

SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2015

\$1.50 SUNDAYS

THE MONITOR

A changing dynamic

Illegal immigration slowdown shifts border-security debate

BY JERRY MARKON
THE WASHINGTON POST

Monica Camacho-Perez came to the United States from Mexico as a child, crossing into Arizona with her mother in the same spot where her father made the trip before them. "Nobody stopped us," Camacho-Perez, now 20, said of her journey in 2002.

Three years ago, her uncle tried to cross the border and join the family in Baltimore, where they remain undocumented immigrants. He was stopped three times by the U.S. Border Patrol and jailed for 50 days.

"He doesn't want to try anymore," said Camacho-Perez. "Now, it's really hard."

As the Department of Homeland Security continues to pour money into border security, evidence is emerging that illegal immigration flows have slowed to their lowest level in at least two decades.

The nation's population of undocumented immigrants, which more than tripled to 12.2 million between 1990 and 2007, has dropped by about 1 million, according to demographers at the Pew Research Center.

A key — but largely overlooked — sign of these ebbing flows is the changing makeup of the undocumented population. Until recent years, immigrants entering the country illegally tended to be the young men who were streaming across the border in pursuit of work. But demographic data show that the profile of the typical immigrant now is much more likely someone who is 35 or older and has lived in the United States for a decade or more.

Homeland security officials in the Obama and George W. Bush administrations — who have more than doubled the U.S. Border Patrol's size and spent billions on drones,

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A group of 15 migrants, mostly women and children, turn themselves in June 11, 2014, to Border Patrol after illegally crossing the Rio Grande near McAllen. Photo by Nick Miroff | Washington Post

For years, charities missing donations from 'Zumbathons'

BY KRISTEN MOSBRUCHER
STAFF WRITER

MCALLEN — Pulsing music pumped through speakers at South Padre Island last weekend in a video posted on social media that showed hundreds of dancers grooving together under the direction of Zumba instructors. The event, held on an outdoor stage at Clayton Beach Bar and Grill, was billed as a fundraiser for the ALS Association of Texas. But it's unclear if the charity will receive money raised by organizers. Donations from ticket sales that ranged between \$20 and \$25 per person have yet to be reported or received by the nonprofit, the charity's leader for its statewide chapter said Friday.

It's up to them to provide a donation report at the end and to give us a check," said Tanner Hockensmith, executive director for the ALS Association chapter in Texas.

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More drilling may come to Edinburg

Company invites neighbors of well area to attend public meeting June 9 at Echo Hotel

BY KRISTEN MOSBRUCHER
STAFF WRITER

EDINBURG — For nearly seven years, Bernadette Tan said she's lived within a few hundred feet of a natural gas well.

One thing she's learned is that vigilance translates to safety.

"If there's a little spark, it might go up," the 50-year-old woman said Friday as she swept her hands high in the air.

Tan was cleaning debris and litter from her driveway because there is going to be a party over the weekend.

See **FRACKING** | 12A

UP TO \$307

WORTH OF COUPONS IN TODAY'S ISSUE

McAllen

NEW TERMINAL EXPANSION

Cleared for takeoff

Read about the new terminal expansion at the McAllen-Miller International Airport.

Inside

WHAT'S INSIDE SPORTS

• Pitch perfect: All-Volley boys soccer. **1C**

• Hidalgo baseball team advances. **Page 1C**

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The Monitor, www.themonitor.com | SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2015

Report: At least 4 Americans held by Yemen's rebels

Unnamed sources say attempts to free the prisoners have so far failed

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — At least four Americans are being held in Yemen by

rebels who toppled the U.S.-backed government, the Washington Post reported late Friday. Citing unnamed sources, the report says attempts to free the Americans have failed. The Americans are believed to be imprisoned in the capital, Sanaa, which Saudi Arabia has

repeatedly bombed in a campaign to oust the rebels, known as Houthi, from power, the report said. The Houthis had cleared one of the prisoners for release, but the report said members of the Houthi rebellion reversed that decision. Three of the prisoners

held private sector jobs, and the fourth holds dual U.S.-Yemeni citizenship. None is a U.S. government employee, the report says. The Post report says the newspaper is withholding details about the four, at the request of relatives and U.S. officials, who cited

safety concerns. One more American is being held in Yemen, Sharif Mobley, is also in Houthi custody. He's been held for more than five years on terrorism-related charges brought by the previous government; his capture has been reported previously. Few details were avail-

able. The United States has limited contact with the Houthis. The Post report said those most recently detained are among dozens of Americans who were unable to leave Yemen or who chose to remain in the country after the United States closed its embassy.

DONATIONS

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But the nonprofit, which gained visibility last summer with the "Ice Bucket Challenge," isn't the only one to say they haven't received money after events organized by the studio that has billed itself as a supporter of several charitable causes. Others include:

- » The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, which said it has received \$10 in donations from the local dance studio owner, Tanyana Asia of McAllen.
- » The Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation, whose local chapter in San Antonio reported no donations from Asia, despite her studio having solicited donations during several Zumbathons. Each prom-

ised to donate "all proceeds" to the charity on the studio's Facebook page. » The I Have a Dream Foundation, whose Houston chapter closed its doors several years ago. Officials at its New York headquarters confirmed Friday that it had no records showing donations from the dance studio or Asia. A Facebook post advertised a Zumbathon beach party to benefit the charity in May 2012. Despite repeated requests, neither Asia nor her attorney, Richard Alariza, responded to attempts to reach them for comment this month.

Asia, the Zumba studio's 35-year-old owner, was arrested by Platt police in November on a third-degree felony theft charge, alluding to the state's \$10,000 fine. Asia pleaded not guilty in March and a trial is scheduled next month. Police accused her of stealing the money between 2012 and 2014, according to a criminal complaint. If convicted of the third-degree felony, she faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

'HOLD PEOPLE ACCOUNTABLE' Dance-a-thons have long provided a fun way for people to collectively raise money for charity. That has translated to Zumba, the Latin-inspired workout program that employs dance moves and play music in get people moving. Charities typically welcome outside companies to hold fundraisers that benefit them, even if a portion of proceeds go to the nonprofit. Hockensmith said this Zumba party was a "third-party" fundraiser — different than those organized and conducted by the nonprofit itself. Fundraiser are held each year, he said.

"This was just an exchange that we support them holding the fundraiser for us. We don't control the income coming in — but we put in checks and balances post event if they are using our brand name," Hockensmith said. More than 300 participants signed up for the 5th Annual Beach Party for ALS at a Zumbathon run by NalhyznZ Dance Studio in McAllen.

But organizers repeated to the charity just days before the event that only seven people paid for tickets, Hockensmith said. "We will absolutely hold people accountable," he said on people using the ALS brand and its patients to improperly raise money.

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