

NEWS ARTICLES ON KEY ISSUES – AUGUST 16, 2023

U.S. BORDER PATROL STATISTICS

U.S. Border Patrol Southwest Border Encounters FY2019		
USBP	Demographic	Total
Southwest Border	Unaccompanied Alien Child	76,020
	Family Units	473,682
	Single Adult	301,806
Southwest Border Total Apprehensions		851,508

U.S. Border Patrol Southwest Border Encounters FY2020		
USBP	Demographic	Total
Southwest Border	Unaccompanied Alien Child	30,557
	Family Units	52,230
	Single Adult	317,864
Southwest Border Total Apprehensions		400,651

U.S. Border Patrol Southwest Border Encounters FY2021		
USBP	Demographic	Total
Southwest Border	Unaccompanied Alien Child	144,834
	Family Units	451,087
	Single Adult	1,063,285
Southwest Border Total Apprehensions		1,659,206

Data Sources:

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/sw-border-migration/fy-2019> ; <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/sw-border-migration-fy2020> ; <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters>

U.S. Border Patrol Southwest Border Encounters FY2022														
USBP	Demographic	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	Total
Southwest Border	Unaccompanied Alien Child	12,625	13,745	11,704	8,607	11,779	13,892	11,857	14,420	14,929	13,003	10,993	11,539	149,093
	Family Units	41,556	43,279	49,437	30,419	25,165	34,052	37,082	51,166	44,071	42,851	39,305	44,579	482,962
	Single Adult	104,932	109,991	109,461	108,851	122,226	163,237	154,565	158,784	133,399	125,980	131,476	151,479	1,574,381
Southwest Border Total Apprehensions		159,113	167,015	170,602	147,877	159,063	211,181	203,504	224,370	192,399	181,834	181,774	207,597	2,206,436

Data Source: <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters>

U.S. Border Patrol Southwest Border Encounters FY2023												
USBP	Demographic	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	Total	
Southwest Border	Unaccompanied Alien Child	11,654	12,780	11,829	9,034	10,419	11,853	11,062	9,449	6,741	94,821	
	Family Units	46,749	49,827	60,845	25,829	25,643	33,269	46,555	45,025	31,264	365,006	
	Single Adult	146,737	145,103	149,354	94,650	94,459	118,555	126,303	116,913	61,540	1,053,614	
Southwest Border Total Apprehensions		205,140	207,710	222,028	129,513	130,521	163,677	183,920	171,387	99,545	1,513,441	

Data Source: <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters>

SOUTHERN BORDER MIGRANT CROSSINGS BEFORE AND AFTER TITLE 42 WAS LIFTED ON THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023



❖ Sources: <https://www.msnbc.com/morning-joe/watch/drop-in-migrant-border-crossings-after-title-42-causes-anxiety-at-shelters-174397509965> ; <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/border-patrol-encounters-10000-migrants-third-day-numbers-swell-before-title-42-drops>

LATEST NEWS

Operation Lone Star Stops Criminals At President Biden's Open Border

By the Office of the Texas Governor, Press Release, August 4, 2023

- ❖ Since the launch of Operation Lone Star, the multi-agency effort has led to over 401,900 illegal immigrant apprehensions and more than 32,400 criminal arrests, with more than 29,600 felony charges reported.
- ❖ Texas has also bused:
 - Over 10,600 migrants to Washington, D.C. since April 2022
 - Over 10,900 migrants to New York City since August 2022
 - Over 4,600 migrants to Chicago since August 2022
 - Over 2,100 migrants to Philadelphia since November 2022
 - Over 440 migrants to Denver since May 18
 - Over 240 migrants to Los Angeles since June 14
- ❖ Press Release Source: <https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/operation-lone-star-stops-criminals-at-president-bidens-open-border>

'Operation Lone Star 2.0': Abbott's harsh new border tactics are upending a small Texas city

By Benjamin Wermund, Jhair Romero, San Antonio Express-News, July 21, 2023

- ❖ Since June, troopers have arrested hundreds of migrants for trespassing Shelby Park [in Eagle Pass, Texas] under an agreement that says the land belongs to Eagle Pass Mayor Rolando Salinas, not taxpayers. While the state has charged migrants with trespassing on private ranches in the past, these mark the first on public land. In an interview, Salinas said the county attorney and officials with the Department of Public Safety asked him to sign a document declaring that he owned the park. The state has arrested so many migrants in the park, in a neighboring municipal golf course and on adjacent ranches that the county jail is overflowing. Crossings last month were at their lowest point since February 2021, with Border Patrol reporting 144,571 apprehensions in June. Victor Escalon, a DPS director overseeing South Texas operations, said earlier this week that daily crossings in the area have dropped to about 500 from around 1,000 six weeks ago.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/politics/texas/article/eagle-pass-abbott-border-18210479.php>

A judge blocks limits on asylum at US-Mexico border but gives Biden administration time to appeal

By Rebecca Santana, Associated Press, July 25, 2023

- ❖ U.S. District Judge Jon Tigar of the Northern District of California on Tuesday, July 25, blocked a rule that allows immigration authorities to deny asylum to migrants who arrive at the U.S.-Mexico border without first applying online or seeking protection in a country they passed through. But the judge delayed his ruling from taking effect immediately to give President Joe Biden's administration time to appeal. The Justice Department immediately appealed the order and asked for it to be put on hold while the case is heard.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://apnews.com/article/asylum-limits-biden-border-c118ee7190c58f85bcf5db1e2a270429>

Texas opens jail for migrant women as arrests ramp up under Abbott's border operation

By Neena Satija, Jasper Scherer, San Antonio Express-News, July 26, 2023

- ❖ Texas state officials have started jailing migrant women at a new lockup near the southern border, the latest expansion of Gov. Greg Abbott's border crackdown known as Operation Lone Star. The move represents an about-face from the first two years of the multibillion-dollar initiative, when officials only built jails with the capacity to hold men and said it would be too expensive to detain women. And it comes as participating counties along the border have been overwhelmed by an influx of female detainees, some of whom have complained about uncomfortable conditions and delayed access to legal representation. The new jail, part of an existing state prison in Edinburg, opened last week and can hold up to 200 women, according to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. The agency said it planned to begin holding detainees there last week. Female detainees are taken by bus to the facility. State officials have not released the cost of building the new jail or the cost to operate it. Doug Keller, who manages the appointment of defense attorneys for those arrested, said state police have been arresting women at a higher rate in recent days. Last week, 30 migrant women were charged with misdemeanors, he said. That's compared to fewer than 100 similar charges in the previous six months combined.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/politics/texas/article/migrant-women-arrests-abbott-18259446.php>

Number of migrant families with kids crossing U.S. border nearly triples in two months

By Julia Ainsley, NBC News, July 27, 2023

- ❖ The number of migrant families with children crossing the southern border has nearly tripled in the past two months, according to Customs and Border Protection data obtained by NBC News. Earlier this week, more than 2,230 migrants were crossing the border daily on average, up from 790 in early June. While single adults are still the largest demographic seen at the border, families are the fastest-growing demographic of undocumented border crossers, according to the data. Since the Covid restrictions known as Title 42 were lifted in mid-May, the number of migrants crossing the border without documents or appointments for asylum hearings fell to fewer than 145,000, compared to more than 207,000 in May. Sister Norma Pimentel runs Catholic Charities in the Rio Grande Valley, where her shelters for families have the capacity to hold 2,000 migrants at a time. She said she is now holding over 500 every day but has seen the numbers grow recently.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/immigration/number-migrant-families-kids-crossing-us-border-triples-two-months-rcna96477>

Martha's Vineyard DA calls for probe of DeSantis immigrant flights from San Antonio

By Guillermo Contreras, San Antonio Express-News, July 31, 2023

- ❖ The district attorney for Martha's Vineyard has joined Bexar County Sheriff Javier Salazar in calling on the Justice Department to investigate last September's migrant flights organized by Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis. On Monday, July 31, Robert J. Galibois, chief prosecutor of Massachusetts' Cape and Islands District, which includes Martha's Vineyard, asked Attorney General Merrick Garland in a letter to direct the Justice Department to investigate the case of 49 migrants who were allegedly duped into flying from San Antonio to the exclusive island community. In late May, they flew 36 more migrants from El Paso to Sacramento, Calif. Days after the planes left San Antonio, Salazar opened a criminal investigation that was limited to the actions of DeSantis' team in Bexar County. Salazar said the sheriff's investigation concluded that the immigrants were persuaded to take the flights by false promises that they would receive housing, education and employment assistance when they arrived at Martha's Vineyard. Also in June, Salazar signed a letter with California Gov. Gavin Newsom and California Attorney General Rob Bonta urging Garland to open federal criminal and civil investigations into the flights.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/news/article/migrant-flights-letter-18270034.php#:~:text=On%20Monday%2C%20Robert%20J.%20Galibois,San%20Antonio%20to%20the%20exclusive>

Exclusive: Texas troopers separating families at border in apparent policy shift, sources say

By Benjamin Wermund, Jhair Romero, San Antonio Express-News, August 1, 2023

- ❖ Since the early days of Gov. Greg Abbott's border security initiative, state troopers arresting migrants along the Rio Grande have been told to keep families together and send them to federal authorities to make their asylum claims. But in recent weeks, officials from the Texas Department of Public Safety have broken up at least two dozen families by detaining fathers on trespassing charges, while the other members — including small children — are transferred to Border Patrol agents, according to spouses and attorneys representing those migrants. In many of those cases, the attorneys told Hearst Newspapers, the fathers remain in state custody and have not seen their families since. It is "nothing short of state-sponsored family separation," said Kristin Etter, an attorney and special project director at Texas RioGrande Legal Aid. Etter said she knows of at least 26 families that have been split up since July 10. DPS spokesman Travis Considine acknowledged Tuesday night that the agency has arrested fathers traveling with their families, but stressed that children have never been separated from their mothers — a key difference from the Trump policy, in which children were removed from both parents by federal immigration officials and reclassified as unaccompanied.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/politics/texas/article/abbott-border-parent-separations-18272489.php>

New York City Had a Migrant Crisis. It Hired a Covid Expert to Help.

By Jay Root, New York Times, July 30, 2023

- ❖ Lured by the promise of jobs, legal assistance and a more welcoming environment, hundreds of asylum seekers have boarded buses headed north to Albany, in search of a life better than they had found in New York City. But once they settled in the state capital, many said they realized they had been misled and all but abandoned. Instead of state identification cards, they were given dubious work eligibility and residency letters on what appeared to be a fake letterhead. At the bargain-rate motels where the migrants were relocated, many said they were treated like prisoners in halfway houses, living under written threats that they would be barred from seeking asylum if they were caught drinking or smoking. They complained that crucial mail about their asylum cases had been lost, and worried that they now faced an hourslong trip to the courts where those cases will be heard. Nearly three months after Mayor Eric Adams ushered in a new policy calling for the city to relocate migrants outside the five boroughs, the program has been plagued by problems, drawing attention to the no-bid contractor leading the effort. More than 1,500 migrants have been sent to places as far as Buffalo, with more on the way. But many of the migrants have been greeted by protests at their new homes, as well as mistreatment and the false hope of jobs. Behind the broken promises is a medical services company, DocGo, that once contracted with the city to provide Covid testing and vaccination services, but pivoted to migrant care as the pandemic waned and a new crisis emerged. The city awarded DocGo a \$432 million contract, which took effect in early May, without subjecting it to competitive bidding. The contract called for DocGo to house migrants and provide them with services including case management, medical care, food, transportation, lodging and round-the-clock security. Local authorities have expressed frustration at the lack of coordination between DocGo and agencies that could provide services to the migrants; local security guards hired by DocGo have repeatedly threatened the migrants; and finding steady work has been nearly impossible.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/07/30/nyregion/migrants-albany-docgo.html>

Eagle Pass scraps agreement letting Texas troopers arrest migrants in public park

By Benjamin Wermund, Austin Bureau, August 2, 2023

- ❖ A keystone of Gov. Greg Abbott's border crackdown in Eagle Pass is in question after the city council voted late Tuesday [August 1] night to back out of an agreement that allowed state troopers to arrest hundreds of migrants in a public park by claiming it was owned by the mayor, and not the taxpayers who can no longer access wide swaths of the dusty riverfront. The council voted unanimously to rescind an affidavit Mayor Rolando Salinas signed declaring the park private property and to negotiate with DPS and the governor's office on how to move forward. Under the agreement, troopers had been arresting migrants in the park at an unprecedented rate for Abbott's two-year, \$9.5 billion Operation Lone Star. The park — which the state has transformed into a militarized zone with shipping containers and razor wire lining the banks of the Rio Grande — is now an epicenter of the initiative, which has drawn increased scrutiny in recent weeks after a DPS trooper reported inhumane treatment of migrants there. It is the only public property in the state where troopers are able to arrest migrants, and more than 500 have been charged with trespassing there in the last month alone, said Amrutha Jindal, an attorney with the Lubbock Private Defenders Office. The group appoints lawyers for migrants charged in Operation Lone Star in seven counties, and Jindal said all seven counties combined had been averaging just 55 arrests per week before the Shelby Park agreement.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/politics/texas/article/abbott-border-eagle-pass-18274024.php>

Appeals court allows Biden asylum restrictions to temporarily stay in place as case plays out

By Rebecca Santana, ABC News, August 3, 2023

- ❖ An appeals court Thursday, August 3, allowed a rule restricting asylum at the southern border to temporarily stay in place. The new rule makes it extremely difficult for people to be granted asylum unless they first seek protection in a country they're traveling through on their way to the U.S. or apply online. It includes room for exceptions and does not apply to children traveling alone. The decision by the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals grants a temporary reprieve from a lower court decision that had found the policy illegal and ordered the government to end its use by this coming Monday, August 7. The government had gone quickly to the appeals court asking for the rule to be allowed to remain in use while the larger court battles surrounding its legality play out. The three-judge panel ruled 2-1 in favor of the government's request. They also said they would expedite the hearing for the appeal with both sides expected to send in their arguments to the court by mid-September and a hearing to be held at an unspecified date, meaning a relatively fast timeline to review the case. Judges William Fletcher and Richard Paez, who were both appointed by President Bill Clinton, ruled in favor of the stay but gave no reason for their decision. Judge Lawrence VanDyke, who was appointed by President Donald Trump, dissented.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/appeals-court-allows-biden-asylum-restrictions-stay-place-102004392>

Biden vowed to reform immigration detention. Instead, private prisons benefited

By Ted Hesson, Mica Rosenberg and Kristina Cooke, Reuters, August 7, 2023

- ❖ ICE detainees include people who recently crossed the border, as well as those living in the country illegally, including asylum seekers. Many are fighting court cases to avoid deportation. While the numbers of detainees dropped during the pandemic, in part due to lawsuits by rights groups, populations are rising again. More than 90% of the roughly 31,000 people being held by ICE on average in July were in private facilities, up from 80% at the end of the Trump administration, according to the ACLU analysis. Under Biden, private prison company GEO Group saw its revenues from ICE contracts for detention centers and remote monitoring of immigrants jump to a record \$1.05 billion in 2022, up nearly 40% from the previous year, corporate filings show. CoreCivic, GEO's biggest competitor, also sustained high revenues from ICE during Biden's term, according to corporate filings. Under a new Biden asylum policy that went into effect on May 11, more migrants encountered at the U.S.-Mexico border are being sent to detention centers for rapid asylum screenings. Nine centers are focused on the screenings, two officials said. All are privately run. By mid-July, two months into the new policy, the number of people in ICE custody had jumped by 48% compared to the beginning of the year, according to ICE data.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/biden-vowed-reform-immigration-detention-instead-private-prisons-benefited-2023-08-07/>

TEXAS DEPLOYS BUOY AND RAZOR WIRE BARRIERS IN THE RIO GRANDE

Abbott sued over plan to deploy buoys in the Rio Grande

By Jeremy Wallace, Austin Bureau, July 7, 2023

- ❖ Gov. Greg Abbott has his first legal challenge to his plan to deploy a buoy barrier in the Rio Grande near Eagle Pass to stop people from crossing the border. Within hours of the buoys arriving on the shore of the river on Friday [July 7], Eagle Pass resident and kayaking outfitter Jessie F. Fuentes filed a lawsuit in Travis County trying to stop them from ever hitting the water. Fuentes says in his lawsuit that Abbott does not have the legal authority to put the buoys in the water and that they will impede his business, Epi's Canoe and Kayak Team, which provides boat rentals and guided tours of the river. "EPI will be unable to conduct tours and canoe and kayak sessions in Eagle Pass because of the installation of the buoys," the Fuentes suit states. The legal move came just hours after Abbott tweeted new photos of the proposed 1,000-foot buoy barrier arriving in Eagle Pass by truck. The state already has set miles of razor wire on shore throughout the area and increased the number of Texas Department of Public Safety and National Guard troops to patrol the area as part of Abbott's Operation Lone Star. The Texas Legislature recently approved \$5 billion for the border security program. DPS Director Steven McCraw said the first barrier being deployed will cost less than \$1 million and can be moved to other areas of the river as needed.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/politics/texas/article/abbott-border-buoys-lawsuit-18190059.php>

Texas deploys barrier of buoys, nets in Rio Grande to deter border crossings, amid protests

By Jeremy Wallace, Austin Bureau, July 10, 2023

- ❖ Gov. Greg Abbott put a barrier of buoys and netting into the Rio Grande on Monday, July 10, to block migrants from crossing from Mexico into Texas despite legal challenges to the plan. The move comes as attorneys for an Eagle Pass kayak outfitter seek an emergency meeting with a judge in Travis County to impose an injunction against Abbott to stop deployment of the 1,000-foot barrier that human rights groups said could lead to more drownings. Abbott has shrugged off the legal challenge filed over the weekend, saying he has every right to defend Texas and is ready to fight the case to the Supreme Court if necessary. The buoys have webbing below the waterline to prevent people from swimming underneath them.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/politics/texas/article/texas-puts-border-barrier-buoys-nets-in-rio-grande-18192959.php>

Razor wire along the Rio Grande is blocking border agents from reaching at-risk migrants

By Benjamin Wermund and Jeremy Wallace, San Antonio Express-News, July 11, 2023

- ❖ Razor wire put up by the state of Texas along the Rio Grande is blocking Border Patrol agents from reaching at-risk migrants — including families with infants and unaccompanied children — and increasing the risk of drownings, according to a Customs and Border Protection document obtained by Hearst Newspapers. The wire is preventing agents from getting to asylum-seekers — some of whom have said they have been stuck in the river for hours and days, exposed to the elements with little to no help from Texas Department of Public Safety officers, according to the document.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/politics/texas/article/texas-border-razor-wire-memo-18193102.php>

Mexico files diplomatic complaint over Gov. Greg Abbott's floating border barriers

By Noah Alcala Bach, Texas Tribune, July 15, 2023

- ❖ Mexico's incoming secretary of foreign affairs, Alicia Bárcena, said Friday, July 14, that Texas' deployment of buoys on the Texas-Mexico border to prevent migrants from crossing the Rio Grande are a violation of water treaties between the U.S. and Mexico. The Associated Press reported Friday [July 14] that Bárcena plans to send an inspection team to the Rio Grande to see if the barrier extends into Mexico's side of the border and if it impedes the flow of water, which would violate the treaty.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.texastribune.org/2023/07/15/mexico-border-buoys/>

Texas troopers told to push children into Rio Grande, deny water to migrants, records say

By Benjamin Wermund, San Antonio Express-News, July 17, 2023

- ❖ Officers working for Gov. Greg Abbott's border security initiative have been ordered to push small children and nursing babies back into the Rio Grande, and have been told not to give water to asylum seekers even in extreme heat, according to an email from a Department of Public Safety trooper who described the actions as "inhumane." According to the email, a pregnant woman having a miscarriage was found late last month caught in the wire, doubled over in pain. A four-year-old girl passed out from heat exhaustion after she tried to go through it and was pushed back by Texas National Guard soldiers. A teenager broke his leg trying to navigate the water around the wire and had to be carried by his father. The email, which the trooper sent to a superior, suggests that Texas has set "traps" of razor wire-wrapped barrels in parts of the river with high water and low visibility. And it says the wire has increased the risk of drownings by forcing migrants into deeper stretches of the river. The trooper called for a series of rigorous policy changes to improve safety for migrants, including removing the barrels and revoking the directive on withholding water.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/politics/texas/article/border-trooper-migrants-wire-18205076.php>

Texas said to be ignoring federal inquiries about its floating buoy barrier in the Rio Grande

By Jeremy Wallace, San Antonio Express-News, July 18, 2023

- ❖ Gov. Greg Abbott and the Texas Department of Public Safety have completely ignored the federal government's requests for information about the floating buoy wall the state has put in the Rio Grande near Eagle Pass, according to federal officials. A State Department spokesperson confirmed Tuesday [July 18] that Texas did not consult with the federal government before deploying the barriers and has not responded to official requests for more information about them, even after concerns were raised that they may violate international agreements with Mexico. Cochrane USA, the contractor hired to build the barrier, began putting it in place last week despite a lawsuit from an Eagle Pass kayak company challenging the state's authority to deploy it. Since October, federal officials have reported 293,000 encounters with migrants in the area around Eagle Pass, though the numbers have declined in the past three months as the Biden administration has rolled out new policies to require asylum seekers from those countries to apply for entry in Mexico or another country before getting to the United States.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/politics/article/abbott-border-buoys-inquiry-18207173.php>

Texas DPS installed razor wire on private border property despite landowner's protest

By Benjamin Wermund and Jeremy Wallace, San Antonio Express-News, July 18, 2023

- ❖ The owner of a pecan farm in Eagle Pass near where a pregnant teenager was trapped in state-deployed razor wire said officials working for Gov. Greg Abbott's border security initiative are refusing to take it down despite his repeated requests. The wire on Hugo Urbina's property has blocked Border Patrol agents from reaching a section of the land along the Rio Grande that the federal government is leasing from him to process migrants, many of whom have been injured by the wire, he said. Urbina told Hearst Newspapers that he met earlier this month with Victor Escalon, a Department of Public Safety director overseeing operations in South Texas, and threatened to file trespassing and destruction of property charges if the state did not remove the wire from his land.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/politics/texas/article/dps-border-wire-landowner-18206776.php>

Texas DPS medic's full email to superiors on 'inhumane' treatment of people crossing Rio Grande

From staff reports, San Antonio Express-News, July 18, 2023

From: Wingate, Nicholas
 Sent: Monday, July 3, 2023 4:28 PM
 To: Kolupski, Colin
 Subject: Weekly Event Log and Operational Concerns

Good afternoon, Sgt Colin Kolupski.

My name is Nicholas Wingate I am a very proud Trooper and Medic for Texas DPS. I love this State and this Department. I fully understand the mission of Operation Lone Star and completely agree that we need to secure the border from bad people. I want to inform you of some of the issues we had while working the operation as a Trooper Medic from 6/24/23 to 7/1/23 in Eagle Pass TX.

On 6/25/23 we went on patrol to see how many gates were locked on the fence line south of the casualty wire at approximately 2200. In while doing so we came across 120 people camped out along the fence line. In this group there was several small children and babies who were nursing. The entire group was exhausted hungry and tired. We called the shift officer in command, and we were given orders to push the people back into the water to go to Mexico. We decided that this was not the correct thing to do. With the very real potential of exhausted people drowning. We made contact with command again and expressed our concerns and we were given the order to tell them to go to Mexico and get into our vehicle and leave. After we left, members of the brush team coordinated with Border patrol and got the people processed and taken care of.

On 6/30/23 at approximately 1500 we had group of people at the casualty wire seeking refuge. In this group was a 4 year old female who attempted to cross the wire and was pressed back by Texas Guard soldiers due to the orders given to them. The temperature was well over 100 degrees. Shortly thereafter the 4 year old passed out due to exhaustion and a DPS Sgt and Texas Guard Soldier extricated the patient and transported to us. We provided treatment to the unresponsive patient and transferred care to EMS.

On 6/30/23 we had an adult male with a significant laceration in his left leg. We asked him what happened and he stated that he had a child who was stuck on a trap in the water. He said that there was a barrel that had casualty wire all over it and his child was stuck on it. He extricated his kid and while doing so the barrel trap lacerated his leg.

On 6/30/23 we had a 15 year old male child who while walking in the river due to the casualty wire being laid out in a manner that it forced him into the river where it is unsafe to travel. In while doing so he broke his right leg and his father carried him the rest of the way to the Rosetta gate. We then splinted the leg and transferred care to EMS.

On 6/30/23 at approximately 2130 while patrolling the casualty wire near Pecan Farms we came across a 19 year old female who was in obvious pain stuck in the casualty wire who was doubled over. We cut her out of the wire and medically assessed her. She was pregnant and was having a miscarriage. We promptly coordinated with Eagle Pass EMS and transferred care.

With the casualty wire running for several miles along the river in areas where it is easier for people to cross. It forces people to cross in other areas that are deeper and not as safe for people carrying kids and bags. On 7/1/23 at approximately 1630 we had reports from border patrol that there was a mother and two children struggling to cross the river. Our TMU boat team searched for the victims and found the mother and one child who went under the water for a minute. They rescued two of victims and started life saving measures. They were transferred to Eagle Pass EMS and were later called deceased at the hospital. The other child that Border Patrol saw was never found. In total 5 people drowned this week in the area of operation.

I truly believe in the mission of Operation Lone Star; I believe we have stepped over a line into the in humane (sic). We need to operate it correctly in the eyes of God. We need to recognize that these are people who are made in the image of God and need to be treated as such. The casualty wire needs to provide protection to the state and provide a safe means of travel on solid land to proper collection points. The wire also needs to be manned and patrolled constantly to provide security for these families who are seeking refuge. The wire on the shore needs to be lighted at night so people can see the wire and not stumble into it as a trap. The wire and barrels in the river needs to be taken out as this is nothing but a in humane trap in high water and low visibility. Due to the extreme heat, the order to not give people water needs to be immediately reversed as well. I also believe that forcing refugees to cross back into Mexico vs getting them to Border Patrol is putting them back in the hands of the Cartels where they are assaulted robbed and raped. This plays into advantage of the Cartels as they can charge them again to cross them over. I say all of this in due respect and deep concern, thank you.

Nicholas Wingate
 Commercial Vehicle Enforcement: Trooper II
 Operations Medical Unit: EMT- Paramedic

❖ News Article Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/news/article/dps-email-border-rio-grande-18207525.php>

Benedictine Sisters Corporate Responsibility Coalition

Justice Department sues Texas over floating barrier on the Rio Grande

By Maegan Vazquez, *Washington Post*, July 24, 2023

- ❖ The Department of Justice on Monday, July 24, announced a lawsuit against Texas and its governor, Greg Abbott, over the use of a floating barrier along the Rio Grande intended to stop migrants from crossing the U.S.-Mexico border. Abbott ordered the installation of a 1,000-foot chain of orange buoys earlier this month at a busy area for illegal crossings near Eagle Pass, Tex. The Justice Department says in its lawsuit that the barrier was built without the federal authorization that is legally required under the Rivers and Harbors Act, which bars the obstruction of U.S. waterways.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2023/07/24/justice-sues-texas-floating-barrier/>

Preyor-Johnson: Hope of desperate migrants mired in Abbott's barbed wire, cruelty

By Nancy M. Preyor-Johnson, *San Antonio Express-News*, July 21, 2023

- ❖ The barbed wire here is a monument to how asylum-seekers are entangled, at great peril, in the disparate political narratives of America's broken immigration system. Valeria Wheeler sees it daily. She leads the only shelter in Eagle Pass, Mission: Border Hope, where asylum-seekers stay until they can afford a ride to nearby Del Rio or San Antonio, 150 miles away and beyond. A Mexican immigrant, Wheeler, 36, supports border security efforts, but barbed wire and bright orange buoys? The state has gone too far. There are now far fewer asylum-seekers — dozens instead of hundreds per day — making their way to the shelter. This is a product of changes in federal policies. But those asylum-seekers who make it to Mission: Border Hope arrive in much worse condition. This past weekend, all five of the shelter's wheelchairs held broken people. Fleeing horrors in their home countries, asylum-seekers are among the most vulnerable, desperate people. By the time they reach America, they've survived brutal realities in their homelands and faced death crossing mountains and unforgiving terrain. Conditions in their home countries are far worse than the barbed wire and buoys they face from Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's multibillion-dollar Operation Lone Star. Tactics even one state trooper, a supporter of Operation Lone Star, deemed inhumane in an email to superiors. These include floating barriers in the Rio Grande; a mesh of concertina razor wire lining the banks; and alleged directives to Department of Public Safety troopers standing guard to deny immigrants water and push them back into the river. Such tactics have injured migrants and put them at further risk. The survivors who cross often make their way to Wheeler and Mission: Border Hope. Wheeler's staff of 15 includes Sister Ursula Herrera, a retired San Antonio nurse. Herrera can do very little to treat asylum-seekers' injuries: bones broken by falls and assaults, flesh torn by razor wire, bodies exhausted by extreme heat. "They've already gone through the jungle and everything else when they get here. They've made it through this and that, and they think they can get past the wire," she said, describing the stench of the infected, oozing wounds she treats in a crowded multipurpose space with a few medical tools she brought from home. The only medications available are antibiotic ointment, ibuprofen and acetaminophen. She called the wire torture. Not far away are Hugo and Magali Urbina, whose once tranquil Heavenly Farms, an approximately 400-acre pecan orchard purchased during the pandemic along the Rio Grande, is far from paradise. About a year ago, the Urbinas, who are Republicans and no fans of President Joe Biden, gave the state of Texas access to their land. They needed help. They witnessed thousands of immigrants crossing their property each week, some dying there. They allowed the state to put up wire on their land, only to ask them to remove it last year due to injuries. But in May, the state put the wire back despite the Urbinas' rejections. The state is refusing to take it down. Now, they are caught in dueling narratives where, absent comprehensive immigration reform, everyone loses. About six weeks ago, the Urbinas leased property to the U.S. Border Patrol so agents could reach and process immigrants — a decision they say the Texas Department of Public Safety wasn't happy about. Now, the couple are frustrated that state troopers, Texas National Guard members, Border Patrol agents and local authorities are working against each other in what they say amounts to political stunts that hurt and kill people. The Urbinas have rejected the state's new written request to use their land. But DPS officials have said they don't need the Urbinas' permission because Abbott's 2021 border disaster declaration authorizes state use of private property. Families with young children are wading across the Rio Grande and along the Urbinas' razor-wire-lined land. They are braving the water and triple-digit heat. The Urbinas have lost count of the dead bodies on their property. They plan to sue the state.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/opinion/article/greg-abbott-rio-grande-buoys-18250340.php>

Border buoys, climate change alter flow of Rio Grande near Eagle Pass

By Rebekah F. Ward, Jhair Romero, *Houston Chronicle*, July 31, 2023

- ❖ Jessie Fuentes describes the section of the Rio Grande in his hometown of Eagle Pass as volatile: easy-to-cross, ankle-deep stretches are followed by steep dropoffs, and strong currents catch you by surprise. Human modifications and shifting weather patterns are now exaggerating its extremes. “It’s a treacherous river, but it’s also a beautiful river. You have to respect it,” said Fuentes, the owner of a local kayak business who recently sued over Gov. Greg Abbott’s string of massive orange buoys in the water body. The floating barrier and new layers of razor wire were the latest moves in the governor’s plans to obstruct migrants crossing the river from Mexico. Federal officials followed Fuentes’ legal action, threatening to sue Texas over the buoy barrier it had placed without vetting from the waterway’s authority, the International Boundary and Water Commission. Mexico’s top diplomat said the buoys violate two international treaties governing the river. Abbott’s office has said the barrier is needed to deter and repel illegal crossings, and the governor said Friday on social media that “Texas has the sovereign authority to defend our border.” In late June, he said, state officials flattened a nearby river island, turning it into a peninsula with coils of barbed wire in place of vegetation. In a short time, the face of his beloved shoreline changed completely. Unlike the concrete-lined Rio Grande channel in El Paso, the riverbed in Eagle Pass is still natural. But the 1,000-foot string of massive buoys and new peninsula were not its first run-ins with human interference: Between shoreline interventions, heavy upstream water use and climate change, its flow and volume is already getting more and more unpredictable, according to researchers and residents. The latest changes could exacerbate that. Adriana E. Martinez, an Eagle Pass native and fluvial geomorphologist — a scholar who studies river flow, and the factors that shape its course — said the new buoys will also change the waterway’s dynamics. “You’re likely to get sediment deposition along the line of the buoys, and then sediment erosion on either side. Which means variable water velocity, variable depth,” said Martinez, who now teaches at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. She has researched a piece of nearby border infrastructure, a freestanding section of privately funded fencing along the riverbank, which has a similar effect when water levels rise. Sharp fluctuations and low-water seasons in the Rio Grande are no surprise, said Rosario Sanchez, a senior research scientist at Texas A&M. “The natural flow of the river has been reduced by 80 percent since the last century,” she said. “The most significant impact on the river is infrastructure development around it, and the way we have decided to manage it,” draining most of the water for use along the way.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/environment/article/rio-grande-eagle-pass-water-climate-migration-18253782.php>

Two bodies found in Rio Grande near US-Mexico border: Officials

By Armando Garcia, Anne Laurent, Kevin Shalvey, and Morgan Winsor, *ABC News*, August 3, 2023

- ❖ Two people have been found dead in the southern part of the Rio Grande river, officials said. One body was found stuck in the lines of orange buoys installed by Texas authorities near the U.S.-Mexico border. A second body was discovered separately in the area of the buoys by the Beta Group of Piedras Negras, according to a statement from Mexico’s Foreign Affairs Secretary and Mexico’s Migration Institute. A source close to the investigation told ABC News that both of the people found were men. The man found by the buoys was from Mexico and is believed to have been dead for some time. The other man, who was found further away, was from Honduras. He is believed to have died more recently, the source said. A cause of death has not been determined.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://abcnews.go.com/International/body-found-rio-grand-buoy-barrier-mexico/story?id=101974639>

ASYLUM SEEKERS

How and Why Illegal Border Crossings Have Dropped So Dramatically

By Michael D. Shear, Julie Turkewitz and Edgar Sandoval, *New York Times*, July 26, 2023

- ❖ In the 76 days since President Biden imposed tough new restrictions on the nation’s asylum system, the number of migrants crossing the United States’ southern border illegally every day has dropped significantly. The flow of migration across the hemisphere typically rises or falls because of many factors, including weather patterns, war, famine, economic conditions and immigration enforcement actions taken by other countries. Before the president’s asylum changes took effect on May 11, border patrol officials were encountering about 7,500 migrants trying to cross the border illegally each day — record-breaking numbers that were putting severe strains on the immigration officials and border communities. Since then, the numbers have declined to about 3,000 migrants each day.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/07/26/us/politics/immigration-illegal-border-crossings.html>

7th bus carrying migrants from Texas arrives in Los Angeles

By Cindy Von Quednow, KTLA, August 4, 2023

- ❖ A seventh bus from Texas carrying asylum seekers arrived in Los Angeles Friday, August 4, organizers said. A total of 49 migrants arrived at Union Station from Brownsville, Texas around 12:15 p.m, according to L.A. Mayor Karen Bass' office. In total, 283 asylum seekers have arrived in Los Angeles this way, the L.A. Welcomes Collective indicated in a news release. The first bus carrying migrants from Texas arrived in Los Angeles on June 14, and five buses arrived in July.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://ktla.com/news/local-news/7th-bus-carrying-migrants-from-texas-arrives-in-los-angeles/>

Migrants sleeping outside, stretching around Roosevelt Hotel's Midtown block

By Janice Yu, WABC ABC News New York, July 31, 2023

- ❖ The Roosevelt Hotel processing center for newly-arrived migrants has reached capacity in Midtown Manhattan. Monday morning [July 31], asylum seekers were sleeping on the sidewalks winding around the hotel's block at 46th and Vanderbilt. Mayor Eric Adams' office says scenes like this could be more common as the city continues to grapple with the number of migrants who are here and continue to arrive. The mayor's office says more than 93,000 asylum seekers have come through the city's intake system since last spring. The hotel is being used as an intake center, which means the majority of the people lined up will be taken to another shelter once they're done being processed. Only migrant families have been staying at the hotel.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://abc7ny.com/roosevelt-hotel-migrants-nyc-asylum-seekers-new-york-city-ny/13576604/>

OPERATION LONE STAR

Texas Spent Billions on Border Security. It's Not Working.

By Elizabeth Findell, The Wall Street Journal, July 21, 2023

- ❖ Operation Lone Star, has inundated the U.S.-Mexico border with thousands of Texas state troopers and National Guardsmen, started work on a state-controlled border wall and built a new skeleton justice system with its own courts, judges and jails to lodge misdemeanor state trespassing charges against migrants. In a July 3 email, reviewed by The Wall Street Journal, a trooper and medic raised concerns to his superiors, saying troopers and Guard members on the operation were instructed to push a nursing mother back into the river, to deny water to migrants even in extreme heat and to block a 4-year-old who was trying to cross coils of razor wire, from reaching shore. Texas has built a wall of shipping containers and razor wire along the banks of the river. Still, with more than \$9.5 billion spent and allocated through 2025, Texas is doubling down on its strategy. Texas has also recently begun making trespassing arrests in public parks and erected a floating barrier in the middle of the Rio Grande. Texas poured resources into the Del Rio area counties, stationing state troopers every couple of miles on highways, setting up expansive base camps and conducting more than 11,000 arrests from its launch until now, some for state charges of smuggling migrants and most for misdemeanor trespassing. Yet crossings have continued unabated in Kinney, Val Verde and Maverick counties, where more than 83% of those arrests have occurred. U.S. Customs and Border Protection data indicate illegal crossings rose faster in the counties most heavily targeted by Operation Lone Star after it began, and have been slower to decline since peaking last year. Throughout 2022, border crossings from the previous year rose 64% in the Del Rio sector, the target of the operation. Crossings fell 35% in the Rio Grande Valley, which wasn't the focus of the operation and didn't participate in its trespassing-arrest component. Texas spent more than \$4.5 billion on Operation Lone Star in its first two years, and lawmakers have allocated another \$5.1 billion for the next two years. Some of that money has been pulled from the state's criminal justice and juvenile justice systems. Much of it has gone to the deployment of thousands of police and soldiers to border counties, where they fill up local hotels, set up tent bases, patrol via helicopter and sit in trucks and Humvees for 12-hour days of watching the Texas brush. The Texas Military Department spent over \$1 billion on deployment of National Guardsmen under the operation in fiscal year 2022, including \$477 million on soldier salaries, \$433 million on contracted services and \$79 million on in-state travel. The Guard is projecting a \$1.1 billion budget for each of the next two years, including \$456 million annually to maintain border base camps and \$111 million for travel and lodging. On top of the salaries of some 1,000 personnel it deployed to Operation Lone Star at any given time, the Texas Department of Public Safety spent \$199 million on other costs associated with the operation in its first two years. The department is now budgeting more than \$2.5 million a week on those costs, including 34 hours of overtime each week for 1,000 officers, car and helicopter fuel, and hotels, meals and travel for 850 nonlocal officers.
- ❖ News Article Source: https://www.wsj.com/articles/texas-billion-dollar-border-security-migration-isn-t-paying-off-16ed598d?mod=us_lead_pos2

Oklahoma bolsters National Guard presence at Texas-Mexico border

By Craig Huber, *Spectrum News*, July 31, 2023

- ❖ More National Guard troops are headed to the Texas-Mexico border. Fifty men and women who serve in Oklahoma are now in the Lone Star State. At the request of Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, Republican governors from 14 states have pledged to bolster Operation Lone Star, Texas' multibillion-dollar border enforcement program. That effort has added hundreds of troops at the border over the past several months. Guard members will provide assistance near El Paso but won't be directly involved in enforcement of immigration laws. They'll assist the Texas National Guard near El Paso by manning security check points and alerting law enforcement to illegal immigration and drug trafficking.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://spectrumlocalnews.com/tx/south-texas-el-paso/news/2023/07/31/oklahoma-bolsters-national-guard-presence-at-texas-mexico-border->

CBP ONE APP

Groups Sue Over Government Turnbacks of Asylum Seekers

By the American Immigration Council, *Press Release*, July 27, 2023

- ❖ On July 27, two immigrant rights groups and a group of asylum seekers filed a class action lawsuit in federal court challenging the Biden administration's unlawful policy of turning back individuals seeking asylum at ports of entry along the southern border. The lawsuit challenges the administration's policy and widespread practice of requiring an advance appointment via the government's CBP One smartphone app in order to present at a port and seek asylum. The lawsuit was brought on behalf of Al Otro Lado, Haitian Bridge Alliance, and 10 individuals seeking to represent a broad class of asylum seekers turned away at ports of entry and denied the opportunity to seek asylum. The organizations and asylum seekers are represented by the Center for Gender & Refugee Studies, the American Immigration Council, and the Center for Constitutional Rights, along with Mayer Brown LLP and others. Under the government's new turnback policy, individuals who cannot secure a CBP One appointment are unlawfully turned away and denied the opportunity to access the U.S. asylum process altogether, leaving them stranded in encampments and shelters in Mexican border cities that are so violent the State Department limits employee travel in these regions. This lawsuit argues that the government's policy of turning back asylum seekers who do not have a CBP One appointment violates U.S. law, the government's own guidance, asylum seekers' due process rights, and the United States' obligations under international law, which prohibit the government from returning refugees to countries where they face persecution or torture.
- ❖ Press Release Source: <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/news/groups-sue-over-government-turnbacks-asylum-seekers>

DEVELOPING STORIES

Ron DeSantis' big immigration mistake | Commentary

By Linda Chavez, *Orlando Sentinel*, July 30, 2023

- ❖ Florida's draconian new immigration restrictions, signed into law by DeSantis two months ago, are now taking effect. They will have a devastating impact on at least two of the state's major industries: agriculture and construction. The new law imposes tough penalties on both undocumented employees and the employers who hire them. A job applicant who presents a false Social Security number or other documentation during the hiring process will be subject to a third-degree felony and could serve five years in jail. The statute also requires employers with more than 25 workers to use the federal E-Verify system, which has a documented history of both rejecting legitimate workers and clearing those who aren't authorized. If employers hire unauthorized workers, they could end up losing their business licenses. Workers are apparently fleeing the state in response — and not just those who are in the country illegally. Many immigrant families have mixed status: an undocumented parent or spouse and legal immigrants or U.S. citizens in the same household. One 2017 study estimated that more than 900,000 Floridians lived in mixed-status households, and when a family member faces the risk of becoming a felon, they may decide that staying in Florida isn't worth the risk. The Wall Street Journal recently reported that in Miami's booming construction industry, between 25% and 50% of local construction workers have already disappeared from job sites. The owner of a large farming and packaging company told the WSJ that he'd lost half of his employees because of the law. Construction and agriculture depend heavily on unauthorized workers nationally and in Florida. A recent Kaiser Family Foundation analysis estimates that almost 40% of agricultural workers in the state are noncitizen immigrants (most of whom are also undocumented), as are 23% percent of its construction workers. These employees are not easily replaceable — and certainly not with American workers. A whopping 21% of Florida's population is foreign-born, including about 775,000 who are undocumented. Immigrants are well represented across various occupations in the state, including 32% of service occupations and 23% of management, business and science occupations.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.orlandosentinel.com/2023/07/30/linda-chavez-immigration/>

Communities of faith welcome migrants caught in polarized immigration debate

By Jason DeRose, NPR, August 2, 2023

- ❖ Since the arrival of the 36 new Sacramento residents, a coalition of congregations — Jewish, Christian and Muslim — has come together to help them settle in. It has meant shouldering unplanned costs of time, energy and money for the coalition — all the result of the country's polarization over immigration. The congregations largely bear the costs of that hospitality rather than the city or state governments.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.npr.org/2023/08/02/1190541710/migrants-sanctuary-sacramento>

US Border Patrol agent indicted on bribery and smuggling charges for allegedly offering migrant immigration 'papers' for \$5,000

By Rosa Flores and Sara Weisfeldt, CNN, August 1, 2023

- ❖ A US Border Patrol agent working at a processing center in El Paso, Texas, was indicted last week on multiple federal charges, including bribery and “alien smuggling,” after he allegedly offered a migrant an “immigration benefit” in exchange for \$5,000, according to court documents. The charges against the agent, Fernando Castillo, come about a month after his arrest as investigators gathered a trove of evidence thanks to the cooperation of the migrant. Castillo’s bond was set at \$30,000 and he was released from jail on June 29, El Paso jail records show. His arraignment is set for August 17 in an El Paso federal courtroom, according to the court docket.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2023/08/01/us/us-border-patrol-agent-bribery-charge-migrant-papers/index.html>

Spurred by rumor, hundreds of migrants mass at US border in Mexico's Ciudad Juarez

By Reuters, August 8, 2023

- ❖ Hundreds of migrants gathered alongside the U.S. border in the northern Mexican city of Ciudad Juarez late on Monday, August 7, after false rumors spread via social media and word-of-mouth that the U.S. would allow entry to a mass group. Some said they had been waiting weeks to secure appointments to request asylum via a U.S. mobile app called CBP One, and were eager to try their luck at the border itself. About 1,000 people clustered around the border just opposite the Texas city of El Paso - some peering through the slats of the border wall while others sat alongside an industrial train line headed to the United States. Officers from Customs and Border Protection uncoiled razor wire across the railway gate.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/spurred-by-rumor-hundreds-migrants-mass-us-border-mexicos-ciudad-juarez-2023-08-08/>

Exclusive: Texas was warned about anti-migrant border buoys months before DOJ stepped in

By Aarón Torres and Todd J. Gillman, Dallas Morning News, August 8, 2023

- ❖ Newly uncovered records show Texas officials ignored warnings that installing anti-migrant buoys in the Rio Grande and concertina wire along the banks violated federal law and a U.S. treaty with Mexico. On March 29, a Texas Highway Patrol captain even asked the International Boundary Commission that controls the Rio Grande to help with a permit the city of El Paso refused to grant, to put electricity in a command trailer. The commission declined, reminding the captain that the trailer — under a bridge in the floodplain — was on federal property without authorization. “The State of Texas, operating through various entities, including but not limited to, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) (and its contractors) does not have authorization for its presence on the federal property that is managed, owned, and/or controlled by the United States, International Boundary and Water Commission” or USIBWC, said the April 21 response. Those warnings began in December, well before construction started on the controversial river barrier. Two migrants were found drowned near the barrier last week, sparking recriminations from Democrats and migrant advocates. Officials from numerous state agencies were informed over at least seven months that Texas needed federal permission before intruding on federal land or installing barriers in or along the river. Documents obtained from the border commission by The Dallas Morning News through an open records request show that DPS and other Texas entities were put on notice about federal permit and floodplain impact study requirements at least as far back as Dec. 21, and many times since then.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.dallasnews.com/news/politics/2023/08/08/docs-show-rio-grande-agency-warned-texas-for-months-on-border-buoys-before-turning-to-doj/>

Chicago officials refuse to disclose how they spent more than \$120 million in tax money

By Lauren Victory, Michele Youngerman, CBS Chicago, August 7, 2023

- ❖ City of Chicago officials have failed to turn over records detailing how they spent more than \$100 million to care for new migrants arriving here. The Chicago Office of Budget & Management denied CBS 2's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for spending records. The city also ignored requests from the Illinois Attorney General's Office. At an April City Council hearing, Adl. Ariel Reboyras (30th) testified, "One of the estimates I'm seeing is we average about \$7,000 a month for each migrant seeking asylum." CBS 2 has been trying to get what should be public spending records from the city to see what companies and organizations are being paid and how much they are getting paid for various services. Is each new arrival really getting \$7,000 worth of care every month? The large number of asylum seekers landing in Chicago has forced the city to house many at police stations temporarily until shelter space opens up. So many asylum seekers have been forced to camp outside police stations.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/city-wont-disclose-120-million-spending/>

State of emergency declared for surge of migrants seeking shelter in Massachusetts

By Steve Leblanc Associated Press, August 9, 2023

- ❖ Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healey declared a state of emergency Tuesday, August 8, citing an influx of migrants seeking shelter at a time when the cost of housing - already in short supply - continues to rise. There are nearly 5,600 families or more than 20,000 people - many of whom are migrants -- currently living in state shelters, including infants, young children and pregnant women. That is up from around 3,100 families a year ago, about an 80% increase, Healey said. Many of the migrants are arriving by plane from other states. In the past 48 hours alone, she said, 50 migrant families have landed in the state in need of shelter. As part of the emergency declaration, Healey said she is renewing a call to local organizations that can assist those seeking shelter as well as to people interested in sponsoring a family in their home. The state has also launched a new migrant relief fund to help raise money to aid migrants. The contributions will be used to help pay for a range of goods and services for migrants, including food, clothing, diapers and transportation as well as health screenings, translation services, legal assistance and English classes. As a right-to-shelter state, Massachusetts is legally required to provide eligible families shelter through its emergency assistance program. On Monday, August 7, New York Mayor Eric Adams announced a plan to house as many as 2,000 migrants on an island in the East River where a migrant center was set up last year and then taken down weeks later.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/boston/news/state-of-emergency-migrants-shelter-massachusetts-governor-maura-healey/>

New York Is Opening a Relief Center for 2,000 Migrants on Randall's Island

By Katia Porzecanski, Bloomberg, August 7, 2023

- ❖ New York City is opening a new relief center on Randall's Island as it tackles a migrant crisis that's overwhelming the city's resources. The center will serve as many as 2,000 adults seeking asylum and the associated costs will be reimbursed by the state, Mayor Eric Adams said in a statement Monday. Two more relief centers are set to open in the coming weeks, he said. Some 57,200 migrants are in the care of the city, which is required by a court order to provide shelter to whomever asks for it. As the city's shelter system buckles under the strain of the incoming migrants, Adams has sought to roll back the city's right-to-shelter law and launched a messaging campaign to discourage asylum-seekers from traveling to the city. Officials are reviewing 3,000 sites to house migrants, with Manhattan's Central Park and Brooklyn's Prospect Park among them. The city has already opened more than 190 emergency shelters in city-owned buildings and locations like hotels, hospitals and a temporary facility in Randall's Island that closed last year. The city has announced plans to convert a long-abandoned psychiatric care facility in Queens into a humanitarian relief center for migrants. The city estimates the cost of caring for migrants will surpass \$4.3 billion by next July.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-08-08/how-toronto-is-competing-to-become-a-global-ai-destination>

Editorial: In Eagle Pass, political ploys, not deterrents, line the border

By the Express-News Editorial Board, August 11, 2023

- ❖ From the razor wire-lined banks of the Rio Grande here, the bright orange buoys appear small. This is not to diminish them. Up close, the buoys menace with their sawlike discs. They push asylum-seekers into deeper parts of the river and the risk of swift currents. Recently, the buoys ensnared the body of a person who drowned upriver. But to see the buoys from the edge of the Rio Grande provides a sense of scale and contradiction. They are pointless, but politically pointed; dangerous, but easily avoided; commanding of national and international attention, but minuscule compared with the expanse of the Rio Grande and Texas' 1,200-mile border with Mexico. The buoys are best seen from Hugo and Magali Urbina's Heavenly Farms, a 400-acre pecan orchard now lined with chain-link fence and concertina wire. On Tuesday, the Urbinas hosted a congressional delegation led by U.S. Rep. Joaquin Castro and joined by a small group of press.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/opinion/editorial/article/editorial-in-eagle-pass-buoys-and-razor-wire-18291911.php>

Nearly 80% of Texas' floating border barrier is technically in Mexico, survey finds

By Camilo Montoya-Galvez, CBS News, August 15, 2023

- ❖ Nearly 80% of the controversial floating barrier Texas state officials assembled in the middle of the Rio Grande to deter migrant crossings is technically on the Mexican side of the U.S.-Mexico border, according to a federal government survey released on Tuesday. The revelation was made public in a federal court filing by the Biden administration in its lawsuit against the barrier, which Texas set up in July as part of an initiative directed by Gov. Greg Abbott to repel migrants and repudiate President Biden's border policies.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/texas-floating-border-barrier-technically-in-mexico-survey-finds/>

Child dies en route to Chicago as part of Gov. Abbott's migrant busing program

By Jeremy Wallace, San Antonio Express-News, August 11, 2023

- ❖ Texas officials on Friday, August 11, said a 3 year-old child traveling to Chicago as part of Gov. Greg Abbott's migrant busing program died. The Texas Division of Emergency Management, which is running the busing program, did not say when or where the child died or what the cause was, but outlined safety procedures they took before the incident. "Once the child presented with health concerns, the bus pulled over and security personnel on board called 9-1-1 for emergency attention," the agency said in a statement. "After the ambulance arrived, the bilingual security personnel translated for the parents and the paramedics who were providing care for the child. The child was then taken to a local hospital to receive additional medical attention and was later pronounced deceased.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/politics/texas/article/migrant-bus-child-death-18292369.php>

Border arrests surged in July, a blow to Biden migration plan

By Nick Miroff and Maria Sacchetti, Washington Post, August 1, 2023

- ❖ U.S. agents made more than 130,000 arrests along the Mexico border last month, preliminary figures show, up from 99,545 in June. Authorities allowed an additional 50,000 migrants to cross into the United States in July, primarily through Biden administration programs allowing asylum seekers to schedule appointments at U.S. ports of entry using the CBP One mobile application. The spike in illegal crossings was most pronounced in the deserts of southern Arizona, despite daytime temperatures that often surpassed 110 degrees. U.S. agents there made about 40,000 arrests in July, the highest one-month total for the Tucson sector in 15 years, CBP data show.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/2023/08/01/border-arrests-migrants-biden/>

Families of migrants killed in detention center fire to receive \$8 million each, government says

By CBS News, August 14, 2023

- ❖ The families of 40 people who died in a fire at a detention center for undocumented migrants in a Mexican border town in March will receive more than \$8 million each, the government said. According to Mexican authorities, the fire in Ciudad Juarez, on the border across from El Paso, Texas, started when a migrant set fire to the mattress in his cell, where he was being held with 67 other men, to protest his possible deportation. Security camera footage showed that neither immigration officials nor security personnel attempted to evacuate the migrants once the fire broke out. The amount approved was 140 million pesos for each of the families, equivalent to about \$8.2 million, the National Institute of Migration (INM) said. A total of 39 migrants died at the scene, most of them from asphyxiation, and one more in a hospital. In addition, 27 suffered injuries.
- ❖ News Article Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/mexico-detention-center-fire-migrants-killed-8-million-each/>