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2014, año de calamidades, con pocas respuestas - Parte de una serie de notas de fin de año

Por ADAM GELLER, Associated Press

31 de dic. de 2014: Siete mil metros (unos 20,000 pies) debajo, tal vez haya respuestas escondidas en algún cañón subacuático frente a las costas de Australia. Pero luego de nueve meses de intensa búsqueda del avión de Malaysia Airlines en las vastedades oceánicas, la desaparición del aparato con 239 personas a bordo sigue sin resolverse.

En cierto sentido, la prolongada e infructuosa búsqueda del avión fue un adelanto de lo que ocurriría en el 2014, un año marcado por calamidades y conflictos, enfermedades y divisiones que a menudo dejaron al público y a sus líderes desconcertados, buscando respuestas.

Desde Ucrania hasta el Medio Oriente, desde la amenaza de ébola hasta las tensiones generadas por las muertes de hombres de raza negra a manos de policías blancos en Ferguson, Missouri, y otras partes de Estados Unidos, muchas de las grandes noticias del año alimentaron una sensación de frustración.

A menudo estas tragedias no tuvieron explicación. Estallaron un caso tras otro, acaparando titulares y produciendo una mezcla de fatiga y ansiedad. Episodios ocurridos en lugares remotos tuvieron repercusiones a nivel mundial y se fueron complicando con el correr de los días.

Ese fue el caso de Ucrania, donde el derrocamiento del presidente Victor Yanukovich en febrero y la anexión de la península de Crimea a Rusia dieron paso a un enfrentamiento digno de la Guerra Fría.

Se cree que un segundo avión de la aerolínea malaya fue derribado por guerrilleros cuando volaba sobre espacio aéreo ucraniano en julio, matando a las 298 personas a bordo, mayormente holandesas. Las sanciones internacionales impuestas a Rusia se están haciendo sentir y meses más tarde, reina una paz incómoda entre los dos bandos.

Generalmente, una noticia grande concita atención durante un cierto tiempo y después el interés se desvanece. Pero Ucrania sigue siendo noticia y no es la única crisis de larga duración que acaparó titulares.

La crisis del ébola, por ejemplo, comenzó en diciembre del año pasado en Guinea. Hacia marzo, la Organización Mundial de la Salud seguía de cerca el brote y buscaba formas de contenerlo. Un año después la epidemia no ha sido controlada y ya matado a por lo menos 6,000 personas.

Casi todas las víctimas fatales son de tres países de África occidental. Pero cuando un liberiano falleció en Dallas y luego se registraron algunos otros casos en Estados Unidos, cundió el pánico y la preocupación de que el sistema sanitario mundial no está preparado para hacer frente a este brote. Al finalizar el año, la OMS cuestionó los informes de progresos en la lucha contra el mal.

La desaparición del avión de la aerolínea malaya resultó un gran misterio. Se perdió todo contacto con el aparato poco después de despegar en la madrugada del 8 de marzo. En su búsqueda participaron aviones, barcos e investigadores de 26 países y se usaron aparatos de alta tecnología. Pero sigue sin encontrarse rastros del aparato.

“La sensación de impotencia y el dolor no han amainado, han empeorado con el paso del tiempo”, expresó Liu Weijie, cuya esposa viajaba en el avión.

La violencia en el Medio Oriente, mientras tanto, volvió a acaparar titulares, estremeciendo incluso a personas acostumbradas a las tensiones de la región.

En el peor estallido de violencia que se registra en Libia desde el derrocamiento de Moamar Gadaffi, los islamistas que controlaban el Congreso ignoraron la orden de un general de disolver la cámara.

En Gaza, el secuestro en junio de tres adolescentes israelíes por parte de elementos de Hamas dio lugar a una respuesta israelí en la que murieron más de 2,100 palestinos y 72 israelíes a lo largo de 50 días de combates.

Terminó sin indicios de que el conflicto pueda ser resuelto. Luego de cuatro años de guerra civil en Siria, por otro lado, varios países están enfrascados en un debate inacabable sobre si hay que intervenir y cómo. La rápida expansión de la organización radical Estado Islámico, y videos de varias decapitaciones de rehenes occidentales, no obstante, hicieron que una creciente coalición internacional realice más de 1,000 ataques a bastiones de esa agrupación en Irak y Siria. Aniquilar al enemigo, sin embargo, podría tomar años.

“Sabemos que queda mucho trabajo duro por delante”, expresó el secretario de estado estadounidense John Kerry. Los estadounidenses, por su parte, pronto enfocarán su atención en un suburbio de San Luis, Missouri, donde en agosto un policía blanco mató a tiros a Michael Brown, un joven negro de 18 años, luego de detenerlo.

La Copa Mundial de fútbol tuvo un claro ganador, Alemania, y el capitán de un ferry que se hundió en Corea del Sur causando la muerte de 300 personas fue condenado a 36 años de prisión.

La impresión dominante, de todos modos, fue que el mundo encaró serios retos y encontró pocas respuestas en el 2014.

Cinco temas que Obama abordó por su cuenta en 2014

Por JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

HONOLULU, Hawaii, Dec. 25, 2014 (AP): El presidente de Estados Unidos, Barack Obama, tenía grandes esperanzas para 2014.

Tras años de esperar que el Congreso compartiera su punto de vista, el presidente perdió la paciencia. Así que comenzó el año declarando que éste sería un “año de acciones”. Casi retando a los legisladores a pararle, avisó al país de que pensaba emplear todos los poderes ejecutivos a su alcance para sacar sus medidas adelante.

“Estados Unidos no se detiene, y yo tampoco”, dijo en su discurso de Estado de la Unión en enero.

Obama mantuvo su palabra, al menos en inmigración, cambio climático y las relaciones con Cuba, cambiando el rumbo de políticas estadounidenses iniciadas hace décadas y que, afirmó, habían sobrepasado su era.

En un revuelo de decretos ejecutivos tomados por encima de los legisladores, Obama añadió muestas a su legado y cumplió algunas promesas electorales por el camino.

Otras iniciativas se quedaron en nada, nunca comenzaron o tuvieron un efecto modesto. En economía, el presidente encontró que su capacidad de tomar medidas unilaterales se limitaba a los detalles.



las prioridades de las fuerzas de seguridad, expandió un programa previo de aplazamiento de deportaciones para inmigrantes que llegaron al país de niños y suavizó los requisitos para solicitar una “green card” (permiso de residencia).

La iniciativa provocó demandas del partido republicano e incluso amenazas de moción de censura. Los republicanos sopesan varias opciones para bloquear las medidas del año que viene, como retener el financiamiento al Departamento de Seguridad Nacional.

ECONOMÍA Aunque la economía mejoró perceptiblemente en 2014, no estaba claro qué papel jugaron las medidas de Obama. Lanzó cuatro núcleos regionales de manufactura, así como un nuevo programa de ahorros para la jubilación de personas de bajos ingresos.

Persiguió algunas fusiones y adquisiciones en el extranjero que permiten a empresas evadir impuestos en Estados Unidos y les permitió solicitar permisos de trabajo. Reordenó

A continuación, un vistazo a cómo empleó Obama las medidas ejecutivas en 2014:

CAMBIO CLIMÁTICO

Bloqueado por el Congreso en cambio climático durante buena parte de su presidencia, Obama salió a la ofensiva este año. Estableció unos límites sin precedentes a la emisión de gases de efecto invernadero en centrales eléctricas, que según la industria energética obligaría a cerrar plantas de carbón en todo el país. Ordenó un aumento de los requisitos de combustibles para camiones y protegió amplias áreas de aguas en Estados Unidos. Durante su visita a Beijing, cerró un acuerdo histórico con China tras negociaciones secretas.

En su viaje a Australia para una cumbre del Grupo de los 20, Obama prometió 3.000 millones de dólares para un fondo establecido Naciones Unidas para ayudar a los países más pobres a prepararse para el cambio climático. No está claro dónde encontrará Obama el dinero para cumplir su compromiso.

INMIGRACION

Cuando quedó claro que el Congreso no cedería en inmigración, el presidente se puso manos a la obra. Obama creó un programa para proteger de la deportación a hasta 4 millones de personas que están de forma ilegal en Estados Unidos y les permitió solicitar permisos de trabajo. Reordenó

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Abogados recomiendan a inmigrantes que no se apresuren

Por GISELA SALOMON, Associated Press

MIAMI, 22 de dic. de 2014 (AP): Viviana Ivalo novelahora de que el gobierno publique todas las regulaciones de las nuevas medidas administrativas de inmigración para saber si podrá beneficiarse o no con un permiso de trabajo y un estatus legal temporal después de haber permanecido en las sombras por casi 15 años.

"Estoy todos los días entrando a foros de inmigración para ver si califico, cuáles son los requerimientos", expresó Ivalo, una argentina de 47 años. "Siento ansiedad de juntar los papeles y estoy como un soldado esperando que llegue el momento en que esté listo el folleto para aplicar", explicó la mujer, que se beneficiaría con las medidas anunciadas por el presidente Barack Obama al tener un hijo ciudadano estadounidense y otro residente.

Al igual que Ivalo, la ansiedad se ha apoderado de gran parte de la comunidad de inmigrantes que están en el país sin residencia legal. Cerca de la mitad de los 11 millones de personas que viven sin autorización en Estados Unidos podrían legalizar su situación una vez que se implementen las medidas ejecutivas. Sin embargo, aún es muy temprano para saber con certeza si reunirán los requisitos o para presentar los papeles.

La recomendación de los abogados: por ahora no paguen a nadie para que los asesore y sólo limitense a preparar algunos documentos básicos.

"Todavía ni siquiera han salido los términos concretos, ni las regulaciones de la orden (ejecutiva)", aseguró el abogado de inmigración Alfonso Oviedo.

"No se han hecho los formularios, está todo por hacerse", alertó.

Su colega Tammy Fox-Isicoff coincidió: "Por el momento que vayan reuniendo información, y en unos seis meses que vayan a un abogado".

A finales de noviembre Obama anunció el principal ajuste a la política migratoria en casi tres décadas.

Unos 4 millones de personas podrían librarse de ser deportados y obtener un permiso de trabajo por dos años si logran demostrar que han estado en Estados Unidos durante cinco años, que tienen hijos estadounidenses o residentes permanentes y si se someten a una revisión de antecedentes delictivos.

Funcionarios del gobierno han dicho que el Departamento de Seguridad Nacional empezará a recibir las solicitudes del segundo trimestre del año próximo y que tendrán un costo de 465 dólares.

Otras 300.000 personas más podrían beneficiarse con la ampliación del programa de suspensión temporal de deportaciones anunciado por Obama en 2012 (conocido como DACA), que beneficia a jóvenes que fueron traídos de niños a Estados Unidos sin autorización legal de permanencia.

La ampliación del programa elimina el requisito de 30 años como edad máxima de los beneficiarios y expande la fecha permitida de ingreso a Estados Unidos desde junio del 2007 a enero del 2010.

Debido a la complejidad de los requerimientos, los abogados aconsejan también a

los inmigrantes no acudir a los notarios ni organizaciones comunitarias, sino a expertos en leyes de inmigración que puedan evaluar cada caso en particular para ver si las personas se pueden beneficiar con las medidas ejecutivas.

"El potencial de daño al caer víctima de notarios y de abogados inescrupulosos es muy alto en estas situaciones, cuando la gente está desesperada, y es muy importante que la gente vea a abogados para evaluar sus casos, que reúnan su documentación y estén preparados en el momento en que las cosas comiencen a implementarse", recomendó la abogada Jordana Hart.

Fox-Isicoff, por su parte, advirtió también que a diferencia de una amnistía, las medidas ejecutivas no protegen la confidencialidad de los documentos que se presenten.

Explicó que si alguien presenta sus papeles para beneficiarse con las medidas y luego le informan que no satisface los requisitos, "esa información queda en los archivos y podría ser elegible para deportación".

Los inmigrantes pueden ir buscando documentos que les permitan demostrar que han permanecido en el país desde antes del 1ro de enero del 2010 y que han vivido aquí de manera continua todos estos años, indicaron los abogados.

Ejemplos de algunos documentos podrían ser pasaportes con el sello de entrada (en el caso de quienes hayan llegado legalmente y luego hayan extendido su estadía más del tiempo permitido), contratos de alquiler, recibos de pago de

Requisitos para la suspensión de deportaciones

Por CLAUDIA TORRENS, Associated Press

NUEVA YORK, 19 de dic. de 2014 (AP): Buena parte de los inmigrantes beneficiados por la acción ejecutiva del presidente Barack Obama se acogerán a dos programas específicos, llamados en inglés *Deferred Action for Parental Accountability*, conocido como DAPA, y *Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals*, conocido como DACA. Este último fue aprobado en el 2012 pero Obama anunció cambios para que abarque a más personas.

Solicitar protección bajo alguno de estos planes no otorga un estatus legal en el país o la ciudadanía, pero suspende la deportación del solicitante durante tres años y le otorga un permiso de trabajo vigente el mismo plazo de tiempo.

Expertos y activistas advierten que el gobierno podría cambiar aspectos de estos requisitos preliminares en los próximos meses.

DEFERRED ACTION FOR PARENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY (DAPA) —Uno podrá acogerse a este plan aproximadamente 180 días después del 20 de

noviembre del 2014, es decir, a finales de mayo.

—Se debe vivir en Estados Unidos el día que se anunció el programa, es decir, el 20 de noviembre del 2014.

—Se debe ser padre de al menos un ciudadano estadounidense o residente permanente

—Se debe demostrar presencia continua en el país desde el 1 de enero del 2010

—No ser considerado una prioridad para la deportación. Los inmigrantes que son máxima prioridad son los considerados una amenaza para la seguridad nacional, los detenidos en la frontera, los pertenecientes a pandillas y los que cuentan con antecedentes policiales.

—Se debe pagar una tarifa de 465 dólares por solicitud.

—Se debe resolver el tema de los impuestos impagos. No están claros aún los parámetros bajo los cuales el gobierno exigirá los pagos.

—Someterse a un examen de huellas dactilares

AMPLIACION DEL PROGRAMA DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS (DACA)

—Uno podrá acogerse a esta ampliación aproximadamente

90 días después del 20 de noviembre del 2014, es decir, a finales de febrero.

—Se debe tener al menos 15 años de edad.

—La persona debía estar en Estados Unidos el día que se anunció el programa, es decir, el 15 de junio del 2012.

—Debe haber llegado a los Estados Unidos antes de los 16 años.

—Se debe demostrar presencia continua en el país desde el 1 de enero del 2010.

—Se debe pagar una tarifa de 465 dólares.

—Someterse a un examen de huellas dactilares.

—Se debe estar en la actualidad inscrito en una escuela, haber completado estudios de la escuela secundaria o haber obtenido diploma equivalente, conocido en inglés como GED, o haber estado enrolado en la Guardia Costera o en las fuerzas armadas de los Estados Unidos.

—No haber sido acusado formalmente de un delito, de un delito leve "significativo" o de tres o más delitos leves. No puede ser considerado una amenaza para la seguridad nacional.

—Se debe pagar una tarifa de 465 dólares por solicitud.

—Someterse a un examen de huellas dactilares

AMPLIACION DEL PROGRAMA DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS (DACA)

—Uno podrá acogerse a esta ampliación aproximadamente

impuestos, de luz y teléfono; documentos de hospitales o actas de nacimiento de algún hijo; cuentas bancarias; recibo de la compra de algún vehículo, de certificados de estudios o de que están matriculados en algún curso, y partidas de nacimiento en Estados Unidos o certificados de residencia de sus hijos.

Tomas Aguirre, una mexicana de 45 años que lleva 19 viviendo sin autorización en el sur de la Florida, aún no puede creer que pueda ser una de las posibles beneficiadas con las medidas de Obama. Y aunque tiene esperanzas de regularizar al menos temporalmente su situación porque uno de sus cinco hijos es nacido en Estados

Unidos, espera a que pronto se revelen más detalles para despejar el panorama y buscar asesoramiento legal.

"Para mí sería una tranquilidad salir a la calle sin temor a que me deporten y mis hijos se queden sin mamá", dijo la mujer, cuyo esposo falleció en 2013 "esperando una legalización"



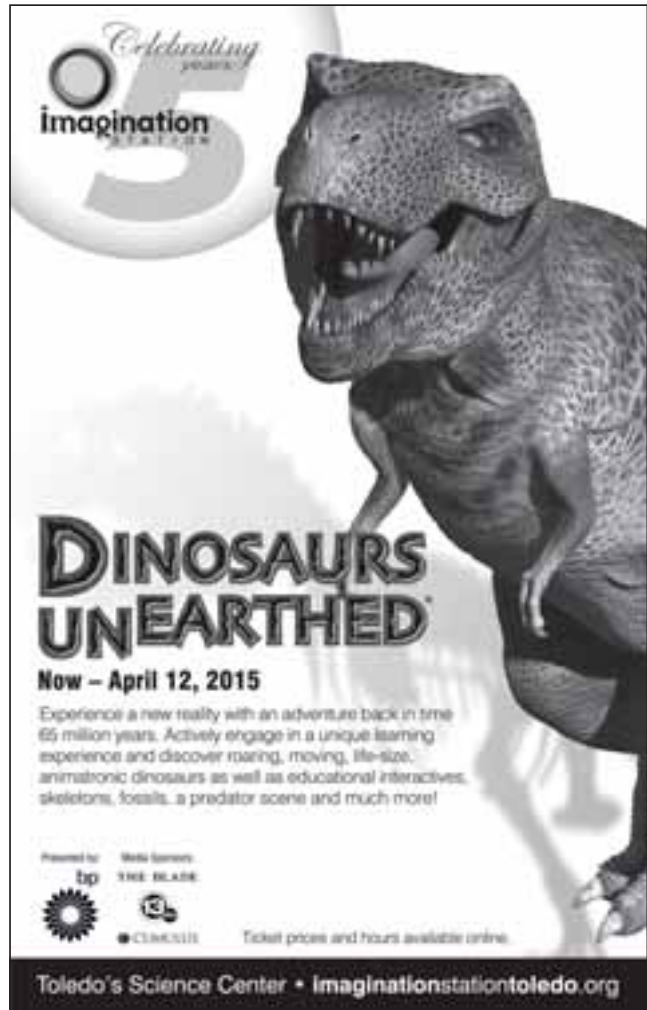
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Michigan artist's photography exhibit at UT to shed new light, meaning on the personal artifacts of others

The University of Toledo Department of Art welcomes photographer and artist, Rebecca Zeiss, to the UT Center for the Visual Arts for a lecture and an exhibit of her work. Zeiss's exhibit "Reverence & Irreverence" will be shown in the CVA Clement Gallery, January 20 to March 2, 2015.

It explores the handling of objects and their assigned or remembered memories. Zeiss spent time with artifacts given to her by family and strangers over time. While lighting and composing the original photographs, Zeiss first looked for signs of past stories, possibilities, and potential mysteries. She would then arrive

at and express the sublime understanding of the experiences the objects have, or likely had, witnessed.

These perceptions are presented in a variety of formats ranging from ultraviolet images printed on brushed aluminum to hand-made, multi-image large format platinum/palladium prints.

Zeiss will speak about her work and process on Monday, March 2 at 1:30 p.m. in the Haigh Auditorium of the CVA. Zeiss is from Midland, Michigan. She majored in art at Delta College, received a BFA from the University of Michigan and an MFA from Central Michigan University.

She is currently a graphic

arts designer for the Clarke Historical Library in Mount Pleasant, and also teaches photography at the University of Michigan (Flint), Delta College, and Saginaw State University.

The lecture and exhibit are free and open to the public. Clement Gallery hours are daily 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information about Rebecca Zeiss, visit <http://zeissworks.com>. Information from one of her latest exhibits can be found at <http://photographyatoregon.org/zeiss/index.html>

For more information about the UT Department of Art, visit <http://www.utoledo.edu/commarts/art/>

Michigan Jews, Muslims volunteering on Christmas

DETROIT, Dec. 25, 2014 (AP): Once again, Jews and Muslims have joined together as volunteers around metropolitan Detroit to help their Christian neighbors celebrate Christmas.

The Detroit News (<http://bit.ly/1rlQVdi>) says about 1,000 Jewish and Muslim volunteers from a number of congregations collabo-

rated Thursday on *Mitzvah Day*. The Michigan Muslim Community Council is coordinating volunteers from its communities.

Dr. Muzammil Ahmed says that support for the joint Christmas Day effort is growing among Muslims despite the terrible year for peace in the Middle East, which saw widespread destruction in the war be-

tween Israel and Gaza-based Hamas.

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Metropolitan Detroit has sponsored *Mitzvah Day* for two decades, and Muslims have been joined in for the past six years.

Mitzvah means "commandment" in Hebrew and is generally translated as a *good deed*.

Administrative Relief Coming for Immigrants in the New Year

Michigan United schedules immigration seminars for 2015

DETROIT, Jan. 2, 2015: President Barack Obama announced his decision in November of 2014 to offer some form of legal status to millions of undocumented people living in the United States. Since then, Michigan United has been hard at work looking for people who may be eligible for relief and providing them the information they will need to take advantage of this opportunity.

The community organization was instrumental in bringing about this change and has held informational meetings with hundreds of immigrants eager to hear the details of the President's executive action.

Michigan United has announced the next round of seminars in the Detroit area where potential applicants can get the facts separated from the rumors:

• **Sunday January 4, 2015** - First Latin American Baptist Church, 6205 W. Fort St., Detroit, MI 48209 12:30PM.

• **Tuesday January 13, 2015** - St. Stephen Catholic Church, 4311 Central Ave., Detroit, MI 48210 10:00AM.

• **Thursday January 22, 2015** - Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, 1721 Junction St., Detroit, MI 48209 6:00PM.

• **Sunday January 25, 2015** - St. Anne Catholic Church, 1000 St. Anne St., Detroit, MI 48216 11:30AM.

• **Tuesday February 3, 2015** - Latino Family Services, 738715 W. Fort St., Detroit, MI, 48216 6:00PM.

• **Tuesday February 10, 2015** - Maybury Elementary, 4814610 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48209 12:30PM.

• **Wednesday February 11, 2015** - Southwest Solu-

tions 5675 Larkins St., Detroit, MI 48210 12:30PM.

According to Michigan United, people seeking help need to beware of unscrupulous "Notarios." "Right now there are no applications available, so no one can help a potential applicant get registered at any cost. Don't pay anyone until you know the facts."

Questions? Preguntas? Contact Adonis Flores (313) 658-2389 adonis@miunited.org

On the Internet: www.miunited.org

Alivio Administrativo para Inmigrantes Llegará en el Año Nuevo

Michigan Unido prepara seminarios de inmigración para el 2015

DETROIT: El presidente Barack Obama anunció su decisión en noviembre para ofrecer algún tipo de estatus legal a millones de indocumentados que viven en los EE.UU. Desde entonces, Michigan Unido ha estado trabajando arduamente en busca de personas que pueden ser elegibles para el alivio, además de proporcionarles la información que necesitan para tomar ventaja de esta oportunidad.

La organización de la comunidad fue fundamental en el logro de este cambio, y han mantenido reuniones informativas con cientos de inmigrantes deseosos de escuchar los detalles de la acción ejecutiva del presidente.

Michigan Unido ha anunciado la próxima ronda de seminarios en el área de Detroit, donde los posibles solicitantes pueden obtener información verdadera y no rumores:

• **Domingo 4 de enero, 2015** - First Latin American Baptist Church, 6205 W. Fort St., Detroit, @ 12:30PM.

• **Jueves 13 de enero, 2015**



- St. Stephen Catholic Church, 4311 Central Ave., Detroit, @ 10:00AM.

• **Jueves 22 de enero, 2015** - Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, 1721 Junction St., Detroit, @ 6:00PM.

• **Domingo 25 de enero, 2015** - St. Anne Catholic Church, 1000 St. Anne St., Detroit, @ 11:30AM.

• **Martes 3 de febrero, 2015** - Latino Family Services, 738715 W. Fort St., Detroit, @ 6:00PM.

• **Martes 10 de febrero, 2015** - Maybury Elementary, 4814610 Porter St., Detroit, @ 12:30PM.

• **Miércoles 11 de febrero, 2015** - Southwest Solutions 5675 Larkins St., Detroit, @ 12:30PM.

Se espera que "Notarios" sin escrúpulos se aprovechen de las familias inocentes que buscan la ayuda de la acción del Presidente. En este momento no hay aplicaciones disponibles, así que nadie puede ayudarle a registrarse. No pague a nadie hasta que conozca los hechos. Primero venga a una reunión informativa de Michigan Unido.

NOTA: Michigan Unido es una amplia coalición estatal que trabaja para reformar nuestro deficiente sistema de inmigración, el avance de la justicia a la vivienda, proteger los derechos de los trabajadores de bajos ingresos y desarrollar el liderazgo. Se puede encontrar más información en la página web de Michigan United: www.miunited.org.

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Group protests on behalf of older Ohio inmates

By MARK GILLISPIE, Associated Press

CLEVELAND, Dec. 25, 2014 (AP): *Dessalines Weaver* said he believes strongly enough in the cause of trying to free older and often infirm prison inmates that it's easy to sacrifice a portion of his Christmas Day to hold a protest in front of an empty state office building.

Thursday's protest rally, attended by about 30 people, marked the second consecutive Christmas that the *Universal Support Network* rallied in front of the downtown Columbus offices of the *Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction*. Weaver, who lives in Cincinnati, started the group with his cousin Norman Whiteside, who's serving a sentence of 19 to 37 years for his 1986 conviction on charges of conspiracy to commit aggravated murder and forgery.

"I developed Universal Support Network to be the voice of the voiceless,"

Weaver said during an interview this week.

Weaver said he and his group find it unconscionable that Ohio won't release older inmates who have served for decades and no longer pose threats to anyone.

"Some of these guys have been down 40 years and can hardly walk," Weaver said.

A jury convicted Whiteside, now 61, for his role in the 1982 shooting death of college student Laura Carter. She and two other women were sitting in the backseat of her parents' car as her father unknowingly drove near two rival gangs engaged in a shootout in Columbus. Whiteside was accused of leading one of the gangs and for having purchased the gun that fired the fatal shot.

Carter's death at age 18 inspired musician *Christopher Cross* to write the 1983 hit song "Think of Laura."

Cross was dating Carter's college roommate at Denison

University near Columbus when she was killed.

Whiteside also has a musical connection. One of his recordings from the 1970s was sampled by *Kanye West* for a song that recently received a Grammy Award nomination in the rap category.

The parole board refuses to free Whiteside because of his legal work on behalf of other inmates, Weaver said. A state prison spokeswoman previously cited Whiteside's misconduct in prison.

Weaver said former prosecutor Patrick Sheeran, who handled Whiteside's case and is now a Franklin County Common Pleas judge, has a vendetta against his cousin.

Sheeran acknowledged in an interview that he, Whiteside's trial judge and another prosecutor have written letters to the parole board opposing his release. But Sheeran said he would not oppose Whiteside's parole when he becomes eligible next year.



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British singer Joe Cocker dies of lung cancer

By DAVID BAUDER, Associated Press

NEW YORK, Dec. 22, 2014 (AP)—British singer Joe Cocker, whose had hits that included "You Are So Beautiful" and "Up Where We Belong," and a contortionist style of performance memorably parodied by John Belushi on "Saturday Night Live," has died. He was 70.

His London-based agent, Barrie Marshall, said Cocker died Monday of lung cancer in Colorado, where he has lived for the past two decades.

Cocker, a song interpreter more than a songwriter, first became known through his hit cover of the Beatles' "With a Little Help From My Friends," and a characteristically manic performance at the first Woodstock festival in 1969. His raucous "Mad Dogs & Englishmen" tour of 1970 produced a film and a recording that went gold.

He had a top 10 hit in 1975 on the aching ballad "You Are So Beautiful," with his voice cracking on the final emotional note

and won his first Grammy Award in 1983 for his "Up Where We Belong" duet with Jennifer Warnes, which was the theme of the movie "An Officer and a Gentleman."

Cocker, who received an Order of the British Empire in 2011 for his contribution to music, released 40 albums and continued to tour after the hits dried up.

He was known for an intense, twitchy stage presence where his arms would flail and face contort as he wrung notes from his raspy voice. When he performed on "Saturday Night Live" in 1976, Belushi parodied him onstage, exaggerating his movements by flipping to the ground. It was a clip seen as widely as Cocker's own performances.

Years later, Cocker told The Associated Press' Mary Campbell that he was playing an imaginary piano and air guitar while singing—the elements that contributed to this unique style.

"That was the frustration of not being able to play, really," he said.

Cocker moved to

Crawford, Colorado, a town of fewer than 500 people, in the early 1990s. He and his wife, Pam, ran a children's educational foundation—the *Cocker Kids Foundation*—that raised funds for the town and schools, and ran the *Mad Dog Cafe* for several years in town, said Tom Wills, publisher of The North Fork Merchant Herald, a local community newspaper.

Wills said Cocker bought about 40 acres of property and built a hillside mansion—which he called *Mad Dog Ranch*—when he moved to Colorado.

A group of Cocker's friends gathered Monday at community radio station KVNf to play Cocker's songs.

"He had a long battle with cancer. We're trying to do a little tribute for him," said Bob Pennetta, a real estate agent and board member of the *Cocker Kids Foundation*.

Colleen Slevin and Jim Anderson in Denver contributed to this story.



OBITUARIES



ELSA VÁSQUEZ FERREYRA

Elsa Vásquez Ferreyra, age 89, passed away peacefully on December 14, 2014 at Toledo Hospital in Toledo, Ohio. Elsa was born in La Serena, Chile on August 25, 1925. Her mother Fresia moved with Elsa to Lima, Perú at an early age, where she attended school. She married her sweetheart Jorge Vásquez Gutiérrez and together they raised their family in Lima, Perú.

They had 6 children: Jorge Vásquez, Fresia Vásquez, Hernán Vásquez, Mario Vásquez, Elsa Nakashima Vásquez, and Ines Vásquez.

Offher 6 children, she is survived by 4: Fresia (who lives in Maryland), Hernán and Elsa (who reside in Toledo), and Ines (who resides in Lima, Peru).

Elsa is also survived by 20 great grandchildren, living from Rome, Italy, Maryland, Ohio, and Michigan to Lima, Perú.

A Memorial Mass and blessing of her ashes will be celebrated at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church located at 728 S. St. Clair St. Toledo, Ohio 43619, on Sunday, January 4, 2015 at 12:00 noon, with Fr. Francisco Molina. Her daughter Ines will be present to deliver her mother's ashes to rest next to her husband and mother at the British Cemetery in Lima, Perú.

Lunch and a gathering will follow at the parish hall adjacent to the church immediately after the Mass. All her friends are invited to share some of Elsa's memories with her family.

The family suggests tributes to her fund at SS. Peter and Paul Church for the preservation of the beautiful 25' mural of the Virgin of Guadalupe, the patroness of the Americas, which she always admired as a sign of motherly love and hope to all who visit the neighborhood.

PAULA HALL

Paula (née Vribes) Hall, age 41, was called home on December 23, 2014. She was born July 28, 1973. Paula loved her family deeply, was loved by many and will be dearly missed.

She is survived by her children Jeremy (Chelsea), Anthony, Keysha, Keyjuan, Aaliyah, and Angela; her companion Limon Wilson; brothers Anthony and Scott; sisters Tina, Tanya, Kathy Jo; and granddaughter Amina. She is preceded in death by her parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and children. A memorial service will be held at the Fredrick Douglas Center, 1001 Indiana Ave., on Friday, January 2nd at 2 p.m.



Ohio flu hospitalizations top 1,900 this season

COLUMBUS, Dec. 24, 2014 (AP)—Ohio health officials say 935 patients with the flu required hospital care last week, nearly doubling the statewide total of flu hospitalizations to more than 1,900 so far this season.

Flu season can stretch from autumn into spring, and this year it appears to be severe and may be peaking early.

The hospitalizations last week top the worst weeks of the previous two flu seasons, The Columbus Dispatch reported. There were 400 hos-

pitalizations in one week last year and about 700 in the worst week the previous year.

The Cleveland area appeared hard hit last week, as more than one-third of the reported flu hospitalizations were in Cuyahoga County.



Experts worry this flu season will be rough because the dominant strain isn't covered in this year's vaccine.

"There's something with the A strain that causes more severe symptoms in people

and sends more people to the hospital," Ohio Department of Health spokeswoman Melanie Amato told the Dayton Daily News.

Young children and the elderly are considered especially at risk of flu complications. Of the hospitalizations so far, 177 have been children ages 4 or younger. More

than 900 were adults age 65 or older.

Officials say people can help limit the spread of illness by frequently washing their hands, covering their noses and mouths when sneezing or coughing, and staying home if they're showing symptoms of illness and fever.

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Message from the Editor

Welcome to Sighted Guide Ohio

My name is Adrienne Kulapaniti and I have a son that was born 100% blind. I decided to create a publication that reaches out to the visually impaired and blind communities through out the State of Ohio. Sighted Guide Ohio would like to offer resources, services for your area, latest technology information, news and stories of people just like you and me... Welcome to Sighted Guide Ohio!

Sighted Guide Ohio's mission is to provide a magazine dedicated to the visually impaired and blind friends and family. We reach out to the State of Ohio for the people that need a voice for visually impaired and blind communities.

Adrienne Kulapaniti
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Adrienne@vifas.org

Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.

— Helen Keller

Cines estrenan "The Interview"

Por HILLEL ITALIE, Associated Press

NUEVA YORK, 25 de dic. de 2014 (AP): Los críticos y el público están de acuerdo en que "The Interview" está lejos de ser una obra maestra, pero gracias a las amenazas de los ciberpiratas que casi impidieron su estreno, se ha convertido en un fenómeno en los cines independientes.

El jueves cientos de cines del The Edge 8 en Greenville, Alabama, al *Bijou by the Bay en Traverse, Michigan de Michael Moore*, estrenaron la comedia de Seth Rogen y James Franco sobre un complot contra el líder norcoreano Kim Jong Un. Sony Pictures había cancelado el estreno después de que las principales cadenas de cines se negaran a presentar la película que en un principio tenía previsto llegar a 3,000 salas.

Pero después de que el presidente Obama y otras personas criticaron la decisión, los ejecutivos de Sony cambiaron de parecer. "The Interview" quedó a disposición del público en varias plataformas digitales el miércoles por la tarde, incluyendo Google Play, YouTube Movies, Xbox Video de Microsoft y un sitio creado por Sony. Al mismo tiempo Sony y varios cines independientes accedieron a estrenar la película en unas 300 salas el día de Navidad.

"Nos estamos pronunciando por la libertad", dijo el gerente Lee Peterson de Cinema Village East en Manhattan, donde la mayoría de las funciones del jueves tenían entradas agotadas. "Queremos mostrarle al mundo que no le pueden decir a estadounidenses lo que pueden o lo que no pueden ver. En lo personal no estoy asustado.

En algunos cines que presentan "The Interview" sería más normal ver en su programación un documental sobre Corea del Norte que una comedia simplona sobre ese país asiático. En el Jean



Cocteau Cinema en Santa Fe, Nuevo Mexico, propiedad del autor de "Juego de Tronos" George RR Martin, la programación incluye la cinta española de 1995 "Flamenco" de Carlos Saura, la cinta local "The Twilight Angel" y un festival de cine italiano. La Sociedad Cinematográfica del Lincoln Center, que comenzará a presentar "The Interview" el viernes, hará dentro de poco un homenaje al director sueco de "Force Majeure" Ruben Ostlund y presentará documental sobre el premio Nobel Isaac Bashevis Singer.

La propia historia de "The Interview" se ha desarrollado como una comedia de Hollywood en la que una farsa caricaturesca le roba atención a películas más serias que se estrenan esta semana en Estados Unidos como "Selma", el drama sobre la lucha por los derechos civiles de 1965; la adaptación de Angelina Jolie a la popular historia de la Segunda Guerra Mundial "Unbroken"; y la versión estelar de "Into the Woods" de Stephen Sondheim.

Pero la posibilidad de que ocurrieran ataques durante las funciones de la cinta fue tomada más seriamente por la industria cinematográfica que por las autoridades. La semana pasada el Departamento de Seguridad Nacional emitió un comunicado en el que decía que no había amenazas plausibles. Mientras tanto Darrell Foxworth, un agente especial del FBI en San Diego, dijo el miércoles que la agencia estaba compartiendo información con los propietarios de cines independientes que presentan

"The Interview" por un "exceso de precaución" y también estaban enseñándoles detalles sobre amenazas cibernéticas y la ayuda que pueden tener del FBI.

Kim Song, un diplomático norcoreano para Naciones Unidas, condenó el estreno el miércoles calificando la película como una "burla imperdonable a nuestra soberanía y a la dignidad de nuestro líder supremo". Pero Kim dijo que Corea del norte posiblemente limitará su respuesta a su discurso y no emprenderá "una acción física".

En Arizona se podían ver personas formadas fuera del cine Valley Art de Tempe, donde se habían agotado los boletos para las cinco funciones de la película.

"Hay mucha gente enloquecida por (la controversia), es algo más grande que la película", dijo Omar Khil, de 20 años.

En el Cinema Village en Manhattan, la función de las 10 a.m. estaba casi repleta. Derek Karpel, un abogado de 34 años, dijo que "tanta gente como sea posible debería ir a verla. De hecho el gobierno debería subsidiar boletos si eso es posible".

Pero a pesar del ánimo por apoyar la cinta, Karpel no dijo que fuera una película increíble.

"Nadie debe verla esperando que se trate de un comentario serio sobre política", dijo. "Pero es divertida, la recomiendo".

Jonathan Lemire en New York, Eric Tucker en Washington y Alina A. Hartouian en Tempe contribuyeron con este despacho.

MLK Day observances to be held in Toledo, Columbus, & Cleveland

By Kevin Milliken, La Prensa Correspondent

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day falls on Monday, Jan 19th this year—and the holiday means a lot more than just a day off for government and bank workers in Toledo, Columbus, and Cleveland.

The 14th annual observance of Toledo's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Celebration will be an observance of Dr. King's life and legacy, to be held at 9 a.m. at the University of Toledo's Savage Arena. A community luncheon will follow the event prepared by *We Are Ribs*.

"You can expect a lot of music, a lot of celebration, a strong showing of unity, diversity, and service to our community," said Linda Alvarado-Arce, executive director of Toledo's Board of Community Relations. "There's a big push that this is not just a one-day event. It's a year-round event. So we've changed quite a lot to make it more inclusive and something the community really wanted."

Former Marine and Toledo Public Schools board member Robert Torres will serve as the keynote speaker. He was selected, in part, because of his longstanding service to the youth of the community. Torres is believed to be the first local Latino to serve as the keynote speaker for the Unity Day event. Tony Rios has served as an emcee in recent years.

Toledo's Board of Community Relations is organizing the event for the first time in conjunction with several UT organizations. There will no longer be floor seating for elected officials and other dignitaries. Instead, Ms. Alvarado-Arce stated they will be expected to sit among

the crowd in the stands, promoting a more unified audience, which has numbered in past years between 1,500 and 5,000 in attendance.

"Everyone will be sitting together at the Unity event," she emphasized. "That way we all come together. We're still going to recognize everyone. It will just be more interactive."

WTOL news anchor Jerry Anderson and Rhonda Sewell, Toledo-Lucas County Public Library media relations coordinator, will serve as emcees. Toledo Mayor D. Michael Collins and Dr. Nagi Naganathan, UT interim president, will address the gathering as well. The theme for this year's observance is "What are YOU doing for others?"

Four generations will also speak— an elementary-age student, a high school student, a college student, and a senior citizen— on how Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has impacted each of their lives, along with what service, diversity, and unity mean to them.

There will be a procession of international flags reflecting Toledo's diversity. A steel drum corps from the Toledo School for the Arts will play during the procession, which will be accompanied by student artwork from each of the countries represented by the flags.

The Scott High School band and the Woodward High School choir each will perform. Fusion, described as a celebratory band, will also play during the event. Scholarships will be awarded.

"It's going to be a very youth-friendly, happy event," said Ms. Alvarado-Arce. "It's going to be a bit different and add energy to the event."

Attendees can sign up at the event through the *United Way of Greater Toledo* to be a community volunteer throughout the year. Major sponsors include *ProMedica* and its sister agency *Paramount, Black and Veatch, UT, LMHA, the Toledo Zoo*, and various media outlets including *La Prensa*.

Columbus and Cleveland

Columbus will host its 30th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Breakfast, 10 a.m., at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, 400 N. High St. Tickets, priced at \$40 each, must be ordered in advance through the event website, www.MLKRBreakfast.com. Specially priced hotel reservations also can be made at the Hyatt Regency at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, 350 N. High St.

Dr. Julius Scruggs, president of the *National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.*, will serve as the keynote speaker at the Columbus breakfast event. Dr. Scruggs has served in that role for five years and has given voice and focus to the influence and spirituality of an estimated seven million members of the nation's largest predominantly African-American denomination.

The *Cleveland Public Library's Martin Luther King, Jr. Branch*, 1962 Stokes Blvd., will host the 30th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Program on Jan. 19th at 1 p.m. (doors open at noon). The keynote speaker is *Pastor Richard M. Gibson* of the Elizabeth Baptist Church in Cleveland. A community reception follows the program. For additional information call 216-623-7018 or go to www.clp.org

Mariachi connects schools, families in Chicago

By CARYN ROUSSEAU, Associated Press

CHICAGO, Dec. 25, 2014 (AP): José Torres smiles as he thinks about how his 12-year-old daughter has embraced learning the same mariachi music he plays at home during a new Chicago Public Schools program that teaches the Mexican songs, linking the family's culture with the classroom.

"She's asking questions about her family, her background," Torres said, sitting outside Alexa's music classroom at Richard Edwards Elementary School, a largely Latino arts magnet school on Chicago's South Side. It's one of five Chicago schools with 1,100 students in the third through seventh grades that the nonprofit *Mariachi Heritage Foundation* debuted in this fall.

Chicago joins dozens of schools districts nationwide in cities including *Las Vegas, San Antonio, and Tucson, Arizona*, that teach students how to sing and play mariachi music. It's a way to connect schools and parents

from Latino communities, foundation president César Maldonado said.

A traditional Mexican music, mariachi often is performed by groups of musicians playing stringed instruments and trumpets and wearing brightly colored costumes. The songs are both ballads and fast tempo reflecting different, often rural regions of Mexico.

"It gives parents the opportunity to have a topic they can speak on," Maldonado said. "Let's use that as a platform to bring parents into the conversation of everyday academic life."

That was evident to music teacher *Maria Pulido* when the line was out her classroom door at this year's parent-teacher conferences.

Pulido teaches mariachi students basic music skills on violins along with how to play Mexican folk songs. The program eventually will incorporate mariachi singing instruction.

"That's something the parents can say 'Wow, I know that

song. I used to sing that song when I was young," she said.

Marcia Neel, who helps organize mariachi programs in school districts around the country through her company *Music Education Consultants, Inc.*, said one issue is earning the same respect for mariachi music as orchestra or band programs.

"It should be offered with the same amount of weight," she said. "It just needs to be recognized as the legitimate art form that it really is. The key was to take mariachi from being an out of school thing and put it into the school day."

Finances are a concern, said Maldonado, who started this first year in Chicago using \$300,000 in private and corporate donations. He bought 450 violins with the money. In January he hopes to buy more mariachi instruments, like trumpets and guitarrons, or bass guitars, and expand to seven more schools.

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Orphanage fundraiser Jan. 6

By Federico Martínez, Special Contributor to La Prensa
 A stunning oil painting of the *Lady of Guadalupe*—valued at \$8,000—is being raffled off to raise money to help orphaned children in Mexico.

Toledo visual artist *Alberto Marin* created the painting using technical oil and fine gold. The painting measures 35 inches in width and 64 inches long.

"All of the money raised will benefit a children's orphanage in Guanajuato, Mexico," said Mr. Marin, who previously lived in Phoenix, Arizona.

In previous years Mr. Marin has used his talent to help raise money for various charitable causes. "It's all part of a ministry of helping those in need," he said.

Raffle tickets are being sold 3 for \$5.

A draw will be made on January 6, 2015 at the church of *Saints Peter and Saint Paul* in Toledo. To purchase tickets please contact Mr. Marin at (419) 206-3465. *Photos courtesy of Alberto Marin.*



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Cuba relations with Catholic Church at high point

By ANDREA RODRIGUEZ, Associated Press

HAVANA, Dec. 25, 2014 (AP): Golden rays of tropical sunlight slant through the caved-in roof of Saint Thomas de Villanueva chapel, illuminating tiles graced by the faces of saints. Vandals shattered the stained-glass windows and scrawled their names on the thick walls during decades of frigid relations between the Roman Catholic Church and Cuba's communist government.

But a new chain-link fence surrounds the building, protecting it for a future that once seemed unimaginable.

The church is planning to restore the building to its former glory, along with more a dozen more churches, parish houses and other buildings, as part of a quiet reconciliation between the Catholic Church and the Cuban government that has brought relations to a historic high point this Christmas. Authorities have also given permission for the construction of the first two new churches in more than five decades.

After years of bridge-building behind closed doors, the Cuba-Vatican rapprochement burst into the headlines last week when the U.S. government credited Pope Francis with helping facilitate the secret reconciliation talks between the U.S. and Cuba. Francis wrote the leaders of both countries to invite them to resolve their differences.

"We ask the Lord to continue moving forward this process of reconciliation and peace that Pope Francis has favored and supported," Cuban Cardinal Jaime Ortega said in his homily at a Christmas Eve Mass in Havana's colonial cathedral.

Church officials and experts said the mediation and the renovation and construction of churches were essential parts of a fundamental shift in the dealings between the church and the communist state, which has been hostile toward religion for decades.

Developments "are head-

ing in the same direction: a new chapter in the general and economic history of Cuba, and also church-state relations," said Enrique López Oliva, a religious historian at the University of Havana.

The church and the Cuban state were in a state of open hostility in the years immediately after the 1959 revolution that put Fidel Castro in power, a time when some anti-Castro militias used churches to store weapons.

Some priests were sent to labor camps. Churches were confiscated and used by the government as warehouses, bakeries, dining halls or schools.

Openly practicing Catholics were barred from holding public office and membership in the Communist Party. For the faithful, even winning admission to a university could be difficult, and the ubiquitous neighborhood watch committees kept an especially watchful eye on them.

But a thaw began in the 1990s as Cuba removed a constitutional clause declaring the country an officially atheist state. Pope John Paul II paid a momentous visit in 1998 and urged a new era of openness between Cuba and the world. After Benedict XVI visited in 2012, Cuba made Good Friday an official holiday.

Christmas decorations are increasingly visible in office buildings and homes each year. However, the church has made little headway in its hope for more access to state-controlled airwaves and permission to run religious schools.

Earlier this year the editors of a church magazine that has been one of the few independent publications in the country resigned, citing internal pressures from some who felt it was becoming too political.

According to a church member with direct knowledge of the matter, the handover of properties was mentioned during negotiations between Castro and Cardinal Ortega in July 2010, when the church mediated the release of a group of jailed dissidents.

The properties include two churches, a parochial house

and other real estate that was being used as stores in Santiago, Cuba's second-largest city; two plots of land and a chapel in the Bayamo-Manzanillo Diocesis; and the College of Jesuit Priests, a huge building that occupies more than a city block in Cienfuegos.

"It's a very positive gesture by authorities, restoring to a certain extent what belongs to the church, and above all it creates an atmosphere of trust," the Rev. Jose Felix Perez, adjunct secretary of the Cuban Catholic Bishops' Conference, told The Associated Press. "It's all happening, it must be said, gradually."

Ortega has publicly welcomed Castro's economic and social reforms, which have enabled hundreds of thousands of Cubans to work for small private businesses and made it much easier for islanders to travel overseas. Those reforms have not extended to political change, and the Communist Party is still the only one allowed.

Despite the gradual opening, experts say the percentage of Cubans who are practicing Catholics remains well below that of most of the rest of Latin America. For many Cubans, Christmas is a day off work to hang out with family and neighbors, with no spiritual component whatsoever.

Joel Dopic, president of the Cuban Council of Churches, said other evangelical and Protestant churches are also receiving properties from the state. He had no precise figures, but said the returns were less than what the Catholic Church has gotten.

"I think very highly of this state policy to return some properties," Dopic said. "It is part of the transformations that are taking place in the country, where more and more the church will be able to carry out its work and support for the community."

Associated Press writer Nicole Winfield in Vatican City contributed.

Cuban Adjustment Act: Detente spawns Cuban worry on US migration rights

By BEN FOX and ANNE-MARIE GARCIA, Associated Press

HAVANA, Dec. 25, 2014 (AP): Liketens of thousands of Cubans, Gerardo Luis wants to get to the United States and he's suddenly worried that time may be running out.

Across an island where migrating north is an obsession, the widespread jubilation over last week's historic U.S.-Cuba detente is soured by fear that warming relations will eventually end Cubans' unique fast track to legal American residency.

For nearly a half-century, the Cuban Adjustment Act has given Cubans who arrive in the U.S. a virtually guaranteed path to legal residency and eventual citizenship. The knowledge that they will be shielded from deportation has drawn hundreds of thousands of Cubans on perilous raft trips to Florida and land journeys through Central America and Mexico.

"If they take away the adjustment law, it would mean Cubans would end up just like all the other Hispanics who want to enter the United States," said Luis, a 36-year-old construction worker who said he may try to reach Mexico and walk across the border if he doesn't get a visa soon.

U.S. officials say there are no immediate plans to change immigration laws or policy. But with the U.S. and Cuba negotiating a return to full diplomatic relations, many Cubans are wondering how long their extraordinary privilege can survive under restored diplomacy, and are thinking about speeding up plans to get to the U.S.

"I don't know if they will take it away," Angela Moreno, a 67-year-old retiree said of the preferential treatment, "but if they do, Cubans who go to the United States will have to do it like people from other countries."

Cubans arriving at a U.S. border or airport automatically receive permission to stay in the United States under policies stemming from the 1966 act, which allows them to apply for permanent residency after a year, almost always successfully.

Seeking to discourage mass migrations by sea, the United

States developed its so-called "wet foot, dry foot policy," in which migrants who make it to the U.S. are automatically allowed to stay. Those stopped at sea are either sent back to their homeland or to a third country if they can prove a credible fear of persecution.

U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson, a Florida Democrat, said he welcomed President Barack Obama's move to create a "modern relationship" with Cuba, but Congress is not likely to alter the Cuban Adjustment Act or the U.S. trade embargo, until there have been significant steps by the Castro government.

"Major changes to a law like that or to the embargo are not going to happen unless people like me support those changes, and I'm not going to support them unless I see some movement toward freedom," Nelson told The Associated Press.

However, the restoration of diplomatic relations could cause its own complications.

Illegal immigrants caught right after crossing the border are subject to swift deportation without a hearing, a process known as expedited removal. Cubans are exempted simply by presenting proof of their nationality.

Randy McGrorty, the director of Miami's Catholic Legal Services, which helps migrants settle in the United States, noted that a section of the Immigration and Naturalization Act dealing with expedited removal of migrants excludes people from "a country in the Western Hemisphere with whose government the United States does not have full diplomatic relations" without mentioning Cuba by name. It's unclear how re-establishing full relations would affect that vital section of immigration law, he said.

The Cuban Adjustment Act was designed in an era when politics was a factor in many migrants' decision to leave. In recent years Cubans have increasingly left primarily to reunite with their families and seek better economic opportunities. President Raúl Castro's 2012

relaxation of Cuba's immigration laws means citizens can leave without applying for special permits, and maintain many of the island's social benefits even after moving to the U.S. Along with U.S. measures including the granting of five-year, multiple-entry visas, that has contributed to a rising flow of Cubans and Cuban-American traveling back and forth between the two countries.

U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, a Cuban-American Republican, has criticized a growing tendency by migrants to constantly travel between the island and the United States, warning that it endangers the special treatment Cubans have long enjoyed.

If the preferential policy is in place to aid exiles fleeing political oppression, such travel "undermines that argument," Rubio said in August. "That sort of travel puts at risk the status Cubans have."

The U.S. Interests Section, which handles American consular affairs in Havana in the absence of a full embassy, approved more than 33,000 non-immigrant visas for Cubans to visit the U.S. last year, a 99 percent increase.

It has also become much faster to get such a visa, with the wait time dropping from 57 months in 2012 to five months this year. Still, it can be a grueling process. Cubans spend hours each day, starting at dawn, in a plaza near the U.S. mission that is known as the "park of sorrows" because of the long waits and the frequent rejection of paperwork.

One waiting outside the interests section this week was 75-year-old Magaly Ruedas, who wants to join her extended family in the United States and hopes the benefits for Cubans will remain in place. If the law changed, "I think that would hurt Cubans and I don't think Obama or Raúl intended to do that," she said.

Preocupa que distensión con EEUU afecte Ley de Ajuste Cubano

Por BEN FOX y ANNE-MARIE GARCÍA, Associated Press

LA HABANA, 25 de dic. de 2014 (AP): Al igual que decenas de miles de cubanos, Gerardo Luis quiere irse a Estados Unidos, pero repentinamente lo preocupa que se pueda estar acabando el tiempo.

En una isla donde emigrar al norte es una obsesión, el amplio júbilo de la semana pasada sobre histórica distensión entre Estados Unidos y Cuba ha quedado marcado por el temor a que la reanudación de relaciones ponga fin a final de cuentas a la vía rápida con que cuentan los cubanos para recibir la residencia en Estados Unidos.

Durante casi medio siglo, la Ley de Ajuste Cubano ha dado a los cubanos que llegan a Estados Unidos una vía virtualmente garantizada a la residencia legal y posteriormente a la naturalización. El hecho de saber que están protegidos de la deportación ha llevado a cientos de miles de cubanos a peligrosos viajes en balsa a la Florida y largos viajes por tierra por Centroamérica y México.

"La verdad es que si no me

dan la visa en la SINA (Sección de Intereses de Estados Unidos en Cuba) tengo pensado irme de cualquier forma, y claro si quitaran la ley de ajuste eso significaría que los cubanos quedarían como los demás hispanos que quieren entrar a Estados Unidos, se acabarían las facilidades para los que quieren pedir asilo y eso sería una dificultad para comenzar allá", dijo Luis, trabajador de la construcción de 36 años, quien agregó que pudiera tratar de viajar a México y cruzar la frontera con Estados Unidos si no consigue pronto una visa.

Funcionarios estadounidenses dicen que no hay planes inmediatos para cambiar leyes o políticas de inmigración. Pero en momentos que Estados Unidos y Cuba negocian la reanudación de relaciones diplomáticas plenas, muchos cubanos se preguntan cuánto tiempo podrá sobrevivir el extraordinario privilegio de que disfrutan y ya planean acelerar sus planes para llegar a Estados Unidos.

"Yo no sé si van a quitar la ley de ajuste", dijo Angela Moreno, una retirada de 67 años, "pero si lo hacen, los cubanos que decidan irse tendrían que hacer como los de otros países".

Los cubanos que llegan a la frontera estadounidense o a un aeropuerto reciben automáticamente permiso para permanecer en el país sobre la base de políticas establecidas por la ley de 1966, que les permite solicitar la residencia permanente un año después de llegar, casi siempre con éxito.

Con el fin de desalentar la migración masiva por mar, Estados Unidos estableció la llamada política de "pies secos, pies mojados" en que a los inmigrantes que llegan al país se les permite quedarse automáticamente. Los detenidos en el mar son repatriados o enviados a un tercer país si pueden probar un temor fundado a la persecución.

El senador federal Bill Nelson, demócrata por Florida, dijo que aprueba la decisión del presidente Barack Obama

de crear una "relación moderna" con Cuba, pero es poco probable que el Congreso modifique la Ley de Ajuste Cubano o el embargo hasta que el gobierno de La Habana haya tomado medidas significativas.

"No habrá cambios importantes a una ley que es o al embargo a menos que personas como yo los apoyemos, y no voy a apoyarlos a menos que vea algún movimiento hacia la libertad", dijo Nelson a The Associated Press.

Sin embargo, la reanudación de las relaciones diplomáticas puede provocar sus propias complicaciones.

Los inmigrantes a quienes detienen inmediatamente después de cruzar la frontera sin autorización están sujetos a la deportación expedida. Los cubanos están exentos con sólo presentar pruebas de su nacionalidad.

Randy McGrorty, director de Servicios Legales Católicos de Miami, entidad que ayuda a los inmigrantes a asentarse en Estados Unidos, señaló que la

cláusula de la Ley de Inmigración y Naturalización sobre la deportación expedida de los inmigrantes excluye a personas "de un país en el Hemisferio Occidental cuyo gobierno no tiene relaciones diplomáticas plenas", sin mencionar a Cuba por su nombre. No está claro cómo el restablecimiento de relaciones plenas pueda afectar esa parte vital de la ley, dijo McGrorty.

La Ley de Ajuste Cubano se redactó en una época en que la política era un factor en la decisión de muchas personas de marcharse de Cuba. Pero en años recientes los cubanos dejan su país fundamentalmente para reunirse con familiares o en busca de mejores oportunidades económicas.

La modificación de las leyes de emigración cubanas por el presidente Raúl Castro en 2012 significa que los ciudadanos se pueden marchar sin solicitar un permiso especial y mantienen muchas de las prestaciones sociales incluso después de establecerse en

Estados Unidos. Junto con las medidas estadounidenses que les otorgan visas de entradas múltiples durante cinco años, eso ha contribuido a un aumento en el flujo de cubanos y cubanoestadounidenses que viajan entre ambos países.

El senador federal Marco Rubio, cubanoestadounidense y republicano por Florida, ha criticado la tendencia en aumento de los inmigrantes que viajan constantemente entre los dos países, advirtiendo que eso pone en peligro el trato especial del que han disfrutado los cubanos desde hace muchos años.

Si la política preferencial se mantiene para ayudar a los que huyen de la persecución política, esos viajes "socavan ese argumento", dijo Rubio en agosto. "Ese tipo de viajes pone el peligro el estatus de los cubanos".

La Sección de Intereses de Estados Unidos, que maneja los asuntos consulares de Washington en

(Continúa en la p. 11)

Obama: No quick end to embargo on Cuba

By JULIE PACE, AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON, DC, Dec. 20, 2014 (AP) — President Barack Obama says he doesn't expect the reopening of diplomatic relations with Cuba to bring overnight change on the island, a quick end to the U.S. economic embargo or the likelihood that he will soon visit the communist nation.

"This is still a regime that represses its people," Obama said Friday at a year-end news conference two days after the historic announcement that he was moving to end the half century of Cold War acrimony with Havana. He said he hopes to visit Cuba at some point in his life but that he is not at the stage yet of going or hosting Cuban President Raúl Castro in Washington.

Instead, Obama said the change in policy should give the U.S. a greater opportunity to have influence on Cuba and reflects his belief that 50 years of isolation haven't worked.

"We will be in a position to respond to whatever action they take the same way we do with a whole range of countries around the world when they do things that we think are wrong," Obama said.

He said the four-decade-old embargo should end but he didn't anticipate it soon. Lifting the embargo must be done by Congress and Obama said it will likely be a while before U.S. lawmakers take up that debate.

Obama said longtime leader Fidel Castro's name came up only briefly in his phone call this week with Castro's brother and successor. Obama said he opened the call with about 15 minutes of an opening statement, then apologized for talking so long.

Obama said the Cuban president responded, "You're still a young man and you still have a chance to break Fidel's record. He once spoke for seven hours straight."

Obama said Raúl Castro then delivered an opening statement at least twice as long as his. "I was able to say it runs in the family."

Cuba was one of many issues that Obama addressed concerning a year he saw as basically positive, despite a series of foreign policy crises and major defeats for his Democratic party in midterm elections.

In fact, Obama declared 2014 "a breakthrough year for America," putting aside the fits and starts of the past 12 months to focus on achievements and the prospect of compromise with his political foes who are taking control of Congress.

The news conference came at the end of what Obama titled his "Year of Action," one in which Congress failed to take up most of his agenda and he

turned to looking for ways to act on his own, most recently on immigration. Republicans cried foul at that tactic, accusing Obama of overstepping his authority.

On Friday, the president acknowledged many unanticipated crises in the past year but said he enters 2015 with renewed confidence that "America is making strides where it counts."

He ticked off the year's improvements, citing lower unemployment and a rising number of Americans covered by health insurance. On climate change, he touted his own executive action and a Chinese agreement to combat global warming. And he said America's combat mission in Afghanistan would soon be over.

"Take any metric that you want, America's resurgence is real. We are better off," said Obama, who spoke before leaving for vacation in Hawaii.

He will return to Washington with both congressional chambers under Republican control, a first since he's been in the White House—and attention turning to the 2016 race to replace him. While much of his agenda will face a dead end in Capitol Hill, Obama aides say he'll look for areas of compromise on issues like trade and taxes and continue to act on his own where he can.

Obama said he has been speaking to House Speaker John Boehner and incoming Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell about how they can make progress, including tax reform.

"They are serious about wanting to get things done. The tax area is one area where we can get things done," Obama said, adding he wanted to see more fairness and simplicity.

But Obama also warned Republicans that he would block efforts to erode his health care law or further water down banking regulation enacted in the aftermath of the financial crisis.

In another potential area of conflict, Obama downplayed the benefits of building the Keystone XL pipeline from Canada, arguing it would not lower gasoline prices and that more jobs would be created by repairing US-America's infrastructure.

He said the pipeline would mainly benefit Canadian oil companies that need to get Canadian oil to the Gulf of Mexico. He said the pipeline is "not even a nominal benefit for U.S. consumers."

McConnell has said it would be the first bill taken up under the new Republican-majority Senate. But environmentalists have made opposition to its approval a priority.

US-Cuba: New life for Cuba's classic cars?

By E. EDUARDO CASTILLO and KRISTEN WYATT, Associated Press

HAVANA, Dec. 24, 2014 (AP) — *Dairo Tio* cruises the streets of Havana in a gleaming black 1954 Buick with polished chrome highlights and the diesel motor from an electric plant bolted beneath the hood.

When the brakes failed in his beautiful Frankenstein of a taxicab, Tio couldn't work for 15 days as he waited for a machinist to hand carve the necessary screws.

The half-century-old embargo on most U.S. exports has turned Cubans into some of the most inventive mechanics in the world, technicians capable of engineering feats long lost to the modern world of electronic ignitions and computerized engine calibration.

President Barack Obama's announcement that he is loosening the embargo through executive action has Cubans dreaming of an end to the era of cannibalizing train springs for suspensions and cutting tire patches by hand. One of the measures announced by Obama last week would allow U.S. exports to Cuba's small class of private business owners, which includes thousands of mechanics and taxi drivers who shuttle both Cubans in battered sedans for about 50 cents a ride and tourists in shiny, restored vintage vehicles for \$25 an hour.

While the details of Obama's reforms remain uncertain, Cubans are hopeful that their publication in the coming weeks will end a five-decade drought of cars and parts.

"Maybe it will be possible to get parts faster, at better prices," said a hopeful Raul Arabi, 58, who spoke with The Associated Press while seated behind the wheel of a cherry-red 1952 Chevy convertible that still runs on its original 6-cylinder engine. "If they opened a specific store for this, even better."

Cuba long restricted car ownership almost entirely to prominent bureaucrats, high achievers in their fields and professionals who completed government service abroad.

That limit was dropped last year but replaced by markups drove prices as high as \$262,000 for a Peugeot that lists for the equivalent of about \$53,000 outside Cuba. That leaves classic cars as one of the only options for Cubans needing private transportation for themselves or a business, although prices around \$20,000 for old cars mean buyers on the island often need help for the purchase from relatives abroad.

With so much invested in their cars, new engines,

hoods, fenders and transmissions is a dream for the owners of what were once known as "Humphrey Bogarts" and that remain a fixture of the landscape.

"It's pretty complicated," said Tio, 27. "The government won't sell you glass for these old cars. They won't sell replacement parts for these old cars. Everything is made by hand."

A few years ago, the only way Tio could get new tires for his car was to rely on the generosity of a relative who brought some back from Venezuela.

In the meantime, necessity will drive invention when it comes to maintaining the thousands of classic cars that fill Cuba's cities and countryside. Many are used for daily needs and commutes, others transport curious tourists soaking up nostalgia, newlyweds, or young girls celebrating their "quinceañeras"—traditional 15th-birthday celebrations.

"When the material doesn't exist, one has to invent it," said a mechanic who agreed to reveal some of his secrets to the AP on the condition that he not be identified because he feared possible repercussions.

Suspension systems are among the most complicated to repair, simply because there are no parts available. But he noted that trains have similar springs that support a lot of weight.

Train coil springs are smaller than those of the cars,



but the mechanic described how they could be stretched with a manual press until they are the necessary height.

"We fix everything, all the time," he said proudly.

Such haphazard methods are not ideal in terms of safety: Putting powerful engines in cars with old bodywork and no seatbelts or airbags increases the risk of dangerous accidents.

And while Cubans' ingenuity at keeping the cars running is impressive, the fact that they have patched together the old cars with scraps means the cars have little chance of becoming collectors' items in the U.S. once the market between the two countries does open up.

"I'm not sure there's a single car on the road in Cuba you could bring here and put in a car show," said Tom Wilkinson, a classic car lover from Detroit who recently visited the island as part of a cultural exchange.

"You have to admire how resourceful the Cubans have been, keeping these cars run-

ning and modernizing them as much as they can," Wilkinson said. "That said, by the standards of the American collector, they're way too rough."

That's probably OK with Cuba, where such cars are like old friends that would not be easy to let go.

"This is part of the national culture," said Arabi, who parks his red Chevy convertible on Havana's iconic seafront boulevard, the Malecon, waiting for tourists to pay for a ride.

"It is part of the culture that tourists want to see here ... and it is part of our own culture. ... Cubans want to celebrate their weddings, their 15-year-old birthday celebrations, in these cars."

With that, Arabi ended the conversation with a rev of his engine as a couple climbed in for a spin in his classic auto—a timeless ride of use and against engineering odds, keeps on running, day after day.

Wyatt reported from Miami.

Preocupa que distensión con EEUU afecte Ley de Ajuste Cubano

(Continuación de p. 10)

La Habana en ausencia de una embajada, aprobó el año pasado más de 33.000 visas de no inmigrante a cubanos para visitar Estados Unidos, un aumento de 99%.

También ha aumentado la rapidez con que se otorgan esas visas, y el tiempo de espera ha bajado de 57 meses en 2012 a cinco

meses este año. Sin embargo, el proceso puede ser complicado. Los cubanos tienen que esperar horas y horas desde el amanecer, en un parque junto a la misión estadounidense conocido como "el parque de los lamentos", debido a las largas esperas y el frecuente rechazo de documentos.

Una de las que esperaba en

la Sección de Intereses esta semana era Magaly Ruedas, de 75 años, quien quiere reunirse con su familia en Estados Unidos y espera que se mantengan los beneficios a los cubanos. Si cambian la ley, "creo que eso perjudicaría a los cubanos y no me parece que ese sea el objetivo de Obama ni de Raúl", dijo.

United in Christ

By Federico Martínez, Special Contributor to La Prensa

Dec. 24, 2014: Hundreds of faithful witnessed history being made as two predominantly Latino congregations in Toledo, Ohio—*Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church* and the *Protestant Vida Church*—celebrated the birth of Jesús Christ together during a special Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve.

The Mass, which was led by *Rev. Juan Francisco Molina*, was held at *Saints Peter and Paul Church*, 738 S. Saint Clair St. The choir from *Vida Church* performed two songs during the service and *Pastor Chaz Devin Boes* gave the closing prayer. *Vida Church* is located at 525 Segur Avenue.

Father Molina, who invited Pastor Boes' congregation to participate, said it was the first time that a Protestant church has joined the Catholic Church for Mass.



State Provides Funding to Help Homeless Ohioans

More than \$27.2 million will support shelters for the homeless and help the homeless find permanent housing. The *Ohio Development Services Agency* is providing grants to 82 local organizations to support homeless prevention, emergency shelters and transitional and supportive housing projects.

"We're working with local communities to provide the resources homeless Ohioans need to get back on their feet," said *David Goodman*, director of the Ohio Development Services Agency.

Grants from the *Homeless Crisis Response Program* will help 56 nonprofit and local government agencies operate emergency shelters and quickly move individuals from emergency shelters to permanent housing. More than 22,000 Ohioans

will be assisted through the program. Funding for the program is from the Ohio Housing Trust Fund and the federal Emergency Solutions Grant program.

Grants from the *Supportive Housing Program* will help 48 nonprofit agencies transition

homeless Ohioans to permanent housing or provide permanent supportive housing to homeless people with disabilities. Approximately 6,500 Ohioans will be assisted through the program. Funding for the program is from the Ohio Housing Trust Fund.

Local agencies receiving grants in northwest Ohio are:

- | County, Grantee, Award, Program |
|--|
| Allen County |
| • Family Promise of Lima-Allen County
\$66,500 - <i>Homeless Crisis Response Program</i> |
| Lucas County |
| • Family Outreach Community United Services, Inc.
\$156,200 - <i>Supportive Housing Program</i> |
| • St. Paul's Community Center
\$260,800 - <i>Homeless Crisis Response Program</i> |
| • The Aurora Project, Inc.
\$246,800 - <i>Supportive Housing Program</i> |
| • Volunteers of America of Greater Ohio
\$47,200 - <i>Supportive Housing Program</i> |
| Seneca County |
| • New Housing Ohio, Inc.
\$70,700 - <i>Supportive Housing Program</i> |

Cinco temas que Obama abordó por su cuenta

(Continuación de p.2)

Unidos. Obama sigue buscando formas de cumplir la promesa de aportar 3.000 millones de dólares para un fondo de cambio climático. Elevar los salarios de los contratistas federales no logró instar al Congreso a elevar el salario mínimo nacional, aunque 14 estados lo hicieron este año. Consiguió promesas de grupos comunitarios, universidades y el sector privado de que impulsarían sectores claves, pero no había garantías de que se materializaran.

EDUCACIÓN

Obama lanzó un nuevo plan de pagos para algunos préstamos federales de

estudios, permitiendo a los deudores a limitar los pagos mensuales a una décima parte de sus ingresos. También obtuvo compromisos de 60 distritos escolares de que ofrecerían ciencias informáticas básicas a todos los estudiantes de escuela intermedia o institutos.

Consiguió el compromiso del sector privado de 2.000 millones en ayudas para ayudar a cumplir su objetivo de que el 99 por ciento de los estudiantes tuvieran acceso a internet de alta velocidad en las aulas. La Comisión Federal de Comunicaciones votó finalmente en diciembre que se aparten otros 2.000 millones de dólares a esa campaña.

POLÍTICA EXTERIOR

En un acuerdo con China, Obama extendió la validez de los visados para visitantes chinos a 10 años para los turistas y a viajeros de negocios, y a cinco años en el caso de los estudiantes. Aplicó sanciones económicas a empresas e individuos en Rusia e instó a Europa a actuar en concordancia mientras trataba de castigar a Rusia por sus acciones en Ucrania.

Y en una de sus maniobras más impactantes del año, Obama restauró las relaciones diplomáticas con Cuba tras medio siglo de hostilidades. También suavizó algunas sanciones y restricciones de viajes sobre la nación comunista.

Toledo's minor league hockey team going outdoors

Dec. 27, 2014 (AP): *Outdoor* hockey has come to Toledo.

The *Toledo Walleye* of the *East Coast Hockey League* will play twice over the holidays at the downtown ballpark that's the summer time home for baseball's *Toledo Mud Hens* [namely, Fifth Third Field].

It will be the first outdoor hockey games for the league and is part of Toledo's *Winterfest 2014*.

The first game was Saturday night against the *Kalamazoo Wings* [Kalamazoo won 2 to 1] and the Walleye will play another outdoor contest against the *Fort Wayne Komets* on Jan. 3, 2015.

In between, there will be open skates for the community, youth hockey games and a game involving *Bowling Green State University*.

Toledo Walleye president *Joe Napoli* said that even though the National

Hockey League has been playing its *Winter Classic* outside since 2008 and college teams and minor leagues have gone outdoors, the event will still be unique for the city and the area.

"We've seen that phenomenon happen across the country. It might seem, if you're on the outside looking in, that there are a lot of these types of events, but it's what's important to the local and regional community," he told *The Blade* (<http://bit.ly/13rTV4L>).

The Walleye, an affiliate of the *Detroit Red Wings*, and Toledo-based hospital chain *ProMedica* are paying for the event, putting up about \$750,000.

"Major sporting events like outdoor games, All-Star games, and home run derbies, because your community typically doesn't host events of that magnitude very often, they are fresh for your community," Napoli said.



The players are excited. "Just being able to watch it be built and to see all the promotions that are going up, it's going to be a special experience," Walleye forward *Tyler Barnes* said.

ECHL commissioner *Brian McKenna* said he thinks outdoors hockey games still create a buzz.

"I could change my opinion in the future," he said. "But we have so many mid-sized markets who have an interest in this, who have the qualities and the support to do something like this."

"If it's every year or if there are multiple events, it could tire. But we're nowhere near the point of saturation."

Information from: *The Blade*, www.toledoblade.com

YOUNG STARS TO SKATE AT WINTERFEST

Adrian vs. U.S. National Under-18 on December 31

TOLEDO: Top young US-American hockey players will take to the ice when *Adrian College* faces the *U.S. National Under-18 Team*, on December 31, 2014 at 4 p.m. during *Toledo Walleye Winterfest*.

The *U-18 team* currently has a record of 21-6-1, and is led in scoring by forwards *Auston Matthews* and *Jeremy Bracco*. Both have been named to the preliminary U.S. National Junior Team roster for the upcoming 2015 IIHF World Junior Championship. *Bracco* recently became the NTDP's all-time assists leader, passing

national U-18 Team are forwards *Jordan Greenway* and *Colin White*, both are A-rated prospects by NHL Central Scouting for the upcoming NHL Entry Draft, and are considered to be possible first round selections.

Patrick Kane, *Phil Kessel*, *James van Riemsdyk* and *R.J. Umberger* are among the current NHL stars who have graduated from the U.S. National Team Development Program.

Adrian College currently has a record of 10-2, with an 8-0 record in the Northern Collegiate Hockey Association. The *Bulldogs* are led in scoring by *Kyle Brothers*, a freshman forward from



Watford, Ontario.

Gates open at 3 p.m. All tickets are general admission and cost \$10. Call 419-725-9255 or go to www.toledowalleye.com/winterfesttickets.

Adrian College Hockey: www.adrianbulldogs.com/sports/m-hockey/index
U.S. National Under-18 Team link: www.usantdp.com/page/show/1307841-u-s-national-under-18-team

MEXICAN MUTUAL SOCIETY (MMS)

January Fundraiser Events

Continuing the "SAVE THE CLUB" Campaign by family and friends of the Mexican Mutual Society, 1820 East 28th Street, Lorain, OH, the following fundraiser events are planned for January 2015 to raise funds to support the Club's operation:

◆ **ENTERTAINMENT: Vic Santana, popular local DJ, will provide entertainment on Friday, January 2, 2015 from 9- 12 pm. Admission is \$5 at the door. Food will be available.**

◆ **CELEBRITY BARTENDER NIGHT.** Every Friday night from 6-9 pm; food will be available.

January 2, 2015: **DJ Vic Santana and his wife, Brooke.**

January 9, 2015: **Jeff Smith, Lorain St. Lad's Club.**

January 16, 2015: **Lori Espitia and Jean Tucker, Dominguez Family cousins.**

January 23, 2015: **The Santana Brothers, Steve and Checo.**

January 30, 2015: **Lorain City Mayor, Chase Ritenauer.**

◆ **2015 Membership Drive.** Social Membership is open to the public for \$10. Membership forms available at the Club.

Winter Club Hours: Club opens at 3 pm on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday; and Sunday 1-10 pm. **Hall rentals available.**

Fundraiser events are open to the public.

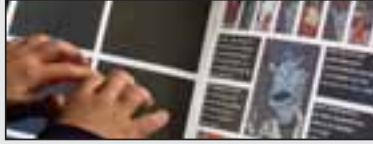
Call the Club at 440-277-7375 for further information.

Happy New Year 2015!

México publica comic en braille

Por ISAAC GARRIDO, Associated Press

MEXICO, 22 de dic. de 2014 (AP): El escritor mexicano Jorge Grajales y el ilustrador



Bernardo Fernández "BEF" presumen su más reciente proyecto. En él unos pequeños puntos en relieve aparecen como estrellas en viñetas negras que, por momentos, parecen un lenguaje extraterrestre que remueve los sentidos.

Se trata de "Sensus. El Universo en sus ojos", el primer comic mexicano que mezcla braille y la narrativa visual clásica del género con el cual se busca sensibilizar a los lectores ante la población ciega y al mismo tiempo introducir a los débiles visuales al entretenimiento literario, un ámbito del que son relegados, según sus creadores.

Los ciegos son "una población descalificada por el resto de la sociedad por desconocimiento", dijo Fernández a la AP en una entrevista reciente. "El objetivo era claro: que la gente visibilice a aquellas personas que no han sido tomadas en cuenta, que son invisibles y que el comic les haga ver (al resto), aunque sea un poquito, los retos que tienen estas personas para desempeñarse en su día a día", agregó Grajales.

El comic relata la historia de un astronauta que sufre una falla en su nave y aterriza en un planeta habitado por criaturas que no tienen ojos. El astronauta va perdiendo la vista pero los extraterrestres le enseñan que el mundo se puede percibir por medio de otros sentidos.

El argumento se

desarrolló en solo 16 páginas. Los folios impares relatan la historia desde el punto de vista del astronauta, mientras que las pares tienen viñetas negras con textos breves en braille. Al final se incluye el alfabeto en braille para quienes no conocen este lenguaje, pues la historia se entiende en su totalidad leyendo ambas versiones.

"Jorge resolvió muy bien el guion, que además tenía muy claro cómo integrar la parte en braille y la parte visual", apuntó BEF.

"Es para poner a los lectores que ven en los zapatos de los que no ven", explicó Grajales, quien está afectado visualmente por un queratocono avanzado, una enfermedad adelgaza la córnea y reduce la visión. Para Grajales su enfermedad le ha permitido tener una mayor empatía con la población ciega.

En la parte visual los creativos aprovecharon la impresión en relieve de los textos en braille para incorporarlo "como estrellas". En la parte de la narración el braille les impuso retos por la brevedad que requiere por su naturaleza binaria y que no todas las palabras pueden traducirse a él.

"Estamos llevando la experiencia de lo que sería un comic a través del braille y mostrando también que la historietas es una herramienta poderosa para comunicar esta clase de cuestiones sociales", expresó Grajales.

El proyecto fue auspiciado por el *Nacional Monte de Piedad de México*, que subsidió los costos de impresión y donará un par de

lentes para niños con debilidad visual por cada ejemplar que se venda. El tiraje consta de 3.000 ejemplares y cada cómic tiene un costo de 30 pesos mexicanos (unos dos dólares).

Además de comercios especializados en comics, se podrá adquirir en una tienda-bus itinerante que visitará distintos puntos de la capital Mexicana así como los estados de Puebla y Veracruz. BEF y Grajales esperan que llegue también a librerías regulares.

"Sensus. El Universo en sus ojos", es una de las pocas publicaciones en braille que se comercializan en México, donde se estima que hay 1.2 millones de discapacitados visuales, según el Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía de México.

De acuerdo con los creativos, en México solo se realiza .5% de materiales de lectura en braille.

A nivel mundial ya se habían realizado ejercicios similares. En 2013, en Estados Unidos se lanzó "Life", un comic para ciegos con representaciones iconográficas abstractas impresas en relieve pero sin diálogos. En México, en 2007 se publicó "El libro negro de los colores", un galardonado ejemplar con páginas negras e imágenes en relieve y textos en braille que describen cómo un ciego percibe los colores.

Con "Sensus", BEF y Grajales esperan facilitar que la población con discapacidad visual tenga acceso al entretenimiento literario. Por lo pronto, ya tienen contemplados otros dos títulos de la serie "Sensus". A fines de enero publicarán uno de súperheroes y en febrero uno de terror.

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

NOON YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION: Celebrate the new year early with the kids at Lorain Public Library System's Main Library. Come to the library on Wednesday, Dec. 31 at 11:30 a.m. Bring in 2015 with music, games, balloons, and a countdown and ball drop at noon. Light refreshments will be served. Preregistration is required and is available online at LorainPublicLibrary.org or by calling the Main Library at 440-244-1192, ext. 449 or 1-800-322-READ, ext. 449. The Main Library is located at 351 W. Sixth St. in Lorain.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS: All libraries will be closed on Thursday, Jan. 1, 2015. On Wednesday, Dec. 31, all libraries will close at 6 p.m. Visit the library online 24/7 at LorainPublicLibrary.org. There you'll find the eLibrary that includes eBooks, digital audiobooks and magazines, streaming movies and music... the list goes on! Turn to the library for all of your eMedia needs.

EXERCISE: Is one of your New Year's resolutions to work out? Come drop in at Lorain Public Library System's Main Library for Yoga on Fridays at 5:30 p.m. Zumba is Monday, Jan. 5 at 6 p.m. Preregistration is required for Zumba. Registration is

available online at LorainPublicLibrary.org or by calling the Main Library at 440-244-1192, ext. 450 or 1-800-322-READ, ext. 450.



TEEN DRAMA CLUB: Join Lorain Public Library System's Teen Drama Club at the Main Library. Rehearsals for a new performance start on Thursday, Jan. 8 at 4 p.m. Sixth through 12th-graders are invited to try out their acting chops. Preregistration is required and is available online at LorainPublicLibrary.org or by calling the Main Library at 440-244-1192, ext. 449 or 1-800-322-READ, ext. 449. The Main Library is located at 351 W. Sixth St. in Lorain.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT LORAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM'S SOUTH LORAIN BRANCH

AFTERNOON YEAR'S EVE PARTY: Celebrate the new year early with the kids at Lorain Public Library System's South Lorain Branch. Come to the library on Wednesday, Dec. 31 at 1 p.m. Bring in 2015 with music, games, dancing and more. Preregistration is required and is available online at LorainPublicLibrary.org or by calling the South Lorain Branch at 440-277-5672. The South Lorain Branch is located at 2121 Homewood Drive, Lorain.

TAI CHI FOR BEGIN-

TERS: Beginners Tai Chi classes start at Lorain Public Library System's South Lorain Branch on Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2015 at 6 p.m. The class is scheduled every Tuesday at 6 p.m. through Feb. 10. Adults of all fitness levels are invited. Michael Stadul, retired instructor from Cuyahoga Community College, will teach the class. Preregistration is required and is available online at LorainPublicLibrary.org or by calling the South Lorain Branch at 440-277-5672.

GRAPHIC NOVEL BOOK DISCUSSION:

Who says books with pictures are for kids? Lorain Public Library System's South Lorain Branch has a graphic novel book discussion for adults! Pick up *Castle Waiting* by Linda Medley and *Nijigahara Holograph* by Inio Asano at the library. Read then discuss them with others on Wednesday, Jan. 7 at 6 p.m. Preregistration is required and is available online at LorainPublicLibrary.org or by calling the South Lorain Branch at 440-277-5672. The South Lorain Branch is located at 2121 Homewood Drive, Lorain.

THE BRAILLE ALPHABET

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Application deadline approaches for U.S. High School students seeking YES Abroad Scholarships

New York, NY, December 23, 2014—The application deadline for the 2015-2016 Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Abroad scholarship program is January 7, 2015. The program provides full scholarships to American high school students to experience overseas communities and cultures, preparing students to collaborate on today's global challenges such as human rights, community development, workforce development, climate change, and global health.

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the YES Abroad program enables students to study for one academic year in countries that may include: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ghana, South Africa, India, Indonesia, Macedonia, Malaysia, Morocco, Oman, Philippines, Thailand, and Turkey. The merit-based scholarship covers domestic and international travel; applicable visa fees; medical benefits; room and board; tuition at the local high school; orientations; and fees for educational and cultural activities.

Participants in the program fully immerse themselves into the culture of their host family while attending local high school. Erica, a current scholarship recipient from Wisconsin, who was named the October 2014 American Abroad of the Month by the State Department, said: *"My time in South Africa has given me a chance to learn from daily life in my host school, while focusing my attention outward to my host family and community. Every day I am both a student and teacher to my peers, and I have learned so much not just about what it means to be Zulu, Xhosa, or Afrikaans, but also what it means to be an American. I have found that it is in the informal conversations between classes and sport where I have learned and shared the most."*

A 2012 participant, Hannah, who studied in Malaysia for one year, stated that *"the YES Abroad program opened my eyes. I learned about a new culture and shared my own. I now have two homes, two families and countless friends from around the world."*

Interested students should visit www.yes-abroad.org to learn more the program and to apply. Contact the YES Abroad program at yesabroad@afsusa.org or 800-237-4636 x2151 if you have questions about the program or application process.

Park Ranger

Metroparks of the Toledo Area has an opening for a Park Ranger for community policing and some park maintenance. 40hrs/wk. \$17.56 per hr. Certification as a Peace Officer in the State of Ohio, HS diploma, valid driver's license and some experience required. Go to www.MetroparksToledo.com to view detailed position description and job requirements. Apply online by January 4th. EOE

Commissioner – Public Service (Parks, Recreation and Forestry)

The City of Toledo is currently seeking a Commissioner for the Division of Parks, Recreation and Forestry. This position requires experience in planning, developing, and managing recreation and/or park operations. For additional and specific requirements and to apply please the City of Toledo's website at <https://agency.governmentjobs.com/toledoooh/default.cfm> Pay range: \$65,000 to \$96,875 annually.

The City of Toledo is an equal opportunity employer.

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Christmas tree Drop-Off

The Division of Parks, Recreation and Forestry is establishing drop-off sites for Christmas Trees within City of Toledo Parks through the holiday season. The trees will be collected by Forestry crews and ground into mulch. The service will begin December 26, 2014 and continue through January 16, 2015. The sites are: Jermain Park; Schneider Park; Ravine 2 Park; Detwiler Park; Bowman Park (Laskey access); and Greenwood Park (Darrell access).



Signage will be posted at each of these sites identifying the park as a drop-off location and advising citizens that all decorations must be removed from the tree prior to leaving it at the park.

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Notice of Public Hearings

Public Hearings, in accordance with Sections 5739.026 and 5741.023 of the Ohio Revised Code, will be held by the Board of County Commissioners, Lucas County, Ohio, for the purpose of hearing comments on levying an increase in the sales and use tax of one-fourth of one percent to provide additional revenue for the county's general fund.

Public Hearings will be held as follows:

Monday, January 12, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room, One Government Center, 1st Floor, Toledo, Ohio.

Monday, January 12, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the EMS Training Center, 2127 Jefferson Street, Toledo, Ohio (*additional evening meeting added)

Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room, One Government Center, 1st Floor, Toledo, Ohio.

Comments will be received by the Board until 1:30 p.m., local time, January 20, 2015. All written comments should be emailed to: Commissioners_Admin@co.lucas.oh.us.

By order of the Board of County Commissioners, Lucas County, Ohio:

Carol Contrada, President
 Tina Skeldon Wozniak, Commissioner
 Pete Gerken, Commissioner

Adopted: December 22, 2014

HVAC/R Technician

Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority (LMHA), located in Toledo, OH is seeking experienced applicants for HVAC/R Technician. For details and to apply, visit www.lucasmha.org. **Only online applications will be accepted at the above website until the deadline of 01/16/15.** Please note on your application if you are a LMHA Public Housing resident or Housing Choice Voucher Program participant. This is a Section 3 covered position and HUD recipients are encouraged to apply. **NO PHONE CALLS**

Equal employment opportunity shall be afforded to all qualified persons without regard to age, race, color, religion, religious creed, sex, military status, ancestry, disability, handicap, sexual orientation, genetic information or national origin.



NOTICE TO FIRMS

SEALED LETTERS OF INTEREST marked **"Isaac Ludwig Mill Stabilization"** will be received at the Metropolitan Park District of the Toledo Area, Fallen Timbers Field Office, 6101 Fallen Timbers Lane, Maumee, Ohio 43537, until

1:00 PM Local Time on Friday, January 9, 2015

Letters of Interest received after the specified due date and time will not be considered.

In General, THE SCOPE OF SERVICES consists of providing professional construction services required for the structural stabilization of the Isaac Ludwig Mill, Providence Metropark, Grand Rapids, Ohio. Construction work will be closely coordinated and monitored by the Metroparks-provided criteria-structural-engineer.

Information packets for the Letter of Interest requirements may be obtained electronically as an email attachment by contacting Jon Zvanovec, Project Manager at jon.zvanovec@metroparkstoledo.com, (419) 407-9732. Three (3) paper copies and one (1) PDF copy of the Letter of Interest must be sealed, marked and submitted as above. The Metropolitan Park District of the Toledo Area will directly select a firm based on the Letter of Interest.

By order of the Board of Park Commissioners
 METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT OF THE TOLEDO AREA

Stephen W. Madewell, Director

Hospice Volunteers Urgently Needed

December 29, 2014 – Toledo: Hospice is a specialized form of healthcare for patients with life-limiting illnesses that allows them to live out their days as fully and comfortably as possible.

In an effort to better support the needs of the community, Gentiva Hospice, a member of the Gentiva Health Services family of home health and hospice providers, is seeking volunteers to help enrich the lives of our patients and their families.

Our hospice volunteers have many reasons for giving their time. Some are looking for a fulfilling way to develop and grow personally. Others simply want to help improve the lives of members of their community. Whatever the reason, as a hospice volunteer, you will gain great personal satisfaction from knowing that you have made a difference in another's life.

Volunteers are needed in many locations and for a variety of roles, including (but not limited to): Community Outreach, Patient Visitors, Professional Therapy, Administrative, and Bereavement. Volunteers choose the type of volunteer role that meets their needs and gives them the opportunity to use their training and talents. Our patients are located throughout Northwest Ohio, from Bryan to Sandusky, and as far south as Findlay.

For more information, please call Brittney Cassi at (419) 887-6700 or you can email her at Brittney.Cassi@gentiva.com.

Happy 50th Anniversary
Enrique and Olivia Quezada
January 9

Love,
Enrique Jr, Irma, Irene,
Rosa, Christina, Teresa,
and José

Happy Birthday
Jan 1
Chaz D. Boes

Happy Birthday
Jan 2
Monica González

Happy Birthday
Jan 4
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Happy Birthday
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LEGAL NOTICE
INVITATION FOR BID

Sealed bids will be received by the Fallen Timbers Field Office of Toledo Area Metroparks, 6101 Fallen Timbers Ln., Maumee, Ohio 43537, no later than 1:00p.m. local time, on **Monday, January 15th, 2015**, and thereafter will be publicly opened, read, and recorded for **Painting Services** work at various Parks through the **Toledo Area Metroparks**.

Scope of Work: The successful bidder will provide Metroparks of the Toledo Area with interior and exterior painting services on an as needed basis. Approximately \$70,000 of Painting Services is anticipated through the award of the contract for 2015. Metroparks intends to award the bid based on the following:

1. Price per hour for a two (2) person crew up to 20' elevation.
2. Price per hour for a two (2) person crew for elevated work 20' to 55'.

All bidding documents may be obtained by bidders, at **Toledo Area Metroparks Planning and Construction Headquarters**, 6101 Fallen Timbers Ln., Maumee, Ohio 43537 free of charge or by emailing jim.cassidy@metroparkstoledo.com. If you have any problems accessing the information, please contact the Park Services Department at 419-460-1289 or by e-mail.


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We also have part time positions which offer paid vacation. Great for students, retirees, stay at home parents or those just wanting part time hours. All direct support professionals must have a high school diploma or GED and a valid driver's license. Experience in the DD field is preferred but not required.

Please visit our website www.sunshine.org to apply online or to learn more about the position and additional opportunities. Sunshine is a Drug Free Workplace. EOE



Maryori Rios con amiga Dilana Solis de Costa Rica.

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OPEN HOUSE: Saturday, January 10, 10am

ts4arts.org

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Make plans to join together in commemorating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the Fourteenth Annual

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Celebration

"What are YOU doing for others?"

When: Monday, January 19, 2015
Where: University of Toledo, Savage Hall
Time: 9:00—11:00 a.m.

Free Admission

Hear from honored speakers, learn from dramatic presentations, reflections, musical selections, and much more!

A free community lunch follows the program.

For More Information, Call the City of Toledo's Board of Community Relations at 419-245-1565.

