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ESPERANZA'S MENTORING PROGRAM, P. 11



- Photo by Mychal Lilly

Mentor Melissa Santana and Samantha at Esperanza's College Mentoring Program announced on Page 11.



Toledo's Club Taino, Clevelanders celebrate '3 Kings'. See article by Kevin Milliken on Page 10.

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Obama Legacy-Foreign Policy

WASHINGTON, DC, Dec. 24, 2016 (AP): President Barack Obama's foreign policy legacy may be defined as much by what he didn't do as by what he did.

Over eight years, Obama ushered in a new era of diplomacy, re-establishing the United States as the driving force behind fighting climate change and reducing the threat of nuclear weapons. He restored unity between the U.S. and its allies after the divisive tenure of President George W. Bush and avoided adding another large-scale U.S. military commitment overseas.

But Obama also ran headlong into his limitations as the world's chief diplomat. His cautious and pragmatic approach to world affairs ultimately couldn't deliver on the founding promise of his presidency: ending wars.

He will leave office in January having failed to end the conflicts he inherited in Iraq and Afghanistan, settling instead for greatly reducing U.S. involvement in each. And he will pass on the woes of a raging civil war in Syria that he has been helpless to stop.

Historians will grapple with whether Obama's forward-looking diplomatic achievements, like the Iran nuclear deal and rapprochement with Cuba, will outweigh his failings.

Their calculus will depend heavily on how far Donald Trump goes to unwind these efforts. If the president-elect makes good on promises to unravel Obama's climate change, trade and nuclear agreements, he will leave Obama's legacy defined not by his ambition but by his restraint, for better or worse.

"The United States is stronger now than it was eight years ago," said David Milne, historian of U.S. foreign policy at Britain's University of East Anglia. He described Obama as a "retrenchment president" akin to Dwight Eisenhower. Obama is a president who will be "perhaps best remembered for the paths not taken," he said.

In his first speech as president, Obama told US-America's foes he would "extend a hand if you are willing to unclench your fist." He largely made good on that offer.

Obama's outreach yielded historic diplomatic breakthroughs, but not without levels of compromise that brought howls of protest from his Republican critics.

The U.S. rapidly removed years of painstakingly constructed oil, trade, and economic sanctions on Iran in return for stringent new constraints on its nuclear program. But the threat of Iranian atomic weapons isn't gone for good. Many of the restrictions on Iran start expiring next decade, which will permit Tehran to edge toward weapons capacity again.

In Cuba, restoring diplomatic relations with the tiny island led to greater economic ties and a new U.S. embassy. The developments haven't yet been accompanied by democratic reforms or human rights improvements from the communist government. Trump has spoken vaguely about demanding more from Havana, without promising a reversal.

The U.S. has embraced a new relationship with Myanmar, with Obama visiting the country twice, despite the military maintaining significant political influence in the country and ongoing abuses against minority Muslims. If anything, abuses have intensified since Obama lifted the last U.S. sanctions on Myanmar.

And last year's global climate change pact commits the world to reducing the greenhouse gas emissions blamed for rising temperatures and sea levels, worsening droughts and heat waves. China can keep expanding its emissions until 2030.

As Obama's approach cleared new diplomatic paths, it sometimes led to dead ends.

The Obama administration was caught off guard when the Arab Spring erupted in 2011. Its response veered sharply from promising cooperation with imperfect allies to championing protesters seeking new leaders. After a military coup in Egypt and a Shiite rebellion in Yemen, the U.S. returned to many of the same regional powers and entrenched national elites it had abandoned.

When Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean peninsula in 2014, then supported an insurgency in eastern Ukraine, Obama responded with sanctions. They've had little effect on Moscow's strategic thinking and Russia hasn't retreated.

After Washington accused Beijing of a territorial grab in the South China Sea, all Obama could do was object. But nowhere has Obama's foreign policy proved more ineffective and his resistance to military intervention more contentious than with Syria's civil war. President Bashar Assad's government and his Russian and Iranian sponsors have made a mockery of Obama's declarations that Assad's "days are numbered," while Obama has endlessly recycled a series of failed diplomatic tactics.

Even his proliferation record was undermined in Syria.

Obama declared the use of chemical weapons in the conflict a "red line" and Assad used them anyhow. Obama then backed down from his threat to respond with force, opting instead for a Russian-supported plan to remove much of Assad's declared chemical stockpiles. Since then, the U.S. says Syria's military has used other chemical agents instead. And the war only escalated.

Russia's military intervention on Assad's behalf led to a brief Obama effort to isolate Moscow. He quickly reversed course, turning to Moscow to stop the war diplomatically. That didn't work, either, as a string of cease-fires collapsed.

Obama has argued that the

only other option was unacceptable.

"Unless we were all-in and willing to take over Syria, we were going to have problems," he told reporters at his year-end press conference. "And everything else was tempting because we wanted to do something and it sounded like the right thing to do. But it was going to be impossible to do this on the cheap."

The death toll has reached as many as a half-million people.

Obama's critics have called him feckless and weak. They've lampooned his talk about hitting "singles and doubles" in foreign policy, rather than swinging for the fences.

The president and his aides called his approach: "Don't do stupid stuff," often using a more profane term.

Both analyses reflect Obama's essential caution and pragmatism about one nation's ability to shape global events, prevent violence, and expand freedom and stability.

This realism, as Obama termed it, was behind many of his earliest foreign policy decisions: resetting ties with Russia, leading to a new nuclear arms control treaty; offering a new beginning with Arab monarchs and despots threatened by the younger Bush's freedom agenda; "pivoting" from the unstable Middle East to rapidly growing Asia; emphasizing multilateral coalitions, as evidenced by the NATO-led bombing campaign against Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi.

The White House long believed this Obama doctrine would be propelled, in part, by the power of his personal story. The son of a father from Kenya and mother from Kansas, who spent part of his childhood in Indonesia, Obama at times presented himself as a model for a new, more connected world and a generation less inclined to see U.S. military intervention as the solution to most problems.

"He thought that his personal charms, whatever they are, could do away with the adversarial relations that the United States had with Russia, China, Iran and so on," said Michael Mandelbaum, professor emeritus at John Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies. "Presidents always overrate their own personal efficacy."

Obama continues to argue his critics overrate the effectiveness of U.S. military intervention.

As he described his restraint in Syria, he posed the questions that have dogged him for years—ones that will now fall to his successor.

"Ultimately what I've had to do is to think about, what can we sustain, what is realistic?"

Some key moments related to race during Obama's presidency

Jan. 4, 2017 (AP): From the moment Barack Obama was sworn in as the 44th president of the United States and America's first African-American commander in chief, race took center stage in myriad ways in the national conversation. Here are some key moments:

July 16, 2009: Henry Louis Gates Jr., a black professor at Harvard University, is arrested by a white police officer after trying to open a jammed door at his home; a suspected burglar had been reported. Days later Obama weighs in, saying he's unsure what role race played in the incident but "that there's a long history in this country of African-Americans and Latinos being stopped by law enforcement disproportionately." That creates a stir, and Obama invites Gates and the officer to the White House for what becomes known as the "Beer Summit."

Sept. 9, 2009: During Obama's address to a joint session of Congress on health care, Rep. Joe Wilson, a South Carolina Republican, shouts "You lie!" The statement is seen by many observers and commentators as a breathtaking show of disrespect aimed at a black president.

Jan. 17, 2010: On his first Martin Luther King Jr. holiday as president, Obama speaks at the Vermont Avenue Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., where King himself once spoke. He reflects on difficulties faced in pushing his agenda through Congress and the periodic distractions stemming from remarks about his race. Referring to the "post-racial" and "post-partisan" shift in the country that some had predicted would flow from his election, Obama says, "That didn't work out so well."

April 27, 2011: The White House releases copies of Obama's long-form birth certificate to prove he was born in Hawaii. The president had been dogged by the "birther" movement, led by Donald Trump, which spread the falsehood that Obama was born in Africa. Many Obama supporters saw the birther conspiracy as an effort to delegitimize the first black president.

2012: Obama's race for a second term against Republican Mitt Romney features a slew of racist remarks, incidents and bumper stickers, including one showing a pic-

ture of a chimpanzee next to "Obama 2012."

July 19, 2013: Neighborhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman is acquitted in Florida in the shooting death of Trayvon Martin, a black teen. After Martin was killed in 2012, Obama said he "could have been my son." Following Zimmerman's trial, Obama again weighs in, trying to explain black America's reaction to the case: "Trayvon Martin could have been me 35 years ago. And when you think about why, in the African-American community at least, there's a lot of pain around what happened here, I think it's important to recognize that the African-American community is looking at this issue through a set of experiences and a history that doesn't go away." Some black activists praise Obama, while conservative commentators denounce the remarks as divisive.

Aug. 9, 2014: Eighteen-year-old Michael Brown, who was black and unarmed, is shot and killed by a white police officer in Ferguson, Missouri, setting off protests that bring national recognition to the then-fledgling Black Lives Matter movement.

December 2014: A grand jury declines to indict an NYPD officer in the choking death of Eric Garner, a black man who was suspected of selling loose cigarettes. Protests follow. Not long after, Obama announces the creation of the Task Force on 21st Century Policing to examine how to strengthen public trust and foster relationships between law enforcement and local communities.

March 7, 2015: Obama delivers a speech at the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, to mark the 50th anniversary of "Bloody Sunday," when peaceful protesters were beaten by the police as they tried to cross the bridge. The march, one of the seminal moments in civil rights history, led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965. "We just need to open our eyes and our ears and our hearts to know that this nation's racial history still casts its long shadow upon us," Obama tells a crowd that included some activists who participated in the 1965 protest. "We know the march is not yet over; we know the race is not yet won."

June 17, 2015: Dylann Roof, a white man who would later admit he wanted to start a race

war, fatally shoots eight black worshippers and their pastor at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina. The next week, Obama delivers the eulogy for the slain Rev. Clementa Pinckney, speaking about the symbolism of the Confederate flag and how racial bias infects everyday life. He ends by leading the audience in singing the hymn, "Amazing Grace." A movement to remove the Confederate flag from state and federal buildings, license plates and elsewhere follows.

April 30, 2016: Comedian Larry Wilmore performs at the White House Correspondents' Association dinner and ends with, "Yo Barry, you did it, my n—a"—an "N word" reference that sparks criticism. Obama's press secretary says afterward that the president "appreciated the spirit" of the remark.

July 7, 2016: A sniper ambushes five Dallas police officers at an otherwise peaceful protest against the police killings earlier that week of Alton Sterling in Louisiana and Philando Castile in Minnesota. With racial tensions rising, Obama speaks days later at the officers' memorial service, praising law enforcement officials for their courage while also expressing the need to understand the grievances of African-Americans who've protested racial bias. "I'm here to say we must reject such despair," the president says. "I'm here to insist that we are not as divided as we seem. And I know that because I know America. I know how far we've come against impossible odds."

Sept. 24, 2016: Obama dedicates the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C., by ringing a bell from an 18th century black church. "This is the place to understand how protest and love of country don't merely coexist but inform each other; how men can proudly win the gold for their country but still insist on raising a black-gloved fist; how we can wear an 'I Can't Breathe' T-shirt and still grieve for fallen police officers," Obama tells dignitaries gathered on the National Mall. "We're not a burden on America, or a stain on America, or an object of pity or charity for America. We're America."

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The Obama administration has officially scrapped the last vestiges of a U.S. registration system for Muslim immigrants

By **LICIA A. CALDWELL**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON, DC, January 2017 (AP): The Obama administration on Dec. 22, 2016 officially scrapped the last vestiges of a U.S. registration system for Muslim immigrants. If President-elect Donald Trump now wants to introduce an expanded version of the program, he will have to start from scratch.

The post-9/11 registration program for immigrant men arriving mainly from the Islamic world hasn't been enforced since 2011. Although it never prohibited travel for men and boys from the more than 20 affected countries, including Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan, Trump's suggestions about banning Muslim immigrants from the United States have led to fears that it could be reinstated and used for new and enhanced purposes.

The decision to erase it from the books entirely marks one of President Barack Obama's last administrative actions on immigration and will at least slow any Trump effort to introduce even tougher requirements, as has been suggested by a top adviser.

The registration program is "not only obsolete," said Neema Hakim, spokesman for the Homeland Security Department, "its use would divert limited personnel and resources from more effective measures."

The registration system started about a year after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, requiring men and boys from a variety of mostly Middle Eastern countries to register with the federal government upon their arrival in the United States. Such people already in the country had to register with immigration authorities inside the U.S.

Registration, which also applied to immigrants from North Korea, included fingerprints and photographs. People also were required to notify the government if they changed addresses.

Trump has never publicly spoken about the program, but has made clear his desire to take a far tougher approach toward immigration than Obama.

He and his advisers have suggested the rising terror threat in the United States, Europe and elsewhere is linked to insufficiently vetted refugees and immigrants arriving from predominantly Muslim countries. After a truck attack killed 12 in a Christmas market in Berlin this week, Trump told reporters, "You know my plans."

Kansas Secretary of State **Kris Kobach**, a Trump confidant on immigration, has been more explicit on his plans for the registry. Last month, he said he wanted to launch an updated system for all foreigners from "high-risk" areas.

Meeting Trump in

Bedminster, N.J., Kobach carried a document labeled "Department of Homeland Security Kobach Strategic Plan for First 365 Days." It described a reboot of the *National Security Entry-Exit Registration System (NSEERS)* as the top priority. Kobach helped draft the program while working at the Justice Department under President George W. Bush.

If Trump opts to restart NSEERS and create a new program, he will have to start from scratch with a process that includes notifying the public about his plans. That could delay a new effort by months.

The program had been widely derided by civil libertarians as an effort to profile people based on race and religion.

"With this action, the U.S. is on the right path to protect Muslim and Arab immigrants from discrimination," said Joanne Lin, the senior legislative counsel at the American Civil Liberties Union, which said the registry "didn't yield a single terrorism conviction in nearly a decade."

When the Obama administration abandoned the system in April 2011, it said a newer data collection program would be sufficient to collect biometric information for all foreigners coming into the country. At the time, more than 80,000 foreigners were registered.

Ohio quitará licencia comercial a algunos inmigrantes

Por **JOHN SEEWER**, Associated Press

TOLEDO, 4 117 (AP): Ohio ha advertido a varios cientos de inmigrantes que perderán sus licencias comerciales debido a atrasos en el sistema.

El estado dijo que la medida es para cumplir con las regulaciones federales sobre licencias, que permite que los conductores operen camiones de carga, autobuses y tractocamiones.

El mes pasado, el Departamento de Vehículos Motorizados de Ohio envió notificaciones a 560 inmigrantes, dándoles 30 días para que presenten los documentos pedidos, pidan una audiencia de apelación o entreguen sus licencias comerciales.

Shafi Shafat, de 36 años, inmigrante de Somalia que ahora vive en Columbus, recibió la notificación hace unas semanas y dijo que le informaba que podía perder su licencia. Ha pedido a funcionarios de inmigración que agilicen el proceso de su solicitud de residencia permanente, que presentó en el 2015.

"Les dije que estoy perdiendo mi licencia debido a ellos", dijo Shafat. "Voy a perder mi licencia, voy a perder todo. Eso quiere decir que no puedo mantener a mi familia. Es una situación muy estresante".

Organizaciones pro-inmigrantes sostienen que es injusto que el estado le quite las licencias comerciales a la gente tras decirles, al momento de entregarles las licencias, que estaban en regla con la ley. También les preocupa que la gente que perdió sus tarjetas de residencia permanente, o están a la

espera de que les aprueben este beneficio, no puedan mantener sus licencias comerciales debido a atrasos en el sistema.

Jennifer Nimer, directora legal de la Oficina del Concilio sobre Relaciones Islámico-Estadounidenses, en Ohio, dijo que el estado solo debería de pedir la documentación de ahora en adelante. Otros estados han dado marcha atrás tras haber planes para quitar estas licencias de manera retroactiva, dijo.

Some Ohio immigrants might lose commercial driver's licenses

By **JOHN SEEWER**, Associated Press

TOLEDO, Jan. 4, 2016 (AP): Ohio is warning several hundred immigrants that they will lose their commercial driver's licenses if they can't show proof of U.S. citizenship or permanent resident status.

The state said the move is being made to comply with federal regulations over the licenses that allow drivers to operate cargo trucks, buses and tractor-trailers.

Ohio's Bureau of Motor Vehicles sent letters last month to 560 immigrants, giving them 30 days to show documentation, request an appeals hearing or give up their commercial license.

Shafi Shafat, 36, an immigrant from Somalia who now lives in Columbus, received notice a few weeks ago saying he could lose his license. He said he has pleaded with immigration officials to speed up a decision on his 2015 application for permanent residency.

"I told them I'm losing my license because of them," Shafat said. "I'm going to lose my license, I'm going to lose everything. That means I can't feed my family. It's a very stressful situation."

contend it's unfair for the state to take away the commercial licenses of people who had been told they complied with the law when they received their license.

They're also worried that people who've lost their green card or are waiting for approval won't be able to keep their commercial license because of delays in the system.

Jennifer Nimer, legal director for the Council on American-Islamic Relations office in Ohio, said the state should only require the documentation going forward. A handful of states have backed off on similar plans to retroactively strip the licenses, she said.

Requiring a green card for a commercial license doesn't make anyone safer, Nimer said.

"It costs quite a bit of money to get a license," she said, adding that pulling them will take away one way "people without many other options" make a living.

Her office has been in touch with more than 35 people within the past week who are worried they may lose their license and their ability to work.

The federal government put in place the citizenship and permanent residence requirements in 2012, but it wasn't until three years later that states were told to verify the information, said Kristen Castle, a spokeswoman for the state motor vehicles office.

Shafat said he began operating a tractor-trailer two years ago after graduating from driving school. He also said he never was asked about his green card when he received his commercial license from the state.

Many immigrants have found work in the trucking industry.

Mexicanos demandan a lechería de Idaho por trata de personas

Por **REBECCA BOONE**, Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho, 4117 (AP): Seis veterinarios mexicanos que dijeron que fueron reclutados para trabajar en una granja de productos lácteos de Idaho en la atención de animales presentaron una demanda federal por tráfico humano contra los propietarios del negocio y el abogado que tramitó las visas de trabajo, ya que argumentan que fueron obligados a trabajar como peones, ordeñando vacas y paleando estiércol, durante aproximadamente un año.

A los veterinarios se les prometió que supervisarían la salud y el programa de reproducción de los animales en *Funk Dairy Inc.*, en el pequeño poblado de Murtaugh, en el sur de Idaho, y que fueron traídos a Estados Unidos con visas TN para profesionales de México y Canadá, indica la demanda que fue interpuesta el martes en el Tribunal Federal de Distrito en Boise.

Los acusados son **David Funk**, propietario de Funk, el administrador **Curtis Giles** y el abogado **Jeremy Pittard**, quien según la demanda fue quien tramitó sus visas. Pittard, un defensor público y abogado especializado en casos de inmigración familiar, dijo a The Associated Press que hizo su trabajo después de que la administración de Funk Dairy le solicitó ayuda para tramitar las visas, pero que no podía comentar sobre las condiciones de trabajo

de los veterinarios. La compañía no respondió las llamadas telefónicas de la AP hechas para solicitar su comentario.

En la demanda se afirma que los veterinarios fueron forzados ilegalmente a trabajar como empleados generales a pesar de tener visa de trabajador profesional, que recibieron hospedaje inferior al nivel medio y salarios más bajos de los prometidos; además, se agrega en la querrela, fueron amenazados con deportación si no realizaban bien su trabajo asignado. Los demandantes están buscando una compensación monetaria no especificada por daños de acuerdo con las leyes federales de combate al tráfico de personas.

La presunta conjura de tráfico representó "el reclutamiento fraudulento de veterinarios mexicanos para el propósito de evadir leyes de inmigración estadounidenses y contratar trabajadores como peones

generales de salario bajo", asevera la demanda.

Los veterinarios **César Martínez Rodríguez**, **Dalia Padilla López**, **Mayra Muñoz Lara**, **Brenda Gastélum Sierra**, **Leslie Ortiz Garcay** y **Ricardo Neri Camacho** afirmaron también en la demanda que sus empleadores explotaron su temor, su incapacidad para hablar inglés y su desconocimiento del sistema jurídico estadounidense para obligarlos a permanecer en la granja lechera de 2014 a 2015.

"No estoy seguro de si puedo conjeturar sobre por qué la compañía escogió esta ruta, pero en general, las compañías agrícolas han tenido problemas por escasez de mano de obra", dijo el abogado de los veterinarios, **Edgar Iván Aguila Socho**. "Hasta donde podemos decir, esta conspiración criminal tuvo el objetivo de proporcionar una solución improvisada a este tipo de escasez".



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Wayne State University, Arab American National Museum to partner for Kellogg Foundation's National Day of Racial Healing, Jan. 17

In the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Wayne State University and the Arab American National Museum (AANM) are collaborating with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and more than 130 organizations on Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2017 for a National Day of Racial Healing.

Wayne State and the AANM will host three events on WSU's main campus in an effort to heal the wounds created by racial, ethnic and religious bias and build an equitable and just society where all children can thrive.



The events are:

- "Meet and Greet: Come meet other leaders from across campus and the community who work to build inclusive communities." Held at WSU's Student Center Building, Hilberry AB, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.

dent Center Building, Hilberry AB, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.

- "Self-care, resilience, and building networks of support." Held at the Student Center, Hilberry AB,

from 3 to 5 p.m.

- "Advancing racial healing — Wayne State community dialogue." Held in the David Adamany Undergraduate Library's community room from 5 to 7 p.m.

Funds could rid Michigan schools of Native American mascots

LANSING, Jan. 4, 2017 (AP): A new agreement between the state of Michigan and the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi could give five schools more resources to change their Native American mascots.

The federal government approved an amendment last month to a nearly 20-year-old agreement between the tribe and Michigan. The change puts a portion of state revenue sharing into a special fund dedicated to promoting understanding, history and good relationships with the state's Native Americans.

"This fund demonstrates our commitment to provid-

ing Michigan schools, colleges and universities with the funds needed to improve curricula and resources related to Native American issues and mascot revisions," said NHBPT Tribal Chair Jamie Stuck. "We understand that schools often don't have funds available for these types of projects and we are dedicated to removing that obstacle."

Each year, up to \$500,000 from the tribe's revenue sharing to the state could go into the new Michigan Native American Heritage Fund. The revenue will be run by a board consisting of two people appointed by the tribe, two people appointed by the governor and also the

Michigan Department of Civil Rights Director or his designee.

"I greatly appreciate the productive government-to-government relationship that the State of Michigan enjoys with the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi," said Gov. Rick Snyder.

Snyder added that he is proud that the "Second Amendment to the Tribal-State Gaming Compact will provide opportunities for additional partnerships between the tribe, state, and schools to promote the rich history and contributions of the first Michiganders and our mutual citizens."

Michigan partly covers Flint water bills another 3 months

LANSING, Jan. 4, 2017 (AP): Flint residents and businesses will continue qualifying for state-funded credits on their water bills under a budget measure enacted in mid-December.

The legislation signed by Gov. Rick Snyder extends the reimbursements another three months,

through March.

Flint Mayor Karen Weaver said this week that the water relief program will continue as long as Flint has a 70 percent collection rate on water and sewer bills.

Residential customers get a 65 percent credit on the water portion of their bills. Commercial customers re-

ceive a 20 percent credit.

David Sabuda, Flint's interim chief financial officer, says customers failing to pay their bills have lost their credits, incurred late charges and are in a review process "to be placed on the shut-off list." He says Flint will work with customers with financial hardships.

US auto sales hit a record 17.55M in 2016, led by SUVs

By DEE-ANN DURBIN, AP Auto Writer

DETROIT, Jan. 4, 2017 (AP): U.S. consumers bought a record number of new cars and trucks in 2016. A repeat performance in 2017 could be a tall order.

Low gas prices, rising employment and low interest rates kept buyers coming to car dealerships last year. There was also the lure of new technology—such as backup cameras, automatic emergency braking and Apple CarPlay—and new vehicles like the Chrysler Pacifica minivan, the Honda Civic and the all-electric Chevrolet Bolt.

U.S. vehicle sales totaled 17.55 million, beating the previous year's record of 17.47 million, according to Autodata Corp. It was the seventh consecutive year of year-over-year sales gains, an unprecedented string, said Tom Libby, an analyst with the consulting firm IHS Markit.

That string could be in jeopardy, however. The National Automobile Dealers Association expects U.S. sales to drop to 17.1 million vehicles in 2017 as interest rates and vehicle prices rise. Large numbers of cars coming off leases will hit the used-car market next year, putting pressure on new car sales. And more buyers are opting for longer loans, so they won't be returning to dealerships anytime soon.

Political issues could also impact sales. President-elect Donald Trump has threatened to impose a 35-percent tariff on vehicles made in Mexico and exported to the U.S., which would impact every major automaker. But he also has promised more spending on infrastructure, which could boost pickup truck sales.

"It is the year of unknowns," said Michelle Krebs, a senior analyst with the car buying site Autotrader.com.

For now, though, the market has plateaued at a high level. Nissan Motor Co.'s U.S. sales rose 5 percent in 2016 to more than 1.5 million, a com-

pany record. The Subaru brand also set an annual record, with sales up 6 percent to 615,132. Honda Motor Co.'s sales jumped 3 percent to more than 1.6 million. Hyundai Motor Co.'s sales rose 2 percent to 775,005. Ford Motor Co.'s sales were up less than 1 percent to more than 2.6 million. Fiat Chrysler's sales were flat at 2.2 million.

General Motors Co. said its year-over-year sales were down 1.3 percent to just over 3 million cars and trucks. That was partly because the company cut back on low-profit sales to rental-car firms. Toyota Motor Corp.'s full-year sales fell 2 percent to 2.4 million. Volkswagen brands sales dropped 8 percent to 322,948, hurt by the company's diesel mileage cheating scandal.

Here are some details of 2016 sales:

WINNERS AND LOSERS: Ford's F-Series pickup remained the best-selling vehicle in America in 2016, with 820,799 trucks sold. That's the equivalent of 93 trucks sold every hour. The Toyota Camry was the best-selling car, despite a 9.5-percent dip in sales to 388,618. Jaguar saw the biggest sales increase of any brand, with sales more than doubling over 2015 thanks to its new XE sedan. Fiat Chrysler's Italian brands, Fiat and Alfa Romeo, declined more than 20 percent each as customers scratched small cars off their shopping lists in favor of SUVs.

LUXURY CROWN: Mercedes-Benz held onto its title as the top-selling luxury brand. Mercedes sales were up less than 1 percent to 374,541, edging BMW and Lexus.

SUV TAKEOVER: Toyota's U.S. sales chief, Bill Fay, said consumers' shift from cars to SUVs is one of the most dramatic the industry has ever seen. Three years

ago, trucks and SUVs represented 50 percent of the U.S. market. They closed 2016 at 63 percent of total sales, and analysts don't see that changing anytime soon. Boomers and Millennials both like the space SUVs offer and their higher ride, and improvements in fuel economy make them competitive with cars. The Honda CR-V was the best-selling SUV in the U.S. last year, with sales up 3 percent to 357,335.

PILING ON THE DEALS: Incentive spending reached a record of \$4,000 per vehicle in November before falling a bit in December. Buyers were walking away with thousands of dollars in bonus cash or financing deals. Autotrader said Ford was offering as much as \$13,000 off its C-Max plug-in hybrid in certain markets in December. But the deals can hurt the industry in the long term, since they damage vehicles' resale values and automakers' profits. Automakers, wary of relying too heavily on incentives to move vehicles, started cutting production in the fall. Even with incentives, the average sale price of a vehicle rose to \$32,000, a record for December, LMC said.

DECEMBER TO REMEMBER: Holiday promotions and elevated incentives boosted sales 3 percent to 1.7 million, Autodata said. But even if sales had been flat compared to last December, 2016 would have broken a record. Volkswagen's sales jumped 20 percent over last December, while Subaru sales rose 12 percent. GM and Nissan both gained 10 percent. Honda's sales rose 6 percent and Toyota's rose 2 percent. The Nissan Rogue SUV was one of the month's stars, with sales up 53 percent as an updated version hit the market.

AP Auto Writer Tom Krisher contributed to this report.



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Toledo Public Schools hosts High School Open House, Jan. 12th

By Kevin Milliken, *La Prensa* Correspondent

Toledo Public Schools officials hope to draw back some departed Latino and other students by throwing open the doors at its high schools to show students and families the results of a multi-year transformation plan conducted district-wide.

A *Discover TPS Night* open house will be held at each of the district's eight high schools Thursday evening, *January 12, 2017, from 5 to 7:30 p.m.*

The open house will provide students, especially eighth-graders, a chance to meet other students, staff, and counselors, as well as receive a tour of the school. There also will be hands-on demonstrations.

"It's never too early for elementary students to think about where they will attend high school. Discover TPS Night is geared toward 6th through 8th grade students," said TPS spokesperson *Patry Mazur*. "Families are encouraged to visit the school in their neighborhood or the school their student might be considering. This evening will allow students to meet teachers and students who currently attend the high school."

Students can receive more information on each high school's academic

offerings, including foreign languages, the arts, and classes available through TPS distance-learning labs. There will be information on post-secondary options, including *Ohio's College Credit Plus* program in partnership with the *University of Toledo*, which allows high school students to earn college credit while still in high school. There also will be information on advanced placement courses, and an associate's degree education track.

"If students aren't thinking college is for them, they will have the opportunity to learn more about the career technology programs TPS offers," said Ms. Mazur. "Tours of the career technology labs will be given. If a student is interested in a career technology program at a school other than their home school, TPS will provide transportation to that site."

TPS also will showcase each high school's extra-curricular activities, including an array of athletic options and student groups. Musical performances will be part of the evening agenda as well—from the band, chorus, and performing arts groups at each school.

"The evening is set to get prospective students a real idea of what each of

our high schools offer, both academics and extra-curricular activities," explained Mazur.

There also will be a raffle and prize giveaways at each school: *Bowsher High School*, 2200 Arlington; *Jones Leadership Academy*, 430 Nebraska; *Rogers High School*, 222 McTigue;

Scott High School, 2400 Collingwood; *Start High School*, 2010 Tremainsville; *Toledo Technology Academy*, 3301 Upton; *Waite High School*, 301 Morrison; and *Woodward High School*, 701 E. Central Ave.

TPS has seen a slight increase in its high school population in recent years, despite heavy competition from charter schools offering specialized curriculums and parochial schools that accept voucher-eligible students.

The passage of a TPS levy will give district leaders the funding necessary to complete more aspects of a multi-year transformation plan, meant to enhance the K-12 experience and better prepare students for college, apprenticeships and skilled-trades training programs, and the general workforce.

Toledo Ballet awarded grant from Toledo Community Foundation

January 4, 2017: *Toledo Ballet* has received a grant from the *Toledo Community Foundation's Walleve Wishing Well Fund* to implement a dance program at the *Boys and Girls Club of Toledo* in the fall of 2017. The program will take place at the Boys and Girls Club's *Homer Hanham* facility.

The mission of *Toledo Ballet* is to promote interest in dance through superb education, performance, and outreach; the mission of Boys and Girls Clubs of Toledo is "to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens."

After-school Dance will assist both organizations in achieving these missions through programming that promotes physical activity, health lifestyles, creative accomplishment, teamwork in a non-contact activity, and inspiration for underserved youth in Toledo.

The program will run weekly one-hour classes for 24 weeks, from October 2017–May 2018 for BGCT members ages 9–12. De-

signed to be accessible to students of all skill levels, participants will sample a wide variety of dance forms from ballet to hip hop and build on lessons from previous weeks, emphasizing the importance of physical exercise as well as improving balance, motor skills, strength, and agility.

The program will be taught by *Toledo Ballet* faculty member and company principal dancer *Domonique Glover*. Mr. Glover is a graduate of *Morehouse College* in Atlanta with a B.A. in Mathematics. He currently teaches math at *Horizon Science Academy*.

The generous grant covers expenses for equipment necessary to execute the program, including portable dance bars, mirrors, and a "fat head" of American Ballet Theater's first African-American principal dancer,



Domonique Glover

Misty Copeland, that will be installed on the wall of the gym where the club's athletic activities and the dance program will take place.

"I am so pleased that the TCF Board of Trustees sees the inherent value of this dance program," said *Toledo Ballet* executive director *Mari Davies*. "The fact that the nation's most famous ballerina, *Misty Copeland*, was first exposed to ballet at a Boys and Girls Club speaks to the amazing opportunities such exposure lends. We can't wait until next fall to see this program take flight."

Wine Tasting series at the Toledo Zoo

Wine-down from your day with a wine tasting on the wild side at the *Toledo Zoo!* Enjoy our dynamic exhibits and animals while sipping wines from around the globe. Make your reservations now for the Zoo's first wine-tasting event of the 2017 series on Friday, January 20, from 7–9 p.m. in the Toledo Zoo's Aquarium.



nights, but also for unique after-hours-of-office gatherings and guys' or girls' nights out!

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Friday, June 23–Nairobi.

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Online reservations are also available at toledozoo.org/wine, and discounted pricing is available for groups and multiple-event packages. Tickets must be purchased in advance and reservations are required. Tickets start at \$40 for Zoo members and \$45 for non-members. *Guests must be 21 or over with valid ID to attend.*

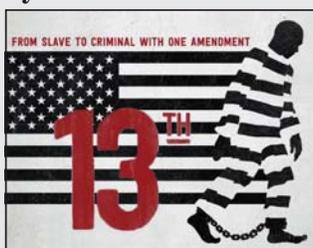
Documentary film: Lourdes University offers Ava DuVernay's 13th movie

On Thursday, January 12, 2017, at 7 p.m., *Lourdes University* offers a free showing of *13th*, an original Netflix documentary directed by *Ava DuVernay*.

The film can also be viewed, currently, on Netflix.

A *Critics Choice Documentary Award* winner, *13th* provides an in-depth look at the prison system in the United States and how it reveals the nation's history of racial inequality. The documentary will be shown in the Franciscan Center, 6832 Convent Blvd., in Sylvania.

The documentary showing is free and open to the public.



A discussion will follow. "We are pleased to offer this poignant and relevant documentary to our students and all citizens in the northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan region. It is our hope that the discussion promotes open dialogue on topics that affect our society daily," says Ms. *Rachel Duff Anderson*.

son, Dean of Student Life. The discussion will be moderated by Dr. *Therese Hoffman*, Sociology & Justice Studies Professor.

2017 *Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration*

Lourdes University is offering two weeks of programming and outreach activities in January in recognition of the Rev. Dr. *Martin Luther King, Jr.* The documentary showing of *13th* is one of the chosen programs. For a list of all Lourdes MLK, Jr. events, visit www.lourdes.edu/mlk.

Unison attacks the Drug Abuse Epidemic

TOLEDO, Dec. 22, 2016: *Unison Behavioral Health Group*, in partnership with *Mercy Health* and support from the *Mental Health & Recovery Services Board*, has announced the creation of a treatment facility to address the growing opioid addiction issue in Toledo.

Unison will open a subacute detoxification unit to provide needed medically supervised detoxification services. Unison will develop space at 1212 Cherry Street to support an inpatient subacute detoxification unit which will complement already existing outpatient treatment services at this facility. Unison will enhance its clinical partner-

ship with *Mercy Health* to develop clinical programs and services to serve adult, chemically dependent men and women. The new 16-resident unit will include both private and two-person rooms.

According to *Jeff De Lay*, Unison's president and CEO, "Ohio's number one ranking in deaths related to opioid overdoses underscores the urgency of the project and our collective desire to move forward." Addressing the public health epidemic associated with heroin and prescription drug abuse is a top priority for Unison, *Mercy Health*, and the *Mental Health and Recovery Services Board* of Lucas County. Support and

collaboration with *Jeff Dempsey*, president and CEO at *Mercy Health*, and *Scott Sylak*, executive director at the *Mental Health & Recovery*

Services Board of Lucas County, are integral to the success of this project and to improve the overall health of our community.

The facility will be accredited by The Joint Commission and certified by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and will include both medical and behavioral health support, including 24/7/365 nursing and primary care services. Set to open in the Spring of 2017, the expansion is expected to create 19 full-time jobs.



Dr. Diane N. De Hoyos with her parents, the late Esteban De Hoyos Sr. and the late María De Hoyos, of Genoa, Ohio.

LATINAS IN THE NEWS: DR. DIANE N. DE HOYOS

Dr. Diane N. De Hoyos, daughter of the late Esteban De Hoyos Sr. and the late María De Hoyos, of Genoa, Ohio, received her Doctorate in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, Texas on December 10, 2016.

Dr. De Hoyos holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio. In 1994, she received a Master's Degree in Manufacturing Engineering from the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP).

Dr. De Hoyos currently serves in the capacity of Assistant Vice President at the University of Texas at El Paso. She is a graduate of Leadership El Paso and Leadership Texas having served on the University of Texas Alumni Board. She has been an invited lecturer and speaker for the past 25 years.

Dr. De Hoyos has been the recipient of numerous awards locally and nationally for outstanding contributions

to the Latino community. Prior to joining UTEP, Diane spent 29 years with various global organizations including General Motors in Detroit, Allied Signal, and the Outboard Marine Corporation in the areas of Procurement, Cost Reduction, Supplier Quality and Supplier Diversity.

Diane has extensive professional experience in Mexico in the Maquiladora industry and has led global procurement teams throughout her tenure.

Her doctoral dissertation research was entitled: "A Novel Approach for Evaluating the Impact of Fixed Variables on Photovoltaic (PV) Solar Installations Using Enhanced Meta-Analysis among Higher Education Institutions in the United States." and was under the supervision of Dr. Tzu-Liang and Dr. Arturo Olivarez.

Her doctoral dissertation dedication reads as follows: "This dissertation is dedicated to my beloved mother, the late Mrs. Maria Navarro De Hoyos and my esteemed father, the late Mr.

Esteban De Hoyos Sr., both native Texans who believed their children's life would be enriched through education.

"I have lived an extraordinary life because of the incredible sacrifices they made to ensure that my brother and sisters would have the opportunity to receive an advanced education. Their devotion to our family was significant and honorable.

"The first and most important teachers in life are our parents. I am who I am, because how they raised me, how I saw them live their daily lives and how much they loved me. For the sacrifices they made and their selfless willingness to encourage me to believe that any dream was possible, including obtaining this prestigious and significant degree, I am forever grateful.

"Any and all of my accomplishments are in tribute to their legacy and how they lived their life - with honesty, respect and integrity. I am so very proud to be their daughter."

Reps. Gutiérrez, Clark boycott inauguration over Trump comments

By MATTHEW DALY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON, DC, Jan. 5, 2017 (AP): Two House Democrats are planning to boycott President-elect Donald Trump's inauguration to protest insulting comments Trump made during the campaign about women, minorities and other groups.

Reps. Katherine Clark of Massachusetts and Luis Gutiérrez of Illinois said they are skipping the Jan. 20 ceremony at the Capitol as a matter of conscience.

"I could not look at my wife, my daughters or my

grandson in the eye if I sat there and attended as if everything that candidate Donald Trump had said about women, Latinos, African-Americans, Muslims...is OK or erased from my memory," Gutiérrez said in a statement Thursday.

Clark said she respects the presidency and supports the peaceful transfer of power but that families in her district "are fearful that the anti-woman, anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim and divisive promises that drove the Trump campaign will become the policies affecting the health and

safety of every American." Clark and Gutiérrez both said they had hoped that Trump would use the transition period to unify the country but believe that has not happened.

"After discussions with hundreds of my constituents, I do not feel that I can contribute to the normalization of the president-elect's divisive rhetoric by participating in the inauguration," Clark said.

Gutiérrez said he will attend the Women's March on Washington on Jan. 21 to protest Trump's selection.

Snyder signs bill to require midwife licensure, rules

LANSING, Jan. 4, 2017 (AP): Midwives in Michigan will need a state license before helping women give birth under legislation signed by Gov. Rick Snyder.

The bill enacted Wednesday requires midwives to obtain informed consent from patients and to establish patient-specific

protocols for transfer to a physician or hospital if needed.

The state will consult with a new Michigan Board of Licensed Midwifery to write rules for the administration of prescription drugs and medicines. The state estimates that about 45 people will apply for a midwife license initially.

Would-be midwives will

initially pay a \$450 application processing fee along with \$200 annually. The application fee will drop to \$75 once total revenue exceeds \$23,000.

Snyder says the law will help better protect pregnant women and their babies.

Online: Public Act 417 of 2016: <http://bit.ly/2iQ31I3>

Ohio Supreme Court to hear Dayton traffic cam challenge

DAYTON, Ohio, Jan. 4, 2017 (AP): The Ohio Supreme Court is hearing the city of Dayton's appeal of a law strictly limiting red-light and speed cameras in a case with statewide implications.

The court on Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2017, will hear

arguments for and against the law that bans the use of red-light cameras without an officer present.

The court also has appeals on the same issue from Springfield and Toledo.

Ohio 2nd District Court of Appeals rejected Dayton's appeal in 2015, saying the

new law doesn't violate the city's home-rule authority.

In passing the 2015 bill, legislators argued the cameras were a cash-grab for cities.

Dayton installed the cameras in 2002 to ticket drivers running red lights. It expanded the program in 2010 to catch speeders.

Governor signs bill boosting Ohio's addictions fight

COLUMBUS, Jan. 4, 2017 (AP): Ohio Gov. John Kasich has signed a bill expanding the use of an anti-overdose drug as part of the state's fight against the addictions epidemic killing thousands each year.

The bill the Republican governor signed Wednesday

afternoon will make the antidote naloxone, sold as Narcan, available to schools, homeless shelters, halfway houses and treatment centers.

The bill also requires thousands of pharmacy technicians to be registered by the state for the first time.

The state pharmacy board

says pharmacy technicians were responsible for a third of about 140 pharmacy drug thefts over the past three years.

Ohio saw a record 3,050 overdose deaths last year. Many of those deaths were attributed to painkillers and heroin abuse.

Have kids? Consider 'ACT: Raising Safe Kids'

Another session of "ACT: Raising Safe Kids" will begin January 24, 2017, at Children's Resource Center [1045 Klotz Road, Bowling Green]. The free course teaches parents with young children positive forms of discipline and how to deal with tantrums and fights.

Endorsed by the American Psychological Association, ACT: Raising Safe Kids has been taught all over the country. It has become so popular in Wood County that CRC offers it year-round.

The class will meet every Tuesday from 5:30-7:30 PM from January 24 to March 14.

Child care and a family meal are provided during each free session.

Most adults—whether consciously or not—fall back on their parents' child-rearing style when raising their own children. But that may not be the best choice for their kids. ACT (Adults and Children Together) Raising Safe Kids helps moms and dads find alternatives to the parenting style they have "inherited" from their parents.

An independent study performed by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that graduates of the course used less harsh discipline and benefited from the support of their classmates in the course. "ACT: Raising Safe Kids" recognizes that children "live what they learn." It is never too early to learn peaceful ways to resolve conflicts.

To register for the class, contact Kristen Junga or Pam McKinley at Children's Resource Center, 419-352-7588.

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New Job & Family Services Director appointed

TOLEDO: On Monday, January 9, 2017, the Board of Lucas County Commissioners unanimously approved the appointment of Michelle Niedermier as the new Job & Family Services Director. Ms. Niedermier has served as interim director since August of 2016 and has been employed at Lucas County Job and Family Services since July 2005.

Ms. Niedermier began her career at Lucas County Job and Family Services in July of 2005 as a Fiscal Manager and has a Master's Degree in



Michelle Niedermier

Organizational Development from the Bowling Green State University. Before being selected as interim director, Ms. Niedermier served as Deputy Director of Fi-

nance and Operations at Lucas County Job and Family Services.

Job & Family Services is the largest agency under the authority of the Lucas County Commissioners with over 400 employees and a budget of approximately \$40M, and is responsible for administering the provision of a variety of services, including temporary cash assistance, food assistance, Medicaid, and the establishment and enforcement of child support orders. She is scheduled to begin her new position immediately.

Gosling: Debbie Reynolds fue inspiración de "La La Land"

PALM SPRINGS, California, 3 1 17 (AP): Ryan Gosling dijo que Debbie Reynolds fue una "inspiración" para el elenco y el equipo del aclamado musical "La La Land".

Gosling agradeció a Reynolds "por su maravillosa trayectoria" al

recibir un premio del Festival de Cine de Palm Springs el lunes por la noche. El actor agregó que el elenco y el equipo de la película veía todos los días a Reynolds en el musical clásico de 1952 "Cantando bajo la lluvia" para inspirarse.

Gosling calificó a

Reynolds "como un verdadero talento sin paralelo".

Reynolds murió el miércoles a los 84 años, un día después que su hija la actriz Carrie Fisher, quien falleció a los 60. Según reportes Fisher había sufrido un infarto cuatro días antes.

Pumas busca romper ayuno de triunfos en casa de Chivas

Por CARLOS RODRÍGUEZ, Associated Press

CIUDADDEMÉXICO, 5 1 17 (AP): Pumas procurará romper un ayuno de más de tres décadas sin ganar en Guadalajara, cuando visite a un reforzado Chivas en el choque más prometedor por la primera fecha del Clausura 2017, que arranca el viernes con la visita del Querétaro al Veracruz.

Los universitarios, que el torneo pasado fueron eliminados en la primera ronda de la liguilla por el eventual campeón Tigres, no salen con el puño en alto de Guadalajara desde 1982, una racha que incluye tres derrotas en fila en sus últimas al estadio de Chivas.

"Sé lo que representa el partido, pero sé que en México cualquier equipo es complicado. Si me toca jugar ante Chivas quiero estar a la altura", declaró el chileno Nicolás Castillo, uno de los refuerzos de Pumas para el Clausura. "Vengo a aportar lo más que pueda, estoy en condiciones para jugar".

En el primer torneo con Juan Francisco Palencia

como su técnico, los universitarios lograron meterse a la liguilla, donde cayeron ante Tigres.

Chivas, que sufrió la misma suerte al ser eliminado en cuartos de final por el América, logró reforzarse con el fichaje de Rodolfo Pizarro, uno de los volantes jóvenes más talentosos en el país.

"Rodolfo se está adaptando bien y entre todos tenemos que ayudarlo para que pueda rendir", dijo el entrenador argentino del "Rebaño Sagrado", Matías Almeyda. "A nosotros nos interesa arrancar el torneo con el pie derecho, ganando en casa y estamos preparando todo para llegar de la mejor manera".

El partido será el sábado por la noche en el estadio Chivas.

Ese mismo día, un renovado Cruz Azul buscará dar el primer paso para romper una racha de cinco torneos sin clasificar a la liguilla cuando reciba a Necaxa.

La "Máquina", que nunca había estado ausente tanto tiempo de la pelea por un campeonato, abrió la cartera este torneo para fichar al

ecuatoriano Ángel Mena, al argentino Gabriel Peñalba, al chileno Martín Rodríguez y al uruguayo Martín Cuateruccio.

Además, el equipo ahora será dirigido por el español "Paco" Jémez—que asume el timón en relevo de Tomás Boy, cesado poco antes de terminar el Apertura 2016.

"Queremos que este equipo sea la representación de un equipo grande y que se manifieste como tal en la cancha y que brinde más satisfacciones que decepciones", dijo el presidente deportivo de Cruz Azul, Eduardo de la Torre. "La plantilla de Cruz Azul será una de las primeras cuatro del fútbol mexicano".

Necaxa, que ascendió a la máxima categoría el verano pasado, fue una de las sensaciones de la temporada pasada y se clasificó hasta semifinales.

El partido es el sábado por la tarde en el estadio Azul de la capital.

En otros encuentros: Morelia-Tijuana, Tigres-Santos, León-Pachuca, Toluca-Atlas y Puebla-Monterrey.

Film francés "Django" iniciará festival de cine de Berlín

BERLIN, 4 1 17 (AP): El Festival de Cine de Berlín ha elegido "Django", una película francesa sobre el guitarrista de jazz Django Reinhardt dirigida por Etienne Comar, para iniciar la edición de este año el mes próximo.

El estreno mundial de "Django" dará inicio al festival el 9 de febrero,

informaron los organizadores. Es la ópera prima como director de Comar, quien ganó fama como guionista y productor de "Of Gods and Men" y "My King", entre otras películas.

La película narra la fuga de Reinhardt desde el París de la ocupación nazi en 1943. El director del festi-

val, Dieter Kosslick, dijo que "el peligro constante, la fuga y las atrocidades cometidas contra su familia no pudieron obligarle a dejar de tocar".

El Oso de Oro, premio principal del festival, será otorgado el 18 de febrero por un jurado que preside el cineasta holandés Paul Verhoeven.

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Toledo's Club Taino, Clevelanders celebrate '3 Kings'

By Kevin Milliken, La Prensa Correspondent

In Toledo, roughly 100 couples and their families celebrated one of Puerto Rico's most popular holiday traditions Saturday evening Jan. 7, 2017 at the annual *Three Kings Day Celebration*. *Club Taino Puertorriqueño* hosted its 21st annual observance of *Día de Reyes* at L'Ambiance Banquet Hall.

"We've never been formal. Look around and you'll see we are so informal and that's the way we like to keep it," said *Maria González*, who organizes the event each year. "It's like a family gathering. People bring dishes and share and just come and have a good time, see their family again. It's always been big."

The evening consisted of a potluck dinner, a raffle, a Three Kings play involving Puerto Rican children, and a dance.

Cleveland-based *Sammy DeLeón Orchestra* provided the music. The event was remarkable from the number of young couples who attended.

"You can ask any new kid who grows into this has played the part of one of the kings, San José, or the Virgin Mary at one point," said Ms. González. "As adults, some of them already bring their kids now. It's become quite a tradition and we want to keep it that way. Its whole purpose is to teach them the tradition."

Older Latinos traditionally have had trouble keeping their cultural traditions alive with younger family members who assimilate into U.S. life. But Ms. González stated attendance at events like the Three Kings celebration has been treated as an

expectation, not a choice among families. She admitted that has helped to keep such a tradition alive for so long, as well as giving the younger adults roles in setting up the event and helping to cook the meal.

While Northwest Ohio's Puerto Rican population will never match Lorain or Cleveland in sheer numbers, Toledo is drawing a larger number of families in recent years.

"When we came to Toledo, we thought we were the only family in town," said Ms. González. "Little by little, they started to come out. We started identifying them and getting together with the picnic, doing the celebrations and they started coming out. I estimate we now have 100 families in the Toledo area. Toledo itself is growing."

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.

"It is a wonderful tradition. It is a beautiful celebration. We have the original foods from the islands, including roasted pork," said Ms. González as she rattled off dish after dish.

Sammy DeLeón returned to Toledo to play the Three Kings celebration for the third time with an eight-piece orchestra. DeLeón, 55, was born and raised in Lorain, but now calls Cleveland home after living short stints in both Puerto Rico and Florida. He even brought along the national instrument of Puerto Rico—a *cuatro*, or ten-string

guitar, which is shaped more like a violin and much smaller than a traditional guitar.

"It's got a unique sound. People look at it and wonder what the heck it is," explained DeLeón with a laugh. "Whoever made that couldn't count."

DeLeón started playing music when he was 13 and plays timbales while leading the orchestra.

The ensemble was a little smaller than his usual 11-piece orchestra, but consisted of two trumpet and trombone players, two percussionists playing timbales and congas, a piano player, a guitarist and two singers. The group played some of its signature salsa music, along with some traditional Puerto Rican Christmas carols for the crowd. Ironically, his lead singer's name is Noel.

"I thrive on getting out and seeing the audience dance," he said. "That's what

makes me move. I see the people get up and moving, that gets me moving more. I want to give them my all. Give them everything I've got."

The *City of Cleveland* celebrated *La Fiesta de Reyes* on Friday, January 6th at *Buhrer Dual Language Academy*, 1600 Buhrer Ave.; its main promoter was the *Spanish American Committee*.

According to the Buhrer website, "*Buhrer Dual Language Academy* is one of *CMSD's* [Cleveland Metropolitan School District's] high performing school choices in a growing portfolio of quality school options, dedicated to the success of every child we serve...."

"All classes are taught in English and Spanish, and Buhrer students become proficient in both. They also graduate with high school credit in Spanish I.

"While Buhrer is unique in its two-language approach, it uses widely accepted methods that spur student achievement in all subjects, including math and science. Buhrer has demonstrated its overall success through an Effective rating on the Ohio Report Card."

Its principal is *Michele Sánchez*, with Dean of Student Engagement *Senaida C. Pérez*.

Sixty new Internships created for LCCC students

An anticipated 60 new, paid internships will be created during the 2017-2018 academic year at *Lorain County Community College (LCCC)* thanks to a two-year, \$127,020 Career Ready Internship Grant from *Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation & Affiliates*.

"Internships are an important avenue for students to apply what they have learned in class in real work situations," said *Marcia Jones*, manager of LCCC's Career Services. "It's also a great way for graduates to get a foot in the door at a local company. About 67 percent of students who participate in internships get hired by the same employer."

"Paid internships benefit students, colleges and employers," said *Richard D. George*, Great Lakes

president and chief executive officer.

"Students gain meaningful workplace skills and are more likely to earn degrees and use their internship experiences to help secure good jobs upon graduation. Colleges will see increased completion and job placement rates, and employers gain a pipeline to fresh talent. It's a win-win-win."

LCCC is one of 16 two-year institutions across Arkansas, Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, and Wisconsin that received a combined \$2.1 million to create over 1,000 internships. It is only one of three community colleges in Ohio that received the grant. LCCC will collaborate with businesses and nonprofit organizations to provide the greatest number of current

and future students with an educational opportunity they might not otherwise have.

"With this two-year Career Ready Internship grant, LCCC students nearing graduation will gain valuable work experience with local non-profits," said Ms. Jones.

LCCC will spend the spring and summer of 2017 on administrative planning, employer outreach, and student recruitment, and will begin placing students in paid internships in September 2017. The Great Lakes grant period continues through May 2018.

For additional information, visit: home.mygreatlakes.org.



Tri-C hosts 40th Annual Dr. King Celebration on Jan. 15

Jan. 9, 2017: *Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C)* will host its 40th annual birthday observance of *Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.* from 2:30-5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 15, at the *State Theatre at Playhouse Square*.

The Tri-C celebration is the longest-running MLK event hosted in Cleveland. The tradition began in 1977, six years before the federal government designated a day to honor the slain civil rights leader.

"Cuyahoga Community College understood early on the importance of honoring Dr. King's dream of civil rights and racial harmony," Tri-C President *Alex Johnson* said. "His words and vision continue to resonate with us today."

The remembrance will feature performances by pastor and gospel singing icon *Marvin L. Winans* and the *Cleveland Philharmonic Orchestra*, as well as scholarship presentations and student speeches honoring Dr. King.

The event also will celebrate the 50th anniversary of *Carl Stokes'* election as mayor of Cleveland. The historic vote in 1967 overturned racial barriers and made Stokes the first African-American to be elected mayor of a major American city.

A yearlong commemoration of Mayor Stokes and his brother, Congressman *Louis Stokes*, will take place this year to honor their civic contributions and build on

their legacy.

An audience of more than 3,000 people is expected at Sunday's program, which will fill the historic downtown theater. The event was moved to *Playhouse Square* from Tri-C's Metropolitan Campus to accommodate a larger audience.

Leon Bibb, a news anchor and award-winning journalist at WEWS Channel 5, will serve as emcee of the event. In 1978, Bibb interviewed James Earl Ray — the convicted assassin of Dr. King — in a Tennessee penitentiary.

All available tickets for the observance have been distributed. The State Theatre is located at 1519 Euclid Ave. in Cleveland.



guitar, which is shaped more like a violin and much smaller than a traditional guitar.

"It's got a unique sound. People look at it and wonder what the heck it is," explained DeLeón with a laugh. "Whoever made that couldn't count."

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Cleveland Clinic doctors perform revolutionary brain surgery

CLEVELAND, Jan. 5, 2017 (AP): Doctors at the Cleveland Clinic have performed what is believed to be the nation's first deep brain stimulation surgery in an effort to better assist the recovery of stroke patients.

The six-hour procedure was conducted on Dec. 19 as part of a clinical trial

examining whether the surgery has the potential to improve movement in patients recovering from a stroke.

Electrodes connected to a pacemaker device were implanted in a part of the patient's brain known as the cerebellum. The device produces small electric pulses that research has shown can

help people recover control of their motor skills.

Dr. André Machado, leader of the surgery team and chairman of the clinic's Neurological Institute, called the surgery an opportunity to allow patients to rehabilitate and regain function, therefore gaining their independence.

Billy Joel to perform at Cleveland Indian's ballpark

CLEVELAND, Jan. 5, 2017 (AP): Billy Joel is set to headline a show at the Cleveland Indians' ballpark this summer.

Officials said Thursday that the 67-year-old singer-songwriter will be performing at Progressive Field on July 14. Cleveland.com re-

ports this will be Joel's first musical performance at Progressive Field. His opening act hasn't been determined. Joel was inducted into the Cleveland-based Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1999.

He had opened at the then-Gateway Plaza Arena in 1994 and returned on the

20th anniversary of that performance to play to a sold-out show in 2014.

The upcoming show was announced by officials with the Cleveland Indians, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and concert promoter Live Nation.

Tickets go on sale Jan. 13.

Calling all MMS Cinco de Mayo contestants

LORAIN: Mexican Mutual Society is looking for little girls to run for *Cinco de Mayo Little Queen for 2017*. *La niña* must be of Mexican descent, between the ages of 5 to 9, and live in Lorain County.

The *Little Queen* will reign in the annual *Cinco*

de Mayo Parade, which is being handled by 6th Ward Councilman, Angel Arroyo Jr. and promises to be bigger than ever and takes place on May 6, 2017. The Coronation follows.

Any family interested in having their little girl run for

Queen, should call Marie Leibas at 440-288-0144 for more details and to register. If any group, drill team, organization is interested in being in the parade, can also call Marie.

Deadline to register is February 3rd.

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"SAVE THE CLUB!" CAMPAIGN

January 2017

FUNDRAISER EVENT CALENDAR

Public Welcome!

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

CELEBRITY BARTENDER EVENT

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

January 13, 2017. Pepe Rivera, Pacha and Antonio Barrios, popular WDLW Radio personalities.

January 20, 2017. Santana Brothers, Checo and Steve, aka "Las Moscas".

January 27, 2017. Director Victor Leandry and Manny Pedraza, Lorain El Centro.

February 3, 2017. Cheryl Giardini, owner of "Broadway Mercantile" in Downtown Lorain.

CALL FOR LITTLE QUEEN CONTESTANTS FOR 2017 CINCO DE MAYO CELEBRATION!

Continuing a 42 year tradition, MMS is seeking contestants for the CINCO DE MAYO LITTLE QUEEN who will reign over the Fiesta on May 6, 2017. The little girl MUST be of Mexican descent, between the ages of 5 to 9 yrs. old and live in Lorain County. Registration deadline is February 3, 2017. For further details and to register a child, call the Pageant Director, Marie Leibas @ 440-288-1044 or email leibasmarie@yahoo.com

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY PARTY! February 5, 2017

Come cheer on your favorite team! Enjoy the evening watching the Super Bowl on the BIG SCREEN, possibly the biggest TV screen in Lorain County! Doors open at 5 pm.

2017 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Mexican Mutual Society's membership drive is in full swing! The MMS is a non-profit organization and is sustained by fundraisers and private donations. **YOUR MEMBERSHIP KEEPS THE MMS ALIVE!** "Social Membership" is **ONLY \$10**. "Active Membership" available to persons of Mexican descent is \$15 which allows for a vote on Club issues. Applications are available at the Club.

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

Fundraiser Events are OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!



Mentee Isaac Anaya with Victor Ruiz of Esperanza. Mychal Lilly photo.

Esperanza launches Mentoring Program

CLEVELAND, January 5, 2017: Esperanza, Inc. has launched its *College Mentoring Program* to help improve the success of area college students. The program, funded through a grant from the *Business of Good Foundation*, will match up to 100 students with Cleveland area mentors to help navigate the cultural, academic, financial and career challenges of the college years.

The launch party for the *College Mentoring Program* was held at the *Ariel International Center* to help celebrate January as *National Mentoring Month*. The event enabled over 60 students and mentors to meet for the first time in a fun, interactive environment to help start a positive relationship.

Designated as well-known *Dynamic Duos* (i.e. Batman and Robin, Peanut Butter and Jelly, Barack and Michelle.), students and mentors, upon arrival, were given a paddle with their characters so they could then search for their "corresponding duo." The event was sponsored by Esperanza, the *Business of Good Foundation*, *Ariel International Center*, and *A Diamond Touch Photo Booth*.

"We have made great strides in improving high school graduation rates of Hispanic students, seeing

it more than double in the last five years," said Victor Ruiz, Executive Director of Esperanza, Inc. "However, we are not seeing that same success in college. Hispanic students often face unique cultural, family and financial issues that make them far less likely to succeed in college than their peers."

According to Esperanza, high school graduation rates for Latino students more than doubled, from 30 percent to 64 percent since 2011. The graduation rate for students who participate in the Esperanza's mentoring, tutoring and leadership programs is over 97 percent. However, college success among Latino students still lags other groups, with Latinos more than one third less likely to graduate with a degree.

"Education is a pillar for building stronger communities, so we need to give students the right tools to ensure success" said Bill Leamon, Managing Director of The *Business of Good Foundation*. "Positive mentor relationships affect all aspects of life—academic, social, health and community involvement. Mentors not only help an individual student succeed in college, but motivate them to reach out and help others in the community."

Young adults who face an opportunity gap, but who have a mentor, are 55 percent more likely to be enrolled in college. They are also 78 percent

more likely to volunteer, 130 percent more likely to lead others and 90 percent more likely to look to mentor others.

"Mentors provide young people a guarantee there is someone in their corner who cares about them and assures them they are not alone in dealing with the day to day challenges of college life," Ruiz said. "Mentor relationships help uplift and empower students so they stay on the pathway of hope and receive that college degree."

The *College Mentoring Program*, which is part of Esperanza's strategic plan to improve post-secondary success, matches students and mentors based on areas of study and interests. All volunteer mentors participate in a special training program to help build strong, positive relationships with students.

Students and mentors are encouraged to develop regular, ongoing communication throughout the year, to meet at least twice per year and participate in events organized through Esperanza.

Participation in Esperanza's mentoring program is still open to area college students. Interested students can register at: <https://americamentors.mentorcliq.com/enroll/esperanza-mentoring-program>, or contacting Mentoring Program Manager, Elaine Suarez, at Elaine@esperanzainc.org



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Pressure on Obama to grant last-minute pardons, commutations

By JOSH LEDERMAN and ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON, DC, Jan. 5, 2017 (AP): Under mounting pressure to free convicts as a last act, President Barack Obama is planning at least one more batch of pardons and commutations before leaving office in two weeks, but don't expect many famous offenders to make the list.

The list of bold names appealing to Obama for compassion in his final weeks includes: accused leaker *Chelsea Manning*, former Illinois Gov. *Rod Blagojevich*, Army Sgt. *Bowe Bergdahl*, and supporters of *Edward Snowden*, to name a few.

Yet White House officials say Obama's final grants are expected to remain focused on the non-violent drug offenders he's sought to help during his second term.

That's a contrast with former presidents like *Bill Clinton*, who ignited a major controversy with a last-minute pardon for fugitive financier *Marc Rich*, the ex-husband of a major Democratic fundraiser. But Obama has viewed clemency as a tool to promote policy goals, not to "clean out the barn" on his way out, said the officials, who requested anonymity to discuss internal White House deliberations.

"The process that I put in place is not going to vary" at the end, Obama said in August. He said he'd make the calls "based on the merits, as opposed to political considerations."

Presidents have two clemency options: *commutations*, which reduce sentences being served but don't erase convictions, and *pardons*, which generally restore civil rights—like voting—often after a sentence has been served.

Earlier in his presidency, Obama was unsatisfied with the cases he was receiving, officials said, and so in a 2014 initiative the Justice Department created specific criteria focusing on nonviolent individuals like drug offenders who have served 10 years and, if convicted under today's more lenient sentencing guidelines, would have received shorter sentences.

All told, Obama has granted 1,176 commu-

tations and 148 pardons—fewer pardons than some presidents, but more commutations than any other, the White House said.

Obama's goal in taking on the commutations project was to spur action in Congress on a criminal justice overhaul. That seemed initially promising, but the momentum petered out.

"It's politically risky. You commute somebody and they commit a crime, and the politics of it are tough," Obama has said.

Some commutation recipients have had firearms violations related to their drug crimes. A handful were unrelated to Obama's criminal justice push but received clemency as part of diplomatic deals with *Iran* and *Cuba*. The more recent batches have included some that met the spirit—but not the letter—of Obama's guidelines, such as people who have served eight or nine years, but not 10.

Mary Price of the advocacy group *Families against Mandatory Minimums (FAMM)* said Obama's commutations had increased awareness about decades-long sentences for drug crimes.

"I think that that's very positive," Price said, though she added she would have liked even more.

There will be a backlog of applicants when Obama leaves office, officials said, just as a backlog awaited Obama. But most whose cases won't be resolved are people convicted of serious crimes like murder. Rather than expend limited resources issuing formal denials, the administration focused on approving those eligible under Obama's guidelines.

A look at the higher-profile cases vying for last-minute clemency:

EDWARDS-SNOWDEN:

The former National Security Agency contractor took secret documents and leaked them, revealing massive post-9/11 domestic surveillance programs in the U.S. government. He fled to Hong Kong, then Russia, to avoid prosecution, and a recent congressional report said Snowden remains in contact with Russian intelligence services.

Snowden hasn't formally petitioned for a pardon, the Justice Department said, but his supporters and the *American Civil Liberties Union* have been calling for one. Yet Obama takes a dim view on Snowden. He told the German newspaper *Der Spiegel* last month he was disinclined to consider a pardon request until Snowden returns to the U.S. to face charges.

ROD BLAGOJEVICH:

The former governor of Illinois has petitioned Obama for a commutation of his 14-year sentence, being served at a minimum-security federal prison in Colorado. But it's unlikely that Obama would grant it, given Blagojevich's involvement in an effort to trade an appointment to Obama's former Senate seat for campaign cash.

CHELSEA MANNING:

The ACLU and LGBT groups have lobbied Obama to commute Manning's sentence. The transgender soldier leaked classified government and military documents to WikiLeaks, and has since tried to commit suicide at least twice. Manning is serving a 35-year sentence, at Fort Leavenworth in Kansas.

BOWE BERGDahl:

The U.S. Army sergeant could garner some sympathy from Obama, given that an Army Sanitary Board Evaluation concluded that Bergdahl suffered from schizotypal personality disorder when he left his post in Afghanistan in 2009. Obama hasn't commented in detail on Bergdahl, who has said he left his post to alert higher-ups to problems with his unit and faces desertion and misbehavior charges.

Bergdahl was captured and held by the Taliban and its allies for five years. Two soldiers who went searching were seriously wounded. Obama exchanged Bergdahl in 2014 for five Taliban prisoners. Because of his military involvement, both the Justice Department and Defense Department must evaluate Bergdahl's pardon request.

Translations, TV show connect a city's Latino community

By REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

SIoux FALLS, S.D., January 1, 2017 (AP): When Sioux Falls resident *Alex Ramirez* sees a news story or city announcement—he it about road closures or building collapse—he makes a copy, translates the text into Spanish and posts it on Facebook for free.

He and a friend also bought TV air time recently and produce the only community-oriented Spanish-language show in South Dakota's biggest city, where Latinos make up about 5 percent of the population.

At first, his goal was to inform non-English speakers and connect them to organizations and government services. But with the hostile immigration rhetoric of President-elect Donald Trump causing some to feel unwelcome in the U.S., Ramirez says his work also is about unity.

"It is very important that we stick together," said the 49-year-old, who legally emigrated from Mexico when he was 17, "and if for some reason we can't find support from other people, we have to find it among ourselves and do business with each other and help each other in our community."

Yeshua Prestan, a Colombian native who moved to the U.S. as a refugee and is now a citizen, barely understands English and is visually impaired. He sometimes asks his children to read him the Facebook posts—which recently have detailed a planned listening session with Sioux Falls' mayor, the weather forecast and road closures following the collapse of a three-story building downtown.

"That's information that I couldn't access, not even in

English, because I can't read," Prestan said in Spanish.

It used to be a challenge for him to find useful, reliable information because he can't watch TV and the information offered by some print outlets is "very basic" or about topics that he is "sincerely not interested in," he said.

Some cities, including Minneapolis, use a Google service to provide an approximate translation of their website's content. In Sioux Falls, an executive order requires the use of a certified translation service if content has to be produced in a language other than English. If a resident needs urgent assistance with language translation, the city can get an interpreter via phone, assistant city attorney Ryan Sage said in a statement, and if it's "for a meeting or appointment at a future time or date," an in-person interpreter is provided in most cases.

The 30-minute TV show, which airs Friday nights, has featured segments with a Spanish-speaking physician who addressed the consequences of poorly treated diabetes and a police officer who—in Spanish—gave viewers tips about how to interact with officers if a language barrier exists.

Ten episodes have aired since October, all with subtitles in English to make it accessible for Latinos who don't speak Spanish and subtitles in Spanish when interviewees speak English.

Ramirez and his friend, *Raúl Guajardo*, maxed out their credit cards to buy air time for a year. But they also received a \$6,000 grant from the regional health care system Avera Health, whose vice president of public relations, Lindsey Meyers, said was done to help improve "access and

information for underserved audiences."

That money was used to partially repay themselves, buy needed equipment and pay two anchors. Guajardo is an anchor, but unpaid.

Ramirez is a native of Mexico's western state of *Michoacan*. He still remembers his first days at a high school in Berkeley, California, where he didn't understand a word his teachers and classmates were saying. These days, he owns a multimedia services company and sits on the boards of multiple organizations.

Ramirez hopes the TV show and Facebook page will help better expose the Sioux Falls area to the diversity of Latinos. Prestan noted that many falsely assume they are all Mexicans and, in his experience, treat people poorly if they hear Spanish being spoken.

"It is as if one were from another planet or another galaxy, and then they think that we've come here to steal from them," he said.

With Trump soon taking office, many Latinos are worried about the future because many don't fully understand how the federal government operates and how immigration laws are enforced, Ramirez said. He sees his projects, which also reach parts of Iowa and Minnesota, as a way to keep people connected and stem their fears.

"We talk to them about the community and how the community works, and we make them feel a little better because we let them know that not just because he is going to be the president, he is going to change the way we do things here in our community," he said.

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US Rep. Becerra nominated for California attorney general

JONATHAN J. COOPER, Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif., Jan. 3, 2017 (AP) — Gov. Jerry Brown on Tuesday nominated **Xavier Becerra** to be California's next attorney general, beginning what is likely to be a smooth confirmation for the longtime Democratic congressman who has taken a combative stance against President-elect Donald Trump.

The state Legislature will have 90 days to confirm Becerra, who was nominated the same day **Kamala Harris** resigned from the post to take her seat in the U.S. Senate. She was elected in November.

Becerra, the highest-ranking Latino in Congress and a prominent surrogate for Democrat **Hillary Clinton**'s presidential campaign, has represented parts of Los Angeles for 24 years but faced a less appealing future in Washington, DC following

Trump's election.

As Brown's pick for attorney general, he has promised to defend California's liberal policies on recreational marijuana, climate change, health care, immigration and criminal justice.

The state Assembly will begin Becerra's confirmation process with a committee hearing Jan. 10, said **Kevin Liao**, a spokesman for Democratic Speaker **Anthony Rendón**.

Last week, the Assembly Committee on the Office of the Attorney General asked Becerra to detail his plans to tackle issues including immigration, civil rights, the environment, policing and consumer protection.

Plans for Senate committee hearings are still in the works, said **Anthony Reyes**, a spokesman for Democratic Senate President **Pro Tem Kevin de León**.

Rendón and de León have

both spoken highly of Becerra as an experienced and tenacious public servant.

Becerra lives in Los Angeles but recalled last month growing up in Sacramento as a son of poor, hard-working immigrants. He noted that he was the first in his family to graduate from college, obtaining both bachelor's and law degrees from **Stanford University**. He said his goal is to offer the same opportunities to others.

Becerra worked as a deputy attorney general for three years before beginning his political career as a state assemblyman in 1990. He was elected to Congress in 1982.

Before resigning, Harris named **Kathleen "Kate" Alice Kenealy** as acting attorney general until the position is formally filled.

Alan Bannister rejoins Mayor's team

Jan. 9, 2017: Alan Bannister rejoined Toledo Mayor **Paula-Hicks-Hudson**'s team in his former position of executive assistant. He will be working to increase civic engagement, small business, and smart cities initiatives in Toledo. According to the mayor, Mr. Bannister will also guide a new focus on performance.

Bannister has been away from the mayor's office since he resigned June 17, 2016 to take on another role. In the interim Chief of Staff **Mark Sobczak** and Chief Operating Officer **Eileen Granata** took on his responsibilities in addition to their own, thus reducing salary costs in the mayor's office for six months.



UT president, Toledo mayor encourage community to attend MLK Unity Celebration

University of Toledo President **Sharon L. Gaber** and Toledo Mayor **Paula Hicks-Hudson** invite students and families throughout the northwest Ohio region to the **2017 Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Celebration**.

The theme of the 16th annual event on Martin Luther King Jr. Day is "Reconciliation through Service: Education, Social Justice and Religion," named in honor of the three pillars that defined the philosophy of the civil

rights leader who created a nonviolent social movement that changed the course of US-American history.

The **Unity Celebration**, which is free and open to the public, will take place 9 a.m. Monday, Jan. 16, 2017 in **Savage Arena** on the UT Main Campus. A free community luncheon will follow the ceremony.

The keynote speaker is **Donzaleigh Abernathy**, award-winning actress and daughter of civil rights icon **Ralph David Abernathy**. She

published a book about the friendship between her parents and the Kings titled "Partners to History: Martin Luther King Jr., Ralph David Abernathy, and the Civil Rights Movement."

The **Unity Celebration** will feature performances by the **Scott High School** marching band, UT gospel choir, **UT Fire Squad dance team** and students from Toledo School for the Arts, as well as recognition of MLK Scholarship recipients and African-American Leader-

ship Council of United Way Scholarship Awards.

This year **Martin Luther King Jr. Day** also kicks off a week of service events for UT students. Throughout the week students are volunteering at local agencies throughout the city, including the **Friendly Center**, **Padua Center** and **J. Frank Troy Senior Center**.

In addition, UT is partnering with the United Way of Greater Toledo and other local colleges and universities for service activi-

ties throughout the month.

"We are proud to commemorate the life and legacy of Dr. King by working together and helping serve others," Gaber said. "Selfless acts of generosity combined with conversations about issues that in the past have kept us separate will allow us to celebrate our differences."

"Through meaningful work and 'Reconciliation through Service: Education, Social Justice and Religion,' we can make real our cel-

ebration of Dr. King's life in 2017 and beyond as we strive as individuals and as a city to define ourselves by these peaceful and powerful activities," Hicks-Hudson said.

The **Unity Celebration** is organized by a committee with co-chairs Dr. **Willie McKether**, UT vice president for diversity and inclusion, **Linda Alvarado**, executive director of the Board of Community Relations for the City of Toledo, and Pastor **Christopher Rowell**.

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**Environmental Public Health Sanitarian
Williams County Health District**

The Williams County Health District is seeking qualified candidates for the
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Applicants must have at least a bachelor's degree in a science related field
and meet the requirements of the Ohio State Board of Sanitarian Registration.

All candidates must hold a current, valid Ohio driver's license and have
access to a dependable motor vehicle.

Primary job responsibilities will include evaluation and design of septic
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monitoring existing septic systems, well installation and sealing approvals, and
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Starting salary is dependent on qualifications. The Williams County Health
District offers a comprehensive benefit package including medical, vision and
dental insurance, enrollment in OPERS, and paid time off for vacation, sick leave,
holidays and personal days.

Interested candidates must submit a cover letter and resume to Brad A. Price,
Director of Environmental Public Health at brad_price@williamscountyhealth.org
or by mail to Williams County Health District, Attn: Brad Price, PO Box 146,
Montpelier, Ohio 43543.

Position open until filled.

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Child and Adolescent Services Director

The Lorain County Board of Mental Health seeks a full-time Child and
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nate program development, funding and evaluation of the mental health system
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development and maintenance of a high quality integrated system of mental health
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and adolescents via audits, analysis of data and review of reports submitted by
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The full job description and application are available at: <http://lcbmh.org/casdirector>

Send completed applications and résumés to Patrice McKinney at
pmckinney@lcbmh.org or at 1173 North Ridge Rd. East, Suite 101, Lorain, Ohio
44055. The deadline to apply is January 27, 2017.

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A MANDATORY review session will be held for all applicants after which online applications will be available.

APPLICANTS MUST ATTEND THE REVIEW SESSION TO APPLY.

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 United Way of Greater Toledo (Rooms A & B)
 424 Jackson Street, Toledo, OH 43604

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 for Homeless Service Providers
 Friday – January 27, 2017
 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
 Toledo Business Technology Center (Conference Room B, 4th Floor)
 1946 N. 13th Street, Toledo, OH 43604

*For information on eligible CDBG activities for Non-Homeless Service Providers, please visit the City of Toledo website at: <http://toledo.oh.gov/services/neighborhoods>

**For information on eligible ESG/CDBG activities for Homeless Service Providers, please visit the Toledo Lucas County Homelessness Board (TLCHB) website at: <http://endinghomelessness Toledo.org>

For additional information or reasonable accommodations, please contact: Department of Neighborhoods at (419) 245-1400 and ask for Administrative Analyst II, Monica Brown.

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