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# Latino Times

A BILINGUAL PUBLICATION

## For Female Farmworkers, Work Never Stops

- NAM

MECCA, Calif. — Alicia Benito's shift picking limes in the fields in and around Mecca, a rural community about three hours east of Los Angeles, starts at 8 a.m. But like a lot of female farmworkers, her day gets going long before first light.

"First I have to make lunch for the children, my husband and myself," said Benito, a wife and mother of three, ages 9, 7 and 1. The family shares a rented one story house in a neighborhood surrounded by farm fields. "At 6:30 a.m. I wake up the kids and get them ready. At 7 a.m. I drop off the oldest ones at the school bus stop and then I take my youngest one to daycare."

Benito is short and soft spoken, her hands are small but strong. She appears

shy and serious at first but just a few minutes into our conversation she smiles and cracks a joke. Her laughter immediately brightens the mood of an unusually cold and dark winter evening.

After her whirlwind morning routine, Benito, 27, heads to the fields where she spends 8 or more hours a day crouched under trees and exposed to the harsh desert sun. She does this six days a week, often working 50-60 hour work weeks.

Benito says the back-breaking labor takes a physical toll on her, leaving her exhausted at the end of each work day. But when she gets home, there's still no time to rest. Benito's nighttime routine starts by preparing food and taking care of her children.

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## Para Trabajadoras Agrícolas, El Trabajo Nunca Para

- NAM

MECCA, California – La jornada de Alicia Benito en los campos de Mecca, una comunidad rural a unas tres horas al este de Los Ángeles, comienza a las 8 de la mañana. Pero al igual que muchas mujeres trabajadoras agrícolas, su día se pone en marcha mucho antes de la primera luz del día.

"Primero tengo que hacer el almuerzo para los niños, mi esposo y yo," dijo la Sra. Benito, una esposa y madre de tres, de 9, 7 y 1 año. La familia comparte una casa de un piso en un barrio rodeado de campos de cultivo. "A las 6:30 de la mañana despierto a los niños y los preparo. A las 7 de la mañana, dejo a los mayores en la parada del autobús escolar y luego llevo a mi hijo menor a la guardería."

La Sra. Benito es baja y de voz suave, sus manos son pequeñas pero fuertes. Ella parece tímida y seria al principio, pero a sólo unos minutos en nuestra conversación ella sonríe y comparte una broma. Su risa aclara inmediatamente el humor de una noche inusualmente fría y oscura de invierno.

Después de su rutina matutina, la Sra. Benito, de 27 años, se dirige a los campos donde pasa 8 o más horas al día bajo los árboles y expuestos al duro sol del desierto. Ella lo hace seis días a la semana, a menudo trabajando 50-60 horas de trabajo semanales.

Benito dice que el trabajo agotador del campo tiene consecuencias físicas en ella, dejándola fatigada al final de

cada día de trabajo. Pero cuando llega a casa, todavía no hay tiempo para descansar. La rutina nocturna de Benito comienza preparando la comida y cuidando a sus hijos.

"Cuando llego a casa, hago la cena ... y luego es el momento de preparar [a mis hijos] para la cama," dijo. "Me gustaría pasar más tiempo con mis hijos, pero no puedo, no con mi horario."

Trabajar en los campos no es una carrera que hubiera elegido, si hubiese otras opciones. Pero para muchas mujeres en el Valle de Coachella, las oportunidades de carrera son limitadas, especialmente para aquellas sin un título de escuela secundaria.

Para la Sra. Benito, los campos vecinos presentaban la única opción de empleo.

Es difícil encontrar datos precisos sobre los trabajadores agrícolas que viven en el Valle de Coachella. Sin embargo, el Departamento de Trabajo de los Estados Unidos llevó a cabo una encuesta de los Trabajadores Agrícolas Nacionales (NAWS) durante todo el año fiscal 2013-14 y encontró que sólo el 17 por ciento de los encuestados informó que habían completado la escuela secundaria. Sólo el 5 por ciento informó que tenían títulos universitarios.

La Sra. Benito abandonó la escuela en el octavo grado para ayudar a sus padres, que también son trabajadores agrícolas, para cuidar a sus cinco

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## Latinos made economic strides in 2015 after years of few gains

- Pew Research

Latinos made progress on household income, poverty and jobs in 2015 after years of little or no economic gains, but they have lagged in building personal wealth, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of government data.

Hispanic real median household income was \$45,148 last year, an increase of 6.1% over 2014, when median income stood at \$42,540, the latest economic data from the U.S. Census Bureau show. Over the same period, the real median household income increased by 4.4% for non-Hispanic whites, 4.1% for blacks and 3.7% for Asians. Even so, Hispanics still trailed non-Hispanic whites (\$62,950) and Asians (\$77,166) by significant margins on this measure.

Hispanics also saw their poverty rate decline as household incomes

rose. The Hispanic poverty rate stood at 21.4% in 2015, down from 23.6% in 2014, according to the Census Bureau. Non-Hispanic whites (9.1%) and Asians (11.4%) had far lower poverty rates than Hispanics in 2015, while that of blacks (24.1%) was slightly higher.

These gains in income partly reflect an improved employment situation for Latinos. The Latino unemployment rate stood at 5.8% in the third quarter of 2016, down from 7.3% in the third quarter of 2014 and a peak of 12.8% in the first quarter of 2010. Nonetheless, Latino unemployment remains above its pre-recession minimum of 5.0% in the fourth quarter of 2006.

While Latinos have made recent gains on income, poverty and employment, there has been little or no improvement in other areas. For example,

See **STRIDES** Page 3

# SJCHCC Announces The Hiring Of New Chief Executive Officer

(Stockton, CA) The San Joaquin County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce recently announced the appointment of Carlos Villapudua as the new chief executive officer of the non-profit business membership organization.

“We are very excited to have Carlos aboard,” said Bob Gutierrez, President of the Board of Directors. “He brings extensive experience and talents to our organization and will work closely with our members and partners in the community to focus on our mission of creating a stronger and sustainable local economy through advocacy and promotion on behalf of our members and businesses within the region. His wealth of experience as a previously elected official in the area speaks to his ability to engage both the private and public sectors in creating opportunities and advocating for our members and Latino-owned businesses throughout the County to more effectively and successfully thrive in their business ventures”.

Previously, Carlos Villapudua served the First Supervisorial District of San Joaquin County, elected in 2009,

and served in this capacity for eight years. Prior to his role as Supervisor, Villapudua was the Legislative Assistant to former Supervisor Steve Gutierrez and his background includes director positions with the San Joaquin County Human Services Agency and the Welfare-to-Work CalWORKs Program. Carlos is also a skilled fund development professional and community organizer, working with groups such as the Coalition of the Mexican-American Organizations, the Lions Club and the League for United Latin American Citizens (LULAC).

“It’s important that the Chamber continue to advocate for the needs of our members in order to grow successful businesses in the San Joaquin Valley. SJCHCC can provide them with the programs, services, connections and resources that can help our Latino-owned businesses flourish,” said Villapudua. “Creating a solid foundation of access and education to help our small businesses and encouraging a streamlined business-friendly environment from our regulators will ensure a sustain-



able balance where the community can prosper, and the Chamber is committed to carrying out this mission.” Carlos is a native Californian and was born in Stockton. He graduated from Franklin High School and earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Social Work from

California State University Sacramento. He has a daughter, Loreal. He begins his tenure with SJCHCC on January 17, 2017.

For more information contact SJCHCC at (209) 943-6117 or visit our website at [www.sjchispanicchamber.com](http://www.sjchispanicchamber.com)

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## Community Partnership for Families of San Joaquin Appoints Meredith Baker as New Executive Director

The Community Partnership for Families of San Joaquin (CPF-SJ) board of directors are pleased to announce that on December 8, 2016, they appointed Meredith Baker as Executive Director. Baker has led the organization as Interim Executive Director since June of this year.

The San Joaquin County native has spent her career working in nonprofit and philanthropic organizations, including five years working at CPF-SJ. Baker joined CPF-SJ in 2011 as the director for youth services. In that role, she helped develop new programs, such as the youth program, which has continued to grow rapidly and now annually serves more than 120 previously incarcerated and/or gang-involved youth.

During her time with CPF-SJ she has also initiated a more-thorough data collection system for the organization in order to assess the success of its programs. The data collected includes measures of the mental and physical health of program participants and tracks their overall well-being.

"We want to know how resilient our youth are. How they are doing: psycho-emotionally, physically, socially, and if they feel safe,"

she said.

Baker said she looks forward to continuing to strengthen existing partnerships with funders and collaborative agencies and to forge new working relationships and further CPF-SJ's mission, which is to provide tools, resources, and connections to help families improve their quality of life. "CPF-SJ will be moving forward into the New Year with a plan for improved foundational success, including a clear process for keeping our funders and partners informed of our work through data collection and outcome communication," Baker said.

The CPF-SJ is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 1998 and dedicated to helping families move from poverty and government assistance to financial and social independence. The CPF-SJ provides tools and resources, including a mobile unit and five Family Resource Centers, which are located in the most at risk neighborhoods throughout San Joaquin County. The partnership promotes policies and programs that enable groups to work together in a systematic manner to serve these high risk neighborhoods.

For more info: <http://cpf-sj.org/>



## Siete décadas de amor

Por Johanes Roselló - NAM  
ATLANTA--Su unión ha sobrevivido 12 presidencias de Estados Unidos, la Segunda Guerra Mundial, la Guerra de Vietnam, la Guerra del Golfo Pérsico y la Guerra de Irak y Afganistán.

Su amor empezó antes que Fidel Castro tomara el poder en Cuba y en el libro de su historia hay más memorias que páginas y todavía continúan escribiendo este compendio que ya tiene más de siete décadas.

Para la costarricense Dulcemaría y su esposo, el estadounidense Douglas Elleby, los 70 años de unión matrimonial que cumplirán este 28 de diciembre han pasado como un suspiro.

En una residencia para retirados en Marietta, Dulcemaría se sienta al lado de su eterno novio, a quien acaricia el rostro. En los ojos de los nonagenarios hay un brillo que da la complicidad y la paz de una vida plena.

'La contratación'

El sol de verano calentaba en Minnesota cuando Douglas llegó a la vida de Dulcemaría. Ella, que estudiaba

en la universidad en aquel entonces, tomó un trabajo de verano y él, que recién regresaba de la Segunda Guerra Mundial, llegó a buscar empleo. A ella le correspondía entrevistarle para el trabajo.

"Cuando nos vimos, nos olvidamos del trabajo. Me pidió que si salía con él y yo le dije que sí. Le dije: 'mañana si quieres', y me dijo: 'no, mañana es el único día que no puedo porque tengo otro compromiso, pero después de mañana, todos los días', recordó Dulcemaría, de 93 años.

Resulta que al siguiente día era el cumpleaños de ella y sus amigas le tenían una fiesta sorpresa y Douglas, sin saberlo, era uno de los invitados. Desde aquel día no se separaron.

Poco días después Douglas le pidió matrimonio y ella, creyendo que se trataba de una broma, le dijo que sí. El Día de Acción de Gracias la invitó a conocer a sus padres y ellos les preguntaron cuándo se casarían. Un mes después llegaron al altar. Y el "fueron felices para siempre" de los cuentos, ha

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## Strides

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the median net worth for Hispanic households in 2013 (\$13,700) declined after the end of the Great Recession in 2009, and trailed far behind that of whites (\$141,900), according to the latest U.S. government data. Meanwhile, the Latino homeownership rate, currently at 47%, remains below its 2007 peak of 50%.

Latino registered voters rated the economy as one of the most important issues to their vote in this year's presidential election, and the recent economic gains are reflected in the views they have about their own circumstanc-

es. In 2015, Latinos expressed growing optimism about their immediate economic future and rated their personal finances more highly than in previous years, according to Pew Research Center's National Survey of Latinos.

They have also remained upbeat about the economic upward mobility of their children. Roughly three-in-four Latinos in 2015 (72%) said their children will be better off financially than they themselves were at the moment. Only 5% said their children will be less well off in their lifetimes than they were.

# Low Approval of Trump's Transition but Outlook for His Presidency Improves

Pew Research

*Growing numbers see 'strong' partisan and racial conflicts*

Nearly a month after Donald Trump's election as president, the public views his transition to the White House less positively than those of past presidents-elect. And while expectations for Trump's presidency have improved since before his victory, about as many Americans say Trump will be a poor or terrible president as a good or great one.

The latest national survey by Pew Research Center, conducted Nov. 30-Dec. 5 among 1,502 adults, finds that 40% approve of Trump's cabinet choices and high-level appointments, while 41% approve of the job he has done so far in explaining his policies and plans for the future.

In December 2008, 71% of Americans approved of Barack Obama's cabinet choices, and 58% expressed positive views of George W. Bush's high-level appointments in January 2001, prior to his inauguration. Similarly, higher shares approved of the way that both Obama (72%) and Bush (50%) explained their policies and plans for the future than say that about Trump today.

Overall, 35% of Americans think Trump will be a good or great president; 18% say he will be average, while 38% say he will be poor or terrible.

However, these assessments are far more positive than they were throughout the campaign: In October, just 25% of the public said Trump would make a good or great president, while 57% said he would be poor or terrible.

Republicans express more positive views of a Trump presidency than they did in October, while Democrats have less negative expectations. Two-thirds of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents (67%) now say Trump will be a good or great president; in October, fewer (54%) Republicans said this.

In October, 89% of Democrats and Democratic leaners thought Trump would make a poor or terrible president, with 74% calling him terrible. Today, 64% of Democrats view his prospective presidency negatively, with 45% saying he will be terrible.

Republicans, Democrats want Trump to be 'more cautious' in the White House. However, many of the same doubts and concerns that voters expressed about Trump's qualifications and temperament during the campaign are evident as he prepares to take office. Just 37% of the public views Trump as well-qualified; 32% of registered voters described Trump as well-qualified in October. Majorities continue to say

Trump is reckless (65%) and has poor judgment (62%), while 68% describe him as "hard to like."

In addition, more than half of the public (54%) says that Trump has done too little to distance himself from "white nationalist groups" who support him, while 31% say he has done the right amount to distance himself from such groups; 6% say he has done too much in this regard.

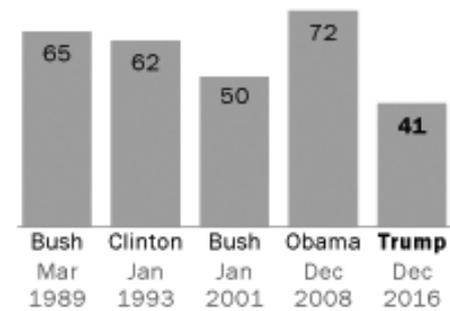
There also is broad public agreement that the president-elect will need to be more cautious in expressing his views once he takes office. About eight-in-ten Americans (82%) – including large majorities of Republicans and (76%) and Democrats (90%) – say that once he takes office, Trump "will need to be more cautious about the kinds of things he says and tweets." Just 15% of the public says there is no need for Trump to change the kinds of things he says and tweets.

In the aftermath of a deeply divisive campaign, majorities of Americans say there are "strong" conflicts between many groups in society – between Republicans and Democrats, the rich and poor, and blacks and whites, as well as between immigrants and people born in the United States.

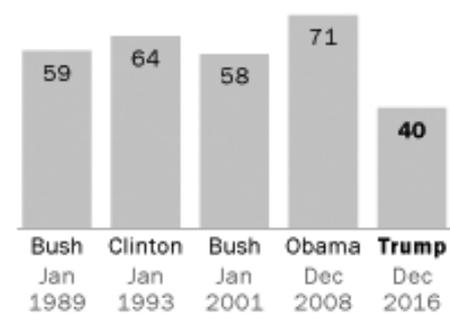
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## Low approval ratings for Trump's transition

% who approve of job \_\_\_ has done explaining their policies and plans



% who approve of \_\_\_ cabinet choices and other high level appointments



Note: Data from prior years from ABC, Gallup and U.S. News & World Report. Q68 & Q69. Source: Survey conducted Nov. 30-Dec. 5, 2016.

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# Trabajo

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hermanos porque no podían alcanzar para el cuidado de niños. Ella comenzó a trabajar en el campo hace cinco años, después de que ella y su esposo, que trabaja en la construcción, comenzaron a luchar con deudas que se acumulaban. Es el único trabajo que ella ha hecho.

“Teníamos muchas necesidades, había muchos cobros que debían pagarse,” dijo. “Como no terminé la escuela, mi única opción era ir a trabajar en los campos.”

Es un horario implacable, pero al hacer \$400 a la semana, Benito y su marido son capaces de llegar a fin de mes para su familia de cinco. Es momentos en que no puede trabajar, como cuando estaba embarazada, que las cosas se ponen difíciles. Las trabajadoras agrícolas no reciben permiso por maternidad, por lo que durante esos meses durante y después del embarazo, la familia de la Sra. Benito se vio obligada a contar sólo con el cheque de su marido.

“Fue muy difícil durante esos tiempos con sólo mi marido aportando dinero, tuvimos que encontrar maneras de realmente reducir nuestros gastos,” dijo.

Nancy González, líder de la comunidad y voluntaria de Líderes Campesinas, una organización sin fines de lucro que pretende educar y capacitar a las trabajadoras agrícolas, dice que es común que las trabajadoras agrícolas asuman responsabilidades

financieras y la responsabilidad de cuidar a la familia en casa.

“Las mujeres se dedican sólo al trabajo y se olvidan de cosas como lo académico y el aprender el inglés,” dijo González.

Agregó que este ciclo afecta a toda la familia. Si las madres no pueden seguir una educación o desarrollar sus habilidades lingüísticas, se les hace difícil participar en la educación de sus hijos.

“No pueden ayudar a sus hijos a tener éxito porque no saben el idioma,” dijo González. “Es frustrante tanto para la madre como para el niño. El trabajo de campo no deja a las mujeres con buenas opciones.”

Sandra Ramírez, de 40 años, pasó más de 10 años trabajando en la industria agrícola, recolectando todo desde dátiles hasta uvas de mesa y mangos. Hace tres años dejó de trabajar en los campos para pasar más tiempo con sus cuatro hijos y para obtener un título universitario.

“Decidí dejar de trabajar en el campo, sobre todo para mis hijos,” dijo en español. “A veces me dicen que quieren ir a trabajar allí y les digo que no.”

Al igual que la Sra. Benito, el trabajo de la Sra. Ramírez dentro y fuera del campo la dejó con muy poco tiempo para sus hijos y para ella misma.

“Cuando trabajaba recogiendo uvas, me despertaba a las 4 de la mañana, hacía mi almuerzo y salía a trabajar a las 5 de la mañana,” dijo.

“Entonces regresaba a casa, hacía la cena, limpiaba y me aseguraba de que todo estuviera en orden.”

La Sra. Ramírez dijo que tiene más tiempo para involucrarse en la educación de sus hijos, ahora que ha dejado de trabajar en el campo. Ella se ha convertido en una líder en su comunidad, alentando a otros padres en el este del Valle de Coachella a involucrarse en abogar por la educación de sus hijos.

Ramírez dijo que abandonar los campos fue una de las lecciones más valiosas que pudo enseñarle a sus hijos.

“Quiero mostrarles que tienen más opciones, que pueden hacer más,” dijo.

Aunque ya no trabaja en el campo, Ramírez dijo que ve cómo los papeles de género tradicionales que prevalecen en el este del Valle de Coachella se suman a la carga que las trabajadoras agrícolas enfrentan dentro y fuera de los campos.

“Para las mujeres, es más difícil. No podemos regresar a casa, beber una cerveza, ver la televisión y relajarnos,” dijo. “Todavía tenemos que asegurarnos de que todo se hace en la casa.”

González dijo que estos roles tradicionales de género dificultan que las mujeres en las comunidades de trabajadores agrícolas se vean como agentes de cambio. Pero Líderes Campesinas está trabajando para cambiar las cosas. La organización regularmente celebra reuniones en todo el este del Valle de Coachella para educar a las mujeres sobre sus derechos en el trabajo y en casa.

“Enseñamos a las mujeres sobre el abuso físico y emocional, pero también sobre la igualdad en el hogar,” dijo González, agregando que llegar a los hombres es un reto más difícil. “[Pero] muchos de los hombres de nuestra comunidad son ‘machistas’ y no sienten la necesidad de venir a nuestras reuniones.”

González dijo que quieren llevar a los hombres a sus reuniones para mostrar que la igualdad en el hogar es importante para el bienestar de toda la familia.

Por ahora, trabajar en los campos es un sacrificio necesario que la Sra. Benito hace para que sus hijos puedan tener un futuro mejor y, con suerte, convertirse en el primero de su familia en graduarse de la universidad.

Benito, que es originaria de México, recientemente ganó la ciudadanía y dijo que algún día le gustaría volver a la escuela.

“No sé exactamente lo que quiero estudiar, pero me gustaría inscribirme en un programa que podría terminar en unos años,” dijo. “Con los niños no tendré demasiado tiempo para terminar un programa largo.”

Mientras tanto, planea continuar en su trabajo en los campos para apoyar a su familia y asegurarse de que sus hijos tengan otras opciones.

“Tengo que trabajar para que podamos tener una vida mejor, todo lo que hago es para mis hijos,” dijo. “Quiero que estudien, no quiero que luchen tanto como yo. Quiero que logren todas las cosas que yo no he hecho.”



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# Farmworkers

continued from Front Page

"When I get home, I make dinner ... and then it's time to get [my children] ready for bed," she said. "I would like to spend more time with my children but I just can't, not with my schedule."

Working in the fields is not a career path she would have chosen, had there been other options. But for many women in the eastern Coachella Valley, career opportunities are limited, especially for those without a high school degree.

For Benito, the surrounding fields presented the only option for employment.

Accurate data on farmworkers living in the eastern Coachella Valley is difficult to find. However, the United States Department of Labor conducted a National Agricultural Workers (NAWS) survey throughout fiscal year 2013-14 and found that only 17 percent of survey respondents reported that they had completed high school. Only 5 percent reported that they had college degrees. Benito dropped out of school in the 8th grade to help her parents, who are also farmworkers, care for her five siblings because they could not afford childcare. She started working in the fields five years ago after she and her husband, who works in construction, began struggling with mounting bills. It's the only work she's ever done.

"We had a lot needs, there were a lot bills that needed to be paid," she said. "Since I didn't finish school, my only option was to go work in the fields."

It is a relentless schedule, but by making \$400 a week, Benito and her husband are able to make ends meet for their fam-

ily of five. It's times when she can't work, like when she was pregnant, that things become difficult. Female farmworkers do not receive maternity leave, so during those months during and after the pregnancy Benito's family was forced to rely on her husband's paycheck.

It was very difficult during those times with just my husband bringing in money, we had to find ways to really reduce our spending," she said.

Nancy Gonzalez, community leader and volunteer with Lideres Campesinas, a non-profit that aims to educate and empower female farmworkers, says it's common for female farmworkers to carry both financial responsibilities and the responsibility of caring for the family at home.

"Women dedicate themselves only to working and forget about things like academics and learning English," Gonzalez said.

She added this cycle affects the whole family. If mothers are not able to pursue an education or develop their language skills, it makes it difficult for them to become involved in their children's education.

"They can't help their children succeed because they don't know the language," Gonzalez said. "It is frustrating for both the mother and the child. Field work does not leave women with good options."

Sandra Ramirez, 40, spent more than 10 years working in the agricultural industry, harvesting everything from dates to table grapes and mangoes. Three years ago she stopped working in the fields to spend more time with her four sons and

to pursue a college degree.

"I decided to stop working in the fields, mostly for my sons," she said in Spanish. "Sometimes they tell me that they want to go work there too and I tell them no."

Like Benito, Ramirez's work on and off the field left her with very little time for her children and herself.

"When I worked picking grapes, I would wake up at 4 a.m., make my lunch and head out to work at 5 a.m.," she said. "Then I would come home, make dinner, clean and just make sure that everything was in order."

Ramirez said she has more time to be involved in her children's education, now that she has stopped working in the fields. She has become a leader in her community, encouraging other parents in the eastern Coachella Valley to become involved in advocating for their children's education.

Ramirez said leaving the fields was one of the most valuable lessons she was able to teach her sons.

"I want to show them that they have more options, that they can do more," she said.

Though she no longer works in the fields, Ramirez said she sees how traditional gender roles that are prevalent in the eastern Coachella Valley add to the burden that female farmworkers face on and off of the fields.

"For women, it is harder. We can't just come home, drink a beer, watch TV and relax," she said. "We still have to make sure everything is done around the house."

Gonzalez said these traditional gender roles make it difficult for women in farm-

worker communities to see themselves as agents of change. But Lideres Campesinas is working to change things. The grassroots organization regularly holds meetings throughout the eastern Coachella Valley to educate women on their rights at work and at home.

"We teach women about physical and emotional abuse but also about equality in the home," Gonzalez said, adding reaching the men is a tougher challenge. "[But] many of the men in our community are 'machista' and they don't feel the need to come to our meetings."

Gonzalez said they want to bring men into their meetings to show that equality in the home is important for the well-being of the whole family.

For now, working in the fields is a necessary sacrifice Benito makes so that her children can have a better future and hopefully become the first in their family to graduate from college.

Benito, who is originally from Mexico, recently gained citizenship and said she would someday like to go back to school.

"I don't know exactly what I want to study but I would like to enroll in a program that I could finish in a few years," she said. "With the kids I won't have too much time to finish a long program."

In the meantime, she plans to continue working the fields to support her family and hopefully ensure that her kids have other options.

"I have to work so we can have a better life, everything I do is for my kids," she said. "I want them to study, I don't want them to struggle as much as I have. I want them to achieve all the things that I haven't."



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TCP-19398-P



# El triunfo de Trump podría afectar la salud mental

Por Francisco Castro - NAM  
 En 2014, el profesor Patrick Johansson del Centro Médico de la Universidad de Nebraska realizó un estudio entre más de 400 latinos mayores en áreas rurales y encontró que “los hispanos experimentan un alto grado de depresión debido a la discriminación percibida”.

El estudio, que está bajo revisión, descubrió que aquellos que reportaron altos niveles de discriminación también tenían una tasa de depresión del 60-70%, dijo Johansson, quien habló sobre su estudio en la conferencia de la Sociedad Americana de Gerontología (GSA) en New Orleans, Louisiana.

Eso fue antes de que Donald Trump lanzara su campaña presidencial y tildara a los mexicano que venían al país como “violadores” y

“asesinos”. Sus palabras hacia los inmigrantes y los latinos no se suavizaron durante la campaña y ahora que ha ganado la presidencia, ha habido varios actos discriminatorios contra los hispanos, no sólo en las zonas rurales, sino en ciudades grandes como Los Ángeles y San Francisco.

Esta semana, La Opinión informó sobre el caso del maestro que, después de la victoria de Trump, fue grabado diciendo a estudiantes latinos de una escuela intermedia en el sur de Los Ángeles que sus padres serían deportados y que ellos serían puestos en hogares de crianza temporal. El distrito escolar ya lo despidió.

Esta semana también, la policía de San Francisco arrestó a un hombre acusado de jalar el pelo y el cuello de una niñera hispana en un

parque y decirle “no latinos aquí”. La mujer sufrió algunos arañazos y el terror de ese episodio.

Lourdes Dobraganes, una niñera en San Francisco y miembro de La Colectiva y de la Coalición de Trabajadores Domésticos de California, dijo de ese ataque: “Estamos entrando en un momento que me pone triste me asusta, porque parece

que estamos retrocediendo con este ataque racial”.

**Depresión**  
 Sentimientos de tristeza, miedo y ansiedad son algunos síntomas de la depresión, una condición mental debilitante y a menudo no diagnosticada que afecta a un número de latinos.

Ver **TRUMP** Pág 12

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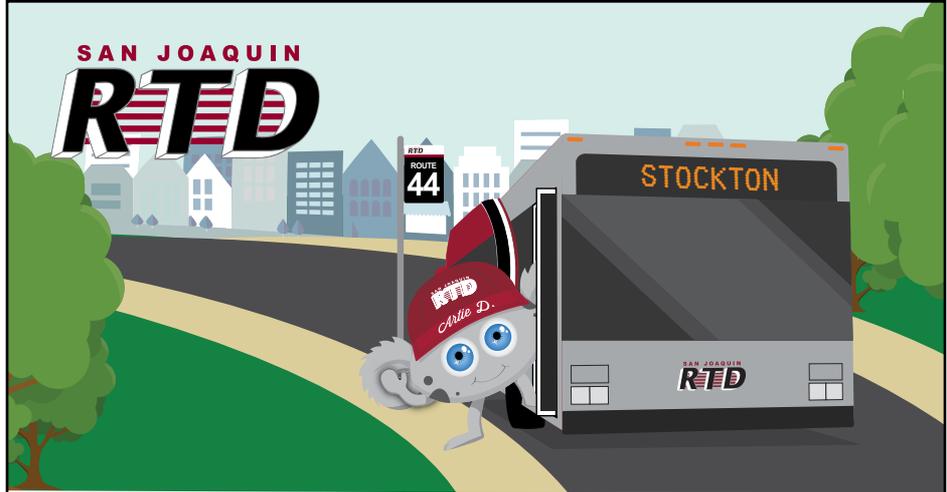
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# Local Taskforce Hosts Free Human Trafficking Community Summit

*County collaboration seeks to combat local human trafficking and support those who have been victimized.*

Stockton, CA: The San Joaquin County Human Trafficking Task Force, a local collaboration between more than three dozen county agencies, will host a Human Trafficking Community Summit on Wednesday, January 11, 2017 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. The Community Summit is free to the public and will be held in the Burwood Auditorium inside the Wentworth Center at the San Joaquin County Office of Education in Stockton, California.

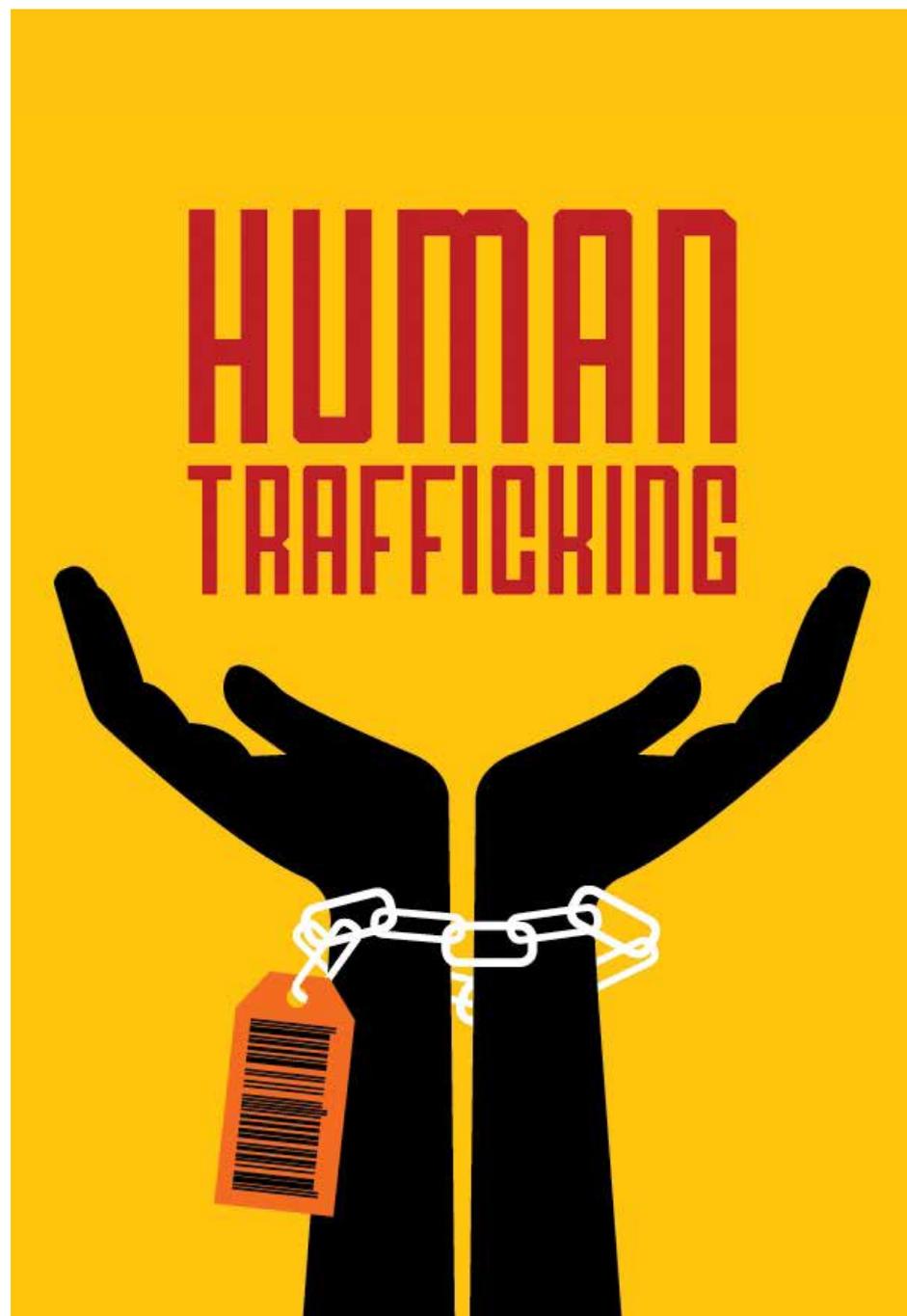
The Community Summit is an opportunity to highlight accomplishments achieved by the Task Force over the past year and share the critical goals for the upcoming year. Additionally, participants will hear from some of our county's top agencies during a panel discussion and learn, first hand, how human trafficking impacted one local family.

Joelle Gomez, Task Force Chair, encourages the community to participate in this critical event. "Human trafficking is a massive, complex and pervasive industry; one that is impossible for a single institution to take on alone. Eradicating this trade requires a comprehensive set

of initiatives that come from many organizations working in a variety of sectors, each through their own and shared frameworks and services," states Gomez. The Task Force seeks to utilize the Community Summit as a platform to continue building on an infrastructure that deters local human trafficking and supports those who have been victimized.

Any local business or community member interested in learning more about the Task Force or attending the Human Trafficking Community Summit can email Joelle Gomez, Task Force Chair, at [jgomez@chsstk.com](mailto:jgomez@chsstk.com).

*About The San Joaquin County Human Trafficking Task Force: The Task Force was established in 2014 between more than three dozen local organizations and agencies, including Women's Center-Youth and Family Services, Stockton Police Department, San Joaquin District Attorney's Office, Probation, Victim Witness, Human Services Agency/Children's Services and San Joaquin Regional Transit District. It is only through a continued and collective effort, action and commitment that we can achieve our goal of creating a community, and world, where we can all live free of human trafficking.*



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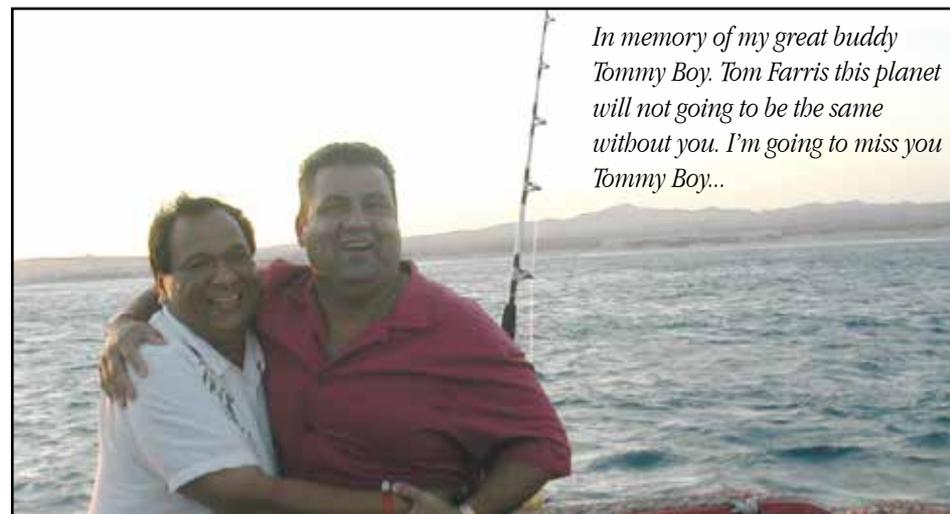
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# Unauthorized immigrants covered by DACA face uncertain future

By Jens Manuel Krogstad

More than 750,000 young unauthorized immigrants have received work permits and deportation relief through the federal government's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program since it was created by President Barack Obama, according to the latest data released by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. But they now must wait and see what becomes of the program under the Trump administration.

The program known as DACA was created through an executive action signed by Obama in August 2012.

It gives unauthorized immigrants who came to the U.S. before age 16 – a group sometimes called “Dreamers” – a chance to stay in the U.S. to study or work, provided they meet certain conditions such as being enrolled in high school or having a high school degree or GED equivalent, and not having a serious criminal conviction. Those approved for the program are given a work permit and protection from deportation for two years. Benefits can be renewed.

Since 2012, about 588,000 renewals have been issued, with more renewal requests likely to come as many current program participants see their two-year benefits expire. (The latest government data include all of fiscal year 2016, which ended Sept. 30, 2016.) For example, up to 512,000 unauthorized immigrants could be eligible to renew their benefits in fiscal 2017, which runs through Sept. 30.

About 1.1 million unauthorized immigrants are eligible for the benefits, ac-

ording to a 2014 Pew Research Center estimate, which means that about 78% of those potentially eligible have applied to the program. The total reflects the number of applications during the life of the program, not the number of applications approved or immigrants currently receiving benefits.

Trump said he may create a way for those who have benefited from DACA to stay in the U.S., but he also made a campaign promise to undo all executive actions taken by Obama.

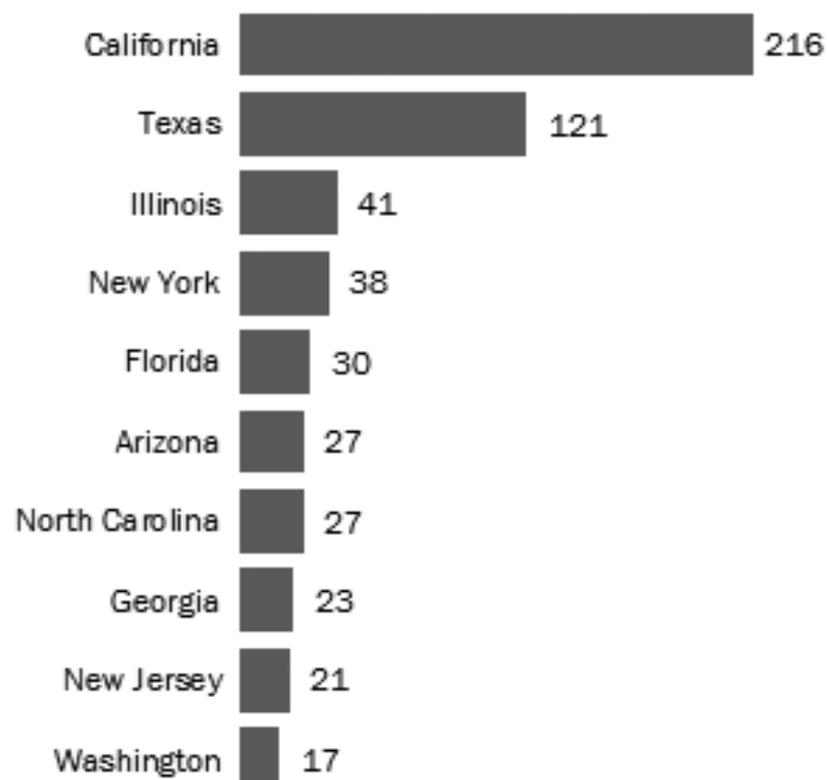
If Trump opts to undo the executive action that created DACA, the program could be immediately canceled – as he promised during the campaign – or it may be phased out by not allowing immigrants to renew their benefits when they expire after two years. Congress may also act to give “Dreamers” a chance to legally stay in the U.S. A bill backed by a group of Democratic and Republican senators would offer protection from deportation and a work permit for three years to those eligible for DACA benefits.

Several U.S. senators who support the bill represent states with some of the highest number of DACA recipients, including California, Illinois and Arizona. California alone has 216,060 initial DACA recipients, the highest in the nation, followed by Texas (120,642) and Illinois (41,256).

Unauthorized immigrants from Mexico make up three-quarters of all DACA recipients. Since the program started, 78% of approved applications – both initial (588,859) and renewals (456,108) – have come from Mexicans.

## California leads nation in DACA recipients

Number of DACA initial applications approved, in thousands



Note: Totals are initial applications approved under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program from August 2012 to Sept. 30, 2016. Renewals are not shown.

Source: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

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# When Friends Become Caregivers

Michael O. Schroeder - NAM

As a growing proportion of America goes gray, the demand for caregivers is increasing.

Caregivers help loved ones age in place and assist adults of all ages to manage chronic conditions and deal with physical or mental disabilities. Although most often those duties fall to family, research shows that sometimes it's friends and neighbors who take on the role of caregiver.

"Caregiving in the U.S. 2015," a report conducted by the nonprofit National Alliance for Caregiving and AARP, found that while 85 percent of caregivers were a relative, 10 percent were friends, 3 percent were neighbors and 2 percent were another non-relative.

## No Family Left to Help

"There are a lot of people who have no other family, and so their friends, their neighbors are the people they'll turn to," said Gail Gibson Hunt, president and CEO of the National Alliance for Caregiving. It might start with something as simple as taking a neighbor to the grocery store or picking up that person's groceries, she says, and then extend to taking that individual to the doctor or advocating for him or her in health-related matters.

"As the population ages, there's an increasing proportion of adult children who are taking care of their aging parents," says Melinda Abrams, vice president for delivery system reform at The Commonwealth Fund, a health care and policy foundation.

"But as families no longer live in the same community, there's also an increasing proportion of non-family members, such as friends, neighbors, community members who are volunteering and helping to take care of their elderly, aging and disabled neighbors," she said.

The Commonwealth Fund examined the makeup of caregivers as part of a 2016 survey of high-need patients. Those included elderly with multiple functional limitations as well as adults with multiple chronic conditions, such as heart failure, stroke or diabetes that require insulin.

Of those surveyed, 10 percent received help from friends or neighbors for troubles with activities of daily living, such as getting across the room, dressing or bathing – as compared with 72 percent who said they received help with activities of daily living from a family member or relative and 17 percent who said a professional, or home health aide, provided assistance. And 14 percent of those high-need patients surveyed said they received help from a friend or neighbor with what are called instrumental activities of daily living, such as cooking and taking medications regularly.

## Offering Support in a Lonely World

The social isolation many older adults face has sharpened the need for those nearby to take on a caregiving role. "Research shows that there's a direct correlation between chronic

isolation and loneliness and all kind of negative health effects," said Dallas Jamison, spokesperson for the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (N4A).

N4A recently launched a campaign in collaboration with AARP to raise awareness about the growing problem of loneliness and isolation affecting older adults. "That could be chronic health conditions, including heart disease, depression and anxiety, dementia – including Alzheimer's – and even accelerated death." Given that, she adds, "People may be a bit more sensitive when they see a neighbor who is never with anyone, who seems to be alone all the time."

Given the potentially involved nature of caregiving, it's not without pitfalls. To begin to overcome obstacles, a person must first recognize he or she is, in fact, a caregiver – which isn't always so obvious.

"Caregivers don't self-identify," Hunt says. The same selfless approach that may lead a person to help out in small and then big ways, can keep people from searching for caregiver support and services that can supplement the assistance they're providing, experts say.

As with family caregivers, friends and neighbors taking on a caregiving role can access the Elder Care Locator, a public resource through the U.S. Administration on Aging for connecting with services for aging adults, from transportation to adult day care centers for people with Alzheimer's Disease.

The Elder Care Locator is administered by N4A, and caregivers can go online to get information or call 1-800-677-1116. Area Agencies on Aging will know about caregiver support groups and condition-specific support groups for those being cared for, as well as other services available in a person's local community, says Patrice Earnest, director of the Elder Care Locator.

## Coordinating Caregiving

Friends and neighbors seeking to ensure a person they're caring for gets needed medical treatment will run into a brick wall if they're trying to access that person's health information, given laws that protect patient privacy. That can be especially problematic if a friend is listed as an emergency contact, experts say.

Fortunately, patients can sign an authorization allowing that information to be released to a person they designate, Hunt said.

More than two-thirds of states have now adopted the Caregiver Advise, Record, Enable (CARE, Act). This requires hospitals to record the name of a caregiver in a patient's electronic health record.

"Then when the time comes for discharge, that person is involved in discharge planning, and then lastly they're given the training in the hospital for how to take care of the person when they come home," Hunt said. "So it could be that rather than a family member, a friend or neighbor is identified as the caregiver."

Caregiving is a collaborative af-



fair – and that's true for how a friend may coordinate with a family caregiver. Often, a family member living out of town may ask a friend or neighbor to check in on his or her loved one. Given that many decisions need to be made on a regular basis and that perceptions of how a person is doing can differ, there can be discord and conflict between caregivers.

So it's important for all caregivers to listen to one another and preferably discuss concerns – if possible – with the

person receiving the care, and always keep that person at the center, experts say.

"To the extent possible, stay in close contact with close living relatives to the aging adult or person with disabilities," Abrams said. Whether by email or phone, keep lines of communication open so you don't feel that burden of making all the decisions on behalf of the family, she says. After all, being a caregiver is a big job – for family and friends alike.

## Trump

continúa en pág. 7

El Instituto Nacional de Salud Mental (NIMH) observa que la depresión se caracteriza por cambios en el estado de ánimo, los sentimientos sobre sí mismo, el funcionamiento cognitivo, los patrones de sueño, el apetito y el nivel de energía.

Cada año, la depresión afecta a más de 15 millones (6.7%) de adultos estadounidenses mayores de 18 años, informa la Asociación de Ansiedad y Depresión de América. Las personas de 45 a 64 años de edad, las mujeres, las minorías, los desempleados y las personas divorciadas tienen más probabilidades de mostrar los síntomas de depresión.

Iveris Martínez, antropóloga en la Universidad Internacional de la Florida en Miami y coautora de un estudio sobre "la prevalencia de la depresión y sus factores sociales relacionados entre los adultos mayores hispanos", encontró que este problema de salud mental afecta a alrededor del 26.7% de los latinos en su reporte.

Pero, "muchos no habían sido diagnosticados", en parte debido a las diferencias culturales y lingüísticas y la falta de acceso a tratamientos médicos.

En la cultura latina también hay un "estigma de ir a un psicólogo" y que te consideren "loco", señaló la Dra. Martínez.

Además, "muchas personas piensan que es normal sentirse triste a medida que envejecemos", dijo la Dra. Martínez, quien también presentó su estudio en la convención de GSA.

Todavía no hay estudios sobre cómo la victoria de Trump ha afectado el estado de salud mental de los latinos en el país. Pero tanto Johanson como Martínez dijeron que es posible que la incertidumbre que los latinos -especialmente los inmigrantes indocumentados- sienten con la llegada de Trump a la Casa Blanca puede llevar a una mayor tasa de depresión entre los hispanos.

"Si te sientes insultado y vulnerable, eso afecta el estrés y el estrés no es bueno para tu salud", dijo la Dra. Martínez.

## Tratamiento

Varios tipos de psicoterapia (también llamada "terapia de conversación" o asesoramiento) pueden ayudar a las personas con depresión. Si el problema empeora, un médico puede recetar antidepresivos que ayudan a mejorar la forma en que tu cerebro utiliza ciertas sustancias químicas que controlan el estado de ánimo o el estrés. Los antidepresivos toman tiempo en funcionar – generalmente 2 a 4 semanas – y a menudo los síntomas como el sueño, el apetito y los problemas de concentración mejoran antes de que mejore el estado de ánimo, señala NIMH.

## Síntomas de la depresión

- Sentimientos de desesperanza o pesimismo
- Irritabilidad
- Pérdida de interés o placer en cosas que te gustan y actividades que realizas
- Disminución de la energía o fatiga
- Dificultad para dormir, despertarse temprano en la mañana o dormir demasiado
- Cambios en apetito y/o de peso
- Pensamientos de muerte o suicidio, o intentos de suicidio

Consejos para ayudarte o a un ser querido durante el tratamiento para la depresión:

- Trata de mantenerse activa y hacer ejercicio
- Establece metas realistas
- Trata de pasar tiempo con otras personas y habla con un amigo o familiar de confianza
- Trata de no aislarte y deja que otros te ayuden
- Ten paciencia. Tu estado de ánimo mejora gradual, no inmediatamente

**Fuente: Instituto Nacional de Salud Mental**

# Approval

continued from Page 4

Fully 85% say there are either “very strong” (56%) or “strong” (29%) conflicts between Democrats and Republicans, while 66% say there are very strong or strong conflicts between blacks and whites and 63% say the same about the rich and poor. Nearly six-in-ten (59%) think there are strong conflicts between immigrants and the native-born.

Four-in-ten think there are very strong or strong conflicts between the young and old and between people who live in cities and people in rural areas; 37% see strong conflicts between college graduates and those who did not attend college.

Four years ago, most Americans also said there were strong conflicts between partisans, but the share saying there are very strong conflicts between Republicans and Democrats has increased from 47% to 56%.

Perceptions of strong conflicts between racial and age groups have risen sharply since 2012. Currently, 26% say there are very strong conflicts between blacks and whites, while 40% perceive strong conflicts; four years ago, just 11% saw very strong conflicts between the races and 28% said there were strong conflicts. The share saying there are at least strong conflicts between young people and older people also has increased 11 percentage points since 2012, from 29% to 40%.

Across party lines, growing shares say there are strong conflicts between racial, age groups. The belief that there are strong racial and age conflicts in this country has increased across partisan lines. Nearly three-quarters of Democrats (73%) currently say there are very strong or strong conflicts between blacks and whites, up from just 41% four years ago. Over the same period, the share of Republicans saying this has risen from 36% to 59%.

Similarly, the share of Democrats who say there are at least strong conflicts between young people and older adults has risen 14 percentage points since 2012 (from 30% to 44%), while increasing 11 points among Republicans (26% to 37%).

# Amor

continúa en pág. 3

sido solo un cuento.

“No hay receta, porque las cosas vienen como vienen, siempre hay dificultades, cuando menos piensas, hay un problema”, aseguró la costarricense.

Poco después de su casamiento, el padre de ella se enfermó y se mudaron a Costa Rica, donde Douglas trabajó y aprendió español. De allí una oportunidad con el gobierno de EE.UU. los llevó a vivir a República Dominicana, Brasil, México, El Salvador y Panamá.

“Yo digo que hemos sido bendecidos porque nuestras vidas han sido tan diferentes, muchas personas no tienen las oportunidades que hemos tenido, hemos viajado mucho, nuestros hijos aprendieron muchos idiomas, es más fácil para ellos acostumbrarse a una situación, a diferencia de muchos aquí”, dijo Dulcemaría.

The survey also finds that substantial numbers of Americans think there is discrimination against several groups in society – especially against Muslims. A majority of the public (57%) says there is a lot of discrimination against Muslims in this country, while 25% say there is some discrimination; just 16% say there is only a little or no discrimination at all against Muslims.

Majorities also say there is a lot or some discrimination against gays and lesbians (43% a lot, 33% some), blacks (41% a lot, 35% some), Hispanics (32% a lot, 38% some) and women (23% a lot, 37% some).

The shares saying there is “a lot” of discrimination against Muslims and blacks have increased since 2013. At that time, when asked a somewhat different version of the question, 45% said there was a lot of discrimination against Muslim Americans; today, 57% see a lot of discrimination against Muslims in society.

In addition, a much larger share perceives a lot of discrimination against blacks today (41%) than said this against African Americans in 2013 (22%). And the number saying there is a lot of discrimination against women has risen eight percentage points over this period (from 15% to 23%).

There are wide partisan differences in the perceptions of discrimination against most groups. For instance, while majorities of both Republicans and Democrats say blacks face at least some discrimination, just 20% of Republicans and Republican leaners say blacks face a lot of discrimination, compared with 57% of Democrats and Democratic leaners who say the same.

Democrats also are more likely than Republicans to say there is at least some discrimination against women (75% vs. 43%).

By contrast, while half of Republicans see at least some discrimination against evangelical Christians, just a third of Democrats do so. And while 49% of Republicans say there is at least some discrimination against whites in the U.S., only 29% of Democrats say the same.

Tras una larga carrera en el gobierno, Douglas y Dulce se mudaron a Georgia, donde su hijo empezó a practicar la medicina. Han vivido en el ‘estado del durazno’ desde 1978.

‘Wito’ y ‘Wita’

De la unión de Dulcemaría y Douglas nacieron cuatro hijos, que les dieron 11 nietos y de ellos 19 bisnetos, hasta ahora.

Su primera nieta los bautizó ‘wito’ y ‘wita’, su forma infantil de decir abuelito y abuelita. Desde aquel momento fueron conocidos como los ‘witos’, y son un símbolo de amor, compromiso y estabilidad para todos sus descendientes.

“Esta gente ha tocado tantas vidas que ellos no se imaginan la amplitud de su legado. Para mí, su legado es un verdadero entendimiento de lo que un matrimonio es. No es perfecto y

no es el príncipe y la princesa, es trabajo duro, lo tomas día a día y amas incondicionalmente, sin importar lo que pase”, dijo su nieta mayor, Katy Sudano.

Douglas asegura que no hay secretos, ni recetas.

“Creo que nosotros somos normales, nuestras vidas fueran cambiando, yo nunca pienso ni un día que han pasado 70 años, vivimos extremadamente bien, entendiéndonos, incluso a pesar del idioma”, sostuvo Douglas, de 94 años.

Ante tantas rupturas matrimoniales hoy día, Dulcemaría y Douglas hacen un llamado a la paciencia, al compromiso y a la entrega incondicional.

“Ahora divorciarse es como nada, no hay esa responsabilidad que teníamos en aquel tiempo”, dijo la costarricense. “Recomiendo a las parejas que tengan mucha paciencia, que no dejen de comunicarse, porque la comunicación es muy importante y tampoco guarden rencor, porque guardar rencor, eso enferma”, añadió.

Compañía que regala años

Las bromas no faltan en el hogar de los Elleby, pues Dulcemaría se encarga de entretener a todos con sus chistes e historias.

La larga vida de esta pareja y sus aventuras en tantas partes del mundo les ha llevado a superar muchas pruebas, ya que su matrimonio ha estado lleno de desafíos desde el comienzo.

Algunas investigaciones científicas sugieren que el matrimonio ayuda a las personas a vivir más años.

Sin embargo, para la gerontóloga

de la Universidad de Georgia en Athens (UGA), Kerstin Gerst, la felicidad en el matrimonio es la clave.

“El matrimonio da grandes beneficios, económicos, tienes mayor acceso a beneficios de salud, pero también da un sentido a tu vida, alguien por quien vivir. Pero que sean felices es clave. Porque si tienes un matrimonio terrible y estresante, eso te hará daño”, aseguró la profesora del Universidad de Georgia, Atlanta.

La gerontóloga incluso dice que la presencia de un buen compañero con quien hablar puede ayudar a mejorar la salud. Y opina que la larga vida de esta pareja y la manera en que disfrutan su vejez tiene mucho que ver con los retos que han enfrentado por 70 años y la manera en que se han adaptado a los cambios.

“Ellos se han tenido que ajustar a muchas circunstancias constantemente durante sus vidas, y para algunas personas envejecer puede ser un proceso muy estresante, porque no están acostumbrados a manejar los cambios, pero al parecer, a esta pareja le ha tocado enfrentar cambios toda su vida”, manifestó Gerst.

Eje de generaciones

A pocos días de su aniversario de bodas, Douglas y Dulcemaría agradecen lo que este viaje les ha regalado.

“Yo me siento satisfecha, siento que sí he cumplido, que he tratado de ser lo mejor que he podido. Me siento completa, no me importaría morir, no le tengo miedo a la muerte, porque me siento tranquila”, sostuvo Dulcemaría.



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# Congressman McNerney's Bill to Aid Small Businesses Owned by Disabled Veterans Signed into Law

Washington, D.C. – Today, Congressman Jerry McNerney's bill to protect Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSB) was signed into law by the President as part of a veterans omnibus package that was passed by Congress.

McNerney's bill, H.R. 1313, the Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business Relief Act, will protect small businesses owned by disabled veterans in the event that the business owner passes away, by providing a longer transition period during which the business would keep its SDVOSB status and any Department of Veterans Affairs contracts associated with that status.

"I have worked hard to ensure that our veteran small business owners

have an opportunity to grow and succeed in the local economy. They have distinctive skills and a commitment to community that make them uniquely qualified to become part of one of the best economic drivers we have in our country – small businesses," said Congressman McNerney.

In the United States there are an estimated 500,000 Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses. Currently, if a veteran who was rated 100 percent disabled and who owned a service-disabled veteran-owned small business passes away, the surviving spouse has 10 years to transition the business away from service-disabled veteran-owned small business status. However, if the veteran business owner was rated less than 100

percent disabled or dies of a non-service connected injury, the surviving spouse only has one year to transition the business for contracts with the VA.

The SDVOSB Act will allow a service-disabled veteran-owned small business, whose principal owner passes away and was rated less than 100 percent disabled at the time of death, with a sensible three-year transition period from SDVOSB status with the VA.

H.R. 1313 was included in the passage of H.R. 6416, the Jeff Miller and Richard Blumenthal Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2016.

The SDVOSB Act is supported by the Paralyzed Veterans of America, AMVETS, VFW, IAVA, and the Amer-

ican Legion.

"Service disabled veteran owned businesses play a critical role in federal contracting," said Carl Blake, Government Relations Director of the Paralyzed Veterans of America. "PVA gladly supports this legislation that will ensure that the SDVOSB is not immediately penalized by the passing of the veteran business owner who honorably served this Nation."

"AMVETS supports The Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business Relief Act, which would ensure some much needed equity to the surviving spouse of veterans rated at less than 100% disability," said Diane M. Zumatto, AMVETS National Legislative Director.

## Community-Based Outreach Mini-Grant Program for the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan / Sustainable Communities Strategy

The Regional Transportation Plan / Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) is a long range transportation investment plan that is based on goals established by the region. The regional level plan covers all modes of transportation – pedestrian, bicycle, public transit, and automobiles. However, the plan must also coordinate transportation investments with regional land use and housing. Through scenario-based planning, decision-makers, stakeholders, and the general

public weigh in on different combinations of transportation investments and land use patterns to determine a shared vision of the region's future.

In order to ensure broad input that is reflective of the region's diversity, the San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG) seeks to expand its community outreach activities. The agency is seeking assistance from community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, youth-serving institutions, etc. to solicit ongoing

public input into key activities associated with the preparation of the 2018 RTP/SCS.

SJCOG will provide mini-grants of up to \$3,000 each to organizations that will implement outreach activities resulting in public involvement and input from stakeholders regarding the 2018 RTP/SCS. The primary goals of this effort are to enhance the transportation planning process through:

1. Reaching out to residents of the San Joaquin County region to determine future transportation needs and identify the goals and strategies that will shape the 2018 RTP/SCS.
2. Increasing public engagement among historically underserved and underrepresented communities in the transportation planning process.
3. Obtaining direct input on the draft scenarios for the 2018 RTP/SCS.

4. Building meaningful relationships with and among community-based organizations and local groups invested in shaping the future of the San Joaquin County transportation system.

Activities led by grantees will be in coordination with public participation activities conducted by SJCOG and will be driven by the RTP/SCS development process. SJCOG will define a set of topics and issues for which grantees will gather feedback from their communities. All data collected by grantees will be analyzed to further inform the development of the RTP/SCS.

See the attached Program Packet for additional details and to apply. Questions may be directed to Christine Corrales, SJCOG Assistant Regional Planner at corrales@sjcog.org or 209.235.0128

## Cal Water Goal to Raise \$10,000 in Donations for Family in Water Heater Accident

STOCKTON, Calif. — Following a water heater accident that claimed the life of a Stockton-area man last month, California Water Service (Cal Water) collected and will present a donation of about \$10,000 to his family on Dec. 13, 2016, at 8:30 a.m. at Edison High School in Stockton, Calif.

Jaime Gonzalez, a father of three and Cal Water customer, was trying to fix his hot water heater; the blast also caused fire damage to the family home. The funds were donated by Cal Water, business partners, and individual donors.

After hearing about the tragedy on the news, Cal Water Interim Lead Conservation Coordinator Trish Herron was compelled to help raise funds for the family.

"Here you have two kids, one who is in his senior year of high school, and they have lost so much," said Herron. "As a mother, this really struck me, and I wanted

to help the children and family as much as I could. Cal Water and our community partners stepped in so that this family didn't also have financial stress adding to their heartache."

Herron, who is continuing to look for ways to assist the family, says there is still time for those who want to donate. Donations can be made by contacting Herron at pherron@calwater.com or Edison High School, where Jaime's son attends.

"At Cal Water, we are not just a company – we are also part of the communities we serve," said Stockton District Manager John Freeman. "When we hear about devastating events like this in our service areas, we want to support our community members as much as we possibly can."

Cal Water contributions including this one come from its shareholders as part of the utility's philanthropic giving program, not from ratepayer funds.

## CAL WATER SERVICE BEGINS MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT IN STOCKTON

STOCKTON, Calif. — Water system reliability improvements are underway for California Water Service (Cal Water) customers in the Stockton District as new water mains and services are installed. Cal Water will also replace 10 fire hydrants and install 15 additional fire hydrants to increase fire-fighting capabilities.

In total, more than 16,000 feet of six and eight-inch PVC pipe will be put

into service from Bristol Avenue at Pershing Avenue to Lakeside Avenue and Country Club Boulevard. Cal Water will also relocate 325 water services and meters to the street and abandon the aging mains that run through backyard easements. This project is part of Cal Water's systematic infrastructure maintenance and upgrade program. Construction is expected to be completed by April 2017.

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# Work Permits for H-4 Visa Holders Uncertain in Trump Admin

By Sunita Sohrajbi - NAM

The future of a 2015 Department of Homeland Security initiative that allows certain H-4 visa holders to work remains uncertain, according to Indian American immigration rights activists.

President Barack Obama had made several important moves for immigration – including the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program and an initiative to aid the undocumented parents of U.S. citizens – through executive orders. President-elect Donald Trump has vowed to repeal Obama's executive orders during his first 100 days in office.

Work authorization for H-4 visa holders is a DHS initiative, and not an Obama executive order.

H-4 visas are allotted to the spouses of H-1B highly-skilled temporary workers. Indian spouses make up the overwhelming majority of H-4 visa holders. An estimated 180,000 people were eligible to apply for work authorization in the first year the initiative was implemented, and 55,000 are eligible each subsequent year.

"Immigration reform is one of the biggest levers the U.S. has to raise the economy," said Jason Furman, chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, in a conference call with reporters last year, after DHS announced the new initiative. H-4 visa holders will add additional talented workers to the labor force and encourage highly-skilled H-1B workers to remain in the U.S. and apply for legal permanent residency, he said.

Many H-4 visa holders are as highly-skilled as their spouses, but until May of last year, they were not allowed to work. Work authorization will be given to H-4 visa holders whose H-1B spouses have applied for legal permanent residency.

Labor activists challenged the new DHS regulation in a lawsuit last year – led by Save Jobs USA – saying they were unfairly being forced to compete with 180,000 more applicants in a crowded employment market.

"Congress has adopted the long-standing policy of not allowing H-4 aliens to work in the United States. Through the H-4 Rule, DHS has reversed this longstanding congressional policy," stated the plaintiffs.

But Washington, D.C., U.S. District Judge Tanya S. Chutkan ruled Sept. 27 that giving work authorization to certain H-4 visa holders did not unfairly impact the American work force.

Chicago, Ill., attorney Tejas Shah, who leads Franczek Radelet's immigration practice and co-chairs the South Asian Bar Association's immigration panel, told India-West it is unlikely that President-elect Donald Trump could immediately revoke work authorization for H-4 visa holders. DHS implemented the initiative last year after a lengthy "notice and comment" period.

If a new DHS administration – potentially helmed by retired Marine Corps General John Kelly, Trump's nominee for the role – wanted to undo the H-4 work authorization initiative, it would have to undergo the same "notice and comment"



procedure, explained the Indian American attorney. "This is unlikely to be done in the first 100 days, and I'm hoping that this will not be one of the new administration's first priorities," Shah said.

Kelly is largely viewed as a "middle ground" to Trump's hard-line positions on immigration, which include deporting 11 million undocumented immigrants, creating a registry for all Muslim immigrants, and building a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border. The nominee has said little about his immigration policy. Shah predicted he would largely focus on stabilizing Central America.

Jeff Sessions, Trump's nominee to head the Justice Department, has spoken out against both legal and illegal immigration, and has talked about cancelling the Optional Practical Training program, in which foreign students can stay on for an additional 18 months in the U.S., after finishing graduate studies.

Shah said he has seen an uptick in

employers' concerns as to whether they should hire H-1B and H-4 visa holders, given the uncertainty surrounding both those programs as the new administration steps into the White House. "I would caution employers from jumping to conclusions," he said.

For H-4 visa holders who are currently employed, Shah said: "Don't worry about it and carry on with your job. We all just need to hold our breath and see what happens."

Suman Raghunathan, executive director of South Asian Americans Leading Together – which led the effort to permit work authorization for H-4 visa holders – told India-West that the future of the initiative is unclear. "We don't actually know yet what the status will be. We're just waiting to hear," she said.

Raghunathan said she hopes the new DHS administration will continue the initiative, and expand it to allow a greater proportion of H-4 visa holders to work.



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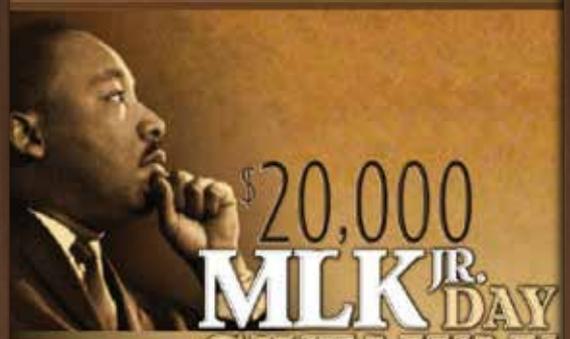
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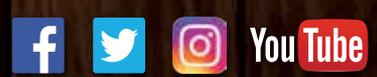
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