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DALLAS | CONVENTION CENTER SHELTER

Migrant youths' welfare a worry

Witnesses note fights, depression, other woes among detained boys

By DIANNE SOLIS
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Conditions for about 2,000 migrant teen boys at the temporary emergency shelter in downtown Dallas are worrying advocates and former contract employees.

The boys at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center

suffer from a lack of fresh air and sunlight, depression and limited access to phones to call their families. Fights have broken out among the boys as tensions have risen.

Some of the dozen people familiar with the conditions who spoke to *The Dallas Morning News* about the center say the management of the boys' asylum cases seems chaotic, with boys unclear about processes such as their pending family re-

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DALLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Crime plan welcomed

Council praises new chief's multifaceted plan to lower violence

By CASSANDRA JARAMILLO
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Dallas police Chief Eddie Garcia on Wednesday said that the department needs more officers to deal with the city's growing population and that tackling poverty and blight will be key to making an impact on violent crime.

"Success, to me, looks like



EDDIE GARCÍA wants more officers and less poverty.

early February. Garcia told council members Wednesday that the department will focus on small geographic areas

less victims," Garcia said. "We didn't get into this situation overnight."

The chief presented his first crime plan since taking over the Dallas Police Department in

that drive violent crime in Dallas.

The plan received overwhelmingly positive support from the mayor and council members. Some council members from the northern parts of Dallas said they did not want to see patrol officers moved to southern parts of the city to increase police presence.

The North Central patrol division has reported one murder so far this year compared with six this time a year ago. The Southeast patrol division, which includes parts

of Pleasant Grove, has seen 19 murders compared with 14 at this time a year ago.

The Southeast patrol division has also seen more than twice as many aggravated assaults as North Central, which has reported 860 total assault incidents so far this year.

Garcia said that although increasing police visibility in high-crime spots is a part of the plan, the department will not shift resources from patrol divisions that may have

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LEGISLATURE '21

Permitless carry nearly law



Jay Janner/Austin American-Statesman

Sen. Beverly Powell, a Democrat from Burleson, listened to debate on House Bill 1927. Powell said Wednesday that if she sees someone carrying a holstered gun, "I want to know if they draw that gun they know what they're doing with it."

Senate vote sends divisive bill back to House to weigh changes

By ALLIE MORRIS
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AUSTIN — A proposal to let people carry handguns in public without a license or training cleared a major hurdle Wednesday, winning passage in the Senate and putting Texas on a path to become the latest state to lift firearm permitting requirements.

All 18 Republican Senators voted for the divisive legislation after making

ABORTION 'HEARTBEAT' BILL nears passage in House. **1B**

TWO LAWMAKERS talk through contentious issues. **1B**

changes meant to ease law enforcement concerns and win over hesitant colleagues. The chamber's 13 Democrats voted against the bill.

The vote delivers a major victory to gun rights activists, whose efforts to ad-

vance permitless carry in Texas have gone nowhere in years past.

Under the bill, people 21 and older who can legally have a handgun could carry it in public without the license, safety course and background check required now. About 1.6 million Texans are currently licensed to carry.

The final vote continued Wednesday evening, even after Sen. Brandon Creigh-

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CORONAVIRUS

Judge overturns ban on evictions

Justice Department to appeal ruling, which says CDC overstepped

U.S. BACKS waiving protection for vaccine patents. **6A**

FROM WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON — A federal judge on Wednesday ruled that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention exceeded its authority by issuing a nationwide eviction moratorium, a ruling that could affect millions of struggling Americans.

The Justice Department said it would appeal the ruling from the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., meaning there likely won't be any immediate impact on the ban.

U.S. District Judge Dabney Friedrich's 20-page order says that the protection, first put in

place during the coronavirus pandemic under the Trump administration and now set to run out on June 30, goes too far.

"It is the role of the political branches, and not the courts, to assess the merits of policy measures designed to combat the spread of disease, even during a global pandemic," the order said. "The question for the Court is a narrow one: Does the Public Health Service Act grant the CDC the legal authority to impose a nationwide

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First Baptist takes aim at vaccine fears

Jeffress hopes shot clinic helps encourage in-person worship

By CHARLES SCUDDER
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To combat vaccine hesitancy among Christian evangelicals, First Baptist Church in Dallas will have a COVID-19 vaccination clinic May 16.

Senior pastor Robert Jeffress said he hopes the move will encourage people to get shots so more of his 14,000 congregants can come and worship in person.



ROBERT JEFFRESS sees a "spiritual danger" in "staying isolated."

"Our church will never be what it needs to be until you're back. The greater risk is the spiritual danger of staying isolated," Jeffress said in a recent sermon. "I'm not forcing anybody to get the vaccine. That's your choice. But what I am saying is if you are not back

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Sunny and nice



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NATION & WORLD

Trump still banned

Facebook's oversight board backed the suspension of former President Donald Trump's accounts for now, enraging his supporters. **3A**

METRO & BUSINESS

Rental rates rebound

Dallas-area apartment rental rates are rebounding with "stunning momentum" after setbacks during the pandemic. **3B**

SPORTSDAY

DeSoto tries to extend run

The DeSoto girls track team goes after its fifth consecutive state title on Saturday. **8C**

Mexico train accident victim buried



Relatives carried the coffin of Juan Luis Diaz Galicia during his funeral Wednesday in Mexico City. He was one of 25 people who died in the collapse of an elevated subway line that was poorly designed and problem-plagued from the day of its inauguration in 2012. **(Story, 4A)**

Pedro Pardo/Agence France-Presse



FLY YOUR FLAG

Today is the National Day of Prayer. Congress established a national prayer day in 1952 and in 1988 set the first Thursday in May as the official day for presidents to issue proclamations asking Americans to pray.

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