MIGRANTS IN LIMBO AMID SHUTDOWN

BY YANNI MORRISSEY

Migrants waiting south of the border for their chance at asylum in the United States are facing new delays as federal courts bar court hearings get remanded and border facilities are closed pending new easing of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Executive Office for Immigration Review, which hears asylum claims, announced last week that all hearings for asylum seekers in the “Remain in Mexico” program would be postponed until after April 2. The move came after San Diego Judges began taking phone calls from agencies seeking to keep hearing cases under the program, officially known as Migrant Protection Protocols.

Port of entry have stopped accepting new asylum seekers altogether, and anyone caught crossing illegally would be either immediately returned to Mexico or put on the program's national list. Mexico has agreed to take in Central American migrants approved by US asylum judges, but not others.

As of Wednesday afternoon, Thursday, January 21, 2021, US asylum officials had received 565 people who had been caught by Border Patrol and turned back since the new policy went into effect late last Friday, according to Charles Olesen, spokesperson for EOIR, the agency that handles asylum judges in San Diego. All five of whom were Mexicans, Olesen said in a webinar on Thursday.

At the same time, the US-Mexico border has closed to “non-essential” cross-border traffic—spread of the coronavirus. US citizens, legal permanent residents, and US lawful permanent residents (LPRs) can cross the border, but not for tourism.

“Close all the immigration ports for tourism. Judges said over the phone for immigration. Judges said over the phone for tourism,” one judge told another judge, according to e-mails.

THE KOOK CONTAGION

Rubber gloves, a mask and dections of the coronavirus were attached to the Cardell kiosk status on Wednesday.

COUNCIL VACANCY IN ESCONDIDO WILL BE FILLED BY APPOINTMENT

Applicant chosen for District 2 seat will serve until special election in November

BY JAMES HURLEY

The Escondido City Council will accept a replacement to fill the District 2 seat vacated earlier this month when Councilman John Manian died after a lengthy illness.

The new council member will serve only until the November 2 general election, when the elected successor will decide who should fill out the remaining two years of Manian’s term.

Applicants will also be accepted for the seat and must be filed for by April 11. Ongoing urged people to get their

OCEANSIDE PUTS NORTH RIVER FARMS REFERENDUM ON BALLOT

Voters to decide fate of 585-home project in Morro Hills on Nov. 3

BY PHIL DUNI

Oceanside voters on Nov 3 will decide the fate of North River Farms, a 585-home, agriculture-enhanced, mixed-use development proposed on the city’s North River Farms property.

The City Council decided Wednesday to place the measure on the ballot after a harsh-fought effort by residents to collect enough signatures for a referendum on the controversial project.

The referendum also goes the council the option of overturning its approval of the project, but voters—Christopher K. Rather, the property owner—would have to support that, and no one has suggested they will. The property owner, rather, has said he would be happy to accept a council vote that would allow the approval to stand.

Rather said he hopes the North River Farms property will be used for agriculture, or some other thing that is needed in the community, but not as a housing development.

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Preadolescent black and white girls, ages 10-11, who had received the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, did not experience febrile reactions or any other severe side effects, the preclinical study shows.

A post-vaccination study of 2,017 children, ages 6-11, showed no severe side effects among those who got their shots. But the study did not measure the effectiveness of the vaccine in preventing infection in children. The vaccine does not prevent asymptomatic infections, and the vaccine's protective effectiveness among children has not been studied in the same way as in adults.

The post-vaccination study was conducted by Pfizer, the manufacturer of the vaccine developed jointly with BioNTech. The data will be included in the company's ongoing clinical trials of the vaccine in children, which are due to conclude this year, according to a company spokesperson.

The FDA has also given its nod to the vaccine for use in children as young as 12, and the European Medicines Agency has approved it for use in children as young as 12. The vaccine is expected to be approved for use in children as young as 12 in the United Kingdom and Australia.

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