## Latinas

Continued from Page 1A

unemployment highest rate (20%) of any demographic in April 2020, right after all of the business shutdowns began. By the end of 2020, when businesses were starting to reopen, Latinas and Black women still had nearly double the unemployment rate of their white counterparts, the study found.

Also troubling: the rate at which Latinas dropped from the workforce altogether, which the government usually considers to be the case when someone hasn't actively looked for work in four weeks.

Participation in the labor force for Latinas aged 25 to 54 fell from 71% prepandemic to just below 67% in May 2021, according to the latest available data by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. That translates to 465,000 fewer Latinas working or seeking work.

Kassandra Hernández, a lead researcher on the UCLA report, said this is crucial to how the economy recovers from the pan-

"If we don't recognize the complexities or the nuances of these narratives, of what's happening with Latinas, we might actually be set back," Hernández said.

Simply put: The American workforce needs Latinas to fill the many jobs that are slowly starting to come back, and those that will be left behind by retiring baby boomers.

Sylvia Allegretto, a labor economist at the University of California, Berkeley, said the U.S. economy already faces challenges from slowing birthrates, an aging workforce and declining immi-Retirements gration. among older Americans have also increased. A growing workforce is a key driver of economic growth.

"The long-term trend is we don't have enough workers," she said. "If you want to make sure you have a vibrant, growing economy, you need more people." But Allegretto said busi-

nesses also need to offer higher pay and better benefits so that more of those who were laid off or quit jobs during the pandemic can re-enter the workforce. That may take more time as much of the economy is still reopening from the pandemic shutdown. California just lifted all its business restrictions Tuesday, she noted.

"If (employers) have to start sweetening the deal, maybe with some benefits, maybe with some time off, that's a good thing," Allegretto said.

Latinas face many hurdles. Research has shown Latinas are more likely than all other U.S. mothers to stay home with children instead of work. They also tend to do much more work at home than the men in their lives, spending twice as much time on household activities and nearly three times more time caring for household members than Latinos.

Latinas are overrepresented in low-wage jobs in the hospitality and broader service industries, stifling their upward mobil-

Hernández said women need access to child care, better pay and educational opportunities to help them overcome not just the disparities in career opportunities but the setbacks the pandemic that brought.

The pandemic forced many Latinas to leave work to care not just for their children but also for extended family - "the tios



Teresa Marez, a former hair stylist, had to leave her job in San Antonio to help her autistic son with virtual school last year and hasn't returned to work. TERESA MAREZ VIA AP

or abuelos or vecinos you name it," said Xochitl Oseguera, the vice president of Mamás-ConPoder, the Spanishlanguage community that's part of MomsRising, a grassroots organization that works to improve women's economic security.

Latinos were disproportionately affected by the pandemic. They were more than twice as likely to die from CO-VID-19 as whites, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Their vaccination rates are much lower, too, so while many Americans feel the coronavirus is behind them, the pandemic lives in Latino communities.

Oseguera works with Latinas in different industries and hears firsthand why so many haven't returned to the workforce.

"They're worried about going back and getting sick," Oseguera said. "My hope is also that those jobs really reconsider the way that we have been working with essential workers to not only have a secure environment but also have access to paid family leave, paid sick leave, access to fair pay, so that we can really recover from the last year of not being part of the work-

For Ciara Fernandez Faber, going back to work also depends on the work-life balance she needs to care for her toddler. Faber, who lives in Denver, left her job as an attorney when her son's preschool closed. Her husband is a doctor, and it wasn't an option for him to stay home with him. "To my experience.

like, it doesn't matter what profession it is, it just seems like across the board it's impacted Latina women more. I don't know if it's like values that we place on work-life balance or child care issues. I don't know," Faber said.

# Safety

Continued from Page 1A

thought it would be a nice thing for this year."

The event, which is funded by a \$3,000 grant from the Elks National Foundation, has been a popular early summer event for more than a decaccording to ade, Thompson. She said the club's members are looking forward to the return of the event, which features free ice cream, hot dogs, chips and water. "Most of our mem-

bers have been asking when we would have the next Kids Safety Day, and wanting to know how they could help," she said, adding that about 30 members were involved in organizing the event. "It takes a lot of people to put this event on, but we have plenty of volunteers who want to take part. We all get together to help fill the backpacks with supplies."

Lt. Nicholas Maroni said members of the Gardner Police Department enjoy taking part in the annual Kids Safety Day because it provides them with a fun afternoon and a chance to interact with the youth in the community.

"We also help with the distributing and fitting of bike helmets that the Elks Club donates and ensures that all the participants receive free of charge," Maroni said. "This is the fun part of the job being able to take part in great community events like this one that the Elks Club does a fantastic job of putting on."

Thompson said she anticipates an even greater community response to this year's Kids Safety Day since the event had to be canceled last year due to COVID concerns. More than 220 children participated in the previous year's event, according to club officials.

"It's rewarding to us to just kind of sit back and watch the children having fun," Thompson said. "And it's a great chance to be able to give back to the community."

Kids Safety Day will be held from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. All children must be accompanied by an adult to attend the event.

### PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING A PROPOSED HEALTHCARE PROJECT

Heywood Healthcare System ("Heywood Healthcare" or the "Applicant"), with a principal place of business at 242 Green Street, Gardner, Massachusetts, intends to file a Notice of Determination of Need with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health for a project at Henry Heywood Memorial Hospital (HHMH), a general acute care hospital located at 242 Green Street, in Gardner, Massachusetts. Heywood Healthcare is proposing to build an addition to the HHMH for the purpose of upgrading and expanding its surgical services facility. The project will include an addition of 40,115 gross square feet, and will include 6 operating rooms (each nearly 200 s.f. larger than the Hospital's 4 existing operating rooms), 21 prep/recovery bays, and shell space on the second floor for future use. The project will improve services for area community residents by providing state-of-the-art surgical suites. improved capacity and continued local access for surgical procedures. Heywood Healthcare will be submitting its application for Determination of Need for this project to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health on or about July 2, 2021. The projected total cost of the project is \$34.583.750. It is not anticipated that this project will have any impact on the pricing of Heywood Healthcare's patient panel or any service impact other than as stated herein.

Any ten Taxpayers of Massachusetts may register in connection with the intended Application by no later than August 1, 2021 or 30 days from the Filing Date, whichever is later, by contacting the Department of Public Health Determination of Need Program at

Commonwealth of Massachusetts **Department of Public Health Determination of Need Program** 250 Washington Street, 6th Floor Boston, MA 0210

NM-0000471550-01

## **HOME NEWS**

#### Gardner

MISSED TRASH OR RECYCLING? - Beginning July 1, 2020, call Waste Management's call center directly to report any missed trash, recycling or yard waste 1-800-972-4545. Missed services need to be reported within 24 hours of your regular pickup day. You can also report your missed items https:// online at www.gardner-ma.gov/ FormCenter/Health-Department-9/Missed-TrashRecyclingYard-

Waste-56. For broken or missing trash and recycling toters, or to make changes to your curbside services, call the Gardner Health Department at 978-630-4013. ONLINE EVENTS -

FCC church in Gardner has several events available for viewing online. Weekly events are all on Zoom email our church. Email fccgardner@gmail.com for login and password or visit Facebook. SUNDAY: 9:30 AM Children's Moment; 10:00 AM WORSHIP ZOOM and Live on Facebook; 5:00 PM Youth Group; MONDAY: 7:00 PM Pause for Peace and Prayer with Pastor Karen; TUESDAY: 11:00 AM Coffee with Karen; 5:30 PM Love Builds UP; WEDNESDAY: 4:30 PM A Time for Children with Pastor Karen; 7:00 PM Bible Study; THURSDAY: 4:00 PM Joys and Concerns: A time for shared prayers; FRIDAY: 8:30 AM Coffee with Karen.

**GARDNER** RESI-DENT TRANSFER STA-TION - The transfer and recycling station is open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday

from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. City Hall is open to the public and you can purchase transfer station items at the Health Department office. You can also order your transfer station items by mail. For details about how to pre-pay for your transfer station items visit: https://www.gardnerma.gov/568/Drop-Off-

Fees. For the health and safety of residents and staff, please wear a mask, follow all instructions and signage, and practice social distancing both at the transfer station and in City Hall. Please call the Gardner Health Department at 978-630-4013 if you have any questions or need help.

ONLINE WORSHIP -While the ongoing circumstances prevent us from gathering together to praise our Lord and Savior, we invite you to join us online for worship instead. You may find it on our Facebook page at https://www.face-

book.com/firstbaptistgardner, or if you do not have a Facebook account, you may view the video on YouTube at https://youtu.be/uIM1sxxrO 4.

ACTIVITIES AT GARD-NER SENIOR CENTER -These programs will resume ASAP: Senior Zumba: Fridays at 8:30 a.m.; Yo-Movement Yoga: Mondays at 8:30 a.m.; Serenity Chair Yoga: Tuesdays at 8:15 a.m.; Mat Yoga: Thursdays at 2:00 p.m.; Gentle Yoga: Fridays at 10:00 a.m.; Go-Movements Yoga: Fridays at 11:00 a.m.; Beginner Line Dance: Mondays at 9:45 a.m.; Line Dance: Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.; Quilters: Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m.; Bridge card group: Mondays at 9:00 a.m.; Cribbage: Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m.; Pitch card players: Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m.; TOPS weight loss support: Thursdays at 9:00 a.m.; Tai Chi: Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.; Big Bingo: Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.; Knitting: First and third Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m.

NARCOTICS ANONY-MOUS - These meetings will resume ASAP: A group atmosphere extends aid and experience from peers, while offering an ongoing support network for addicts who wish to practice and maintain a drug-free lifestyle. More info on this program at: www.na.org. Local opportunities gather three times a week in a safe, supportive environment. Monday, Tuesday and Friday at 7 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 14 High St. (parking in lot on East Broadway - 2A).

**AL-ANON MEETINGS -**These meetings will occur on Fridays at 10:30 a.m. This meeting will be a virtual (phone) meeting. For more information, please call 1-508-366-0556 or visit our website at alanonMA.org.

## Leominster

THE NEW ENGLAND SHUTTERBUGS CAMERA **CLUB MEETINGS - These** meetings will resume ASAP: The New England Shutterbugs Camera Club hold meetings on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. Doors will open at 6:30 and programs begin at 7:00 PM. Please join us at the Veterans Center, 100 West Street, Leominster, MA 01453. We hope that guests and new members will join us. There is a \$5.00 nonmember fee. Refreshments will be served. Please check our website for details at: neshutterbugs.com.



