

20 de Enero 2022

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NEW ISSUE

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Commentary/Comentario

Division Stagnates the United States and Puts Democracy at Risk

Maribel Hastings

Although 2021 is already part of history, it has left us with—among many other things—two discouraging and worrisome aspects: on the one hand, a new COVID-19 variant that is already devastating the world over and, on the other, a nation and a Congress—here in the United States—that is dangerously divided, not only in its ability to effectively confront a virus that is here to stay, but to advance a legislative agenda that helps us as a country. This division continues to put the democratic foundation of this republic at risk.

It was really painful to see how, during the commemoration of the first anniversary of the attempted coup by Trump fanatics—which resulted in destruction, chaos, and deaths in the federal Capitol Build-

ing—Republicans stood out for their absence, insisting on turning the page because “there’s nothing

“What’s most worrisome if that the divided Democratic Party doesn’t seem to understand the gravity of what is happening under its noses.”

to see here,” as the song goes.

One year and two months after the election that Democrat Joe Biden won and Republican Donald J. Trump lost, we continue to hear the great lie on behalf of those Republicans, that Biden won by “fraud” and he is not the legitimately elected president. It’s not that

they actually believe it, but they exploit it to maintain the support of an ever-growing segment of the Republican Party that has become the cult of Trump.

Witness the discredited Republican Congressman from Florida, Matt Gaetz, exploiting another conspiracy theory and saying that the attack on the Capitol was actually planned and perpetrated by the federal government itself, in order to discredit Trump.

To demonstrate the level of division in which we find ourselves as a country, consider that it was former Vice-President Dick Cheney who accompanied his daughter, Congresswoman Liz Cheney, to the commemoration ceremony that the Democrats organized this January 6. Dick Cheney always generated Democratic criticism for his ultraconservative positions and his central role in initiating the



Photo/Info: América's Voice

war in Iraq, based on lies about the existence of weapons of mass destruction in that country. But the fight against the Trumpism that has engulfed the Republican Party, has placed Cheney and the Democrats on the same side. If Cheney is now a Democratic ally, imagine the level of extremism of the “Trumpistas.”

The nation was already divided before COVID appeared in our

collective and personal lives. But there is no doubt that these divisions have been greatly exacerbated by the pandemic, because Republicans have been exploiting it politically, attacking the health measures that we have tried to implement in order to minimize the virus’ impact—from vaccines to masks.

Following Biden’s triumph in November 2020, many people thought that reason and common sense would finally reign. But Biden has not only run into the wall of Republican opposition to his agenda, but into the Democrats’ own internal divisions which, at the end of the day, are what have prevented legislative achievements of all sorts from social programs to infrastructure, protection of the right to vote, and immigration.

See Hastings on page 18

La División Estanca a EEUU y Pone en Riesgo su Democracia

Maribel Hastings

Aunque el 2021 ya es historia, nos ha dejado, entre muchas otras cosas, dos preocupantes y desalentadores elementos: por una parte, una nueva variante del Covid 19 que está haciendo escantes alrededor del mundo; y, por otra, una nación y un Congreso —aquí en Estados Uni-

dos— peligrosamente divididos, no solo para poder enfrentar efectivamente el virus que llegó para quedarse, sino para poder avanzar una agenda legislativa que nos ayude como país. Una división que sigue poniendo en riesgo los fundamentos democráticos de esta república.

Fue realmente penoso ver cómo al conmemorarse el prim-

er aniversario de la intentona de golpe de estado de los fanáticos de Trump, que resultó en destrucción, caos y muertes en el Capitolio federal, los republicanos brillaron por su ausencia, pues insisten en que hay que pasar la página porque “aquí no ha pasado nada”, como dice la canción.

A un año y dos meses de la elección que ganó el demócrata Joe Biden y que perdió el republicano Donald J. Trump, todavía seguimos escuchando de parte de esos republicanos la gran mentira de que Biden ganó por “fraude” y de que no es el presidente legítimamente electo. Y no es que realmente lo crean, pero lo explotan para mantener el apoyo del segmento cada vez mayor del Partido Republicano que se tornó en un culto a Trump.

Así tenemos a un desacredit-

ado congresista republicano de Florida, Matt Gaetz, explotando otra teoría conspirativa, diciendo que el ataque al Capitolio fue realmente planificado y perpetrado por el propio gobierno federal para desacreditar a Trump.

Para demostrar el grado de división en que nos encontramos como país, fue el vicepresidente republicano, Dick Cheney, el que acompañó a su hija, la congresista Liz Cheney, al acto de conmemoración que llevaron a cabo los demócratas el 6 de enero. Dick Cheney siempre generó críticas demócratas por sus posturas ultraconservadores y su papel central en iniciar una guerra contra Irak, basada en mentiras sobre la existencia de armas de destrucción masiva en ese país. Pero la lucha contra el Trumpismo que

“Lo más preocupante es que el Partido Demócrata dividido no parece entender la gravedad de lo que está pasando ante sus narices.”

ha engullido al Partido Republicano ha colocado a Cheney y a los demócratas en el mismo bando. Si Cheney ya es un aliado demócrata, imagine el grado de extremismo de los trumpistas.

La nación ya estaba dividida antes de la aparición del Covid en nuestras vidas colectivas y personales. Pero no cabe duda de que con la pandemia esas divisiones se han exacerbado en gran medida, porque han sido los republicanos quienes la han explotado políticamente, atacando las medidas de salubridad que han tratado de implementarse para minimizar el impacto del virus, desde la vacuna hasta el uso de mascarillas.

Tras el triunfo de Biden en noviembre de 2020 muchos pensaron que finalmente reinarían la razón y el sentido común. Pero Biden no solo se ha topado con el muro de oposición republicana a su agenda, sino a las propias divisiones internas entre los demócratas que, al final de cuentas, son los que han impedido logros legislativos a todos los niveles, desde programas sociales, hasta infrae-

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ASESINOS SILENCIOSOS

CONTAMINANTES DEL AIRE Y EN NUESTROS ALIMENTOS
En este episodio nos reencontramos con Javier Sierra, Director Asociado de Comunicaciones de Sierra Club, para hablar de como los distintos contaminantes afectan a nuestro organismo, las leyes que nos protegen de ellos, y qué podemos hacer cuando los alimentos que consumimos también están contaminados.

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We’ve launched the We Are One Colorado campaign to hold Colorado elected officials accountable in 2018. Together, we must unite for Colorado values—fairness, opportunity, and independence—to ensure that we continue to improve the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer Coloradans in spite of the current Federal Administration.

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See Hastings/Esp, página 5

It's Time for Colorado to Protect Abortion Access (Again)

Dusti Gurule and Karen Middleton

Colorado needs to act to protect abortion access, today, tomorrow and always.

And as leaders of the abortion rights organization Cobalt, and the reproductive justice organization COLOR, we are calling on the Colorado General Assembly to step in, just as it did in 1967, when we became the first state to decriminalize abortion, and affirmatively protect abortion rights in Colorado.

It's time we meet the moment with action, not just words. And this moment is a crisis for our Constitutional right to access abortion.

With the Supreme Court's inaction on the Texas abortion ban, Senate Bill 8, and the majority's hostility to abortion rights, it's clearly time for Colorado to act. Currently, no law in Colorado protects the right to or access to abortion. To fix that problem, the Reproductive Health Equity Act, or RHEA, will be introduced in the Colorado General Assembly in 2022. The prime sponsors are State Sen. Julie Gonzales and State Rep. Meg Froelich, and Colorado House Majority Leader Daneya Esgar.

The Reproductive Health Equity Act will ensure every individual has the fundamental right to choose or refuse contraception; every individual who becomes pregnant has a fundamental right to choose to continue a pregnancy and give birth or to have an abortion; and a fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus does not have independent rights under the laws of Colorado.



Photo: COLOR



Photo: Karen Middleton

Colorado needs to take action now. It's been more than five months since the Texas vigilante abortion ban, SB 8, has been in effect. The right-wing majority on the U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly refused to enjoin this blatantly unconstitutional Texas anti-abortion bounty hunter law, which bans all abortions with no exceptions after fetal cardiac activity can be detected, generally around 6 weeks after a person's last menstrual period.

Pre-viability abortion bans are unconstitutional under the Supreme Court's rulings in *Roe* and 1992's *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*. As Justice Sonia Sotomayor put it, "the Court should have stopped this madness months ago."

But conservatives on the Supreme Court, including three Trump-appointed justices, have refused. It appears they want to delay the case as long as possible until they can gut or overturn *Roe* in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health*, the case that represents a direct challenge to *Roe*. Oral argu-

ments were heard in this case on Dec. 1, 2021, and a decision is expected in June 2022.



It's time we meet the moment with action, not just words. And this moment is a crisis for our Constitutional right to access abortion.

The suffering caused by the Texas law and the court's inaction cannot be overstated. And that suffering always falls most heavily on communities of color, low-income people, young people, people with disabilities, the LGBTQ community, and those least able to access health care. Pregnant people who can afford it are seeking abortions in other states, including Colorado. But most people can't. Their constitutional right to abortion effectively no longer exists for them in Texas.

It is clear at this point that the constitutional right to abortion established in *Roe v. Wade* 50 years ago may be entirely overturned next year in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health*. It has already ceased to exist for many people across the country, in Texas and other states where impossible to overcome barriers to care have been passed into law by anti-abortion legislators and governors.

We simply cannot count on the federal courts to protect our rights in Colorado. And *Roe* has always been a floor, not a ceiling. We must ensure that abortion is not only legal but also accessible for anyone who wants it, without stigma, cost barriers, or political interference.

Coloradans agree on protecting abortion access and reproductive rights. It's a fundamental part of our Colorado values. Forty-one abortion bans or restrictions have been introduced at the Colorado General Assembly since 2010. All of them have been defeated. Four abortion bans have been attempted on the Colorado ballot since 2008. All of

them have failed by landslide margins thanks to Colorado voters. The most recent, 2020's Proposition 115, lost by 20 points.

We are in a state of emergency for reproductive rights and justice. That is why COLOR and COBALT will continue to rise up and act with our partners in this movement to affirmatively protect abortion rights, and we are calling on the Colorado General Assembly to do the same with the Reproductive Health Equity Act.

Dusti Gurule is president and CEO of Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity & Reproductive Rights, or COLOR. Karen Middleton is the president of Cobalt, a Denver-based advocacy organization that supports abortion access and reproductive rights. This article is republished from Colorado Newswire under a Creative Commons license. Read the original article [here](#).

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Hastings/Esp

estructura, protección del derecho al voto e inmigración.

Es decir, que Biden entra a un año de elecciones intermedias sin logros, hasta ahora, que presentar a los electores, con divisiones internas en su partido, con un Partido Republicano que ya se siente seguro de que arrebatarán las mayorías del Congreso a los demócratas, y con una nación con una pandemia que está teniendo secuelas a todos los niveles: personal, colectivo, económico, educativo y político.

Lo más preocupante es que el Partido Demócrata dividido no parece entender la gravedad de lo que está pasando ante sus narices, y el Partido Republicano, una vez más, trata de tener ganancias políticas sustentándose en men-

tiras, ignorancia, xenofobia, racismo y con el apoyo de un sector electoral que ha probado que no le importa literalmente pisotear la Constitución y las instituciones democráticas.

Visto desde lejos, lo que está ocurriendo en la política de Estados Unidos es inverosímil, pero es muy real. Los demócratas tienen que ponerse las pilas no únicamente para tratar de mantener sus estrechas mayorías en el Congreso este año, o la Casa Blanca en 2024. Se está librando una batalla por la democracia de esta nación; una democracia vapuleada durante la presidencia de Trump y lacerada durante la elección de 2020 y los intentos republicanos de anular la voluntad del pueblo. Biden y su partido van a necesitar mucho más

que discursos bonitos y vigiliadas para hacer frente al virus de odio y extremismo que ha infectado al Partido Republicano y que, como el Covid, sigue extendiendo sus tentáculos a través de la nación.

Maribel Hastings es Asesora Ejecutiva de América's Voice.

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America's Climate Forest Must be Protected Now and for Future Generations

Wanda Kashudoha Loescher Culp and Osprey Orielle Lake

The snow builds up at this time of year in the far northern forests of the Tongass in Alaska, blanketing this often lush green landscape. The bears that travel across the ravines during summer are now resting, hibernating until spring. The buzzing that comes from a forest teeming with life is now a peaceful hush, save for the calls of a raven or the soft dampened steps of the elk and deer. Every season we see the Tongass in a new light, offering points of wisdom and ways of being that stretch back farther than humanity. However, as we recognize the beauty of the season, we are also alarmed at how unpredictable the weather has become throughout



Photo: WEGAN



Photo: WEGAN

the year as communities in Alaska are challenged with climate-related extreme weather events—from record breaking snowfall to wind and ice storms to unusually high temperatures.

The Tongass is one of the largest intact temperate rainforests remaining on Earth, spanning across

500 miles of Southeast Alaska, the forest provides habitat and refuge to over 400 wildlife species, including some of the highest concentrations of wolves, bears, and eagles. Approximately the size of West Virginia, the forest is also the foundation of traditional Tlingit lifeways—from cultural and spiritual practices

to the food and medicines they depend upon—a tether to the ancestors who have lived in reciprocity and respect with this land since time immemorial.

As communities worldwide feel the ever-worsening impacts of climate change, global forests, like the Tongass, are crucial in collective efforts to combat negative climate impacts due to their ability to sequester vast amounts of carbon. Living forests create and maintain the cycles of air, water and soil that sustain the Earth and our communities. In this context, the Tongass has been heralded as "America's Climate Forest," a global champion in carbon sequestration. According to a 2021 study by Wild Heritage, the Tongass is responsible for holding more than 40% of all carbon stored by U.S. national forests.

How we respond to this critical moment rests on our collective shoulders; our voices and action can make a significant difference.

Yet, this precious ancient forest has been under attack for decades.

Most recently, in October 2020, the Trump Administration, against the will of the public and tribal leadership, ruled that the Tongass be exempt from the hard-won 2001 National Roadless Rule. Providing

See Culp/Lake on page 16

Majority of Voters Want to Stop For-Profit Immigrant Detention

Brian Tashman

A recent poll commissioned by the American Civil Liberties Union and YouGov found that 68 percent of voters want the federal government

to stop pursuing contracts with for-profit prison corporations to open private immigrant detention centers. Americans have become more aware of the inhumane conditions and twisted business model of the private prison industry,

and want President Biden to follow through on his promise to "end for-profit detention centers."

President Biden has repeatedly expressed strong and deep-seated opposition to the use of for-profit prisons to detain immigrants and

called for their closure. In April 2021, the president told immigrant rights activists in Georgia that "there should be no private prisons, period, none, period. Private detention centers, they should not exist, and we are working to close all of them."

Despite having a popular mandate to end the practice, the Biden administration has continued to go against its own stated policy and values — along with the wishes of the majority of Americans — by seeking out new contracts with private prison companies to detain immigrants throughout the country.

During his successful campaign, Biden's "Plan for Securing Our Values as a Nation of Immigrants" included this unequivocal pledge: "End for-profit detention centers. No business should profit from the suffering of desperate people fleeing violence."

Similarly, Biden's "Plan for Strengthening America's Commitment to Justice" stated that he will "end the federal government's use of private prisons" and "make clear that the federal government should not use private facilities for any detention, including detention of undocumented immigrants."

This pledge has broad support from the American people, and they want the president to follow through.

Shortly after his inauguration, the president issued an executive order to phase out its contracts with private prison companies, but the order did not apply to pri-

ivate immigrant detention facilities, where nearly 80 percent of detained immigrants are held, often in brutal conditions.

This loophole gave private prison corporations an opportunity to land new contracts and stay in the business of incarcerating people. For-profit companies like CoreCivic and GEO Group have worked to turn facilities whose federal contracts to imprison people for the

It's time to close private prisons and shut down the immigrant detention machine notorious for COVID-19 surges, physical brutality, sexual abuse, racist mistreatment, and denials of due process, not expand it.

Department of Justice ended under the executive order into immigrant detention facilities. That way, they can make new lucrative contracts that profit off human misery.

While Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas announced his intention to shut down inhumane facilities in spring 2021, DHS is now moving to award new contracts to private prison companies.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has already start-

See Tashman on page 18



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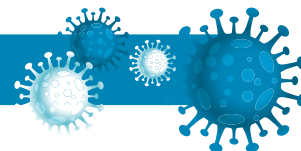
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The program is available through 2023.
Learn more at CLIMBER-colorado.com.









Officials Struggle to Regulate Pop-Up Covid Testing Sites

By Michelle Andrews

In recent months, mobile covid-19 testing tents and vans have sprouted on urban sidewalks and street curbs as demand has skyrocketed in response to the rapid spread of the omicron variant.

Some of the sites run by private companies offer legitimate, timely and reliable results, but others are more like weeds.

High demand and scarce supply opened the door to bad actors, and officials in some states are having a hard time keeping up their oversight amid the proliferation. And they are sounding the alarm that by visiting the pop-up industry's sometimes makeshift tents, desperate patients could be putting their health, wallets and personal data at risk.

"These conditions change so rapidly," said Gigi Gronvall, a senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security who leads the [COVID-19 Testing](#)

[Toolkit](#), which provides guidance to employers and others. "It's not a surprise that these conditions were totally ripe for consumers to be gouged and to get fraudulent tests."

Consumers seeking testing — either a rapid antigen test that provides results in under an hour or a polymerase chain reaction, or PCR, test that generally takes longer but is more accurate — may think all testing sites are created equal, but they're not. Unfortunately, telling the good from the bad is not always easy.

Consumers at testing sites in the Chicago area have encountered employees who aren't wearing masks or gloves or have been asked to provide a Social Security or credit card number before a test is provided, said Dr. [Eve Bloomgarden](#), who co-founded Illinois Medical Professionals Action Collaborative Team, an advocacy group.

Fake testing sites put consumers at risk for identity theft, inaccurately or missing test results, and financial losses if they're charged for the tests, which are typically free to consumers.

"I don't think we can put this on the public to know" which sites are legitimate, Bloomgarden said. "Guidance needs to be coming from the state and regulated at the public health level."

In Philadelphia, workers at a sidewalk covid testing tent falsely claimed to be working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, said James Garrow, communications director for the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, in an emailed response to questions. But FEMA told the department it wasn't funding any testing centers in the city at the time.

"Currently, there are no quick markers to help folks know if a site is legitimate or not," Garrow said. "That's why we're investigating if it is possible to provide a placard to demonstrate that a site is legitimate."



Covid-19 testing tents located across New York City. / Carpas de pruebas para covid en distintas partes de la ciudad de Nueva York.

Photo/Foto: Elisabeth Rosenthal / KHN

It's hard to walk down a street in some parts of Manhattan without running into at least one or two of the pop-up sites. Leading up to the holidays, people stood in long lines in the cold waiting to be swabbed. Some vans and tents are clearly marked with company names, while others are operating out of what appear to be rental vans.

The sites were also ubiquitous in Los Angeles. In some places, testing sites run by the same company were clustered within easy walking distance of one another. In the pre-holiday rush, the operator at a Crestview Clinical Laboratory site on Wilshire Boulevard, who wouldn't give her name to a

See [Testings](#) on page 17

Funcionarios Advierten Sobre Sitios de Pruebas para COVID de Dudosa Calidad

By Michelle Andrews

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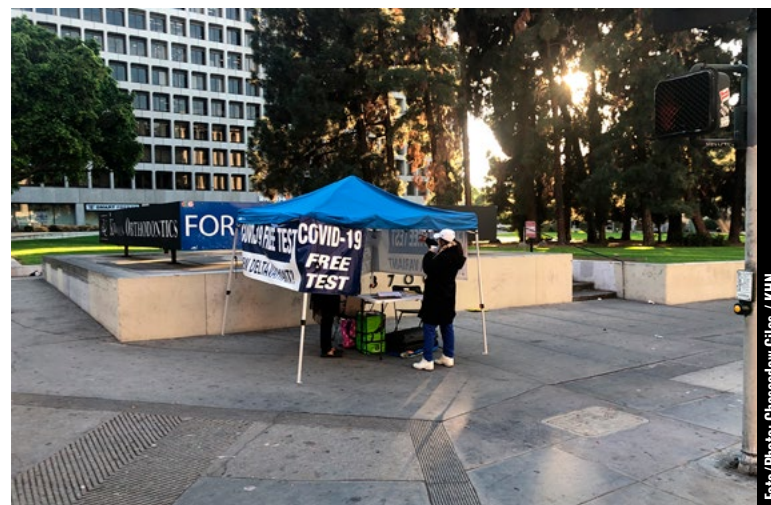
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Una carpa de Crestview Clinical Laboratory en Wilshire Boulevard, en Los Angeles, en diciembre de 2021. / A Crestview Clinical Laboratory site on Los Angeles' Wilshire Boulevard in December.

Foto/Photo: Chaseadaw Giles / KHN

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Vea [Pruebas](#), página 18

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Families Are Struggling Financially Due to the End of Child Tax Credit

By Jessica Corbett

Progressive lawmakers, advocates, and working parents spoke out last Friday as millions of families weighed what they will do without the temporarily expanded child tax credit (CTC) that has now ended after Democrats failed to pass the Build Back Better Act.

More than 30 million families have received the boosted benefit over the past six months, but the Senate hasn't yet voted on the House-approved package due to

total Republican opposition, Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) rejecting various provisions, and negotiations with the White House breaking down.

"The Senate has failed to extend this critical program at a time when coronavirus cases reach new highs and families feel the burden of corporate greed at the pump and register," said Fighting Chance for Families spokesperson McKenzie Wilson.

As the Omicron variant drives a nationwide surge in Covid-19 cases, experts warn that ending the



The Child Tax Credit. Parents are facing critical financial decisions as they go into the new year without child tax credits. / El crédito fiscal por hijos. Los padres se enfrentan a decisiones financieras críticas al entrar en el nuevo año sin créditos fiscales por hijos.



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monthly payments of up to \$300 per child—which were popular with voters across party lines—could push millions of children back or more deeply into poverty.

"As a mother of four, I stay home to care for my family while my husband provides the sole income for our household," said Jen Cousins, a Florida resident with four children. "Between covering the cost of necessary prescription drugs, especially for my youngest child who has health challenges, and expenses like car repairs for my family's sole vehicle, we're strapped on resources to provide for our family."

"My husband works hard, we budget, we're thrifty and buy generic drugs as much as possible. But healthcare is expensive, maintaining our sole car is expensive," she continued. "I don't know what my family is going to have to do this month, or even the next, in order to make ends meet without the monthly child tax credit payments. Will we go without a car or necessary medication?"

Benjamin Van Dyne, father of two in New York City, also shared how the expanded child tax credit (CTC) has made a difference for his family and how its expiration will impact them.

"Currently, I live with my two young children in the Bronx in a one-bedroom apartment with a foldout mattress," he said. "When I saw the CTC was expiring, my immediate reaction was that I can't afford to move my family into the larger space we need and deserve."

"Had the payments continued, I would have been able to finally move my family into a two-bedroom apartment to improve the quality of our lives. As they grow,

"Opposition to the Child Tax Credit risks sending 10 million children back into poverty. It is shameful that we have let these payments lapse even one day."

U.S. Rep. Barbara Lee

my kids need their own space, and god knows, I need mine," he added. "The CTC payments have kept us afloat for the last six months."

U.S. Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Calif.) emphasized that they are far from alone, explaining that "in the past year, I've heard from countless parents that just having an extra \$250 to \$300 per month often meant the difference between keeping food on the table or going hungry, making rent, or getting evicted."

"Opposition to the Child Tax Credit risks sending 10 million children back into poverty," she warned, citing research from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. "It is shameful that we have let these payments lapse even one day."

Lee vowed to "continue fighting in Congress and alongside advocates to pass Build Back Better and permanently address child

poverty," and while she wasn't the only House Democrat to highlight the CTC on January 14, there is no clear path forward for the package.

While not calling out Manchin by name, Mary Kay Henry of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) made a clear reference to his obstruction last Friday, highlighting that his opposition is at odds with the needs and demands of his constituents.

"Voters—including the voters of West Virginia where CTC has supported eight in 10 children—are demanding a game-changing investment in home care, action on climate change, and good union jobs," she said. "It's time for the Senate to pass Build Back Better, deliver for children and working families, and lift up entire communities. Our future depends on it."

U.S. Rep. Cori Bush (D-Mo.) did call out Manchin by name, saying that he "turned his back on our families."

Polling results released on January 14, by Invest in America and Data for Progress show that 65% of U.S. voters across the political spectrum, including 92% of Democrats, support the full package.

While advocates for families are demanding that "Congress send them the relief they desperately need," as ParentsTogether Action campaign director Allison Johnson put it, some are calling on lawmakers to go even further.

"Our priorities are out of line if we fail to extend a program that

Las Familias Pasan Apuros por el Fin del Crédito Fiscal de los Hijos



Foto/Photo: AdobeStock

En los últimos seis meses, el crédito fiscal por hijos ayudó a las familias a superar las dificultades financieras durante la pandemia. / Over the last six months, the Child Tax Credit assisted families through financial difficulties during the pandemic.

Por Jessica Corbett

Los legisladores progresistas, los defensores y los padres trabajadores se pronunciaron el viernes pasado mientras millones de familias sopesaban lo que harían sin el crédito fiscal por hijos (CTC) ampliado temporalmente y que ahora ha terminado después de que los demócratas no aprobaran la ley Build Back Better.

“

La oposición al crédito fiscal por hijos corre el riesgo de devolver a la pobreza a 10 millones de niños. Es vergonzoso que hayamos dejado caducar estos pagos aunque sea un día.”

Representante Estadounidense Barbara Lee

Más de 30 millones de familias han recibido el beneficio impulsado en los últimos seis meses, pero el Senado aún no ha votado el paquete aprobado por la Cámara debido a la oposición total de los republicanos, al rechazo de varias disposiciones por parte del senador Joe Manchin (demócrata de Virginia) y al fracaso de las negociaciones con la Casa Blanca.

“El Senado no ha ampliado este programa crítico en un momento en el que los casos de coronavirus alcanzan nuevos máximos y las fa-

milias sienten la carga de la avaricia de las empresas en el surtidor y en la caja registradora”, dijo la portavoz de Fighting Chance for Families, McKenzie Wilson.

A medida que la variante Omicron impulsa un aumento de los casos de Covid-19 en todo el país, los expertos advierten que el fin de los pagos mensuales de hasta 300 dólares por hijo -que fueron populares entre los votantes de todos los partidos- podría empujar a millones de niños a la pobreza o a una mayor pobreza.

“Como madre de cuatro hijos, me quedo en casa para cuidar de mi familia mientras mi marido es el único que aporta ingresos a nuestro hogar”, afirma Jen Cousins, residente en Florida con cuatro hijos. “Entre cubrir el coste de los medicamentos recetados necesarios, especialmente para mi hijo menor que tiene problemas de salud, y los gastos como las reparaciones del coche para el único vehículo de mi familia, estamos escasos de recursos para mantener a nuestra familia.”

“Mi marido trabaja mucho, hacemos un presupuesto, somos ahorradores y compramos medicamentos genéricos en la medida de lo posible. Pero la sanidad es cara, mantener nuestro único coche es caro”, continuó. “No sé qué va a tener que hacer mi familia este mes, o incluso el siguiente, para llegar a fin de mes sin los pagos mensuales del crédito fiscal por hijos. ¿Nos quedaremos sin coche o sin los medicamentos necesarios?”

Benjamin Van Dyne, padre de dos hijos en la ciudad de Nueva York, también compartió cómo el crédito fiscal por hijos (CTC) ampliado ha supuesto una diferencia para su familia y cómo su expiración les afectará.

“Actualmente, vivo con mis dos hijos pequeños en el Bronx en un apartamento de una habitación con un colchón plegable”, dijo. “Cuando vi que el CTC expiraba, mi reacción inmediata fue que no puedo permitirme trasladar a mi familia al espacio más grande que necesitamos y merecemos.”

“Si los pagos hubieran continuado, habría podido trasladar finalmente a mi familia a un apartamento de dos dormitorios para mejorar nuestra calidad de vida. A medida que crecen, mis hijos necesitan su propio espacio, y Dios sabe que yo necesito el mío”, añadió. “Los pagos del CTC nos han mantenido a flote durante los últimos seis meses.”

La representante estadounidense Barbara Lee (demócrata por California) subrayó que no están ni mucho menos solos, y explicó que “en el último año, he escuchado a innumerables padres que el mero hecho de tener entre 250 y 300 dólares extra al mes significaba a menudo la diferencia entre mantener la comida en la mesa o pasar hambre, pagar el alquiler o ser desahuciado.”

“La oposición al crédito fiscal por hijos corre el riesgo de devolver a la pobreza a 10 millones de niños”, advirtió, citando una investigación del Center on Budget and

Policy Priorities. “Es vergonzoso que hayamos dejado caducar estos pagos aunque sea un día”.

Lee se comprometió a “seguir luchando en el Congreso y junto a los defensores para aprobar Build Back Better y abordar permanentemente la pobreza infantil”, y aunque no fue la única demócrata de la Cámara de Representantes que destacó el CTC el 14 de enero, no hay un camino claro para el paquete.

Aunque no llamó a Manchin por su nombre, Mary Kay Henry, del Sindicato Internacional de Emplea-

dos de Servicios (SEIU), hizo una clara referencia a su obstrucción el viernes pasado, destacando que su oposición está en desacuerdo con las necesidades y demandas de sus electores.

“Los votantes -incluidos los de Virginia Occidental, donde el CTC ha apoyado a ocho de cada 10 hijos- exigen una inversión que cambie el juego en la atención domiciliaria, la acción sobre el cambio climático y buenos empleos sindicales”, dijo. “Es hora de que el

Vea Hijos, página 16



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'State of the Climate' Rally Demands Bolder Action from Gov. and Lawmakers

COLORADO

By Chase Woodruff

As Governor Jared Polis stood in the Colorado House of Representatives to deliver his State of the State address on January 13th, dozens of Colorado environmental activists stood just yards away on the steps of the Capitol, once again demanding a more aggressive approach to the climate crisis from state government.

Just weeks after the Marshall Fire became the latest climate-related disaster to strike the state, killing at least one person and razing more than a thousand homes in Boulder County, activists urged Polis to declare a "climate emergency."

One sign held by a rallygoer featured an image of a burning home and asked: "Who's next?"

"We already have a humanitarian crisis here on our streets — with the fires, the tornadoes, the floods, the heat, it is coming," said activist Harmony Cummings. "Our elected officials are not doing enough to keep us safe."



Activist Renee Millard-Chacon speaks at a "State of the Climate" rally by environmental groups on the steps of the Colorado Capitol on Jan. 13, 2022. / La activista Renee Millard-Chacon habla en la manifestación "Estado del clima" de los grupos ecologistas en las escaleras del Capitolio de Colorado el 13 de enero de 2022.

The "State of the Climate" rally, organized by a coalition of environmental groups including 350 Colorado, GreenLatinos and Colorado Rising, came as new data released by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration confirmed that the last six months were Colorado's hottest on record.

In a monthly summary released last Thursday, state climatologists with the Colorado Climate Center echoed other experts in identifying a warming climate as a key factor in the unprecedented Marshall

Fire, which surpassed the 2013 Black Forest Fire to become the most destructive wildfire in state history. "Underlying climate conditions of drought, record warmth over the previous 6 months, and near record dry air ... provided all the ingredients," the report said.

Inside the Capitol, Polis, too, told lawmakers that recent disasters like the Marshall Fire and last year's Glenwood Canyon mudslides underscore the urgency of "meeting the climate crisis head-on."

"I'm grateful for the work my administration has done in partnership with Colorado's legislative leaders to move our state toward a cleaner, more renewable energy future," Polis said. "We've set Colorado on a path to reducing emissions statewide."

But that path isn't aggressive enough for many environmental activists, who want to see more ambitious emissions-cutting policies — and an approach from state government that includes restricting fossil fuel extraction. Their list of demands to Polis includes the development of a plan by the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission to phase out drilling by 2030.

"Fossil fuels are responsible for 80% of carbon emissions, but it's business as usual at the COGCC," said Christiaan van Woudenberg, an anti-fracking activist and member of the Erie Board of Trustees. "Not a single permit has been denied. Governor, in order to keep your promises, you need to stop issuing drilling permits."

Focus on environmental justice

Last week wasn't the first time Polis' environmentalist critics have sought to put a spotlight on these issues during his State of the State address. Two years ago, 38 protesters were arrested by Colorado

State Patrol officers for a variety of disruptions, including chanting and displaying banners, before and during the governor's speech in the House chamber. The disruption charges were later dropped.

"No matter how many years in jail they threaten us with, we won't stop our accountability on Polis or any leader that turns their back on us or future generations," GreenLatinos activist Ean Thomas Tafoya, who was among those arrested in 2020, told the crowd on January 13th.

Activists have clashed for years with Polis and his predecessor, Democratic Senator John Hickenlooper, over the rapid expansion of oil and gas drilling activity in Colorado during the last 15 years. That's especially the case when it comes to the fossil-fuel industry's impacts on communities with a long history of pollution, like the neighborhoods that surround the Suncor oil refinery in north Denver and Commerce City or the controversial drilling site near Bella Romero Academy in Greeley.

“

"We're tired of being harmed. We've defined disproportionately impacted communities — I'm no longer here to define or be on councils. I'm here to finally bring change."

Renee Millard-Chacón,
Womxn from the
Mountain

ties — I'm no longer here to define or be on councils. I'm here to finally bring change."

Other speakers at the rally included Elisabeth Epps, founder of the Colorado Freedom Fund and a recently declared candidate for House District 6. Epps told rallygoers that the struggle for environmental justice and efforts to reform policing and prisons are linked — noting, for example, that some of those who are hurt the most by more intense and more frequent heat waves are inmates at prisons and jails who often have inadequate air conditioning.

"There are people in this building that have never stood up to power," Epps said. "If you want leaders that are going to take the actions necessary to protect not just our planet but the people and cultures on it, you need to elect leaders that have already been doing that work."

"I hope this isn't too controversial — y'all, the Earth is going to make it," Epps added. "Do you understand that? The Earth is going to last. It's us that might not make it."

“

"There are people in this building that have never stood up to power. If you want leaders that are going to take the actions necessary to protect not just our planet but the people and cultures on it, you need to elect leaders that have already been doing that work."

Elisabeth Epps, Colorado
Freedom Fund

Thanks in large part to legislation passed by Democrats in the General Assembly, efforts to strengthen protections for "disproportionately impacted communities" have been launched by multiple state agencies in recent years, including the COGCC, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the Colorado Department of Transportation. But now activists want to see those processes produce tangible results.

"We're tired of being harmed," said Renee Millard-Chacón, an activist and co-founder of the Indigenous group Womxn from the Mountain. "We've defined disproportionately impacted communi-

Chase Woodruff is a Reporter for Colorado Newline. This article is republished from Colorado Newline under a Creative Commons license. Read the original article [here](#).

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La Concentración 'Estado del Clima' Exige al Gobernador y a los Legisladores una Actuación Más Audaz



Foto/Photo: Chase Woodruff/Colorado Newswire

La abolicionista y candidata a la Cámara de Representantes del Estado, Elisabeth Epps, se dirige a la multitud reunida en el Capitolio de Colorado para un mitin sobre el "Estado del Clima" el 13 de enero de 2022. / Abolitionist and state House candidate Elisabeth Epps addresses the crowd gathered at the Colorado Capitol for a "State of the Climate" rally on Jan. 13, 2022.

COLORADO

Por Chase Woodruff

Mientras el gobernador Jared Polis se encontraba en la Cámara de Representantes de Colorado para pronunciar su discurso sobre el Estado del Estado el 13 de enero, docenas de activistas medioambientales de Colorado se encontraban a pocos metros en las escaleras del Capitolio, exigiendo una vez más un enfoque más agresivo a la crisis climática por parte del gobierno estatal.

Apenas unas semanas después de que el incendio de Marshall se convirtiera en la última catástrofe relacionada con el clima que ha afectado al estado, matando al menos a una persona y arrasando más de mil casas en el condado de Boulder, los activistas instaron a Polis a declarar una "emergencia climática".

Un cartel sostenido por un asistente a la manifestación mostraba la imagen de una casa en llamas y preguntaba: "¿Quién será el siguiente?"

"Ya tenemos una crisis humanitaria aquí en nuestras calles: con los incendios, los tornados, las inundaciones, el calor, se acerca", dijo la activista Harmony Cummings. "Nuestros funcionarios electos no están haciendo lo suficiente para mantenernos a salvo".

La manifestación "Estado del clima", organizada por una coalición de grupos ecologistas, entre ellos 350 Colorado, GreenLatinos y Colorado Rising, se produjo cuando los nuevos datos publicados por la Administración Nacional Oceánica y Atmosférica confirmaron que los últimos seis meses fueron los más calurosos registrados en Colorado.

En un resumen mensual publicado el jueves pasado, los climatólogos estatales del Centro Climático de Colorado se hicieron eco de otros expertos al identificar el calentamiento del clima como un factor clave en el incendio sin precedentes de Marshall, que superó al incendio de Black Forest de 2013 para convertirse en el incendio forestal más destructivo de la historia del estado. "Las condiciones climáticas subyacentes de la sequía, el calor récord de los 6

meses anteriores y el aire seco casi récord... proporcionaron todos los ingredientes", dijo el informe.

Dentro del Capitolio, Polis también dijo a los legisladores que los recientes desastres como el incendio de Marshall y los deslizamientos de tierra de Glenwood Canyon del año pasado subrayan la urgencia de "hacer frente a la crisis climática de frente".

"Estoy agradecido por el trabajo que mi administración ha realizado en colaboración con los líderes legislativos de Colorado para llevar a nuestro estado hacia un futuro más limpio y renovable", dijo Polis. "Hemos puesto a Colorado en el camino de reducir las emisiones en todo el estado".

Pero ese camino no es lo suficientemente agresivo para muchos activistas medioambientales, que quieren ver políticas más ambiciosas de reducción de emisiones, y un enfoque del gobierno estatal que incluya la restricción de la extracción de combustibles fósiles. Su lista de demandas a Polis incluye el desarrollo de un plan por parte de la Comisión de Conservación de Petróleo y Gas de Colorado para eliminar gradualmente

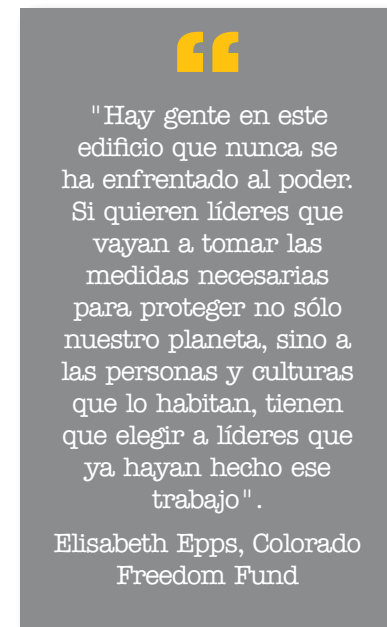
las perforaciones para 2030.

"Los combustibles fósiles son responsables del 80% de las emisiones de carbono, pero en la COGCC todo sigue igual", dijo Christiaan van Woudenberg, activista contra el fracking y miembro del Consejo de Administración de Erie. "No se ha denegado ni un solo permiso. Gobernador, para cumplir sus promesas, tiene que dejar de conceder permisos de perforación".

Centrarse en la justicia medioambiental

La semana pasada no fue la primera vez que los críticos ecologistas de Polis han tratado de poner el foco en estas cuestiones durante su discurso sobre el Estado. Hace dos años, 38 manifestantes fueron detenidos por agentes de la Patrulla del Estado de Colorado por una serie de interrupciones, incluidos cánticos y pancartas, antes y durante el discurso del gobernador en la Cámara de Representantes. Los cargos de perturbación se retiraron posteriormente.

"No importa cuántos años de cárcel nos amenacen, no dejaremos de rendir cuentas a Polis o a cualquier líder que nos dé la espal-



Elisabeth Epps, Colorado Freedom Fund

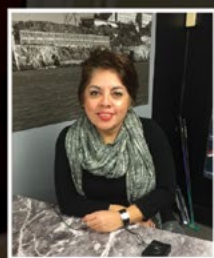
da a nosotros o a las generaciones futuras", dijo a la multitud el activista de GreenLatinos Ean Thomas Tafoya, que estaba entre los detenidos en 2020.

Los activistas se han enfrentado durante años con Polis y su predecesor, el senador demócrata John Hickenlooper, por la rápida expansión de la actividad de perforación de petróleo y gas en Colorado durante los últimos 15 años. Esto es especialmente cierto

Veá **Clima**, página 18

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.

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El Semanario Community Partners

Denver Committee to Launch Effort to Modernize Ballot Question Process

COLORADO

Clerk & Recorder Paul D. López, Chief Elections Official for the City and County of Denver and District 4 Councilmember Kendra Black, Chair of the Finance and Governance Committee are leading a process to modernize how issues and candidates get on the ballot in future elections. The committee will also have a representative from the office of Mayor Michael B. Hancock, City Councilmembers, experts in election law, representatives from petitioner's committees and other community stakeholders. There will also be opportunities for public comment throughout the process.



Denver Clerk and Recorder Paul D. López.

"This will be the most comprehensive examination of the process for how questions are placed on Denver's ballot in years - it's time to tear the process down to the studs and rebuild it from the foundation up," López said. "Denver is a grow-

ing city of more than three-quarters of a million people and more than a half-million registered voters, and the policies haven't kept up with the times. This committee will tackle this fact head on."

The committee will work on a variety of issues, including deadlines for submission and internal review of petitions; deadlines for Council-referred measures; ballot issue title setting; the City Council review and comment process that occurs before proposed citizen initiatives are submitted to the Office of the Clerk and Recorder; improving Denver's ballot issue guide; the fiscal analyses conducted for referred and initiated questions and signature thresholds for petitions,

including candidate petitions.

"There is no shortage of ballot measures on Denver's recent ballots. However, the processes for citizen-initiated and council-referred measures are inconsistent and the timing is often condensed which can limit public engagement, discussion, and operational and fiscal analysis." Councilmember Kendra Black said. "I'm pleased to help bring this group of experts and professionals together to examine our processes, identify challenges, look at best practices, and hear from community members to recommend opportunities for improvement ensuring a fair and open democratic process."

The Committee is convening its

first meeting Thursday, January 20, 2022, 2:30-4:30pm MST which will be available to view live on Zoom. <https://denvergov-org.zoom.us/j/85284529577> All committee meetings will also be recorded and available for public view on the City's website. The community is welcome to provide public comment at BAMC@denvergov.org.

Meetings will be held the third Thursday of the month through May 2022.

Committee members include: Hon. Kevin Flynn, Denver City Council District 2; Hon. Amanda Sawyer, Denver City Council District 5; David Broadwell, Esq., Former Assistant

See López on page 19

Griswold Files Lawsuit to Bar County Clerk from Overseeing 2022 Elections

COLORADO

Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold proceeded with a lawsuit on January 18th, to bar Mesa County Clerk and Recorder Tina Peters from overseeing the 2022 elections. The lawsuit asks a judge to remove Peters as the Designated Election Official (DEO) during 2022.

In the filing, the Secretary of State's office requests the Court to appoint Brandi Bantz as the DEO for Mesa County to ensure the smooth and secure operations of the 2022 Primary and General elections. Both the Mesa County Commissioners and the Secretary of State's office support the appointment of Bantz. The Secretary announced that she will also then appoint for-

mer Secretary of State Wayne Williams (R) and current Mesa County Treasurer Sheila Reiner (R) as election supervisors to provide expertise and assistance to Ms. Bantz as needed.

"Every eligible Coloradan - Republican, Democrat, and Independent alike - has the right to make their voice heard in safe and secure elections. As Clerk Peters is

unwilling to commit to following election security protocols, I am taking action to ensure that Mesa County voters have the elections they deserve," said Secretary Griswold. "I will continue to provide the support and oversight needed to ensure the integrity of Colorado's elections."

This legal action follows the refusal of Peters to certify under penalty of perjury that she would comply with the security protocols as the Mesa County DEO. On January 10, 2022, Secretary Griswold issued an Election Order and accompanying Certification and Attestation of Compliance requiring Clerk Peters to certify, within 72 hours, under penalty of perjury that she would comply with election related security protocols. Clerk Peters declined to sign the Certification and Attestation of Compliance.

Neither the Secretary of State nor the county is authorized under Colorado law to remove a sitting county clerk from serving as a county's DEO, so this legal action is necessary. As was the case last fall, the Secretary has asked the Mesa County District Court to exercise the Court's authority to assign the DEO responsibilities. A DEO is the person responsible for running elections for a local government, like a municipality or a county. They make determinations regarding elections issues for their municipality or county. The Secretary of State does have the authority to appoint election supervisors.

Williams currently serves as DEO, and was appointed as such when Mesa County Court Judge Robison ruled in favor of barring Tina Peters from 2021 election oversight as DEO after she allowed

breaches to election security, disregarded election rules and or-



"Every eligible Coloradan - Republican, Democrat, and Independent alike - has the right to make their voice heard in safe and secure elections."

Jena Griswold, Colorado Secretary of State

ders of the Secretary of State, and risked the integrity of Mesa county elections. The Court's decision legally barred Peters from serving as DEO until the completion of all 2021 election related activities. That completion is expected to be reached sometime in early February.

Last October, Judge Robison made specific findings that Clerk Peters' actions allowed a "security vulnerability" to be created with Mesa County's voting system equipment; that Clerk Peters had been "untruthful with the Secretary and her staff," that Clerk Peters "failed to follow the rules and orders of the Secretary," that Clerk Peters had "failed to take adequate precautions to ensure that confidential information would be protected," and that in light of the uncontroverted factual record, Clerk Peters had breached her duties, neglected her duties, and committed other wrongful acts sufficient to justify her removal as the Designated Election Official for Mesa County.

See Griswold on page 18

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ACLU Announces New Director of Advocacy and Strategic Alliances

COLORADO

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Colorado recently announced [Taylor Pendergrass](#) as its new Director of Advocacy and Strategic Alliances. The veteran strategist and civil rights attorney joins ACLU of Colorado after more than 15 years fighting for transformative social change, racial justice and equality, and leading teams to policy success at the local, state, and federal level. A nationally recognized thought leader and speaker on embracing a new vision for community safety and dismantling mass incarceration, Pendergrass spent half a decade working across the country with ACLU's national Campaign for Smart Justice



Taylor Pendergrass is the new Director of Advocacy and Strategic Alliances for the American Civil Liberties Union of Colorado.

and launched innovative initiatives to upend the historical dynamic of local prosecutor elections and to transform policing.

"Taylor's expertise in developing advocacy campaigns have helped

shrink the footprint of the criminal legal system, and repair harms done by decades of mass incarceration and generations of racial injustice," said Anthony Romero, ACLU Executive Director.

As Deputy Director of Campaigns, Pendergrass was a key architect of the ACLU's nationwide multi-year political strategy on criminal legal system reform. He helped launch the ACLU's first-ever electoral strategy in local candidate races. As Senior Attorney for the New York Civil Liberties Union, Pendergrass filed, litigated and won ground-breaking class action judgments and settlements in housing discrimination, stop-and-frisk, protest, and prisoners' rights cases.

"In over 15 years of advocacy, my proudest moments have not come

from big policy victories," Pendergrass said. "They have come from witnessing the durable power we have built while winning those fights — creating powerful coalitions and relationships, empowering community-based advocates, centering the leadership of directly impacted people that transform culture and far outlast any single policy goal. These are the formative experiences I will harness to build upon the innovative advocacy program that came before me."

Pendergrass began his career as a staff attorney at the ACLU of Colorado where he created and led the ACLU's protest defense project in partnership with law school legal clinics and criminal defense bar. His writing has been featured in Slate, Vox, and other national pub-

“Taylor’s track record for working successfully with coalitions across the country and centering people most impacted by systemic inequalities will be an asset to our team culture, to Colorado and to the world we’re striving to create. Onward.”
Deborah Richardson,
ACLU of Colorado

lications. Pendergrass' book *Six by Ten*, a collection of first-person oral histories describing the horrors of solitary confinement, was published by Haymarket Press in 2018.

See [ACLU](#) on page 17

Longmont Museum Opens Japanese Paper Art Exhibit: Washi Transformed



Kakuko Ishii, *Musubu R*, 2012, Washi paper (Mizuhiki) and pigment.

COLORADO

For more than one thousand years, Japan has produced some of the world's finest paper. Japanese paper makers still use the skills passed down through generations to create handmade paper, known as "washi" (和紙). It is used in painting, calligraphy, origami, and other traditional art forms.

Japanese contemporary artists are now using washi as the basis for their artwork. They take this supple yet sturdy natural fiber and layer, weave, dye, twist, fold, and cut it to create highly textured hanging works.

Opening, Saturday, Jan. 29, the newest exhibit at the Longmont Museum brings this ancient yet innovative art form to Longmont.

"Washi Transformed: New Expressions in Japanese Paper" showcases more than 30 expressive sculptures, dramatic installations, and two-dimensional works.

"Washi Transformed" spotlights the works of nine contemporary Japanese artists: Hina Aoyama, Eriko Horiki, Kyoko Ibe, Yoshio Ikezaki, Kakuko Ishii, Yuko Kimura, Yuko Nishimura, Takaki Tanaka, and Ayomi Yoshida. All these artists use washi to create works that are unusual in size, unexpected in texture, and do not fit typical expectations of paper art.

Japanese art and culture set the stage for the Longmont Museum's programming this season. Explore upcoming films, concerts, classes, and talks inspired by "Washi Transformed" at [longmontmuseum.org](#).

The exhibition runs Jan. 29 through May 15. Cost is \$8 for adults and \$5 for students, seniors, and veterans. Longmont Museum members and children age 3 and under are free. Gallery admission for visitors with an EBT or SNAP card is only \$0.25, and the

second Saturday of each month is free. Longmont Museum is located at 400 Quail Road, Longmont CO 80501.

The opening reception scheduled for January 28 has been postponed for the community's safety due to COVID-19. Informa-

tion about a rescheduled event will be available at [longmontmuseum.org](#) or by signing up for the Museum's e-newsletter.

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UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

State News / Noticias del Estado

Environmental Groups Question Safety of Hydrogen Development

NEW MEXICO

By Lindsay Fendt

Dirt roads zigzag across the desert just northeast of Chaco Culture National Historical Park, and each one leads to a well, a tank or a pipeline. It wasn't always this way, says Mario Atencio, who as a child used to visit his grandparents nearby.

Now a member of Diné Citizens Against Ruining the Environment, he and other activists have been fighting oil and gas development in the area for years. Up until a few months ago, they thought they were making progress. Then oil and gas prices started to rise, and in November the governor of New Mexico introduced a draft of the Hydrogen Hub Act.

The bill, which will be introduced in the upcoming legislative session, provides a raft of subsidies designed to grow a new industry. If it passes, supporters say it will make New Mexico a contender to become a national hydrogen hub — one of four to be created under the national \$1 trillion infrastructure law that passed in November. The

hub would help further foster hydrogen development in New Mexico and make the state eligible for a chunk of the \$8 billion in federal money earmarked for clean hydrogen production.

“Number one for the climate is to build wind and solar to replace fossil fuel emissions. There are some applications for hydrogen, but pushing hydrogen in the short-term at the expense of working on what will really save humanity is the wrong order to do things.”
Tom Solomon, 350 New Mexico

“We think that hydrogen is a really effective tool in our transitional effort,” says Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham. “We should be moving as rapidly as we can with new innovations and technologies.”

But while the governor's office sees hydrogen as a silver bullet for some of the state's biggest economic and clean-energy challenges, many environmentalists have begun sounding alarm bells. They say the state's proposed plans provide little more than a hidden subsidy for the fossil-fuel industry.

“If you look at this area from space, you just see the vast spider webs of oil and gas facilities,” Atencio said. “The hydrogen hub would only lock all of that in place.”

A test for the green fuel of the future

For decades, hydrogen has been lauded as a potential clean fuel to replace conventional fossil fuels. Many energy experts say that it may one day be used in sectors not easily powered by electricity — things like aviation, steel production and long-haul shipping.

But in New Mexico, the dreams for hydrogen are even more ambitious. New entrepreneurs and old fossil-fuel companies alike are proposing burning hydrogen for heating, converting shuttered coal plants and powering all types of transportation — from buses to cars.



An oil facility on Bureau of Land Management land near Counselor in Sandoval County, New Mexico. / Una instalación petrolera en terrenos de la Oficina de Administración de Tierras cerca de Counselor, en el condado de Sandoval, Nuevo México.

They say it will help stimulate the economy and enable the state to take advantage of aging infrastructure. Rather than moving to a new energy model, the companies pushing these projects promise they can use hydrogen to clean the old model of fossil fuels.

But the undertaking may not be so simple. Hydrogen can damage traditional natural-gas pipelines, while burning it for heat or electricity can release pollutants like nitrous oxide, a greenhouse gas that can cause respiratory problems

after prolonged exposure. Many clean-energy advocates worry that building out a complex hydrogen market will distract from simpler, cheaper renewable-energy plans.

“Number one for the climate is to build wind and solar to replace fossil fuel emissions,” says Tom Solomon, a co-coordinator for 350 New Mexico, a climate activist organization, and a retired electrical engineer. “There are some applications for hydrogen, but pushing

See [Hydrogen](#) on page 19

Does My Child Need the COVID-19 Vaccine?

Get your children vaccinated, visit <http://VaccineNM.org>

Myth

My child already had COVID-19 and doesn't need to get the vaccine.

Fact

The COVID-19 vaccine provides greater protection than natural immunity, so getting vaccinated will help protect your child even if they've already had COVID-19. Studies even show that unvaccinated people are more than twice as likely to be reinfected with COVID-19 than those who were fully vaccinated.



NHI Programs Open to National and International Students



The University of New Mexico is partnering with the National Hispanic Institute to host the 2022 Dionisio "Dennis" Chávez New Mexico Lorenzo de Zavala (LDZ) for New Mexico high school students.

NEW MEXICO

The University of New Mexico is partnering with the National Hispanic Institute (NHI) to host the 2022 Dionisio "Dennis" Chávez New Mexico LDZ for New Mexico high school students — marking a return to the Land of Enchantment for NHI.

This year's event will host 150 top students in a week-long leadership experience on the UNM campus from June 12-19, 2022.

and will highlight the legacy of the late Dionisio "Dennis" Chávez. The program is made possible with the help of special funding from the New Mexico Legislature, as requested by State Sen. Michael Padilla.

Chávez, who served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1931-1935 and in the U.S. Senate from 1935-1962, was the first Hispanic person elected to a full term

See [NHI](#) on page 16

Los Ecologistas Cuestionan la Seguridad del Desarrollo del Hidrógeno

NEW MEXICO

Por Lindsay Fendt

Los caminos de tierra zigzaguean por el desierto justo al noreste del Parque Histórico Nacional de la Cultura Chaco, y cada uno de ellos conduce a un pozo, un tanque o una tubería. No siempre fue así, dice Mario Atencio, que de niño solía visitar a sus abuelos en las cercanías.

Ahora es miembro de Ciudadanos Diné contra la Ruina del Medio Ambiente, y él y otros activistas llevan años luchando contra el desarrollo del petróleo y el gas en la zona. Hasta hace unos meses, pensaban que estaban haciendo progresos. Entonces, los precios del petróleo y el gas empezaron a subir, y en noviembre el gobernador de Nuevo México presentó un proyecto de ley sobre el centro de hidrógeno.

El proyecto de ley, que se presentará en la próxima sesión legislativa, prevé una serie de subvenciones destinadas a hacer crecer una nueva industria. Si se aprueba, sus partidarios afirman que convertirá a Nuevo México en un aspirante a convertirse en un centro nacional del hidrógeno, uno de los cuatro que se crearán en virtud de la ley nacional de infraestructuras de un billón de dólares aprobada en noviembre. El centro ayudaría a fomentar el desarrollo del hidrógeno en Nuevo México y haría que el estado pudiera optar a una parte de los 8.000 millones de dólares de dinero federal destinados a la producción de hidrógeno limpio.

"Creemos que el hidrógeno es una herramienta realmente eficaz en nuestro esfuerzo de transición", dice la gobernadora Michelle Lujan Grisham. "Deberíamos avanzar tan rápido como podamos con las nuevas innovaciones y tecnologías".

Pero mientras la oficina del gobernador ve el hidrógeno como una bala de plata para algunos de los mayores retos económicos y de energía limpia del estado, muchos ecologistas han empezado a hacer sonar las alarmas. Dicen que los planes propuestos por el Estado no son más que una subvención oculta para la industria de los combustibles fósiles.

"Si se mira esta zona desde el espacio, sólo se ven las vastas telas de araña de las instalaciones de petróleo y gas", dijo Atencio. "El centro de hidrógeno no haría más que bloquear todo eso".

Una prueba para el combustible verde del futuro

Durante décadas, el hidrógeno ha sido alabado como un potencial combustible limpio para sustituir a los combustibles fósiles convencionales. Muchos expertos en energía afirman que algún día podrá utilizarse en sectores que no se alimentan fácilmente de electricidad, como la aviación, la producción de acero y el transporte marítimo de larga distancia.

Pero en Nuevo México, los sueños para el hidrógeno son aún más ambiciosos. Tanto los nuevos empresarios como las viejas empresas de combustibles fósiles proponen quemar hidrógeno para la calefacción, convertir las plantas de carbón cerradas y alimentar todo tipo de transporte, desde autobuses hasta coches.

Dicen que ayudará a estimular la economía y permitirá al Estado aprovechar las infraestructuras envejecidas. Más que pasar a un nuevo modelo energético, las empresas que impulsan estos proyectos prometen que pueden utilizar el hidrógeno para limpiar el viejo modelo de los combustibles fósiles.

Pero la empresa puede no ser tan sencilla. El hidrógeno puede dañar las tuberías tradicionales de gas natural, mientras que su combustión para obtener calor o electricidad puede liberar contaminantes como el óxido nítrico, un gas de efecto invernadero que puede causar problemas respiratorios tras una exposición prolongada. A muchos defensores de las energías limpias les preocupa que la creación de un complejo mercado de hidrógeno distraiga la atención de planes de energías renovables más sencillos y baratos.

"El número uno para el clima es construir energía eólica y solar para sustituir las emisiones de los combustibles fósiles", dice Tom Solomon, coordinador de 350 Nuevo México, una organización activista del clima, e ingeniero eléctrico jubilado. "Hay algunas aplicaciones para el hidrógeno, pero impulsar el hidrógeno a corto plazo a expensas de trabajar en lo que realmente salvará a la humanidad es el orden equivocado de hacer las cosas".

Dudas sobre las credenciales ecológicas del hidrógeno "azul"

Los grupos ecologistas también cuestionan el tipo de hidrógeno que el Estado espera subvencionar.

Muchos defensores del medio ambiente quieren limitar la pro-

ducción al hidrógeno "verde", que se hace a partir del agua, utilizando electricidad para separar el H del O. Si se hace con electricidad renovable, el hidrógeno verde puede crearse sin producir ninguna emisión de carbono. Pero lo más habitual es que los productores hagan hidrógeno "gris" extrayendo el hidrógeno del metano del gas natural y liberando el carbono sobrante en el aire. Mientras tanto, los proyectos que se proponen ahora en Nuevo México son en su mayoría de hidrógeno "azul", donde la captura de carbono se añade a un proyecto de hidrógeno gris para reducir sus emisiones.

La Ley del Centro del Hidrógeno, tal como está redactada, no distingue entre ninguno de estos colores. Lujan Grisham quiere permitir la producción limpia de cualquier tipo de hidrógeno que cumpla ciertos objetivos de emisiones. Reconoce que este enfoque abre la puerta a que las empresas de combustibles fósiles produzcan hidrógeno con gas natural y cobren por ello. De hecho, incluso algunos productores de hidrógeno gris -sin planes de captura de carbono- podrían optar a subvenciones en los primeros años de la aprobación

del proyecto de ley.

Por esta razón, los grupos ecologistas se han burlado del proyecto de ley por considerarlo una fuente de ingresos para la industria de los combustibles fósiles.

"Existe la idea de que podemos poner algunas vendas en el enfoque de los combustibles fósiles y todo estará bien", dijo Mike Eisenfeld, un residente de Farmington y miembro de la Alianza de Ciudadanos de San Juan, un grupo ambiental. "La gente está entusiasmada con el hidrógeno azul, pero muchos de nosotros pensamos que sería una sentencia de muerte".

Luján Grisham dice que mientras el hidrógeno sea limpio, no debería importar de dónde venga.

"[Los combustibles fósiles] están aquí. Habría sido estupendo que en 1930 hubiéramos pensado en esto de forma diferente, pero no lo hicimos", dice. "Nunca deberíamos encontrarnos en una situación en la que usemos todo de una cosa y nunca nada de la otra".

¿Hasta qué punto es limpio?

Muchos grupos ciudadanos y ecologistas han criticado la rapidez con la que se está estudiando el



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Tom Solomon, 350 Nuevo México

proyecto de ley. Luján Grisham lo ha convertido en una prioridad legislativa para la próxima sesión, dejando poco tiempo para el debate sobre si un centro de hidrógeno es algo que las comunidades quieren.

Pero los defensores del hidrógeno dicen que es necesaria una acción rápida tanto para que Nuevo México sea competitivo para los centros federales como

Vea **Hidrógeno**, página 19

¿Necesita mi hijo Ponerse la vacuna contra el COVID-19?

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Mito

Mi hijo ya tuvo COVID-19 y no necesita vacunarse.



Realidad

La vacuna contra el COVID-19 brinda mayor protección que la inmunidad natural, por lo que vacunarse ayudará a proteger a su hijo, incluso si ya ha tenido el COVID-19. Los estudios incluso muestran que las personas que no están vacunadas tienen más del doble de probabilidades de volver a infectarse con COVID-19 que aquellas que estaban completamente vacunadas.



in the Senate and the first senator to be born in New México.

"Since 1982, NHI has presented more than 150 LDZ Youth Legislative Sessions throughout the U.S, México and Latin América," said Lawrence Roybal, Ph.D., associate vice chancellor for community initiatives at the UNM Health Sciences Center and a longtime supporter of NHI's efforts.

"NHI is a well-respected non-profit organization with a 42-year history in youth leadership development and was selected through a statewide request-for-proposal process."

The National Hispanic Institute's LDZ (Lorenzo de Zavala) experience presents an eight-day creative learning program for 10th and 11th-grade college-bound students. It engages participants in active learning by having them play key leadership roles using a legislative format.

Through NHI's signature community equity-building approach, students form communities, develop constituencies and craft strategies to leverage strengths and capacities. Along the way, they gain valued personal and community identity.

"The LDZ experience prompts a personal transformation where- by students feel competent, in

control of their life direction, valued in the eyes of others and engaged in adding equity and worth to their community," said Gloria de León, NHI co-founder, executive vice president and architect of the LDZ experience. "It nurtures young minds to engage in proactive solutions as a lifelong process."

“The LDZ experience prompts a personal transformation whereby students feel competent, in control of their life direction, valued in the eyes of others and engaged in adding equity and worth to their community.”
Gloria de León, NHI

One of the first LDZ experiences, created relatively early in NHI's history, was a New México program hosted by UNM between 1988 and 1998. NHI organizers are thrilled to be returning to New México to work with future Latino leaders in a state boasting a significant Latino population.

New México high school sophomores and juniors with an 88/100 or 3.2/4.0 grade point average enrolled in a college-bound curriculum are encouraged to apply. Selected students will be named Dennis Chavez Scholars and participate at no cost, other than transportation to and from UNM in Albuquerque, and a \$25 application processing fee.

Students are encouraged to promptly submit online applications to the Dionisio "Dennis" Chávez New México LDZ. The first round of admissions will be accepted beginning Jan. 21, 2022, and conclude once the program has reached capacity, expected to be in mid-March.

Co-sponsors of the program include ENLACE New Mexico, UNM El Centro de la Raza and the UNM Health Sciences Office for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion.

The National Hispanic Institute presents summer leadership programs for current high school students in grades 9, 10, 11. All programs are open to students nationally and internationally. For more information, contact the National Hispanic Institute at www.national-hispanicinstitute.org, 512-357-6137.

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environmental protections across nearly 50 million acres of national forest lands, the Roadless Rule is a safeguard for U.S. forests. This policy rollback would have opened up over 9 million acres of previously protected Tongass forest lands to logging, mining, roadbuilding, and further development.

In January 2021, following ceaseless advocacy efforts by tribal leadership, and local and national groups, including the Women's Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN), there was a key victory—the Biden Administration started the important process to restore Roadless Rule protections in the Tongass. How we respond to this critical moment rests on our collective shoulders; our voices and action can make a significant difference. Right now, advocacy for the Tongass involves public participation through submitting a comment to the United States Forest Service by January 24th. Please join us to secure the fate of the Tongass. [Learn more and submit a comment here.](#)

There is no denying the deadly

climate extremes that communities are facing globally. If the Biden Administration expects to be the climate leader it promised, the nation's forests must remain protected from further extraction and destruction. We can all take action today to stand with the old-growth trees of the Tongass and forests of the world. Thank you for joining us in [protecting the Tongass](#).

Wanda Kashudoha Loescher Culp (Tlingit) is the Tongass Coordinator for the Women's Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN) and Co-producer of award-winning Tongass Forest documentary "Walking in Two Worlds." Osprey Orielle Lake is the Founder and Executive Director of the Women's Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN) International and serves as Co-Chair of International Advocacy for the Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature.

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Hijos

Senado apruebe la ley Build Back Better, para que se ocupe de los hijos y las familias trabajadoras, y levante a comunidades enteras. Nuestro futuro depende de ello".

La diputada demócrata Cori Bush sí llamó a Manchin por su nombre, diciendo que "dio la espalda a nuestras familias".

Los resultados de las encuestas publicadas el 14 de enero por Invest in America y Data for Progress muestran que el 65% de los votantes estadounidenses de todo el espectro político, incluido el 92% de los demócratas, apoyan el paquete completo.

Mientras los defensores de las familias exigen que "el Congreso les envíe el alivio que necesitan desesperadamente", como dijo la directora de la campaña ParentsTogether Action, Allison

Johnson, algunos piden a los legisladores que vayan más allá.

"Nuestras prioridades están fuera de lugar si no ampliamos un programa que casi redujo la pobreza infantil a la mitad", dijo la directora de asuntos federales de People's Action, Megan Essaheb. "Las familias trabajadoras siguen luchando, y necesitan un salvavidas. El Congreso debe ampliar y hacer permanente el crédito fiscal por hijos".

Jessica Corbett es redactora de Common Dreams. Este artículo ha sido publicado por Common Dreams bajo una licencia Creative Commons.

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Tri-County Health Department

Testings

reporter, said she also provided a VIP service from another testing company for people willing to pay extra for rapid PCR tests.

Public health experts say they hope that concerns about a mobile test site's legitimacy won't deter people from getting tested.

Testing outdoors has advantages, too.

"If I had the choice between two options while there was a surge happening, one being completely outdoors and one indoors, I would choose the outdoor testing site," said Denis Nash, a professor of epidemiology at the City University of New York. "And I would choose affordable home testing over both of those."

In general, more testing is better than less.

"I tend not to care why people are testing," Nash said. "If they are doing it to be safer at a party,

great. But I do care if access is inequitable."

In general, a test site operator seeking payment from a health plan for administering a covid test must have a national provider identifier, which comes from the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, said [Kristine Grow](#), a spokesperson for AHIP, a trade group for health plans.

Although test operators routinely ask consumers for health insurance information, asking for credit card numbers is not routine. Individual consumers typically don't have to pay out-of-pocket for a covid test because it is covered by insurance or by the federal government for people who are uninsured. However, some people are charged if the test isn't ordered by their doctor, is a rush service or is performed by an out-of-network provider, where "we

do continue to see price gouging through the course of the public health emergency," Grow said.

One way to identify a legitimate testing operator is to check lists maintained by states and cities of the testing operators they work with or fund. But many legitimate testing operators are not in the official databases, Bloomgarden said.

Michelle Andrews is a Contributing Writer for Kaiser Health News. KHN's Chaseadaw Giles contributed to this report.

Kaiser Health News is a nonprofit news service covering health issues. It is an editorially independent program of the Kaiser Family Foundation, which is not affiliated with Kaiser Permanente.

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Child

nearly cut child poverty in half," said People's Action director of federal affairs Megan Essaheb. "Working families continue to struggle, and they need a lifeline. Congress must extend and make permanent the child tax credit."

Jessica Corbett is a staff writer with Common Dreams. This article is republished from Common Dreams under a Creative Commons license. Read the original article

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ACLU

He is a graduate of the University of Colorado School of Law.

"Now is the time for transformational and audacious public policy successes that build a more equitable and just world," said Deborah Richardson, ACLU of Colorado Executive Director. "Taylor's track record for working successfully with coalitions across the country and centering people most impacted by systemic inequalities will be an asset to our team culture, to Colorado and to the world we're striving to create. Onward."

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ATTENTION

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Tashman

ed contracting with one private facility in Philipsburg, Pennsylvania and may soon enter contracts with for-profit, private prisons in Leavenworth, Kansas and Mason, Tennessee. These locations, as is too often the case in immigrant detention, have troubling records of abusive conditions and are located far away from communities with immigration attorneys, making it difficult for people to pursue their cases.

There are even signals that ICE may expand a private immigrant detention center run by the for-profit GEO Group in Georgia, the very state where the president promised voters that he planned to close all private detention centers.

Following a sharp decline in 2020 partly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of people held in immigrant detention has started to swell once again, increasing by more than 50 percent since Biden took office. Now, as cases of the omicron variant of COVID-19 surge, the need to fulfill the president's repeated pledge to end for-profit immigrant detention has become even more urgent. The administration should be releasing people from detention as a public health measure, but so far has not announced its intention to do so in any systematic way. Meanwhile, people aren't receiving booster shots and are typically confined to tight, crowded spaces where it is impossible to

socially distance, leading to waves of new COVID-19 infections.

The administration should listen to the voters — and President Biden — and end its misguided pursuit of new detention contracts with for-profit, private prison corporations.

It's time to close private prisons and shut down the immigrant detention machine notorious for COVID-19 surges, physical brutality, sexual abuse, racist mistreatment, and denials of due process, not expand it.

Brian Tashman is a Senior Campaign Strategist with the American Civil Liberties Union.

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Pruebas

the pre-holiday rush, the operator at a Crestview Clinical Laboratory site on Wilshire Boulevard, who wouldn't give her name to a reporter, said she also provided a VIP service from another testing company for people willing to pay extra for rapid PCR tests.

Public health experts say they hope that concerns about a mobile test site's legitimacy won't deter people from getting tested.

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Hastings

Essentially, Biden is entering a midterm election year without accomplishments, to date, that he can present to voters; internal divisions in his party; a Republican Party that is already certain it will take the majority back from Democrats in Congress; and a nation with a pandemic that is having repercussions at all levels: personal, collective, economic, educational, and political.

What's most worrisome is that the divided Democratic Party doesn't seem to understand the gravity of what is happening under its noses; and the Republican

Party, once again, is trying to win political gains sustained on lies, ignorance, xenophobia, racism, and with the support of a segment of the electorate that has proven that it does not mind literally trampling on the Constitution and democratic institutions.

Seen from afar, what is happening in U.S. politics may be improbable, but it is also very real. The Democrats have to wake up, not only to try to maintain their narrow majorities in Congress this year, or the White House in 2024. They are waging a battle for democracy in this nation; a de-

mocracy battered by the Trump presidency and wounded by the 2020 election and the Republican attempts to annul the will of the people. Biden and his party are going to need a lot more than pretty speeches and vigils to confront the virus of hate and extremism that has infected the Republican Party and which, like COVID, continues to extend its tentacles across the nation.

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

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Clima

cuando se trata de los impactos de la industria de los combustibles fósiles en comunidades con un largo historial de contaminación, como los barrios que rodean la refinería de petróleo Suncor en el norte de Denver y Commerce City o el controvertido sitio de perforación cerca de la Academia Bella Romero en Greeley.

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"Estamos cansados de que nos perjudiquen. Hemos definido las comunidades afectadas de forma desproporcionada: ya no estoy aquí para definir o estar en los consejos. Estoy aquí para traer finalmente el cambio".

Renee Millard-Chacón,
Womxn from the Mountain

Gracias en gran parte a la legislación aprobada por los demócratas en la Asamblea General, en los últimos años se han puesto en marcha esfuerzos para reforzar la protección de las "comunidades desproporcionadamente afectadas" por parte de múltiples organismos estatales, como la COGCC, el Departamento de Salud Pública y Medio Ambiente de Colorado y el Departamento de Transporte de Colorado. Pero ahora los activistas quieren que esos procesos produzcan resultados tangibles.

"Estamos cansados de que nos perjudiquen", dijo Renee Millard-Chacón, activista y cofundadora del grupo indígena Womxn from the Mountain. "Hemos defini-

do las comunidades afectadas de forma desproporcionada: ya no estoy aquí para definir o estar en los consejos. Estoy aquí para traer finalmente el cambio".

Otros oradores en el mitin incluyeron a Elisabeth Epps, fundadora del Fondo de Libertad de Colorado (Colorado Freedom Fund) y una candidata recientemente declarada para el Distrito 6 de la Cámara. Epps dijo a los asistentes al mitin que la lucha por la justicia ambiental y los esfuerzos para reformar la policía y las prisiones están vinculados - señalando, por ejemplo, que algunos de los más perjudicados por las olas de calor más intensas y frecuentes son los reclusos en las prisiones y cárceles que a menudo tienen aire acondicionado inadecuado.

"Hay gente en este edificio que nunca se ha enfrentado al poder", dijo Epps. "Si quieren líderes que vayan a tomar las medidas necesarias para proteger no sólo nuestro planeta, sino a las personas y culturas que lo habitan, tienen que elegir a líderes que ya hayan hecho ese trabajo".

"Espero que esto no sea demasiado controvertido: la Tierra va a salir adelante", añadió Epps. "¿Lo entienden? La Tierra va a durar. Somos nosotros los que podríamos no hacerlo".

Chase Woodruff es reportero de Colorado Newslines. Este artículo ha sido publicado por Colorado Newslines bajo una licencia Creative Commons.

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

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Griswold

Clerk Peters' actions constituted one of the nation's first insider threats where an official, elected to uphold free, fair, and secure elections risked the integrity of the election system in an effort to prove unfounded conspiracy theories.

Bantz has worked in Colorado elections for over 20 years, includ-

ing serving as the Director of Elections in Mesa County since May of 2020 and serving under then Clerk Wayne Williams in El Paso County for four years as a Senior Elections Specialist.

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Hydrogen

hydrogen in the short-term at the expense of working on what will really save humanity is the wrong order to do things.”

Questions on “blue” hydrogen’s green credentials

Environmental groups also take issue with the type of hydrogen that the state hopes to subsidize.

Many environmental advocates want to limit production to “green” hydrogen, which is made from water — using electricity to separate the H from the O. If made with renewable electricity, green hydrogen can be created without producing any carbon emissions. But more commonly today, producers make “gray” hydrogen by pulling out the hydrogen in natural-gas methane and releasing the leftover carbon into the air. Meanwhile, the projects now being proposed in New México are mostly “blue” hydrogen, where carbon capture is added to a gray hydrogen project to reduce its emissions.

The Hydrogen Hub Act as drafted does not distinguish between any of these colors. Lujan Grisham wants to allow for clean production of any type of hydro-

gen that meets certain emissions targets. She recognizes that this approach opens the door for fossil-fuel companies to produce hydrogen with natural gas and get paid for it. Indeed, even some gray hydrogen producers — with no plans for carbon capture — could qualify for subsidies in the early years of the bill’s passage.

It’s for this reason that environmental groups have derided the bill as a cash cow for the fossil-fuel industry.

“There’s this idea that we can just slap some bandages on the fossil-fuel approach and everything will be fine,” said Mike Eisenfeld, a Farmington resident and member of the San Juan Citizens Alliance, an environmental group. “People are excited about blue hydrogen, but a lot of us here think that would be a death sentence.”

Lujan Grisham says as long as the hydrogen is clean, it shouldn’t matter where it comes from.

“[Fossil fuels] are here. It would have been great if in 1930 we’d thought about this a little differently, but we didn’t,” she says. “We should never find ourselves in a situation where we use all of one thing and never any of the other.”

How clean is clean?

Many citizen and environmental groups have criticized the speed with which the bill is being considered. Lujan Grisham has made it a legislative priority for the upcoming session, leaving little time for debate over whether a hydrogen hub is something that communities want.

But hydrogen advocates say quick action is necessary both to make New México competitive for the federal hubs and to meet the state’s climate goals.

“We are not going to reach our 2030 goal unless we do more than we’ve done,” said New México Environment Secretary James Kenney. “Let’s get there. Let’s get there as soon as we can.”

But without further study, it’s not clear whether hydrogen produced under the regulations in the bill would lower carbon emissions.

While the drafted bill promises only to subsidize clean hydrogen, it does not account for pollution from natural gas production. Instead, the idea that natural gas hydrogen can be “clean” rests on the assumption that oil and gas operators will actually capture the methane produced through extraction.

And though a new state rule will require 98 percent capture beginning in 2026, it’s unclear how well it will be enforced.

Even the governor acknowledges the rule’s limitations.

“I keep bragging about something that’s not yet here,” she said. “The components are pretty ready, we’re not quite there for the deployment. There are other issues in the infrastructure and we expect industry to clean it all up.”

The governor may put her faith in the industry’s reliability, but surveys of oil and gas production areas across New México suggest reason for skepticism.

A [helicopter study](#) by the Environmental Defense Fund in No-

vember found that 40% of wells surveyed in the Texas/New México Permian Basin were actively leaking large amounts of methane. [Satellite surveys](#) of the San Juan Basin show levels of methane that far exceed the levels reported by the industry.

The conditions have left many on the ground uncertain that the industry can be trusted with a clean-energy transition.

Lindsay Fendt is a Staff Writer with [Searchlight New Mexico](#) is a non-partisan, nonprofit news organization dedicated to investigative reporting in New México.

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López

City Attorney; Michael Cummings, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Political Science at University of Colorado Denver; Bianca Emerson, Esq., Vice President Colorado Black Women for Political Action; Karen Goldman, Former Deputy City Clerk City of Aurora; Mark Grueskin, Esq., Shareholder Recht Kornfeld PC; Hon. Stephanie O’Malley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Government and Community Relations Denver University, former Denver Clerk and Recorder; Gena Ozols, State Director, Colorado Labor Electoral Action Project, Skye Stuart, Office of Mayor Michael B. Hancock; Ean Thomas Tafoya, Community Activist, and Martha Tierney, Esq., Tierney Lawrence LLC.

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Hidrógeno

para cumplir los objetivos climáticos del estado.

“No vamos a alcanzar nuestro objetivo para 2030 a menos que hagamos más de lo que hemos hecho”, dijo el secretario de Medio Ambiente de Nuevo México, James Kenney. “Lleguemos allí. Lleguemos allí tan pronto como podamos”.

Lindsay Fendt es redactora de [Searchlight New Mexico](#), una organización de noticias no partidista y sin fines de lucro dedicada al reportaje de investigación en Nuevo México.

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

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LEGALS

LEGALS

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For additional information contact Karen Calabro at 719-401-5621 or kcalabro@stanekconstructors.com

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