 25, the outdoor celebration served as a birthday bash for Mike Torres Sr., who recently turned 86. The event included live performances by mariachis as well as The Mike Torres Band. Fellow musicians and artists, and local leaders also paid tribute as loyal fans looked on.

The event was organized by Mike Torres Sr.'s children, many of whom make up The Mike Torres Band while the others support the band behind the scenes. The family wanted to honor their father's lifetime dedication to his family, his music, and his Mexican heritage.

"You have to give people their flowers now," said daughter Christina Torres. "I'm all about celebrating people while they're here… He's here. He's

See **TRIBUTE** Page 4

Maestros de California deberán vacunarse o someterse a pruebas COVID-19 cada semana

California se convierte en el primer estado del país en anunciar un mandato de vacunas que aplica al personal docente de cara al inicio del ciclo escolar

Por Ricardo Roura

California se convertirá en el primer estado del país en exigir a sus maestros y trabajadores del sector escolar de K-12 a estar vacunados o a someterse a pruebas de COVID-19 cada semana. El anuncio fue realizado por el gobernador Gavin Newsom en una escuela de Oakland, que ya regresó a las clases presenciales después de la pausa por las vacaciones de verano.

Las clases se reanudarán en los próximos días en otras localidades de California.

"Creemos que esto es lo correcto y creemos que es una forma sostenible de mantener abiertas nuestras escuelas y de tratar la ansiedad número uno que los padres, como yo, tenemos por los niños", expresó Newsom.

Este ordenamiento para el personal escolar entra en vigor el 12 de agosto, y las escuelas de California deberán cumplir con la norma antes del 15 de octubre de 2021.

California se convierte en la primera entidad en tomar una medida así en un momento en que el estado registra en las últimas semanas un incremento en los números de contagios, hospital-

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La familia y la comunidad rinden homenaje a Mike Torres Sr.

La celebración llega tras el 50 aniversario de The Mike Torres Band

Por Rhashad R. Pittman

Los hijos de Mike Torres Sr. decidieron darle al patriarca sus flores mientras él todavía está aquí para recibirlas.

Después de más de medio siglo de tocando con sus hijos, e incluso con sus nietos, a su lado, Mike Torres Sr. fue honrado por su familia durante una celebración el mes pasado que rindió homenaje al líder de The Mike Torres Band. El evento se produjo inmediatamente después del 50 aniversario de la formación de la banda familiar, que ha desarrollado una base de fans dedicada en todo el Valle Central y más allá a lo largo de los años.

La celebración al aire libre, que se llevó a cabo el 25 de julio, sirvió como fiesta de cumpleaños para Mike Torres Sr., quien recientemente cumplió 86 años. El evento incluyó presentaciones en vivo de mariachis y de The Mike Torres Band. Compañeros músicos y artistas, y líderes locales también rindieron homenaje ante la mirada de los fieles seguidores.

El evento fue organizado por los hijos de Mike Torres Sr., muchos de los cuales integran The Mike Torres Band mientras que los demás apoyan a la banda detrás de las escenas. La familia quería honrar la dedicación de toda la vida de su padre a su familia, su música y su herencia mexicana.

"Tienes que regalarle flores a la gente ahora," dijo su hija Christina Torres. "Me refiero a celebrar a las personas mientras están aquí ... Él está aquí. Él está feliz. Está sano."

Inicialmente, se suponía que el evento sería una pequeña reunión entre la familia, pero en las semanas previas al evento, la familia decidió abrir la celebración a la comunidad. A partir de entonces, el evento creció de unos pocos miembros de la familia a unos cientos de personas e incluyó reconocimientos formales de líderes locales desde Stockton hasta Washington, D.C.

"Terminó siendo diferente de lo que pretendíamos," dijo Christina. "Pero terminó siendo un día perfecto para él."

También llegaron homenajes para Mike Torres Sr., incluidos los de la activista de derechos civiles Dolores Huerta, el legendario percusionista Pete Escovedo, el artista tejano cinco veces ganador del Grammy Little Joe Y La Familia, y la cantante/compositora y nativa de Lodi, Destiny Rodgers.

"Estaba muy emocionado, muy feliz," dijo Mike Torres Sr. "Quiero que los fanáticos ... de todo Estados Unidos, de todo el mundo sepan que lo apreciamos."

Un asunto de familia

Ver **HOMENAJE** Pág 5

Adultos mayores latinos

podrían ser elegibles para los nuevos periodos de inscripción especial con ahorros de la Ley del Cuidado de Salud a Bajo Precio (ACA, por sus siglas en inglés)

Debido a recientes cambios en la ley, si perdiste tu seguro de salud durante la pandemia o no has podido pagar una cobertura médica en el pasado, ahora podrás ser elegible para ahorrar dinero en seguros de salud. Esta información es fundamental para el 20% estimado de latinos entre las edades de 50 y 64 años que no tienen seguro médico en los Estados Unidos.

Hay más ayuda financiera disponible si adquieres un seguro de salud por tu cuenta mediante el Mercado de Seguros Médicos de la Ley del Cuidado de Salud a Bajo Precio (ACA), una plataforma en línea que ofrece planes de salud a individuos, familias y pequeños negocios. Si antes no podías deberías revisar de nuevo, pues ahora podrías ser elegible.

Adicionalmente, desde inicios de julio, si has recibido o fuiste elegible para recibir beneficios por seguro de desempleo durante cualquier semana de 2021, podrás ser elegible para primas más bajas en tu seguro de salud, ya sea por inscribirte en un plan del Mercado de Seguros Médicos por primera vez o por actualizar tu cobertura existente.

Aunque la Ley del Cuidado de Salud a Bajo Precio (ACA) ha sin seguro y las brechas raciales de cobertura, todavía existen brechas significativas en los Estados Unidos. En 2019, aproximadamente 1 de cada 5 latinos entre las edades de 50 y 64 años carecían de cobertura de seguro médico en los Estados Unidos. Tanto la ampliación de cobertura como la ayuda financiera abordarán estas brechas para permitir acceso a un cuidado de salud de calidad.

Si te inscribes para una cobertura de seguro médico a través del Mercado de la Ley del Cuidado de Salud a Bajo Precio (ACA), podrías pagar tan solo $0 por tus primas o podrías ahorrar hasta miles de dólares al año.

Consulta cuál es la fecha límite en tu estado y obtén más información en aarp.org/seguroaca.

AARP ha comenzado una campaña informativa para hacerles saber a los adultos mayores sobre este periodo especial de inscripción, que podría reducir enormemente los costos del seguro de salud para millones de estadounidenses.

“AARP cree que a nadie se le debería a cerrar la oportunidad de vivir una vida saludable”, expresó Yvette Peña, vicepresidenta de Estrategias para Audiencias Hispanas/Latinas de la Oficina de Diversidad, Equidad e Inclusión de AARP. “Queremos asegurarnos de que todos los latinos mayores en los Estados Unidos sin una cobertura de salud sepan que estos nuevos subsidios están disponibles y que una cobertura de salud antes impagable ahora puede ser parte del presupuesto familiar”.

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¿Perdiste tu seguro de salud durante la pandemia o no has podido pagar una cobertura médica en el pasado? Ahora podrás hacerlo y serás elegible para ahorrar dinero a través de un periodo de inscripción especial en el Mercado de Seguros Médicos. Y si ya recibiste ayuda financiera, podrías recibir ayuda adicional. Revisa nuevamente, pues ahora podrías calificar.

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Sign up for health insurance coverage through the Affordable Care Act marketplace before December 31, 2021, and you could save thousands of dollars a year, paying as little as $0 for your premiums.

Visit aarp.org/aca for more information

Tribute

continued from Front Page

happy. He's healthy."

Initially the event was supposed to be a small gathering among family but in the weeks leading up to the event the family decided to open the celebration up to the community. From then on, the event grew from a few family members to a few hundred people and included formal recognitions from local leaders from Stockton to Washington, D.C.

"It ended up being different than what we intended," Christina said. "But it ended up being a perfect day for him."

Tributes came pouring in as well for Mike Torres Sr., including ones from civil rights activist Dolores Huerta, legendary percussionist Pete Escovedo, five-time Grammy Award-winning Tejano artist Little Joe Y La Familia, and singer/song writer and Lodi native Destiny Rodgers.

"I was very excited, very happy," Mike Torres Sr. said. "I want the fans… all over the U.S., all over the world to know we appreciate it."

A Family Affair

Led by Mike Torres Sr., The Mike Torres Band is considered one of the premiere Latino musical acts in California. Over the years the group has opened for a variety of popular acts, including War, Pete Escovedo, the Gap Band, and Teena Marie.

The nine-member band has at times featured three generations of the Torres family as it performed throughout the Stockton area and across the country in English and Spanish. Based in Lathrop, the band performs a wide range of music, including cumbias, salsa, meringue, top 40, old school, country, jazz, big band and classic rock.

Mike Torres Sr., started the band in 1970 after growing up singing and playing guitar and later performing at local nightclubs with a small band. The family has gone from performing at weddings and private parties on the weekends to making the internationally broadcast television program the Johnny Canales Show.

September 2020 marked the band's 50th anniversary since it was formed. Unfortunately, the Covid pandemic prevented the family from celebrating the milestone. But the pandemic would not stop the tribute in honor of the man who started it all.

"It has been great, difficult, but great," Mike Torres Sr. said of leading the band for five decades, outlasting all of the competition. "It was a lot of work over the years."

Humble Beginnings

Born in Urequio, Michoacan in1935, Mike Torres Sr. rose from humble beginnings. After his family relocated to California when he was still in elementary school, Torres went on to graduate from Tracy High School. While in high school, he began boxing and was named the local featherweight champion.

After high school, Torres worked in the fields, helping his stepfather and as a self-employed truck driver making long distance drives. He later enlisted in the Army, serving from 1959 to 1961. Soon after, he married his late wife, Margaret Grijalva, who served as the behind-the-scenes foundation of both the band and the family.

They wedded on Veteran's Day on November 11, 1961 and went on to have five children: Carmen, Alicia, Mike Jr., Martin, and Christina. They raised their children on a plot of land in Lathrop that was purchased by Mike's parents. The five acres of land, referred by the family as "The Ranch," is where four homes of the Torres family sit, including the home Mike still lives in today.

Mike and Margaret ended up having nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Some of those grandchildren have become a part of The Mike Torres Band, including Mike Torres III. The band originated after Mike Sr., one day had his son Mike Jr., fill in for a band member of another group that he was in at the time. Eventually, Mike Sr. brought his son Martin and daughter Christina on stage to perform with them as well. It was not long after that Mike Sr., decided to form his own band with just his family.

"We've never, never not been part of the band since we were kids," said Christina, who is a percussionist, keyboardist, and vocalist for the band, which she joined when she was 7.

An Educator and Advocate

In addition to being a musician, Mike Sr. is an educator who taught at the college level and has published books about Mexico. After earning his associate's degree from San Joaquin Delta College, he went on to graduate with a bachelor's degree in Spanish, with a minor in Music, from Sacramento State. A few years later, he obtained his master's degree in Spanish from Sacramento State.

Mike began his career as an educator working as a preschool teacher, then as an instructor for the State of California teaching incarcerated youth. He later taught Spanish and Music at San Joaquin Delta College. He retired from teaching at the age of 80.

One of his proudest endeavors throughout his life was helping people navigate the immigration and naturalization processes to become United States citizens. He took it upon himself to learn the processes and, at his own time and often at his own expense, helped numerous people achieve their dream of American citizenship.

For his lifetime work, Mike Torres Sr. was inducted in the Stockton Mexican-American Hall of Fame.

Giving back and treating people with respect no matter who they are is simply part of who Mike Sr. is, his family said. Because of it, he has become a local celebrity, unable to go anywhere in town without being recognized and greeted by a friend or fan.

Over the years, giving back to the community in some form or fashion has becoming a family tradition. The Torres family has donated hundreds of performances to local causes. Treating people with respect and dignity in general is a core value of the family.

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San Joaquin County is starting the process of redrawing its 5 supervisorial district boundaries based on new federal census data. **District lines can shape a community's ability to elect the representative of their choice, so it's important we hear from you!**

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"We look forward to engaging our local community and hope to see a good turnout at the outreach meetings. The more our community participates, the better these new districts will serve the people who call this great county home."

- San Joaquin County Supervisor, **Miguel Villapudua**

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Latino Times

Publisher & Founder
Andrew Ysiano
andrew@latinotimes.org

Vice President
Judy Quintana
judy@latinotimes.org

Contributing Writers
Rhashad R. Pittman
Brianna Guillory
Amber Schaffer
Anita Kumar
Jesús García
Marilu Saldaña
Christian Paz
Ricardo Roura

Design & Layout
www.JimOliverDesigner.com

Photography
Monica Andeola

Marketing/Advertising
Andrew Ysiano
Judy Quintana
Armando Salgado
Julia Barnes
Andrew C. Ysiano

(209) 469-2407
ads@latinotimes.org

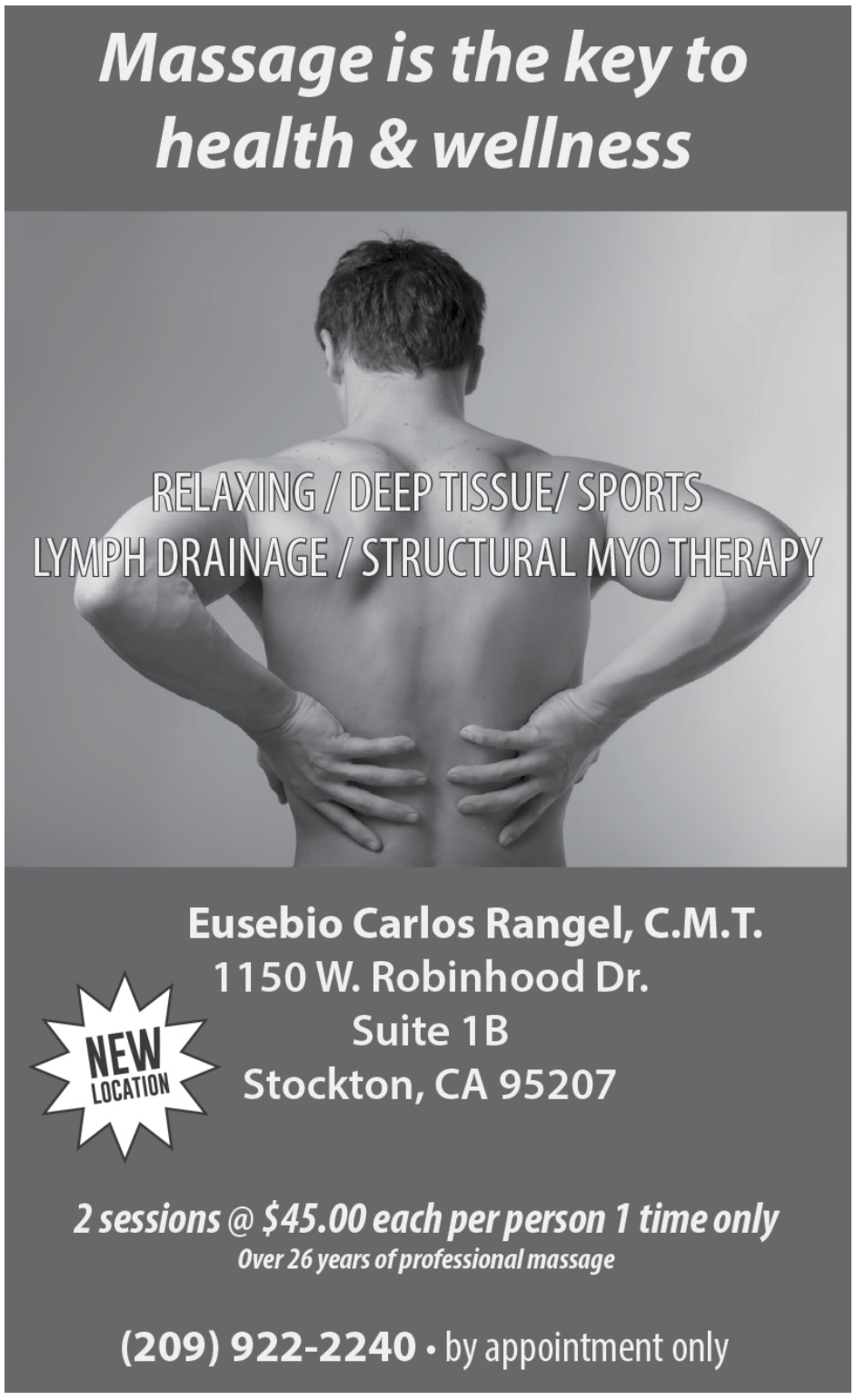
Spanish Translator
Lorena Becerra M.B.A.

Distribution
Damian Corona
Andrew C. Ysiano
www.latinotimes.org

Find us on Facebook

Andrew Ysiano
Publisher/Founder

Judy Quintana
Vice President
Editor



Homenaje

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Dirigida por Mike Torres Sr., The Mike Torres Band es considerada uno de los principales actos musicales latinos en California. A lo largo de los años, el grupo ha abierto para una variedad de actos populares, incluidos War, Pete Escovedo, The Gap Band y Teena Marie.

La banda de nueve miembros a veces ha presentado a tres generaciones de la familia Torres mientras se presentaba en toda el área de Stockton y en todo el país en inglés y en español. Con base en Lathrop, la banda toca una amplia gama de música, que incluye cumbias, salsa, merengue, top 40, old school, country, jazz, big band y rock clásico.

Mike Torres Sr., fundó la banda en 1970 después de crecer cantando y tocando la guitarra y luego tocando en clubes nocturnos locales con una pequeña banda. La familia ha pasado de tocar en bodas y fiestas privadas los fines de semana a realizar una presentación en el programa de televisión de difusión internacional The Johnny Canales Show.

Septiembre de 2020 marcó el 50 aniversario de la banda desde que se formó. Desafortunadamente, la pandemia de Covid impidió que la familia celebrara el hito. Pero la pandemia no detendría el homenaje en honor al hombre que lo inició todo.

"Ha sido grandioso, difícil, pero grandioso," dijo Mike Torres Sr. sobre liderar la banda durante cinco décadas, superando a toda la competencia. "Fue mucho trabajo a lo largo de los años."

Principios humildes

Nacido en Urequio, Michoacán en 1935, Mike Torres Sr. surgió de humildes comienzos. Después de que su familia se mudó a California cuando todavía estaba en la escuela primaria, Torres se graduó de Tracy High School. Mientras estaba en la escuela secundaria, comenzó a boxear y fue nombrado campeón local de peso pluma.

Después de la secundaria, Torres trabajó en el campo, ayudando a su padrastro y como conductor de camión autónomo en recorridos de larga distancia. Más tarde se alistó en el ejército, sirviendo de 1959 a 1961. Poco después, se casó con su difunta esposa, Margaret Grijalva, quien sirvió como la base detrás de escena tanto de la banda como de la familia.

Se casaron en el Día de los Veteranos el 11 de noviembre de 1961 y tuvieron cinco hijos: Carmen, Alicia, Mike Jr., Martin y Christina. Criaron a sus hijos en una parcela de tierra en Lathrop que fue comprada por los padres de Mike. Los cinco acres de tierra, referidos por la familia como "El Rancho", es donde se encuentran cuatro casas de la familia Torres, incluida la casa en la que Mike todavía vive hoy.

Mike y Margaret terminaron teniendo nueve nietos y ocho bisnietos. Algunos de esos nietos se han convertido en parte de The Mike Torres Band, incluido Mike Torres III. La banda se originó después de que Mike Sr., un día tuvo a su hijo Mike Jr., reemplazando a un miembro de la banda de otro grupo en el que él estaba en el tiempo. Finalmente, Mike Sr. trajo a su hijo Martin y a su hija Christina al escenario para tocar con ellos también. No pasó mucho tiempo después de que Mike Sr., decidió formar su propia banda solo con su familia.

"Nunca, nunca hemos dejado de ser parte de la banda desde que éramos niños," dijo Christina, quien es percusionista, tecladista y vocalista de la banda, a la que se unió cuando tenía 7 años.

Educador y defensor

Además de ser músico, Mike Sr. es un catedrático que enseñó a nivel universitario y ha publicado libros sobre México. Después de obtener su título de asociado de San Joaquín Delta College, se graduó con una licenciatura en español, con especialización en Música, de Sacramento State. Unos años más tarde, obtuvo su maestría en español de Sacramento State.

Mike comenzó su carrera como catedrático trabajando como maestro preescolar, luego como instructor para el estado de California enseñando a jóvenes encarcelados. Más tarde enseñó español y música en San Joaquín Delta College. Se retiró de la docencia a los 80 años.

Uno de los esfuerzos de los que más se enorgullece a lo largo de su vida fue ayudar a las personas a navegar los procesos de inmigración y naturalización para convertirse en ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos. Se encargó de aprender los procesos y, a su propio tiempo y, a menudo, a sus propias expensas, ayudó a numerosas personas a lograr su sueño de la ciudadanía estadounidense.

Por su trabajo de toda la vida, Mike Torres Sr. fue incluido en el Salón de la Fama México-Estadounidense de Stockton.

Retribuir y tratar a las personas con respeto, sin importar quiénes sean, es simplemente parte de lo que es Mike Sr., dijo su familia. Debido a eso, se ha convertido en una celebridad local, incapaz de ir a ninguna parte de la ciudad sin ser reconocido y recibido por un amigo o fan.

A lo largo de los años, retribuir a la comunidad de alguna forma o moda se ha convertido en una tradición familiar. La familia Torres ha donado cientos de presentaciones a causas locales. Tratar a las personas con respeto y dignidad en general es un valor fundamental de la familia.

Con un sombrero de fieltro y un elegante traje, Mike Sr. es conocido por saludar a los fans de la banda después de cada show con una sonrisa y un apretón de manos. A veces, cuando el resto de la banda estropea su equipo después de una actuación, él le da al puñado de fans que aún están presentes una presentación íntima con solo su voz y guitarra, interpretando canciones a pedido.

"Tratamos a todos con respeto," dijo Mike Sr. "Es muy importante mostrar respeto a la gente."

California Teachers Should Be Vaccinated or Tested for COVID-19 Every Week

California becomes the first state in the country to announce a vaccination mandate that applies to teaching staff at the beginning of the school year

By Ricardo Roura

California will become the first state in the country to require its K-12 teachers and school sector workers to be vaccinated or tested for COVID-19 each week.

The announcement was made by Governor Gavin Newsom at an Oakland school , which has already returned to face-to-face classes after the summer vacation break.

Classes will resume in the next few days in other locations in California.

"We believe this is the right thing to do and we believe it is a sustainable way to keep our schools open and to address the number one anxiety that parents, like me, have for children," Newsom said.

This ordinance for school personnel goes into effect on August 12, and California schools must comply with the rule by October 15, 2021.

California becomes the first entity to take such a measure at a time when the state has registered an increase in the number of infections , hospitalizations and deaths due to the coronavirus in recent weeks .

Newsom had issued a similar ordinance days ago for the state's municipal workers, as well as medical personnel.

The Oakland Unified School District announced Tuesday night its own immunization mandate for teaching staff . Hours earlier, the San Francisco School District had made a similar order.

Schools in California are returning to face-to-face activities, which increases concern about possible infections in the presence of the Delta variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which has greater transmission power.

Last week, in Contra Costra County, the districts of Brentwood and Oakley resumed activities, and within days there were already infections among students and teachers.

In the town of Brentwood, they increased from 10 confirmed cases to 19 as of this Tuesday, and at least 117 students and four staff members began to present symptoms of COVID, but so far they had not tested positive for coronavirus.

California

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izaciones y fallecimientos a causa del coronavirus.

Newsom había emitido un ordenamiento similar días atrás para los trabajadores municipales del estado, así como para el personal médico.

El Distrito Escolar Unificado de Oakland anunció la noche del martes su propio mandato de vacunas para el personal docente. Horas antes, el Distrito Escolar de San Francisco había hecho un ordenamiento similar.

Las escuelas en California están regresando a las actividades presenciales, lo que incrementa la preocupación sobre posibles contagios ante la presencia de la variante Delta del virus SARS-CoV-2, que tiene mayor poder de transmisión.

La semana pasada, en el condado Contra Costra, los distritos de Brentwood y Oakley reiniciaron actividades, y a los pocos días ya se registraban contagios entre estudiantes y personal docente.

En la localidad de Brentwood se incrementaron de 10 casos confirmados a 19 hasta este martes, y al menos 117 alumnos y cuatro integrantes del personal comenzaban a presentar síntomas por COVID, pero hasta el momento no habían dado positivo en pruebas de coronavirus.

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NOTICIA PUBLICA

El Depósito del Ejército de Sharpe busca el interés del público en el establecimiento de una Junta Asesora de Restauración

El Departamento del Ejército está buscando aportes de las partes interesadas con respecto a las actividades que se llevan a cabo como parte del Programa de Restauración Ambiental del Depósito del Ejército de Sharpe (Sharpe).

Una Junta Asesora de Restauración (RAB, por sus siglas en inglés) es un foro compuesto por representantes del Departamento de Defensa (DoD, por sus siglas en inglés), la Agencia de Protección Ambiental de los EE. UU., gobiernos estatales y locales, gobiernos tribales y la comunidad afectada. Los miembros del RAB brindan asesoramiento al Departamento de Defensa sobre la restauración ambiental en instalaciones militares.

El propósito del RAB es promover la participación de la comunidad al dar al público la oportunidad de revisar regularmente el progreso y participar en el diálogo con los responsables de la toma de decisiones sobre el proceso de restauración ambiental de Sharpe. Los miembros de la comunidad local interesados en crear un RAB deberían estar dispuestos a establecer y presidir conjuntamente el RAB y asistir a todas las reuniones del RAB (que podrían durar entre dos y cuatro horas cada una) y estar preparados para dedicar un tiempo suficiente para revisar los documentos de restauración ambiental de Sharpe en plazos prescritos. Si se establece el RAB, el Ejército no brindará apoyo financiero a los miembros públicos por sus servicios, ni se compensará a los miembros por las horas de trabajo perdidas o el tiempo invertido.

Para expresar su interés en participar en un RAB, llama al Oficina de Asuntos Públicos del Comando Ambiental del Ejército al (210) 466-1590 o envíe un e-mail a usarmy.jbsa.aec.mbx@mail.mil entre el 1 y el 30 de septiembre de 2021 para obtener una Encuesta de Interés Comunitario.

The Voters Who Could Turn California Red

The state GOP's comeback runs through Latino communities

By Christian Paz

At the end of the 2020 election, California's Republicans had reason to feel hopeful. Although Joe Biden won the state by a landslide, Donald Trump won more votes (6 million) there than any other Republican candidate had ever. Increased Republican turnout led to victories in four competitive House races with large Latino populations. One of those districts even elected the state's first Republican Latino congressman since 1873.

Hope hasn't been California Republicans' default emotion lately. Just three years ago, Democrats crushed the state GOP, cementing a supermajority in the legislature and winning four congressional seats in Orange County that had been in Republican hands for decades. But the 2020 results offered a taste of what a reinvigorated party could accomplish if it looked beyond its base and offered a palatable message to Latino voters. Trump won more votes from Latinos in California last year than he did in 2016, and he made similar gains around the country. With an effort to recall Democratic Governor Gavin Newsom now under way—the election is set for September 14—the party faces its first post-Trump test of whether it can be truly competitive in the state, and whether it's willing to distance itself from a toxic legacy to make gains with California's new, growing plurality.

It's nearly impossible to overstate how far the GOP has fallen in California. No Republican has won office statewide since Arnold Schwarzenegger was reelected as governor in 2006. Nor has any Republican qualified for either of the two U.S. Senate races since 2016. The portion of registered voters who identify as Republican now hovers at 24 percent, not even its all-time low. That's barely more than those who identify as unaffiliated. But the explanation for the California GOP's struggles is widely understood: It has almost everything to do with the party's history of hostility toward Latino communities, starting with its push in 1994 to pass Proposition 187.

That ballot measure would have denied people suspected of being undocumented access to public services, such as nonemergency health care and public education. Painting immigrants and their families as invaders who "keep coming," California conservatives rallied around the slogan of "Save Our State." In response, a generation of Latinos, most of whom were Mexican American, protested, registered to vote, and acquired citizenship. The great majority gravitated toward the Democratic Party, elevating a roster of figures who would soon dominate California politics, including former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, state Senate President Pro Tempore (and now Los Angeles City Councilmember) Kevin de León, Senator Alex Padilla, and Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra. Although a federal judge eventually ruled that Proposition 187 was unconstitutional, the damage had been done: California, once a purple state, had become overwhelmingly blue.

It's taken many years, but many Republican strategists now recognize that the party cannot be competitive in California, where a plurality of the population is Latino, unless it attracts a much larger portion of the Latino electorate. "If you're going to grow under California demographics, and you're going to grow your share of the vote, the Latino vote is exactly where you find the growth potential," Rob Stutzman, a former top adviser to Schwarzenegger, told me.

This is precisely what the 2020 election results revealed. Most notable were shifts away from Democrats in Latino communities, especially in Mexican American precincts in Los Angeles and Orange Counties. Congressional candidates Mike Garcia in Los Angeles County, Michelle Steel and Young Kim in Orange County, and David Valadao in the Central Valley played up traditional Republican messaging on economic opportunity, taxes, and jobs while deftly mediating their relationship to the Trump brand according to how partisan their voters were. Garcia and Steel embraced a brash pro-Trump

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30/01/1974 - 20/07/2021

Por Marilu Saldaña

Estos últimos días han sido difíciles para la familia y la comunidad de saber que nuestro querido Felix Heriberto Martínez Mora ha fallecido en Jalisco, México en Julio. Su vida era pasar tiempo con su querida esposa Lucy Saldaña Martínez y cantar música de Mariachi. Siempre cantaba con alegría y con mucha pasión a todos.

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Gracias a todos los familiares y amistades por acompañarnos durante estos últimos días. Felix Heriberto Martinez Mora siempre estará en nuestros pensamientos y corazón.

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Senado aprueba histórico plan de infraestructura bipartidista de $1.2 Trillion

Se trata de un gran triunfo para el presidente Joe Biden para aplicar una inversión multianual para mejorar el sistema de trenes, aeropuertos, servicio de agua e internet, entre otros en todo Estados Unidos

Por Jesús García

Los senadores lograron más de 60 votos para aprobar el proyecto de infraestructura bipartidista de $1.2 billones de dólares, impulsado por el presidente Joe Biden.

La vicepresidenta Kamala Harris, presidenta del Senado, informó que al ley fue aprobada con 69 votos a favor y 30 en contra.

Se trata de un gran triunfo para los demócratas, pero también para los republicanos, quienes hicieron a un lado sus diferencias políticas y coincidieron en que EE.UU. urge de una inversión multianual para mejorar su transporte, vialidades, infraestructura de agua y servicio de internet.

El presidente Biden celebró la aprobación de la ley, luego de intensas negociaciones.

"Gran noticia, amigos: el Acuerdo Bipartidista de Infraestructura ha sido oficialmente aprobado en el Senado", tuiteó. "Espero que el Congreso lo envíe a mi escritorio lo antes posible, entonces podremos continuar con nuestro trabajo de reconstruir mejor".

El proyecto de ley será enviado a la Cámara de Representantes, donde la mayoría demócrata lo aprobaría sin problema al volver de su receso de agosto.

10 proyectos clave

La Administración Biden destaca 10 programas que le permitirá impulsar con ley bipartidista:

- $3,500 millones de dólares en el Programa de Asistencia de Climatización, para reducir los costos de energía para más de 700,000 hogares de bajos ingresos.
- $8,000 millones de dólares para subvenciones comunitarias de defensa contra incendios forestales.
- $12,000 millones de dólares destinados a la mitigación de inundaciones, incluido fondos para FEMA.
- $5,000 millones de dólares para abordar la contaminación en tuberías de plomo para el agua potable.
- $16,000 millones de dólares para tapar pozos de gas natural y minas de carbón.
- $1,000 millones de dólares para el "Programa de subvenciones para la modernización y seguridad de la infraestructura de distribución de gas natural".
- $6,000 millones de dólares para el procesamiento, la fabricación y el reciclaje avanzados de baterías.
- $5,000 millones para un programa "Calles Seguras para Todos", para proyectos locales, estatales y federales.
- $2,000 millones para las estaciones de tránsito y su adaptación para personas con discapacidades.
- $2,000 millones para modernizar los sistemas de seguridad cibernética.

Senate Passes Historic $ 1.2 Trillion Bipartisan Infrastructure Plan

Por Jesús García

Senators won more than 60 votes to pass the $ 1.2 trillion bipartisan infrastructure project, promoted by President Joe Biden .

Vice President Kamala Harris , president of the Senate, reported that the law was approved with 69 votes in favor and 30 against.

This is a great triumph for the Democrats, but also for the Republicans, who put aside their political differences and agreed that the US urges a multi-year investment to improve its transportation, roads, water infrastructure and service. Internet.

President Biden celebrated the passage of the law, after intense negotiations.

"Great news folks: the Bipartisan Infrastructure Agreement has been officially approved in the Senate," he

See **INFRASTRUCTURE** Page 11

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Voters

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message; Kim and Valadao veered toward the center. They all pushed hard to reopen businesses and lift pandemic restrictions; made appeals to social conservatives, including Catholic and evangelical Latinos; and toed a careful line on immigration, relying on their own immigrant heritage to appear more inclusive than the national party.

Republicans should be adopting that measured strategy in the recall, the state's 2022 elections, and beyond, Reverend Samuel Rodriguez told me. Rodriguez identifies as a political independent and leads the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference, which represents 40,000 evangelical congregations, the largest network of its kind. "Our values are faith, family, and free enterprise. We're entrepreneurs. We want to thrive; we don't want to survive," he said.

Stutzman concurred. "As you get to the second generation, Latinos who have gone to college or become middle class get more concerned about things like taxes and transportation issues, the cost of energy, and homelessness in their communities—the typical middle-class issues a Republican can try to attract," he told me.

Taking advantage of this generational change will require expansive candidate recruitment, a change in messaging, and a large investment in voter outreach. So far, there's not a lot of evidence that the party is making the effort. Core Republican issues, such as lower taxes and less regulation, "are not a problem," Kristin Olsen, the former vice chair of the California Republican Party, told me. "The immediate problem is that people don't like Republicans, because generally people think Republicans don't like them. Republicans need to do a better job of building relationships at a grassroots, neighborhood level. That takes focused, genuine effort to reach out to communities of new voters, whether they be Latino voters, female voters, African American voters, or Asian American voters. You have to be able to spend time with people in their communities, in their neighborhoods, in their businesses, in their churches, and get to know them and let them get to know you."

The recall election spotlights some of this push and pull between Latinos and the party. Polls earlier this year showed that a plurality of Latinos were willing to recall Newsom, but more recent polling shows a mixed picture: A survey in July found that a majority oppose the effort, while another in August found a majority in favor. Both polls were consistent on one matter: The demographic that was most energized in toppling Newsom was conservative white voters—in other words, the GOP base. This presents a conundrum for the party. Moderate California Republicans have no incentive to pave a path between Democrats and Trumpism. Almost everyone who has tried to has been drummed either out of the GOP or out of office, making it harder to recruit Latino candidates.

The party also has few candidates who are serious about engaging Latino communities. "With the recall, there's an opportunity for Republicans to deliberately include Latinos in that strategy," Mindy Romero, the director of the Center for Inclusive Democracy at the University of Southern California, told me. "But thus far, what we're seeing from the proponents right now is not a lot of outreach to the Latino community, and I see some of the rhetoric that is being used as feeling very familiar to those that have been concerned about the GOP.

Rodriguez told me he's surprised that he hasn't seen more candidates doing interviews with Spanish-language media or using social media to reach persuadable Latino voters online as part of their recall efforts. "We are people of social media," he said. "Republicans need to permeate Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Twitter with content in Spanish, so you have an impact on both Spanish and English speakers." When I asked him what message that content would push, he said Republicans haven't pressed religious issues enough, in light of the governor's restrictions on places of worship: "It takes less than 30 seconds, saying 'He came after your faith, and he crossed the line.'"

Infrastructure

continued from Page 10

tweeted. "I hope that Congress will send it to my desk as soon as possible, then we can continue our work to rebuild better."

10 key projects

The Biden Administration highlights 10 programs that will allow it to promote with bipartisan law:

• $ 3.5 billion in Weatherization Assistance Program, to reduce energy costs for more than 700,000 low-income households.

• $ 8 billion for community wildfire defense grants.

• $ 12 billion for flood mitigation, including funds for FEMA.

• $ 5 billion to address contamination in lead pipes for drinking water.

• $ 16,000 million to plug natural gas wells and coal mines.

• $ 1 billion for the "Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Modernization and Safety Grant Program".

• $ 6 billion for advanced battery processing, manufacturing and recycling.

• $ 5,000 million for a "Safe Streets for All" program, for local, state and federal projects.

• $ 2 billion for transit stations and their adaptation for people with disabilities.

• $ 2 billion to modernize cyber security systems.

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Biden railed against Trump's immigration policies, now defends them in courts

By Anita Kumar

Over the past six months, the U.S. government has backed the expiration of certain visas, pushed for tougher requirements for investors seeking green cards, and supported the denial of permanent residency for thousands of immigrants living legally in the U.S.

If that sounds like the type of immigration portfolio former President Donald Trump would pursue, it's because it is. But President Joe Biden is nevertheless defending it in court, despite a pledge to quickly reverse his predecessor's hard-line immigration agenda.

Former administration officials and immigration lawyers say Biden's hands may be tied in certain cases — that the government may not necessarily agree with the specific policy but that the Justice Department may have to defend Trump-era policy because of requirements in law and the time needed to review all the cases. But the Biden administration's approach is, nevertheless, testing the patience of immigration activists and attorneys who say the president and his team have been far too passive in undoing Trump's far-reaching and restrictive immigration policies in court.

They point to the fact that, in some cases, Biden's team has argued policies created under Trump's acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf were legal, even after a federal judge concluded Wolf did not lawfully serve in the position since he was never confirmed by the Senate. Their reasoning: opposing Wolf's immigration policies could have impacted all sorts of changes at the sprawling department, which deals with everything from disaster relief to airline travel.

Those in the advocacy world say they are nervously waiting to see when — and if — federal agencies and departments, specifically the Department of Justice, will move away from defending Trump-era decisions and more closely match Biden's campaign rhetoric on immigration.

A few weeks ago, several immigrant rights and pro-reform groups, including the Immigration Hub, the American Immigration Lawyers Association and the National Immigration Law Center, met with Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco and Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta to convey such concerns, according to three people familiar with the meeting.

"The Department of Justice really was a center of gravity for some of the most...hideous anti- immigrant policies that came out of the Trump

administration and really was in some ways ground zero for the anti-immigrant agenda of Donald Trump," said Sergio Gonzales, who worked on the Biden transition and serves as executive director of the Immigration Hub. "And this is why it's so critical that DOJ moves swiftly and aggressively to undo that agenda."

Trump relentlessly focused on immigration during his four years in office, reshaping virtually every aspect of the U.S. system through executive action, policy guidance and regulatory change. He pushed through hundreds of policies, big and small, designed to reduce legal and illegal immigration to the United States — from lengthening the citizenship test and denying visas to citizens of several majority-Muslim nations to building 400 miles of 30-feet steel wall along the southern border and sharply limiting the granting of asylum claims.

Some changes Biden wants to make to Trump-era policy have been held up by regulatory processes, which can be lengthy, or the need for congressional action, which is not guaranteed. But the Department of Justice

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Immigration

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has begun the process of revisiting some Trump rules and issuing immigration policy memos, outlining everything from ways to reduce unused immigration courtrooms to banning the use of the word "alien" as a term for an undocumented immigrant.

"As the president has made clear, our immigration system is a critical part of our character as a nation of opportunity and welcome," Justice Department spokesperson Dena Iverson said. "The Department of Justice is deeply committed to upholding those values by ensuring that the immigration system is fair, efficient, and impartial, consistent with our immigration laws."

Immigrant advocates and attorneys say the department has made significant strides recently, though not necessarily in the courts.

Attorney General Merrick Garland has issued four immigration opinions in the past two months, including those that reversed Trump-era rulings that had narrowed asylum standards by denying protection to victims of domestic violence and gang threats in their home country. Garland also issued a ruling allowing immigration judges to close cases — an authority that was rescinded during the Trump presidency, hampering efforts to clear the massive backlog in immigration courts. And in recent days, the Justice Department hired Lucas Guttentag as senior counselor on immigration policy to help dismantle some of Trump's policies, according to three people familiar with the hiring.

Still, advocates who are generally supportive of the administration say these actions don't excuse them from defending other Trump policies in court. Thousands of lawsuits on every aspect of immigration policy are pending from the Trump years — from challenges to the government's moves to block asylum for specific individuals to roughly 100 lawsuits filed by the government to gain access to or seize land near the southern border for Trump's border wall.

"They are inundated with lawsuits, more so than ever in the past, because people couldn't get administrative relief by going to the agency," said Shev Dalal-Dheini, special counsel in the chief counsel's office at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services during the Obama administration. "The doors were closed. You couldn't go that route. The only avenue people had to challenge a denial or a bad policy was through litigation. And so they're inundated with litigation."

Karla Vargas, a senior attorney at the Texas Civil Rights Project, said her organization is defending land owners in seven cases related to the construction of Trump's border wall. Biden halted construction, largely by canceling contracts and diverting funds. But she said the lawsuits around the seizure of border land remain.

"Whether ultimately there is going to be any change on halting the wall or not, I mean that doesn't even seem to be part of the equation for some of the cases, because they're being litigated full steam ahead," Vargas said. "What we see happening is that there has not been a consensus from DOJ as to how to approach these."

A DOJ spokesperson said the department continues to litigate border wall cases "to ensure life and safety conditions are adequately addressed at and around existing construction areas such as along compromised levees, and in order to respond to court orders."

But there are some cases where the Biden administration now supports Trump policy — even if the president previously criticized it.

For example, the Biden administration recently defended a Trump-era policy in court that prioritizes the highest wage earners for a high-skilled worker visa program, a move that was expected to hurt foreign students, among others. During the presidential race, Biden's campaign talked of establishing a wage-based allocation process for temporary foreign workers.

The Biden administration also continues to defend Title 42, a public health order issued by Trump, as a way to expel most migrants without allowing them to seek asylum during the pandemic. That includes single adults and many families, though he is allowing unaccompanied children to stay in the U.S. for humanitarian reasons.

"It was one thing for the Biden team to say they needed time when they first took office, but it's now been seven months and that is no longer a valid excuse," said Lee Gelernt, the lead lawyer in the American Civil Liberties Union's case challenging the legality of using Title 42 to expel families. "Nowhere is that more true than the retention of the Trump administration's illegal and inhumane Title 42 policy."

In all, Biden's record has been at times frustrating and confusing for many advocates and lawyers. The Justice Department has shown a willingness to push for the reversal of Trump policy when it chooses. But oftentimes, it has chosen to defend the status quo, either for expediency or for its own policy objectives.

The question they're now asking is how much longer this will continue.

"My concern has always been — is another administration going to care enough to dedicate the political time and energy to undo all of these little things that [Trump's agencies] were so committed to screwing up, throwing sand in the wheels, in these obscure places," said Ben Johnson, executive director of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. "Most administrations don't spend that much time and political capital in obscure places in the immigration system."

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Cuál es el calendario de aprobación de la ciudadanía para indocumentados en el Congreso

Este lunes, los demócratas en el Congreso dieron a conocer la ruta para integrar el proyecto económico de $3.5 billones de dólares, donde se incluyen lineamientos sobre una posible reforma migratoria.

Es el primer paso legislativo para buscar abrir el camino a la ciudadanía de millones de indocumentados, según indican documentos distribuidos por el líder de la mayoría Chuck Schumer (Nueva York).

Debido a que la iniciativa se aprobaría a través del proceso de Reconciliación, el periodo para ello es limitado, pero no hay fechas específicas.

Sin embargo, varios expertos consultados, además de una proyección del representante Raúl Ruiz (California), presidente del Caucus Hispano en el Congreso, estiman que la aprobación de alguna posible reforma migratoria sería a más tardar en noviembre.

En el "Marco del Acuerdo de Resolución Presupuestaria para el Año Fiscal 2022" se establecen los fondos que cada comité debe contemplar en propuestas específicas para el proyecto de ley a presentar a la parlamentaria Elizabeth MacDonough, para ser aprobado con el proceso de Reconciliación.

En el caso del Comité Judicial, presidido por el demócrata Dick Durbin (Illinois), se destinarán $107,000 millones de dólares para distintos proyectos, incluido un plan para indocumentados.

"(Plan de) estatus legal permanente ('green card') para inmigrantes calificados", dice someramente la ruta que deberán seguir los senadores en acciones espejo con el Comité Judicial de la Cámara de Representantes, que preside Jerry Nadler (Nueva York).

El calendario

Agosto.- Los comités en el Senado se reunirán virtualmente para elaborar los proyectos para el proceso de Reconciliación, incluida una propuesta para los inmigrantes indocumentados.

Septiembre.- Se espera que el proyecto integral esté terminado y deberá ser enviado a la parlamentaria MacDonough, quien determinará si el plan es viable de aprobarse con mayoría simple, pues debe cumplir con requisitos presupuestales.

Octubre.- En caso de que la parlamentaria apruebe la propuesta migratoria, el Senado y la Cámara harán ajustes. Existe la posibilidad de que el proyecto de ley sea aprobado ese mes, pero también se contempla un retraso.

Noviembre.- Posible aprobación en el Congreso del proyecto presupuestal incluidos ajustes migratorios.

La justificación económica

Activistas y congresistas han explicado a este diario que la pronta aprobación de una reforma migratoria, por mínima que sea, deberá ser con una justificación económica, es decir,

que tenga un impacto positivo en el presupuesto y que su aplicación no se convierta en una carga para las finanzas públicas.

Los demócratas preparan varios escenarios para otorgar la 'green card" –el primer paso a la ciudadanía– al mayor número posible de inmigrantes indocumentados, pero las propuestas en el Congreso incluyen al menos a los 'dreamers', las personas bajo el Estatus de Protección Temporal (TPS), trabajadores del campo y trabajadores esenciales de áreas médicas y de servicios de alimentos, entre otros sectores.

"Si nosotros nos vamos más allá de lo que es permitido bajo esas reglas, y si no estamos claros en nuestros argumentos, ella puede decidir que no, que no podemos poner reforma migratoria bajo proceso de Reconciliación", reconoció el representante Ruiz en una entrevista.

En ello también coincidió la activista y experta legislativa Lia Parada, directora de Abogacía Legislativa de Immigration Hub.

"No estamos (contemplado a los más de 10 millones) de indocumentados, es muy detallado, son los soñadores, los que tienen TPS, los que tienen trabajo de campo… y aquellos quienes trabajaron en industrias esenciales durante la pandemia", dijo Parada.

What is the calendar for the approval of citizenship for undocumented persons in Congress

This Monday, the Democrats in Congress unveiled the route to integrate the economic project of $ 3.5 billion dollars , which includes guidelines on a possible immigration reform.

It is the first legislative step in seeking to open the path to citizenship for millions of undocumented immigrants , according to documents distributed by Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (New York).

Because the initiative would be approved through the Reconciliation process, the period for it is limited, but there are no specific dates.

However, several experts consulted, in addition to a projection by Representative Raúl Ruiz (California), president of the Hispanic Caucus in Congress, estimate that the approval of any possible immigration reform would be no later than November.

The "Framework of the Budget Resolution Agreement for Fiscal Year 2022" establishes the funds that each committee must consider in specific proposals for the bill to be presented to the parliamentarian Elizabeth MacDonough , to be approved with the Reconciliation process.

In the case of the Judicial Committee, chaired by Democrat Dick Durbin (Illinois), $ 107,000 million dollars will be allocated for different projects, including a plan for the undocumented.

"(Plan for) permanent legal status ('green card') for qualified immigrants," briefly states the route that senators will have to follow in mirror actions with the Judicial Committee of the House of Representatives, chaired by Jerry Nadler (New York).

The calendar

August.- Committees in the Senate will meet virtually to elaborate projects for the Reconciliation process, including a proposal for undocumented immigrants.

September.- The comprehensive project is expected to be completed and should be sent to Parliamentarian MacDonough, who will determine if the plan is viable to be approved by a simple majority, as it must meet budget requirements.

October.- In the event that the parliamentarian approves the immigration proposal, the Senate and the Chamber will make adjustments. There is a possibility that the bill will be approved that month, but a delay is also contemplated.

November.- Possible approval in Congress of the budget project including migratory adjustments.

The economic justification

Activists and congressmen have explained to this newspaper that the prompt approval of an immigration reform, however minimal, must be with an economic justification, that is, that it has a positive impact on the budget and that its application does not become a burden. for public finances.

Democrats are preparing several scenarios to grant the 'green card' - the first step to citizenship - to the largest possible number of undocumented immigrants, but the proposals in Congress include at least the 'dreamers', the people under Protective Status Temporary (TPS), field workers and essential workers in medical and food service areas, among other sectors.

"If we go beyond what is allowed under those rules, and if we are not clear in our arguments, she may decide that no, that we cannot put immigration reform under the Reconciliation process," acknowledged representative Ruiz in an interview .

The activist and legislative expert Lia Parada , director of Legislative Advocacy at Immigration Hub, also agreed on this. "We are not (considered the more than 10 million) undocumented, it is very detailed, they are the dreamers, those who have TPS, those who have field work ... and those who worked in essential industries during the pandemic," said Parada.

Leading Causes of Death and Greater COVID-19 Impact on Hispanic Men in the U.S.

By Amber Schaffer

As life starts to return to a "new" normal from the COVID-19 pandemic, we are slowly coming to a point where the number of COVID-19 cases are decreasing. More and more individuals are able to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in the U.S.

Over the course of the pandemic, we have seen COVID-19 take the lives of family members, friends, colleagues, and loved ones. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as of July 9, 2021, a total of 2,297,764 people have been hospitalized in the U.S. due to COVID-19 and 33,604,986 people have reported having COVID-19. Not only has the pandemic changed our lives on a personal, social, and emotional level, but it has also affected the death rates in the U.S. Over the past 18 months, we have witnessed the leading causes of death shift throughout the U.S.

Health System Tracker points out that as of January of this year, COVID-19 had surpassed both heart disease and cancer to become the leading cause of death. The article explains that COVID-19 has since dropped to seventh place in the top ten leading causes of death (June 2021). The top three leading causes of death for men in the U.S. are now heart disease, cancer, and unintentional injury.

Although COVID has taken the lives of many, as of June 2020, 57% of COVID-19 deaths have been men according to the CDC. Hispanic or Latino persons have a death rate that is 2.3 times higher than white, non-Hispanic persons. So, why has COVID-19 had a greater impact on men and Hispanic or Latino men?

Experts have theorized that the reason more men have died due to COVID-19 is because of men's approach to their personal health. Most men are not as proactive about their health as women. Compared to women, men are less likely to schedule annual visits with a primary healthcare provider. Furthermore, men prioritize their health less than women do. Men are more likely to have weaker adaptive immune systems and preexisting health conditions, such as obesity and diabetes, which are likely to increase chances of dying from COVID-19, according to the CDC.

Pre-existing conditions and other factors can come from certain behaviors that are prominently linked to men. Among those, the CDC reports that men have higher rates of tobacco and alcohol use than women. Additionally, women are more likely than men to practice good COVID-19 health behaviors such as hand washing, wearing a mask, and social distancing. Each of these factors have played a role in the increased death rate of men due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S.

Hispanic or Latino men are more susceptible to COVID-19 because they are at higher risk of workplace exposure. According to WebMD many of the front-line workers for essential locations were Hispanic or Latino Americans. Because of this, they were impacted more severely by the pandemic.

While vaccines are now available, COVID-19 vaccination rates in men lag slightly behind that for women. And, the Kaiser Family Foundation reports that the highest vaccination rates are among Asians (62%), with whites (47%), Hispanics (39%) and blacks (34%) following in that order. Women are more likely to be vaccinated than men, and early on in the national vaccination campaign the gap between men and women was substantial, but now the gap has dwindled with women receiving about 53.5% of vaccines.The fact that women continue to trend in vaccine acceptance is not surprising as national data shows that women tend to get vaccinations, particularly for seasonal flu, at much higher rates than men.

The reasons men continue to be reluctant to be vaccinated against a virus that causes significantly more severe illness and death in men is complex, multifaceted and still poorly understood. However, most health experts believe that part of the reason men, particularly younger men, are not being vaccinated is because of the overall lower levels of health service use by men. Part of the reason is the stigma men often wrongfully associate with seeking hearthcare, that using health services somehow takes away from their sense of self-reliance, ability to "fight it" and invincibility.

We know that men were greatly impacted by the pandemic, both emotionally and physically and they continue to face difficulties. Men's Health Network (MHN) celebrated Men's Health Month this June to encourage men to improve their health, especially when it comes to COVID-19.

MHN promoted men's health through three twitter chats, one of which focused on vaccine hesitancy among men. Additionally,MHN hosted a webinar with the Department of Health and Human Services on Men's Health, Gender Equity, and the COVID-19 Pandemic and a Congressional Briefing on Men's Mental Health and COVID-19. Both of which can be viewed on YouTube here and here.

MHN has also partnered with the Patience Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) on three evidence-based research papers that explore the connection between the COVID-19 pandemic and men. Links to these research papers can be found at the bottom of this article.

Men's Health Network invites you to continue raising awareness about Men's Health and the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope that together we can work to improve the well-being of all men, boys, and their families.

El Festejo de Carl's Jr. para sus 80 Años Sirvió como Inspiración Para La Nueva Generación de Emprendedores Hispanos

La celebración de los 80 años de Carl's Jr.® es una inspiración a todas las generaciones y también para aquellos emprendedores que buscan realizar sus sueños empresariales. Desde un puesto de tacos o pupusas hasta aquellos que ya tengan su primera localidad de restaurante o también para aquellos jóvenes bloggers o influencers que se identifican con una marca de comida rápida que representan su sentido de comunidad o también aquellos dueños de pequeños negocios que estén viendo cual es el siguiente paso para expandir su negocio. Todas las comunidades alrededor de California e inclusive alrededor del país quienes se proponen en lograr una meta pueden identificarse en transformar un sueño a una realidad empresarial semejante.

Pero Carl Jr. y su esposa Margaret Karcher, no solo contribuyeron a construir una empresa con más de 1,000 localidades alrededor del mundo; ellos también construyeron y le inculcaron a su familia sus valores en prioridad como la fé primero, luego la familia, su pasión por lo que les guste y la importancia de crear y ayudar a la comunidad. El legado de la familia Karcher está lleno de buenas obras comunitarias tanto para sus empleados como para todos aquellos quienes le han pedido ayuda. Los Karcher siempre han sido discretos sobre sus contribuciones, aunque son conocidos en Anaheim por sus obras filantrópicas, relató el Alcalde de Anaheim Harry Sidhu al entregarle a Ned Lyerly, CEO de CKE Restaurants un certificado de reconocimiento a la empresa.

Carl's Jr.® es conocido por sus jugosas hamburguesas con una deliciosa fusión de sabores Californianos que incluyen ingredientes culinarios mexicanos como los jalapeños, el guacamole y hasta los burritos y nachos.
En ese mundo de 1941 sumergido en los horrores de la Segunda Guerra Mundial, Carl Karcher y su esposa ahorraron 15 dólares y pidieron prestados otros 311 para comprar un automóvil Plymouth y un carrito de hot dogs que pusieron en la esquina de las calles Florence y Central en Los Ángeles. Con estos pocos recursos y un sueño, Karcher fundó una de las cadenas de comida rápida más populares del mundo.

En ese puesto, los Karcher vendían perros con chili, hot dogs e, increíblemente, tamales por 10 centavos de dólar, pero podías agregar un refresco por cinco centavos más. Los hot dogs de Carl y Margaret fueron lo suficientemente buenos para permitirles poner otros cuatro carritos en la ciudad. Con ese momentum, la pareja se mudó a Anaheim y, justo cuando Carl cumplía 28 años en 1945, lograron abrir su primer restaurante de servicio completo y hamburguesas en el menú: el Carl's

Drive-In Barbecue. Este primer restaurante estaba ubicado en el número 1108 de Palm Street, hoy Harbor. Los Karcher asumieron un riesgo por su sueño y los ingredientes para lograr el éxito fue una actitud y mentalidad positiva; y el trato a sus clientes era como si fueran huéspedes en su propia casa.

Durante la celebración, abierta al público e invitados especiales pudieron degustar un menú único de cumpleaños tal como los hot dogs originales Western Bacon Dog, Famous Star Dog servidos por el Chef Owen Klein, VP Global de Innovación Culinaria de CKE Restaurants y las icónicas hamburguesas Carl's Jr. que se han popularizado a través de los años. Estos fueron servidos para rendir homenaje a como Carl Karcher comenzó la marca como un puesto de hot dogs en Los Angeles y también se sirvieron los cotizados batidos tales como los Cake Shakes con los sabores de Chocolate Oreo Cake Shake, Strawberry Cheesecake Shake y el Unicorn Shake.

El pasado sábado, 17 de julio Carl's Jr.® celebró sus 80 años en Anaheim con más de 100 invitados reunidos para dar tributo a esta icónica marca y menú Californiano, todos disfrutaron de una tarde llena de alegría, música y un caluroso sentido de comunidad y camaradería entre la familia Karcher, altos ejecutivos, empleados, el público y varios medios y jóvenes influencers hispanos, todo con la animación de la mascota Happy Star.

AS WE CONTINUE TO WORK FOR THE FULL REOPENING OF CALIFORNIA'S ECONOMY… LET'S NOT FORGET TO SCHEDULE REGULAR HEALTHCARE CHECK-UPS

While our community confronted the COVID-19 pandemic, other health priorities became secondary. Many individuals and families forewent regular healthcare check-ups for themselves and their children. For instance, as households were often devoted throughout the pandemic to protecting each other against COVID-19, there were steep declines in the use of children's preventive health services that include scheduled well-child visits and childhood immunizations.

Health Plan San Joaquin (HPSJ) and our healthcare provider partners are concerned by these trends, especially as they relate to the unmet healthcare needs of children. In collaboration with our provider partners, HPSJ committed to enhancing community outreach efforts that encourage individuals and families to schedule primary care, well-child, and other clinical visits. As our network of providers worked hard throughout 2020 to reopen their practices, HPSJ and our provider partners contacted HPSJ members to coordinate preventive health services for children who may have missed scheduled clinical visits amid the pandemic.

Going further, HPSJ staff partnered with doctors, safety net medical systems and clinics to educate on best practices related to telehealth visits throughout the pandemic. We joined with a medical group to implement drive-up immunization and well care visits. Local schools were also an important community-wide collaborator, helping us get information to parents on the importance of timely well care visits and immunizations for their children.

The pandemic created several healthcare access challenges for San Joaquin and Stanislaus County residents. However, as the state is reopening, most healthcare providers have been welcoming patients back to catch-up on preventive healthcare services. These services are particularly important for the healthy development of children who are recommended to receive various scheduled immunizations and screenings to identify diseases and conditions in their most treatable stages from birth through early adulthood.

All individuals and families, especially those with young children, are encouraged to schedule a check-up with a healthcare provider as soon as possible. Our healthcare providers and their practice staff are eager to help. Health Plan of San Joaquin is the local, non-profit, public health plan. HPSJ is the leading Medi-Cal managed care provider in San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties. HPSJ members are mostly working households and children, plus seniors and disabled residents. For more, go to www.hpsj.com.

COLLINS ELECTRICAL COMPANY, INC. RECOGNIZED AS TOP U.S. SOLAR INSTALLATION COMPANY

COLLINS ELECTRIC IS RANKED #12 IN CALIFORNIA AND #73 IN THE U.S. OUT OF OVER 400 COMPANIES ON THE 2021 TOP SOLAR CONTRACTORS LIST

The U.S. solar industry is on the upswing, thanks to a pro-renewables presidential administration and increased concern over climate change. Collins Electrical Company, Inc. has had a front-row seat to this action, with business increasing over the last year. Solar Power World has recognized the company's installation success by ranking Collins Electrical Company, Inc. at No. 73 in the U.S and No. 12 in California on the 2021 Top Solar Contractors list.

The Top Solar Contractors list is developed each year by Solar Power World to honor the work of solar installers in the United States. Solar firms in the utility, commercial and residential markets are ranked by number of kilowatts installed in the previous year. Companies are grouped and listed by specific service, markets, and states. "Not even COVID-19 closures and slowdowns could prevent the solar industry from installing fantastic numbers last year," said Kelly Pickerel, editor in chief of Solar Power World. "The Solar Power World team is so glad to recognize over 400 companies on the 2021 Top Solar Contractors list that not only survived a pandemic but thrived in spite of it."

Collins Electrical Company, Inc. employs over 500 workers who installed 16.5 MW of solar power in 2020. Since its founding in 1928 the company has installed 132.97 MW DC of solar. The company is the leader in floating photovoltaics (FPV), also known as Floatovoltaics. Collins Electrical has built the largest FPV in California in 2019 and the largest in the nation as of 2020. Due to an increased demand for energy, photovoltaic systems and components have changed and advanced considerably in recent years. Collins Electrical has highly trained technicians that stay ahead of this fast-changing technology in order to engineer, manage and install these systems for the benefit of its customers, society, and the environment. "It is an exciting time to be involved in the energy industry" says Wen Luu, Collins Electrical Company, Inc. Renewables Project Executive. "With all the changes in technology, new solar delivery systems, and now the emergence of energy storage systems, you just can't help but be excited".

RTD Partners with Delta College to Offer Free Rides to Students

Stockton, CA—In partnership with San Joaquin Delta College, San Joaquin Regional Transit District (RTD) will offer free unlimited transit for all Delta College students beginning August 23, 2021.

The one-year program offers Delta students the use of RTD transit to go anywhere fixed-route services can take them.

To ride free, students must obtain new Delta College issued student ID cards and present it to the Operator as required. RTD BRT Express Route 40 stops in front of Delta College and is a fast, reliable, and safe service that runs every weekday with 15 minute frequency from 6:10 a.m. to 6:15 p.m.

Delta students should check their email for instructions on how to obtain their new ID cards.

In addition to traveling to and from the College, students may use their student ID to gain free access to transportation throughout the County. "This partnership will also help us to gather valuable ridership data as a part of our ongoing efforts to learn the travel patterns and behavior to better serve our community," CEO Salazar said.

The August 23 launch of the free transit partnership also marks the start of fall semester at Delta College, and the return of more in-person classes and services. Delta College Superintendent/President Dr. Omid Pourzanjani said many Delta students face challenging financial circumstances and previously may not have had the means to travel to the College or around the community.

"We are excited about a partnership that will provide not only access to education, but also employment opportunities and more for our students," Dr. Pourzanjani said. "We must do everything we can to support them and help them reach their goals. Equal access to quality, affordable transportation is key to the economic and social wellbeing of our entire community."

This partnership also supports one of RTD's core values, which includes a commitment to environmental sustainability. Studies published by University of Kansas—Lawrence Campus and University of Nebraska at Omaha have noted the benefits of alternative transportation over single-occupancy vehicles to not only decrease the need for additional parking structures on college campuses, but also to improve air quality for the community.

County skilled labor program graduates first cohort, looks to recruit more for next session

By Brianna Guillory

The first cohort of graduates from High Road Construction Careers SB1/MC3 Building Construction Apprenticeship Readiness program – also known as Valley Build – in San Joaquin County took place at California Human Development in Stockton on Friday.

Eleven county residents participated in the eight-week tuition-free program, where they learned the foundational skills for trades such as construction, iron working, plumbing and electrical. Graduates from the program received various certifications – including OSHA 10, blueprint reading, forklift and more – and will take the skills they've learned to enter into apprenticeship programs and build up their careers.

Valley Build currently spans to four Central Valley counties: Fresno, Kern, Merced and, the newest, San Joaquin County. It is spearheaded by California Human Development, in partnership with local labor organizations, including the San Joaquin Building Trades Council and San Joaquin County WorkNet. Now that the program has graduated its first group in the county, the next session is already scheduled to start this fall and the program is already in the recruitment phase for its next cohort.

"This is what we call the other four-year degree. So, a student comes to school here, they go into an apprenticeship program in the associated union they chose. In four years, they reach 'journeyman scale,'" said Eric Cosgrove, building construction instructor for the program. "Currently, say the laborers union: their pay plus benefit package is about $58 an hour. After four years, they're (the graduates) going to gross take home pay anywhere between $60,000- and-80,000-a-year with zero college debt."

Kimball High School class of 2021 alumnus Jose Rocha seized the opportunity to be part of the county's inaugural program as soon as he graduated. Rocha said he learned about the program through his mom who noticed the Valley Build program being shared on social media and saw it as great chance for him to get a jump start in the construction field, something he has been eyeing since high school.

"So she sent me the link, and then I applied to it, and they called me like the next weekend," said Rocha. "It's been good here because they teach us plumbing, electrical and carpentry. We also learned to do bricks and tile. So they taught us like a lot of stuff here."

Since Rocha came straight from high school graduation, he missed out on having a traditional summer vacation. But he has no regrets.

"It's good, because now I get a head start on my career and stuff instead of waiting and missing out on opportunities," he said.

Moving on from Valley Build, Rocha is currently looking into labor apprenticeship positions and hopes to eventually move up to become an ironworker in building construction. He is one of three graduates who are from the Tracy area.

But just because these 11 graduates are now moving on to bigger and better things, it does not mean their connection to the Valley Build program severs upon completion. Students are encouraged to network with their peers and maintain relationships with their mentors down the road.

"I'll say there are two ways in this. There's a formal way, right? Where we actually do periodically touch base. 'How are you doing? Where are you?' But then the informal part is this guy," said California Human Development CEO Thomas Stuebner as he motioned over to Cosgrove. "Everybody's got his phone number. And in it, because of the relationships that are formed, they know they can call him, either because things are going great or because, 'Hey, I'm getting ready to kind of shift jobs and would like your advice,' or 'Hey, you know what, there's actually something I didn't learn'…but that's the idea too. We don't just train them and drop them. It's actually about a relationship."

Those interested in signing up for the next Valley Build course in San Joaquin County can visit www.valleybuild.net and fill out the online form to be contacted by one of the program coordinators.

Rocha encourages anyone unsure about their career future and interested in trade crafts to apply for the program.

"I would say just to try it out. Because they teach us like a lot of different things here. I think we had around 14 union staff that came in and spoke to us to teach us about their trade," he said. "Which is good, because, at first, I didn't know about underground iron working and like all that stuff. So it taught me a lot of different trade jobs that I could apply to and eventually work at."

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Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul will become New York's first female governor after Cuomo's resignation

New York Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul will succeed Gov. Andrew Cuomo once he resigns in two weeks.

Cuomo announced on Tuesday that he will step down in 14 days. His decision came a week after independent investigators for the state's attorney general's office found that the governor sexually harassed 11 women, including his current and former employees.

Hochul, 62, is set to become the first woman to lead New York. She will serve for the rest of Cuomo's term until 2023.

"I agree with Governor Cuomo's decision to step down. It is the right thing to do and in the best interest of New Yorkers," Hochul said in a statement.

"As someone who has served at all levels of government and is next in the line of succession, I am prepared to lead as New York State's 57th governor," she added.

Hochul has not yet said whether she will seek a full term and run for governor in 2022. Cuomo, who has served as New York's governor since 2011, has withdrawn from the upcoming election.

Cutting her teeth as an aide for the late Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Hochul has assembled a robust network in New York politics over the decades, serving as Erie County clerk and in the US House from 2011 to 2013.

Her role as lieutenant governor was mainly geared toward promoting the governor's agenda and appearing frequently at local events. She has visited all of the Empire State's 62 counties and balanced the ticket with Cuomo as someone from the more rural Upstate New York region.

Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, a Yonkers Democrat, will assume the responsibilities of lieutenant governor. Hochul can pick an interim replacement for Stewart-Cousins' role.

If Hochul decides to run for reelection in 2022, she would be able to select her own nominee for lieutenant governor on the ticket.

Cuomo's resignation marks a dramatic turn of events after he defended

himself against the slew of sexual harassment allegations and rejected the findings of Attorney General Letitia James' 165-page report last week. The months-long investigation found that Cuomo sexually harassed female staffers by "engaging in unwelcome and nonconsensual touching, as well as making numerous offensive comments of a suggestive and sexual nature."

Ahead of his resignation announcement on Tuesday, Cuomo apologized for offending women with behavior that he described as "outdated."

Congressional and state lawmakers last week swiftly called on Cuomo to resign in light of the report's conclusions. President Joe Biden also said the governor should step down.

"Certainly we look forward to working with her," White House press secretary Jen Psaki said of Hochul during a press briefing on Tuesday.

New York experienced a similar leadership shakeup in 2008, when Gov. Eliot Spitzer resigned amid a prostitution scandal and Lt. Gov. David Paterson took over.

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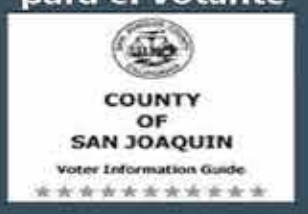

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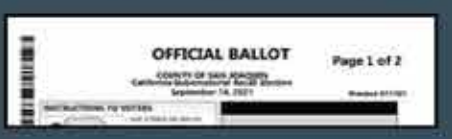

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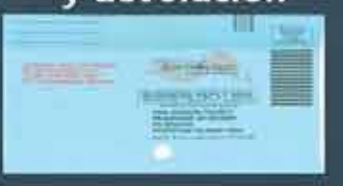

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- *En cualquier recinto de votación el día de la elección, el 14 de septiembre de 7am-8pm*

Votación en persona

- *Oficina de Registro de Votantes a partir del 16 de agosto*
- *Ampliación del horario de atención de la Oficina del Registro de Votantes sábado 11 de septiembre 8am-5pm*
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