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OCHLA RELEASES REPORT, PAGE 10

Rick and Rikki at The Imagination Station. Happy New Year!

Opportunities and challenges: Owens Community College president calls for need for regional levy.
In the photo are Dr. Michael Bower, Rotary Director Kathy Tate, and Brent Cousino. See article on Page 5.

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'Affluenza' teen, mother detained in Mexico, part 1

DALLAS, Dec. 29, 2015 (AP): A Texas sheriff said Tuesday an arrest warrant will be issued for a Texas woman who was found with her son in Mexico, a teenager on probation after killing four people in a drunken-driving wreck and invoking an "*affluenza*" defense

Tarrant County Sheriff *Dee Anderson* said at a news conference that the warrant would be issued for *Tonya Couch* on charges of hindering and apprehension.

Mexico's *Jalisco* state prosecutors' office said 18-year-old *Ethan Couch* and his mother were located and detained Monday evening in the Pacific Coast resort city of *Puerto Vallarta*.

Anderson said it appears the two planned their disappearance and even held something of a going-away party. He said the U.S. Marshals Service was working to get the two returned to the United States.

Ricardo Ariel Vera, the representative of Mexico's immigration institute in the western state of Jalisco, said the mother and son were being held at immigration offices in the state capital, *Guadalajara*, and would be returned to the United States aboard a commercial flight to Houston sometime Tuesday.

"They are going to be sent back to their country, given that they were in Mexico improperly," Ariel Vera said. *"They would have had to enter, for example, as tourists, but they entered without registering."*

During the sentencing phase of Couch's trial, a defense expert argued that Couch's wealthy parents coddled him into a sense of irresponsibility—a condition the expert termed "*affluenza*." The condition is not recognized as a medical diagnosis by the American Psychiatric Association, and its invocation drew widespread ridicule.

Couch's attorneys, Scott Brown and Reagan Wynn, said in a statement they won't comment on the case until they speak with their client, which likely won't happen before Couch reaches the U.S.

Mexico's Jalisco state prosecutors' office said in a statement that its agents had been working with U.S. authorities via the U.S. Consulate in Guadalajara since Dec. 26 to track down and capture the two.

Couch and his mother were found in a dowdy section of Puerto Vallarta's old town, far from the glitzy resorts, golf courses and high-rise hotels of the city's newer section.

The street corner where they were found is dotted with a small sandwich shop, a taco stand, and a mom-and-pop corner store. A playground and a day-care center with a fence topped with razor-wire stand nearby.

Couch was apparently trying to lie low, and even disguise himself; a photo distributed by the Jalisco state prosecutor's office show him in detention with his blond hair dyed black and his normally blondish beard a light brown. He appeared pale and un-tanned.

After their detention, they were handed over to Mexican immigration authorities for deportation, the statement said.

Authorities had begun searching for the pair after Ethan Couch failed to keep a mandatory appointment with his probation officer on Dec. 10, leading authorities to issue the juvenile equivalent of an arrest warrant for him.

Anderson has said he believes the two fled in late November after a video surfaced that appears to show Couch at a party where people were drinking. If found to be drinking, Couch's probation could be revoked and he could be sentenced to up to 10 years in prison.

The U.S. Marshals Service had issued a wanted poster promising a reward of up to $5,000 for information leading to Ethan Couch's whereabouts and capture.

In June 2013 at age 16, Ethan Couch was driving drunk and speeding on a dark two-lane road south of Fort Worth when he crashed into a disabled SUV off to the side, killing four people and injuring several others, including passengers in Couch's pickup truck.

Couch pleaded guilty to four counts of intoxication manslaughter and two counts of intoxication assault causing serious bodily injury. Because of his age, he wasn't certified as an adult for trial and a judge sentenced him in juvenile court to 10 years' probation and a stint in a rehabilitation center.

Anderson was among those critical of the judge's decision not to incarcerate Couch. The sheriff said that the teen has never expressed remorse for his actions and that his case sparked more outrage than any other Anderson has encountered in his law enforcement career.

Associated Press writers Peter Orsi, Mark Stevenson and E. Eduardo Castillo in Mexico City contributed to this report.

México deporta a EEUU a mamá de prófugo Ethan Couch

Por E. EDUARDO CASTILLO, Associated Press

MEXICO, 30 XII 15 (AP): La madre del joven prófugo estadounidense Ethan Couch fue deportada el miércoles a Estados Unidos, informó una funcionaria del Instituto Nacional de Migración mexicano.

Tonya Couch fue enviada en un vuelo de la ciudad mexicana de Guadalajara a Los Ángeles, Estados Unidos, dijo la funcionaria, no autorizada a ser identificada por nombre por políticas internas de la entidad.

Aseguró que la mujer pudo ser deportada porque las autoridades no recibieron ningún amparo, algo que sí obtuvo su hijo y quien por ahora permanecerá en Guadalajara.

Ambos fueron detenidos el lunes en Puerto Vallarta, en la costa mexicana del Pacífico, después de que las autoridades dijeran que una llamada telefónica para comprar pizza permitió localizarlos.

Un agente del Servicio Federal de Alguaciles de Estados Unidos alertó a las autoridades locales sobre el paradero de Couch, quien estaba bajo libertad condicional después de matar a cuatro personas en 2013 cuando conducía en estado de ebriedad en Texas, y el de su madre.

Los dos desaparecieron mientras las autoridades investigaban si Couch había violado las condiciones bajo las que le otorgaron libertad bajo palabra.

'Affluenza' teen held at Mexican immigration holding center, part 2,

Reminiscent of Mel Gibson's "Get the Gringo" movie?

By MARK STEVENSON, Associated Press

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 31, 2015 (AP): A Texas teen known for using an "affluenza" defense in a fatal drunken-driving accident is being held at a Mexico City immigration detention center in one of the capital's poorest areas, where he will likely spend weeks, if not months, as he appeals deportation.

A Mexican immigration official said Thursday a judge has agreed to hear arguments on the affluent young man's appeal, a process that could take weeks or months. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he or she was not authorized to be quoted by name.

In the meantime, *Ethan Couch* is being held at the *Agujas* immigration detention center, where the official said he will have no special privileges such as the ones high profile criminals can sometimes buy in Mexican prisons. *Reminiscent of Mel Gibson's "Get the Gringo" movie?*

Couch's wealthy upbringing may not prepare him for the center's common sleeping areas and bathrooms, and concrete wash basins for hand-washing clothes.

The white-washed, high-fenced facility usually houses several dozen immigrants, mainly Central Americans.

Couch will sleep on a cot or bunk in a semi-open bedroom shared with two or three other detainees. Unarmed immigration guards patrol the unit, and a closed-circuit camera system is constantly filming in most area other than the common bathrooms. Armed guards are posted at the outside gates and walls.

Along with three meals per day, Couch will have access to watch TV or movies in one of the Spartan common rooms, or go to an outside patio where there is a basketball court and small soccer pitch.

He will have unlimited access to telephones, and access to medical, dental and psychological care.

However, the Mexico City holding center has been the subject of complaints in the past, especially by detainees held there for extended periods of time. Detainees have complained about the quality of the food and harsh discipline.

The teen's mother, *Tonya Couch*, was jailed in Los Angeles on Thursday after being deported from Mexico.

Authorities believe Ethan Couch, who received only probation for the wreck that killed four people, fled to Mexico with his mother in November as prosecutors investigated whether he had violated that probation.

Both were taken into custody Monday after authorities said a phone call for pizza led to their capture in the Mexican resort city of *Puerto Vallarta*.

Centroamérica acuerda dar paso a migrantes cubanos varados

Por JAVIER CÓRDOBA, Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica, 28 XII 15 (AP): Funcionarios centroamericanos acordaron permitir el paso a los migrantes cubanos varados en *Costa Rica* y se espera que la primera semana de enero se realice un primer traslado "piloto", informaron el lunes autoridades costarricenses y guatemaltecas.

La cancillería costarricense informó en un comunicado que tras un encuentro de funcionarios en *Guatemala*, los países de la región determinaron que los migrantes cubanos saldrán vía aérea de Costa Rica hacia *El Salvador*, desde donde continuarán su camino por autobús hacia *México*.

Las autoridades de Guatemala y Costa Rica han evitado dar más detalles bajo el argumento de que algunos países pidieron discreción por la seguridad de los inmigrantes.

Al menos 8.000 cubanos que buscan llegar a *Estados Unidos* se encuentran varados en Costa Rica después de que Nicaragua cerró en noviembre sus fronteras, lo cual desató una crisis migratoria en la zona. Apenas el domingo, el papa Francisco hizo un llamado para resolver la situación.

Costa Rica mantiene habilitados 37 albergues en donde permanecen los *cubanos*.

La vocera de la cancillería de Costa Rica, *Melissa Durán*, dijo a The Associated Press que serán los propios cubanos quienes pagarán los gastos de traslado, aunque evitó dar más detalles.

Los cubanos esperan llegar a Estados Unidos para beneficiarse de una ley que les da residencia.

"Se acordó realizar un primer ejercicio piloto de traslado humanitario en la primera semana de enero", señaló la cancillería guatemalteca. "Se ha conformado un grupo de trabajo que tendrá la responsabilizar de realizar las coordinaciones necesarias para este primer traslado".

El canciller costarricense, *Manuel González*, señaló que la medida sólo aplica para los cubanos que ya están en su territorio.

A partir del 18 de diciembre, el gobierno de Costa Rica dejó de emitir visas de tránsito extraordinarias para los migrantes cubanos y anunció que después de esa fecha cualquiera que llegara sin documentos para permanecer en su territorio serán detenidos y deportados a la isla.

De hecho, las autoridades migratorias informaron el fin de semana que iniciaron el trámite de deportación de 56 cubanos que ingresaron después de esa fecha.

El número de cubanos que han salido de la isla y pretenden llegar a Estados Unidos se ha incrementado en lo que va de 2015, debido a que muchos temen que la normalización de relaciones entre Estados Unidos y Cuba termine con sus privilegios migratorios para obtener la residencia estadounidense.

Los gobiernos de *Cuba y Nicaragua* sostienen que las políticas migratorias de Estados Unidos animan a los cubanos a usar rutas peligrosas y contribuyen a una fuga de cerebros de la isla.

Muchos cubanos viajaban desde la isla a Ecuador, donde hasta el 1 de diciembre no se les requería visa para entrar, y luego subían por Centroamérica y México en su camino a Estados Unidos.

Texas asks US Supreme Court not to review immigration case

By SETH ROBBINS, Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO, Dec. 29, 2015 (AP): Texas on Tuesday asked the U.S. Supreme Court not to review a lower court's decision blocking President Barack Obama's plan to spare millions of immigrants from deportation.

A 42-page brief by Texas Attorney General *Ken Paxton* claims the president's plan to protect millions of immigrants bypasses constitutional authority and established federal laws. A coalition of 26 states, led by Texas, argues that the Obama administration failed to provide them the notice and opportunity for comment that should have been required before such a major policy change.

At issue is the Obama administration's *Deferred Action for Parents of Americans program (DAPA),* announced in November 2014 that calls for shielding from deportation and giving work permits to as many as 5 million immigrants, most of whom are the parents of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents.

The states argue in the brief that the "lawful presence" granted to immigrants under the program has significant cost repercussions for them, including increased "healthcare, law-enforcement, and education expenditures."

Under DAPA immigrants would be eligible to apply for driver's licenses, Social Security, Earned Income Tax Credit, unemployment insurance, Medicare and other benefits. The states claim that as "one of the largest changes in immigration policy in our Nation's history," the plan required notice and comment from stakeholders, including the states, that did not occur.

"The president alone does not have the authority to grant millions of illegal immigrants a host of benefits—like Social Security and Medicare—which should be reserved for lawful citizens," Paxton said in a statement.

The court's current timeframe could allow arguments to be held in April and a decision to be issued two months later. If the justices rule for the administration, Obama would have roughly seven months in office to implement his plan.

Obama said last year that the plan would allow people who have been in the United States more than five years and who have children who are in the country without documentation to "come out of the shadows and get right with the law."

The states that challenged the plan have won every round in court so far. Most recently, the *5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals* ruled for them on Nov. 9.

Solicitor General *Donald Verrilli Jr.* said in a subsequent court filing that allowing those rulings to stand would force millions of people "to continue to work off the books, without the option of lawful employment to provide for their families."

Paxton's brief says the program represents the type of "crucial change" in immigration policy that "could be created only by Congress."

Obama said he was spurred to act because Congress failed to pass comprehensive immigration legislation. An earlier program that is not being challenged, *Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA),* shields immigrants brought to the country illegally as children.

Associated Press writer Mark Sherman in Washington contributed to this report.

Texas pide a Corte Suprema no revise bloqueo a plan de Obama

Por SETH ROBBINS, Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO, 29 XII 15 (AP): Texas solicitó el martes a la Corte Suprema federal que no revise la decisión de un tribunal de primera instancia que bloqueó el plan del presidente Barack Obama para suspender la deportación de millones de inmigrantes.

Un documento de 42 páginas presentado por el secretario de Justicia del estado *Ken Paxton* afirma que el plan del mandatario de suspender la deportación de hasta cinco millones de inmigrantes excede soslaya las leyes federales y la autoridad constitucional. Una coalición de 26 estados, encabezados por Texas, también afirma que el gobierno de Obama no les dio notificación ni oportunidad de hacer comentarios, como se requeriría para un cambio tan grande en la política que regula la inmigración.

El asunto a discusión es *el programa Acción Diferida para Padres de Estadounidenses (DAPA por sus iniciales en inglés)* que anunció el gobierno federal en noviembre de 2014, el cual estipula suspender la deportación y otorgar permiso de trabajo a hasta cinco millones de inmigrantes, en su mayoría padres de ciudadanos estadounidenses y de residentes permanentes legales.

Los estados argumentan en el documento que la "presencia legal" concedida a inmigrantes por el programa tiene repercusiones financieras significativas para ellos, incluyendo un mayor gasto en "servicios de salud, seguridad pública y educación".

Bajo el programa DAPA, los inmigrantes podrían solicitar licencia de manejo, tarjeta de Seguro Social, crédito fiscal para el ingreso devengado, seguro de desempleo, Medicare y otras prestaciones. Los estados aseveran que "al tratarse de uno de los mayores cambios en política de inmigración en la historia de nuestra nación", el plan requiere de aviso previo y comentario por parte de las partes interesadas, incluidos los estados, lo cual no ocurrió.

"El presidente por sí mismo no tiene la autoridad para conceder a millones de inmigrantes ilegales una gran cantidad de prestaciones, como Seguro Social y Medicare, lo cual debe estar reservado a ciudadanos legítimos", dijo Paxton en el documento.

La actual agenda de la Corte Suprema podría permitir que los argumentos sean escuchados en abril y que se emita una decisión dos meses después. Si los magistrados apoyan al gobierno, Obama tendría apenas siete meses para implementar su plan.

Obama dijo el año pasado que el plan permitiría que personas que han estado en el país más de cinco años y que tienen hijos que están en Estados Unidos con permiso "salgan de las sombras y se pongan en orden con la ley".

Los estados que impugnaron el plan han ganado todas las instancias en la corte hasta ahora. Más recientemente, la Corte Federal de Apelaciones del Quinto Distrito falló a su favor el 9 de noviembre.

El representante jurídico del gobierno federal *Donald Verrilli Jr.* dijo en un subsecuente documento presentado a la corte que ratificar esos fallos forzaría a millones de personas "a continuar trabajando sin pagar impuestos, sin opción a un empleo legal para proporcionar sustento a sus familias".

El documento presentado por Paxton dice que el programa representa el tipo de "cambio crucial" en política de inmigración que "sólo podría ser creado por el Congreso".

Obama dijo que fue incitado a actuar porque el Congreso no aprobó una reforma de inmigración integral. Un programa previo que no está siendo impugnado suspende temporalmente las deportaciones de jóvenes que residan sin autorización legal en el país y que llegaron a Estados Unidos siendo niños, traídos por sus familiares.

El periodista de The Associated Press Mark Sherman en Washington contribuyó a este reporte.

Interactivo AP: http://hosted.ap.org/interactives/2013/reforma-migratoria/

"Fue muy humillante para mí", dice Ariadna Gutiérrez

BOGOTA, Colombia, 30 XII 15 (AP): La colombiana *Ariadna Gutiérrez*, virreina universal de la belleza, lamentó el miércoles el reciente incidente por el que fue coronada erróneamente como *Miss Universo*.

"Fue muy humillante para mí, pero también para todo el país, para toda la gente no sólo de Colombia sino de Latinoamérica que estaba en el auditorio", aseguró Gutiérrez durante una entrevista con la emisora local La W.

El 20 de diciembre en Las Vegas el presentador de Miss Universo, *Steve Harvey*, anunció que la ganadora del evento era la colombiana de 22 años. Pero unos cuatro minutos después, en momentos en que Gutiérrez ya había sido coronada por su compatriota Paulina Vega, Harvey indicó que había habido error y que la ganadora era la filipina *Pia Wurtzbach*.

Gutiérrez recordó que en ese momento pensó que se trataba de un chiste de Harvey. "Bueno, esto va a ser un chiste, porque él en los ensayos molestaba con las preguntas, molestaba cuando nosotras estábamos hablando y pensé que iba a seguir con ese mismo tono de hacer reír a la gente".

De ahí en adelante, recordó, todo fue confusión. *Paulina Vega* no sabía qué hacer. "Quítamela, quítamela (la corona)", le dijo Gutiérrez a Vega. Cuando eso sucedió, Vega le dijo a Gutiérrez: "Vámonos". Pero Gutiérrez notó que aún tenía puesta la banda que la acreditaba como la mujer más linda del universo. Entonces no tuvo problema en volverse y entregar también la banda.

La segunda en Miss Universo sostuvo que en los últimos días ha estado un poco alejada de los medios de comunicación porque "tenía que hacer el duelo a lo que pasó. Ha sido muy duro para mí, ha sido un shock muy grande... pero hay que pasar la página, la vida sigue".

De todos modos, agregó, el hecho de haber sido Miss Universo por unos minutos "eso no me lo va a quitar nadie (porque) lo primero es lo que cuenta... En el video va a quedar por los siglos de los siglos amén que la Miss Universo fue Colombia, así hubiera sido por tres o cuatro minutos".

Cuando se le preguntó si ya había superado el mal momento de hace 10 días, no dudó en afirmar que el tema ya estaba "chuliado (o borrado) desde el momento en que me bajé de ese escenario".

También hizo hincapié en que no guarda ningún resentimiento con la organización de Miss Universo ni con la filipina Wurtzbach porque "ella no tiene la culpa de nada de lo que ocurrió".

La beldad colombiana observó que ahora estaba libre para escuchar muchas propuestas de trabajo y, con sorna, enfatizó en que no posaría desnuda por ningún dinero del mundo "porque mis papás se mueren".

Finalmente fue consultada por la propuesta del candidato republicano Donald Trump, otrora dueño del evento de Miss Universo, en el sentido de que tras el papelón ocurrido en Las Vegas lo ideal hubiera sido entregar dos coronas. "Por primera vez estoy de acuerdo con él", comentó entre risas.

Colombia ha tenido dos Miss Universo: *Luz Marina Zuluaga*, en 1958, y *Paulina Vega*, en enero de 2015.

Letter to the Editor,

Rev. Eduardo Lorenzo, former Pastor of *Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church* in Flint, Michigan, will celebrate his 50th Anniversary of his Ordination into the Priesthood on Friday January 22, 2016.

A Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated and a Reception in his honor will be held on Saturday, January 16, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 2316 W. Coldwater Rd., Flint. Bishop Earl Boyea of the Diocese of Lansing will be the main celebrant.

Lorenzo served as Pastor of Guadalupe Church from 1966 until his retirement in 2002. The son of the late Luisa and Luis Lorenzo, was born in *Punta Brava, Havana, Cuba* on April 13, 1935. He received his bachelor's degree in Business Administration and worked for the Cuban Motor Corporation, a Division of General Motors.

In 1956, Lorenzo entered the seminary where he studied for 5 years until the Castro government forced the closing of all the Catholic churches and seminaries. He was exiled to the U.S. in 1961 along with hundreds of seminarians, priests, and bishops. After months in waiting in Miami he entered St. Maur's Seminary in South Union, Kentucky where he finished his Seminary and Theological Studies.

In 1964, at the request of the Lansing, Michigan Diocese, Lorenzo was transferred to work with the Spanish-speaking Apostolate to assist in ministering to the growing number of Mexican American Migrant Workers in the area, including the large Catholic Latino population.

After repeated efforts to return to Cuba failed, Lorenzo was granted permission to be ordained in the Diocese of Lansing on January 22, 1966 by the late Bishop Joseph H. Albers and serve as the Parish Administrator and later named Pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church on Carpenter Road in Flint.

Since coming to the Genesee County area, Fr. Lorenzo has worked diligently on Ministering to the Spiritual needs and concerns of the Hispanic community. His arrival was like a prophetic dream for the growing Spanish Speaking community who needed and sought for a larger Church building.

In 1971, through his perseverance, dedication and guidance, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish constructed at its current location and became the First Catholic Church in the State of Michigan to be build and paid for by the Hispanic community.

Rev. Mr. Omar Odette, Deacon and current Parish Administrator said, "In 2002 after 36 years of faithful service to the Parish Community, Fr. Lorenzo retired from his pastoral duties but still serves as Parish Emeritus status and celebrates the Spanish Mass every Sunday at 9:00 A.M."

"Area Priests," Rev. Odette said, "have been invited to attend the celebration as well as all past parish family members and parishioners. I know it may be crowded but this will only demonstrate the tremendous love and respect we all have for Father Lorenzo and what he has accomplished for our people."

Submitted by:

Mary Rose García,
Chairperson of the 50th Anniversary Committee.

Editor's Note: Questions? *Contact Ms. García at 810-407-2581* or email her at: mrgarcia1959@aol.com or Rev. Odette at 810-787-5701.

Jail inmates with good behavior can get access to tablets

SANDUSKY, January 3, 2015 (AP): Inmates in some Michigan jails are getting access to tablet computers to stay busy and prepare for life outside bars.

The tablets allow inmates in Sanilac County to look at news reports, job-search software and games. With earbuds, they can also use the tablets as a phone.

"It makes the time go by faster," inmate Clayton Troyer told the Port Huron Times Herald (http://bwne.ws/1YXw4jO).

The tablets are connected to an intranet system at the jail, not the Internet. They're free for 60 days, then $30 a month to rent. A contractor gets $20.

"This is only for good behavior," Sanilac County Sheriff *Garry Biniecki* said. "If we have an inmate that's acting up and they get locked down, there's nothing saying they have to have access to this. It's reinforcement for good behavior."

In February, St. Clair County plans to have tablets in jail, and more counties are expected to follow. The state Corrections Department, which runs the prison system, might consider them, too.

"Our whole profession is changing," said Blaine Koops, the sheriff in Allegan County in western Michigan. "The mission isn't just to incarcerate; that mission now is to have that inmate leave the jail better than they were before. ... And, truly, that is purely economic because if we can reduce that recidivism rate, we save money for the county."

Cody VanBlaricum, an inmate in Sanilac County, noticed a difference.

"It's a lot quieter in the cells," he said.

Information from: Times Herald, http://www.thetimesherald.com

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Opportunities and challenges: Owens Community College president calls for need for regional levy among challenges and opportunities

By Kevin Milliken, La Prensa Correspondent

January 4, 2016: The president of Toledo-area *Owens Community College* told the *Toledo Rotary Club* that there is *much room for optimism*, despite the school's enrollment drop and related budget shifts.

The noontime speech by *President Michael Bower* at the Park Inn, 101 N. Summit St., served as an ideal forum by the Owens chief since the school learned its fall enrollment was reduced by 26 percent. The loss of students fueled an overall drop of four percent at Ohio's community colleges overall, *mainly because more students are returning to the workforce as the economy improves.*

The address to business leaders Monday came nearly a year after the community college laid off 20 employees and cut 30 other vacant positions, preparing to become just the second higher education institution in state history to be placed on fiscal watch by the Ohio Board of Regents.

"*Opportunities and challenges*, folks— and we have a lot of them," said Dr. Bower. "We've taken advantage of looking at those *opportunities* and making things happen."

According to the Toledo Rotary summary, Dr. Bower is the sixth president and CEO of Owens CC who began his appointment in 2012. Previously, he served as president of Lake Erie State College in North Dakota. Before joining higher education, Dr. Bower was employed with Ford Motor Company and Thomson Consumer Electronics.

The president is an experienced educator and dedicated to advancing higher education. Dr. Bower is focused on increasing access and support for students who come from all walks of life, as well as improving the quality of life in our community. He serves as a consultant-evaluator for the Higher Learning Commission Peer Review Corps.

The Owens president directly dealt with the school's budget shifts, noting the board of directors has slashed annual spending by $27 million since 2012, when an ongoing enrollment drop first surfaced. The community college's most recent head count is 11,345, less than half of the school's high of 23,606 in 2009, when students flooded classrooms during the recession.

"Owens is committed, but the revenue gap is real. We have two revenue streams—tuition and state funding," said Dr. Bower. "We know from our side of the house that state revenue gets less and less every year."

The Owens president stated that fewer course offerings, larger class sizes, and "operational efficiencies" have been put in place.

"*We are good stewards for the college*. But we cannot keep cutting without affecting the educational programs and services we offer students, whether it's course instruction or advising," Dr. Bower said.

While Dr. Bower spoke of the need for "a regional revenue source" during the address, which would require a change in the school's charter. Owens leaders are considering asking the public to approve a tax levy to help the school obtain a sustainable source of funding going forward.

"Right now we're exploring—exploring—a small-time, limited levy to remain accountable to the voters," said Dr. Bower. "We need to have a revenue source to buy new technology, not administrative salaries, to buy equipment, to buy those things so that we can be at the forefront of higher education. It would be a very small levy to make this happen that would cover five counties. We welcome your dialogue. We welcome your efforts and your input."

LCCC and Tri-C

Such a levy would not be unprecedented. Both *Lorain County Community College* and *Cuyahoga Community College* operate with the assistance of levies.

Cuyahoga Community College leaders convinced voters to approve a 1.2-mill renewal levy with a 0.9-mill increase in 2014. Tuition is low primarily because two 10-year county property tax levies provide a substantial portion of its operating budget. Voters see a levy renewal every five years and support has generally been strong. The 2014 levy saw 57 percent voter approval, despite an overall tax increase.

More than 60,000 men and women pass through the doors of *Cuyahoga Community College* every year. They seek non-credit classes, workforce training, and associate degrees that will lead to jobs or a four-year college at CCC's four campuses and two corporate colleges in the county. Only one levy has been rejected in Tri-C's 51-year history.

Lorain County Community College saw a levy squeak by with a 75-vote margin in the 2013 general election. That levy also sought a tax increase. The levy generates about $12 million per year for the community college. The school's University Partnership affiliates LCCC with four-year colleges so the community college can be a pathway to completing bachelor's and master's programs.

The Owens president stated a levy would be needed in order for the school to meet its regional mission and vision in education and workforce development

"We offer opportunities for students in good-paying jobs, high-skill, high-demand for our employers," Bower said.

But the Owens president noted that state higher education officials would have to agree to a change in the school's governance structure before a levy could even be considered. Currently, the governor appoints its board of trustees. Under a charter change, county commissioners in the five county region served by Owens would make those appointments instead.

"We need to expand—and I'm not talking about the fiscal side. I'm talking about the student success side and student opportunities, student enrollment. That's something we face every day," he added. "We need to be a full-fledged community college. We need to make a change. We can do that with the support of our board, of our businesses, organizations."

The Owens president emphasized the need to focus on attracting quality jobs to Northwest Ohio. He pointed out the community college serves five of those counties, including *Lucas, Wood, Hancock, Ottawa,* and *Sandusky*.

"We read all the time about how we attract employers and the need for a great workforce. That is our focus," said Bower. "To make that happen, we prepare those students, either in the classroom or in training with those employers—whether it's incumbent workers or new employees coming into the workforce."

The Owens president stated the community college worked with more than 200 companies and just over 6,800 employees last year in its workforce development and training programs.

Major goals of Owens

But Bower outlined major goals for the community college going forward, the centerpiece of which involves workforce development:

• The need to create training and certificate programs that align with the needs of the region's employers to ensure graduates are ready for the workforce.

• The need to provide up-to-date training on equipment and technology that meets industry standards.

• The need to expand partnerships with career centers and high schools to ensure that when students leave postsecondary education, they have the credentials that fulfill the needs of the regional economy and strengthen and develop internship, co-op, and apprenticeship programs to give them the field experience needed to work for employers.

• The need to develop state-of-the-art science labs, computer technology, healthcare models, and math programs to prepare more students to enter STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) careers.

The Owens president called the school's second goal related to increasing the number of students who attain two-year and four-year degrees. He stated many students transfer to a university without completing an associate's degree, or transfer in to the community college to finish a two-year degree in a program they started elsewhere.

Dr. Romules Durant (Superintendent of Toledo Public Schools) with Owens Community College's Dr. Betsy S. Johnson, David Cannon, Dr. Steve Robinson, Dr. Michael Bower, and Jennifer Fehnrich at the Toledo Rotary luncheon on Jan. 4, 2015.

"It's interesting. It almost balances itself. About 1,250 students come in and go out," said Bower. "We have very, very focused concerns that our students who transfer go on to four-year universities."

To that end, Owens recently announced a program in conjunction with *Bowling Green State University,* where a student only has to complete the admissions process once, attending Owens and then seamlessly transferring to BGSU to finish a bachelor's degree in a chosen field.

But Dr. Bower stated Owens wants to "upgrade and expand academic and career advising that helps students to choose the right programs and courses for the future." He noted about half of the *400 Rotary members* in the audience probably had changed their major during the course of college.

"We hear all about student debt. We're trying to help those students be focused on the direction they want to go with their career so they don't spend that kind of money by changing courses," he said.

College affordability is the third goal he outlined. Owens and other higher ed institutions statewide have plenty of incentive to make sure students are retained and complete a degree, because more state funding is now tied to those two benchmarks, rather than on enrollment.

College Credit Plus

The Owens president noted more and more families are looking into a new state program called ***College Credit Plus,*** which allows students as young as seventh grade to enroll in college courses at a cheaper cost. Some students already are graduating high school with two years of college coursework under their belts. The new program replaces dual enrollment for local schools.

"This past commencement we had last spring, we had two students graduate from Owens Community College with an associate degree," Bower said. "The following week, they received their high school diploma by enrolling in such programs as this."

As part of the goal to get more students to complete a degree, Owens also plans to increase its financial literacy efforts so students and their families know better the cost of an education and how to balance it with other life expenses. Student loan debt continues to skyrocket, preventing many students from affording the ability to finish an associate's or bachelor's degree.

According to data on the *Regional Growth Partnership*, nearly one in four people over the age of 25 in *Lucas, Wood*, and *Fulton* counties has some completed some college coursework, but never finished a degree. Only 15 percent of that same population has completed a bachelor's degree, with nearly nine percent earning an associate's degree. In Toledo, those numbers are even lower.

"It's not just at Owens. It's not just us providing degrees and certificates, but also our outreach," said Dr. Bower.

The campaign push for a levy likely begins by bringing business leaders board to back the plan, so the Toledo Rotary address served as a strategic first step. The *Rotary Club of Toledo* is the eleventh largest such club in the world, and the 44th oldest, first chartered in 1912.

Toledo Rotary Club

Toledo Rotary celebrated its centennial in 2012 by setting a goal of raising $300,000 to be designated for the *Middlegrounds Metropark*, downtown Toledo's first metropark which will serve as an urban riverfront park that documents the city's rail and shipping history. Toledo Rotary presented a check for that same amount to Toledo Area Metroparks officials at a special ceremony last month.

In a news release, Toledo Rotary officials stated the metropark "will add to the momentum that has been building along the riverfront while serving nearby neighborhoods as a clean, safe, natural destination for families."

On Jan. 11th, the Toledo Rotary will present as its luncheon speaker, *Randy Oostra* [CEO and President of ProMedica] concerning *ProMedica's* development of its new headquarters adjacent to Promenade Park .

On the Internet: http://www.toledorotary.org/

Mayor Hicks-Hudson announces new team for 22nd Floor

December 30, 2015: *Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson* announced staffing changes on the 22nd floor of Government Center that will take effect officially on January 4, 2016, when the new budget year begins. Mayor Hicks-Hudson has selected her new team with specific objectives for her administration in mind.

Naming *Mark Sobczak* as her *Chief of Staff*, Hicks-Hudson notes the City will continue to benefit from Sobczak's professional labor relations background, his service as Commissioner of Human Resources, and experience as an elected city council member. Mr. Sobczak served most recently as Chief Operation Officer.

Ms. Hicks-Hudson understands the foundation for safe neighborhoods is economic development and so has brought *Eileen Granata* into the executive suite as *Chief Operating Officer*. Eileen served as the Ohio Department of Development's Northwest Ohio Regional Economic Development Director under both Governors' Strickland and Kasich prior to joining the City of Toledo's law department in 2012, where she served most recently as a Senior Attorney in the General Section. Granata has spent 25 years working in economic development, holding positions with the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Regional Growth Partnership, including Chief Operating Officer.

Paula Hicks-Hudson

Alan Bannister will become the *Mayor's Executive Assistant*, responsible for civic engagement, after having served Hicks-Hudson most recently as a Manager on the 22nd floor. Bannister earned a bachelor's degree in public administration from Kentucky State University and prior to managing contract compliance for the City of Toledo coordinated constituent affairs for Governor Strickland in Columbus.

Janet Schroeder, who has been on loan to the Mayor's office from the Department of Public Utilities since mid-September, has been named the new *Public Information Officer*. Schroeder has a communication degree from the University of Toledo and has held increasingly responsible positions during the past 25 years in community relations, public relations, development and non-profit management.

Former Public Information Officer *Stacy Weber* will move to the Department of Public Utilities as an Administrative Analyst. *Bob Reinbolt*, who recently announced his resignation from his position as Chief of Staff will assume for the time being the part time *Director of Public Safety* position.

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Latino lawmakers look to USDA to address civil rights issues

By SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN, Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M., Dec. 25, 2015 (AP): The *U.S. Department of Agriculture* is embarking on a partnership with universities across the country in hopes of infusing its ranks with more diversity as it faces civil rights complaints from Latino farmers and ranchers.

But some members of the *Congressional Hispanic Caucus* are voicing frustration, saying the agency has been dragging its feet and has yet to adequately address their concerns.

The caucus had asked for a meeting with *Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack* in October, saying members received reports from constituents indicating significant civil rights violations and discrimination by the agency.

Caucus members also pointed to a 2013 review that found noncompliance with civil rights requirements and regulations by U.S. Forest Service offices in New Mexico and Colorado.

"I am not convinced that the USDA is being as forthcoming as I would expect," said U.S. Rep. *Michelle Lujan Grisham*, a New Mexico Democrat. "I look forward to pressing the secretary to provide more details that adequately address our concerns."

The USDA said this week that it's willing to meet with caucus members, but it can't address the civil rights review or other discrimination issues because of pending litigation.

The agency cited one case being heard by a federal judge in Albuquerque involving grazing permits in northern New Mexico and other cases that stem from claims of discrimination regarding the issuance and management of farm loans over a period of two decades.

Attorneys representing the New Mexico ranchers argued that the civil rights review wasn't part of the grazing case and should be addressed. The agency's general counsel said the case involves civil rights matters in general, putting it off limits for discussion.

In a letter to the caucus that was obtained by The Associated Press, the agency also defended a $1.3 billion settlement that was reached with Latino and women farmers over the farm loans.

The USDA argued that it had no role in adjudicating any of the claims, a task that fell to an independent contractor to ensure impartiality. That process was then reviewed by the USDA's Office of Inspector General.

Critics have said claims filed by Latinos and women have been denied at much higher rates than those of other minority groups, including black and Native American farmers who settled following separate class-action lawsuits.

U.S. Rep. Ben Ray Lujan, a member of the *Congressional Hispanic Caucus*, said farmers and ranchers who have been discriminated against deserve to be made whole and that he looks forward to meeting with the secretary.

"This issue impacts the livelihood of so many in my district and the USDA must be held accountable," the New Mexico Democrat said.

Despite an indefinite delay in addressing civil rights with the caucus, the agency noted in its letter that progress is being made on other fronts and pointed to the new partnership with the nation's Hispanic-serving colleges and universities.

The USDA's Office of Advocacy and Outreach in early December signed a cooperative agreement with the *Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities* to fund 180 paid internships at the agency. The association represents more than 470 schools.

Officials said the program will increase awareness about career opportunities as well as foster the secretary's goals of a diverse, inclusive workforce.

Minnesota expected to get more refugees in 2016

MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 29, 2015 (AP): Minnesota is expected to get more refugees in 2016 than it has in any year in the past decade.

The increase is a ripple effect of the migration wave sweeping the Middle East and Europe, the Star Tribune (http://strib.mn/1QXYbQD) reports.

The federal government is aiming to admit 15,000 more refugees next year on top of the 70,000 typically accepted due to the Obama administration committing to aid Syrian refugees. Now, Minnesota is gearing up for more refugees.

Resettlement groups expect the mix of refugees' nationalities to remain mostly the same in Minnesota. In the fiscal year that ended in September, about 45 percent of refugees were from Somalia, and about 40 percent were Karen refugees from Myanmar.

Minnesota resettled nine Syrians this year, and hasn't heard that more will arrive.

"The reality is that it is unlikely many Syrian refugees will come to Minnesota, since refugees most often resettle where there is an established community," said Bob Oehrig, executive director of resettlement group *Arrive Ministries*.

Officials at some agencies say it makes sense to continue to focus on nationalities that have a large presence in Minnesota.

"If you don't resettle them here, many of them make their way here within weeks of getting resettled in another state," said Jane Graupman, executive director of the *International Institute of Minnesota*. "All of that uprooting is not good for anyone."

The number of refugees coming to Minnesota fell in the late 2000s, but has rebounded. There were 2,338 refugees in the last fiscal year, about 60 more than in the previous year. The state remains near the top in the U.S. for refugee resettlement—measured as a share of state population.

Agencies in the Twin Cities area anticipate further increases this fiscal year. Some have agreed to raise arrival numbers of refugees as much as 20 percent, though others say they plan to keep growth to a minimum amid concerns over a drop in the supply of affordable housing.

A gradual decrease in arrivals from Myanmar is expected in the coming years, with the country considered stable enough to halt new refugee registrations.

Information from: Star Tribune, http://www.startribune.com

Officer accused of thefts targeting Latino drivers

AMITE, La., Dec. 29, 2015 (AP): Police say a Louisiana officer accused of stealing from Latino motorists who did not speak English has been arrested.

A Tuesday news release from the state police says Officer *Laquinton Banks* of the Independence Police Department was booked into the Tangipahoa Parish jail on charges of felony theft, malfeasance and hate crimes.

State police said the investigation started Dec. 23 when the Independence department received a complaint about thefts of money from motorists. The police chief placed Banks on leave and contacted state police to investigate.

State police said charges would be referred to the district attorney in Tangipahoa. The sheriff's office did not immediately respond to an email request for information on whether Banks has an attorney available for comment.

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Acusan formalmente a Bill Cosby de ataque sexual a una mujer

Por MARYCLAIRE DALE, Associated Press

ELKINS PARK, Pennsylvania, 30 XII 15 (AP): *Bill Cosby* fue arrestado y acusado formalmente el miércoles de atacar sexualmente en su casa a una mujer hace 12 años, el primer cargo penal formulado contra el comediante derivado del torrente de denuncias que destruyeron su imagen de persona bondadosa.

La acusación prepara el terreno para el que tal vez sea el juicio más espectacular a una celebridad de Hollywood en la era del teléfono móvil y podría enviar a Cosby, de 78 años, a la cárcel en el crepúsculo de su vida y de una carrera en la cual rompió varias barreras.

Los fiscales le acusaron de dejar a la entonces empleada de la Universidad Temple incapacitada para resistirse, valiéndose de píldoras y vino, y seguidamente penetrarla con los dedos sin su consentimiento cuando ella oscilaba entre la consciencia y la inconsciencia.

Ella estaba "congelada, paralizada, incapaz de moverse", dijo Kevin Steele, fiscal electo del condado Montgomery, al anunciar los cargos. Dijo que no estaba claro qué tipo de píldoras recibió Constand, pero hizo notar que Cosby ha admitido dar sedantes a mujeres con quienes quería tener relaciones sexuales.

La fiscal Risa Vetri Ferman del condado de Montgomery anuló la decisión de su antecesor, quien se negó a procesar a Cosby en 2005 cuando Andrea Constand hizo la denuncia.

El astro de la televisión declaró bajo juramento hace 10 años que tuvo contacto sexual con Constand, pero que fue consensual.

Cosby no hizo comentarios a la entrada ni a la salida del tribunal _ ni tampoco lo hicieron sus abogados _ al ser instruido de un cargo de agresión indecente agravada, que conlleva de cinco a 10 años de prisión y una multa de 25.000 dólares. El actor y comediante, que no respondió a los cargos, quedó en libertad bajo una fianza de un millón de dólares hasta otra audiencia el 14 de enero.

Los cargos fueron presentados pocos días antes de que prescribiera el tiempo límite el caso.

Los fiscales reabrieron el caso a mediados de año al conocerse testimonios presentados en la demanda civil de Constand a Cosby, y decenas de mujeres presentaron denuncias similares que destruyeron la imagen del sabio y comprensivo doctor Cliff Huxtable, protagonista del "Cosby Show".

A ese punto, "reabrir esta causa no estaba en dudas. En lugar de ello, reabrir esta causa era nuestro deber como agentes de la ley", dijo Steele.

Muchos de los presuntos ataques se remontan a décadas atrás, y en casi todos los casos el plazo ha prescrito.

Constand, canadiense de 42 años que trabaja ahora de masajista en su país natal, está dispuesta al careo con Cosby en el tribunal, dijo Dolores Troiani, su abogada.

"Es una dama muy fuerte", dijo. "Hará lo que le pidan. Ella siente que le creen y, para cualquier víctima, eso es lo más importante en tu mente: que la gente les crea", dijo Troiani.

El actor enfrenta una lista enorme de problemas legales que incluyen demandas por difamación y abuso sexual en Boston, Los Ángeles y Pennsylvania.

En 1965, Cosby fue el primer actor negro que obtuvo un papel protagónico en un drama televisivo, "I Spy" (Yo soy espía), y ganó premios Emmy en tres años consecutivos. En las tres décadas siguientes, el cómico nacido en Filadelfia creó el personaje de TV "Fat Albert" y el "Cosby Show", una comedia de gran rating festejada por ser la primera que mostraba una familia bien constituida, encabezada por dos profesionales negros, una abogada y un médico.

Constand, que trabajaba para el equipo de básquetbol femenino de Temple, de la que Cosby era directivo y orgulloso ex alumno, dijo que la agresión sucedió en enero de 2004, cuando ella fue a su casa a solicitarle consejos para su carrera.

En medio de apertura, negocio de quinceañeras florece

Por CHRISTINE ARMARIO, Associated Press

LA HABANA, Cuba, 29 XII 15 (AP): En la cima de unas escalinatas circulares en una casa al borde de la playa en La Habana, *Camila López Rivas* se acuesta en el suelo de baldosas, y sonríe con picardía ante una cámara de vídeo que la filma haciendo círculos sobre su cabeza.

Alrededor de ella aparecen retazos de su vestido azul de tafetán, el primero de nueve trajes en los que la niña de 14 años va a posar y que incluyen desde vestidos de boda a un bikini verde neón.

Camila vive en Miami. Es hija de un conductor de camión que salió de Cuba cuando ella estaba de brazos. No recuerda nada de la isla pero quería volver a tomarse las fotografías y los vídeos que las niñas de Latinoamérica normalmente se hacen cuando cumplen 15 años.

"Me fui muy niña", dijo Camila durante una pausa en la sesión de grabación. "Pero soy de aquí".

Los viajes Miami-La Habana se han vuelto frecuentes para las jóvenes que quieren celebrar sus quince años en Cuba pues no sólo les resulta atractivo sino también económico. Una serie de recientes reformas al modelo cubano permitieron la aparición de algunas empresas privadas, lo que sumado al restablecimiento de las relaciones diplomáticas con Estados Unidos, han impulsado la creación de estudios fotográficos y de empresas de planeación de eventos que ofrecen toda una serie de servicios a las adolescentes.

Las intricadas redes que conectan a los cubanos de Miami y La Habana alimentan este emprendimiento: Camila se enteró de la existencia de *Marbella Estudios*, empresa que finalmente contrató, por otra niña que vive en la Florida a la que le hicieron las fotos de quinceañera.

Enclavada en una casa de estilo Art Decó en el poblado de Guanabo, a unos 30 minutos en automóvil desde La Habana, Marbella Estudios tiene 12 empleados entre fotógrafos, estilistas y camarógrafos. Ofrece más de 500 vestidos diferentes y tres vestuarios para que las niñas se cambien. Ah, y también tienen un calendario lleno de citas. Su propietaria, Sara Medina Vigor, dice que cerca del 60% de las casi 500 niñas a quienes se les hace un estudio de fotografía provienen de otros países, y que julio y diciembre son los meses de temporada alta.

La fiesta de quince o las quinceañeras, como se le conoce en la región al festejo que celebra el paso de niña a mujer, tiene una tradición centenaria en América Latina. En algunos países, como México o Colombia, lo principal es la celebración de una fiesta con padrinos, edecanes, un enorme pastel (a veces incluye un paseo en limusina), brindis y el baile de un vals con el padre. Pero en Cuba, las fotografías son lo más importante.

Las primeras evidencias de la aparición de estos negocios encargados de documentar el tradicional festejo, aparecieron en las puertas de los descascarados edificios de La Habana. También abundan anuncios en páginas web como Revolico.com, una especie de 'Craigslist' del submundo cubano. Muchos de estos estudios son manejados por ex profesionales estatales que compraron cámaras con la ayuda de sus parientes que viven en Estados Unidos y que vieron que la toma de fotografías era mucho más rentable que el salario mensual de $20, el promedio que paga el gobierno.

Alberto González, propietario del estudio fotográfico Aladino, dice que durante el verano pasado la clientela provenía tanto de Cuba como del extranjero, en igual medida. "Se ha mejorado ahora con las relaciones entre EEUU y Cuba", dice. "Este año vinieron más que otros años".

El mercado del lado cubano lo nutren, principalmente, las hijas de quienes trabajan en sectores emergentes de la economía y que hacen parte de un incipiente sector privado. Con la actualización del modelo económico, muchas familias ahora tienen un dinerito extra para gastar en las fiestas de quinceañeras.

Entre ellas está *Dachely Silva*, de 14 años, que se hizo su estudio fotográfico en Aladino. Hace poco, sentada frente de un espejo con monturas doradas, un maquillista le retocó las pestañas con rímel. Entre tanto su madre, Mayelin Alfonso, decía que para celebrar sus quince se hizo un estudio fotográfico sólo luciendo un vestido.

Su marido transporta turistas en un automóvil clásico estadounidense recién restaurado. "Si su papá no fuera cuentapropista no lo podríamos hacer", dijo Alfonso.

En la mayoría de los estudios el paquete básico cuesta 150 dólares e incluye peluqueros y maquillistas profesionales, un telón de fondo con una imagen de La Habana y el vestuario, una ganga comparado con los $1.000 dólares que cuesta en Estados Unidos.

Las fotos de quinceañeras del pasado normalmente mostraban a niñas vestidas en vestidos largos y pomposos y con coronas en su cabeza. Pero ahora en muchos estudios de La Habana, se ofrecen fotos estilo punk con trajes cortos y tenis o niñas luciendo minifaldas con tacones altos. También posan en bikinis, con boas y se hacen fotos que muchos considerarían atrevidas.

Algunas niñas también hacen sus fiestas en Cuba. Hace algunas semanas, una decena de adolescentes se dio cita en un renovado salón de fiestas de un edificio colonial reparado, donde una mujer residente en Estados Unidos ofrecía la fiesta de quince a su hermanita.

Una de las invitadas, *María Fernández*, de 14 años y oriunda de La Habana, dijo que era "muy emocionante" ver que sus amigos regresan a la isla para la celebración. "Tienen las amistades y toda una vida aquí", dijo.

Daniela Santos Torres, de 14 años, salió de Cuba cuando tenía tres y regresó en diciembre para hacerse su estudio fotográfico y su fiesta. Ahora vive en Glendale, Arizona, donde su padre tiene un negocio de remodelación de casas. Regresar a Cuba para celebrar sus 15 años "es un sueño", dijo. El viaje le permitió, además, volver a ver a su familia y a sus amigos.

Aunque muchos cubano-americanos que dejaron la isla poco después del triunfo de la revolución en 1959 son reacios a volver al país, quiénes principalmente se fueron en la última década por razones económicas no dudan en volver.

"Los inmigrantes recientes tienden a apoyar el establecimiento de todo tipo de contactos con Cuba, incluyendo la restauración de relaciones diplomáticas, el levantamiento del embargo, que permitiría que todos los estadounidenses pudieran ir a Cuba, y la inversión en el incipiente sector privado de la economía de la isla", dijo *Jorge Duany*, Director del Cuba Research Institute de Florida International University.

La sesión fotográfica de ocho horas de Camila terminó con el rodaje de un vídeo en la playa. En febrero, regresará para celebrar su fiesta en el Hotel Meliá Cohiba, cerca de Malecón.

"Cuba está de moda", dijo su padre *Eliécer López Rufin*. "Todo el mundo quiere venir a hacer su fiesta acá".

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celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary by repeating vows on December 5, 2015.

Feliz Cumpleaños/Happy Birthday Ms. Lucia Perales!
On December 12, 2015, the family of Lucia Perales celebrated her 80th birthday. Ms. Perales is shown with her daughter Lulu Perales and her four grandchildren, Raquel, Preciosa, Esperanza, and Britney

OCHLA releases Year-End Report, calls for continued change

By Kevin Milliken, La Prensa Correspondent

COLUMBUS: The *Ohio Commission on Hispanic-Latino Affairs (OCHLA)* released a 2015 year-end report on December 14, 2015, concerning the progress made statewide by the ever-growing Latino population. But the report calls for more to be done to ensure Latinos receive better quality healthcare outcomes, minority students have a better chance to succeed, and state government respond better to the major demographic transformation taking place in Ohio.

"As the Ohio population continues to grow and diversify, the importance of a culturally and linguistically competent workforce in healthcare, education, and government cannot be overstated," the report concluded.

"Ohio's Changing Face: The Case for Culturally Responsive Institutions" focuses attention on the current cultural competence issues in the areas of healthcare, education, and governance where the Latino population is concerned. The report pointed out that Ohio continues to lag behind the efforts of neighboring states, particularly in the areas of healthcare and education.

Where healthcare is concerned, the report cites recent studies which show Latinos and other minority groups *are more likely to suffer chronic conditions and higher death rates* than those of the non-Hispanic white population. Latinos are 50 percent more likely to suffer from diabetes and liver-related diseases. Additionally, because of a combination of a historical Latino mistrust of Western medicine and the inherent lack of cultural competence by doctors, Latinos are less likely to seek medical attention—so "treatable illnesses go undetected, resulting in greater health problems and higher future medical expenses," according to the report.

Treatment of chronic conditions alone accounts for 75 percent of direct medical costs in the U.S. each year. According to the OCHLA report, the combined total of direct and indirect medical costs resulting from health inequities nationwide is $1.24 trillion, a "figure greater than the entire GDP of India."

"As a result, scholars and health policy analysts alike blame prejudice, stereotypes, and a lack of cultural and linguistic competence in medical professions for the disparities in health outcomes," the report stated.

The report cites *Senate Bill 33*, championed by *Sen. Charleta Tavares (D-Cleveland)* that, if passed, would require certain healthcare professionals in Ohio to receive training in *cultural competency* to gain or renew a *professional license*. Dentists, nurses, pharmacists, doctors, psychologists, and social workers would be among those professions required to obtain instruction or continuing education in cultural competency.

The bill also would require *licensing boards* to adopt rules that consider race and gender-based disparities in healthcare treatment decisions, while also consulting with outside professional organizations. SB 33 is currently in committee, awaiting additional consideration. The legislation is modeled after bills passed in seven other states, which have adopted *federal CLAS (culturally and linguistically appropriate services) standards*.

EDUCATION

The *education* section of the report called on teachers to respond to students in more culturally appropriate ways, which OCHLA contends would lead to better educational outcomes for Latino students. That may start with teachers who look more like them.

According to the report, the graduating class of 2024 in Ohio is expected to be 51 percent more Hispanic than in 2014, and 32 percent more multi-racial. Yet the report cites a 2015 *Akron Beacon Journal* article which states that whites retained 94 percent of Ohio's teaching jobs.

"Students of near equal intellectual ability will likely experience different educational outcomes if one is taught by a teacher who understands how to properly engage them, and the other by a teacher who means well, but lacks the training or experience to do the same," the report said. "Several studies have shown there is a strong correlation between student performance and the expectations of both teachers and society."

Likewise, *linguistically* appropriate education is a key cornerstone to student success, according to the report. There were more than 39,800 limited English proficient (LEP) students enrolled in Ohio's public schools in 2010-2011, a 199 percent jump in just a decade. But only 53 percent of LEP students are graduating annually in Ohio, compared with 61 percent nationally and 73 percent in Indiana, for example.

According to the report, 86 percent of non-Hispanic white students earned a high school diploma in the 2011-12 academic year, compared with just 68 percent of Hispanic students. The achievement gap grows even larger when looking at bachelor's degrees, where 41 percent of white Americans between the ages of 25 and 29 had completed college. Only 15 percent of Hispanics in that same age group had achieved a bachelor's degree—which "translates into lower career earnings and greater economic hardship," the report stated.

The OCHLA report cited an effort by Ohio to begin a program to ensure that "all students have equal access to quality educators." That includes a plan "to implement targeted hirings for high-risk schools through the use of pilot recruitment programs and strategic incentives to lessen educational inequities." The report came out before the appointment of Ohio's first Latino state school superintendent, which also may bolster some hope of progress in this area.

The report also calls on *state agencies* to improve how they deal with Ohio's growing Latino population, which increased by 137, 551 people between 2000 and 2010.

"The changes to Ohio's racial and ethnic demography dictate a thorough evaluation of how government services are provided, and the ease with which residents can access them," the report stated. "Regardless of culture, ethnicity, or language, Ohioans must have equal access to government services."

The report cited strides by several state agencies to provide Spanish-language information and training of caseworkers and employees, including the *Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation (BWC), Ohio Dept. of Job and Family Services (ODJFS),* and the *Ohio Dept. of Mental Health and Addiction Services (MHAS)*. But the OCHLA report stated more needs to be done.

"Ohio, like the rest of the U.S., is in the process of a major demographic transformation, and it is the responsibility of government to adequately reflect those changes in order to equally represent its constituency," the report said.

The full OCHLA report can be viewed online at: http://ochla.ohio.gov/Portals/0/Public%20Policy/Ohio's%20Changing%20Face%20-%20LCR%20December%202015.pdf.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This report was issued by the Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs (OCHLA) on December 14, 2015 and was composed by: *Andrea Magaña Lewis*, Public Policy Officer, and *Tim Fisher*, contractor.

According to the *OCHLA:* "The best efforts were made to gather and provide accurate and current information. Data presented from previous years indicates the latest research available. OCHLA will provide any additional information or data upon request as it becomes available."

The three areas covered by the report were titled: *Culturally Competent Healthcare, Culturally Competent Education,* and *Culturally Competent Governance.*

Lorain County Community College

"Hunger Attack!" Meal Packaging Service Project for MLK Day of Service at LCCC

The community is invited to participate in "Hunger Attack!" a meal packaging service project for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service at 10 a.m., Thursday, January 21 in the College Center building on the campus of Lorain County Community College.

LCCC was awarded a MLK Day of Service mini-grant from Iowa Campus Compact through the Corporation for National and Community Service. The LCCC event is coordinated by LCCC Connect2Complete and Student Life with Disability Services, Project Search and AmeriCorps.

Students, faculty, staff and community members are invited to attend "Hunger Attack!" and help package as many nutritious and vitamin-rich meals as possible (up to 6,000) which will be donated to LCCC's on-campus food bank Commodore Cupboard, as well as local agencies who serve those in need.

In an assembly line fashion, volunteers will add soy protein, macaroni, and cheese packets to pouches which will be weighed measured, sealed, labeled and packaged for immediate delivery. This high-energy event will feature friendly competition, music and food.

LCCC has a long history with strong partnerships in the local community. According to data from the Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio, 39 percent of households in North Central Ohio must choose between transportation and food. In Lorain County, 21.9 percent of children live in homes below the poverty level.

For more information, contact Erin Corwin at ecorwin@lorainccc.edu.

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City of Cleveland hosts annual "Three Kings" Celebration, Jan. 8th

By Kevin Milliken, La Prensa Correspondent

Cleveland will see a continuation of the holiday season, celebrating *El Día de Los Reyes (Three Kings Day)* on January 8, 2016.

Three Kings Day is traditionally celebrated in Puerto Rico and elsewhere on January 6, the last day of the 12 Days of Christmas. Three Kings Day is a time when three kings set out from three different parts of the known world following a star, when they knew their savior was born. Gaspar, Melchor, and Baltazar arrived in Jerusalem on the 6th of January and bore gifts of gold, myrrh, and frankincense.

The holiday tradition will be celebrated for the eighth straight year, hosted by the city of Cleveland and sponsors.

"As a service to the community, we will be celebrating this tradition for the Hispanic community," said *Lucy Torres*, Hispanic Liaison for the city of Cleveland. "Every year we have a large amount of children come participate in the program we have. They will have gifts, music, games and refreshments. It's a wonderful celebration. We have people calling and registering."

The annual Cleveland celebration will be held Friday, Jan. 8, 6 to 9 p.m, at the *Hispanic Youth Center,* 3115 Scranton Rd. Last year, more than 450 children—not all of them Hispanic—took part with their families in the *Fiesta de Reyes (Three Kings Feast).*

"We have different nationalities take part, and, of course, we don't want to turn them away," said Ms. Torres. "We welcome them to be with us and to learn about our culture."

The event has grown in popularity in Cleveland and other cities to the point Ms. Torres would not be surprised to see such celebrations eventually take on the notoriety of *Cinco de Mayo* and *Día de los Muertos*. The nation's growing Latino popularity just might ensure that, she stated.

Lucy Torres

"The reason we are doing this is because we do not want our young people, our children, to lose our culture, to lose that which identifies us as a community," said Ms. Torres. "It's a nice event."

Co-sponsors for the event include: the *Hispanic Alliance, Esperanza, Inc., Spanish American Committee, and Hispanic UMADAOP*. Cookies, cake, and punch will be provided to the families. The gifts are being donated by *Toys for Tots* and the *Marine Corps*, among other groups. More than 800 gifts were given out at last year's event.

"It is not just an opportunity to get the gifts, but to see the different entertainment groups we are providing. Sometimes they don't have the money to go see a show because of their financial situation" said Ms. Torres. "So they come and the children can socialize with the other groups."

People who want to preregister or get more information about Fiesta de Reyes can contact Ms. Torres directly at 216-664-6248.

The Three Kings, or Wise Men, are a rich and important part of Puerto Rican culture and customs, mainly because of the Biblical background, a much more spiritual and faithful representation of the birth of Christ than the legend of Santa Claus.

Three Kings Day, which is also known as Epiphany in other parts of the world, is one of the most important holidays on the Puerto Rican calendar. The eve of January 6 is traditionally used as the day to exchange presents rather than Christmas. Children would gather grass, hay or straw; then put them in shoe boxes stashed under their bed for the Magi's horses or camels. Many children place a "wish list" on top of the grass.

In some Latin American cultures, aunts, uncles, grandparents, and friends also would encourage children to do the same for underneath their beds—just in case.

The Reyes only come if the child has been good all year. They will bypass the house if the kids are awake. Many children sleep lightly, listening for any strange noises or signs—camel hooves, whispers, or anything else that tells of the Kings' arrival. Sometime during the night, Los Reyes arrive and leave their gifts for the children, while their camels or horses enjoy their snack. Good children may be rewarded with small toys and candy. Bad kids would end up with charcoal or even dirt.

That is where the eve of Three Kings Day dovetails toward the more US-Americanized notion of stockings hung by the fireplace, leaving cookies and milk for Santa Claus, and the endless anticipation of kids on Christmas Eve. Santa rewards good children and punishes bad kids in much the same way.

Beyond traditional holiday celebrations, the Three Kings are a mainstay of Puerto Rican arts and crafts, one of the most popular subjects for handmade figurines of saints and other religious figures.

Mexican tradition holds that the holiday is celebrated by baking *"Rosca de Reyes" (King's Bread)*, which has an oval shape to symbolize a crown and has a small doll inside which represents baby Jesus. The doll figure symbolizes the hiding of the infant Jesús from King Herod's troops. Traditionally, *roscas* are adorned with dried and candied fruits to symbolize the many jewels that a crown would have.

On the Internet: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-JFPt-9cYig

THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS IS HIRING OVER 5,000 WORKERS FOR THE MARCH 15, 2016 PRIMARY ELECTION

The Board of Elections is seeking temporary help and poll workers and is now taking applications for more than 5,000 paid positions. "Our democracy depends on citizens being engaged in the election process," said *Pat McDonald* the Director of the Board of Elections. "Poll workers are the backbone of all elections as they assist voters on Election Day and temporary personnel help with vital administrative work before, during and following each election," said McDonald.

Poll Workers earn up to $200.00 for their service, which includes successfully completing a poll worker training class and attending a meeting the night before the election.

Over 150 temporaries are being hired to perform a wide range of duties. These jobs can last up to several months.

The public is invited to apply for poll worker and temporary positions online in the Employment section of the Board's website: www.443VOTE.com.

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"SAVE THE CLUB!" CAMPAIGN

January 2016

FUNDRAISER EVENT CALENDAR

Public Welcome!

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

CELEBRITY BARTENDER EVENT

Join in the fun on Friday nights from 6-9 pm. with the Celebrity Bartenders as the crowd cheers and the big bell rings as the tip donations role in for the Mexican Mutual Society! Delicious Mexican and Puerto Rican food is available by Cook Chrissie.

January 9, 2016. Beth Maiden, Leadership Lorain County Executive Director

January 16, 2016. Sherri Glass, Candidate for Lorain County Domestic Relations Judge

January 23, 2016. Santana Brothers, Checo and Steve, also known as "The Moscas".

January 30, 2016. David Graves, Candidate for Lorain County Domestic Relations Judge.

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MMS Club Hours. Open at 5 pm. Tuesday-Saturday and 1 pm. on Sunday.

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FUNDRAISER EVENTS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

"Star Wars" supera taquilla de "Titanic" y "Jurassic World"

Por LINDSEY BAHR

LOS ÁNGELES, 3 I 16 (AP): La cinta "*Star Wars: The Force Awakens*" comenzó el nuevo año con confianza, recaudando 88,3 millones de dólares más y manteniéndose por tercera semana consecutiva en la cabeza de la taquilla de Estados Unidos y Canadá, de acuerdo con cálculos de los estudios difundidos el domingo.

En el primer fin de semana de 2016, la película superó los ingresos brutos en Estados Unidos tanto de "Jurassic World" como de "Titanic, para convertirse en la segunda mayor generadora de ingresos de todos los tiempos, con 740,3 millones de dólares en apenas 19 días de su lanzamiento. La película con más ingresos sigue siendo "Avatar", con un ingreso bruto hasta el momento de 760,5 millones de dólares.

La comedia de Mark Wahlberg y Will Ferrell "*Daddy's Home*" quedó en segundo lugar con una recaudación calculada de 29 millones de dólares, para un total de 93,7 millones acumulados en sólo dos semanas. La recaudación de la película cayó únicamente 25% con respecto a su primera semana en salas cinematográficas. Aún más formidable en el descenso de apenas 11% de la comedia "Sisters" de Tina Fey y Amy Poehler, la cual recaudó 12,6 millones de dólares en su tercer fin de semana para ocupar el cuarto lugar. La cinta ha recaudado 61,7 dólares hasta ahora.

"Cuando se observa la capacidad de retención de 'Daddy's Home' y 'Sisters', nos muestra que esas películas son para mucha gente el antídoto a 'Star Wars'", dijo Paul Dergarabedian, un analista de medios de comunicación para la empresa rastreadora de ingresos por taquilla Rentrak. "la diversidad de la lista de ofertas que crearon los estudios al no retirarse ante 'Star Wars' está ayudando".

El sangriento Western de Quentin Tarantino "*The Hateful Eight*" se llevó el tercer lugar con 16,2 millones de dólares en su primer fin de semana de lanzamiento ampliado después de un fuerte debut limitado.

"Aún hay una audiencia grande para cine de autor", dijo Dergarabedian. "Tarantino, sea lo que sea, es un realizador de cine interesante. Los cinéfilos quieren ver en qué anda. No le ha ido tan grandiosamente como a algunas de sus otras películas, pero aún le está yendo bien conforme se extiende".

El año arranca con un fuerte inicio en general, con aumento de la taquilla de 24,5% respecto al año anterior. El fin de semana de este Año Nuevo podría incluso establecer un récord si supera el total de 220 millones de dólares de 2009/2010, cuando estuvieron en las salas de cine tanto "*Avatar*" como "*Sherlock Holmes*".

Recaudación aproximada por taquilla de viernes a domingo en salas cinematográficas de Estados Unidos y Canadá, según Rentrak.

1. "Star Wars: The Force Awakens", 88,3 millones de dólares.
2. ''Daddy's Home", 29 millones.
3. ''The Hateful Eight", 16,2 millones.
4. ''Sisters", 12,6 millones.
5. ''Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip", 11,8 millones.
6. ''Joy", 10,4 millones.
7. ''The Big Short", 9,0 millones.
8. ''Concussion", 8,0 millones.
9. ''Point Break", 6,8 millones
10. ''The Hunger Games: Mockingjay—Part 2", 4,6 millones.

Wisconsin Republican bill would penalize immigrant 'sanctuary cities'

MADISION, Wis., Dec. 28, 2015 (AP): Republican legislators in Wisconsin say they will continue pursuing a bill penalizing communities that block law enforcement from inquiring about immigration status or cooperating with federal immigration authorities.

The bill seeks to prevent so-called "sanctuary cities" in which policies prevent them from helping federal authorities deport immigrants living in the country illegally, the Wisconsin State Journal (http://bit.ly/1koki47) reported. Under the bill, communities could be challenged in court and could face the loss of shared revenue of $500 to $5,000 each day they aren't in compliance.

Critics say the bill conveys the wrong message to immigrant communities and could undercut efforts by local law enforcement to investigate crimes and build relationships. *Christine Neumann-Ortiz,* executive director of Milwaukee-based immigrant rights group *Voces de la Frontera*, said the bill could leave municipalities open to lawsuits if citizens don't think enough is being done locally to police federal immigration policy.

"The job of immigration is an extremely complex role and should be left to the federal government," Neumann-Ortiz said.

Bill author *Rep. John Spiros, R-Marshfield*, said the bill doesn't require communities to enforce federal immigration law.

"What people are saying this bill does, it doesn't do," Spiros said. "It's not there to get rid of illegal aliens. It's really those who commit a crime."

It's not clear whether any Wisconsin cities would be affected by the legislation. The bill has a line that says it wouldn't apply to municipalities with existing policies or previously adopted resolutions.

Madison passed a resolution in 2010 calling on the county sheriff to stop reporting immigration status to federal authorities, though the resolution had no legal effect.

The state legislation was scheduled for a public hearing of the Assembly Committee on Urban and Local Affairs earlier this month. Spiros said he asked it be removed from the agenda so the committee could book a larger room.

The committee plans to hold a public hearing on the bill Jan. 20, 2016, according to a spokesman for committee chairman Rep. Ed Brooks, R-Reedsburg.

Series created by cartoonist Lalo Alcaraz and a Clevelander deals with immigration reform, war on drugs, and 'American Dream'

By FRAZIER MOORE, AP Television Writer

NEW YORK, Dec. 30, 2015 (AP): Let's get one thing straight: Donald Trump is not a consultant to *"Bordertown."*

To be sure, this *new Fox animated comedy* does target issues like immigration, the drug war, and the embattled American Dream. But it's been in development since 2007, long before the furor sparked by Trump upon his entry last June into the presidential race.

The series' premiere (Sunday, 9:30 p.m. EST) deals with a toughest-in-the-nation anti-immigration bill passed by *Mexifornia*, the U.S. desert community where "Bordertown" is set.

The second episode, airing Jan. 10, 2016 is about the *construction of a border wall* meant to protect Mexifornia from undesirables from down Mexico way.

"It's about time we did something about immigration! The Southwest belongs to retired art teachers and meth-lab entrepreneurs," roars *Bud Buckwald*, a dunderheaded Border Patrol guard who fears his American Dream is slipping away in the United States, where ethnic minorities are projected to become the majority within a few years.

After all, next door to Bud and his family reside the *Gonzalezes*, whose genial patriarch, Ernesto, has a thriving landscape business after less than a decade settled in the U.S.

According to creator *Mark Hentemann*, "Bordertown" began as a modern-day update of *Archie Bunker*, the apoplectic working man from the pioneering 1970s sitcom "All in the Family." Like Archie, Bud is "a white guy who feels he's losing his place in the world. He's contrasted with an immigrant who's building a life for himself in the United States."

Growing up in *Cleveland*, Hentemann was inculcated with a version of the immigration story by his father.

"Every time he had a glass of wine, he would tell my siblings and me how his dad came over from Germany in the '20s with nothing, seeking a better life, working three jobs," Hentemann recalls. "It was his way to communicate the values he wanted us to embrace, and not take for granted what we have.

"Every family has their immigration story somewhere back through the decades," he says. "That's what compelled me to write about this. This show seemed to be an opportunity to do a smart *cultural satire*."

Even as the broader themes felt second nature to him, Hentemann did not wish to perpetuate stereotypes, so he brought in a team that included Latino writers.

Among them: *Lalo Alcaraz*, creator of the Latino comic strip, "*La Cucaracha*," who brings to the show informed details (like Latino men's huge belt buckles and the practice of Christmas lights strewn year-round outside Latino homes). He regards the show's characters not as stereotypes, but as *archetypes*.

"My own dad was a gardener and I gardened with him on Saturdays," says Alcaraz. "My mother cleaned houses for middle-class white people in San Diego. I'm from that background."

Alcaraz went on to earn a master's degree in architecture at the University of California at Berkeley, where he found his comic voice reflecting his experience growing up.

Now he describes the arrival of "Bordertown"—framing the immigrant experience in terms he was born to lampoon—as "Kismet for me, man! The stars aligned!"

Alcaraz co-wrote the "Borderwall" episode with Hentemann more than a year ago. Their hero, Bud, proposes the wall be paid for with confiscated drug money. But it works too well, destroying the local economy and leaving Bud jobless.

"At the time I remember worrying that all the furor over border walls had kind of faded," says Hentemann. "Was this going to feel old hat when we aired it? Then a few months later Donald Trump announced his candidacy and brought it roaring back into the national conversation."

"He went even further than WE did," adds Alcaraz with a laugh. "He said, 'The MEXICANS are gonna pay for MY border wall!'"

Reflecting his recent stint running "*Family Guy*" (and the role of "Family Guy" mastermind Seth MacFarlane as an executive producer), Hentemann's new show takes plenty of shots at pop culture, including Bud's 5-year-old daughter (a chubby beauty-pageant veteran who picks up where Honey Boo Boo left off) as well as the threat of interplanetary aliens, visions of the Virgin Mary, Philip Seymour Hoffman's drug overdose and the WNBA. (Voice talent includes "Family Guy" star Alex Borstein along with Hank Azaria of "The Simpsons" and Judah Friedlander of "30 Rock.")

But "Bordertown" aims to dig deeper than "Family Guy" and the equal-opportunity offensive that propels it.

"I'm excited about the potential of a show like 'Bordertown,'" says Hentemann. "At its best, it could break new ground as a relevant satire in the way that 'All in the Family' did." With or without Donald Trump's inspiration.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Frazier Moore is a national television columnist for The Associated Press. Past stories are available at http://bigstory.ap.org/content/frazier-moore*

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Bach: Organismos deportivos deben sanearse

Por STEPHEN WILSON, Associated Press

LONDRES, 30 XII 15 (AP): Las organizaciones deportivas deben realizar mayores esfuerzos en 2016 para fomentar la integridad luego de un año de escándalos de corrupción y dopaje que mancharon al movimiento olímpico, dijo el miércoles el presidente del *COI Thomas Bach* en un mensaje de Año Nuevo.

Bach indicó que el mundo olímpico tiene que cumplir con las expectativas del público de honestidad, y hacer caso a su exhortación del año pasado de "cambiar o ser cambiados".

"Basta con mirar los sucesos de los últimos 12 meses para comprender que este mensaje es más apremiante aun hoy, para salvaguardar la credibilidad de las organizaciones deportivas y proteger a los atletas limpios", dijo Bach. "Sin duda alguna, los acontecimientos recientes en algunos deportes arrojan dudas sobre todo el mundo del deporte".

Aunque no mencionó ningún deporte específico, el dirigente claramente se refería al escándalo de corrupción en que está envuelta la FIFA y las denuncias de sobornos y encubrimiento contra la federación internacional de atletismo (IAAF, por sus siglas en inglés) y el atletismo de pista y campo ruso.

Al destacar que el público exige un comportamiento ético de los deportistas y los organismos, Bach señaló que "es nuestra responsabilidad compartida en el movimiento olímpico proveer nuevas soluciones a nuevos problemas".

La FIFA está de rodillas por un escándalo de corrupción que provocó el arresto de decenas de dirigentes y empresarios del marketing deportivo, al igual que suspensiones de ocho años contra el presidente del organismo, Joseph Blatter, y el jefe de la UEFA, Michel Platini. Blatter es un ex miembro del COI.

La federación rusa de atletismo fue suspendida por un año después que una investigación de la Agencia Mundial Antidopaje reveló un masivo programa de dopaje patrocinado por el estado. El equipo ruso de pista y campo podría incluso perderse los Juegos Olímpicos del próximo año en Río de Janeiro.

El ex presidente de la IAAF, Lamine Diack, fue arrestado por las autoridades francesas y acusado de corrupción y lavado de dinero, por supuestamente recibir dinero a cambio de ocultar casos de dopaje de atletas rusos. También fue arrestado en el ex encargado de los controles antidopaje en la IAAF.

El COI tuvo su propio escándalo de corrupción a fines de los 90, cuando 10 miembros fueron expulsados del organismo por recibir dinero y otros regalos de la candidatura de Salt Lake City por los Juegos Olímpicos de Invierno de 2002.

Bach dijo que las federaciones deportivas y los comités olímpicos nacionales deben implementar la "Agenda Olímpica 2020" del COI, un programa de reformas aprobado el año pasado que incluye normas de buena administración.

"Exhortamos y esperamos que todas las organizaciones deportivas sigan nuestro ejemplo", dijo Bach.

Destacó que el COI propuso que las organizaciones deportivas no se encarguen de los controles antidopaje, y que el sistema sea más independiente y confiable. El COI quiere un programa antidopaje independiente antes de los Juegos de Invierno de 2018 en Pyeongchang, Corea del Sur.

"Estamos seguros que todos estos cambios son necesarios para proteger a los atletas honestos y mejorar la integridad del deporte", sostuvo.

En cuanto a los Juegos de Río, los primeros en Sudamérica, Bach dijo que espera que los brasileños den la bienvenida al mundo "con su alegría por la vida y su pasión por el deporte".

La antesala de los Juegos se produce justo cuando Brasil atraviesa su peor recesión económica en décadas, la presidenta Dilma Rousseff encara un juicio político, y hay un escándalo de corrupción relacionado con la empresa petrolera estatal Petrobras.

"Sabemos que la situación económica y política actual de Brasil hará que los próximos meses de preparativos finales sean más retadores", indicó.

Sin embargo, dijo que los Juegos "darán un mensaje de esperanza y alegría al mundo en momentos difíciles".

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The Toledo Zoo

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