BORDER ARRESTS DROP AS MEXICO’S MIGRATION CRACKDOWN APPEARS TO CUT CROSSINGS

By Nick Miroff – The Washington Post – July 9, 2019

The number of people taken into custody along the U.S. southern border fell 28 percent in June, a drop that U.S. authorities say reflects the early impact of Mexico’s crackdown on Central American migration. Border crossings typically rise in the spring and slump during the scorching summer months, but the drop registered from May to June was significantly larger than in previous years, according to Homeland Security statistics released July 2. U.S. authorities detained 104,344 people along the border during the month of June, down from 144,278 in May. June was the fourth month in a row in which border arrests exceeded 100,000, and the total was more than twice the 43,180 people taken into custody in June 2018 and a nearly fivefold increase over June 2017, when authorities detained 21,673. Nearly 700,000 migrants have been detained along the U.S. border during the first nine months of the 2019 fiscal year. At least 15,000 asylum seekers have been returned to Mexican cities to await their asylum hearings this year, according to Mexican officials.


CONDITIONS AT THE BORDER PATROL STATION IN CLINT, TEXAS


Outbreaks of scabies, shingles and chickenpox were spreading among the hundreds of children who were being held in cramped cells, agents said. One girl seemed likely enough to try to kill herself that the agents made her sleep on a cot in front of them, so they could watch her as they were processing new arrivals. Border Patrol leaders, including Aaron Hull, the outspoken chief patrol agent of the agency’s El Paso Sector, have disputed descriptions of degrading conditions inside Clint and other migrant detention sites around El Paso, claiming that their facilities were rigorously and humanely managed even after a spate of deaths of migrant children in federal custody. Clint is known for holding what agents call U.A.C.s, or unaccompanied alien children — children who cross the border alone or with relatives who are not their parents. The number of children in the site is thought to have peaked at more than 700 around April and May, and stood at nearly 250 at the end of June.

News Article Source: https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/07/06/us/migrants-border-patrol-clint.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit_th_190707?campaign_id=2&instance_id=10736&segment_id=14986&user_id=0f184be067755cc0db8a06602cb6f20&regi_id=757361160707
HUNDREDS OF MIGRANT CHILDREN ARE MOVED OUT OF AN OVERCROWDED BORDER STATION
By Caitlin Dickerson – New York Times – June 24, 2019

- Hundreds of migrant children have been transferred out of a filthy Border Patrol station in Clint, Texas where they had been detained for weeks without access to soap, clean clothes or adequate food. The move came days after a group of lawyers was given access to the station in Clint, about 20 miles southeast of El Paso, and said they saw children as young as 8 caring for infants, toddlers with no diapers, and children who said they were waking up at night because they were hungry. Some 249 of the children were transferred into a shelter system maintained by the Office of Refugee Resettlement; an unknown number of others were sent to a temporary tent facility in El Paso, according to Elizabeth Lopez-Sandoval, a spokeswoman for Congresswoman Veronica Escobar, Democrat of Texas.


GOVERNMENT MOVES MIGRANT KIDS AFTER POOR CONDITIONS EXPOSED
By Martha Mendoza and Garance Burke – Associated Press – June 24, 2019

- The U.S. government has removed most of the children from a remote Border Patrol station in Clint, Texas following reports that more than 300 kids were detained there and caring for each other with inadequate food, water and sanitation. Rep. Veronica Escobar said 30 children were at the facility near El Paso as of Monday, June 24. It's unclear where all the children have been moved. But Escobar said some were sent to another facility in El Paso.


‘WE’RE IN A DARK PLACE’: CHILDREN RETURNED TO TROUBLED TEXAS BORDER FACILITY
By Arturo Rubio and Caitlin Dickerson – New York Times – June 25, 2019

- A chaotic shuffle of migrant children continued on June 25, as more than 100 were moved back into a facility that days earlier had been emptied in the midst of criticism that young detainees there were hungry, crying and unwashed. The transfer came just days after 249 children originally housed at the station in Clint, Tex., had been moved to other facilities to relieve overcrowding. At the station in Clint, children as young as 8 were found caring for infants they didn't know, and toddlers who had relieved themselves in their clothes because they had not been put in diapers.


ACTING BORDER CHIEF WILL STEP DOWN AS MIGRANT CHILDREN ARE RETURNED TO TEXAS FACILITY

- The Customs and Border Protection agency’s acting commissioner, John Sanders, will step down in early July as the government’s primary border enforcement executive. The news of the resignation came shortly after agency officials disclosed that more than 100 children had been returned to a troubled Border Patrol station in Clint, Tex., a location where a group of lawyers who visited recently said hundreds of minor detainees had been housed for weeks without access to showers, clean clothing, or sufficient food. Mr. Sanders led the agency since President Trump tapped the former Customs and Border Protection commissioner, Kevin McAleenan, to replace Kirstjen Nielsen as homeland security secretary. Mr. Sanders specialized in developing technology for national security initiatives and previously served as the chief technology officer for the Transportation Security Administration.


CONDITIONS APPARENTLY BETTER AT RECENTLY SQUALID BORDER DETENTION CENTER FOR KIDS
By CBS News – June 27, 2019

- U.S. officials offer journalists an inside glimpse of the station located in Clint, Texas for the first time since lawyers who met with young migrants there told The Associated Press they saw 250 infants, children and teens locked up for up to 27 days in what was designed to be a 30-bed holding facility. A pediatrician visited with 39 detainees at another Border Patrol center in McAllen, Texas, all but one of them minors, and performed medical exams on 21 infants and children on June 15. In her declaration with the court, she described the conditions there as dire, and said many of the detainees were teen mothers. Matt Harris, the Border Patrol agent in charge of the facility in Clint said children have been staying at his facility an average of 6 to 10 days, and in some instances for as long as 30 days. And the facility, which was originally designed to hold a little over 100 people, at one point this year was housing 700 children, he added. Last year, Border Patrol spent a little more than $1,000 a day on supplies for migrants being held across the El Paso sector, Hull said. This year, because of the ballooning number of migrants and the backlog, the agency is spending $4,000 a day just to buy enough food, medicines and other supplies to keep the Clint facility operating. Across the El Paso sector, the cost has risen to $61,000 a day.


Benedictine Sisters Corporate Responsibility Coalition
Overcrowded, squalid conditions are more widespread at migrant centers along the southern border than initially revealed, the Department of Homeland Security’s independent watchdog said Tuesday, July 2. Its report describes standing-room-only cells, children without showers and hot meals, and detainees clamoring desperately for release. In June, inspectors from the department visited five facilities in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, and found children had few spare clothes and no laundry facilities. Many migrants were given only wet wipes to clean themselves and bologna sandwiches to eat, causing constipation and other health problems, according to the report. After touring a facility in Clint, Democratic lawmakers said they had met migrants who were not given fresh water and were forced to drink from toilets. According to the report, 826 of the 2,669 children detained at the facilities were held longer than 72 hours, in violation of a federal court settlement (1997 Flores Settlement Agreement) and Customs and Border Protection policy. Some migrants clogged their toilets with blankets and socks in order to be released from the crowded cells.

To read the report, go to: https://www.oig.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/2019-07/OIG-19-51-Jul19_.pdf

Attorneys inspecting a Border Patrol station in Clint, Texas reported horrid conditions, including filth and limited access to showers, clean clothing and enough food. The Border Patrol disputes the attorneys’ findings, but other reports have surfaced of unsanitary and overcrowded conditions in other facilities as well.


BCFS (formerly Baptist Child and Family Services) is running the new migrant child shelter in Carrizo Springs under contract with the Health and Human Services Department. The RK Group catering firm is providing food onsite as a subcontractor. The federal contract awarded to BCFS is worth more than $300 million and runs through Jan. 31. The children’s shelter, located on the site of a former oil workers camp in Dimmit County, southwest of San Antonio, can hold up to 1,300 people. It began admitting children the first week of July. Both BCFS and the RK Group operated last year at the federal government’s tent city in Tornillo near El Paso, which at its peak held 2,800 children. That facility shut down in January amid concerns that employees hired to work among the children had not undergone FBI background checks. All prospective staff at Carrizo Springs will have background checks, according to HHS. On Wednesday, July 3, between 200 and 300 activists drove to Carrizo Springs to protest the opening of the new shelter. Three people, including a Democratic congressional hopeful, were arrested during the protest.


In a dramatic video posted by the Associated Press (AP), a 12-year-old girl says she slept on the floor and kids weren’t allowed playtime or baths during her stay at the Border Patrol Station in Clint, located in Texas. The facility in Clint at one point had 700 kids, when in reality it was designed to hold 100 adults. This girl and her 6-year-old sister crossed the border with their aunt to reunite with their mother who came to the U.S. to seek asylum 4 years ago. The girls were separated from their aunt at the border.

To listen to the girl’s story, go to: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qKeb-7L2fXo
GIRL RECALLS POOR CARE IN TEXAS BORDER STATION
By Denise Lavoie, Martha Mendoza and Garance Burke – The Associated Press – July 2, 2019

- For almost two weeks, a 12-year-old migrant girl said she and her 6-year-old sister were held inside a Border Patrol station in Texas where they slept on the floor and some children were locked away when they cried for their parents. She was one of hundreds of migrant children who have been held this year in holding cells at a U.S. Customs and Border Protection station near El Paso that has come under fire for holding children in squalid and unsanitary conditions. In a video obtained by The Associated Press, the girl — speaking in Spanish — tells her Minnesota-based attorney Alison Griffith children were “treated badly” and were not allowed to play or bathe. The girl’s face is not visible on the video to protect her privacy and not jeopardize her immigration case. El Paso, Texas, attorney Taylor Levy, who worked with the girl’s family, said she and her sister were separated from their aunt when they arrived in the U.S. on May 23. Levy said the girls’ mother fled an abusive husband and arrived in the U.S. four years ago. She has applied for asylum. The girls stayed behind with their aunt, but the three headed north in May after the girls’ father threatened them, Levy said.


“WE ARE KEPT IN A CAGE”: HEARTBREAKING STORIES FROM CHILDREN IN BORDER PATROL CUSTODY
By Jessica Washington – Mother Jones – June 27, 2019

- “We are kept in a cage,” said the 17-year old migrant from Guatemala, who was being held with his 8-year-old nephew at a Customs and Border Protection facility in McAllen, Texas. “There is no room to move without stepping over the others. We were not given a mat to sleep on, so we had to sleep on the cold, concrete floor. The lights are on all the time. We were both very cold last night. I did not get any sleep, I stayed up worried about my nephew making sure he was safe.” The teenager’s description of his time in custody appeared in a court document filed and released Wednesday (June 26) as part of a lawsuit alleging torturous conditions at CBP detention centers along the southwestern border.

Here are some of the detailed accounts from children held within the CBP facilities and doctors brought on to provide care: https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/6174090-Declarations-from-migrant-children-held-in.html#document/p1

News Article Source: https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2019/06/cbp-migrant-children-clint/

ATTORNEYS ASK COURT TO INTERVENE AGAINST U.S. OVER MIGRANT KIDS’ DETENTION CONDITIONS
By Kristina Cooke and Julio-Cesar Chavez – Reuters – June 27, 2019

- A 17-year-old Honduran migrant described babies sleeping on a cold floor. A teen mother said her sick baby was unable to open her eyes but no one responded to her pleas for help for two days. Another teenager took charge of a 5-year-old stranger because the child was very upset and had no one else after being separated from her father. In papers filed in federal court in Los Angeles late on Wednesday (June 26), attorneys for migrant children asked Federal Judge Dolly Gee to hold the U.S. government in contempt of court for “flagrant and persistent” violations of the terms of a 1997 agreement that governs the treatment of children in immigration detention. They requested immediate action be taken to remedy the “deplorable” conditions.


DETECTION CENTERS

MIGRANT KIDS IN ARIZONA BORDER STATION ALLEGE SEX ASSAULT, RETALIATION FROM U.S. AGENTS
By Jacob Soboroff and Julia Ainsley – NBC News – July 9, 2019

- The poor treatment of migrant children at the hands of U.S. border agents in recent months extends beyond Texas to Arizona. A 16-year-old Guatemalan boy held in Yuma, Arizona, said he and others in his cell complained about the taste of the water and food they were given. The Customs and Border Protection agents took the mats out of their cell and forcing them to sleep on hard concrete. A 15-year-old girl from Honduras described a large, bearded officer putting his hands inside her bra, pulling down her underwear and groping her as part of what was meant to be a routine pat down in front of other immigrants and officers. In a statement about the Yuma allegations, a CBP spokesperson said, “The allegations do not align with common practice at our facilities and will be fully investigated.” But in nearly 30 accounts obtained from "significant incident reports" prepared between April 10 and June 12 by case managers for the Department of Health and Human Services, the department responsible for migrant children after they leave CBP custody, kids who spent time in the Yuma border station reported being denied a phone call, not being offered a shower, sleeping on concrete or outside with only a Mylar blanket, and feeling hungry before their 9 p.m. dinnertime.

**MANAGEMENT ALERT - DHS NEEDS TO ADDRESS DANGEROUS OVERCROWDING AND PROLONGED DETENTION OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS IN THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY (REDACTED)**

*By the Office of Inspector General – Department of Homeland Security – July 2, 2019*

- In May 2019, the Office of Inspector General issued a management alert about dangerous overcrowding observed in the El Paso area during their unannounced inspections of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) holding facilities. During the week of June 10, 2019, inspectors traveled to the Rio Grande Valley in Texas and again observed serious overcrowding and prolonged detention in Border Patrol facilities requiring immediate attention. According to Border Patrol statistics, the Rio Grande Valley sector has the highest volume on the southwest border, with nearly a quarter million apprehensions in the first eight months of FY 2019. This total represents a 124 percent increase compared to the same period in FY 2018, with the greatest increase in family units.

- To read the report on its entirety go to: https://www.oig.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/2019-07/OIG-19-51-Jul19_.pdf

**WATCHDOG FINDS EXTREME OVERCROWDING IN BORDER PATROL FACILITIES IN UNANNOUNCED INSPECTIONS**

*By Geneva Sands – CNN – July 2, 2019*

- Extreme overcrowding and children younger than 7 being held in custody for more than two weeks -- far longer than the allowed 72 hours, are among the “urgent” issues discovered at Border Patrol facilities in unannounced visits by an internal government watchdog. The unannounced inspections took place in early June in the Rio Grande Valley region of Texas, along the US-Mexico border. The report includes several photos that depict the extreme overcrowding, as well as standing-room-only conditions in some Border Patrol facilities, which are designed to be temporary holding facilities. For example, at the Centralized Processing Center in McAllen, Texas -- the main location for unaccompanied children in the region -- 165 children had been in custody longer than a week. When CNN went inside the Centralized Processing Center in McAllen, Texas, there were around 1,900 people in a space designed for 1,500, who included more than 400 unaccompanied children and around 1,200 family members. Inside the cavernous space, the center is divided into sections for single adults, families and unaccompanied minors, who are kept behind chain-link fencing. The lights are never turned off, which Customs and Border Protection said was for safety reasons. There are no beds or cots, but children and families have green mats to lie on, as well as Mylar blankets to keep warm. According to the report, there were 3,400 people in the Rio Grande Valley facilities when inspectors visited who were held longer than the 72 hours, including 1,500 people who had been held for more than 10 days. The watchdog found additional violations of detention policy, such as a lack of hot meals, inadequate access to showers and limited access to a change of clothes. For example, children at three of the five Border Patrol facilities did not have access to showers, despite a policy requiring that "reasonable efforts" be made to provide showers to children who are in detention for 48 hours. And many single adults were found to have been receiving only bologna sandwiches to eat, causing some on the diet to become constipated and require medical attention. At one facility, adults were held in standing-room-only conditions for more than a week. At another, some adults were held in overcrowded cells for more than a month. In May, the watchdog found "standing room only conditions" at the El Paso Del Norte Processing Center, which has a maximum capacity of 125 migrants. On May 7 and May 8, logs indicated there were "approximately 750 and 900 detainees, respectively."


**WHAT A PEDIATRICIAN SAW INSIDE A BORDER PATROL WAREHOUSE**

*By Jeremy Raff – The Atlantic – July 3, 2019*

- Inside the Border Patrol warehouse on Ursula Avenue, in McAllen, Texas, Dolly Lucio Sevier, a pediatrician, saw a baby who’d been fed from the same unwashed bottle for days; children showing signs of malnutrition and dehydration; and several kids who, in her medical opinion, were exhibiting clear evidence of psychological trauma. More than 1,000 migrant children sat in the detention facility here, and Sevier, had been examining as many as she could, one at a time. But she wasn’t permitted to enter the area where they were being held, many of them in cages, and find the sickest kids to examine. Instead, in a nearby room, she manually reviewed a 50-page printout of that day’s detainees, and highlighted the names of children with a 2019 birth date—the babies—before moving on to the toddlers.

TENT FACILITY FOR MIGRANT FAMILIES, KIDS, TO OPEN AT BORDER
By the Associated Press – June 28, 2019

- Border officials were expected to unveil the newest outdoor facility meant to detain immigrant children and families who cross the U.S. border near Yuma, Arizona. Border Patrol's 400-person capacity building in Yuma is regularly overcrowded as agents struggle to process the large number of people. Nearly 11,000 families and 6,000 unaccompanied kids have crossed the Yuma sector since October, making it the third-busiest area in the Southwest. Construction on the new 500-person tent facility began recently.

- News Article Source: https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireStory/tent-facility-migrant-families-kids-open-border-64009869

HONDURAN HELD BY ICE DIES IN CUSTODY, BECOMING 6TH DEATH SINCE OCTOBER
By Nick Visser – Huffington Post – July 1, 2019

- A Honduran man held by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for several weeks died June 30, after being found unresponsive in his detention cell. Yimi Alexis Balderramos-Torres, 30, was detained on June 6 after attempting to enter the United States for the second time. He had been held at a detention facility in Houston and was taken on June 30 to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead. An autopsy is pending to determine the cause of death.

- News Article Source: https://www.huffpost.com/entry/honduran-dies-ice-custody-asylum-seeker_n_5d1a9968e4b082e5536e3ce8?ncid=APPLENEWS00001

TRUMP’S CHILD DETENTION CAMPS COST $775 PER PERSON EVERY DAY

- An unnamed official at the Department of Health and Human Services told NBC News that housing children in detention costs $775 per child per day. That's more than a $675 deluxe guest room at the Trump International Hotel in Washington, D.C. (The average U.S. hotel room costs $129.) Maintenance reportedly eats up most of the $775 daily cost per child for the tent camps, since it's difficult to keep temporary structures suitable for humans in a desert. In permanent facilities run by Health and Human Services, the cost is $256 per person per night, and NBC News estimates that even keeping children with their parents and guardians in Immigration and Customs Enforcement facilities would only cost $298 per night. Private-prison firm Geo Group has reportedly already made $500 million from migrant detention centers since Trump's "zero tolerance policy" began, as reported by the Miami New Times. Southwest Key Programs, a nonprofit that set up a boys' shelter in the husk of an old Walmart, reportedly netted $955 million in federal contracts between 2015 and 2018, according to The New York Times. A network of nonprofit groups, BCFS, reportedly received $179 million in the same time period. BCFS is the same contractor that held migrant kids in parked vans for 39 hours earlier this year, as ICE slowly did the paperwork to reunite the children with their families.

- News Article Source: https://www.gq.com/story/trump-detention-camps-cost

MIGRANT CHILDREN ARE SUFFERING AT THE BORDER. BUT REPORTERS ARE KEPT AWAY FROM THE STORY.

- News stories emerged about the conditions at a Border Patrol detention facility housing about 300 migrant children on the U.S.-Mexico border. The media accounts described how sick, filthy and hungry children were sleeping on concrete floors at a facility in Clint, Tex., near El Paso, that houses children separated from their parents. Government officials say legal issues, especially privacy concerns, make unfettered media access to border facilities a non-starter. Officials at the Department of Health and Human Services, which supervises many of the detention facilities, have periodically given tours of the facilities to journalists on the condition that no images or recordings are made. On June 24, four days after the AP reported on conditions at the Texas center, Border Patrol officials removed most of the children from it. Just 30 children remained at the facility, down from some 300 before the news stories emerged.


VIEWING U.S. BORDER CELLS DERIDED AS ‘CAGES,’ CENTRAL AMERICAN OFFICIALS PLEDGE MORE IMMIGRATION COOPERATION

- Guatemalan Interior Minister Enrique Degenhart confirmed that Guatemala is preparing to sign a “Safe Third” country agreement with the U.S. Such an agreement potentially would allow U.S. authorities to deport Honduran and Salvadoran asylum seekers to Guatemala, instead of processing their claims in the U.S., under the theory that they should seek asylum in the first safe country they reach after fleeing their own. The delegations from Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras were hosted by Kevin McAleenan, the acting secretary of the Homeland Security Department, as well as the acting commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, John Sanders.


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LAWFULLY HAD TO FORCE THE BORDER PATROL TO SEND 4 SICK TODDLERS TO THE HOSPITAL
By David Boddiger – Splinter News – June 22, 2019

HuffPost reported on June 21, that lawyers had to intervene to force officials to hospitalize four toddlers, all under 3 years old, who were so sick that some refused to eat. One 2-year-old was “completely unresponsive” and her eyes had rolled back in her head. All of the children were being held at the Ursula processing center in McAllen. The toddlers had fevers, coughs, diarrhea, and were vomiting, the attorneys told the news site. Per HuffPost: The lawyers feared that if they had not shown up at the facility, the sick kids would have received zero medical attention and potentially died. At a facility near El Paso, lawyers told the Associated Press they found a 2-year-old locked in detention, girls as young as 10 caring for a sick and underfed toddler, and a general lack of adequate food, water, and sanitation. Fifteen children under 12 have the flu at that location, and 10 others are quarantined.

News Article Source: https://splinternews.com/lawyers-had-to-force-the-border-patrol-to-send-4-sick-toddlers-to-the-hospital-1835764032

WHY A GOVERNMENT LAWYER ARGUED AGAINST GIVING IMMIGRANT KIDS TOOTHBRUSHES
By Ken White – The Atlantic – June 23, 2019

Sarah Fabian, the senior attorney in the Department of Justice’s Office of Immigration Litigation told a panel of Ninth Circuit judges that it is “safe and sanitary” to confine immigrant children in facilities without soap or toothbrushes and to make them sleep on concrete floors under bright lights. The clip of her argument went viral at the same time as a new wave of reports of brutal and inhumane conditions at immigrant confinement centers. The judges were openly hostile, incredulous that the government would argue that a facility is “safe and sanitary” even if the minors confined there have no soap, toothbrushes, or dark places to sleep. “I find that inconceivable that the government would say that is safe and sanitary,” said Judge William Fletcher, in a representative comment.


PEOPLE WANT TO DONATE DIAPERS AND TOYS TO CHILDREN AT BORDER PATROL FACILITIES IN TEXAS. THEY’RE BEING TURNED AWAY.
By Alex Samuels – Texas Tribune – June 24, 2019

Democratic state Rep. Terry Canales of Edinburg tweeted that he wrote to Border Patrol asking for a list of acceptable items to donate. He said officials told his office by email they do not accept donations. An official with Border Patrol did not respond to a request for comment, but Theresa Brown, a former policy advisor for U.S. Customs and Border Protections, said there’s a legal reason why Border Patrol and other government agencies aren’t accepting donations from do-gooders. Under the Antideficiency Act, the government can’t spend any money or accept any donations other than what Congress has allocated to it. The theory behind not accepting donations, Brown said, is so that the government isn’t beholden to private-sector entities for what should be appropriated government actions. “It’s partially a constitutional thing about Congress controlling the purse and only being able to spend money that Congress gives, but it’s also about ethics,” she said. “Without a change in law, DHS, CPB and Border Patrol cannot accept those private donations.”

News Article Source: https://www.texastribune.org/2019/06/24/texas-border-facility-donations-turned-away/

BORDER AGENCY BUYING 2.2 MILLION DIAPERS TO HELP MIGRANTS
By Neil Munro – Breitbart – June 4, 2019

2.2 million diapers are being bought with funds provided in the February border spending bill for the Department of Human Services (DHS). The bill included “$192,700,000 for improved medical care, transportation, and consumables to better ensure the health and safety of migrants who are temporarily in [U.S. Customs and Border Protection] custody,” according to a congressional Explanatory Statement of the provisions. The money is also being used to fly migrants from the border to their target job sites and homes in the United States. The purchase request was posted May 31 and is numbered 20113222- a. It asks for diapers, baby wipes, and showers shoes. For example, the first item on the shopping list is “DISPOSABLE DIAPERS, SIZE 2 144 per case ALL ITEMS WILL HAVE 5 DELIVERIES DELIVERY JUNE 15 800 BOXES JULY 1 800 BOXES AUGUST 1 800 BOXES SEPTEMBER 1 800 BOXES SEPTEMBER 30 800 BOXES.”

CBP SAYS IT'S NOT LOW ON SUPPLIES AFTER CLAIMS OF 'APPALLING' CONDITIONS FOR MIGRANT CHILDREN
By Daniella Silva and Gabe Gutierrez – NBC News – June 25, 2019

- A Customs and Border Protection official said Tuesday, June 25, that the agency was not running low on supplies in response to reports that people looking to make donations were being turned away from its facilities in the wake of claims that children were held in “appalling” conditions at a border station in Clinto, Texas. The official added that while CBP was looking into the possibility of using some donations going forward, "those items, it's important to note, are available now, we've used our own funding to buy those things."


EL SALVADOR MAN DIES IN U.S. BORDER CUSTODY
By CBS News – June 30, 2019

- A 43-year-old El Salvadoran man who crossed into the U.S. with his daughter collapsed at a border station and later died at a hospital, officials said Saturday, June 29. The man had been held about a week at the Rio Grande Valley central processing center in McAllen, Texas, according to a law enforcement official. The official said the man, who had health issues, had been medically checked. The daughter was still in U.S. Border Patrol custody, but officials had requested an expedited transfer to a shelter run by the agency that manages children who cross the border alone, an official told The Associated Press. The child will be in a shelter until she is released to a sponsor, but that process could take weeks. "The man’s cause of death is not known at this time," the agency said.


IT FEELS LIKE A JAIL': LAWMAKERS CRITICIZE MIGRANT HOLDING SITES ON BORDER
By Emily Cochrane – New York Times – July 1, 2019

- Women held in rooms without running water, sleeping bags set up on concrete and children left apart from their families: That was what Democratic lawmakers said they heard about on Monday, July 1, as they toured two Texas border facilities. Their emotional, and graphic, descriptions came on a day when ProPublica reported the existence of a secret Facebook group for current and former Border Patrol agents. Posts on the group’s page included jokes about migrants’ deaths, obscene GIFs and doctored images of Hispanic lawmakers, the report said. The head of the Border Patrol, Carla Provost, said the posts on Facebook were “completely inappropriate,” adding that “any employees found to have violated our standards of conduct will be held accountable.” On Monday night (July 1), Customs and Border Protection said it was opening an investigation into the Facebook group.


INVESTIGATION OF SECRET BORDER PATROL GROUP LAUNCHED AS NEW DEGRADEING FACEBOOK POSTS SURFACE
By A.C. Thompson and Dara Lind – ProPublica – July 1, 2019

- The U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency has opened an investigation into vulgar and misogynistic social media posts made by members of a secret Facebook group for current and former Border Patrol agents. On Monday, July 1, “U.S. Customs and Border Protection was made aware of disturbing social media activity hosted on a private Facebook group that may include a number of CBP employees,” said Matthew Klein, head of the agency’s internal affairs unit. The investigation comes after a ProPublica report exposing the secret three-year-old Facebook group, which is called “I’m 10-15” and has some 9,500 members.


ADULT MIGRANTS ARE BEING HELD IN THIS FACILITY LONGER THAN THEY SHOULD BE
By Geneva Sands and Emanuella Grinberg – CNN – June 28, 2019

- Detained migrants generally are not supposed to spend more than 72 hours at the Centralized Processing Center in McAllen, Texas, per US Customs and Border Protection policy. But CBP said the average time single adults spend at the processing center is more than 100 hours, the latest sign of how the facility’s limits are being tested. CNN reported in March that the facility was over capacity. In May, 32 migrants were diagnosed with influenza. When CNN returned to the center on June 27, they found that little has changed. Migrants are offered snacks and drinks before they are processed and screened for medical care. Portable toilets, showers and laundry facilities are also available. The center is divided into sections for single adults, families and unaccompanied minors, all behind chain-link fencing. The lights are never turned off and Customs and Border Protection says the fences allow staff to see what is happening at all times. The single adults section is in a separate part of the building with no beds or mats on the concrete floor, just a few benches. The migrants also receive mylar blankets, which CBP said is for sanitary reasons. There were 344 single adults at the facility. On average, this population is spending 100 hours there, according to CBP.

ILLINOIS BANS PRIVATE IMMIGRATION DETENTION CENTERS
By Jamie Ehrlich – CNN – June 21, 2019

- Illinois Democratic Gov. JB Pritzker signed a bill on June 21, that bans private immigration detention centers in the state, making it the first in the nation to forbid the practice. Pritzker signed the legislation, HB 2040, as part of a three-part package to protect undocumented immigrants, as the state braces for Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids that are expected in Chicago and nine other major cities. According to a statement from Pritzker's office, he also signed HB 1637, which prohibits local law enforcement from working with federal immigration enforcement and from removing undocumented immigrants from the US. The third piece of legislation in the package was HB 2691, which allows undocumented immigrants in Illinois to qualify for state financial aid.


BANK THAT FINANCES HOMESTEAD DETENTION CENTER EXITS PRIVATE PRISON INDUSTRY
By Ashley Portero – BizJournal – June 27, 2019

- Bank of America, the chief backer of the company that operates Homestead detention center, is the latest major U.S. bank to exit the private prison and detention industry. The bank announced June 26 it would no longer finance for-profit prisons. The decision comes days after several candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination – including Senators Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota – visited the site of the Homestead detention center, and barely a week after Warren rolled out a plan to end all private prison contracts with the U.S. Federal Bureau of Prisons and U.S. Immigration Customs and Enforcement (ICE). In March, JPMorgan Chase and Wells Fargo announced they would no longer lend to private prison companies. The Homestead center, which houses approximately 3,000 underage migrants, is operated by Caliburn International. The company received a $54 million loan from Bank of America in 2018, according to documents filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Caliburn runs the Homestead center under a U.S. government contract.


SUNTRUST JOINS WAVE OF BANKS EXITING THE PRIVATE PRISON INDUSTRY
By Morgan Simon – Forbes – July 8, 2019

- SunTrust Bank announced that they are ready to join other major banks in moving away from the private prison industry, in the wake of deep public sentiment against their role in mass incarceration and family detention. “Following an ongoing and deliberate process, SunTrust has decided not to provide future financing to companies that manage private prisons and immigration holding facilities,” said Sue Mallino, Chief Communications Officer of SunTrust Banks, Inc. “This decision was made after extensive consideration of the views of our stakeholders on this deeply complex issue.” The two other prolific banks who ended their relationships with both GEO Group and CoreCivic, JPMorgan Chase and most recently Bank of America, announced their move following targeted protests, shareholder resolutions, and conversations with activists. Additionally, in March Wells Fargo was the second bank to publicly sever ties after it was found they had contributed to a $792 million term loan for GEO Group.


WAYFAIR WALKOUT: EMPLOYEES STAGE PROTEST OVER COMPANY SELLING GOODS TO DETENTION CAMPS
By Jorge L. Ortiz – USA TODAY – June 25, 2019

- Employees of online furniture retailer Wayfair are planning to walk out of their jobs on June 26, to protest the company’s refusal to stop selling beds and other home goods to be used in camps for detained migrants. In a Twitter post with the hashtag #WayfairWalkout, the protesters say CEO Niraj Shah rejected a request by more than 500 employees who signed a petition asking the Boston-based company to desist from doing business with border camps. In response, employees said they’re taking to the streets Wednesday, June 25 at 1:30 p.m. ET at Copley Square, where Wayfair has its headquarters. Organizers are also asking Wayfair to donate all profits from such sales to the nonprofit organization RAICES, which provides legal services to immigrants. According to the petition, Wayfair sold more than $200,000 worth of bedroom furniture to a nonprofit government contractor that manages migrant camps at the border, with the beds being intended for a facility in Texas that could house up to 3,000 migrant children.

PHOTO OF DROWNED MIGRANTS CAPTURES PATHOS OF THOSE WHO RISK IT ALL

The father and daughter lie face down in the muddy water along the banks of the Rio Grande, her tiny head tucked inside his T-shirt, an arm draped over his neck. The portrait of desperation was captured on June 24 by the journalist Julia Le Duc, after Óscar Alberto Martínez Ramírez died with his 23-month-old daughter, Valeria, as they tried to cross from Mexico to the United States. The young family from El Salvador — Mr. Martínez, 25, Valeria and her mother, Tania Vanessa Ávalos — arrived in the border city of Matamoros, Mexico, hoping to apply for asylum in the United States. The family set off together around mid-afternoon on Sunday, June 23. Mr. Martínez swam with Valeria on his back, tucked under his shirt. Ms. Ávalos followed behind, on the back of a family friend. But as Mr. Martínez approached the opposite bank, carrying Valeria, Ms. Ávalos could see he was tiring in the rough water. She decided to swim back to the Mexican bank. Back on the Mexico side, she turned and saw her husband and daughter, close to the American bank, sink into the river and get swept away. On Monday, June 24, their bodies were recovered by Mexican authorities a few hundred yards from where they were swept downstream. Members of the family issued a plea to the public, seeking money to help repatriate the bodies of Mr. Martínez and Valeria. The cost was expected to be about $8,000 — an unimaginable sum for the relatives to manage. Hours later, the Salvadoran government agreed to cover the costs.


OFFICIAL: WOMAN, 3 CHILDREN DIED OF HEAT EXPOSURE IN TEXAS
By the San Antonio Express-News – June 24, 2019

Four people, including three children, found dead in South Texas near the border with Mexico likely died of dehydration and heat exposure after crossing the Rio Grande into the U.S., authorities said June 24. Hidalgo County sheriff's Sgt. Frank Medrano said earlier that the bodies of a woman in her early 20s, a toddler and two infants were found in or near Anzalduas Park, which borders the river in the city of Mission. Over a seven-month period ending in April, Border Patrol agents had apprehended more than 164,000 people.


THE OTHER PHOTO THAT SHOWS WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW AT THE BORDER
By Catherine E. Shoichet – CNN – June 26, 2019

Another photo of a parent and child near the river that divides the United States and Mexico has sparked an outcry. This isn't the tragic image of a father and daughter who drowned in the Rio Grande. But it shows a different side of a new reality taking shaping south of the US-Mexico border. As a mother and daughter bolt toward the Rio Grande, a man dressed in military fatigues follows closely. He reaches out and grabs the woman's backpack, yanking her away from the river she is steps away from reaching. Another man wearing camouflage and holding a large gun blocks their path. The men in the photograph are members of Mexico's new National Guard. And the photo, taken several days ago in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, by photographer Hérika Martínez for Agence France-Presse. During the Mexican President's morning news briefing Tuesday, reporters peppered López Obrador with questions about what the photo showed. "Can the National Guard detain migrants so they don't cross into the United States?" one journalist asked. "Because you could even see that they were separating a family. It's very severe. ... I wanted to ask you to respond to those who say Mexico is building a wall with these 15,000 troops from the National Guard on the border." "It's not like that," López Obrador replied. "It's more than anything regulating the entrance in the south. If these cases occurred, they were not instructed to do this. It's work that corresponds to immigration agents, not to the military. But it could have happened."


TEXAS DEM MAYOR LOSES IT OVER BORDER CRISIS, CALLS FOR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION
By Chris Enloe – The Blaze – June 18, 2019

During a June 8 meeting with the staffs of Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas) and Rep. Will Hurd (R-Texas), Mayor Bruno Lozano (D) of Del Rio, Texas, castigated the federal government for abdicating their duty to combat illegal immigration. "We're frustrated. We're extremely frustrated," Lozano said. "Our priorities on the city council are our streets, are our parks, are the economy, are the drive of the community and the places of worship and the places to have leisure activities. It is not the priority to solve immigration." He went on to say that local officials will no longer stand for having the responsibilities of the federal government — such as addressing immigration, refugees, and asylum-seekers — dumped on them.

DALLAS WILL FOOT THE BILL FOR UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS' ATTORNEYS
By Massoud Hayoun – PSMag.com – June 26, 2019

- Dallas municipal authorities are set to foot the bill for attorneys to represent undocumented residents facing deportation proceedings. The Dallas City Council has approved $100,000 in funds for the city’s Civil Legal Immigration Services initiative to distribute to non-profit organizations for legal services for undocumented residents facing immigration court proceedings. The Vera Institute of Justice, an advocacy group, matched the amount, bringing the Legal Services Defense fund total to $200,000, City of Dallas spokeswoman Roxana Rubio says. “These funds will be used to reach as many people as possible,” she adds. Dallas joins the scores of cities, including Los Angeles and Baltimore, that have allocated funds to defend undocumented community members in immigration court since the onset of Donald Trump’s presidency.


AIRLINE VOLARIS OFFERS $1 RETURN HOME FLIGHTS TO CENTRAL AMERICAN MIGRANTS IN MEXICO
By Bloomberg Wire – June 20, 2019

- Mexican airline Volaris has launched a program called “Reuniting Families” that is offering to fly Central American immigrants in Mexico back to their countries of origin. For $1, plus applicable taxes, Volaris will fly immigrants in Tijuana, Ciudad Juarez, Guadalajara and Mexico City to Costa Rica, El Salvador or Guatemala. Immigrants need only show some form of ID and be willing to board the next available flight. The program expired June 30.


MEXICO OFFICIALS DETAIN MORE MIGRANTS AS CRACKDOWN STEPS UP
By Oliver De Ros – The Associated Press – June 23, 2019

- Pressured by the U.S., Mexico's government has deployed some 6,000 agents of the National Guard, its new militarized policing force, along its southern and northern borders. In Ciudad Juarez, just south of El Paso, Texas, National Guardsmen turned back migrants trying to cross the border. The guardsmen patrolled along the Rio Grande with assault rifles. Since January, Mexico has detained more than 74,000 migrants and deported over 53,000, according to the latest figures available. Those numbers are expected to rise when June figures are released. President Andrés Manuel López Obrador instructed private bus companies to begin checking identifications of those buying bus tickets, in an effort to crackdown on human smuggling.


FEAR, CONFUSION AND SEPARATION AS TRUMP ADMINISTRATION SENDS MIGRANTS BACK TO MEXICO
By Joel Rose – NPR – July 1, 2019

- Several dozen Central American migrants crossed the U.S.-Mexico border again, this time escorted by federal agents to an El Paso, Texas, courtroom as part of an unprecedented effort by the administration to control migration. During a hearing, the judge asked the migrants one by one if they had a lawyer. Nearly all of them said, “No.” That’s not unusual. More than 6,000 migrants who came to the United States to ask for asylum have been sent back to Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, just across the border from El Paso, to wait for their day in U.S. immigration court under the "Remain in Mexico" program. But only about 20 of them have lawyers, according to human rights groups and attorneys who work with the migrants. The administration says it will assess claims from migrants who say they fear returning to Mexico and will exempt them if they are found to be "more likely than not" to face persecution or torture in Mexico. But in practice, advocates say, such exceptions are extremely rare.


FAMILY SEPARATIONS

TRUMP INSISTS LATINO VOTERS LOVE SEEING FAMILIES SEPARATED AND DEPORTED
By Emily Singer – ShareBlue.com – June 21, 2019

- The President told Telemundo that Hispanic voters think it’s great he is jailing and deporting immigrants. During the interview the President stated that Hispanic voters actually support his family separation policy.

**COURT RULINGS & PROPOSALS**

**JUDGE LIMITS TRANSFER OF DETAINED IMMIGRANTS IN CALIFORNIA**
By the Associated Press – June 21, 2019

- U.S. District Judge Jesus Bernal in Riverside, California, says authorities can’t transfer immigrants from two Southern California detention centers to far-flung facilities if they have lawyers in the area.

**HOUSE PASSES $4.5 BILLION IN EMERGENCY BORDER AID**
By Scott Neuman – NPR – June 26, 2019

- The House Democratic leadership pushed through a $4.5 billion emergency aid package on June 25, to help thousands of migrants packed into overcrowded facilities at the U.S.-Mexico border. The measure passed by a 230-195 vote mostly along party lines. The bill reportedly includes more than $1 billion to house and feed migrants detained by immigration authorities and almost $3 billion to care for unaccompanied children, according to The Associated Press. A vote on the Senate bill is expected this week. The $4.6 billion Senate version includes $2.88 billion for the Department of Health and Human Services to address unaccompanied children. It also includes $50 million in additional funding to speed up processing in immigration courts.

**U.S. JUDGE BLOCKS TRUMP PLAN TO SHIFT $2.5 BILLION TO PAY FOR BORDER WALL**
By Jose A. Del Real – New York Times – June 28, 2019

- Judge Haywood S. Gilliam Jr. of the United States District Court for the Northern District of California on June 28, permanently blocked the Trump administration from using $2.5 billion in contested funding to build barriers along the United States’ southwestern border. The White House had sought to direct $2.5 billion from counterdrug programs in the Department of Defense toward building the wall.

**SUPREME COURT TO TAKE UP DACA AS IMMIGRATION ISSUE HEATS UP DURING PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN**
By Devin Dwyer – ABC News – June 28, 2019

- The Supreme Court announced on June 28, that in its next term the justices plan to examine the legality of DACA and President Donald Trump’s decision to terminate the program, which imperiled the legal status of 700,000 young immigrants who came to the U.S. illegally as children. The President moved to end the Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals initiative in 2017, blasting his predecessor for abuse of executive power to shield undocumented immigrants when Congress would not. After several legal challenges were brought, federal courts put phase-out of the program on hold, pending appeals. No new applications are being accepted, but the Department of Homeland Security is processing renewals for immigrants already in the program. The Administration has approved more than 373,000 renewal requests since 2017. DACA allows qualified immigrants without a criminal record and who are attending school to pay a fee, register with the government and receive a temporary waiver from deportation and ability to work. Roughly 700,000 immigrants, known as Dreamers, have received temporary protection from deportation and work permits under the policy. The Supreme Court's decision to hear DACA means, in effect, that the program will remain in place at least October.

**U.S. JUDGE EXPANDS BAN ON CONSTRUCTING SECTIONS OF TRUMP’S BORDER WALL IN CALIF., ARIZ., WHILE ALSO CLEARING WAY FOR QUICK APPEAL**

- U.S. District Judge Haywood S. Gilliam Jr., of Oakland, California, blocked construction on four of the administration’s highest-priority projects on the U.S.-Mexico border spanning 79 miles near El Centro, Calif., and Tucson. The Pentagon had moved to fund the projects using $1.5 billion transferred into a Defense Department counterdrug program from military pay and training accounts. In his order granting a permanent halt on the construction, judge Gilliam also cleared the path for an immediate appeal. Judge Gilliam previously stopped another $1 billion transfer for work on stretches totaling 50 miles in eastern New Mexico and Yuma, Ariz. In all, judge Gilliam’s rulings blocked $2.5 billion of the $6.7 billion that the administration planned to transfer for the effort beyond the $1.375 billion Congress allotted last winter. On a separate legal challenge to wall funding, U.S. District Judge Trevor N. McFadden in Washington, D.C., in May tossed out a lawsuit by the Democrat-led House of Representatives to block the spending transfers, arguing that Trump unconstitutionally diverted appropriated funds in violation of Congress’s power of the purse. The House has appealed that case to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.
JUDGE ORDERS SWIFT ACTION TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS FOR MIGRANT CHILDREN IN TEXAS

- Judge Dolly M. Gee of the Central District of California has ordered a mediator to move swiftly to improve health and sanitation at Border Patrol facilities in Texas, where observers reported migrant children were subject to filthy conditions that imperiled their health. Judge Gee asked that an independent monitor, whom she appointed last year, ensure that conditions in detention centers are promptly addressed. She set a deadline of July 12 for the government to report on what it has accomplished “post haste” to remedy them. The lawyers’ reports on conditions at a Border Patrol facility in Clint, Tex., where they said children were unable to bathe, were living in filthy clothes and diapers and were often hungry. In her order, Judge Gee said that the court had detailed previous violations by the government of a 1997 consent decree, called the Flores settlement agreement, which established standards for the care of migrant children in its custody. A monitor had been appointed last year over the government’s objections after plaintiffs in the Flores case successfully argued that there had been egregious violations of the agreement.

JUDGE HAS TO FORCE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION TO LET DOCTORS TREAT CHILDREN IN DETENTION CAMPS
By Mike Stankiewicz – ShareBlue.com – July 1, 2019

- Prosecutors asked a U.S. district court to allow doctors to evaluate the detained children’s living conditions, following reports that children and families were being held in unclean conditions without adequate clean water and basic toiletries. Some children have also pleaded that they were hungry. The administration has defended the conditions of the camps and White House lawyers recently argued in federal court that jailed children don’t even need soap or toothbrushes. US District Judge Dolly Gee ruled Friday, June 28, that the administration violated a 1997 legal agreement that sets standards for how quickly detained children should be processed and cited documentation on how “deplorable” detention centers are. Doctors will now be allowed to assess the situation following the federal judge’s ruling. A joint status report on the health conditions within the camps is due by July 12.
- News Article Source: https://shareblue.com/judge-force-trump-administration-doctors-detention-camps/

TRUMP’S IMMIGRATION PROPOSAL COULD CAUSE MILLIONS OF CHILDREN TO OPT OUT OF HEALTH BENEFITS
By Jacqueline Howard – CNN – July 1, 2019

- The administration proposed a rule last year to change how immigration officials determine whether an immigrant is a “public charge” -- a status that means the person is “primarily dependent” on government assistance -- which could contribute to certain green card or visa applicants being turned down if they have low incomes or little education. Fear around the proposed change to the definition of “public charge” also could put the medical and nutritional needs of millions of children at risk, according to a new study. The new study, published in the medical journal JAMA Pediatrics, suggests that, if implemented, the rule change would lead to some 1.4 million children being disenrolled from Medicaid, the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) or food assistance; specifically, the study estimated between 800,000 and 1.9 million children. Families could disenroll their children because they fear their immigration status could be questioned due to their use of certain benefits. The researchers determined 5.5 million of these children have a specific medical need – including 615,842 with asthma, 53,728 with epilepsy, 3,658 with cancer and 583,700 with disabilities.
- To learn read the document describing the proposed public charge rule, go to: https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/18_0921_USCIS_Proposed-Rule-Public-Charge.pdf

U.S./MEXICO BORDER

MEXICO SENDS 15K TROOPS TO US BORDER TO STOP MIGRANTS
By Bob Fredericks – New York Post – June 24, 2019

- Mexico deployed nearly 15,000 soldiers and National Guardsmen to its border with the US. Under pressure from President Trump to slow the surge of Central American asylum seekers crossing the border, Mexico promised earlier this month to reinforce its southern border with 6,000 National Guardsmen, but had not previously disclosed the extent of the crackdown on its northern border, Agence France-Presse reported. "We have a total deployment, between the National Guard and army units, of 14,000, almost 15,000 men in the north of the country," Defense Minister Luis Cresencio Sandoval said at a press conference alongside President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador.
- News Article Source: https://nypost.com/2019/06/24/mexico-sends-15k-troops-to-us-border-to-stop-migrants/
TEXAS SENDING UP TO 1,000 MORE NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS TO MEXICAN BORDER
By Allie Morris and Bill Lambrecht – San Antonio Express-News – June 21, 2019

Republican Gov. Greg Abbott announced June 21, that he is deploying up to 1,000 additional National Guard troops to the Mexican border to help federal immigration officials at temporary holding facilities and points of entry in the Rio Grande Valley and in El Paso. Agents made 132,887 apprehensions in May, the first time that apprehensions have topped 100,000 since April 2007. It set a record with 84,542 adults and children apprehended. Another 11,507 were children traveling alone, and 36,838 were single adults. Texas has for years been funding its own border security operations. The state budget approved this session includes over $800 million for border security operations over the next two years, including money to operate cameras and remove Carrizo cane, a weed that can grow 25 feet tall and provide cover for border crossers along the Rio Grande Valley. It also pays for 500 troopers from the Department of Public Safety to work along the border. The Legislature did turn down an 11th-hour request from Abbott's office to spend another $100 million on a border surge that lawmakers said would have sent the National Guard to help the federal government process immigrants. It appears despite that rejection, Abbott is still moving ahead with the plan.

News Article Source: https://www.expressnews.com/news/politics/texas/article/Texas-sending-up-to-1-000-more-National-Guard-14028434.php

UNDER PRESSURE FROM U.S., MEXICO LAUNCHES RAIDS AGAINST MIGRANTS
By CBS News – June 28, 2019

About 100 Mexican soldiers and immigration agents raided a freight train in the southern state of Chiapas on June 27, and detained dozens of Central American migrants riding atop the cars. Under increasing U.S. pressure to reduce the flow of hundreds of thousands of Central Americans through Mexican territory, Mexico's government has stepped up enforcement. In the month of June, authorities intercepted four trucks packed with nearly 800 migrants.


DEVELOPING STORIES

MOTEL 6 HOTEL CHAIN TO SETTLE LAWSUIT OVER SHARING GUEST LISTS WITH ICE
By Dan Whitcomb – Reuters – June 29, 2019

Motel 6 has agreed to pay $10 million to settle a class-action lawsuit over claims the budget chain routinely provided guest lists from properties in Arizona to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents. The proposed settlement, outlined in court papers filed in U.S. District Court in Arizona, calls for Motel 6 to abide by a three-year consent decree to not give guest information to immigration authorities without a warrant or subpoena and to provide training on the issue to workers. A previous settlement over the Arizona properties reached by the two sides was rejected in November 2018 by a federal judge who said it did not go far enough in making sure that the plaintiffs, many of whom may be in the country illegally, would be found and compensated. “Motel 6 fully recognizes the seriousness of the situation and accepts full responsibility for both compensating those who were harmed and taking the necessary steps to ensure that we protect the privacy of our guests. Since this issue emerged, we’ve taken strong action to make sure a similar issue never happens again in the future,” a spokesman for the company said in a written statement. The lawsuit was filed in January 2018 by the Los Angeles-based Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, or MALDEF, on behalf of Motel 6 guests with Latino names after the Phoenix New Times newspaper reported that the chain was providing their names to ICE at two of its properties in Arizona and six in Washington state.

News Article Source: https://www.reuters.com/article/us-immigration-motel6/motel-6-hotel-chain-to-settle-lawsuit-over-sharing-guest-lists-with-ice-idUSKCN1TU0Z1

ICE USED FACIAL RECOGNITION TO MINE STATE DRIVER’S LICENSE DATABASES

Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials have mined state driver’s license databases using facial recognition technology, analyzing millions of motorists' photos without their knowledge. In at least three states that offer driver’s licenses to undocumented immigrants, ICE officials have requested to comb through state repositories of license photos, according to newly released documents. At least two of those states, Utah and Vermont, complied, searching their photos for matches, those records show. In the third state, Washington, agents authorized administrative subpoenas of the Department of Licensing to conduct a facial recognition scan of all photos of license applicants, though it was unclear whether the state carried out the searches. In Vermont, agents only had to file a paper request that was later approved by Department of Motor Vehicles employees.

HUNDREDS SUPPORT MIGRANTS AT LIGHTS FOR LIBERTY EVENT IN SAN ANTONIO

By Silvia Foster-Frau – San Antonio Express-News – July 12, 2019

- Hundreds of San Antonio activists rallied downtown at Travis Park to protest the conditions of migrants in detention as part of the national Lights for Liberty event Friday, July 12, which also occurred in other U.S. cities. Former San Antonio mayor and Housing Secretary Julian Castro, who is also a Democratic candidate for president, spoke to the crowd, along with state Rep. Diego Bernal, Councilman Roberto Treviño, and volunteers who provide humanitarian aid to migrants in the city. Just half a block from where the rally was being held, about 200 migrants were settling into the Travis Park Church, an overnight shelter that opened in late March after U.S. Customs and Border Protection began releasing tens of thousands of migrants at the border. One block further is the city’s migrant resource center, which opened its doors around the same time and has provided food, clothes, toys and bus and plane tickets to more than 23,000 asylum-seekers. It is actively seeking volunteers.


A LOSS OF MORALITY ON THE BORDER

By the Express-News Editorial Board – July 11, 2019

- They posted about throwing burritos at Latina lawmakers who were visiting Border Patrol facilities in Clint and El Paso. They joked about a teenage migrant who died in U.S. Border Patrol custody in May. “They” are current and former U.S. Border Patrol agents who were posting in a private Facebook group called “I'm 10-15.” It’s a reference to the Border Patrol code “Aliens in custody.” Although private, the group had some 9,500 members. The posts were made public through reporting by ProPublica, the nonprofit investigative news source. Federal officials have vowed to hold the agents responsible for their racist and sexist comments about migrants and Latina lawmakers. The dehumanizing digital posts underscored the real-world squalid conditions in Border Patrol facilities in El Paso and Clint. Observers of the Clint facility have said children there were without such basics as soap and toothpaste, had gone days without showers, and often wore clothes covered in dirt, snot and grime. Babies and toddlers would relieve themselves on the floor. Children would care for children. Lights were kept on at all hours.


JUDGE DISMISSES PARTS OF AG’S ‘SANCTUARY CITY’ LAWSUIT AGAINST SAN ANTONIO

By Dylan McGuinness – San Antonio Express-News – July 10, 2019

- A state judge dismissed significant parts of Attorney General Ken Paxton's first sanctuary cities lawsuit, which alleges San Antonio Police Chief William McManus and others hindered federal immigration enforcement by releasing 12 people suspected of being in the country illegally. The suit, filed last November, was the first under Senate Bill 4, the controversial law known for targeting sanctuary cities. It penalizes local officials who enact policies restricting the enforcement of federal immigration laws. State District Judge Tim Sulak of Austin dismissed three claims in the lawsuit on July 2, ruling the relevant portions of SB 4 were barred from being enforced at the time because they were temporarily blocked by federal courts. Two of the dismissed claims alleged that McManus “materially limited” the enforcement of immigration laws and prevented his officers from doing the same. The third argued the city had a policy of doing that through its general manual for police. The remaining issue is whether San Antonio has a general policy against cooperating with federal authorities regarding immigration laws.


ICE HAS BEGUN RAIDS TO ROUND UP UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS, OFFICIAL SAYS

By Elliott C. McLaughlin – CNN – July 15, 2019

- Immigration authorities have begun conducting raids, a senior administration official said Sunday, July 14, in an operation expected to target about 2,000 undocumented immigrants ordered by courts to be removed from the country. The raids, which will focus on recent arrivals to the country, are slated for Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York and San Francisco, a senior immigration official said. New Orleans is also on the list, but the city tweeted last week that US Immigration and Customs Enforcement said it would suspend operations through the weekend in areas hit by Tropical Storm Barry, which weakened to a tropical depression. According to Immigration and Customs Enforcement statistics, 256,085 people were deported in fiscal year 2018, up from 226,119 removals in fiscal year 2017.