



You decide



tú Decides – Un Periódico Bilingüe

Vol. 14 No. 20

8220 W. Gage Blvd., #715, Kennewick, WA 99336

www.TuDecidesMedia.com

May 14th, 2020



Those who have gone

Purveyor of tacos and joy, well loved in Seattle > 15



NATIONAL: Thousands getting sick on the job > 14



IMMIGRATION: US northern border crossings on the rise > 12



LATIN AMERICA: Mexico authorizes military policing for 4 more years > 11

STATE

Purveyor of tacos and joy, well loved in Seattle

SEATTLE, Washington (AP)

Tomas Lopez didn't make the food he sold from his family's bright green taco truck, but it was his face the customers knew.

Lopez sat at a table beside the truck in Seattle's South Lake Union neighborhood. He would count change from a fat roll of bills and juggle side-by-side credit card readers as he greeted his customers — long lines of Amazon employees, yellow-vested construction workers, the occasional journalist — with an ardent joy.

"Hello, my friend! Asada super burrito? How many today? Only one?"

"Hello, my friend! No yoga today? You must be hungry!"

"Hello, my friend! How many kids you have now – still only two? That's OK, you have time. I have five."

Lopez, 44, died of COVID-19 on April 2. His passing has been mourned by many who knew him only casually, but who nevertheless considered lunch at the truck and a quick conversation with him a



In this April 23, 2020 photo, Elda Lopez, 16, poses for a photo as she holds a photo of her father, Tomas Lopez, at their home in Pacific, Washington. **ON THE COVER:** In this April 28, 2020 photo, Isaac Lopez, 19, pulls down the door of one of his father's food trucks in Seattle, Washington.

bright spot in their day.

Lopez grew up in the Mexican state of Hidalgo, north of Mexico City. His village, Dengando, was so small it doesn't appear on maps, said one of his sons, Isaac Lopez, 19. As a boy, Lopez tended to his grandfather's sheep and cattle. For fun, he would make a soccer ball out of plastic bags and rubber bands and kick it against a goal he drew on a wall.

At about 15, he left for Mexico City, where he joined the military and became known for his traditional drumming. He played in a group of about 30 drummers during military ceremonies, Isaac said.

Lopez came to the United States in 1998, in his early 20s. He worked two years picking tomatoes and other crops in Oregon and then started in construction, doing drywall. He would call home to Antonia Zamorano, a girl he had met when she delivered food to the workers on his uncle's farm. He returned to marry her and

brought her back to the U.S.

Antonia started making food and selling it from the back of the family's minivan at construction sites. From the minivan they upgraded to a taco truck, then added a second taco truck and a restaurant in Algona, near the small city of Pacific where they lived.

The family's Tacos El Tajin was one of the first food trucks to park regularly in the formerly sleepy warehouse district where Amazon moved its headquarters a decade ago. The company's employees and the construction workers building its campus proved reliable customers; Lopez's joviality and the food kept them coming back.

Lopez simply loved to sell, Isaac said. He learned to trade phrases or crack jokes in German, Japanese, Hindi, Urdu and other languages to connect with Amazon's international workforce. In February 2017, Tacos El Tajin got stuck in a traffic jam on Interstate 5. Unable to make it to Seattle, Lopez opened the truck right there on the interstate, selling tacos and a bit of levity to frustrated drivers.

"Sometimes all you need is a taco to be happy," he said.

It earned him a quip from late night television host Seth Meyers: "Nothing gets traffic moving like a taco."

How much Lopez meant to his customers was apparent after Isaac started an online fundraiser April 5, seeking \$10,000 for the funeral and to keep the business afloat. Within 10 days, donations totaling more than six times that amount.

One called getting lunch at Tacos El Tajin "a momentary reset of positivity in the middle of our day."

Table of Contents

- 15 STATE:** Purveyor of tacos and joy, well loved in Seattle
- 14 NATIONAL:** As Trump urges reopening, thousands getting sick on the job
- 13 FINANCIAL LITERACY:** 5 Moves to Conquer Credit Card Debt
- 12 IMMIGRATION:** US northern border illegal crossings on the rise
- 11 LATIN AMERICA:** Mexico authorizes military policing for 4 more years
- 11 INTERNATIONAL:** Billions projected to suffer nearly unlivable heat in 2070
- 10 BUSINESS:** Pandemic will reshape office life for good



tú Decides Newspaper
8220 W. Gage Blvd., #715
Kennewick, WA 99336
Phone: 509-591-0495
Fax: 800-790-4145

Web Site: www.TuDecidesMedia.com

Subscriptions

Subscriptions are available for \$26 for 6 months

tú Decides is published weekly by *tú Decides* Media Inc. on every Friday. News deadline is every Monday at 12 p.m. Ad reservation deadline is Monday at 10 a.m., ad material deadline is every Monday at noon.

Albert Torres, **CEO & President**
Albert@tudecidesmedia.com

Ismael G. Campos, **Owner**
Mel@tudecidesmedia.com

Gracie Campos, **Owner**
Gracie@tudecidesmedia.com

Fernando Aceves
Editor & Sales

Dr. Claudia Romay
Translations

Briseida Rios
Staff Writers

Félix Connection, Isaiah Torres, Ezequiel Torres
Distribution

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the express written consent of *tú Decides* Media, Inc.

Thank you

to the thousands of local heroes keeping our community up and running. Here's to the healthcare workers, first responders, clerks and cashiers, tellers and teachers, and everyone who continues to step up to the challenge.

You make a difference.

Doing right by our members, team, and communities is the credit union difference that Gesa has always made, and always will.

Gesa
CREDIT UNION

Insured by NCUA

888.946.4372 gesa.com @GesaCU

NATIONAL

As Trump urges reopening, thousands getting sick on the job

NEW YORK (AP)

Even as President Donald Trump urges getting people back to work and reopening the economy, an Associated Press analysis shows thousands of people are getting sick from COVID-19 on the job.

Recent figures show a surge of infections in meatpacking and poultry-processing plants. There's been a spike of new cases among construction workers in Austin, Texas, where that sector recently returned to work. Even the White House has proven vulnerable, with positive coronavirus tests for one of Trump's valets and for Vice President Mike Pence's press secretary.

The developments underscore the high stakes for communities nationwide as they gradually loosen restrictions on business.

"The people who are getting sick right now are generally people who are working," Dr. Mark Escott, a regional health official, told Austin's city council. "That risk is going to increase the more

people are working."

Austin's concerns will likely be mirrored in communities nationwide as the reopening of stores and factories creates new opportunities for the virus to spread.

To be sure, there are plenty of new infections outside the workplace — in nursing homes, and among retired and unemployed people, particularly in densely populated places such as New York City, Chicago, Philadelphia and urban parts of New Jersey and Massachusetts.

Yet of the 15 U.S. counties with the highest per-capita infection rates between April 28 and May 5, all are homes to meatpacking and poultry-processing plants or state prisons, according to data compiled by the AP.

The county with the highest per-capita rate was Tennessee's Trousdale County,



Workers line up to enter Tyson Foods pork processing plant in Logansport, Indiana, on Thursday, May 7, 2020.

where nearly 1,300 inmates and 50 staffers recently tested positive at the privately run Trousdale Turner Correctional Center.

In the federal prison system, the number of positive cases has increased steadily. As of May 5, there were 2,066 inmates who'd tested positive, up from 730 on April 25.

The No. 2 county on AP's list is Nobles

County in Minnesota, which now has about 1,100 cases, compared to two in mid-April. The county seat, Worthington, is home to a JBS pork processing plant that employs hundreds of immigrants.

"One guy said to me, 'I risked my life coming here. I never thought something that I can't see could take me out,'" said the Rev. Jim Callahan of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Worthington.

Nebraska's Dakota County, home to a Tyson Foods meat plant, had recorded three cases as of April 15, and now has more than 1,000. There have been at least three COVID-19 deaths, including a Muslim woman from Ethiopia who was among 4,300 employees at the Tyson plant.

"These are sad and dangerous days," the imam of a regional Islamic center, Ahmad Mohammad, said.

meet
your
NEW PROVIDERS

TRI-CITIES COMMUNITY HEALTH
myTCCH.org 509.547.2204

TRI-CITIES COMMUNITY HEALTH WELCOMES

Sarah Mun, MD

Specialty: Family Medicine

Dr. Mun is welcoming new patients at our health center located at 721 S. Auburn Street in Kennewick.

Monday – Thursday | 8:00 AM – 7:00 PM

David Kang, DDS

Specialty: Dentist

Schedule your next dental appointment with the newest member of our dynamic dental team in Pasco located at 715 W. Court Street.

Tuesday – Friday | 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Call 509.547.2204 for an appointment today!



This Page is Sponsored by Washington Federal

FINANCIAL LITERACY

5 Moves to Conquer Credit Card Debt



Americans are increasingly using credit cards as a common method of borrowing money. Studies report that the average household with credit card debt owes almost \$16,000. Credit cards often come with a much higher interest rate than other types of loans, which means using them to pay your bills can be expensive.

If you owe money on your credit card, here are a few tips to get ahead.

Know your habits

If you haven't already done so, start tracking your spending and look for "extra" areas you can cut out, like coffee, shopping, movies out, or even the cable. Determine a realistic amount that you can apply to your credit card debt each month.

MoneySync, from WaFd Bank, is a free app to help you track *all* your spending from *all* your accounts — regardless of where you bank or which card you use. It's free to sign up and MoneySync will even automatically categorize spending for you and help you create custom budgets.

Use cash before credit

Credit cards can be a great way to improve your credit score and earn some extra rewards, like travel miles or cash back, but if you've struggled managing credit cards in the past, then stick to a cash or debit-card only strategy for a year or so. You'll likely be amazed at how much you save and how much easier it is to stay within budget.

Pay the card with the highest interest rate first

After you've determined how much

money you can pay towards your debt each month, start applying that amount every month to the card with the highest interest rate. Continue to pay the same amount even as your minimum payment declines. After you've paid off one card, move to the card with the next highest rate.



Balance transfer with caution

Many credit card companies will offer a 0% introduction rate if you transfer an existing card's balance to them. While this can be a good option for those who meet the tough qualifying criteria, it's also a dangerous game to play if you've struggled to conquer credit card debt in the past. The introductory rate is for a limited time so make sure you know when the rate ends and what the new rate will be.

Ask for help

Sometimes a household's credit card debt is more than you can handle without some help. Regardless of the reason — medical bills, loss of a job, death of a loved one — if you know you cannot meet your minimum payment, contact your credit card provider as soon as possible. Ignoring due dates and missed phone calls will not help. Some providers offer hardship payment plans to help consumers get back on track.

There are government-approved agencies and nonprofits that can also help consumers conquer debt. Check out the Federal Trade Commission's Consumer Information page about the topic and for a list of verified groups that can help.

for payment — unfortunately all too often the consumer's debt isn't wiped away or reduced.

If you're looking for a cost-free account to help you save money, WaFd Bank is here to help. Find out why their Free Checking* has earned them the Best Bank award by Money Magazine.

Visit wafdbank.com to locate your neighborhood branch and get started taking control of your finances this year.

Remember to do your research before you work with an organization. Many debt settlement "companies" are nothing more than con artists who promise to negotiate and take away your debt in exchange

*Free Checking requires \$25, eStatement registration and a direct deposit to open. Overdraft/returned item fees may apply.



Helping clients buy dream homes for 100 years.



Visit your local branch or give us a call at 1-800-324-9375.



NMLSR # 410394
wafdbank.com

IMMIGRATION

US northern border illegal crossings on the rise

SWANTON, Vermont (AP)

The number of people apprehended for illegally crossing from Canada into the United States along its northern border has nearly tripled over the past three years, and a growing portion are Mexican citizens, according to federal data.

One Mexican man who crossed illegally to work on a Vermont dairy farm said it was easier than trying the southern border.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection statistics obtained by The Associated Press after a public records request provide new detail on what was apparent anecdotally: Along the border from Maine to Washington, 446 of the 1,586 illegal crossers apprehended in the 2019 fiscal year were Mexican, or 28%. That's up from 20 of 558, or just 3.6%, in 2016.

The numbers also increased for Romanians — many identified as ethnic Roma — and other nationalities, such as Haitians and Indians. Those tallies don't include apprehensions for reasons other

than illegal crossings, such as overstaying visas.

This year's data will likely look different because of travel impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. Customs and Border Protection spokesman Michael McCarthy said there's been "a decline in illegal entries" since the arrival of the virus and the border closure, though he didn't have specific numbers. But they're expected to pick up again as travel resumes.

A former U.S. Department of Homeland Security attache in Ottawa said she wasn't surprised by more illegal crossings from Canada, though that total remains less than 1% of southern border apprehensions.

"Like water at the lowest point, migrants will find their best way in," said Theresa Brown, now director of immigration and cross border policy at the Bipartisan Policy Center in Washington.



In this Monday, February 10, 2020, file photo, Robert Garcia, the chief of the U.S. Border Patrol's Swanton sector, poses at sector headquarters in Swanton, Vermont.

The Vermont farm worker, Diego, said he illegally crossed from Canada in 2017 because it was safer and cheaper than crossing the southern border.

"The person who was going to get us across was recommended by a trusted friend and there was no risk that we were going to be cheated," said Diego, 26, who's from the Mexican state of Tabasco and spoke in Spanish. He spoke on condi-

tion that his full name not be used because he's in the U.S. without authorization.

Diego arrived via the northern border's busiest sector for apprehensions: a 295-mile (475 kilometer) stretch across northern New York, Vermont and New Hampshire that had more than half the northern border arrests last year, up from 38% in 2016. An informal review of criminal cases filed against people apprehended in Vermont and upstate New York over the last two years indicates most

were trying to reach areas away from the border, such as New York City.

The sector's chief border agent, Robert Garcia, attributes its increase in illegal crossers to its proximity to Toronto and Montreal and the U.S. East Coast; increased focus on security along the U.S. southern border; and changes in Canadian entry requirements.

The Hispanic Academic Achievers Program is proud to celebrate academic excellence!

Although we were not able to have our ceremony this year, HAAP is proud to recognize 7,400 4th - 12th grade students earning 3.0+ GPA's.

HAAP awarded \$85,500 in scholarships to 20 area High School Seniors!

Visit Facebook.com/HAAP.org for more details.



Thank you to our Sponsors and Supporters

Platinum Medallion



Silver Medallion

Mission Support Alliance

Gold Sponsors

Anonymous Donor
Brad & Esther Baillie/ Lenwood Farms
GESA Credit Union
Key Bank
STCU Credit Union
Tri-Cities Engineering PLLC

Gold Medallion



Legacy Sponsors

Broadmoor RV SuperStore
Tri-Cities Latin American Association

Silver Sponsors

Armijo Family
Chvatal King Law
Heritage University
HFG Trust/Community First Bank
Lockheed Martin
Tri-Cities Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Media Sponsors

Tri-City Herald
Tri-Cities Journal of Business
Tu'Decides

Bronze Sponsors

Abadan
Battelle
CH2M Hill PRC
Lampson Inc.
Ledesma Law
Roach Bishop

We would like to thank all the HAAP sponsors for their support. The dedication to our children and our community's future is important for us to recognize. Please make sure whenever possible, to support these businesses and organizations.

Queremos darles las gracias por todo su apoyo a los patrocinadores de HAAP. Es importante para nosotros reconocer su dedicacion a nuestros niños y al futuro de nuestra comunidad. Por favor apoyen a estos negocios y organizaciones cuando les sea posible.

Proud to be associated and supported by

Bethlehem Lutheran
Calvary Christian School
Central Washington University
Christ the King School
Columbia Basin College
Finley School District
Heritage University
Kennewick School District
Kingspoint
Liberty Christian
North Franklin School District
Pasco School District
Richland School District
Saint Joseph School
Saint Patrick School
Tri-Cities Prep
Washington State University

Volunteers

HAAP is a 100% volunteer-based organization with many individuals that give their time, talent, and resources to support academic excellence in our community. Thank you to all HAAP volunteers, you make a difference!

TRANSLATION SERVICES NOW AVAILABLE

Tú Decides Media is now offering professional English to Spanish translation services to translate documents, advertisements, newsletters, brochures, website content, company notices and much more. We have great rates and excellent turnaround time. Contact us for a quote today! info@tudecidesmedia.com

LATIN AMERICA

Mexico authorizes military policing for 4 more years

MEXICO CITY (AP)

Mexico's president published a decree Monday authorizing the armed forces to participate in civilian law enforcement for four more years, to March 2024.

Mexican soldiers and marines have been implicated in serious rights abuses, and activists have pressed Mexico to train and equip enough civilian police to take over from the military, who were sent out to fight drug violence in 2006.

A legal reform passed in 2019 created a quasi-military National Guard, but allows the president to use the armed forces in "extraordinary" circumstances, as long as they are subordinate to and supervised by civilian authorities.

But the decree published by President Andrés Manuel López Obrador does little to justify the "extraordinary" circumstances, and says nothing about outside supervision of soldiers.

"The participation of the armed forces in public safety should be under extraordinary conditions, and should be regu-

lated, reviewed, subordinated and complementary" to civilian authorities, according to the decree.

"This decree doesn't make any attempt to justify what is 'extraordinary,'" said Mexico security analyst Alejandro Hope, noting it could create a perverse incentive for the army to stop sending soldiers to join the National Guard. The army has supplied and trained the vast majority of the approximately 100,000 guard members; as long as the Guard is considered under-strength, the army will most likely be allowed to continue operating as it has done for years.

The decree also states "the duties which the armed forces carry out in the context of this decree, will be under the supervision and control of the internal affairs office of the corresponding department."

Hope noted "it says they should be supervised, reviewed and subordinated,



In this April 3, 2020 file photo, Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador speaks after visiting facilities at a Mexican Social Security Institute hospital in Mexico City.

but by who? By themselves. The Defense Department regulates itself."

"It evades the requirement that they be regulated, reviewed, subordinated and complementary. It not only violates the intention of the legislators (who approved the 2019 reform), it violates international jurisprudence."

However, he noted that "on the ground,

this decree doesn't change much. The armed forces already detain people, set up phone taps, they set up checkpoints and detain migrants."

Alfredo Lecona, a member of the civic group "Security Without War," wrote that "for those who 'already knew' that the armed forces would be performing police roles until 2024 under the National Guard reform, that is not an argument or justification for AMLO (López Obrador) to grant them a blank check of

opacity."

Former president Felipe Calderón sent the army into the streets in 2006 to fight drug cartels, but since then the violence has only grown. Mexico saw 3,078 homicides in March, up 0.5% from the 2,948 in March 2019. Killings have leveled off, experts say, but at very high levels.

INTERNATIONAL

Billions projected to suffer nearly unlivable heat in 2070

KENSINGTON, Maryland (AP)

In just 50 years, 2 billion to 3.5 billion people, mostly the poor who can't afford air conditioning, will be living in a climate that historically has been too hot to handle, a new study said.

With every 1.8 degree (1 degree Celsius) increase in global average annual temperature from man-made climate change, about a billion or so people will end up in areas too warm day-in, day-out to be habitable without cooling technology, according to ecologist Marten Scheffer of Wageningen University in the Netherlands, co-author of the study.

How many people will end up at risk depends on how much heat-trapping carbon dioxide emissions are reduced and how fast the world population grows.

Under the worst-case scenarios for population growth and for carbon pollution — which many climate scientists say is looking less likely these days — the study in Monday's journal Proceedings

of the National Academy of Sciences predicts about 3.5 billion people will live in extremely hot areas. That's a third of the projected 2070 population.

But even scenarios considered more likely and less severe project that in 50 years a couple of billion people will be living in places too hot without air conditioning, the study said.

"It's a huge amount and it's a short-time. This is why we're worried," said Cornell University climate scientist Natalie Mahowald, who wasn't part of the study. She and other outside scientists said the new study makes sense and conveys the urgency of the man-made climate change differently than past research.

In an unusual way to look at climate change, a team of international scientists studied humans like they do bears, birds and bees to find the "climate niche" where people and civilizations flourish.



In this September 18, 2015 file photo, Muslim pilgrims shelter themselves from the heat as they attend Friday afternoon prayers outside the Grand Mosque in the holy city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

They looked back 6,000 years to come up with a sweet spot of temperatures for humanity: Average annual temperatures between 52 and 59 degrees (11 to 15 degrees Celsius).

We can — and do — live in warmer and colder places than that, but the farther from the sweet spot, the harder it gets.

The scientists looked at places projected to get uncomfortably and considerably hotter than the sweet spot and cal-

culated at least 2 billion people will be living in those conditions by 2070.

Currently about 20 million people live in places with an annual average temperature greater than 84 degrees (29 degrees Celsius) — far beyond the temperature sweet spot. That area is less than 1% of the Earth's land, and it is mostly near the Sahara Desert and includes Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

But as the world gets more crowded and warmer, the study concluded large swaths of Africa, Asia, South America and Australia will likely be in this same temperature range. Well over 1 billion people, and up to 3.5 billion people, will be affected depending on the climate altering choices humanity makes over the next half century, according to lead author Chi Xu of Nanjing University in China.

With enough money, "you can actually live on the moon," Scheffer said. But these projections are "unlivable for the ordinary, for poor people, for the average world citizen."

WHERE YOU LIVE IS YOUR CHOICE

DON'T LET ANYONE TELL YOU DIFFERENTLY.

We found the home of our dreams, but the real estate agent said she thought we would be more comfortable in a different neighborhood. But I know it's illegal to steer prospective homeowners to or from certain neighborhoods based on race or national origin. Report racial steering and put an end to it. Like we did.



SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFO



Visit www.nwfairhouse.org or call NWFHA at 1-800-200-3247

Fair Housing Is Your Right. Use it!



NORTHWEST FAIR HOUSING ALLIANCE

"Working to Ensure Equal Housing Opportunity for All"



A public service message from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in partnership with the National Fair Housing Alliance. The federal Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status or disability. For more information, visit www.hud.gov/fairhousing.

— BUSINESS — Pandemic will reshape office life for good

LONDON, England (AP)

Office jobs are never going to be the same.

When workers around the world eventually return to their desks, they'll find many changes due to the pandemic. For a start, fewer people will go back to their offices as the coronavirus crisis makes working from home more accepted, health concerns linger and companies weigh up rent savings and productivity benefits.

For the rest, changes will begin with the commute as workers arrive in staggered shifts to avoid rush hour crowds. Staff might take turns working alternate days in the office to reduce crowding. Floor markings or digital sensors could remind people to stand apart and cubicles might even make a comeback.

"This is going to be a catalyst for things that people were too scared to do before," said John Furneaux, CEO of Hive, a New York City-based workplace software startup. The pandemic "gives added impetus to allow us and others to make changes to century-old working practices."

Hive plans to help employees avoid packed rush hour subway commutes by starting at different hours, said Furneaux, who tested positive for COVID-19 antibodies. In Britain, the government is considering asking employers to do the same.

Design firm Bergmeyer is reinstalling dividers on 85 desks at its Boston office that had been removed over the years. That "will return a greater degree of privacy to the individual desks, in addition to the physical barrier which this health crisis now warrants," said Vice President Rachel Zsembery.

There's no rush to return. At Google and Facebook, employees will be able to work remotely until the end of the year. Other firms have realized they don't even need an office.

Executives at San Francisco teamwork startup Range had given notice on their office because they wanted someplace bigger. But when California's shelter in place order was issued, they instead scrapped their search and decided to go all remote indefinitely, a move that would save six figures on rent.

"We were looking at the writing on the wall," said co-founder Jennifer Dennard.