



COMMUNITY | B1

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SPORTS | C1

MOORE: SIXERS RUNNING OUT OF SHOTS

If they want to land a star, time is of the essence

Hoping for a return home

Family, community attempt to stop potential deportation of Delran man

By Kelly Kultys
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DELRAN — This was supposed to be one the most exciting summers of Pedro Flor's life.

The 18-year-old had just graduated from the township high school and was getting ready to become the first in his family to go to college.

He had just returned from visiting Shenandoah

University in Virginia, where he plans to go in August with the help of a soccer scholarship, when his father Ari Flor was taken into custody during the last week of June.

Ari Flor, an undocumented immigrant who came to the U.S. From Brazil in 2002, "was granted Voluntary Departure in August 2017, but failed to depart. He is being held in ICE custody, pending removal from the U.S.," according to a statement from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

He has been housed in Essex County jail since his arrest. His family has tried

More on A11

• One-year-old goes to court to be reunited with family

• Immigrant PhD candidate rocked by sudden US Army discharge

to find proper legal counsel to help with the case to keep him in the country.

According to his family, the departure order stems from a misunderstanding between him and previous legal counsel, and is something he had been trying to rectify.

Ari Flor had been helping

his friend in Buffalo, New York, when the two got lost and asked a police officer for directions, according to Pedro and his mother, Alesandra Flor. Instead, Ari Flor was jailed for 10 days after the officer called immigration officials, the family said.

He appeared in court multiple times to settle the case before his lawyer advised him to sign a voluntary departure notice to avoid future jail time and penalties, according to the Flor family. After he realized what he signed, Ari

See FLOR, A2

'It's everyone's business'



CDC, local advocates: More needs to be done to understand, prevent suicide

Patty Green, of Lumberton, started the Nicky Green Foundation in honor of her son, who died by suicide in 2012. She holds up a bracelet in his honor. [KELLY KULTYS / STAFF PHOTOJOURNALIST]

By Kelly Kultys and Jenny Wagner
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In the six years since Patty Green started the Nicky Green Foundation, she's seen youth suicide rise from the third- to the second-leading cause of death among young people across the country.

It's now the 10th leading cause of death overall in the United States, and a new report by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently showed

suicide rates have increased in nearly every state, including Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Green, a Lumberton, New Jersey, resident knows the statistics all too well. Her son Nicky, the inspiration behind her foundation, died by suicide on June 14, 2012.

"He was a straight-A student, he was an athlete, he had lots of friends, he wasn't withdrawing, he wasn't quiet — there was nothing that we saw," said Green, a licensed clinical social worker and bereavement counselor. "He literally went to his tournament lacrosse team practice

See SUICIDE, A6



Each year, the Nicky Green Foundation creates a bracelet in honor of preventing youth suicide and raising awareness for the issue. [KELLY KULTYS / STAFF PHOTOJOURNALIST]

What you can do to help

Hotlines and 24/7 services:

- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK or text "Talk" to 741741
- CONTACT of Burlington County crisis helpline: 856-234-8888
- Bucks County suicide and crisis intervention services: 1-800-499-7455, or 215-345-2273 for Central and Upper Bucks, 215-785-9765 for Lower Bucks
- Bucks County Mobile Crisis Services for adults and children: 1-877-HELP-709 (1-877-435-7709)
- CONTACT Greater Philadelphia crisis helpline: 215-355-6000

Interventions and trainings:

- The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline's five action steps for communicating with someone who may be suicidal: If you are worried about someone, ask if they're thinking about suicide. Keep them safe. Reduce access to lethal means for those at risk. Be there with them. Listen to what they need. Help them connect with ongoing support. Follow up to see how they're doing.
- Mental Health First Aid training: To find a course visit mentalhealthfirstaid.org/take-a-course/find-a-course. In Bucks County, contact Lenape Valley Foundation at 215-345-5300. QPR (Question, Persuade, Referral) training: In Bucks County, contact Wendy Flanigan, 215-444-2882 or wflanigan@buckscounty.org.

Warning signs of suicide

- Feeling like a burden
 - Being isolated
 - Increased anxiety
 - Feeling trapped or in unbearable pain
 - Increased substance use
 - Looking for a way to access lethal means
 - Increased anger or rage
 - Extreme mood swings
 - Expressing hopelessness
 - Sleeping too little or too much
 - Talking or posting about wanting to die
 - Making plans for suicide
- Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

NEWS

LOTTERY

Saturday (7-7-18)
New Jersey
5 Card Cash
2♣-2♦-8♦-6♥-2♠
Pick 3
1-9-2, Fireball 8
Pick 4
4-0-8-7, Fireball 8
Cash 5
1-15-18-26-40, Xtra 2
Midday Pick 3
4-0-3, Fireball 8
Midday Pick 4
1-8-7-0, Fireball 8

Pennsylvania
Cash 5
14-16-27-28-42
Match 6 Lotto
6-12-14-18-41-47
Pick 2 Day
5-3, Wild 2
Pick 2 Evening
0-7, Wild 7
Pick 3 Day
3-5-2, Wild 2
Pick 3 Evening
3-5-7, Wild 7
Pick 4 Day
7-3-1-5, Wild 2
Pick 4 Evening
4-5-5-9, Wild 7
Pick 5 Day
6-3-0-8-3, Wild 2
Pick 5 Evening
3-7-0-8-9, Wild 7
Treasure Hunt
1-2-12-22-25

Friday (7-6-18)
New Jersey
5 Card Cash
Q♣-Q♥-A♠-8♦-5♠
Pick 3
7-6-9, Fireball 1
Pick 4
1-6-1-8, Fireball 1
Cash 5
2-17-19-21-26, Xtra 3
Midday Pick 3
8-3-7, Fireball 2
Midday Pick 4
7-7-7-2, Fireball 2

Pennsylvania
Cash 5
3-22-29-31-43
Match 6 Lotto
1-3-10-21-29-33
Pick 2 Day
3-6, Wild 0
Pick 2 Evening
0-6, Wild 6
Pick 3 Day
6-7-7, Wild 0
Pick 3 Evening
8-3-1, Wild 6
Pick 4 Day
7-7-2-1, Wild 0
Pick 4 Evening
4-3-0-7, Wild 6
Pick 5 Day
8-3-8-5-3, Wild 0
Pick 5 Evening
0-9-5-4-4, Wild 6
Treasure Hunt
4-14-25-26-27
Multistate
Powerball (7-7-18)
Not available
Mega Millions (7-6-18)
2-10-46-50-56,
Mega Ball 16
Cash4Life (7-5-17)
16-21-28-31-44,
Cash Ball 4

ONLINE POLL

Friday/Saturday's results:
Do you support a \$10 mil-
lion traffic plan to improve
Route 130?
A.) Yes: 70%
B.) No: 30%



Today's question: Do you
agree with Scott Pruitt's
decision to resign as head
of the EPA?
A.) Yes
B.) No

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FLOR

From Page A1

Flor tried to get it legally removed and gain legal status.

“He fights every single day to try and find a solution,” said Alesandra, who also is from Brazil, but came to the United States legally from Portugal and is in the midst of her own citizen-ship process. “He (paid) a lot of money for lawyers. It’s a lot of money.”

In 2013, undercover officials took Ari Flor into custody on his way to work in construction, before releasing him if he agreed to supervision provisions, Pedro said. Since then, he has checked in at a local office every two weeks, his son said.

“That’s how it’s been for the last five years,” Pedro said. “This time, he went and they arrested him again.”

Usually, once a person is picked up by ICE and their history is reviewed, officials determine whether to send them to a facility, release them on bail or on their own recognizance, according to Derek DeCosmo, an immigration attorney at the Camden-based firm Zucker Steinberg & Wixted, which handles similar deportation cases in South Jersey. The next step is determining whether or not the person is entitled to see an immigration judge, he said.

“This is the thing that kind of gets people very confused — and family members confused and upset or just overwhelmed by the whole system,” he said.

DeCosmo does not represent Flor; the family still is searching for an attorney.

People who have prior deportation orders, whether from a judge or directly from a border patrol agent, aren’t entitled to go before a judge, DeCosmo said. Others will have hearings in front of an immigration judge to make a case as to why they should stay or contest any charges against them.

For those who have prior orders to leave, the situation can be trickier, he said. Sometimes attorneys can convince an immigration judge to grant a stay or defer departure, but that doesn’t always work, he said.

DeCosmo's first step is to evaluate the validity of an order to see if the case can be reopened.

“If you’re a person that has a deportation order, your options are limited,” DeCosmo said.

If a case can’t be reopened, one of the options is to see if the person has any claims, such as a fear of persecution in their home country, that can help them avert deportation, DeCosmo said.

“The last thing that you can do when you’re in this situation is make a direct appeal, and there’s a form for it, to Immigration (and) Customs Enforcement requesting a stay or a deferred action in a case. In that application, you can bring anything to the table that might be



“I have kids — I have two boys, this little girl, this little one comes (and) changes your life,” Alesandra Flor said. “My son graduated this year (and is) supposed to go for college, and now I have a newborn again.” [NANCY ROKOS / STAFF PHOTOJOURNALIST]



Alesandra Flor looks at a wall of family photos while holding her 8-week-old daughter Anna Valentina Flor in her home in Delran. [NANCY ROKOS / STAFF PHOTOJOURNALIST]



An avid soccer fan and player, Pedro Flor, 18, hopes his father will be released from a detention center soon. [NANCY ROKOS / STAFF PHOTOJOURNALIST]

relevant, related to family, equities, etc.,” he added.

These are traditionally a person’s “last ditch efforts” to stay, but there’s been a dramatic change in that process recently under the Trump administration, he said.

“The reality is I’ve only gotten one granted and it was only for six months when I used to be able to get a year,” the attorney said. “I’ve only gotten one granted with this new administration and it’s something that I used to get routinely granted before.”

Supervision agreements like Ari Flor’s previously were granted if a person had a departure order but was not considered a “high-priority case,” such as someone who had a criminal record, DeCosmo said. But more departure orders are being enacted because the Trump administration is stricter in enforcement of these policies, he said.

“With the new administration, what came down from on high is, ‘We’re not going to allow people to continue on in this way, with just doing their check-ins, or doing their stays,’” DeCosmo said. “‘We have valid deportation orders, we are going

to execute them and bring these files to a conclusion.’ That has been the marked change of the Trump administration.”

That doesn’t mean people weren’t deported under the Obama administration, but the priorities of deportation were different, DeCosmo added.

“That’s a flat out lie — (the Obama administration) deported more people than any president in history, but what they did was once his administration went through the existing people that they had determined to be ‘priorities’ (for deportation) then they were a little bit more generous with people that didn’t fall into their enforcement priorities,” he said.

Manuela Morais, principal of the Law Offices of Manuela Morais, LLC, in Moorestown, said she’s seen it become more difficult for immigrants to obtain legal status and deal with the complicated nature of immigration law. While her office primarily helps businesses and corporations deal with immigration issues, she’s dealt with a number of individuals in her career.

“It’s becoming much harder for someone to get

permanent residency,” she said.

For families, that means playing the waiting game and worrying that something is going to happen in the meantime.

“I don’t think it’s a matter of if,” she said. “I think it’s a matter of when.”

Another issue for immigrants and their families is finding and paying for competent attorneys to help them navigate the system, which can be a challenge, DeCosmo said.

Friends and neighbors of the Flor family have put together a fundraising effort to help raise money to assist with the cost of legal fees and other needs of the family, which also includes 8-week-old daughter Anna Valentina and Matthew, 9. The two youngest children are U.S. citizens, having been born here. Pedro Flor is a “Dreamer” protected under

the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program.

“We are looking for everyone’s help to assist them during this very difficult time, as lawyer fees are significantly mounting as they attempt to finish the process they have been working on since they came to this country 17 years ago,” a statement from the fundraising campaign read. “They will need help with housing, food, medical expenses for the new baby, and we would like to ensure that Pedro can follow his and his families dream of graduating college instead of having to give up on his dream and become the primary money earner in the family until his father can return.”

As of Friday afternoon, almost \$8,500 has been raised.

“This town is an amazing town,” Alesandra Flor said. “Amazing people, and for my son (Pedro) to grow up here, it’s the best for him.”

She said she is grateful her children have been able to grow up in the U.S. and have the opportunities like going to college.

“This country has been so great for us,” she said.

Still, these last few weeks have been extremely hard for her.

“I have kids — I have two boys, this little girl, this little one comes (and) changes your life,” she said. “My son graduated this year (and is) supposed to go for college, and now I have a newborn again.”

As they wait, the family has met with multiple lawyers to help them with the case.

But this can be another problem, as the family starts from ground zero with each lawyer, DeCosmo said.

“The families are acting in desperation,” he said. “It’s extremely difficult for the family.”

For now, Pedro said he’s trying to stay positive for his father and the rest of his family.

“He’s my role model — I always tell him (Brazilian soccer player) Neymar’s my celebrity role model, but my dad is my real role model,” he said. “He’s always looking for the positive side. That’s what I want. That’s what my dad taught me, always look on the positive side, even at the worst (times).”

Burlington County Times

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