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FLOC reaches labor contractor for migrant farmworkers in NC

By Kevin Milliken, La Prensa Correspondent

Dec. 9, 2016: The Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) has reached a labor agreement covering more than 10,000 migrant farmworkers on 770 farms in North Carolina, Virginia, and Tennessee.

Baldemar Velásquez, FLOC founder and president, made the announcement during an annual concert known as "Songs for Justice" Friday night at the José Martínez Memorial Galería, 1224 Broadway. Velásquez performed alongside the *Aguila Negra Band*, which doubled as a fundraiser for FLOC's programs and the Center for Migrant Worker Justice. Over 200 supporters attended.

"It all started several years ago when we organized the boycott of Mount Olive Pickle Company here in Toledo and our shock troops were high school students," explained Velásquez. "The Catholic school kids ignited the public school kids and we used to have marches along Broadway of 300 to 400 kids."

The North Carolina Growers Association (NCGA) is a non-profit growers' cooperative that helps farmers get H-2A visas for temporary foreign agricultural workers, mostly from Mexico. NCGA is the largest user of the visa program in the U.S. The labor agreement is the fourth, four-year contract since FLOC first won collective bargaining recognition for migrant farmworkers there in 2004.

NCGA growers raise 25 to 30 different crops in addition to tobacco, which makes up about 75 to 80 percent of its efforts. But migrant farmworkers also pick cucumbers, strawberries, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, raspberries, blueberries, and even Christmas trees.

Past union agreements have established an employment bid system allowing workers who successfully finished their last contract to submit a bid to return the following year. That allows workers from Mexico a guaranteed return to work the fol-

lowing season. The new contract expands that system based on seniority.

Workers can bid on jobs through the union for the following season without waiting on a recruiter to call them. FLOC and NCGA then review and approve the bid in order to prevent recruiter abuses of the past.

"We can monitor that recruitment and make sure it's done. Otherwise, you're left at the mercy of the recruiter in Mexico to call you," explained Velásquez. "No other H-2A program in the United States has that right. We're the only ones."

The new agreement also gives migrant farmworkers grievance rights in Mexico against recruiters before they come to the U.S. to work.

Velásquez introduced a contingent of *Migos* at the concert, which is the North Carolina equivalent of the *Homies Union* that FLOC started in Toledo's Old South End to mentor young people and teach them how to become community organizers.

"They've been out beating the bushes in the rural labor camps, helping our organizers and our very talented staff down there," said the FLOC president, who called it a "breakthrough agreement."

But the bigger breakthrough may be the start of talks with major global tobacco companies where FLOC is seeking the worldwide recognition of the right to freedom of association. The issue is how to implement that right, which would lead to tobacco farmworkers to organize for the purpose of collective bargaining. The template is the definition put forth by the United Nations International Labor Organization.

"How do they implement that, because over the past four years, we've pressed these tobacco companies, particularly Reynolds America, to put freedom of association in their protocols," explained Velásquez in a phone interview. "They have to find a way to get their suppliers to recognize freedom of association, which is tough. These are international standards,

which they've put into the corporate social responsibility protocols."

The FLOC president stated the protocols are now in place because the tobacco companies were "embarrassed around the globe," particularly in Europe and the United Kingdom.

"We've got it in place, but where's the practical mechanism to make it real, particularly in the Deep South, which is all right-to-work and very anti-union," Velásquez wondered. "So they're trying to find a way to make it real on the ground there. They just don't know how in the atmosphere that exists in that region."

Those talks currently include Philip Morris Intl., Universal Leaf, and Reynolds America, among others.

"(The idea is) to find a way to have collective bargaining rights for workers acknowledged on farms that are contracted to them that are not part of the North Carolina Growers Association," explained Velásquez.

The tobacco companies hold more sway over their suppliers than FLOC could on its own. Most of those growers come from other states, including southern Ohio, where there are dozens of small tobacco growers who each hire two or three migrant farm workers. NCGA has most of the market cornered, as 75 to 80 percent of the tobacco grown in the U.S. comes from North Carolina. But Virginia, Tennessee, and Kentucky have significant numbers as well.

That effort comes on top of a sign-up campaign among migrant farm workers in Kentucky, which has now reached several hundred FLOC members. Velásquez admitted he had been arrested more than 20 times for his efforts to organize the labor camps in various parts of the country.

"We're working on a number of fronts to bring justice to marginalized people," said Velásquez. "We have a moral mandate to lift up the marginalized people in our communities."

The Shamoons family creates a community-focused Supermarket/Mercado and Carnicería in East Toledo

By Kevin Milliken, La Prensa Correspondent

Dec. 12, 2016: A former abandoned FoodTown store has catered to the needs of Latino families and other minorities and community members in East Toledo, thanks to its new owners who had a dream. The husband and wife team has taken shopping to a new level with a local focus on what regular customers want and need.

The former FoodTown site sat vacant for about a year, when, in 2003, Toledo Food Market, 303 E. Main St., opened its doors for the first time. Owner Hani Shamoons managed the store from its opening until 2011; then took over, along with his wife, as the owners a year later. A brother and a college-age son also help the family-owned business. The owner himself started as a grocery stocking clerk at a store in the Detroit area, where he grew up.

While chain supermarkets and superstores like Kroger, Meijer, and Walmart have pushed neighborhood mom-and-pop grocery stores out of business, a focus on the local community is what has kept Toledo Food Market thriving since its opening.

The store makes a special effort to reach out to minority communities, by stocking their products at competitive prices. That has led to a faithful following from many customers over the past decade.

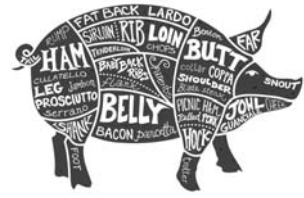
"It was one of our goals for a long time. Then in 2005, the owners started advertising. We built the clientele with the Hispanic community, black community," said Shamoons. "We advertised to them with products they would like to buy. We do very well with both of them."

But that effort extends one step further. The store's owners have allowed customers to take some ownership of their shopping experience.

"Sometimes customers will come in and ask for an item. We write them down, always write them down," said Shamoons, who characterized the store as a neighborhood market. But as a smaller family-owned market, Toledo Food Market has to compete with the pricing offered by the larger chain supermarkets, which is never an easy thing to do in an industry with tight profit margins, usually just two to three percent of sales.

"We try to keep them low as much as possible and that's why they come back," said Sr. Shamoons.

"We have everything reasonably marked. I don't think you're going to find anything way off the mark. Our prices have been very reasonable. We've been known for that."



La Carnicería

The meat counter is something the owner stated customers "like to brag about." Three meat cutters and a manager handle all the day's business in that department, with the assistance of two or three other part-time helpers. One of the store's specialties is making their cuts of meat conform to the nationality of the customer.

The market's owner in recent years spruced up the storefront to make it more attractive to new customers, an obvious attempt to build on his customer base. The storefront of a mom-and-pop store has to be just as appealing as the outside of a larger competitor.

While it's hard to measure total foot traffic and the ethnicity of its customer base, customers pick up more than 1,000 copies of La Prensa each week—making it one of the most popular locations for the weekly, bilingual newspaper. East Toledo has the largest number of Latinos in Lucas County.

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Legisladores de California emiten exhorto migratorio a Trump

Por JONATHAN J. COOPER y AMY TAXIN, Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, California, 6XII16 (AP): Los legisladores de California exhortaron al presidente electo Donald Trump a abstenerse de buscar deportaciones en masa y presentaron iniciativas de ley urgentes para financiar abogados migratorios y ayudar a los defensores públicos a proteger a los inmigrantes en el estado.

Los legisladores demócratas también aprobaron el lunes resoluciones en ambas cámaras en las que se le pide al próximo gobierno federal que mantenga vigente un programa que concede permisos de trabajo a cientos de miles de inmigrantes jóvenes que están sin permiso en Estados Unidos, pese a las intensas protestas por parte de algunos republicanos.

El senador estatal Ben Hueso, demócrata de San Diego, presentó una propuesta para financiar abogados para los inmigrantes en procesos de deportación, mientras que el asambleísta Rob Bonda, demócrata de Alameda, propuso que se ayudara a los defensores públicos a valorar las consecuencias migratorias de las condenas penales.

Ambas iniciativas fueron etiquetadas como urgentes y tienen como objetivo proteger a los inmigrantes en California—que cuentan con más de 10 millones de residentes nacidos en el extranjero—de las promesas de campaña de Trump sobre un ejercicio más estricto de las leyes migratorias.

“Es un salvoconducto, por decirlo de alguna manera, en todos los aspectos, para dejar en claro que estos son los valores de California”, dijo a la prensa el presidente interino del Senado

Kevin de León, demócrata de Los Angeles.

Los legisladores demócratas, que cuentan con mayorías en ambas cámaras, propusieron las medidas luego de un encamecido año electoral en el que Trump hizo de las leyes fronterizas el punto focal de su campaña y mantuvo una retórica crítica a los inmigrantes mexicanos y los musulmanes.

En el primer día del nuevo periodo de sesiones—que a menudo es reservado para estrechar manos y tomarse fotografías—se presentó un encendido debate sobre las resoluciones de los demócratas para exhortar a Trump a que continúe emitiendo permisos de trabajo para los jóvenes inmigrantes que fueron llevados a Estados Unidos cuando aún eran niños. Más de 740.000 jóvenes están cubiertos actualmente por el programa.

El senador republicano de Costa Mesa, John Moorlach, dijo que pensaba que era un enfoque equivocado por parte de California adoptar un tono tan antagonico con un presidente que ni siquiera ha juramentado al cargo todavía.

“No estoy cómodo con decir que pelearemos, aunque lo entiendo. Pienso que deberíamos tratar de trabajar con este gobierno”, afirmó. “Deberíamos colaborar. No creo que el desafío sea el enfoque correcto”.

De León calificó la iniciativa de ley como necesaria y urgente, ya que hay niños temerosos de que sus padres sean deportados.

El gobernador Jerry Brown declinó el lunes tomar una postura sobre la legislación migratoria que se presenta. Sin embargo, afirmó que “evaluará cuidadosamente todo lo que se proponga”.

“anteriormente he aprobado medidas similares, al menos en cuestión de presupuesto”, dijo a los periodistas reunidos en su oficina. “Apoyo enormemente a las personas de California y a aquellos que han llegado aquí de manera más reciente, así que le daré un buen vistazo a lo que sea que presenten”.

Aproximadamente 2,4 millones de inmigrantes residentes en el estado carecen de estatus legal, según cálculos del Pew Research Center, con sede en Washington.

Las dos medidas migratorias presentadas el lunes podrían costarle al estado entre 10 y 80 millones de dólares, de acuerdo a quienes realizaron las propuestas.

Los defensores de los derechos de inmigrantes dicen que otras iniciativas de ley están bajo consideración para limitar más la aplicación de la ley federal de inmigración en California y proteger la información de inmigrantes en bases de datos estatales.

En años recientes, California ha aprobado una serie de medidas para asistir y proteger a inmigrantes que están en el país sin permiso, por ejemplo, limitando los casos en que agencias judiciales del estado pueden entregar inmigrantes arrestados a autoridades federales para su deportación.

California ofrece atención médica con subsidio del estado a niños de familias de ingresos bajos que están en el país ilegalmente y emite licencias de manejo sin importar el estatus migratorio.

Taxin reportó desde Santa Ana, California. El periodista de The Associated Press Juliet Williams en Sacramento contribuyó con este despacho.

Baja demanda de viajes a Cuba

Por BETH J. HARPAZ, Associated Press

7XII16 (AP): La demanda de viajes a Cuba desde Estados Unidos pudiera estar aminorando, debido a factores como un alza en los precios de los hoteles en la isla, a que American Airlines recortó vuelos y a la incertidumbre acerca de si la llegada de Donald Trump a la presidencia resultará en nuevas restricciones a los viajes.

Gregory Geronemus, codirector de smarTours, una operadora turística que ha llevado 3.000 visitantes a Cuba, confirmó que ha habido una baja en la demanda.

El atribuye la situación en parte a los precios de los hoteles, que han subido casi al doble desde el 2015 y son fijados por el gobierno. “Aún hay demanda, pero hay un límite para lo que puede costear la gente”, dijo. Hay alojamiento más barato por medio de Airbnb y otros servicios, pero no todos los viajeros quieren los líos e incertidumbre de viajar por su cuenta a Cuba.

Geronemus dijo que el “zika ha arrojado una sombra” en la región, pese a las afirmaciones del gobierno cubano de que los esfuerzos de erradicación de mosquitos han sido exitosos. El zika, un virus transmitido por mosquitos, puede causar defectos congénitos.

Aunque un número creciente de aerolíneas están ofreciendo vuelos, American Airlines va a eliminar tres de sus 13 vuelos diarios a partir del 16 de febrero y usará aviones más pequeños en algunas rutas, dijo el portavoz Matt Miller. Añadió que los ajustes son comunes en nuevos servicios y que la reducción fue decidida antes de la elección presidencial.

ForwardKeys, que compila datos sobre reservaciones globales, dijo que no ha detectado una declinación en las reservaciones para Cuba. En las últimas semanas, varias aerolíneas estadounidenses iniciaron vuelos comerciales regulares a Cuba. United Airlines lanzó vuelos Newark-La

Habana el 29 de noviembre y un servicio sabatino desde Houston el 3 de diciembre. El portavoz Jonathan Guerin dijo que la aerolínea está “preparada para trabajar con el nuevo gobierno”. JetBlue, que también lanzó un servicio, dijo que está “complacida con la forma en que van las ventas de viajes a Cuba”, sin dar detalles.

Tanner Callais, de Austin, Texas, que tiene un portal de cruceros llamado Cruzely.com, esperaba viajar a Cuba en el 2017.

Pero “ahora, con algunas de las cosas que he escuchado sobre aumentar restricciones en los viajes a Cuba, estamos teniendo cautela”, dijo. “Lo último que queremos es gastar mucho dinero para un viaje y que el crucero sea cancelado debido a nuevas restricciones”.

Otras personas están reservando viajes en cuanto pueden, portemora que cuando Trump asuma la presidencia se prohíban los viajes a Cuba.

“Normalmente, nosotros reservamos viajes con de tres a seis meses de antelación, pero la gente está llamando esta semana para viajes en tres semanas”, dijo Kimberly Haley-Coleman, directora ejecutiva de GlobeAware, que organiza viajes de voluntarios.

Aunque Geronemus dice que la disminución comenzó “mucho antes de que Trump fuera elegido”, algunos viajeros están pidiendo que se les garantice que estarán cubiertos si se prohíbe el viaje entre el momento en que reserven sus boletos y la fecha de su viaje. Esto tiene a smarTours prometiendo un reembolso completo o crédito para un viaje con descuento a otro destino si los nuevos reglamentos imposibilitan proseguir con un viaje planeado, dijo Geronemus.

Erika Richter, vocera de la Asociación Estadounidense de Agentes de Viajes, dijo que “algunas personas con las que hablamos están convencidas de que todo dará marcha atrás el 21 de enero. Otras piensan que, como un líder de la industria de hospedaje, (Trump) no lo terminará. Así que yo pienso

que es probable pero no seguro que veamos una retractación a inicios de 2017”.

Pero no está claro lo que Trump tiene en mente para Cuba. Tres días después de la muerte de Fidel Castro, el presidente electo tuiteó: “Si Cuba no está dispuesta a hacer un mejor acuerdo para el pueblo cubano, para el pueblo cubano-estadounidense y Estados Unidos en su conjunto, yo cancelaré el acuerdo”.

Algunos críticos creen que el gobierno de Obama debió haber exigido reformas democráticas y en materia de derechos humanos como parte de la disminución de restricciones a los viajes. Pero otros piensan que estimular la economía de Cuba a través de viajes—including incursiones a la isla de compañías estadounidenses de cruceros, hoteles y viajes—es la mejor manera de generar el cambio.

El miércoles, dos compañías estadounidenses de cruceros, Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings y Royal Caribbean International, recibieron permiso del gobierno cubano para navegar de Estados Unidos a Cuba. En mayo, Carnival Corp. se convirtió en la primera empresa estadounidense en décadas que opera cruceros a Cuba.

Haley-Coleman piensa que lo más probable es una implementación estricta de las reglas que permiten ciertos tipos de viajes a la isla. Incluso con el gobierno de Obama, los estadounidenses no pueden viajar a Cuba como turistas regulares. Tienen que certificar que su viaje se ajusta a una de 12 categorías, incluyendo educación, humanitaria o cultural. En estos momentos, esa certificación se hace sin demasiadas preguntas.

También el miércoles, un grupo de empresarios cubanos viajó a Washington para entregar una carta en la que solicitan a Trump apoyo para incrementar viajes, comercio e inversión de Estados Unidos con Cuba.

Giro de Trump en torno a los dreamers divide a republicanos

Por ERICA WERNER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON, DC, 8XII16 (AP): La aparente disposición de Donald Trump a “buscar alguna solución” al tema de los jóvenes traídos ilegalmente al país cuando eran niños está dividiendo a su propio partido Republicano, resaltando lo difícil que será para el Congreso tomar medidas relacionadas con la inmigración ilegal, incluidas la construcción de un muro en la frontera con México y el status de los “dreamers”.

Para complicar las cosas, los asesores del presidente electo intentaron dar marcha atrás con sus comentarios apenas fueron publicados, y un integrante de su equipo de transición que exigió anonimidad negó que Trump haya cambiado su política hacia la inmigración ilegal.

En su campaña electoral Trump prometió mano dura hacia los extranjeros que están en el país sin autorización y “cancelar de inmediato” los programas del presidente Barack Obama que dejaron

en suspenso la deportación de más de 700.000 de DREAMERS. Pero en una entrevista publicada el miércoles por la revista Time, que lo acaba de nombrar “Persona del Año”, Trump suavizó un poco su postura.

“Vamos a buscar una solución que deje contentos y orgullosos a todos”, expresó. “Fueron traídos una edad muy joven, trabajaron, fueron a la escuela. Algunos fueron buenos estudiantes. Algunos tienen muy buenos trabajos. Y se encuentran en una especie de tierra de nadie, en la que no saben lo que va a pasar”.

Trump no dio detalles y Time indicó que no se desdijo de su compromiso de anular las órdenes ejecutivas de Obama.

Los republicanos que quieren resolver el tema de los dreamers vieron con buenos ojos la nueva postura de Trump.

“Me siento aliviado por sus comentarios y creo que la gente en mi distrito y en todo el país también se va a sentir aliviada”, expresó el representante Mike Coffman, republicano de Colo-

rado. “Obviamente los dreamers son una parte del problema y espero que hagamos algo más. Pero pienso que esa es la prioridad”.

Los comentarios de Trump cayeron bien asimismo entre algunos demócratas, que han estado presionando a Obama para que perdona a los dreamers para protegerlos de cualquier cambio de política que pueda adoptar Trump.

Entre quienes postulan una línea dura hacia la inmigración ilegal, en cambio, las declaraciones de Trump hicieron sonar campanas de alarma.

“Tenemos la obligación de hacer que vuelva a imperar la ley y no puedes hacer eso mientras premias a quienes la violan”, se quejó el representante Steve King. “Está en juego el principio de que hay que respetar las leyes. Espero que prevalezca la prudencia”.

Dado que los DREAMERS deben revalidar su DACA, como se llama al programa que



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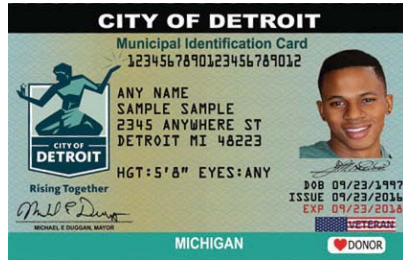
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(Continúa en la p. 13)

Detroit to launch Municipal ID program

Dec. 12, 2016: As revealed at a City of Detroit press conference last week, the City of Detroit will be launching a new Municipal ID program - the *Detroit ID*. The Detroit ID will be available to all city residents ages 14 or older, regardless of immigration or housing status, criminal record, or gender identification.

The Municipal ID does not replace a driver's license or state ID, but will be recognized by many city departments and agencies as a valid form of identification.



Present at the announcement were: Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan, Councilwoman Raquel Castaneda-López, Police Chief James Craig, Fayrouz Saad (director of Immigration Affairs),

Mary Carmen Muñoz (exec. director of *La Sed*), and representatives of numerous local businesses, community organizations, cultural institutions, and city agencies.

Court: Anonymous comments protected by 1st Amendment

DETROIT, Dec. 7, 2016 (AP): The Michigan appeals court says a website doesn't have to reveal the names of people who posted anonymous comments about a university scientist.

The court said Wednesday that the *PubPeer Foundation*, which operates *pubpeer.com*, is pro-

TECTED by the First Amendment. The case involves *Fazul Sarkar* who filed a defamation lawsuit in Wayne County, claiming the anonymous criticism cost him a high-paying job offer at the *University of Mississippi* in 2014.

Sarkar returned to a job at *Wayne State University* but without tenure.

PubPeer.com is a public website that allows people to discuss scientific research. The appeals court says the website statements cited in Sarkar's lawsuit aren't capable of defamatory meaning. The court says the comments are "critical of Dr. Sarkar's research."

Michigan: Planean cerrar planta nuclear en 2018

COVERT TOWNSHIP, 8 XII 16 (AP): Una empresa de electricidad anunció el jueves su plan de cerrar permanentemente la planta nuclear *Palisades* en el suroeste de Michigan en 2018, lo que significaría la pérdida de cientos de trabajos de uno de los principales empleadores de la región si los reguladores aprueban el cierre.

Energy Corp. de Nueva Orleans y *Consumers Energy* de Michigan anunciaron que pondrán fin a un acuerdo de compra de energía ese año. La medida, dicen, permitirá a los clientes de *Consumers* ahorrar unos 172 millones de dólares de 2018 a 2022 y afectará unos 600 empleos.

Las compañías dijeron que existen alternativas menos caras para suministrar electricidad en la región a medida que *Consumers* suma más energía renovable y una generadora a gas natural.

Si los reguladores aprueban el plan, *Energy* dijo que cerrará la planta el 1 de octubre de 2018. Un acuerdo anterior obligaba a *Consumers* a comprar casi toda la energía generada por *Palisades* hasta enero de 2022.

"Determinamos que el cierre en 2018 es lo más prudente al comparar la transacción con los riesgos comerciales de continuar las operaciones", dijo *Leo Denault*, presidente y gerente general de *Energy*, en un comunicado.

Energy dijo que puede ofrecer nuevos empleos a 180 de los trabajadores que se verán afectados.

El gobernador *Rick Snyder* dijo que ordenará a la *Agencia de Energía de Michigan*, el departamento del Tesoro y otros organismos estatales que ayuden a preparar la zona para el posible cierre.

"Tenemos que asegurarnos de aprovechar debidamente los próximos dos años para adaptar los recursos estatales y locales a la decisión que se tome", dijo *Snyder* en un comunicado.

Energy company plans to close Michigan nuclear plant in 2018

COVERT TOWNSHIP,

Dec. 8, 2016 (AP): An energy company announced plans Thursday to permanently close the *Palisades* nuclear power plant in southwestern Michigan in 2018, which could mean hundreds of job cuts for a major employer in the region if regulators approve the closure.

New Orleans-based *Energy Corp.* and Michigan-based utility, *Consumers Energy*, said they've agreed to end a power purchase agreement for the plant that year. They said it will save *Consumers'* customers as much as \$172 million from 2018 to 2022 and affect about 600 employees.

The companies said less expensive alternatives now exist to provide power in the region as *Consumers* adds more renewable energy and natural gas-fired generation.

If ending the purchase agreement is approved by regulators, *Energy* said it plans to close the plant Oct. 1, 2018. An earlier agreement committed *Consumers* to purchase nearly all of the power that *Palisades* generates through April 2022.

"We determined that a shutdown in 2018 is prudent when comparing the transaction to the business risks of continued operation," *Leo Denault*, *Energy's* chairman and CEO, said in a statement.

Consumers said it will consider potential placement of up to 180 employees from *Palisades* into the utility's workforce.

Gov. Rick Snyder said he plans to direct the *Michigan Agency for Energy*, the Michigan Department of Treasury, Michigan Economic Development Corp. and others to help prepare the area for the possible shutdown.

"We need to make sure we use the next two years to wisely plan the use of state and local resources to adapt to whatever decision is made," he said in a statement.

Under *Energy's* current plan, *Palisades* would be re-fueled as scheduled in the spring and operate through the end of the fuel cycle. As part of the agreement, *Consumers Energy* also will pay *Energy* \$172 million to end the power purchase agreement and help *Energy* transition to decommissioning the plant.

Republican state Rep. *Aric Nesbitt*, chairman of the House Committee on Energy Policy, said he wants *Energy* to reconsider the decision to close the plant.

"This announcement further threatens Michigan electric reliability after 2018," said *Nesbitt*, whose district includes the plant. "This is not just a bad decision for our local families, but it is also the wrong decision for Michigan's energy future."

Energy and the *Consumers Energy Foundation* plan to provide a total of \$10 million over several years in economic development funding for southwestern Michigan as part of an effort to ease the economic effects of the closure.

The plant is in *Van Buren County's* *Covert Township*, along *Lake Michigan*. It started generating electricity in 1971 and can produce enough power for more than 800,000 homes. *Consumers Energy* is part of *Jackson-based CMS Energy Corp.*

This story has been corrected to show that *Consumers*, not *Energy*, could offer new positions to some of the affected employees.

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Toledo Zoo wins best Zoo Lights Display

Dec. 9, 2016: The Toledo Zoo's *Lights Before Christmas* presented by KeyBank has been voted Best Zoo Lights by USA Today's 10Best Readers' Choice online public voting contest!

Toledo Zoo competed against 20 other zoos, including regional competition from *Detroit Zoo* who placed second and *Indianapolis Zoo* that placed fourth. In 2014, the Toledo Zoo was also named #1 Zoo in America by the same organization.

"We are extremely thankful for the outpouring of support from Zoo friends here and abroad that helped us win this contest. We could not have done it

without all of our supporters voting every day and encouraging others to do the same. It is truly a win for this whole community, by this whole community. The country now knows what this area has for more than 30 years: Our *Lights* truly are the best," said *Jeff Sailer*, the Zoo's executive director.

The 2016 edition of *Lights Before Christmas* continues to shine through December 31, New Year's Eve. The display will be closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Hours of operation for *Lights* are 3-8 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 3-9 p.m. Fri-



day and Saturday. The Zoo closes one hour after last admission to allow guests to complete their visit.

Toledo Zoo members receive free and unlimited Monday-Thursday *Lights Before Christmas* visits plus one free weekend visit. Visitors can save \$1 per ticket by ordering online at toledo zoo.org/lights. Discount *Lights* tickets can also be purchased at participating local KeyBank branches and Kroger stores.

Owens to provide workforce development for Dana

PERRYSBURGTOWN-SHIP, Ohio, Dec. 6, 2016: *Owens Community College* today announced a new partnership with *Dana Incorporated* to provide workforce development and training for Dana's new driveline manufacturing facility in Toledo, Ohio. The training program is anticipated to begin in the spring of 2017, coinciding with the hiring process for the facility.

"Owens Community College is very excited to partner with Dana in developing its next generation of plant employees here in Northwest Ohio," said *Mike Bower, Ph.D.*, president of Owens Community College. "We welcome this type of collaboration, for it demonstrates how Owens' strength in workforce education can be deployed to benefit business throughout our region and to further promote Ohio's economic growth."

Owens will develop and

provide custom short-term training that addresses skills required at an advanced manufacturing facility. These include aptitude in basic math functions; manual dexterity; mechanical reasoning; and training in workplace safety, fundamentals for programmable logic controller operations, and the fundamentals and troubleshooting techniques associated with automation and robotics.

"Dana is investing more than a quarter of a million dollars in this program, as we are confident that it will provide our new employees the best possible start and highest opportunity for success when they begin working within Dana's brand-new, state-of-the-art facility," said *Kristi Hill*, human resources manager at *Dana's Toledo Driveline Facility*. "Start-up and production schedules for the facility are very aggressive. With production beginning in mid-2017, we plan to hire more

than 220 employees within the next year, all of whom will benefit from the training provided at Owens Community College."

In the spring of 2017, prospective employees will be able to apply online via Dana's career page (dana.com/careers) and through the *Lucas County Work Ready Program*. For qualified applicants, the training program will be offered at no charge to participants. All persons successfully completing the program will receive a certificate.

The *Office of Workforce and Community Services* at Owens is the region's leader in providing affordable training to allow business and industry to thrive. Training is available in almost any subject matter, including the trades, computer skills, process improvement, and certification preparation.

To learn more about Owens workforce training, visit www.owensworks.com or call (567) 661-7357.

Winter Day Camps at the Toledo Zoo

The Toledo Zoo wants to help combat cabin fever and keep your child's mind active during winter break from school. Children ages five to 12 will experience non-stop fun with exciting exhibit tours, amazing animal visitors, cool crafts and goofy games. The mid-December dates allow for kid-free holiday shopping. All camps run 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Winter Wild-land (ages five-10)
Saturday, December 10
Saturday, December 17
Toledo Zoo Members: \$40 per day
Non-members: \$45 per day

Hibernation Celebration! (ages five -10)
Tuesday, December 27
Toledo Zoo Members: \$40 per day
Non-members: \$45 per day

Cool Animals in Cold Places (ages five -10)
Wednesday, December 28
Toledo Zoo Members: \$40 per day
Non-members: \$45 per day

Winter Zoo Clues (ages five - 10)
Thursday, December 29
Toledo Zoo Members: \$40 per day
Non-members: \$45 per day

Winter Wild Artist

TOLEDO ZOO & AQUARIUM
(ages five -10)
Friday, December 30
Toledo Zoo Members: \$40 per day
Non-members: \$45 per day

Junior Zookeeper (ages 11 - 12)
Tuesday, December 27
Wednesday, December 28
Thursday, December 29
Friday, December 30
Toledo Zoo Members: \$45 per day
Non-members: \$50 per day

For full details and online registration, visit www.toledo zoo.org/camps.

SAVE THE DATE: 2017 Ohio Latino Education Summit

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Muere John Glenn, primer estadounidense en orbitar la Tierra

Por SETH BORENSTEIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON, DC, 8 XII 16 (AP): John Glenn, cuyo vuelo de 1962 como el primer astronauta estadounidense en orbitar la Tierra lo convirtió en un héroe estadounidense y lo impulsó a una larga carrera en el Senado, falleció el jueves. Tenía 95 años.

Glenn, el último sobreviviente de los siete astronautas originales del proyecto Mercury, murió en el Hospital Oncológico James en Columbus, Ohio, donde estuvo hospitalizado más de una semana, informó Hank Wilson, director de comunicaciones en la Facultad de Asuntos Públicos John Glenn.

John Herschel Glenn Jr. recorrió dos carreras que con frecuencia se entrecruzaban: el vuelo y la política, y en ambas se destacó.

Antes de ganar fama por su hazaña espacial, Glenn combatió como piloto en dos guerras y, como piloto de pruebas, estableció un récord transcontinental de velocidad. Después fue senador federal por Ohio durante 24 años. Un inusual revés en su vida fue su fallida campaña por la candidatura presidencial demócrata en 1984.

Su larga carrera política le permitió regresar al espacio en el transbordador Discovery en 1998, cuando tenía 77 años, una vuelta cósmica de la victoria que disfrutó enormemente y que se convirtió en una lección sobre el envejecimiento. Glenn posee el récord de la persona de más edad en el espacio.

Más que nada, fue un ejemplo sobresaliente del héroe espacial estadounidense: un veterano de combate con una sonrisa a flor de piel, un matrimonio firme de 70 años y nervios de acero. Varias escuelas, un centro espacial y el aeropuerto de Columbus llevan su nombre, al igual que muchos niños.

La Unión Soviética se

había adelantado en la exploración espacial cuando puso en órbita el satélite Sputnik 1 en 1957, y después envió al primer hombre al espacio, el cosmonauta Yuri Gagarin, en un vuelo orbital de 108 minutos el 12 de abril de 1961. Después de dos vuelos suborbitales de los estadounidenses Alan Shepard Jr. y Gus Grissom, correspondió a Glenn convertirse en el primer estadounidense en orbitar la Tierra.

"Buena suerte, John Glenn", le dijo por radio su compañero astronauta Scott Carpenter poco antes de que Glenn despegara desde una plataforma de lanzamiento de Cabo Cañaveral, hoy un Sitio Histórico Nacional, en un acontecimiento que llevó a Estados Unidos a confines donde nunca había estado. Glenn tenía 40 años en aquel vuelo espacial del 20 de febrero de 1962.

Con su frase directa "Entendido, el reloj está corriendo, estamos en camino", Glenn informó por radio a la Tierra que había comenzado su travesía de cuatro horas, 55 minutos y 23 segundos en el espacio. Años después explicó que usó esa expresión porque no sintió el lanzamiento y era la única manera por la que podía saber que había despegado.

Durante el vuelo, Glenn dijo una frase que repetiría con frecuencia durante su vida: "Gravedad cero, y me siento bien".

"Todavía me parece tan vívido", dijo Glenn en una entrevista en el 2012 con The Associated Press en el 50mo aniversario de ese vuelo inicial. "Como que aún puedo sentir algunas de esas sensaciones que tuve en esos días durante el lanzamiento y lo demás".

Glenn dijo que a menudo le preguntaban si tenía miedo, y él respondía: "Si se refieren al temor que afecta lo que se supone que hay que hacer, no. Uno había entrenado muy duro para esos vuelos".

Sin embargo, el viaje de Glenn en la diminuta cápsula Friendship 7 tuvo sus momentos escalofríos. Los sensores mostraron que su protector térmico estaba suelto luego de tres órbitas y el Control de la Misión temió que él pudiera quemarse durante el reingreso, cuando las temperaturas alcanzaban 1.648 grados centígrados (3.000 Fahrenheit). Pero el protector se mantuvo en su lugar.

Incluso antes de eso, Glenn realizó misiones peligrosas. Fue piloto de combate en la Segunda Guerra Mundial y la Guerra de Corea, donde realizó vuelos a baja altura, vio su avión acribillado a balazos y voló con el beisbolista Ted Williams durante 149 misiones. Y como piloto de pruebas impulsó varias marcas de aviación.

En 1959, Glenn escribió en la revista Life: "El viaje espacial está en la frontera de mi profesión. Va ser logrado y yo quiero estar en él. Existe además un elemento de simple deber en ello. Estoy convencido de que tengo algo que ofrecer a ese proyecto".

Glenn pasó 24 años en el Senado estadounidense, representando a Ohio por más tiempo que ningún otro senador en la historia del estado. En 1997 anunció su retiro, 35 años después del día en que se volvió el primer estadounidense en órbita, diciendo: "Aún no hay cura para el cumpleaños común".

Él y su esposa, Annie, pasaron sus últimos años entre Washington y Columbus. Ambos eran fideicomisarios de su alma mater, el Muskingum College. Glenn promovió además la Facultad de Asuntos Públicos John Glenn en la Universidad Estatal de Ohio, que alberga un archivo de sus documentos y fotografías privados.

En internet: <http://www.osu.edu/glenninstitute> <http://johnghennhome.org/>

Citas de John Glenn: "Gravedad cero y me siento bien"

8 XII 16 (AP): "Estamos situados aquí con ciertos talentos y capacidades. Depende de cada uno de nosotros utilizar esos talentos y esas capacidades como mejor podamos. Si uno hace eso, pienso que existe un poder más grande que cualquiera de nosotros que colocará las oportunidades en nuestro camino, y utilizamos nuestros talentos correctamente, estaremos viviendo el tipo de vida que deberíamos vivir".—En una conferencia de prensa en la NASA en 1959 para

presentar a los astronautas de la misión Mercury 7.

• "Gravedad cero y me siento bien"—Estando en órbita en 1962.

• "No hay que adaptarse, evadir un problema o retirarse. No hay que entregarse a la complacencia y cinismo. No hay que pasarse por alto lo que está mal, sino concentrarse en construir lo que es bueno. No hay que tomar por sentado Estados Unidos y los valores reflejados en nuestra forma de gobierno. Y nunca hay que olvidar que en nuestra democracia, el gobierno no es

'ellos', es 'nosotros'".—Al anunciar su retiro del Senado federal en 1997.

• "Observar este tipo de creación que está aquí y no creer en Dios es para mí imposible".—En su segundo viaje en el transbordador espacial Discovery en 1998 a la edad de 77 años.

• "Estamos más satisfechos cuando estamos involucrados en algo más grande que nosotros mismos".—Discurso en la ceremonia de graduación en la Universidad Estatal de Ohio en 2009.

Santos viaja a recibir el premio Nobel de la Paz

Por CESAR GARCIA, Associated Press

BOGOTÁ, Colombia, 8 XII 16 (AP): El presidente colombiano Juan Manuel Santos partió el jueves hacia Oslo a recibir el premio Nobel de la Paz por sus esfuerzos para poner fin al conflicto armado de más de medio siglo con las FARC.

Horas antes de su partida rumbo a Noruega desde la ciudad colombiana de Cartagena, Santos comentó en un acto de gobierno que, al ser informado que ganó el Nobel, consideró esa distinción "como un regalo de Dios" y sobre todo como un "mandato de la comunidad internacional".

A la postre, señaló, el galardón ayudó darle renovados bríos al proceso de paz con las Fuzas.

Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia "cuatro días después de que el plebiscito se perdiera por un margen muy pequeño", refiriéndose al referendo en el que resultó derrotado el pacto pacificador.

El mandatario colombiano dijo también que recibirá el premio en nombre de "los colombianos, de las víctimas". Anteriormente había dicho que éste, equivalente a unos 950.000 dólares, lo donará a los afectados por esa guerra.

Santos viajó a Oslo con una comitiva conformada por 30 personas, entre ellas su familia, un grupo de 10 víctimas y varios de sus negociadores con las FARC. Entre las víctimas que lo acompañan destacan Ingrid Betancourt—ex candidata presidencial y ex rehén de la guerrilla—, junto a su otrora compañera de fórmula y actual diputada del Partido Liberal, Clara Rojas.

Betancourt y Rojas, que permanecieron varios años cautivas tras ser secuestradas en febrero de 2002 en el sur del país por guerrilleros de las FARC, apoyan activamente la reconciliación entre los colombianos. Ambas fueron liberadas en el 2008.

Se informó que antes de la

ceremonia del Nobel, el gobernante colombiano será recibido en el Palacio Real por el rey Harald V y la reina Sonja de Noruega.

Además, Santos aprovechará su viaje para realizar visitas oficiales a Suecia, España e Italia, donde su principal objetivo es fortalecer la relación bilateral con esos países y explorar mecanismos de cooperación posteriores al conflicto en Colombia. El lunes se reunirá en Estocolmo con el primer ministro sueco Stefan Löfven y acudirá al parlamento, donde explicará el estado actual del proceso de paz.

La siguiente escala de su gira será España, país en el que se reunirá con el presidente Mariano Rajoy y el rey Felipe, y también con empresarios.

En Italia será recibido en audiencia privada por el papa Francisco el 16 de diciembre y suscribirá un acuerdo de extradición con el gobierno italiano.

Ohio: Aprueban prohibición al aborto a partir de 20 semanas

Por ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS, Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio, 8 XII 16 (AP): Bajo la nueva propuesta que aprobaron el jueves los legisladores republicanos de Ohio, los abortos quedarían prohibidos luego de 20 semanas de embarazo, sumándose a un proyecto que ya va rumbo a la oficina del gobernador John Kasich en el que se declararía ilegal esta práctica una vez que se detecte el latido del feto.

El Senado ya había aprobado la propuesta y la Cámara de Representantes la refrendó con votación de 64-29.

Durante el debate inicial, la Cámara de Representantes rechazó una propuesta demócrata para añadir los casos de violación e incesto como excepciones a la ley.

La representante demócrata de Akron, Greta Johnson, solicitó a la Cámara de Representantes que añadiera esa enmienda, al subrayar que sería en honor

a las mujeres que muestran valor para salir adelante luego de ser agredidas sexualmente. El representante republicano de Ashville, Ron Hood, se opuso a la cláusula, al decir que los niños concebidos en esas circunstancias no deberían pagar con su vida.

La Comisión de Comunidad y Progreso Familiar de la Cámara de Representantes votó el miércoles para aprobar la prohibición luego de 20 semanas. Eso fue luego de que el martes se aprobara el llamado Proyecto Latido, lo que abrió el camino para la que sería una de las restricciones más estrictas al aborto en todo el país.

La propuesta prohibiría la mayoría de los abortos de las seis semanas de gestación en adelante, luego de que se detecte el primer latido fetal.

Kasich, quien se opone a los derechos al aborto, ha expresado sus preocupaciones sobre si tal postura debe ser

constitucional, pero no ha dicho si planea promulgar dichas medidas.

Prohibiciones similares al aborto luego de 20 semanas han sido promulgadas en 17 estados, incluido South Dakota, en donde el gobernador la aprobó en marzo, y South Carolina, que aprobó la medida en junio. Cortes federales tienen bloqueado el ejercicio de dichas prohibiciones en Idaho y Arizona, de acuerdo al Instituto Guttmacher, un grupo de investigación en pro de los derechos al aborto.

A principios de la semana, los legisladores republicanos de New Jersey presentaron una medida similar a la prohibición luego de 20 semanas, pero el resultado es incierto dado que la legislatura encabezada por demócratas.

La propuesta de Ohio permitiría la interrupción del embarazo en ciertos casos para proteger la vida y la salud de la mujer.

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Jessica Williams, Cate Blanchett star in Sundance premieres

By LINDSEY BAHR, AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES, 5XII16 (AP): Former "Daily Show" correspondent Jessica Williams flexes her dramatic chops. Cate Blanchett pays homage to great 20th century artists and "Silicon Valley" star Kumail Nanjiani tells a very personal story in some of the films premiering at the 2017 Sundance Film Festival.

Festival programmers announced their selections for the documentary and narrative premiere sections Monday, which has launched films like "Bohhood," "Manchester by the Sea" and "O.J.: Made in America."

As with many years, the Sundance premiere slate can be a place for well-known comedians to take a stab at more dramatic and serious roles.

In what's expected to be one of the breakout films and performances of the festival, comedian Jessica Williams stars in Jim Strouse's "The Incredible Jessica James," about a New York playwright recovering from a breakup and finding solace in a recent divorce.

Nanjiani is another who might surprise audiences

in "The Big Sick," which he co-wrote with his wife Emily V. Gordon and is based on their own courtship. He stars alongside Zoe Kazan in the Michael Showalter-directed pic.

The Festival also has films featuring veteran stars in different kinds of roles. Shirley MacLaine stars in "The Last Word," about a retired businesswoman who strikes up an unlikely friendship with a journalist (Amanda Seyfried) after writing her own obituary. Festival founder Robert Redford, too, is in Charlie McDowell's "The Discovery," about a world where the afterlife has been proven. Jason Segel and Rooney Mara also star.

Cate Blanchett re-enacts artistic statements of Dadaists, Lars von Trier and everyone in between in "Manifesto"; Michelle Pfeiffer and Kiefer Sutherland co-star in the drama "Where is Kyra"; and "Avengers" Jeremy Renner and Elizabeth Olsen re-team in the FBI crime thriller "Wind River," the directorial debut of "Hell or High Water" writer Taylor Sheridan.

"Bessie" director Dee Rees is also poised to be a standout

with "Mudbound," a racial drama set in the post-WWII South and starring Carey Mulligan, Jason Clarke, Jason Mitchell and Mary J. Blige.

"It's quite topical to this time even though it's a period piece," said Festival Director John Cooper.

Among the documentaries premiering are a look at the Oklahoma City bombing from Barak Goodman; Stanley Nelson's examination of black colleges and universities, "Tell Them We Are Rising"; and Barbara Kopple's account of a champion diver who announces he is transgender, "This Is Everything: Gigi Gorgeous."

"The beauty of independent film is it's not a copycat world, unlike some of the Hollywood stuff where they follow trends," said Programming Director Trevor Groth. "Independent film has always been about originality and choice and something different."

The 2017 Sundance Film Festival runs from Jan. 19 through Jan. 29.

Online: www.sundance.org/festival

Películas con Jessica Williams y Cate Blanchett a Sundance

Por LINDSEY BAHR, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES, 5XII16 (AP): La ex corresponsal del "Daily Show" Jessica Williams ejercita su músculo dramático. Cate Blanchett rendirá homenaje a grandes artistas del siglo XX y el astro de "Silicon Valley" Kumail Nanjiani contará una historia muy personal en algunas de las películas que se estrenarán en el Festival de Cine de Sundance 2017.

Los programadores del festival anunciaron sus elecciones para las secciones de estrenos de documental y ficción el lunes. En el festival han debutado películas como "Bohhood", "Manchester by the Sea" y "O.J.: Made in America".

Como en ocasiones anteriores las cintas de estreno en Sundance pueden dar oportunidad a comediantes famosos de tomar papeles más dramáticos y serios.

En lo que se espera que sea una de las películas y actuaciones revelación del festival, Williams pasará al drama en "The Incredible Jessica James" de Jim Strouse sobre una dramaturga de Nueva York que se recupera tras una separación y encuentra la paz ante un divorcio reciente.

Nanjiani es otro que podría sorprender al público en "The Big Sick", que coescribió con su esposa Emily V. Gordon y está basada en su propia relación. En la cinta de Michael Showalter Nanjiani actúa con Zoe Kazan.

El festival también tiene películas con estrellas veteranas. Shirley MacLaine actúa en "The Last Word", sobre una empresaria retirada que comienza una rara amistad con una periodista (Amanda Seyfried) después de escribir su obituario. El fundador del festival, Robert Redford, actúa en "The Discovery" de Charlie McDowell sobre un mundo en el que se ha comprobado la vida más allá de la muerte. Jason Segel y Rooney Mara también actúan en esta cinta.

Cate Blanchett revive los principios artísticos de los Dadaístas, Lars von Trier y los artistas en medio de ambos en "Manifesto"; Michelle Pfeiffer y Kiefer Sutherland coprotagonizan el drama "Where is Kyra"; los "vengadores" Jeremy Renner y Elizabeth Olsen vuelven a hacer equipo en la cinta de suspenso "Wind River", el estreno como director del guionista de "Hell or High Water" Taylor Sheridan.

También se espera que la directora de "Bessie" Dee Rees

tenga una participación destacada con "Mudbound", un drama racial situado en el sur de Estados Unidos tras la Segunda Guerra Mundial con Carey Mulligan, Jason Clarke, Jason Mitchell y Mary J. Blige.

"Tiene mucho que ver con este tiempo a pesar de que es una cinta de época", dijo el director del festival John Cooper.

Entre los documentales que se estrenan destaca una visión al ataque con explosivos en Oklahoma City del director Barak Goodman; la revisión de Stanley Nelson a los colegios superiores y universidades negras "Tell Them We Are Rising"; y la versión de Barbara Kopple sobre un clavajista campeón que anuncia que es transgénero, "This Is Everything: Gigi Gorgeous".

"La belleza del cine independiente es que no es un mundo de copias, a diferencia de Hollywood donde siguen tendencias", dijo el director de programación Trevor Groth. "El cine independiente siempre se ha tratado de la originalidad y la elección, de algo diferente".

El Festival de Cine de Sundance se celebrará del 19 al 29 de enero.

En internet: www.sundance.org/festival

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TPS, City of Toledo, others seek 'Snow Angels' to help keep Toledo 'Walkable'

Dec. 9, 2016: The City of Toledo, Live Well, and Toledo Public Schools are encouraging community members to consider being a "Snow Angel" by helping those in their neighborhood who may need assistance with shoveling or by removing snow from walks of unoccupied homes.

The City of Toledo has

regulations to keep sidewalks clear of snow and ice to ensure the safety of all pedestrians in our community from serious injury and life-threatening hazards; whether they are U.S. Postal Carriers, children walking to school, or citizens using public transit. While the City has a plan in place to remove snow and ice from city-owned walkways in

neighborhoods, there remains a need for additional help to ensure that all sidewalks are clear.

To volunteer as a Snow Angel or learn more about Help Keep Toledo Walkable, call Engage Toledo at 419-936-2020 or Live Well, Safe Routes to School Coordinator, Jenny Hansen at 419-725-7845 or 419-699-8040.

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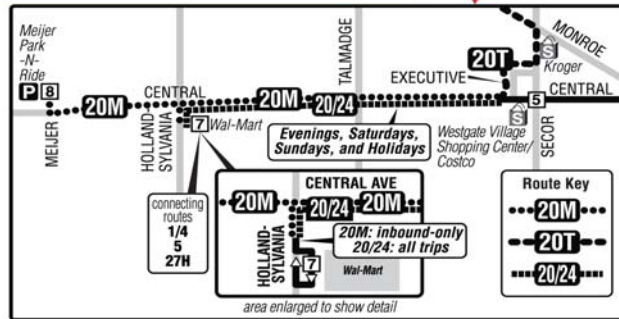
Winter 2017 updates effective January 1.



On Sunday, January 1, 2017, the TARTA winter route schedule will begin. As some routes will be affected by routing and time changes, new timetables and maps are available at TARTA.com/Winter2017



- **1/4 Ottawa Hills/Spencer Twp/Sylvania/Sylvania Twp Call-A-Ride**
 - weekday Franklin Park Mall scheduled times reduced for improved service flexibility
 - Spencer Twp service discontinuation
- **20/24 Central/Westgate**
 - service extended to Wal-Mart bus shelters off N Holland Sylvania Rd just south of W Central Ave; new connection with routes 5 and 27H
 - will no longer serve Executive Pkwy
- **20M Central/Meijer Drive**
 - inbound-only service extended to Wal-Mart bus shelters off N Holland Sylvania Rd just south of W Central Ave; new connection with routes 5 and 27H
- **27N Nebraska/Airport-Wenz**
 - timepoint moved from Angola Rd and Wenz Rd to Airport Hwy and Wenz Rd
- **28 Indiana/Smead**
 - schedule adjustments
- **30 Oakwood/Smead**
 - schedule adjustments
- **39M Monroe/Centennial-Sylvania**
 - two inbound morning trips and one outbound afternoon trip are to be discontinued



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FLOC Homies' & Port's efforts result in bigger 'Lighting Plan'

By Kevin Milliken, La Prensa Correspondent

Dec. 12, 2016: The Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority will take an idea sparked by the FLOC Homies Union and hopes to turn it into a bigger effort to improve the lighting on Toledo city streets.

The Port Authority discussion started with a \$35,000 request from the Historic South Initiative to begin converting street lights along Broadway to brighter, more energy efficient LED lighting. The Port Authority considered the request at its Thursday, Nov. 17 meeting. While not approved right away as the agency seeks a partnership with Toledo city leaders, the port board chairman indicated the request would be approved December 15 if no headway is made on the larger effort.

Baldemar Velásquez, FLOC president, and Paul Toth, Port Authority president/CEO, were scheduled to meet Monday afternoon Dec. 12 with Toledo Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson to discuss whether city government would participate in the Port Authority's funding plan.

"Our goal is to push lighting into these back streets in forgotten neigh-

borhoods that people have been ignoring for years," said Velásquez in a phone interview. "Our Homies have been pushing Toledo Edison for over a year about the lighting in these neglected neighborhoods."

According to documents attached to the funding request, recent Toledo Police Dept. statistics show a person in the Old South End is nearly 50 percent "more likely to be a victim of a crime than the average Toledo citizen." The goal of the effort is to "provide a safe environment for all the residents of and visitors to" the Old South End and "it has been shown that enhanced street lighting is a major factor in the level of crime in neighborhoods" across the country.

"When you travel through this neighborhood, especially the side streets, you notice how dark it is in the evening and nighttime," wrote Chris Amato, executive director of Historic South. "The crime statistic cited reflects the dangerous nature of this area of Toledo."

The Homies Union, started by the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) a few years ago, first resolved to do something

about the street lighting issues along Broadway last summer. So members of the youth leadership program drove up and down the Broadway Corridor and reported around 40 broken or burned-out street lights to Toledo Edison.

Historic South picked up the mantle and sought a more comprehensive plan to convert the street lights along Broadway from I-75 to Danny Thomas Park. The effort would include side streets along Broadway a block deep on either side. The anticipated completion date is June 2017.

The \$35,000 request would fix 64 street lights of the 184 identified in the overall effort. The cost to convert each one to LED lighting is \$400, making the total cost of the project \$73,600. The funding request indicated Historic South "would provide any gap funding." The nonprofit has a network of donors who quietly provided funding for other projects along the Broadway Corridor.

The Port Authority sets aside property tax levy funds each year for community development projects. Organizations across Lucas County can request up to \$35,000 for various initiatives.

Velásquez made a presentation earlier this fall to the

port authority's human resources committee about the plan. Members of the Homies Union attended a port authority board meeting last month where the bigger initiative first took root.

The Historic South funding request also called the street lighting project an economic development project, because the Broadway Corridor Coalition is trying to attract more small businesses to locate in the neighborhood. The funding request specifically mentioned that the group is "currently working with a national pizza chain to locate a new store on Broadway."

But FLOC leaders vow to carry the mantle well beyond the Historic South funding request, so other neighborhoods can benefit from their efforts and finish what the Homies Union started.

"We're the ones who live there and stay there. Our roots are there. We're going to be here when all those other folks are long gone," said Velásquez.

The Port Authority has proposed using \$10 million in funding from its Better Buildings program. That would cover the cost of switching an estimated 28,000 Toledo Edison-

owned high-pressure sodium lights to LED bulbs.

Port Authority officials contend city government would save \$3.55 per month in energy costs from the LED lighting and could use the savings to pay back the initial investment. Port Authority officials also believe in addition to a reduction in crime, better overall lighting would make Toledo more attractive to potential businesses and residents.

Editor's Note: Mr. Velásquez also made the Lighting Plan announcement during its annual concert known as "Songs for Justice" Friday night at the José Martínez Memorial Galería. Velásquez performed alongside the Aguila Negra Band, which doubled as a fundraiser for FLOC's programs and the Center for Migrant Worker Justice. Over 200 supporters attended.

See related article on page 2 of La Prensa.

On the Internet: <http://www.toledoblade.com/local/2016/12/11/As-dark-streets-get-attention-plan-calls-for-LEDs-citywide.html>

Cancela, first Latina, appointed to Nevada state Senate

LAS VEGAS, December 06, 2016 (AP): The former political director of Nevada's largest labor union will become the first Latina to serve in the state Senate after Clark County commissioners selected her to fill the unexpired term of Democratic U.S. Rep.-elect Rubén Kihuen.

The commission voted Tuesday to appoint Yvanna Cancela to the Senate District 10 seat in Las Vegas.

Ms. Cancela, 29, is the ex-political director of the Culinary Workers Union Local 226 who now serves as executive director of the Immigrant Workers Citizenship Project. She also worked as a field organizer for Sen. Harry Reid's re-election campaign in 2010.

Kihuen defeated freshman Republican Rep. Crescent Hardy in the 4th Congressional District in November to become Nevada's first Latino member of the U.S. House. He said in a statement Tuesday he "can't think of anyone better" than Cancela to replace him in the legislature.



OBITUARIES

JOHN DIEGO MARTINEZ



John "Diego" Martínez, 81, of Lorain, OH passed away Tuesday, December 6, 2016 at Mercy Regional Medical Center, Lorain, following a sudden illness. Born June 17, 1935 in Malakoff, Texas, he moved to Lorain in 1942. Diego graduated from Lorain High School in 1955 and served in the US Army. He worked for Ohio Edison for 24 years, retiring in 1992. Prior to this, he worked for Lake Terminal Railroad.

Diego was a member of Sacred Heart Chapel and the Utilities Workers Union of America Local 351.

He had a passion for music, especially Tejano. He was the founder and executive producer of *Los Nombres* music band, which had become popular to Lorainites with the song "Lady Lorain." Diego had a true love for the city of Lorain, his country and the U.S. Flag.

Surviving are his sister, Mary Molina of Ft. Worth, Texas; and many nieces and nephews including his nephew and niece who he was legal guardian to, Amado Martínez of Toledo and Elena Martínez of San Diego, CA.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Nazario and Josefina "Pepita" (née Rodríguez) Martínez; brothers, Larry Martínez, Manuel Velásquez, and Amado "Maw" Martínez; and sister, Carmen Amelia Inchaurregui.

Burial at Calvary Cemetery, Lorain. Full military Honors will be conducted at the cemetery. To send online condolences go to www.dovinfuneralhome.com.

Source: Dovin Funeral Home, 2701 Elyria Avenue.

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"SAVE THE CLUB!" CAMPAIGN

DECEMBER 2016 FUNDRAISER EVENT CALENDAR

Public Welcome!

The Mexican Mutual Society (MMS) "SAVE THE CLUB!" Campaign focuses on fundraising events to help sustain the operation of the MMS's home in South Lorain. Founded in 1928, it is one of the few remaining historical ethnic clubs in Lorain.

CELEBRITY BARTENDER EVENT

The public is invited to join in the fun on Friday nights from 6-9 pm. with the Celebrity Bartenders as the crowd cheers and the big bell rings as the tip donations role in for the Mexican Mutual Society! Delicious Mexican food is available.

- December 16, 2016. TBA
- December 23, 2016. Peter Aldrich, Lorain "Knights of Columbus"

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BUFFET! Wednesday, December 14th

Come and celebrate the Christmas holiday with your friends and enjoy your favorite Hispanic food on Wednesday, December 14, 2016 from 5-7 pm. Favorite foods include Tamales, Burritos, Tacos, Enchilada Casserole, Pernil (Roasted Pulled Pork), and a holiday Roasted Turkey accompanied by many side dishes and desserts. Cost is still ONLY \$15. Cash bar.

2016 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE. Mexican Mutual Society's membership drive is in full swing! The MMS is a non-profit organization and is sustained by fundraisers and private donations, such as membership dues. **YOUR MEMBERSHIP KEEPS THE MMS ALIVE!** Membership is not only a way to support the MMS, but it provides members with a friendly place to bring friends to enjoy reasonably priced food and beverages. "Social Membership" is **ONLY \$10.** "Active Membership", available to folks of Mexican descent and their families, is \$15 which allows for a vote on Club issues. Applications are available at the Club.

HALL RENTAL— Christmas is right around the corner! The hall is available for rent for Holiday parties. Please call 440-277-7374 for details.

MMS Club Hours. Open at 5 pm Tuesday-Saturday and 1 pm on Sunday
Fundraiser events are OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

Chemical science scholarships for minorities

WASHINGTON, DC, Dec. 12, 2016: The American Chemical Society (ACS) Scholars Program is offering renewable scholarships of \$2,500 to \$5,000 per year for African-American, Hispanic/Latino, and Native American Indian students entering chemistry-related fields.

Qualified students may be studying at community colleges or four-year institutions. Graduating high school seniors and college freshmen, sophomores and juniors may apply.

Eligible majors include but are not limited to chemistry, toxicology, biochemistry, chemical engineering, and chemical technology.

In addition to providing financial support, the ACS Scholars Program pairs students with academic and professional mentors to give them the opportunity to learn from those who have experienced similar challenges related to ethnicity. *These relationships can span entire careers.*

Scholarship applications will be accepted through March 1, 2017, for the academic year 2017-18. Applications are accepted

online on the ACS Scholars Program website www.acs.org/scholars. Additional information is available by calling 1-800-227-5558, extension 6250, or by emailing scholars@acs.org.

The Scholars program, now in its 21st year, aims to build awareness of the value and rewards associated with careers in chemistry and to help students acquire the skills and credentials needed for success. Nearly 1,700 ACS Scholars have graduated with a bachelor's degree in the chemical sciences, and a substantial number have gone on to graduate school and/or entered the workforce in their field.

The ACS Scholars Program is generously supported by:

Founding Partner \$1 million+: PPG Industries.

Benefactor \$1 million: Procter & Gamble.

Visionary Partners \$500,000: Camille & Henry Dreyfus Foundation, & GlaxoSmithKline.

Sustaining Partners \$250,000: 3M, ACS Petroleum Research Fund, BASF, Dow Corning, DuPont, Merck & Co., Inc., Schering-Plough, & Société de Chimie Industrielle.

Partners \$100,000: Air Products, AstraZeneca, Bayer, CME ACS - Chemical Marketing and Economics Group, ACSNY Section, Dow Chemical Co., Genentech, Gilead, Pfizer, & Xerox. The program is also supported through the generosity of many individual donors, ACS local sections, and ACS members, including more than 60 former ACS Scholars. The American Chemical Society is a non-profit organization chartered by the U.S. Congress. With nearly 157,000 members, ACS is the world's largest scientific society and a global leader in providing access to chemistry-related research through its multiple databases, peer-reviewed journals and scientific conferences. Its main offices are in Washington, D.C., and Columbus, Ohio.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT LORAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM'S MAIN LIBRARY

JOB HELP MONDAYS:

Looking for a job?

Do you need help applying for that job online? Visit Lorain Public Library System's Main Library for free, basic job help sessions.

No need to make an appointment. Just drop in anytime on Mondays from 2 to 4 p.m. Learn how to compose and assemble your own resume; set up your own email account; attach your resume in an email; save your resume online; apply for a job online; and set up your own account with online job websites.

For more information, call the Main Library at 440-244-1192 or 1-800-322-READ.

MEET LOCAL AUTHOR JACQUELINE DAVIEAU: Meet and talk with local author Jacqueline Davieau, whose book, "Inspiration From Above: My Son Guides Me From The Afterlife," was recently published.

Her son, Mario, who was born in Lorain, was killed in an automobile accident in 2015.

Davieau's book is a story of hope after tragedy. Come listen at Lorain Public Library System's Main Library on Thursday, Dec. 15, 2016, at 1 p.m.

Enjoy the series on PBS? Come discuss the book that inspired the hit show! Pre-registration is required and is available online at LorainPublicLibrary.org or by calling the Main Library at 440-244-1192 or 1-800-322-READ.

INTERNET FOR BEGINNERS: Become familiar with Internet basics, visiting websites and using Internet search engines to find information. Discover the most useful websites for accurate information, such as health information. Learn about services available through the library's website. Participants need to be comfortable using a mouse to attend. Learn about the Internet at Lorain Public Library System's Main Library on Friday, Dec. 16 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required and is available online at LorainPublicLibrary.org or by calling the Main Library at 440-244-1192 or 1-800-322-READ.

YARN CLUB: Knitting/crochet instructor Valerie Dillard will teach and review the basic stitches of knitting and cro-

chet at Lorain Public Library System's Main Library on Saturday, Dec. 17 from 10 a.m. to noon. The Yarn Club is open to teens and adults. Beginners as well as those who have come to her previous classes are welcome to join the club. Yarn is provided for practice. Please bring knitting needles (size 9 or 10) or a crochet hook (size G or H). Pre-registration is required and is available online at LorainPublicLibrary.org or by calling the Main Library at 440-244-1192 or 1-800-322-READ.

MEET LOCAL AUTHOR JACQUELINE DAVIEAU: Meet and talk with local author Jacqueline Davieau, whose book, "Inspiration From Above: My Son Guides Me From The Afterlife," was recently published.

Her son, Mario, who was born in Lorain, was killed in an automobile accident in 2015.

Davieau's book is a story of hope after tragedy. Come listen at Lorain Public Library System's Main Library on Saturday, Dec. 17 from 2 to 4 p.m. Copies of the book will be available for sale. Pre-registration is required and is available online at LorainPublicLibrary.org or by calling the Main Library at 440-244-1192 or 1-800-322-READ.

YUGIOH! OPENPLAY TIME: Come play Yu Gi Oh! at Lorain Public Library System's Main Library on Monday, Dec. 19 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Join Ernie Hernandez, Duelist and organizer, for open play time. He will share his knowledge of the Yu Gi Oh! Trading Card Game. Open play time is for 8 year olds to 18 year olds. Advanced Format. Konami rules. Bring your own deck of 40 cards minimum. Card trading is not allowed. Pre-registration is required and is available online at LorainPublicLibrary.org or by calling the Main Library at 440-244-1192 or 1-800-322-READ.

ZUMBA@: Zumba@ makes working out fun and effective! Join the Zumba@ workout craze and shed pounds while dancing to me-



rengue, salsa and other hot Latin beats at Lorain Public Library System's Main Library on Monday, Dec. 19 from 6 to 7 p.m. Pre-registration is required and is available online at LorainPublicLibrary.org or by calling the Main Library at 440-244-1192 or 1-800-322-READ. The Main Library is located at 351 W. Sixth St. in Lorain.

BASIC YOGA: Join the weekly Friday yoga class taught by Tom Gorman at Lorain Public Library System's Main Library on Friday, Dec. 23 from 4:45 to 5:45 p.m. Bring a yoga mat or beach towel for this hourlong program. For more information, call the Main Library at 440-244-1192 or 1-800-322-READ.

HOLIDAY CLOSING: Lorain Public Library System's libraries are closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Monday, Dec. 26. All libraries will reopen on Tuesday, Dec. 27.

WATCH EDUCATIONAL VIDEOS ON DEMAND: Learn to bake with Julia Child, see the best of Europe with Rick Steves, work out with Jeanette Jenkins and enjoy the Frank Sinatra Show with Bing Crosby and Dean Martin! Lorain Public Library System is now offering Access Video where you can watch thousands of streaming documentaries, classic and indie films, and educational videos, on a variety of topics such as travel, health, business, science, math, arts, technology, world languages and careers. Visit LorainPublicLibrary.org and click on eLibrary to find Access Video. Access Video has also recently added a Just for Kids collection. Enjoy a wealth of entertaining, educational resources for preschoolers through elementary students including interactive games, puzzles and quizzes. For more information, call the Lorain Public Library System at 440-244-1192 or 1-800-322-READ.



El Centro de Servicios Sociales Upcoming Events December 2016

December - Parent Engagement /Padres Comprometidos: In collaboration with Lorain City Schools. Join us weekly to learn how to work with your child's schools for a better education. Workshops are offered in Spanish & English at El Centro on Monday's from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and Wednesday's from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Attendees will receive a \$10 gift card for each class they attend.

December 15 - El Centro Food Pantry - In collaboration with *Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio* at El Centro from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Income eligible households (below 200% of the poverty level) are given one box of food on a first-come, first-served basis - FREE. Photo ID and proof of residency required. (This event occurs every third Thursday of each month at the same time).

Más de 50.000 muertes en EEUU por sobredosis en 2015

Por MIKE STOBBE, Associated Press

NUEVA YORK, 8 XII 16 (AP): Más de 50.000 personas murieron por sobredosis en Estados Unidos en 2015, la mayor cantidad de la historia en un año.

La funesta cifra ha llegado a un nivel nunca antes registrado debido al abuso en el consumo de heroína y analgésicos opioides que requieren receta médica.

Las muertes por heroína se incrementaron 23% el año pasado, a 12.989, cifra ligeramente superior al número de asesinatos con arma de fuego, según datos proporcionados por el gobierno el jueves.

Los decesos por opioides sintéticos, incluido el ilegal *fentanilo*, aumentaron 73% a 9.580. Y los analgésicos que requieren receta ocasionaron la mayor cantidad de muertes pero registraron el menor incremento. El abuso de fármacos como *Oxycontin* y *Vicodin* mató a 17.536 personas, un aumento de 4%.

"Creo que nunca habíamos visto algo así; ciertamente no en los tiempos modernos", indicó Robert Anderson, que supervisa las estadísticas de muertes en los Centros para la Prevención y Control de Enfermedades (CDC) por sus iniciales en inglés).

Las nuevas cifras fueron parte del recuento anual de muertes y mortalidad de la agencia para 2015.

En general, las muertes por *sobredosis* aumentaron

11% el año pasado, a 52.404. En comparación, el número de personas que murieron por accidente de automóvil fue de 37.757, un incremento de 12%. Las muertes relacionadas con *armas de fuego*, incluyendo homicidios y suicidios, totalizaron 36.252, un aumento de 7%.

Como parte de su reporte anual, los CDC hallaron además que las tasas de mortalidad de ocho de las 10 principales causas de muerte aumentaron el año pasado, ocasionando que la expectativa de vida del país bajara por primera vez en más de 20 años. Las sobredosis por drogas fueron un factor significativo, pero un aumento inesperado en la tasa de mortalidad por enfermedad cardíaca—la principal causa de muerte en Estados Unidos—representó otro factor importante.

A grim tally soars: More than 50,000 overdose deaths in US

By MIKE STOBBE, AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK, Dec. 8, 2016 (AP): More than 50,000 Americans died from drug overdoses last year, the most ever.

The disastrous tally has been pushed to new heights by soaring abuse of heroin and prescription painkillers, a class of drugs known as *opioids*.

Heroin deaths rose 23 percent in one year, to 12,989, slightly higher than

the number of gun homicides, according to government data released Thursday.

Deaths from synthetic *opioids*, including illicit *fentanyl*, rose 73 percent to 9,580. And prescription painkillers took the highest toll, but posted the smallest increase. Abuse of drugs like *Oxycontin* and *Vicodin* killed 17,536, an increase of 4 percent.

"I don't think we've ever seen anything like this. Certainly not in modern times," said Robert Anderson, who oversees death statistics at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The new numbers were part of the agency's annual tally of deaths and death rates in 2015.

Overall, *overdose deaths* rose 11 percent last year, to 52,404. By comparison, the number of people who died in car crashes was 37,757, an increase of 12 percent. *Gun deaths*, including homicides and suicides, totaled 36,252, up 7 percent.

As part of its annual report the CDC also found that rates for 8 of the 10 leading causes of death rose last year, causing the nation's life expectancy to go down for the first time in more than 20 years. Drug overdoses were a significant factor, but an unexpected increase in the death rate from heart disease, the nation's No. 1 killer, was another major reason.

US life expectancy falls, as many kinds of death increase

By MIKE STOBBE, AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK, Dec. 8, 2016 (AP): A decades-long trend of rising life expectancy in the U.S. could be ending: It declined last year and it is no better than it was four years ago.

In most of the years since World War II, life expectancy in the U.S. has inched up, thanks to medical advances, public health campaigns and better nutrition and education.

But last year it slipped, an exceedingly rare event in a year that did not include a major disease outbreak. Other one-year declines occurred in 1993, when the nation was in the throes of the AIDS epidemic, and 1980, the result of an especially nasty flu season.

In 2015, rates for 8 of the 10 leading causes of death rose. Even more troubling to health experts: The U.S. seems to be settling into a trend of no improvement at all.

"With four years, you're starting to see some indication of something a little more ominous," said S. Jay Olshansky, a University of Illinois-Chicago public health researcher.

An American born in 2015 is expected to live 78 years and 91/2 months, on average, according to preliminary data released Thursday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. An American born in 2014 could expect to live about month longer, and even an American born in 2012

would have been expected to live slightly longer. In 1950, life expectancy was just over 68 years.

The United States ranks below dozens of other high-income countries in life expectancy, according to the World Bank. It is highest in Japan, at nearly 84 years.

The CDC report is based mainly on 2015 death certificates. There were more than 2.7 million deaths, or about 86,000 more than the previous year. The increase in raw numbers partly reflects the nation's growing and aging population.

It was led by an unusual uptick in the death rate from the nation's leading killer, *heart disease*. Death rates also increased for *chronic lower lung disease*, *accidental injuries*, *stroke*, *Alzheimer's disease*, *diabetes*, *kidney disease*, and *suicide*.

The only clear drop was in *cancer*, the nation's No. 2 killer.

Experts aren't sure what's behind the stall. Some, like Olshansky, suspect obesity, an underlying factor in some of the largest causes of death, particularly heart disease.

But there's also the impact of rising drug overdoses and suicides, he noted. Drug overdose deaths soared 11 percent to more than 52,000 last year, the most ever, driven by increases in deaths from heroin, prescription painkillers and other so-called *opioids*.

"There are a lot of things happening at the same time," he said.

Some years the CDC later revises its life expectancy estimate after doing additional analysis, including for its 2014 estimate.

Average life expectancy declined for men, falling by more than two months, to 76 years and 3 1/2 months in 2015. It fell by about one month for women, to 81 years and 2 1/2 months, the CDC said.

Death rates increased for black men, white men, white women, and slightly for Hispanic men and women. But they did not change for black women.

The new CDC report did not offer a geographic breakdown of 2015 deaths, or analysis of death based on education or income. But other research has shown death rates are rising sharply for poorer people—particularly white people—in rural areas but not wealthier and more highly educated and people on the coasts.

"The troubling trends are most pronounced for the people who are the most disadvantaged," said Jennifer Karas Montez, a Syracuse University researcher who studies adult death patterns.

"But if we don't know why life expectancy is decreasing for some groups, we can't be confident that it won't start declining for others," she said.

Raúl Castro entierra a dos hermanos en finca familiar

Por ANDREA RODRIGUEZ, Associated Press

LA HABANA, 7 XII 16 (AP): Por segunda vez en tres días el presidente cubano Raúl Castro participó en la inhumación de los restos de algunos de sus hermanos.

El mandatario depositó las cenizas de Ramón y Angelita Castro, muertos en 2012 y 2016, en la finca de su familia en Birán, al oriente de la isla y a pocos kilómetros de donde el domingo encabezó el entierro del líder revolucionario Fidel Castro.

Imágenes mostraron a Castro junto a otra hermana, Emma, en la solemne ceremonia privada realizada el martes, indicó el periódico oficial Granma el miércoles.

"Angelita, la mayor... fue hija fiel y amorosa de sus padres. Ramón fue el único llamado a conservarse como el guardián de la tierra hasta el final de sus días", dijo el historiador de la ciudad Eusebio Leal durante las horas.

Birán, a unos 800 kilómetros de La Habana, fue el lugar de nacimiento de los Castro, una extensa familia fundada por un inmigrante español y una cubana muchos años menor.

Enclavado en medio de la serranía, alejado de los caminos asfaltados y convertido en un complejo histórico desde 2002, el casco de la finca —con sus casitas de madera pintadas de amarillo, azul y blanco

rodeadas de plantaciones de caña de azúcar, palmas y árboles frutales— cuenta además con una comunidad rural adleña de unas 200 familias.

La familia plantaba caña de azúcar que vendía a un ingenio estadounidense, explotaba madera, criaba extensivamente ganado y hasta tenía una pequeña mina de cromo. Atrajo a haitianos, jamaquinos y hasta asturianos que comenzaron a laborar allí.

Birán es actualmente también un lugar por el cual pasan miles de turistas curiosos por conocer la cuna de los líderes de la revolución.

Fundada por el inmigrante Ángel Castro en 1915, la finca contaba con 268 hectáreas iniciales que se fueron ampliando a 800 en 1922 y a 12.000 a fines de los 50, cuando los hermanos tomaron el poder y cambiaron el rumbo de la isla ganándose admiradores y detractores. El propio fundo sufrió las consecuencias de la reforma agraria que prohibió las grandes extensiones en manos de terratenientes.

Ramón Castro, de imponente parecido físico a Fidel, falleció en febrero de 2016 a los 91 años y en ese momento se informó que sus cenizas se depositarían en la finca. Conocido como "Mongó", permaneció fiel a la tradición familiar campesina

y se ocupó toda su vida de cuestiones agrícolas, incluso apoyando a sus hermanos en el gobierno en estos temas. Su hermana Angelita murió en 2012.

En las imágenes ofrecidas por la prensa local se observó un discreto cortejo fúnebre con dos pequeñas urnas que contendrían las cenizas de los hermanos y algunos familiares que los rodeaban ante el panteón. Según la crónica se hizo un toque de silencio y se entonaron las notas del himno nacional.

Posteriormente los participantes dejaron rosas blancas junto a los nichos donde también reposan sus padres y otros parientes.

"Aquí vive el espíritu de la familia y aquí vendrán millones de personas de todas partes del mundo, porque hace unas pocas horas hemos dejado en una piedra al más importante de todos los que aquí nacieron, a aquel que estuvo llamado a hacer un destino", dijo Leal en referencia al sepelio el domingo de Fidel Castro.

Fidel Castro falleció el viernes 25 de noviembre a los 90 años y sus cenizas fueron en una caravana saludada por cientos de miles de personas desde La Habana hasta Santiago de Cuba, donde fueron sepultadas en un mausoleo cercano al del prócer José Martí en el cementerio de la ciudad.

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SUIT: Top job placement firm sued for alleged bias against blacks

By MICHAEL TARM, Associated Press

CHICAGO, Dec. 6, 2016 (AP): A national job-placement company systematically discriminated against blacks in favor of Latino workers to comply with racially based criteria of some clients looking for employees, according to allegations in a federal lawsuit filed Tuesday on behalf of several African-Americans.

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in Chicago, alleges that *Personnel Staffing Group LLC* used code words to distinguish races and to disguise racially guided decisions, including by using the Spanish word for "bilinguals" to refer to Hispanics.

Personnel Staffing Group LLC, which also goes by *MVP and MVP Staffing*, has more than 60 offices in nearly 40 states. The lawsuit cites

instances of alleged bias by one of its branch offices in the Chicago suburb of Cicero. Multiple messages seeking comment from a head office of Personnel Staffing Group just outside Chicago were not returned.

The 33-page lawsuit was filed on behalf of several African-American laborers, and it names Personnel Staffing Group and seven of its client companies as defendants.

A statement from lawyers and activists announcing the litigation said some companies seek to get around anti-discrimination laws by relying on job-placement agencies.

Catherine Ruckelshaus, a general counsel for the National Employment Law Project, said it was akin to companies asking agencies "to launder their overt discrimination."

Discrimination can dev-

astate individuals, as well as their families and communities, added one plaintiff attorneys, Chris Williams, of Workers' Law Office in Chicago.

"It's difficult to imagine a more blatant example of racism than refusing to hire African-Americans based entirely on the color of their skin," he said.

Some companies, the suit said, claimed blacks were more likely to complain about work-safety issues and gave that as one reason for preferring Latinos. It also says that in instances where African-American got jobs, they were often offered less desirable work. The filing cited one example of blacks working in a hot oven room of a bakery, where some became overwhelmed by the heat and collapsed.

Trump's new tone on immigrant kids divides GOP

By ERICA WERNER, AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON, DC, Dec. 8, 2016 (AP): Donald Trump's new promise to "work something out" for young immigrants is dividing fellow Republicans, underscoring how difficult it will be for Congress to take any action on immigration, whether it's building a wall or dealing with immigrant youths.

During the campaign Trump pledged to "immediately terminate" President Barack Obama's executive actions on immigration, including the 2012 *Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals*, known as *DACA*, which has extended work permits and temporary deportation relief to more than 700,000 immigrants brought illegally to this country as youths.

But in an interview in *Time* magazine, Trump adopted a far more sympathetic tone toward the young immigrants known to their supporters as "DREAMers." "We're going to work something out that's going to make people happy and proud," Trump said. "They got brought here at a very young age, they've worked here, they've gone to school here. Some were good students. Some have wonderful jobs. And they're in never-never land because they don't know what's going to happen."

Trump did not offer details, and *Time* said that he did not back off his pledge to undo Obama's executive actions.

But Republicans who've supported congressional action to help immigrant youths welcomed Trump's new tone.

"I can tell you I'm very relieved at his comments today and I think folks back home in my district and across the country are going to be very relieved as well," said Rep. Mike Coffman, R-Colo. "Obviously Dreamers is one part of the equation, I clearly hope we do more. But I think

that's got to be the top priority."

Trump's comments were also welcomed by some Democrats. Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid of Nevada cited them in an interview Thursday on NPR as evidence that Trump is "not as bad as I thought he would be."

For immigration hard-liners, on the other hand, Trump's comments set off alarm bells.

"We have an obligation to restore the rule of law and you can't do that while you're rewarding people who break it," said Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa. "It's the principle of the rule of law that's at stake and I'm hopeful that prudent heads will prevail."

Because immigrants must reapply for *DACA* and work permits every two years, even if he doesn't proactively undo *DACA* Trump could effectively cancel out the program over time by taking no action to renew it. But a transition aide, demanding anonymity because he was not authorized to speak on the record, downplayed Trump's comments and said his original promise to roll back Obama's executive actions stood.

House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., a past supporter of comprehensive immigration legislation, responded to a question about Trump's comments Thursday by saying, "I think we should have something that balances the concerns of all parties involved, and make sure that we don't pull the rug out from under people."

"The transition team I think wants to make sure that they get this right...so that we don't have any kind of ugly disruption," Ryan added.

Obama announced the *DACA* program after Congress failed to pass legislation giving a path to legal status for *DREAMers*.

Subsequently, a comprehensive, bipartisan bill passed the Senate in 2013, but it stalled in the GOP-controlled

House. Obama ultimately took another, broader, executive action, aimed mostly at protecting adult immigrants with U.S. citizen children, but that one got blocked in court.

Lawmakers' repeated failures to come together on immigration overhaul legislation leaves it uncertain whether Congress will be able to pass anything at all on the divisive topic with Trump in the White House, despite his tough campaign rhetoric about building a border wall and ousting criminal immigrants. Trump could take some steps on his own, but would need Congress for major policy changes, including any permanent protections for Dreamers.

Sens. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., and Dick Durbin, D-Ill., were introducing a bill Thursday to address status for Dreamers.

House Republicans want to pass a border security bill to make good on Trump's repeated campaign promises to build a wall on the 2,000-mile U.S.-Mexico border, but key lawmakers and Trump himself have already suggested that it could end up including fencing or a "virtual" wall that falls short of the big wall Trump promised Mexico would pay for.

And even if a border security bill does pass the House, Senate Democrats are likely to balk at passing it without also taking steps to offer legal status to the 11 million immigrants living in this country illegally, something that House Republicans could reject in turn.

The opposing views suggest that, despite the prominence of immigration as an issue in the presidential campaign, inaction may be the likeliest end result on Capitol Hill.

Associated Press writer Mary Clare Jalonic contributed to this report.

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Giro de Trump en torno a los dreamers divide a republicanos

(Continuación de p.3)

deja en suspenso sus deportaciones, Trump podría dejarlo sin efecto de hecho, sin hacer nada, simplemente no aprobando las solicitudes de renovación. Pero un integrante del equipo de transición, que pidió no ser identificado porque no estaba autorizado a hablar del tema, restó importancia a los comentarios de Trump y dijo que la promesa de anular las órdenes ejecutivas seguía vigente.

Obama tomó esas medidas porque el Congreso no aprobaba una legislación que permitiera a los dreamers regularizar su situación.

Poco después, en el 2013, el Senado aprobó una iniciativa bipartidista, pero el proyecto se estancó en la Cámara de Representantes, controlada por los republicanos. Obama amplió luego el programa de alivio migratorio, cobijando también a inmigrantes con hijos nacidos en Estados Unidos, pero ese proyecto está

en el aire, bloqueado por los tribunales.

El Congreso no aprobó una reforma a las leyes de inmigración en los ocho años de gobierno de Obama y resta por verse si podrá hacerlo con Trump en la Casa Blanca, a pesar de las promesas del magnate de construir un muro a lo largo de la frontera con México y de expulsar a los inmigrantes con antecedentes penales. Trump podría tomar algunas medidas por cuenta propia, pero necesitaría el apoyo del Congreso para imponer cambios profundos en la política migratoria, incluidas protecciones permanentes para los dreamers.

Los senadores Lindsey Graham, republicano, y Dick Durbin, demócrata, planeaban presentar un proyecto el jueves abordando el caso de los dreamers.

Los republicanos de la cámara baja quieren una reforma sobre seguridad en la frontera que cumpla con las promesas de Trump de construir un muro a lo largo de los 3,200 kilómetros (2,000 millas) de la frontera

mexicano-estadounidense. Sin embargo, algunos legisladores y el propio Trump ya han empezado a hablar de instalar vallas más que muros o "muros virtuales" en partes de la frontera.

Por otro lado, es previsible que, incluso si la Cámara de Representantes aprueba un proyecto de ley enfocado en la seguridad fronteriza, la iniciativa tropiece con la oposición de los demócratas en el Senado si no contempla medidas para resolver el status de unos 11 millones de inmigrantes que se cree viven en el país sin permiso de residencia. Los republicanos no quieren saber nada de eso.

Las diferencias hacen pensar que, a pesar de la relevancia que tuvo la inmigración ilegal en la campaña presidencial, es bastante probable que siga sin hacerse nada en el Congreso.

La reportera de la Associated Press Mary Clare Jalonic colaboró en este despacho.



Refinery Process Operator

Overview

Toledo Refining Company LLC is located in Oregon, Ohio and is owned by PBF Energy LLC. The refinery has a crude oil processing capacity of 170,000 barrels per day. **The refinery is currently accepting applications for Refinery Process Operator positions.**

Description

Process Operators operate, maintain and repair units and equipment. A Process Operator works 12 hour rotating shifts on various units within the refinery which process crude oil as a feed stock in order to produce gasoline, diesel, jet fuel, various chemicals and other products. Process Operators are trained in the operation of plant processing equipment, including pumps, compressors, furnaces, heat exchangers, valves, distillation columns and other equipment common to refinery operations. Our Company is committed to a foundation of safe and environmentally compliant operations so Operators must follow all procedures and safe work practices. New hires will be required to complete a 36 month apprenticeship program. Starting pay is \$28.02 per hour.

Responsibilities

An Operator may be responsible for: maintaining equipment and operations; climbing ladders, tanks and towers up to 250 ft.; taking samples/readings of various process streams; initiating work orders and permitting for work related to the assigned unit; maintaining proper and safe process operations of the operating equipment; and communicating effectively during the shift and at shift relief regarding key process unit and equipment information.

Basic/Required Qualifications

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In order to be considered for this position, applicants must submit their resume in Microsoft Word or .pdf format per the following process on or before 11:59 P.M. of January 2, 2017. All interested candidates may apply by going to www.pbfenergy.com/careers and select "Refinery Process Operator" (Oregon, OH). **All applicants must provide a valid e-mail address where they can be contacted regarding updates on the recruiting process.** Applicants will receive an email containing a link for a supplemental screening that must be completed for further consideration. Should an applicant be selected for testing after completion of the screening, contact will be made via email. All contact information must be accurate and up to date. There will be 4 stages of the hiring process. Phase 1 consists of 4 tests. Relocation is not available for this position. Phone calls will not be accepted.

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