

# DAILY CAMERA

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## LOCAL NEWS

# Film festival tells tales of immigrants

By Kate Larsen

Camera Staff Writer

As the national debate over immigration policy heats up, a film festival in Longmont is telling the stories of people caught in the middle of the fight.

The inaugural Multicultural Film Festival continues through May at the Longmont Museum and Cultural Center and Longmont Library. From Mexicans searching for work to an Afghan seeking asylum, the films show people's journeys to the United States and other countries.

"This is a way to educate the community on an issue facing many of our clients," said Carolyn Slauson, of El Comite, the Longmont nonprofit that's co-

## MULTICULTURAL FILM FESTIVAL

All events are at the Longmont Museum and Cultural Center, 400 Quail Road, unless otherwise noted. The films are in English or with English subtitles.

**"Hold Your Breath,"** about an Afghan refugee

6 to 8 p.m. tonight

**"De Nadie,"** about Central Americans coming to the United States through Mexico

2 to 4:15 p.m. Saturday at the

Longmont Library, 409 Fourth St.

**"Al Otro Lado,"** about three children who leave their homes in Mexico, Morocco and Cuba to find their parents who immigrated to other countries

2 to 4:15 p.m. May 20

**"H-2 Worker,"** about workers from the Caribbean

6 to 8 p.m. May 24

For more information, call Carolyn at (303) 651-6125.

sponsoring the film festival with the city.

Slauson said the films can help viewers understand why some people leave their homes and families for a new country,

and the challenges they face along the way.

Several of the films have won accolades. Two are Sundance Film Festival winners, and one was Mexico's official selection

for the 2006 Oscars.

Tonight's film is "Hold Your Breath." The movie tells the story of Mohammad Kochi, who fled Afghanistan in 1979 during the Soviet invasion. He settled in northern California and was hit with another hurdle in his late 50s: cancer.

The film's director, Dr. Maren Grainger-Monsen, said she was motivated by racial disparities in health care. But the film goes beyond health issues, said Grainger-Monsen, a senior research scholar and director of the Biomedical Ethics in Film program at Stanford University.

"It's really about communication between cultures and about the assumptions we make about each other on both sides," she said.