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# Sunday World-Herald

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## Lawmaker asks: Why are teachers burnt out?

State Sen. Margo Juarez wants to know how the Legislature could help educators

**LUNA STEPHENS**  
World-Herald Staff Writer

State Sen. Margo Juarez wants to hear from Nebraska teachers about why they're burnt out and how the Legislature could help. Juarez, who represents District 5 in South Omaha, is conducting an interim study on



**Juarez**

teacher burnout. The study stems from Legislative Resolution 204, which Juarez introduced in the most recent session with the goal of finding ways to mitigate teacher burnout and improve teacher retention. While legislation providing things like retention grants for teachers has been implemented in recent years, Juarez

said teachers are telling her that more needs to be done. "There is still plenty of work that needs to be done to help our teachers," she said. "There's still plenty of work to do to try to help them adequately feel supported in their role." Juarez, a member of the Legislature's Education Committee, is also a former school board member for the Omaha Public Schools. Juarez said she's conducted one formal meeting with teachers and administrators

from the Omaha and Lincoln areas so far and hopes to reach educators across the state. Amanda Morales, an associate professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, was part of Juarez's recent meeting with educators. Morales has worked in the teacher recruitment and retention field since 2004 and said she's seen challenges for teachers intensify more than ever post-pandemic.

Please see **TEACHERS**, Page A2

## Israeli army targets more Gaza City high-rises

**WAFAA SHURAF AND BASSEM MROUE**  
Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip — The Israeli army issued evacuation orders and targeted high-rise buildings Saturday in Gaza City, urging Palestinians to flee south ahead of an escalating offensive to seize the city of nearly 1 million residents. Aid groups warn that a large-scale evacuation would exacerbate the humanitarian crisis in Gaza City, which the world's leading hunger watchdog announced last month was officially suffering from famine as a result of Israeli restrictions on food aid.

Most Palestinian families repeatedly were displaced in the nearly 2-year-long war and say they have nowhere left to go. The Israeli military previously bombed tent encampments designated as humanitarian zones. "There is no safe tent, no safe house, no safe place, no safety at all," said Nadia Marouf, who fled Israel's offensive in the north with her children and resettled in Gaza City — only to see her tent destroyed Saturday in an Israeli airstrike that wiped out a 15-story building and surrounding encampment.

"Where do I go? We went to the south, there is no space in the south," she said. "Where can we go?"

Israeli military spokesperson Avichay Adraee called on Palestinians to flee to southern Gaza, announcing on social media that the army redrew the borders of a humanitarian zone to encompass the overcrowded encampment of Muwasi and parts of the southern city of Khan Younis.

Aid groups raised alarm about woefully inadequate shelter, sanitation, water and food in Muwasi. Months of Israeli bombardment decimated civilian infrastructure in Khan Younis.

The Israeli military said it would work to provide field hospitals, water pipelines and food supplies within its humanitarian zone.

Hamas urged Palestinians to stay put in defiance of the evacuation orders. Exhausted and despairing, many Palestinians had their own reasons for refusing to pack up and uproot themselves again.

"I can't walk, I am in pain, and I do not know what to do or where to go," said Ala Alfarani, whose tent was crushed beneath a pile of rubble in Israel's strike on a high-rise in the Tel al-Hawa neighborhood of south Gaza City.

Please see **MIDEAST**, Page A2

## Man aided trafficking case, faces deportation

**JEREMY TURLEY AND EMILY WOLF**  
Flatwater Free Press

Two weeks before police and federal agents streamed into the New Victorian Inn and Suites to bust an alleged human trafficking ring, Eudis Cuéllar Martínez described to Omaha officers what they would find inside. The Venezuelan man told police about six large families living alongside him and other immigrant laborers in the southwest Omaha hotel. He told them that he hadn't gotten paid for most of his work and that he felt he couldn't say "no" to his bosses because of his undocumented status. Cuéllar Martínez's remarks — recorded following his arrest on a now-dismissed drug charge — appeared on three pages of a sprawling criminal complaint, bolstering allegations of labor trafficking against his ex-employers, five Indian hoteliers and

salon owners. Despite his cooperation with police, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrested Cuéllar Martínez during the bust and shipped him to an Iowa jail. With the prospect of deportation to Venezuela looming, he will appear in immigration court later this month. He's part of a group of 14 undocumented immigrants detained during the raid who "were living alongside the trafficking victims" but were not victims themselves, according to the Department of Homeland Security. Cuéllar Martínez's arrest comes as the Trump administration moves to detain more "collaterals" — undocumented immigrants encountered incidentally while serving warrants on other suspects.

Please see **DEPORTATION**, Page A2



**ABIOLA KOSOKO FOR THE FLATWATER FREE PRESS**

**Eudis Cuéllar Martínez was living in the New Victorian Inn and Suites when law enforcement raided the Omaha hotel on Aug. 12. Days earlier, Cuéllar Martínez had told police about his experience working for the hotel's owners, who were rounded up during the raid and charged with labor trafficking and other crimes. Despite his prior cooperation with police, authorities detained Cuéllar Martínez, who now faces possible deportation.**

**Redistricting expands**  
Redistricting efforts are poised to spread ahead of the midterm elections. **Page A3**

**Grannies undaunted**  
Protesting grannies are undeterred after getting kicked out of a Nebraska State Fair forum. **Midlands**

### Weather

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