



AN IMAGE of Donald Trump is posted in a window while an election banner for Vivek Ramaswamy adorns the garage of a home in Denison, Iowa. The town is at least half Latino, the highest proportion in the state. Photographs by GINA FERRAZZI Los Angeles Times

A LATINO SHIFT RIGHT?

Iowa provides hints to political leanings of key demographic

By JACK HERRERA

DENISON, Iowa — Set among rolling hills about an hour from the Nebraska border, this picturesque farm town is filled with brick buildings that exude 19th century charm. It also happens to be the most Latino town in the state.

Latinos make up at least half of Denison's population. But when 385 people filtered into the theater at Denison High School last week for the Republican caucus, they mostly resembled those at similar gatherings elsewhere in Iowa: farmers with long beards, retirees wearing smiles and heavy coats. Almost all were non-Latino whites.

Near the front of the theater, Vicenta Lira Cardenas and her husband, Ismael Cardenas, were rare excep-



YOVAN CARDENAS, a police officer in Denison, is the son of immigrants from Mexico.

tions. They smiled politely when they made eye contact with other caucusgoers, and, as local GOP leaders began the proceedings, Vicenta whispered occasional translations to Ismael.

Since 2020, when then-President Trump made double-digit gains with Latino voters across the country, Republicans have bragged that a major realignment is underway. Democrats have long relied on winning about 65% of the Latino vote. If Republicans can get that number closer to 50%, they could keep the Democrats out of the White House for a generation.

While Iowa may not be a center of Latino life like California or Texas, the dismal Latino turnout at the

[See Iowa, A12]

Monterey Park families reflect on year of grief

Survivors aim to stay active while trying to honor the memories of victims in shooting.

By SUMMER LIN

Nearly a year after Ronald Tom's wife was killed in the Monterey Park mass shooting, he and his family visited the local fire station, bearing steamed Chinese buns, to thank the first responders who tended to Diana Tom on that fateful night.

They couldn't save her life but they kept her alive long enough to let her family say their last goodbyes.

"She had a 24-hour window that you gave her because you were there in time that she could be brought to the hospital," Ronald Tom told the group of nearly a dozen firefighters and paramedics. "Four or five of us got to visit her and God bless, she accepted the Lord in her final moments. That was really special."

Nearly a year after the shooting at a popular dance

hall during a Lunar New Year celebration, survivors and families of the victims are still grappling with the lingering trauma. To honor their loved ones and cope with their loss, they have created shrines and community support funds, organized dance parties and lobbied for gun control legislation, among other tributes.

The city of Monterey Park is also planning a candlelight vigil on the one-year anniversary of the shooting — Jan. 21 — to honor the victims.

But life will never be the same, not a year later. Maybe not ever.

Lloyd Gock, who formed a support group of survivors, said he told its members — people he considers his second family — that they now have two birthdays: "You have the day you were born and you have Jan. 21, 2023."

For most survivors of a mass shooting, terrorist bombing or other tragedy, anniversaries only revive the pain and reawaken the heartache of lost family and friends. For many, keeping

[See Monterey Park, A8]



FIREFIGHTER Cory Bancroft lets the grandson of shooting victim Diana Tom check out a firetruck. Irfan Khan Los Angeles Times

Plagiarism-finding tools repurposed as political weaponry

Accusations of lifting from others' work can be ruinous. Software makes it easy to spot.

By CORINNE PURTILL

The plagiarism accusations first struck Claudine Gay when a right-wing activist published several examples of unattributed text from the Harvard president's academic writings. Though insufficient attribution wasn't the only controversy swirling around Gay — her response to congressional questions about antisemitism on campus played a much bigger role — it was the tipping point that forced her resignation this month.

The next volley hit Neri Oxman, a former MIT professor and the wife of hedge fund manager Bill Ackman, who had campaigned vigorously for Gay's ouster. The publication Business Insider reported that several paragraphs and sentences from Oxman's dissertation appeared to have been lifted from Wikipedia. Oxman apologized for the errors on social media.

In response, Ackman wrote on X that he would be getting into the plagiarism review game as well. Ackman said his review would cover all the published work of all of MIT's faculty, its president, Sally Kornbluth, and the university's board members — plus all the work of the staff at Business Insider, and possibly also the work of the faculties at Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Stanford, the University of Pennsylvania and Dartmouth.

"Vetting every publication from every academic over their career at a huge university like Harvard would take thousands of hours," said Chris Caren.

He would know. Caren is the chief executive of Oakland-based Turnitin, the world's largest provider of academic integrity software. The company's products include Feedback Studio, a program designed for high school and college instructors, and iThenticate, a more rigorous offering favored by academic journal editors.

According to the company, 80% of U.S. college students attend schools that use Turnitin's software to

[See Plagiarism, A8]

He can't escape his worst foe: himself

Edin Alex Enamorado defended street vendors, but now he's on trial



ACTIVIST Edin Alex Enamorado, right, pursues attorney Michael Barmasse after the arraignment of his client, Jeanne Umana, in Santa Barbara. MEL MELCON Los Angeles Times

GUSTAVO ARELLANO

"I'm sorry," the skinny young man said again and again like an incantation, as if apologizing enough times would make his antagonists disappear. His words only enraged them further.

Earlier that day, while protesting outside the Pomona Police Department for a friend to be released, the group of a dozen or so had chased the man away after he mistakenly blamed them for closing down the front desk. An hour later, the man returned and threw a bottle at them, triggering them to follow him home.

"Get on your f— knees, and apologize, b—!" Edin Alex Enamorado yelled in the video played by a prosecutor.

[See Arellano, A10]

Netanyahu insists on Israeli control

Prime minister rejects President Biden's suggestion that differences on Palestinian state can be bridged. **WORLD, A3**

Retirees in O.C. fighting city hall

Seniors try to rescue Huntington Beach from Donald Trump's "way of politics," Steve Lopez writes. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Lakers looking stuck in neutral

They've been plagued by inconsistent play and they don't have the assets to make a meaningful trade. **SPORTS, D1**

Weather
Some rain.
L.A. Basin: 59/55. **B10**



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