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4 de enero, 2019 Weekly/Semanal 16 páginas Vol. 64, No. 18

¡PROSPERO AÑO NUEVO!



Dance. Love. Sing. Live.

HPOA's 22nd Annual Three Kings Benefit is Saturday, January 5, 2019

CLEVELAND - The HPOA has proudly hosted its annual celebration of 'El Día de los Reyes' or Three Kings' Day. During this celebration, guests enjoy traditional Latin foods and dance the night away to popular Latin music. As a commitment to the community and the ideas of education, the HPOA designates the proceeds of each year's gala to the benefit of the HPOA Scholarship Fund; used to

award an annual educational scholarship.

HISTORY: Three Kings' Day Celebration in the Hispanic Culture

The Three Kings' Day, also known as the Feast of the Epiphany, is a Christian festivity that traditionally takes place in January and celebrates the birth of Jesús. According to tradition, The Three Wise Men (or Three Kings) arrive in Bethlehem from the Far East to meet the newborn King of the Jews.

Melchior, Caspar, and Balthazar—the names of the Three Kings—bring three symbolic gifts with them to give to Jesús: Gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Since then, this event included in the Gospel of Matthew is celebrated in all Spanish-speaking countries.

While the celebrations vary from one country to another, the tradition has remained similar all across Latin America and Spain. The festivities start on Janu-

ary 5, also known as the Night of the Kings, and ends the following day with the gifts that children receive from the Three Wise Men. This event concludes the 12 days of Christmas within the Latino culture.

The celebrations for the Feast of the Epiphany are very similar, yet each country has added a personal touch to the festivity.

Source: www.hispanic-police.org

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El Corazón heads to Disney. P. 5

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Cuba cierra un año de debate interno y poco crecimiento

Por ANDREA RODRÍGUEZ, Associated Press

LA HABANA, 26 XII 18 (AP): Con un amplio debate social generado por el proyecto de reforma de la constitución, la llegada al poder de un presidente que no se apellida Castro, nueva tensión con Estados Unidos y un tenue descongelamiento de algunos sectores privados, los cubanos le dirán adiós a 2018.

Tras años marcados por el acercamiento con Estados Unidos, la isla enfrentará un 2019 que obligará a sus autoridades a enfocarse en su situación interna.

El presidente Miguel Díaz-Canel dio muestras de una dinámica del gobierno con manifestaciones hasta hace poco impensadas: se retractó de algunas medidas de ajuste tras las quejas de emprendedores, recurrió a las redes sociales para acercarse a la población y abrió el proceso de la reforma constitucional con un referendo que se realizarán en febrero.

“Se produjo un cambio en el liderazgo, ingresó una nueva generación y eso sí representa una diferencia importante”, dijo a The Associated Press el economista político Esteban Morales, miembro del poderoso Partido Comunista de Cuba (PCC).

“Creo que Díaz-Canel está escuchando (a la gente)”, agregó el analista de larga trayectoria en la Universidad de La Habana y quien recordó que el presidente puso a sus ministros a comparecer en la televisión y los exhortó a tener cuentas en Twitter o contar con direcciones de correo electrónicos para que los ciudadanos puedan acudir a ellos. “No vamos a quedar

millones de dólares para el presupuesto.

Díaz-Canel también enfrentó desastres naturales que causaron pérdidas millonarias y hasta un accidente de avión civil, el peor de la historia aeronáutica cubana y mala prensa para un país turístico.

En julio se anunció para diciembre el reinicio de la entrega de permisos para emprendedores privados en sectores exitosos como los restaurantes, los bares o las casas de arrendamiento que suelen competir con los hoteles de propiedad estatal aunque gestionados por grandes cadenas mundiales como Meliá, Barceló o Iberostar. Además de nuevas reglas más limitantes y restrictivas para los trabajadores particulares en general.

Las medidas generaron muchas quejas entre los afectados y fueron criticadas por los economistas, pues aunque las cafeterías u oficinas no producen crecimiento de la economía sí generan empleos, los mejores pagados, y dinamizan el mercado interno.

“Se debe reconocer que es un sistema que ha mostrado ser efectivo para manejar las crisis y evitar el colapso económico”, explicó en un análisis escrito el economista cubano Pavel Vidal, quien se desempeña en la Universidad Javeriana de Cali. “Como también ha sido efectivo en limitar la iniciativa privada, la innovación y el despegue de la productividad”, lamentó el experto.

Las presiones del presidente Donald Trump, que desalentó los viajes de los estadounidenses a la isla, también dejaron en punto

muerto algunas iniciativas comerciales conjuntas. La única que prosperó fue una inversión binacional para la producción de un medicamento contra el cáncer.

Aunque las embajadas de ambos países abiertas durante la administración de Barack Obama y Raúl Castro siguen operativas, las relaciones entre La Habana y Washington permanecen congeladas.

En paralelo, el gobierno cumplió su promesa de abrir el servicio de internet móvil que permitirá a un universo potencial de cinco millones de dueños de teléfonos celulares contar con el servicio de datos que se sumará a la conectividad de los llamados parques wi-fi, zonas de acceso por un dólar la hora ubicadas en lugares públicos.

Muchos están a la expectativa de qué pasará con las modificaciones a la constitución, un proceso impulsado por Díaz-Canel y Castro, quien permanece como primer secretario del PCC.

A mediados de año la Asamblea del Poder Popular, el Parlamento, dio a conocer el texto de la norma que luego se debatió en miles de centros de trabajo y vecinales.

En principio, la renovada constitución que reemplazará a la de 1976 -de fuerte sesgo socialista- reconocerá la propiedad privada y la contratación de empleados y autorizará la doble ciudadanía. Pero al mismo tiempo reafirmará el carácter único del PCC y su poder para dirigir a la sociedad.

En sus reuniones los ciudadanos hicieron toda clase de observaciones que fueron recogidas y tendrán respuesta en una nueva versión.

Lo interesante fue la forma en que esos debates populares sacaron a relucir temas de toda índole y opiniones a veces encontradas como el matrimonio gay, si el presidente y el nuevo primer ministro -un cargo a crear- debían ser de elección directa y no designados por el Parlamento o si era pertinente que algunos niveles educativos fueran pagos.

“Estos elementos que tienen que ver con cómo se va a controlar al país no van a cambiar en la constitución”, dijo a AP el abogado Eloy Viera, consultor legal de un grupo alternativo de comunicación llamado + Voces. “Si se lee con atención el proyecto se da una cuenta de que es un modelo de país mucho más pragmático... pero es un proceso de constitución que permitió a todas luces, mal, bien o regular, un debate nacional amplificado”.

Cuban assembly approves draft of new constitution

By ANDREA RODRIGUEZ and MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN, Associated Press

HAVANA, Dec. 22, 2018

(AP): Cuba's National Assembly on Saturday approved an update of the country's constitution, the final step before a national referendum expected to approve the new charter in February.

The new constitution contains more continuity than change, although it recognizes the de-facto modernization of Cuban society over the last decade. The constitution maintains Cuba as a centrally planned economy ruled by a single party, but recognizes private property for the first time and paves the way for a separate referendum on legalizing gay marriage.

It also creates the role of prime minister alongside the current president, as well as provincial governors.

Legalizing private property is a formal recognition of significant change in Cuban society since former President Raúl Castro permitted home and auto sales, creating a booming real-estate market, and allowed more than half a million Cubans have permits to work as entrepreneurs. Hundreds of thousands more work full or part-time in the private sector without licenses.

The new constitution also recognizes worker-owned cooperatives for the first time as a legal form of production in every sector of the economy, while maintaining Cuba's largely inefficient and stagnant state-run industries as the central means of production.

Closing the National Assembly, President Miguel Díaz-Canel said the island's economic challenges—including a weak 1.2 percent 2018 growth rate, and similar growth expected next year—required the acceptance of private business, joint public-private ventures and coops working together. He promised to fight widespread public-sector embezzlement and corruption that makes it virtually impossible to get anything done in Cuba without a series of small bribes.

“We've called a battle, and we'll wage it, an ethical battle against corruption, illegality... and social indiscipline,” he said.

The president also promised a more responsive government, part of an initiative that has seen almost all Cuba's head of ministries start social-media accounts for the first time, some of which take questions from citizens.

“There are a lot of questions to pay attention and respond to,” Díaz-Canel said. “We'll give responses to all of them as soon as it's possible, and those that we don't have an answer for the moment, we'll never stop searching.”

He did not mention Cuba's unique two-currency system, which creates inefficiencies and distortions that are seen as one of the island's most serious economic problems. Castro called monetary unification an urgent priority before stepping down in April, but the issue has barely been mentioned since Díaz-Canel took over.

The degree to which the new constitution will actually spur change is expected to be seen only after the National Assembly approves a raft of changes to the civil and penal codes and electoral laws next year.

Language seen as the immediate precursor to the legalization of gay marriage was eliminated after widespread public objection and protests by evangelical churches. Cuban officials say the question of gay marriage will be put to a nationwide referendum, something most gay activists oppose.

The constitution was drafted by a committee led by Castro, who is still Communist Party head. It was then subjected to months of public comment in workplaces and neighborhoods across the island. Some suggested changes were approved, others rejected.

As in virtually every vote in recent memory, the National Assembly unanimously approved the draft constitution.

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Listed by Country and Start Date of Universal Health Care

Australia	1975	Italy	1978
Austria	1967	Japan	1938
Bahrain	1957	Kuwait	1950
Belgium	1945	Luxembourg	1973
Brunei	1958	Netherlands	1966
Canada	1966	New Zealand	1938
Cyprus	1980	Norway	1912
Denmark	1973	Portugal	1979
Finland	1972	Singapore	1993
France	1974	Slovenia	1972
Germany	1941	South Korea	1988
Greece	1983	Spain	1986
Hong Kong	1993	Sweden	1955
Iceland	1990	Switzerland	1994
Ireland	1977	United Arab Emirates	1971
Israel	1995	United Kingdom	1948

Sphinx Competition finals concert at Orchestra Hall features top Latinx and Black musicians

DETROIT, Dec. 28, 2018: In February 2019, the Sphinx Organization in partnership with DTE Energy Foundation will bring 19 young Black and Latinx string players from around the country to Detroit to compete in the 22nd Annual Sphinx Competition.



The competition culminates in a public concert at the Max M. and Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center on Saturday, February 2, 2019, at 7:30PM, where the three Senior Division finalists of the competition will take the stage to compete for the first place \$50,000 Robert Frederick Smith prize. The concert will feature performances by each competition finalist; the Sphinx Symphony Orchestra, presented by Mercedes-Benz Financial Services and EXIGENCE Vocal Ensemble, a professional vocal ensemble led by founding conductor Eugene Rogers. A celebratory dance party will follow the concert.

"The support of the Detroit community in celebrating this momentous event with us is an annual highlight for Sphinx," said Sphinx President and Artistic Director Aja S. Dworkin. "Each year, we look forward to coming together with old

friends and new to experience inspirational performances and be transformed by the power of diversity in our artform."

The Sphinx Competition is Sphinx's flagship program, launched in 1998 with the goal of encouraging, developing and recognizing classical music talent in the Black and Latinx communities. There are two divisions of the competition based on age, Junior Division (17 and under) and Senior Division (18-30).

Through the Sphinx Competition, Sphinx has awarded more than \$2.5 million in prizes and scholarships since its inaugural year. In 2019, the 19 semifinalists will convene in Detroit from January 29 to February 3 and will participate in master classes, professional development sessions, and compete for more than \$100,000 in prizes and performance opportunities with major orchestras across the country.

Since 2007, the Sphinx Competition has been pre-

sented by the DTE Energy Foundation, the philanthropic arm of DTE Energy. Their 2019 sponsorship represents the continuation of a long-standing partnership with Sphinx and a dedication to supporting nonprofits throughout the company's 450 service communities.

"The DTE Energy Foundation has been a proud supporter of Sphinx for more than 15 years," said DTE Energy Foundation President Lynette Dowler. "This competition plays a critical role in encouraging young musicians in the Black and Latinx communities to pursue classical music. We are proud to play a part in making these remarkable musicians' dreams come true."

Tickets to the Finals Concert are available at the Max M. Fisher Music Center box office at DSO.org or 313-576-5130. Ticket prices are \$15 for general admission. For group discount information (10 people or more), please contact Tickets@SphinxMusic.org.

Sphinx programs reach more than 100,000 students and artists, as well as live and broadcast audiences of more than two million annually. Read more about Sphinx's programs at www.SphinxMusic.org.

Grand Rapids Community College president named to state talent creation panel

GRAND RAPIDS, Dec. 20, 2018: Gov. Rick Snyder has appointed Grand Rapids Community College President Bill Pink to a state-wide committee focused on helping residents gain in-demand skills for rewarding jobs and preparing for rapidly changing workforce demands.

Pink was appointed to a three-year term on the 21st Century Talent Creation Subcommittee, joining educators from universities, community colleges and intermediate school and K-12 districts.

The subcommittee will work with the Governor's Talent Investment Board, which includes industry executives, labor leaders, educators, lawmakers and representatives of state agencies. It will focus on changing demands for skills and how collaboration with educators can more quickly prepare residents for rapidly changing workplaces.

"I'm excited about this opportunity to work with educators from across Michi-

gan, and give West Michigan a voice in how we prepare people today and into the future," Pink said. "The rate of change in our workplaces will be dramatic. We need to be nimble, adapting to these changes and being ready to work with employer partners to provide new skills and create an expectation of lifelong learning and continuing education."

In 2017, Snyder toured GRCC's Medical Assistant Apprenticeship program with U.S. Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta. The program is a partnership with three area hospitals, Muskegon Community College, and West Michigan Works!

Pink was appointed to a three-year term on the subcommittee, along with Alpena Superintendent John VanWagoner, Northern Michigan University Associate Dean Joe Lubig, and Megan Schrauben, executive director of the MISTEM Network for the Michigan Department of Technology, Management, and Budget.

Alycia Meriweather,

deputy superintendent of Detroit Public Schools Community District, Russ Kavalhuna, president of Henry Ford College, and Mark Pogliano, principal at the Jackson Area Career Center, were appointed to two-year terms. Snyder announced the subcommittee appointments and selections for other boards and councils on Wednesday.

"I thank this group for their commitment to cultivating talent as well as the health and safety of all Michiganders," Snyder said.

Grand Rapids Community College has been offering educational opportunities in West Michigan for more than 100 years. Established in 1914, the college offers degree courses, certification and training programs, and workshops and personal enrichment classes. Offerings are held on GRCC's downtown Grand Rapids campus, and at several locations throughout Kent and Ottawa counties, as well as through distance learning.

For 2019, Snyder pardons 35 people, reduces sentences for 26 more individuals

By ED WHITE, Associated Press

DETROIT, Dec. 21, 2018 (AP): Gov. Rick Snyder pardoned 35 people with criminal convictions and reduced the prison sentences of 26 others, his office said Friday. Snyder's office released a list of names late in the afternoon but refused to provide any other details.

A pardon erases a criminal conviction, while a commutation reduces a sentence but doesn't get rid of the conviction. In a statement, Snyder said he "took great time and care" in making decisions after cases were screened by the Corrections Department and the state parole board. The governor leaves office on Jan. 1.

The pardons include Usama "Sam" Hamama, a grocery store manager from West Bloomfield. He's the

lead plaintiff in a lawsuit challenging the federal government's effort to deport Iraqi nationals who have criminal records. He was convicted of assault and other crimes decades ago.

"This was a man who 30 years ago made a mistake," attorney William Swor said. "He served time for it. And when he came out, he built a real life. He built a life that any one of us would envy. He has given back to his community many-fold."

Snyder commuted the sentence of John Topie, a retired high school basketball coach who won more than 400 games in Michigan's Thumb region. He was sentenced to at least five years in prison in 2017 for demanding fentanyl during an armed robbery at a pharmacy. He blamed his crime on addiction. Snyder reduced the life sen-

tence of Melissa Chapman, who has spent 30 years in prison for first-degree murder in Genesee County. She was present when a boyfriend killed another man in 1987 and admits that she helped him get rid of the body. But Chapman said her boyfriend had threatened to kill her.

Patricia Trevino's life sentence was also reduced. She's been in prison since 1980 for murder in Kent County.

Snyder commuted the sentences of others serving life terms for murder, including Demetrius Favors, 72, who has been in prison for 51 years.

A commutation doesn't mean an instant release from prison, but it typically makes someone eligible for parole. The parole board would then decide when to release a prisoner.

Oakland County burdened by cost of indigent defense rules?

Dec. 26, 2018 (AP): Michigan county officials say new state rules designed to provide indigent criminal defendants with more effective legal representation impose an undue financial burden. The Detroit News reports that Oakland County is seeking a court order permitting the county to not comply with the regulations

until the state provides a grant to cover costs.

The rules implement procedures for selecting court-appointed attorneys and require counties to provide attorneys with continuing education and private spaces for client discussions.

Oakland County officials are requesting about \$3 million more a year to meet the new

standards. Officials say the county needs to hire additional assistant prosecutors to handle more than 2,800 arraignments a year.

The state has rejected the county's requests, saying officials are asking for money that no other county is receiving.

Information from: The Detroit News, <http://detroitnews.com>

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1st half real estate tax bills due Feb. 6

TOLEDO, Jan. 1, 2019: Lucas County Treasurer Lindsay Webb said that her office has begun to mail the real estate tax bills for the first half of 2018, which are due by Wednesday February 6, 2019. There are roughly 207,000 parcels in Lucas County, and Webb said that her office mails roughly 150,000 tax bills, with the remaining parcels billed electronically. She said that all bills should be in the mail by the end of next week.

As Ms. Webb announced earlier this year, the semiannual real estate tax due dates are every FIRST WEDNESDAY IN FEBRUARY (first half) and every LAST WEDNESDAY IN JULY (second half). She further noted that 1st half payments sent via mail must

be postmarked by Wednesday February 6, 2019 to avoid penalty and interest. Due to recent changes in postal sorting procedures, Webb recommended that taxpayers sending payments close to the deadline inquire at their local post office regarding postmark procedures and timelines.

Ms. Webb said she expects to collect approximately \$300 million, which will go to fund local schools, senior citizen services, libraries, Metroparks, the 911 system, the zoo, and other agencies supported by property tax levies.

Taxes can be paid in person at the Lucas County Treasurer's office, located on the 5th Floor of One Government Center, which is open from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Treasurer's Office also offers taxpayers a convenient out-

door Drop-Box located in front of the Safety Building (at the corner of Erie and Jackson Streets, across from the Government Center); the Treasurer's DropBox will accept real estate payments 24 hours a day (checks/money orders only). Credit card and E-Check payments may also be made by phone through Forte (1-877-690-3729) or through the Treasurer's website at (www.co.lucas.oh.us/treasurer).

Per section 323.122 of the O.R.C. members of the National Guard or reserve components of the U.S. Armed Forces that are called to active duty may be granted an extension on their property taxes.

Questions can be directed toward the office's Real Estate Department, at 419-213-4305.

El Corazón dance troupe heads to Disney

By La Prensa Staff

Dec. 31, 2018: After nearly a year's worth of fundraising and weekly practices, members of the El Corazón de México Ballet Folklórico dance troupe are getting a break from Northwest Ohio winter with some fun in the Florida sun and a performance its young members will remember for a lifetime.

A group of 62 people left by charter bus on New Year's Eve, bound for Orlando, Florida and a 20-plus hour trip. The group planned to celebrate the arrival of the New Year while still on the bus.

"We get down there on New Year's Day," explained dance troupe director Elaina Hernández just before their departure. "We're just going to go to the hotel, relax, and then eat a meal together."

El Corazón was scheduled to perform right away at 11 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2019 at Disney Springs on the Marketplace Stage. The last time the dance troupe made a similar trip just over a decade ago, the dance performance took place at the Magic Kingdom. Now only high school marching bands perform there during a daily parade through the amusement park.

"We were pretty lucky to do that when we last went down there in 2007," noted Ms. Hernández.

The performance is free and open to the public, so Ms. Hernández encouraged any family or friends who live or are vacationing in the area to come check out the group's dance recital. 28 El Corazón members will perform, but other dancers and siblings did accompany them on the trip.

After the performance, the fun part of the trip begins for the young dancers and their adult chaperones. Visits are planned the remainder of the week to several Disney theme parks, including Epcot Center, Animal Kingdom, Magic Kingdom, and Universal Studios.

"We're going to make sure the kids get the full experience going down there," said Ms. Hernández, who explained the return trip is planned right after one of



those park visits, arriving back in Toledo on Sunday, Jan. 6, 2019.

The dance troupe needed to raise \$41,000 in all to make the trip. A portion of that total came from the families of the dancers themselves of offset the cost. Fundraisers and dance performances over the past year covered more than half of the total cost. During Hispanic Heritage Month alone, the group gave 18 performances while organizing three fundraisers. The group was "really hustling to get that money together," according to El Corazón's director.

"The community was really great to us," said Ms. Hernández. "Historic South and Latins United were big contributors. We also did fundraisers at the Believe Center. Lourdes University helped us out. Adelante helped us out. There were so many contributors who helped us I can't even name all of them. Some of the fundraisers we did we may want to now make an annual thing."

One in particular that may become a yearly event was a street festival El Corazón sponsored in partnership with Latins United. But the idea would be to create a neighborhood festival, not simply motivated by raising money for the dance troupe. Ms. Hernández noted the street festival was originally set up with Latino bands and family-friendly fun, so any future event would follow that same formula.

While Ms. Hernández is

proud of each edition of El Corazón dancers, she is particularly fond of the 2007 and 2018 versions of the troupe that she has been able to take to Florida to perform.

"I was really just waiting for that type of group again—dancers who are really committed and families who are really committed," said Ms. Hernández. "There are a few of the dancers who are seniors in high school and are going to be moving on, so we wanted to make sure we did something special. It was just the right group, because the groups are always changing. We have a really great group this year and I knew they were going to work really hard for it."

That hard work involved twice-weekly evening practices at the Believe Center alongside a busy performance schedule and periodic fundraisers, such as working the concession stands at a Mud Hens game. The students and their supporters really met the challenge, stated Ms. Hernández.

"These kids are so excited. A lot of them, if they weren't in the group, would never get to go to Disney," she said. "Having that (chance) and being able to represent Toledo when they go down there is exciting. Maybe some as adults would get this experience, get to go down there. But they wouldn't be able to go as performers or see it as kids. It's a very different experience as a kid. It's amazing to me and I'm really appreciative to the community and everyone who helped us."

The dancers who performed ranged in age from 10 to 18 and had to have at least one year of experience performing with the troupe. Ms. Hernández had to set some stipulations, because Disney doesn't allow parents backstage with the young performers.

The Friday before the troupe departed for Florida, they performed for the Toledo Museum of Art as part of TMA's "Great Art Escape" at the Peristyle, as illustrated in La Prensa photos online at laprensa1.com and facebook.

Ohio minimum wage rises by 25 cents an hour in 2019 to \$8.55

CLEVELAND, Jan. 1, 2019 (AP): Ohio's hourly minimum wage has risen, with the rate going up by 25 cents an hour from \$8.30 to \$8.55. Workers who receive tips will get a wage increase from \$4.15 an hour to \$4.30.

Ohio voters approved the annual adjustments in a 2006 constitutional amendment.

Policy Matters Ohio, a liberal think tank based in Cleveland, calculates that the new minimum wage will be worth about 72 percent of what the federal minimum

wage was worth in 1968. In today's dollars, the 1968 wage would be worth \$11.83.

Ohio is one of 18 states adjusting wages in 2019. The federal wage rate of \$7.25 an hour will remain in effect in 2019.

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Migrant teen tent city staying open into 2019

By GARANCE BURKE and ANITA SNOW, Associated Press

Dec. 26, 2018 (AP): The Trump administration said Wednesday it will keep open through early 2019 a tent city in Texas that now holds more than 2,000 migrant teenagers, and also will increase the number of beds at another temporary detention center for children in Florida.

The Tornillo facility opened in June in an isolated corner of the Texas desert with capacity for up to 360 children. It eventually grew into a highly guarded detention camp where, on Christmas, some 2,300 largely Central American boys and girls between the ages of 13 and 17 slept in more than 150 canvas tents.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services spokesman Mark Weber said Tornillo, which originally was slated to close Dec. 31, has stopped receiving new referrals of migrant youth.

Tornillo will now shut down after the new year, Weber said, but he did not give an exact date or more precise time frame for when it might close for good.

The agency is working

with its network of shelters including Tornillo to release the children "to suitable sponsors as safely and quickly as possible," he said.

The government also plans to house more teens at another temporary shelter in Homestead, Florida, expanding the total number of beds from 1,350 to 2,350, he added.

Tornillo came under fire last month after revelations that the Trump administration had waived FBI fingerprint checks for the 2,100 staff working there and allowed the private contractor running the facility to have just one mental health clinician for every 100 children. In November, Health and Human Services officials said they hoped the fingerprints would be completed in a month but they haven't given an update.

Lawmakers called for stricter background checks, more mental health support and a public hearing to further investigate problems at Tornillo raised by a federal watchdog report and an Associated Press investigation.

The federal program originally intended to offer a safe

haven to vulnerable children fleeing danger across the globe has expanded considerably over the last two years. Three months after Donald Trump took office there were 2,720 migrant youth in government care. Today, the system has 16,000 beds available for migrant children.

Confidential government data obtained and cross-checked by AP has shown that as the year draws to a close, about 9,800 detained migrant children are in facilities holding 100-plus total kids, including Tornillo and Homestead.

The American Academy of Pediatrics and many experts warn against institutionalizing children in large groups, saying the experience of treating the young migrants like cogs in a big machine can have severe psychological consequences and cause lifelong trauma.

Weber has said that sheltering children in large facilities, while not preferable, is a better alternative than holding them for long periods at Border Patrol stations ill-suited to care for them.

US conducts medical checks on children after 2 deaths

By NOMAN MERCHANT, Associated Press

HOUSTON, Dec. 26, 2018 (AP): U.S. immigration authorities said Wednesday that they have done new medical checks on nearly every child in Border Patrol custody after the death of a second youngster in the agency's care in the span of less than three weeks.

Authorities did not disclose the results of the examinations.

An 8-year-old boy identified by Guatemalan authorities as Felipe Gómez Alonzo died on Christmas Eve just before midnight. He had been in the custody of U.S. Customs and Border Protection with his father since Dec. 18.

The boy suffered from a cough, "glossy eyes," fever and vomiting and was hospitalized twice on Monday with what was initially diagnosed as a cold, the agency said in a statement. The cause of death was under investigation.

Officials at the Department of Homeland Security, the Border Patrol's parent agency, said that almost all checks ordered in reaction to the boy's death had been completed.

Some children detained in more remote areas were re-screened by emergency medical technicians or Border Patrol agents, officials said. In other places, some children were taken to medical facilities.

Homeland Security would not say how many children are in Border Patrol custody.

The department also wouldn't say why Felipe and his father were detained for almost a week, an unusually long time, or why they were placed back in detention—at a Border Patrol highway checkpoint—after being released

from the hospital.

Another Guatemalan child in U.S. custody, 7-year-old Jakelin Caal, died on Dec. 8 after she began vomiting. U.S. officials said she had walked for days in the desert without food or water, but her family disputed that.

Her death—which brought down heavy criticism on U.S. immigration authorities—is also under investigation.

Immigration advocates and human rights groups sharply criticized CBP in the wake of Felipe's death.

Margaret Huang, executive director of Amnesty International USA, said the Trump administration's "policies of cruelty toward migrants and asylum-seekers at the border must cease immediately before any more children are harmed."

CBP said in a statement late Tuesday that it needs the help of other government agencies to provide health care.

The agency "is considering options for surge medical assistance" from the Coast Guard and may request help from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Defense and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

With border crossings surging, CBP processes thousands of children—both alone and with their parents—every month. According to CBP statistics, border agents detained 5,283 children unaccompanied by a parent in November alone. Agents last month also apprehended 25,172 "family units," or parents and children together.

CBP typically holds children for no more than a few days. Youngsters who arrive unaccompanied are



turned over to longer-term facilities operated by the HHS. The Associated Press reported this month that 14,300 children were being detained by HHS, most in facilities with more than 100 kids.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Kevin McAleenan said Wednesday that the agency has more than 1,500 emergency medical technicians on staff and that officers are taking dozens of sick children to hospitals every day.

"This is an extraordinarily rare occurrence," McAleenan told "CBS This Morning" of the recent child deaths. "It's been more than a decade since we've had a child pass away anywhere in a CBP process, so this is just devastating for us."

Border officers remain on the job despite the partial government shutdown over Donald Trump's demand for funding for a border wall.

CBP typically detains adult immigrants for no more than a few days when they cross the border before either releasing them or turning them over to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for longer-term detention.

Associated Press writers Mary Hudetz in Albuquerque, New Mexico; Sonia Perez D. in Guatemala City; and Mark Stevenson in Mexico City contributed to this report.

Some facts about immigrant children in US custody

Dec. 26, 2018 (AP): The deaths of two migrant children in U.S. custody this month are bringing increased attention to how the nation is grappling with families and children traveling alone across the U.S./Mexico border, especially from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.

The Christmas Eve death of an 8-year-old Guatemalan boy in New Mexico follows the Dec. 8 death of another Guatemalan child, a 7-year-old girl. The U.S. government's system for detaining migrants crossing the border is severely overtaxed, and the children's deaths come amid the dispute between Donald Trump and congressional Democrats over funding for a border wall.

Here are some things to know about immigrant children in U.S. custody:

CHILDREN IN CUSTODY: Most children initially are taken into the custody by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, which typically holds them for no more than a few days. With border crossings surging, CBP reported that border agents detained 5,283 children who weren't accompanied by a parent in November alone. Agents last month also apprehended 25,172 "family units," or parents and children together.

Officials at the Department of Homeland Security, the

Border Patrol's parent agency, would not say how many children are in Border Patrol custody.

But the federal agency that is often next to oversee the care of migrant children, the Office of Refugee Resettlement, reported that it had 14,314 migrant youth in its custody as of Dec. 17. Most of those—about 11,600—are being housed by the five largest providers: Austin, Texas-based Southwest Key; San Antonio-based BCFS Health and Human Services; Comprehensive Health Services Inc., based in Cape Canaveral, Florida; Cayuga Centers in Auburn, New York; and Chicago-based Heartland Alliance.

WHO ARE THESE CHILDREN?: The kids in these programs range in age from toddlers to 17-year-olds. The vast majority crossed the border without their parents, but some were separated from their families at the border earlier this year.

WHERE ARE THEY STAYING?: The care they receive varies greatly across a network of providers that has included 150 different facilities over the last 20 months in 17 states: Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia and Washington

state. Some children live with foster families and are treated to Broadway shows, while others sleep in canvas tents in the Texas desert.

ARE THOSE NUMBERS INCREASING?: The number of migrant children caught by immigration officials and turned over to the Office of Refugee Resettlement has dropped under Trump: there were 49,100 during the 2018 fiscal year, compared to a high of 59,170 during the 2016 fiscal year, when a surge of youth border crossings led the Obama administration to open emergency shelters at military bases.

HOW LONG ARE CHILDREN STAYING IN CUSTODY?: The average length of stay has increased from about 34 days in January 2016 to around 60 days, according to government reports. In October, the average length of stay reached 89 days, according to data from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services provided to members of Congress, who shared it with the AP.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?: The ORR migrant children's program has already cost taxpayers more than \$1.5 billion, according to federal grant disclosures. Another \$1.1 billion has been requested as part of the 2019 budget.

Countries with Universal Health Care

Listed by Country and Start Date of Universal Health Care

Australia	1975	Italy	1978
Austria	1967	Japan	1938
Bahrain	1957	Kuwait	1950
Belgium	1945	Luxembourg	1973
Brunei	1958	Netherlands	1966
Canada	1966	New Zealand	1938
Cyprus	1980	Norway	1912
Denmark	1973	Portugal	1979
Finland	1972	Singapore	1993
France	1974	Slovenia	1972
Germany	1941	South Korea	1988
Greece	1983	Spain	1986
Hong Kong	1993	Sweden	1955
Iceland	1990	Switzerland	1994
Ireland	1977	United Arab Emirates	1971
Israel	1995	United Kingdom	1948



Rudolfo Anaya: Chicano author, illustrator collaborate on animal adventure

By MORGAN LEE, Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M., Dec. 25, 2018 (AP): Celebrated Chicano author Rudolfo Anaya has teamed up with the Mexican-American street muralist known as El Moises to craft a bilingual children's book in English and Spanish about the harrowing adventure of a little owl who skipped school.

"Owl in a Straw Hat" from Museum of New Mexico Press is chocked full of references to northern New Mexico geography and homespun Latino tradition—from posole soup and pinon nuts to the "acequia" organizations that help irrigate fields and lend a special order to rural life in New Mexico.

Swirling illustrations chronicle adventures of a tiny owl named Ollie who longs to read on his own. He skips school and tangles with a cast of conniving animal characters in the hills and skies of northern New Mexico.

Anaya achieved lasting literary fame with the novel "Bless Me, Ultima" in 1972.



CMSD's True2U Mentors help 8th-graders sort through high school options

CMSD's eighth-graders face a critical choice of where to attend high school next year, but fortunately they have mentors to help them sort through the many options.

On Dec. 13, 2018, volunteer True2U mentors spent two hours helping eighth-graders in schools across the District consider CMSD's various models. When the mentors return in January of 2019, students will continue to identify select choices that fit their interests.

Students at Mound School in the Slavic Village neighborhood paired with Matt Vana, manager of accounts payable for Medical Mutual, and Kathy Capretta, customer insights analyst for the health insurer. Classmates happily kept busy playing a board game relevant to the discussions: Life.

Many of the students had focused on school sports programs as a major factor in their selections, Vana said. He urged them to think of sports as more of an extra.

Vana said the one-on-ones gave some typically quiet students a chance to open up. He said the exchanges, with students quiet or otherwise, were revealing.

"All of them are engaged; they do have an idea of the avenues they want to go into," said Vana, adding that he had heard talk of engineering, finance, marketing, arts and



high school I wanted to go to," she said. "They showed me schools that were in my categories."

As a portfolio district, CMSD has created a variety of high school models so students can find the ones that will help them reach their goals. Students can attend any high school they wish if space is available and, in a few cases, they meet admissions requirements.

Students and families can register online at choosecmsd.org. The portal is open until March 22 but signing up early improves a student's chances of getting his or her first choice.

All of the more than 30 District high schools will have a chance to the market their programs from Jan. 23-25, when eighth-graders take turns making daytime visits to the East Professional Center, 1349 E. 79th St.

Families can browse the school options from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 23 at East Professional Center and from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 30 at Max S. Hayes High School, 2211 W. 65th St.

True2U, launched in 2016, is a partnership between CMSD, MyCom, the Neighborhood Leadership Institute, the Greater Cleveland Partnership, and the Greater Cleveland Faith-Based Initiative. For more information, go to true2umentor.org.

communication. "They are putting forth the effort to start thinking about career paths."

In previous months, students assessed their strengths. A boy named Kenyon said his reflection had uncovered career possibilities ranging from accountant to school counselor to judge.

"I don't know yet what I'm going to be," said Kenyon, who is interested in attending Cleveland Early College High School at the John Hay Campus. "But I'm going to do what I'm good at."

Nick has his eye on Rhodes School of Environmental Studies, because of the thematic focus, and one of CMSD's two Bard High School Early Colleges, because he could simultaneously earn a high school diploma and an associate of arts degree—tuition free—from Bard College of New York.

Like Nick, Trinity is considering Bard but she also wants to explore Jane Addams Business Careers Center and the Cleveland School of the Arts. She credited her True2U mentors will helping her to winnow the field.

"At first, I didn't know what



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Alguien te necesita.

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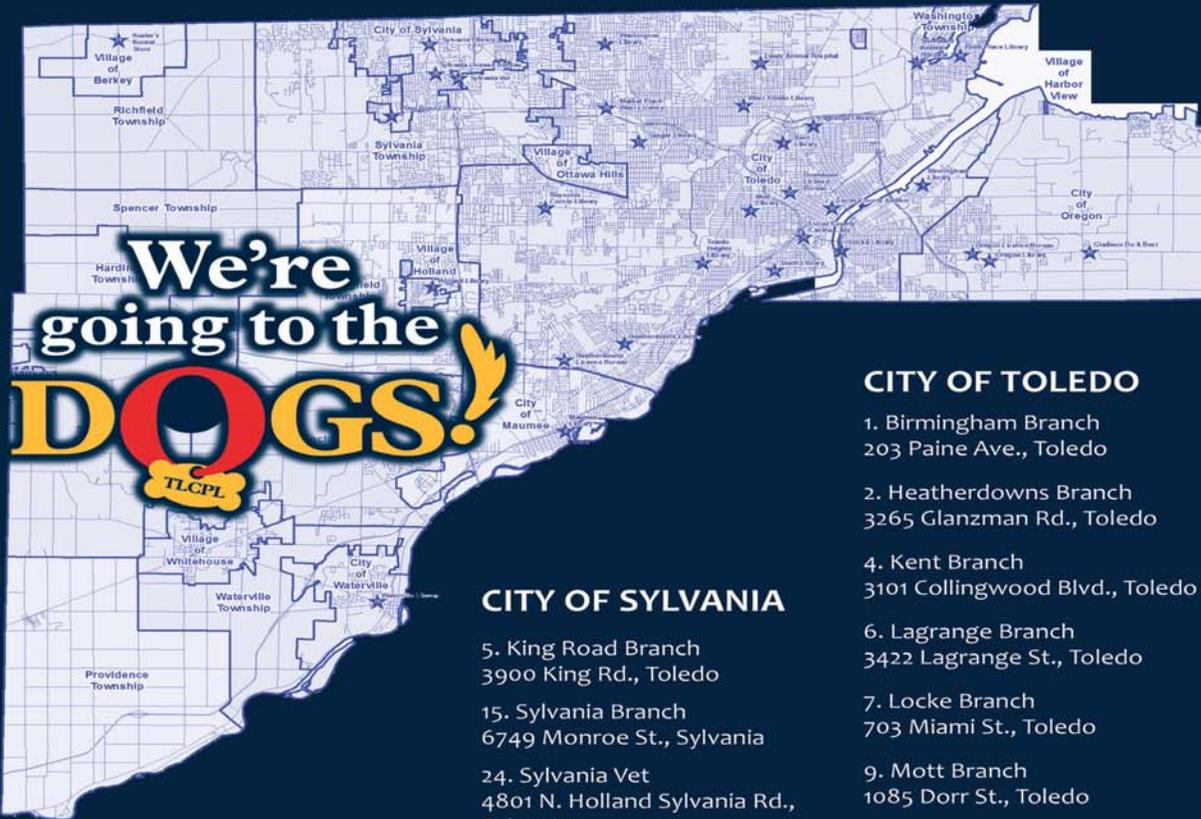
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- 28. Sylvania License Bureau
4900 N. McCord Rd. Sylvania

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- 10. Oregon Branch
3340 Dustin Rd., Oregon
- 20. Gladieux Do-It Best
5120 Navarre Ave., Oregon
- 27. Oregon License Bureau
3018 Navarre Ave., Oregon

CITY OF MAUMEE

- 8. Maumee Branch
800 Michigan Ave., Waterville

VILLAGE OF HOLLAND

- 3. Holland Branch
1032 S. McCord Rd., Holland

VILLAGE OF BERKEY

- 21. Keeler's Korner Store
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- 31. Lucas County Canine Care
410 Erie St., Toledo



Elia Burgos es la nueva Coordinadora de Alcance Comunitario del Consejo Electoral del Condado de Cuyahoga

Por: Isabel Flores, Corresponsal La Prensa

CLEVELAND, Dec. 24, 2018: Elia Burgos es la nueva Coordinadora de Alcance Comunitario del Consejo Electoral del Condado de Cuyahoga con base en el 2925 de la avenida Euclid en Cleveland, Ohio. Su misión es acercarse a la comunidad para brindar orientación sobre el proceso electoral y de esa manera se ejerzan los derechos de los hispanos.

“Vamos a las escuelas y diferentes foros a llevar literatura sobre el proceso electoral. También estamos trabajando en la parte en español del sitio web, nos toca actualizar la información y atender las redes sociales, lo hacemos de manera amena porque muchos piensan que se requiere de un gran conocimiento para poder votar y no es así, el conocimiento y la información en general está en nuestra página y para conocer a los candidatos podemos ir a fuentes externas como son páginas no partidistas que se dedican a promover el voto”, señala Burgos en entrevista exclusiva para *La Prensa*. “Con un poco de esfuerzo el latino puede educarse un poco mejor para que no tenga ese miedo en votar”.

Elia es originaria de Puerto Rico y llegó a Cleveland hace apenas cuatro meses. “Cuando llegue me hacían falta los míos, así que empecé a buscar el enlace con la comunidad

hispana y me enteré de la posición en el Consejo Electoral, afortunadamente fui aceptada e inicié a partir del 22 de octubre. Me he sentido muy acogida ya que todos son muy amables conmigo.

Llegue justo en las elecciones del pasado 6 de noviembre, las cuales fueron históricas por la participación electoral enorme, mucho más de lo que nos esperábamos, no tan grande como quisiéramos, nosotros aspiramos a que sea un 100% de participación pero tener un 64% en una elección de medio término es un logro del cual nos sentimos bien orgullosos”, agregó la entrevistada.

La razón por la que Elia se mudó a Cleveland fue por la devastación que se vivió en Puerto Rico por los huracanes Irma y María. Su esposo Steven con quien tiene nueve años de casada, es originario de Cleveland, y se vio obligado a regresar a su ciudad natal al quedarse sin trabajo en Puerto Rico. “Intento regresar a la isla pues sabe que mi corazón está allá, pero no pudo y por eso decidí venir porque es importante que la familia este unida”, dijo Burgos. Elia tiene una hija de 27 años de su matrimonio anterior, quien tiene una vida hecha en Orlando.

La Coordinadora de Alcance Comunitario vivía en el pueblo de Humacao, justo en donde entró el huracán María y duro 12 horas, por lo que todo quedó destruido.

“Había postes de luz de concreto partidos como palillo de dientes. Todas las vías estaban intranstitadas con árboles y techos de casa. Lo que vino después del huracán, nadie se lo esperaba fue bien retante y te hace poner en perspectiva las cosas que son importantes y las que no, tienes que ver cómo vas a salir adelante todos los días, cómo le vas hacer para conseguir un poco de agua fría o tener carne y vegetales frescos para no tener que mantenerte todo el tiempo con comida enlatada; pero también te hace ver lo afortunado que eres de tener familia, los vecinos te dan la mano”, relata.

Una de las cosas que más recuerda, fue cuando iba de regreso de visitar a su mamá, quien perdió todo por completo ya que su casa quedó inundada. “Nos detuvimos en una gasolinera y vi a un señor hablando por teléfono, nada más había una empresa que tenía señal en ciertos lugares pero en general casi nadie podíamos comunicarnos con nuestros familiares, no teníamos señal ni energía eléctrica. Me acerque al señor y le dije, le doy todo lo que tengo en mi bolsillo si me permite hablar con mi hija, y ese señor me permitió llamar sin cobrarme nada, hable con mi hija para decirle que estábamos bien porque toda la información era de catástrofe, ahí mismo empecé a llorar y cada que puedo le

mando una bendición a este señor que no desconfió de mí. Así somos los puertorriqueños, dejamos de ser de nosotros para ser de los demás”, comentó.

Desde pequeña, Elia deseaba ser abogada y se convirtió en la primera en su casa en graduarse, ya después sus sobrinas siguieron sus pasos y también fueron a la universidad. Trabajo por 16 años como abogada en la Sociedad para Asistencia Legal en donde se da asistencia a personas que están acusadas de delito. Muchos de sus clientes vivían en el pueblo de Humacao, así que tuvo la oportunidad de ayudarlos al estar pendiente de que no les faltaran servicios y no se detuvieran sus procesos después del huracán.

Cabe destacar que uno de los amores más grandes de Elia son los perros, y es por ello que desde hace más de 5 años trabaja como voluntaria para *The Sato Project*, una organización con base en Nueva York que se dedica al rescate, rehabilitación y búsqueda de nuevo hogar para perros sapos. Los Sapos son los perros callejeros de Puerto Rico (después del huracán la cantidad de estos indefensos animales creció exponencialmente).

“Después de María ayude en varios proyectos como el de darles hogar a los perritos mientras esperaban ser relocalizados en USA. También participe en el proyecto del *Humane Society de Estados Unidos* y la oficina de la primera dama en Puerto Rico para hacer la campaña de esterilización y vacunación masiva gratuita. Por otro lado, *The Sato Project* lanzó la campaña humanitaria en la cual reuní y sigue reuniendo a las mascotas con sus familiares que se separaron luego del éxodo masivo de puertorriqueños a raíz del huracán. Se les proveyó transportación área gratuita hasta este país. Gracias a *The Sato Project* cientos de familias incluyéndome a mí, pudimos traer nuestras mascotas a Estados Unidos”, concluyó la entrevistada.

Cabe destacar que Elia Burgos es una gran luchadora de los derechos, por lo que ahora los hispanos del Condado de Cuyahoga ya tiene una gran aliada que está dispuesta a tener un mayor contacto con los líderes latinos y las organizaciones que trabajan directamente con la comunidad para estimular más a los latinos en los procesos democráticos de Estados Unidos.



Elia Burgos is the new Community Outreach Coordinator for the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections
By: Isabel Flores, *La Prensa* Correspondent

CLEVELAND: Elia Burgos is the new Community Outreach Coordinator of the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections [CCBE], based at 2925 Euclid Avenue in Cleveland. Its mission is to approach the community to provide guidance on the electoral process and thereby exercise the rights of Latinos.

“We are going to schools and different forums to educate about the electoral process. We are also working on the Spanish part of the website—we have to update the information and attend social networks, we do it in an entertaining way because many think that it requires a lot of knowledge to be able to vote and it is not so, knowledge and information in general is on our page and to know the candidates we can go to external sources such as non-partisan pages that are dedicated to promoting the vote,” Ms. Burgos said in an exclusive interview for *La Prensa*. “With a little effort the Latino can educate himself a little better so they don’t have that fear in voting.”

Elia is originally from Puerto Rico and arrived in Cleveland several four months ago. “When I arrived, I needed to find my people, so I started looking for the link with the Hispanic community and I found out about the position in the CCBE. Fortunately, I was accepted and started on October 22nd.

“I have felt very welcome since everyone is very kind to me. I arrived just in time for the elections of November 6, which were historic by the huge turnout, much more than we expected, but not as big as we would like. We aim for 100% participation but have 64% in a midterm election it is an achievement of which we feel very proud,” the interviewee added.

The reason why Elia moved to Cleveland was because of the devastation that was experienced in Puerto Rico by hurricanes Irma and María. Her husband, Steven, is originally from Cleveland, and returned to his hometown after losing the job in Puerto Rico. “I tried to return to the island because he knows my heart is there, but he could not and that’s why I decided to come because it is important that the family remain united,” Ms. Burgos said. Elia has a 27-year-old daughter who resides in Orlando, Florida.

Ms. Burgos had lived in the town of Humacao, Puerto Rico, right where Hurricane María entered and lasted 12 hours, so everything was destroyed. “There were split concrete light poles, like toothpicks. All roads were impassable with trees and house roofs. What came after the hurricane, nobody expected; it was very challenging and makes you put in perspective the things that are important and those that are not.

“You have to see how you are going to get ahead every day, how are you going to do to get a little of cold water or having fresh meat and vegetables so you do not have to keep all the time with canned food; but it also makes you see how lucky you are to have a family, neighbors give you a hand,” Ms. Burgos said.

Since she was a little girl, Elia wanted to become a lawyer and became the first one in her home to graduate, and later her nieces followed her steps and also went to a university. I worked for 16 years as a lawyer in the Society for Legal Assistance where people who are accused of crime are assisted. Many of the clients lived in the town of Humacao, so we had the opportunity to help them by being aware that they were not lacking in services and their processes were not stopped after the hurricane.

“After Hurricane Maria, I helped in several projects like giving the dogs a home while they waited to be relocated in the USA. Also, participate in the project of the Humane Society of the United States and the office of the first lady in Puerto Rico to make the campaign of sterilization and mass free vaccination.

“On the other hand, *The Sato Project* launched the humanitarian campaign in which it gathered and continues to reunite the pets with their relatives who separated after the mass exodus of Puerto Ricans in the wake of the hurricane. Free area transportation to this country was provided. Thanks to *The Sato Project*, hundreds of families, including me, were able to bring pets to the United States,” concluded Ms. Burgos.

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The Genealogy Club will learn research techniques and explore resources. Members will be encouraged to share their research successes and offer advice to others who are stuck. New and experienced genealogists are welcome. Preregistration required.

Wednesday, January 9; 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Books and Brews:

Maltese Falcon by Dashiell Hammett - **Speak of the Devil**

Come and grab a cold brew and discuss *The Maltese Falcon* by Dashiell Hammett with library staff! Adults ages 21 and over are welcome to join us at *Speak of the Devil* located at 201 W 5th St. Lorain, OH. Participants are responsible for their own drinks. Preregistration required.

Book Sale

The book sale is open to the



public and sponsored by the Friends of the Lorain Public Library, Inc.

Thursday, January 10, 5 to 7:30 p.m. - Preview for Lorain Friends Members
Friday, January 11 and Saturday, January 12; 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Monday, January 14 and Tuesday, January 15; 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 16; 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. - Nickel Day
Thursday, January 17; 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. - Penny Day

Saturday, January 12; 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Internet for Beginners

Become familiar with internet basics, visiting websites and using internet search engines to find information. Discover the most useful websites for accurate information, such as health information. Learn about

services available through the library's website. Participants need to be comfortable using a mouse to attend. Preregistration required.

Mondays, January 14, 28; February 11, 25; March 11, 25; 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Anime and Manga Club

Join your fellow fans and enjoy anime, manga, drawing, fan culture, asian music and more. View a variety of shows, from shojo to shonen, action, adventure and fantasy - there's a series for everyone! Bring a friend to share in the fun and snacks. For all enthusiastic fans from 14 to 18 years of age. Preregistration required.

Tuesday, January 15; 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Tech Help

Bring your questions to this informal session about the use of computers, tablets, eReaders, the internet or anything else technology-related. Preregistration required.

Román Delgado: Latino manager hire at Lorain Co. Ford Plant promotes Diversity

By La Prensa Staff

Román Delgado is trying to learn as much as he can, as fast as he can—as the newly hired process coach at the Ford Motor Co. plant in Avon Lake, one of Lorain County's largest employers. More than that, he stands tall and proud with what his hire represents: a renewed commitment to diversity among management and the workforce at the assembly plant.

"I'm one of the first (Hispanics) hired into a management position," said Mr. Delgado. "I'm one of the few to be in this position."

While the term "process coach" in another era may have been called a foreman or supervisor, Delgado simply calls it a good fit as he tries to help make the workforce more productive to assist Ford in turning out more pickup trucks in the hope of gaining more market share.

"My whole life I've been a job coach, a life coach, an employment coach. I'm also a registered and certified recovery coach," said Mr. Delgado, who oversees five sections of the plant and supervises roughly 80 workers. "As long as I'm not coaching athletics, I'm a great coach. It's really rewarding to be part of the process and help Ford."

While the troubling situation at the General Motors plant in Lordstown has drawn the attention of politicians and supporters hoping to save jobs, the Ford plant where many of the automaker's pickup trucks are made is thriving in a county where nearly one-third of the population is Latino.

"It motivates me to keep these people working at their best, keep putting out the best quality to ensure job security," said Delgado. "Once people start not liking the quality we're putting out on the line, that's the end of us, you know. That's number one."

While the plant shut down over the holidays, production resumed Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2019. Delgado resolved in the New Year to do what he could to ensure a safe and productive manufacturing operation ensured job security for his 1,700 Ford colleagues on the assembly lines. Part of that mission is teaching younger members of the workforce that nothing is guaranteed for them.

"The ones that have



been there a while, they get it. The newer generation, I'm trying to instill in them, because sometimes you get the young people whose dream has always been to work at Ford," he said. "Once they get in, these young guys take it for granted—my granddad was here, my dad was here, it's going to be here forever. I let them know that if the quality isn't good and we're not doing our best, ain't nothing forever."

In a fast-paced, what-have-you-done-for-me-lately global economy, 30 years at the same job and a guaranteed pension are long-gone business practices. That's why Delgado plans to take Latino assembly workers under his wing in addition to the employees he directly supervises.

"My number one goal there is to manage, oversee, help, guide, and lead," he said. "Because the most important thing is keep that line running."

Delgado, of Mexican descent, stated he learned an ethic of hard work at a young age by watching the examples set by his grandfather, who raised him as a child, and great-grandfather. He even admitted he pretends his grandfather is his boss when he goes into work to ensure he does his best and "work as I know he would work."

Delgado stated his grandfather was the only one of his siblings to leave Texas "during the wave of employment" in northern Ohio at auto factories, steel mills, and railroad facilities. He is now married with a family of his own—children and stepchildren between the ages of 9 and 16.

"They recently allowed me to go in as a manager into the training classes with the temporary new hires," he said. "It made me really, re-

ally proud to see such a diverse mix and to see a fair share of Latino faces. It made me happy. They are diverse and inclusive. It is a very important goal and priority for them."

The Lorain County assembly plant produces the Ford F-series pickup truck, in particular, the heavy duty and super-duty models. The plant also does some assembly work on Econoline vans.

Delgado's management job at Ford completes a comeback story of sorts. He is proud to point out he is now more than 24 years sober, a journey that led him to be a recovery coach during his career. He is now a relentless work-out warrior himself, an important part of his own recovery from addiction.

He counts the presidents of Lorain City Council and Lorain County Board of Commissioners as contacts who served as positive job references in his effort to get hired at Ford after getting to know much of the plant's workforce over the past two or three decades by attending many of Ford's events, including health fairs, festivals, and hiring events. He essentially networked his way into a new career direction using his self-proclaimed "gift of gab."

"Honored, humbled. There are lot of people who stamped their name on me and I feel like I have to go in there and do a good job, a great job," he said. "There's no other way about it. It's a blessing to be there. A lot of people in the county are supporting me. It means a lot to be here. I want to do everybody proud."

MEXICAN MUTUAL SOCIETY (MMS) 1820 East 28th Street, Lorain, OH 44052, 440-277-7375 "SAVE THE CLUB!" CAMPAIGN

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The MMS is a certified Chapter member of Cleveland Browns Backers. Membership cost is \$15. If you're not yet a MMS member, now is a perfect reason to also join the Mexican Mutual Society! If you are interested in additional information, contact Chapter President, Edwin Silva at 440-522-6683.

MMS 2019 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE:

Mexican Mutual Society's membership drive is in full swing! Help us achieve 90 new members in our 90th Anniversary Year! The MMS is a non-profit organization and is sustained by fundraisers and private donations such as membership dues. Join with a friend or two! YOUR MEMBERSHIP KEEPS THE MMS ALIVE! Social Membership is \$10. Active Membership with voting rights for those of Mexican descent and their families is \$15. Applications are available at the Club.

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Trump's 2018: A year in a stranger-than-sitcom presidency

By CALVIN WOODWARD, Associated Press

WASHINGTON, DC, Dec. 22, 2018 (AP): The stranger-than-sitcom U.S. presidency opened 2018 with a big tease about *mutual nuclear destruction* from two leaders who then found "love" not war. It seems Donald Trump and North Korea's Kim Jong Un were just playing hard to get.

The presidency ends the year saturated in tumult, with the government in *partial shutdown* and Trump tweeting a video of himself warbling a parody of the theme song from "Green Acres," a television sitcom from the 1960s, to mark his signing of a farm bill.

Throw in a beer-loving and very angry Supreme Court nominee, an unhappy departing defense secretary, Trump's parallel universe of facts and his zillion tweets, and you can see that the president's world this year was touched by the weird, the traumatic, and the fantastical—also known as WTF.

There was no holding back the self-described "very stable genius" with the "very, very large brain."

Some serious and relatively conventional things got done in 2018.

There was a *midterm election*. Many more Democrats are coming to Congress and not quite all of them plan to run for president. Divided government dawned in January when Democrats take control of the House; Republicans retain their grip on the Senate.

An *overhaul of the criminal justice system* was accomplished on Dec. 21, 2018, and in an unusually bipartisan way, though it took a dash of reality TV's Kim Kardashian West to move it along. Gun control actually was tightened a bit, with Trump's unilateral *banning of bump stocks*.

Trump shocked allies and lost Defense Secretary *Jim Mattis* over a presidential decision to pull U.S. troops out of Syria, quickly following up with indications that up to half the troops in Afghanistan might be withdrawn, too.

Self-described "Tariff Man" started one trade war, with China, and headed off a second by tweaking the *North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA]* and giving it an unpronounceable acronym, USMCA. He withdrew the U.S. from the Iran nuclear deal, putting action behind his Twitter shout: "WE ARE NO LONGER A COUNTRY THAT WILL STAND FOR YOUR DEMENTED WORDS OF VIOLENCE & DEATH."

Trump placed his second justice on the Supreme Court in two years after *Brett Kavanaugh*, accused of alcohol-fueled sexual assault in his youth, raged against the allegations at a congressional hearing and acknowledged only: "I liked beer, I still like beer," but "I never

sexually assaulted anyone."

There were frustrations and fulminations aplenty for the president, particularly about the steaming-ahead *Russia-Trump campaign investigation* by special counsel *Robert Mueller* ("special counsel" in some Trump tweets).

Nor did he make much progress on his promised border wall ("border wall"), which he renamed "artistically designed steel slats" in December in what he regarded as a concession to wall-despising, concrete-cursing Democrats. The concession did not work: large parts of the government closed Saturday over the wall-induced budget impasse.

He took heat for a zero-tolerance policy that forced migrant children from their parents until he backed off, inaccurately blaming Democrats for "Child Separation."

It was a very good year for jobs. It was a check-your-smartphone-right-now, pass-the-smelling-salts year for the stock market. Trump, who assailed the unemployment rate as a phony measure when he was a candidate, couldn't speak of it enough as Obama-era job growth continued on his watch. He went mum about the market, a prime subject for his boasting before it took a sustained dive.

Trump's approval rating in polls was one of the few constants on this swiftly tilting planet: *42 percent approval and 56 percent disapproval* in The Associated Press-NORC's latest and *38 percent-57 percent* via Gallup, neither much different than in January.

Through it all, the mainstreaming of the bizarre proceeded apace and North Korea's Kim set that tone right on Jan. 1 with his New Year cheer to US-Americans across the ocean: "It's not a mere threat but reality that I have a nuclear button on the desk in my office. All of the mainland United States is within the range of our nuclear strike."

Trump responded the next day with a tweet about size and performance. "I too have a Nuclear Button, but it is a much bigger & more powerful one than his, and my Button works!"

Once they got that out of their system, things quickly improved, helped along by Kim's letters to Trump, which the U.S. president called "beautiful." There was no more talk about Trump being a "mentally deranged dotard" or Kim being a "maniac," the musty insults of an earlier time. In June, they held history's first meeting between a North Korean leader and a current U.S. president. "We fell in love," Trump later said at a West Virginia rally.

Kim had previously vowed to visit "fire and fury" on the U.S. but the "Fire and Fury" that made Trump livid early this year was the book of the same name, Michael Wolff's insider account of the Trump White House. That was a different sort of missile. The presi-

dent took particular exception to observations in the book by his former chief strategist, tweeting about "Sloppy Steve Bannon, who cried when he got fired and begged for his job. Now Sloppy Steve has been dumped like a dog by almost everyone. Too bad!"

They are said to be on better terms now.

Over the course of the year, Trump spoke at more than 40 campaign rallies, kept up his Twitter barrage (40,000 tweets since 2009 on his (at)realDonaldTrump account) and answered plenty of questions in frequent but lengthy news conferences and sit-down interviews.

So what stands out in this blizzardy whiteout of unconventionalality?

How about this farewell to his secretary of state, *Rex Tillerson*? "He was dumb as a rock and I couldn't get rid of him fast enough. He was lazy as hell." (The president usually reserves "dumb as a rock" for journalists.)

Or his description of *Stormy Daniels*, paid to stay quiet about their alleged affair, as "horseface?"

Or this description of his attorney general, *Jeff Sessions*, as "scared stiff and Missing in Action," before Sessions was finally out in November?

Will history long remember that in 2018 the president called Democratic Rep. *Adam Schiff* "little Adam Schitt" on Twitter and nations in Africa "shithole countries" in a private meeting?

Or that he (correctly) predicted *Hurricane Florence* would be "tremendously wet" or told the AP: "I have a natural instinct for science?"

In July, Trump appeared to side with Russian President *Vladimir Putin* when he stood by Putin's side at a Helsinki summit news conference and gave weight to Putin's denial that Russia meddled in the 2016 election, despite the firm conclusion of U.S. intelligence agencies that it had. "I don't see any reason why it would be" Russia, Trump said.

But while it's been hardly noticed in a capital consumed by the shutdown drama, Mattis, Syria, steel slats and market convulsions, 2018 draws to a close as it started—with warnings of a nuclear Armageddon, this time from Putin.

Putin's prompt was Trump's intention to walk away from an arms control treaty and his reluctance to extend another.

That, said Putin, "could lead to the destruction of civilization as a whole and maybe even our planet."

Maybe he's just playing hard to get.

AP polling director *Emily Swanson*, and AP writers *Darlene Superville*, *Zeke Miller*, *Catherine Lucy*, *Jill Colvin*, *Jonathan Lemire* and *Nancy Benac* contributed to this report.

Indian casinos across US wary of betting on sports books

By REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

LAS VEGAS, Dec. 26, 2018 (AP): Two dozen large-screen TVs showing football and other sports line the walls. There's beer on tap, bar top seating and leather chairs. Chicken wings are on the menu. And at this American Indian casino in the heart of college-football mad Mississippi, you can legally bet on the games.

The sports book owned by the *Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians* is the first to open on tribal lands outside of *Nevada* following a U.S. Supreme Court ruling earlier this year, a no-brainer business decision given the sports fans among its gambling clientele.

"We are basically two hours from *Tuscaloosa, Alabama*, and then, we are just an hour from *Mississippi State*. We have *Ole Miss* just to the north of that, and we have *Southern Miss*—they're not SEC, but they are a player. We are not that far from *Louisiana*," said Neal Atkinson, the tribe's director of gaming.

The book at *Pearl River Resort* is packed every college football Saturday, but remains an outlier months after the high court opened the door for expanded sports gambling across the United States by striking down a federal ban.

Tribes enthusiastically welcomed the decision in May but since then, the regulatory challenges and low-margin nature of the business have sunk in. Few Indian casinos have an enviable location like the Choctaw and many need state approval to add sports betting to their offerings.

Indian casinos started small three decades ago, but they have grown to be an annual \$32.4 billion segment of the U.S. gambling industry. The roughly 475 casinos operated by nearly 240 tribes create jobs for tribal members and profits that help pay a variety of services, including health care and housing.

Some casinos only have games like bingo or pull tabs that don't need state approval. But the majority of them also have state-authorized slot machines, blackjack and other table games, according to the National Indian Gaming Commission.

Many tribes share a portion of casino profits with state governments in exchange for exclusive rights to conduct gambling operations within their states.

To offer sports betting, the majority of tribes would have to renegotiate compacts that vary widely in cycles and the issues covered, though some tribes believe their existing agreements already give them the right to offer

the new wagers.

"There's a broad spectrum in Indian Country covering two extremes: Tribal nations that would not benefit at all, and on the other end, tribal nations that would significantly benefit," commission chairman *Jonodev Osceola Chaudhuri* said. "Those are largely business decisions that each tribe will have to make given its own economic landscape and its unique market realities."

Some federal lawmakers have also proposed regulating sports gambling more widely, adding yet another layer to a complex debate already involving commercial casinos and lotteries, plus sports leagues themselves.

So far, only the *Santa Ana Pueblo* near *Albuquerque, New Mexico*, has followed the Choctaw's effort into sports gambling. Neither tribe was required to obtain additional state approvals.

Contrary to popular belief, sports betting is a low-profit business that requires highly skilled employees. In Nevada, sportsbooks last year contributed only 2.4 percent of the gambling revenue of casinos statewide, dwarfed by the proceeds from table games and slots. The limited payoff has tribal casinos balanc-

(Continued on Page 13)

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- La Prensa is a publication that has been able to sustain itself in this digital age, while understanding the needs of our grassroots community.

These are just a few of the reasons we hold La Prensa near and dear to our hearts!

-Miguel Gómez, MESA, Director, Diversity & Inclusion, Cuyahoga Community College - Jerry Sue Thornton Center

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Tinta Con Sabor

The importance of La Prensa cannot be understated. They have been a key part of our relationship with the Latino community. The staff have also been nothing short of fantastic. We look forward to continuing our great and priceless partnership for many years to come.

Hani Shamoon from Toledo Foods

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-Lydian Ohman, Marketing Manager, CAPA | CATDO

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Indian casinos

(Continued from Page 12)

ing the allure of a Las Vegas-style amenity with the risks of opening compacts for negotiations.

"Tribal leadership is extremely protective of what they have because it's meant so much to us, and there's always a risk of upsetting the apple cart," *Washington State Gambling Commission* member Chris Stearns said. "Is this going to hurt us? That's really at the heart of why you see Indian tribes gently venturing into sports betting. ... In a lot of states, tribes write a check out to the state in exchange for exclusivity. So, any time there's a new gambling product, and you ask the state to authorize it, there is a risk the state will say 'Sure, but it is going to cost you.'"

The only sports book in *New Mexico*, inside the Santa Ana Star Casino Hotel, began taking wagers in October. It offers bets on professional and college sports, but not for games involving two public in-state universities.

In Washington state, all casinos are tribally operated. Changing the state's laws to allow betting on sports would require a 60 percent supermajority vote in the legislature or a ballot initiative. Only then could sports betting be added to a tribal-state compact.

In California, where tribes have exclusivity on

casino-style gambling, voters would have to approve a change to the state constitution.

Casinos are operated on and off reservations in *South Dakota*. Before the *Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe* can try to edge out its nearest competition across the state line in *Iowa*, *South Dakota's* constitution will have to be amended through a public vote.

The legislature could choose to put the question before voters or supporters could gather enough signatures to add the measure to the 2020 ballot. If the measure passes, it would open the opportunity for tribes to negotiate their compacts with the state.

Tribal councilman Kenny Weston said a sports book could attract new patrons who may also choose to play games already offered and spend nights at the hotel for big sporting events, like MMA fights.

"Normally, with the brick-and-mortar casino like we have, we attract a lot of older crowds and retired people," Weston said. "I think with sports betting we can bring a different age demographic and different people ... and have the opportunity to do the same that they do in Vegas."

More AP sports: <https://apnews.com/apf-sports> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Oleada de denuncias de abuso sexual sacude a Argentina

Por ALMUDENA CALATRAVA y DÉBORA REY, Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, 26 XII 18 (AP): Claudia Guebel recuerda que el funcionario la tomó violentamente de los brazos en un despacho del Senado argentino, como "el cazador que atrapa a la presa", y de inmediato sintió su lengua dentro de su boca. El terror que la embargó hizo que esos minutos parecieran eternos.

"Quise zafar y... más penetración. No supe reaccionar, me quedé paralizada", narró The Associated Press la asesora de legisladores sobre la agresión que dice haber sufrido a principios de año.

Sumida en un cuadro de ansiedad, la politóloga compartió lo ocurrido con allegados, pero no denunció. Tenía la experiencia de haber señalado previamente a otro funcionario por acoso ante la oficina jurídica del Congreso, sin consecuencias.

Para Guebel, sin embargo, el silencio "quedó atrás" luego de la denuncia pública que el 11 de diciembre hizo la joven actriz Thelma Fardin contra un actor por supuesta violación. La artista contó en una conferencia de prensa rodeada de decenas de colegas mujeres los detalles del presunto ultraje que sufrió hace casi una década, cuando tenía 16 años, en la habitación de un hotel en Nicaragua.

Con su acusación contra el actor Juan Darthés, que en aquel momento tenía 45 años, la actriz destapó la olla de múltiples casos de abuso sexual en el mundo del espectáculo, la política y hasta

el ámbito escolar. Simultáneamente se multiplicaron los pedidos de ayuda de mujeres anónimas a instituciones y líneas de teléfono de asesoramiento.

En Argentina no hay un registro nacional de víctimas de abuso sexual pero sí distintos sondeos.

Una encuesta hecha entre 2.750 estudiantes de universidades públicas y privadas de Buenos Aires señaló que 45% dijo haber sufrido maltrato físico o psicológico y 9% abuso sexual.

El estudio fue publicado en el informe "Abuso sexual y embarazo forzado en la niñez y adolescencia. Lineamientos para su abordaje interinstitucional" de Unicef Argentina de 2018.

En tanto, un sondeo reciente de la Sociedad Argentina de Gestión de Actores reveló que 66% de las actrices afirma haber sido víctima de algún tipo de acoso o abuso en el ejercicio de la profesión.

Parece inevitable comparar las repercusiones del caso Fardin con el fenómeno "Me too" (Yo también) surgido en Estados Unidos a partir de las denuncias de abuso y acoso contra el productor de cine Harvey Weinstein. Pero la propia víctima aclaró que tomó coraje del movimiento "Ni una menos" que surgió en Argentina en 2015 contra la violencia machista.

Ese colectivo, que tiene en las mujeres jóvenes y adolescentes su principal motor, ha organizado multitudinarias movilizaciones contra los feminicidios. También decretó la primera huelga de mujeres contra la violencia y por iguales derechos laborales que los hombres y este año estuvo a punto de lograr la legalización del aborto en el país natal del papa Francisco.

"La denuncia de Thelma visibilizó algo que venía pasando", afirmó a AP Fabiana Tuñez, directora ejecutiva del Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres. "En Argentina hace un tiempo que estamos asistiendo a un cambio de paradigma... donde la voz de las mujeres se empieza a escuchar, entender y, fundamentalmente, se la empieza a acompañar".

La fuerza de ese movimiento puso a Argentina a la vanguardia de la lucha de las mujeres contra la cultura machista en Latinoamérica.

"Con las declaraciones de Thelma se despertó todo en mí", admitió Guebel, de 52 años.

La mujer dijo que cuando vio en la televisión a Fardin relatando su sufrimiento sintió una "opresión en el pecho" que la hizo estallar en llanto. "Dije: 'esto es una ola que no la frena nadie... este es el momento'".

Fardin denunció que fue violada por Darthés en 2009 mientras participaban de una gira en Nicaragua para promocionar la famosa serie infantil argentina "Patito feo", que fue comprada por Disney Channel para ser difundida a nivel internacional. A principios de diciembre lo acusó formalmente ante la justicia nicaragüense.

"Comenzó a besarme el cuello, le dije que no... Medijo que lo tocara, 'mira cómo me ponés', haciéndome sentir su erección. Me tiró a la cama, me corrió el shortico y me empezó a practicar sexo oral. Yo le dije que no, que tus hijos tienen mi edad. No le importó. Se subió arriba mío y me penetró", detalló la actriz.

Darthés - blanco de otras denuncias por acoso- negó la imputación, afirmó que fue ella quien se le insinuó y anunció que se presentará ante la justicia de Nicaragua para afrontar los cargos. Pero el actor se trasladó días atrás a Brasil, su país natal, donde actrices locales han repudiado su presencia.

"Esto no impide o bloquea la posibilidad de justicia, simplemente puede presentarse como un obstáculo", aclaró Sabrina Cartabia, abogada de Fardin.

Según la abogada, "todas estamos muy conmocionadas. Se está abriendo la posibilidad de hablar de algo muy doloroso. Estamos teniendo la posibilidad de visibilizar el régimen de violencia sexual que pesa sobre las mujeres, niñas y adolescentes de este país".

Guebel ahora está dispuesta a erradicar esa cultura del "patriarcado". Tres integrantes del Parlamento a los que la politóloga denunció días atrás ante la justicia fueron acusados formalmente por un fiscal de abuso y acoso sexual.

La mujer afirmó que el senador Juan Carlos Marino, de la Unión Cívica Radical, le manoseó los pechos en su despacho y que su colaborador Pedro Fioria le introdujo la lengua en la boca. Apleado de la Cámara de Diputados Juan Carlos Amarilla, al que había denunciado sin éxito en el seno del Congreso, lo acusó de acoso.

Todas esas agresiones - señaló Guebel- ocurrieron en algo más de un año.

"Estoy con un nivel de hastío insoportable que me ha causado muchos problemas de salud y el desgaste del alma", afirmó la mujer, que trabaja en el Senado desde hace cerca de 20 años.

Amarilla y Marino se declararon inocentes. A su vez, el senador puso a disposición sus fueros parlamentarios, que le otorgan inmunidad de arresto, para someterse a la justicia. En tanto, AP intentó comunicarse con Fioria, sin éxito. Este tercer acusado tampoco ha hecho comentarios públicos.

La Comisión Banca de la Mujer del Senado advirtió que las mujeres ya no callarán más. "Gritamos todas y las historias se multiplican... resultado de una humillación que estaba naturalizada".

Más y más mujeres de distintos partidos políticos están relatando agresiones, como las integrantes de La Cámpora, la agrupación juvenil que responde a la expresidenta Cristina Fernández (2007-2015).

Y las líneas telefónicas gratuitas que reciben denuncias de violencia de género colapsaron.

Si se compra las llamadas recibidas por día de la semana, el mayor aumento de las

mismas-un 123%- se registró el 12 de diciembre, el día después de la conferencia de Fardin. En tanto, 30% de los casos denunciados entre el 11 y 16 de diciembre se refirieron a hechos de violencia sexual, cuando el promedio en ese mes es del 18%.

Tuñez, quien tiene bajo su órbita la línea telefónica de ayuda, se sorprendió por las llamadas de mujeres de entre 70 y 80 años con relatos de abuso en su infancia. "Solamente querían que alguien las pudiera escuchar porque ya legalmente no se puede hacer nada", señaló la funcionaria, para quien "se destapó un tema tabú".

Exalumnos de la escuela de la comunidad judía ORT han acusado públicamente de abuso a un pediatra que trabajó en el establecimiento. Las agresiones habrían ocurrido cuando los denunciados tenían entre 13 y 14 años. Una de las presuntas víctimas es la hija del ex ministro de Educación y actual diputado Daniel Filmus. Las autoridades escolares anunciaron que están dispuestas a colaborar con la investigación.

Antes de que estallara el caso de Fardin, se sucedieron las acusaciones contra músicos de populares bandas de rock. Varios de ellos están procesados, afrontan juicios o están prófugos.

En este contexto, la principal productora de contenidos de la televisión argentina se comprometió a incorporar un protocolo para denuncias y asistencia en caso de acoso y abuso y el Senado aprobó una ley que obliga al Estado a dictar capacitación sobre género a los empleados públicos.

"Argentina está liderando un proceso de movilización social de miles y miles de mujeres como nunca antes se vio en América Latina, con impacto en países hermanos", destacó María Elena Naddeo, directora General de Niñez, Adolescencia, Género y Diversidad de la Defensoría del Pueblo de Buenos Aires.

En Uruguay, Bolivia y Ecuador comenzaron a gestarse movimientos de reivindicación de los derechos de la mujer y contra la violencia de género. Asimismo, los feminicidios son difundidos con mayor frecuencia por los medios de comunicación.

Este año en Chile se originó un fuerte movimiento feminista que incluyó marchas y tomas de facultades tras la denuncia de una alumna de leyes contra uno de los abogados más prestigiosos del país por supuesto acoso sexual.

"El mensaje que puedo dar a las mujeres es que se animen... yo lo pude hacer, que estoy rodeada de estos hombres que son depredadores sexuales", dijo Guebel. "Estoreciénciempo, nos estamos empoderando".

Los periodistas de The Associated Press Paul Byrne en Buenos Aires, Leonardo Haberkorn en Montevideo, Carlos Valdez en La Paz, Gonzalo Solano en Quito y Eva Vergara en Santiago de Chile, contribuyeron en este reportaje.

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