



You decide



tú Decides – Un Periódico Bilingüe

Vol. 18 No. 18

1360 N. Louisiana St., #A715, Kennewick, WA 99336

www.TuDecidesMedia.com

May 2nd, 2024



Time to celebrate

Cinco de Mayo celebrates Mexican culture, not independance > 15



COMMUNITY: Bilingual course creates climate ambassadors > 14



LATIN AMERICA: What would a woman president mean for abortion rights? > 13



IMMIGRATION: Trying to pass tough laws > 10

TRADITIONS

Cinco de Mayo celebrates Mexican culture, not independence

(AP)

American bars and restaurants gear up every year for Cinco de Mayo, offering special deals on Mexican food and alcoholic drinks for the May 5 holiday that is barely celebrated south of the border.

In the United States, the date is largely seen as a celebration of Mexican American culture stretching back to the 1800s in California. Typical festivities include parades, street food, block parties, mariachi competitions and baile folklórico, or folkloric ballet, with whirling dancers wearing shiny ribbons and braids and bright, ruffled dresses.

For Americans with or without Mexican ancestry, the day has become an excuse to toss back tequila shots with salt and lime and gorge on tortilla chips smothered with melted orange cheddar that's unfamiliar to most people in Mexico.

The focus on drinking and eating has



Young Folkloric dancers from group Viva Mexico begin their dance routine at a Cinco de Mayo celebration on Wednesday, May 5, 2021, in Odessa, Texas.

brought some criticism of the holiday, especially as beer manufacturers and other marketers have capitalized on its festive nature and some revelers embrace offensive stereotypes, such as fake, droopy mustaches and gigantic straw sombreros.

"Cinco de Mayo is a day to celebrate the resilience, culture, and heritage of generations of Mexican Americans," President Joe Biden said in a past tweet. "The story

of America is the story of them — and the White House is their house."

THIS YEAR'S CELEBRATIONS

With May 5 falling on a Sunday this year, festivities will be big that day, and in many cases, will begin the day before or as early as Friday in many cities and towns.

Locally, the Lower Valley community of Sunnyside will host their 36th annual Cinco de Mayo festival over three days on May 3, 4 and 5.

In Pasco, their annual festival will take place in the downtown area on both Saturday and Sunday, May 4 and

5.

Other communities throughout the Northwest, as well as various bars, and restaurants will hold their own celebrations as well.

WHAT IT IS

Cinco de Mayo marks the anniversary of the 1862 victory by Mexican troops over invading French forces at the Battle of Puebla. The triumph over the better equipped and more numerous French troops was an enormous emotional boost for the Mexican soldiers led by Gen. Ignacio Zaragoza.

Historical reenactments and parades are held annually in the central Mexico city of Puebla to commemorate the inspirational victory over the Europeans, with participants dressed in historical French and Mexican army uniforms.

WHAT IT ISN'T

Cinco de Mayo is not Mexican Independence Day, Mexico's most important holiday.

Mexicans celebrate their country's independence from Spain on the anniversary of the call to arms against the European country issued Sept. 16, 1810, by the Rev. Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, a priest in Dolores, Mexico.

Mexico's president reenacts el Grito de Independencia, or the Cry of Independence, most years on Sept. 15 at about 11 p.m. from the balcony of the country's National Palace, ringing the bell Hidalgo rang.

The commemoration typically ends with three cries of "¡Viva México!" above a colorful swirl of tens of thousands of people crowded into the Zócalo, or main plaza, in central Mexico City.

Table of Contents

- 15 TRADITIONS:** Cinco de Mayo celebrates Mexican culture, not independence
- 14 COMMUNITY:** Spanish, bilingual course creates climate ambassadors
- 13 LATIN AMERICA:** A woman might win the presidency in Mexico. What could that mean for abortion rights?
- 11 POLITICS:** Trump promised big plans to flip Black and Latino voters
- 11 LATIN AMERICA:** Angry farmers in a once-lush Mexican state target avocado orchards that suck up too much water
- 10 IMMIGRATION:** Republican states far from the border are rushing to pass tough immigration laws
- 10 POLITICS:** President Biden, Mexican President López Obrador discuss migration in latest call



tú Decides Newspaper
1360 N. Louisiana St., #A715
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

Fernando Aceves, Jose Diaz
Distribution

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

Helping clients buy dream homes for 100 years.

WaFd Bank

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

Member FDIC
NMLSR # 410394
wafdbank.com

COMMUNITY

Spanish, bilingual course creates climate ambassadors

By Joe Roberts, College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences

To reach thousands of northwestern Washington residents who do not speak English fluently but may want to protect the environment, Washington State University Extension is offering new educational programs in Spanish including the “Promotores del Clima” program — climate ambassadors.

“We’re taking this step to offer bilingual and Spanish programming to support underserved populations in Washington state,” said Patricia Townsend, associate professor based at Snohomish County Extension. “The learning and volunteer impacts are greater when we incorporate the voices of those we serve.”

Townsend is using funding from a National Science Foundation Advancing Informal STEM Learning grant to support the climate ambassadors program and other similar outreach. She has run additional bilingual programs since 2016, when she helped initiate the “Promotores de Energía” (energy ambassadors). The climate ambassadors programming stems from those earlier initiatives.

Though Townsend procures the grants, she recognizes that she would not be effective at delivering educational content for the course.

“I’ve learned that even if I spoke fluent Spanish, I’m not the right person to deliver this programming,” she said. “It’s important to have educators who grew up in the culture.”

Townsend instead leans on WSU Extension Lead Educator Cristina Ocaña Gallegos. A WSU alumna with a bachelor’s in plant biotechnology and master’s in crop science, she currently works at the Mount Vernon Northwestern Washington Research and Extension Center as a research technician in plant pathology.

Ocaña Gallegos meets with the climate ambassadors at the WSU Everett campus for three hours each Saturday, lecturing and facilitating guest speakers such as Biological Systems Engineering Department Chair Manuel García-Pérez, who will present this month.

“We’ve learned from past surveys that



Cristina Ocaña Gallegos, WSU Extension lead educator of Promotores del Clima (climate ambassadors), presenting during the classroom portion, which takes place on the WSU Everett campus.

many people feel powerless in the face of climate change,” Ocaña Gallegos said. “This course empowers participants to dive into the science, engage in teamwork, and reach out to their communities to make a difference.”

Through interactive and hands-on workshops, participants are trained to educate Latine or Hispanic families and communities how to care for the environment. One particularly memorable and experiential portion of the course includes layering an unlucky volunteer in six blankets, each representing the most common greenhouse gases in our atmosphere. At the end of the course, participants deliver and present a final project.

“One group of women educated on fast fashion – what it is and the impacts stemming from it,” said Ocaña Gallegos. “Someone else wrote a beautifully illustrated book for young children that raises awareness about the changing climate.”

Ocaña Gallegos and Townsend have found that the programming tends to appeal to all. One course included three generations of the same family, from the grandfather to the teens.

The current group of climate ambassadors will relay their knowledge and partake in science-based environmental outreach with educational games like Climate Change Lotería, developed by the Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center at University of Washington. They also host booths at summer events including the LETI Latino Expo, educating peers on the many effects and causes of modern-day climate change.

Mpox (previously called monkeypox)

What You Need to Know

Mpox (previously called monkeypox) infection is a disease that can cause rashes and other symptoms. Learn how you can protect yourself and those around you from mpox.

Mpox is spread through close contact with a symptomatic person.

Mpox is spread by direct contact with the skin or body fluids of an infected person. It can also spread by touching contaminated objects (such as bedding or clothing) or by respiratory droplets during direct and prolonged face-to-face contact. It is not a sexually transmitted infection (STI).



Symptoms of mpox can vary.

Mpox usually causes a rash that starts as flat spots that become raised fluid-filled blisters that can be painful. Some people have just a few spots on one part of the body while others have many all over the body. Other symptoms can include fever, headache, and swollen lymph nodes.



Prevention is essential to reducing transmission.

Avoid skin-to-skin contact with anyone who has open wounds or rashes, and don’t share clothing or other items with them. Reduce the number of people you have close, intimate, or sexual contact with. If you have been exposed or are at high risk for infection, ask about getting the mpox vaccine.



Vaccination is available for people exposed to mpox or at high risk.

If your symptoms have not started, post-exposure vaccination within 4 days of exposure may be an option to reduce or prevent symptoms. Talk to your medical provider or local clinic.



Seek out care immediately.

If you have a new or unexplained rash and think it might be mpox, talk to your medical provider or local clinic. Antiviral medications are available to treat mpox if you have severe pain or other symptoms, or have a condition such as a weakened immune system that makes you more likely to get severely ill.



For more information, visit doh.wa.gov/mpox or call 1-833-829-HELP

If you were exposed to mpox:

If you have been exposed and do not have symptoms yet, talk to a health care provider about vaccination.

How can I get vaccinated?

People who are close contacts of cases or those at high risk of infection can get vaccinated by their medical providers or local clinic.

Vaccine considerations

If you receive an mpox vaccination, you should still practice other prevention measures, such as not having skin-to-skin contact with someone with mpox infection. You are not considered fully vaccinated until two weeks after your second dose. The vaccine may not be 100% effective so continue to watch for any mpox symptoms.

If you think you have mpox:

- Cover your rash.
- Isolate yourself from others.
- Immediately talk to your health care provider. It is important to call as soon as you think you have symptoms of the disease.

If you have been diagnosed with mpox:

Until the scabs are gone and the skin below has healed, do the following:

- Separate yourself from other people and animals (mammals like pets or rodents).
- Restrict family, friends, or other visitors to those with an essential need to be in the home.
- Do not let others touch your skin, especially any areas with a rash.
- Keep lesions covered.
- Do not share bedding, towels, dishes, or utensils.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Consider using disposable gloves to cover hand lesions.
- Wash your own laundry and dishes.
- Routinely clean and disinfect commonly touched surfaces and items.
- Avoid use of contact lenses to prevent unintentional infection of the eye.
- Do not kiss, hug, cuddle, sleep, play sports, or have sex with others.
- Wear a well-fitting mask, especially when seeing a health care provider or while you have fever or respiratory symptoms.



For more information, visit doh.wa.gov/Mpox or call 1-833-829-HELP

DOH 348-907 April 2023

To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email civil.rights@doh.wa.gov.

LATIN AMERICA

A woman might win the presidency of Mexico. What could that mean for abortion rights?



A woman holds a banner reading in Spanish, “Legal, safe, and free abortion” as abortion rights protesters demonstrate in front of the National Congress in Mexico City, on September 28, 2020.

MEXICO CITY (AP)

If a woman wins Mexico’s presidency on June 2, would she rule with gender in mind?

The question has been raised by academics, human rights organizations and activists ahead of the voting that will likely elect Mexico’s first female president for the term 2024-2030.

Out of three candidates, the frontrunner is Claudia Sheinbaum, who has promised to keep President Andrés Manuel López Obrador’s legacy on track. Next comes Xóchitl Gálvez, representing opposition parties, one of which is historically conservative.

The triumph of Sheinbaum or Gálvez, however, would not guarantee their support for certain gender-related policies.

In a country of more than 98 million Catholics, neither of the two leading candidates has shared specific proposals on abortion. Both have suggested equality and protection measures for women amid a wave of violence and femicide.

Here’s a look at some of the challenges that Mexico’s next president would face regarding abortion.

WHAT’S THE CURRENT ABORTION LANDSCAPE?

Twelve of Mexico’s 32 states have decriminalized abortion, most in the past five years. One more will join them after its legislature complies with a recent court’s ruling, demanding a reform in its penal code.

More states allow abortion if the mother’s life is in danger, and it is legal nationwide if the pregnancy is the result of rape.

Mexico’s Supreme Court ruled in

2023 that national laws prohibiting abortions are unconstitutional and violate women’s rights. The ruling, which extended Latin America’s trend of widening abortion access, happened a year after the U.S. Supreme Court went in the opposite direction, overturning the 1973 ruling that established a nationwide right to abortion.

COULD A NEW GOVERNMENT STRIKE DOWN THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO ABORTION IN MEXICO?

Whoever wins, the next president would not directly affect abortion legislation, since each state has autonomy over its penal code.

However, the president could indeed have an impact as a moral authority among the members of his or her party, said Ninde Molina, lawyer at Abortistas MX, an organization specializing in abortion litigation strategies.

“Much of the governors’ behavior emulates what the president does,” Molina said.

WHAT’S NEEDED TO RULE WITH A FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE?

“Just because a woman wins does not guarantee a gender perspective at all,” said Pauline Capdevielle, an academic from the National Autonomous University of Mexico.

“In fact, what we are seeing are strategies by conservative sectors to create a façade of feminism that opposes the feminist tradition.”

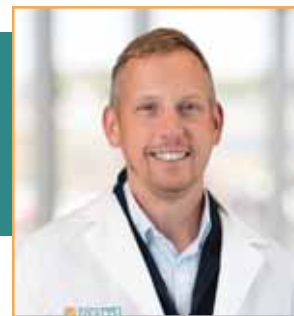
A true change, Capdevielle said, would start by integrating feminists into the government.

“It is not about putting women where there were none, but about politicizing these issues and really promoting a transformation.”



Meet Our New Providers

Accepting New Patients



Dustin J. Carlson,
DNP, ARNP, FNP-BC
Family Medicine

Brittany Crane,
ARNP-FNP
Family Medicine, OB/GYN
& Women’s Health



James C Lewis,
OD
Optometry

Catherine O’Brien,
DNP, APRN, CNM
OB/GYN & Women’s Health



SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT TODAY!

Call (509) 547-2204 or visit our site at myTCCH.org.



FEBRUARY 2024

DOH 820-244

Protect yourself from Long COVID: Get Vaccinated



Researchers estimate that millions of people have experienced Long COVID.



Anyone who gets COVID can develop Long COVID.



Studies have found that people who aren't vaccinated against COVID-19 may be more likely than others to develop Long COVID.

Long COVID, or Post-COVID Conditions (PCC), is defined as any signs, symptoms, or conditions that continue or develop after a COVID-19 infection. [Symptoms](#) can last weeks, months or years and can include fatigue, brain fog, cough, trouble breathing or shortness of breath, aches and pains, loss of smell or change in taste, fever, trouble sleeping, mood changes and more.

Anyone, regardless of age, infected with COVID-19 can develop Long COVID. It is more common in people who did not get vaccinated, and people who have had severe COVID-19 symptoms. People who get COVID-19 multiple times may also have more health risks, including Long COVID.

You can lower your chances of developing Long COVID symptoms by staying up to date with your COVID-19 vaccinations. COVID-19 vaccinations are recommended for anyone ages 6 months and over.

POLITICS

Trump promised big plans to flip Black and Latino voters

NEW YORK (AP)

Donald Trump says he wants to hold a major campaign event at New York's Madison Square Garden featuring Black hip-hop artists and athletes. Aides speak of Trump making appearances in Chicago, Detroit and Atlanta with leaders of color and realigning American politics by flipping Democratic constituencies.

But five months before the first general election votes are cast, the former president's campaign has little apparent organization to show for its ambitious plans.

His campaign removed its point person for coalitions and has not announced a replacement. The Republican Party's minority outreach offices across the country have been shuttered and replaced by businesses that include a check-cashing store, an ice cream shop and a sex-toy store. Campaign officials acknowledge they are weeks away from rolling out any targeted programs.

The presumptive Republican presidential nominee has struggled to navigate a

messy transition into the November election, plagued by staffing issues, personal legal troubles and the "Make America Great Again" movement's disdain for "identity politics." There are signs of frustration on the ground, where Republicans believe Trump has a real opportunity to cut into Democratic President Joe Biden's advantages with voters of color.

"To be quite honest, the Republican Party does not have a cohesive engagement plan for Black communities," said Darrell Scott, a Black pastor and longtime Trump ally who co-founded the National Diversity Coalition for Trump in 2016. "What it has are conservatives in communities of color who have taken it upon themselves to head our own initiatives."

On-the-ground organizing has long been a hallmark of successful presidential campaigns, which typically invest tremendous resources into identifying would-be supporters and ensuring they vote. The task may be even more critical this fall



Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump, left, hugs Michaelah Montgomery, a local conservative activist, as he visits a Chick-fil-A eatery, on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, in Atlanta, Georgia.

given how few voters are excited about the Biden-Trump rematch.

In recent years, the RNC invested big in community centers and minority outreach based on the belief that real relationships with voters, even those who typically do not support Republicans, would make a difference on Election Day. Since taking over the RNC in the spring, however, Trump's team has dramatically scaled back such efforts.

"Traditionally, Republicans have not been effective in their efforts to persuade Black and Hispanic voters to vote for our party," said Lynne Patton, a senior adviser on the campaign overseeing coalitions work who has worked closely with the Trump family for decades. "But this is yet another reason why President Trump was adamant that his hand-picked leadership team assume control at the RNC and spearhead a unified effort to embrace the historic defection being witnessed within Black & Hispanic communities from the Democrat party and ensure it's permanent."

The campaign hired a national coalitions director last October. But the staffer, Derek Silver, left in March without explanation, according to two people familiar with the matter who spoke on the condition of anonymity to share internal discussions. Silver did not return multiple requests for comment. No replacement has been announced.

LATIN AMERICA

Angry farmers in a once-lush Mexican state target avocado orchards that suck up too much water

VILLA MADERO, Mexico (AP)

As a drought in Mexico drags on, angry subsistence farmers have begun taking direct action on thirsty avocado orchards and berry fields of commercial farms that are drying up streams in the mountains west of Mexico City.

Rivers and even whole lakes are disappearing in the once green and lush state of Michoacan, as the drought combines with a surge in the use of water for the country's lucrative export crops, led by avocados.

In recent days, subsistence farmers and activists from the Michoacan town of Villa Madero organized teams to go into the mountains and rip out illegal water pumps and breach unlicensed irrigation holding ponds.

A potential conflict looms with avocado growers — who are often sponsored by, or pay protection money to, drug cartels.

Last week, dozens of residents, farm-

workers and small-scale farmers from Villa Madero hiked up into the hills to tear out irrigation equipment using mountain springs to water avocado orchards carved out of the pine-covered hills.

The week before, another group went up with picks and shovels and breached the walls of an illegal containment pond that sucked up water from a spring that had supplied local residents for hundreds of years.

"In the last 10 years, the streams, the springs, the rivers have been drying up and the water has been captured, mainly to be used for avocados and berries," said local activist Julio Santoyo, one of the organizers of the effort. "There are hamlets in the lower part of the township that no longer have water."

Santoyo estimated that about 850 of the plastic-lined, earthen containment ponds have sprung up in the hills around Villa Madero, usually soon after planters have illegally logged or burned the native pine forest. Pines help the soil retain water, while avocado trees deplete it.



A municipal police officer drinks water from a stream lined with an unlicensed hose in the mountains of Villa Madero, Mexico, on April 17, 2024.

Francisco Gómez Cortés said residents of his hamlet, El Sauz, had been asking the landowner for 15 years to allow the spring to flow downhill to their community.

After a year in which Mexico received only about half its normal rainfall, residents became desperate, and last week they worked up the courage to hike up the hill and rip out pumps and hoses for the avocado orchard.

"We don't have enough water for

human consumption," Gómez Cortés said.

"It's sad. It's sad to walk down these trails that are now dry, when they once had trees and springs," he said. "They haven't even left any water for the (forest) animals that nest along the banks."

In a sign of how seriously the local government is taking the potential threat, the group was accompanied by the mayor of Villa Madero, who blamed outsiders for the problem.

"There are people who aren't from this town, who come to our township and are invading us," Mayor Froylan Alcauter Ibarra said. "They are taking water away from the people who live downhill, and they don't realize these are the poorest people."

Residents say they don't want to deny water entirely to the orchards and have proposed an agreement to give landowners 20% of the water from local streams, if they allow the remaining 80% to keep flowing. They say they haven't gotten any response yet.

IMMIGRATION

Republican states far from the border are rushing to pass tough immigration laws

OKLAHOMA CITY, Oklahoma (AP)

Republican-led states are rushing to give broader immigration enforcement powers to local police and impose criminal penalties for those living in the country illegally as the issue of migrants crossing the U.S. border remains central to the 2024 elections.

The Oklahoma Legislature this week fast-tracked a bill to the governor that creates the new crime of “impermissible occupation,” which imposes penalties of as much as two years in prison for being in the state illegally.

Oklahoma is among several GOP-led states jockeying to push deeper into immigration enforcement as both Republicans and Democrats seize on the issue. That was illustrated in February when President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump both visited the U.S.-Mexico border the same day and tussled from a distance over blame for the nation’s broken immigration system and how to fix it.

Here are some things to know about the

latest efforts in various states to target immigration:

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN TEXAS?

Lawmakers in Oklahoma followed the lead of Texas, where Gov. Greg Abbott signed a bill last year that would allow the state to arrest and deport people who enter the U.S. illegally. That law is currently on hold while the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals considers a challenge brought by the U.S. Department of Justice.

WHAT DOES OKLAHOMA’S BILL DO?

Oklahoma’s law would make it illegal to remain in the state without legal authorization, with a first offense a misdemeanor punishable by as much as a year in jail. Violators would be required to leave the state within 72 hours of being released from custody. A second and subsequent offense would be a felony punishable by as much as two years in prison.

Senate President Pro Tempore Greg Treat, who carried the bill in the Senate, voiced frustration with the federal government and Congress for not taking more



Oklahoma City immigration attorney Sam Wargin Grimaldo speaks to a group outside the Oklahoma Capitol on Tuesday, April 23, 2024.

definitive steps to solve the immigration problem.

Outside the state Capitol, more than 100 people gathered Tuesday in opposition to the bill.

WHAT ARE OTHER STATES DOING?

Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee has signed a bill requiring law enforcement agencies to communicate with federal immigration authorities if they discover people are in the the country illegally, and would

broadly mandate cooperation in the process of identifying, detaining and deporting them. That bill takes effect July 1. Another proposal there would allow sentencing enhancements up to life in prison for someone in the country illegally who commits a violent crime.

In Iowa, Republican Gov. Kim Reynolds signed a bill this month that mirrors part of the Texas law. Another approach at a Texas-style bill is advancing in Louisiana. Idaho lawmakers considered a similar measure but adjourned without passing it.

Georgia lawmakers passed a bill that seeks to force jailers to check immigration status, part of a continuing political response to the killing of a nursing student on the University of Georgia campus, allegedly by a Venezuelan man.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis signed a bill last month to increase prison and jail sentences for immigrants in the United States illegally if they are convicted of felonies or of driving without a license.

POLITICS

President Biden, Mexican President López Obrador discuss migration in latest call

WASHINGTON (AP)

President Joe Biden spoke with his Mexican counterpart, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, about cooperating on migration policy as the U.S. leader continues to deliberate whether to take executive action that would crack down on the number of migrants arriving at the southern U.S. border.

The call occurred on Sunday at Biden’s request, López Obrador said during his daily news conference Monday in Mexico City. In a joint statement, Biden and López Obrador said the call centered on their joint efforts to “effectively manage” migration and “strengthen operational efficiency” on the U.S.-Mexico border.

“We talk periodically,” López Obrador said. “I seek him out, he seeks me out, we chat.”

The joint statement said Biden and López Obrador have directed their national security aides to “immediately” put in place concrete measures to reduce the number of unauthorized border crossings. The

policies would also protect human rights, according to the statement. White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre would not elaborate what those new measures were, nor would officials from the National Security Council.

The Mexican leader said the two countries have made progress in controlling unauthorized migration by persuading many migrants not to use illegal methods to move from country to country. López Obrador also applauded a January decision by the U.S. Supreme Court that allowed Border Patrol agents to resume cutting razor wire that the state of Texas had installed along the border to try and deter migration.

Since the collapse of border legislation in Congress earlier this year, the White House has not ruled out Biden issuing an executive order on asylum rules to try and reduce the number of migrants arriving at the border.

Administration officials have been poring over various options for months, but Biden has made no decision on how to proceed with any executive actions.



CITY OF PASCO PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE 2025 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUND ALLOCATION

PASCO WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU - The City of Pasco Planning Commission will conduct two Public Hearings to receive citizen comments on the City’s use of (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for 2025.

The Public Hearings will be held Thursday, June 20, 2024, and July 18, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in the City of Pasco Council Chambers, 525 N. Third Avenue, Pasco, WA 99301. This facility is fully accessible. Written comments on the 2025 CDBG Annual Action Plan will be accepted until 5:00 p.m., July 18, 2024, and will be considered as the 2025 Annual Action Plan is being developed.

PASCO CDBG APPLICATION PERIOD BEGINS – The City is accepting proposals through May 31, 2024, for 2025 CDBG funds. The City anticipates limited funds available (\$651,000) to be used for eligible Community Development Block Grant activities. To be considered for funding, proposals must meet one of the following objectives: 1) Principally Benefit lower income persons, 2) Eliminate slum or blight; or 3) Create jobs for lower income persons.

Final 2025 funding is dependent on actual federal allocation and actual amounts of program income received from prior funded projects and unallocated funds. Proposed activity awards may increase or decrease according to final 2025 funding available.

Application packets are available on-line at <http://wa-pasco.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/53392> or by contacting Carmen Patrick at (509) 545-3441 or patrickc@pasco-wa.gov. Please be aware that due to federal funding process, funds allocated for FY 2025 may not be available for distribution before mid-year or later.

To be considered for funding, applicant must be a qualified non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, proposals must address a priority need identified in the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan, be an eligible activity under 24 CFR 570, meet national objective requirements which are outlined in the application packet. Proposals for social service projects will not be considered for funding except those permitted by local allocation policy.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS TO BE SUBMITTED IS MAY 31, 2024, 5:00 PM. To request special needs accommodation, contact the City of Pasco Block Grant Administrator, Kristin Webb, at (509) 543-5739 or webbk@pasco-wa.gov at least 72 hours prior to the meeting date. (MF# BGAP2024-003)

No qualified person or organization shall be denied the benefits of the participation in or be subjected to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, disability or familial status.