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Patrick Merrick

Judge in L.A. orders halt to Trump's ban for immigrant visa holders

By AMANDA LEE MYERS and CARA ANNA, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 10 (AP)—A federal judge in Los Angeles has ordered the U.S. government to allow people holding immigrant visas from seven majority-Muslim nations into the United States despite President Trump's executive order banning them.

In a temporary restraining order issued late Tuesday, Judge Andre Birotte Jr. ordered the government not to cancel any validly obtained immigrant visas or bar anyone from the seven nations holding them from entering the U.S.

But it was unclear whether the order will have any effect. The State Department ordered all visas from the seven countries revoked on Friday, and the government has maintained that orders similar to Birotte's do not apply because the visas are no longer valid.

The State Department declined comment Wednesday on Birotte's order, saying it does not comment on pending litigation.

Stacey Gartland, a San Francisco attorney who represents a 12-year-old Yemeni girl whose parents and siblings are U.S. citizens living in California, acknowledged Wednesday that her client and hundreds of others with immigrant visas still may not be allowed in the U.S. under Birotte's order, but said she's optimistic.

"This court order is a major victory and definitely gives us a path forward," Gartland said. "It's just a matter of getting it into the right hands of someone who'll obey the court order."

Julie Goldberg, the Los Angeles-based immigration lawyer who filed the lawsuit that prompted Birotte's order, is trying to arrange flights for dozens of Yemeni citizens who have immigrant visas and are stranded in the tiny African nation of Djibouti,

including the 12-year-old girl Gartland represents.

Gartland said two major airlines have turned them down but they are trying to work with smaller airlines that will follow Birotte's order.

"These are all children, parents and the spouses of U.S. citizens," Goldberg told The Associated Press from the Horn of Africa nation, emphasizing that those stranded are not refugees, though Yemen is engulfed in civil war. They received visas last week, she said.

University of Toledo and Mohamed Mosleh Jeran

Mohamed Mosleh Jeran is one of the many waiting. After his family's home was blown up in Yemen's conflict, he and his wife and two young children spent two years in Djibouti. Last month, their younger son died during what should have been routine surgery.

Last Thursday, the family received their U.S. visas and looked forward to joining Jeran's father, a U.S. citizen, in New York City.

But Trump the next day announced his executive order suspending immigration from seven majority-Muslim countries. On Saturday, Jeran's family was turned away at the Turkish Airlines check-in counter, Goldberg said. A spokesman for the airline did not respond to a call for comment.

"Finally I am leaving Djibouti, but in my heart I was upset, I lost one of my kids," Jeran recalled to the AP. "But what can you do? This is life. I was happy my wife and son were leaving Djibouti, finally." But when they were turned away, "my wife, she was like a child, crying, my son, too."

Jeran has been accepted to the University of Toledo to begin a masters' program in March, Goldberg said.

"It's super frustrating," she said. "They're running out of money. Djibouti is very ex-

pensive. They can't go back to Yemen, they would be killed."

Yemen has been gripped by conflict since 2014. A Saudi-led coalition, backed by the United States, has been carrying out an air campaign against Iranian-backed Houthi rebels for nearly two years. Many Yemenis have fled on boats across the Bab al-Mandab strait to Djibouti or other Horn of Africa countries.

In the United States, relatives of the stranded Yemenis are anguished.

Esam Molhi and his wife, both green card holders from Yemen, now fear leaving for Djibouti to reunite with their 3-year-old daughter because Trump's order might keep them from returning home.

The girl was born in Yemen, and the U.S. Embassy there refused to let her fly with her mother to join Molhi in the U.S., Goldberg said. The family has been pursuing a U.S. visa for the girl since then.

The child is staying in a rented room in Djibouti with her Yemeni grandfather. Molhi told the AP from his home in San Francisco, where he works as an Uber driver. He has not yet seen her in person, and his wife has not seen her since she was a month and a half old.

"This is unfair," Molhi said of Trump's order. "I want him to feel as I feel, you know?"

The U.S. Embassy in Djibouti has posted an urgent notice online telling people, including those with dual nationalities, from the countries affected—Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen—not to schedule visa appointments or even attend existing visa appointments.

Associated Press writers Alicia Caldwell in Washington, D.C. and Suzan Fraser in Ankara, Turkey, contributed to this report.

Analysis: 2016 was busiest year for targeted refugees

Feb. 2, 2017 (AP)—President Donald Trump's executive order temporarily banning refugees and immigrants from seven predominantly Muslim countries has put a spotlight on those immigrant communities across the country.

The U.S. has taken in nearly 270,000 immigrants and refugees from the affected countries since 2007, according to an analysis of U.S. State Department data by The Associated Press.

Not surprisingly, many of the most populous states have taken in the largest share. California has accepted the most, by far, a total of 56,235. It's followed by Michigan, Texas, Arizona, New York, and Illinois.

Florida, the nation's

third most populous state, ranks somewhere in the middle, having accepted a little more than 5,000 immigrants or refugees from the seven countries. Yet of those, nearly 30 percent have arrived in just the past 13 months.

The AP analysis found that 2016 was the busiest year in the past decade for refugee arrivals from the seven countries targeted by the executive order—Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen.

Some 43,259 refugees from the countries arrived in the last year, more than a third from war-torn Syria. The number of Syrian refugees dramatically increased in recent years—from just 26 in 2007, to 247 in 2014 and to 15,479 in 2016.

Even within states, the distribution of refugees is typically concentrated to a

few communities. Suburban Detroit, for example, gets the majority of Michigan's Syrian immigrants. In California, the most popular destination for Iranians, immigrants from that country mostly go to Southern California, with large concentrations in Los Angeles and Orange County. And yet the Central Valley farming town of Turlock, with a population of 73,000, has an outsized proportion of Iranians. It took in 1,175 over the 10-year period, more than double the number going to San Diego.

For Somalis, Minneapolis and Columbus, Ohio, are the most common destinations.

Libya and Yemen have produced the fewest number of refugees, a total of just 143 over the last decade.

Jersey City mayor signs 'sanctuary city' executive order

JERSEY CITY, N.J., Feb. 3, 2017 (AP)—New Jersey's second-largest city is reaffirming its place as a sanctuary city for people living in the country without documentation.

Jersey City Mayor Steven Fulop on Friday signed an executive order outlining a policy for the city's police department

and other agencies to work with the immigrant community.

Fulop's office says the order will prevent city resources from being used to enforce federal immigration law in a city in which 40 percent of the population is foreign-born.

The term "sanctuary city" refers to communities that do not cooperate with

federal immigration officials.

President Donald Trump signed an executive order that referred to withholding Justice Department and Homeland Security funds from towns that bar local officials from communicating with federal authorities about someone's immigration status.

Chicago's racial wealth gap worse than national average

CHICAGO, Jan. 31, 2017 (AP)—A nonprofit wealth-building organization says about 65 percent of African-American, Latino, and Asian households in Chicago would be thrown into poverty within three months if the breadwinner loses their job.

A report by Washington-based Corporation for Enterprise Development asserts the divide between the incomes of white households and minority households is wider in Chicago than in the nation as a whole.

Dedrick Asante-Muhammad of CFED says the huge divide is due to Chicago's

white households being wealthier than the national average. He adds the city's African-Americans are significantly less wealthy than the national average.

The median income of whites in Chicago is \$70,960

compared with \$56,373 for Asians, \$41,188 for Latinos and \$30,303 for blacks.

Asante-Muhammad notes white households have recovered more than minority households from the 2008-09 recession.



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Cortes de Inmigración de EEUU se concentrarán en detenidos

Por ALICIA CALDWELL y AMY TAXIN

WASHINGTON, DC, 21 17 (AP): Las cortes de inmigración de Estados Unidos cambiarán de proceder para concentrarse más en audiencias de deportación de inmigrantes encarcelados por el gobierno federal. La nueva política dará menos prioridad a los casos de menores y familias detenidas en la frontera entre México y Estados Unidos y después liberados.

La magistrada presidenta de Inmigración, *MaryBeth Keller*, emitió el martes un memorándum en el que dijo que la máxima prioridad de los jueces de Inmigración será agendar audiencias rápidas para cualquiera que esté detenido. Eso podría liberar espacio en un sistema carcelario para migrantes que ya sobrepasa con creces su capacidad, señalaron abogados del sector.

Aunque los inmigrantes encarcelados siempre han tenido prioridad, el gobierno de Barack Obama también hizo que los jueces procesaran con más rapidez los casos de menores y familias que habían cruzado la frontera con México, en un intento de disuadir más llegadas.

La medida ocurre días después de que el presidente, *Donald Trump*, anunciara planes de intensificar la aplicación de las leyes de inmigración y aumentar las detenciones. El cambio en los tribunales permitirá al gobierno centrarse en la deportación de migrantes encarcelados para liberar espacio en el sistema

penitenciario. En medio de una oleada de decenas de miles de inmigrantes llegados a la frontera en los últimos años, el retraso en los tribunales especializados ha superado los 533.000 casos. El volumen del trabajo atrasado implica que muchos inmigrantes podrían esperar años a tener una decisión judicial definitiva.

No está claro que los casos vayan a procesarse más rápido con el nuevo sistema, señalaron abogados especializados en inmigración o si la lista de migrantes esperando una cita en el tribunal sólo seguirá creciendo.

Los tribunales migratorios siempre han dado prioridad a esos casos y deben "adaptarse ante los cambios de panorama", dijo *Lauren Alder Reid*, portavoz de la Oficina Ejecutiva de Revisión de Inmigración.

La orden de redirigir las prioridades actuales se emitió unos días después de que Trump firmara una orden ejecutiva indicando a los agentes de inmigración que centren los esfuerzos de seguridad en muchos más inmigrantes que viven en el país sin permiso de residencia, incluido cualquier detenido por un cargo penal o con antecedentes penales.

Un segundo decreto ordenaba a los agentes de Seguridad Nacional que detengan a los migrantes descubiertos cruzando la frontera de forma ilegal y los retengan hasta que puedan ser deportados o un juez decida

sobre su destino.

"Va a tener detenido a todo el mundo", dijo *Annalisa Padilla*, abogada de inmigración en California. "Aquí no hay nada sobre acelerar o sobre que la gente tenga su debido proceso judicial".

La decisión de Trump de detener a más gente que cruza la frontera requiere más espacio en prisiones. El gobierno tiene dinero suficiente para mantener a 34.000 personas retenidas en cualquier momento, aunque en los últimos meses ha habido miles de detenidos más.

El gobierno busca la forma de ampliar las plazas, indicó el martes el director en funciones de Servicio de Control de Inmigración y Aduanas de Estados Unidos, *Thomas Homan*.

El Departamento de Seguridad Nacional no respondió en un primer momento a un mensaje dejado el miércoles.

Padilla dijo temer que el cambio implique que los menores no acompañados con casos sólidos se queden atrapados por las demoras.

Por su parte, la abogada de inmigración *Meeth Soni* dijo creer que las autoridades migratorias quieren acelerar los casos de personas detenidas para liberar espacio en las cárceles.

"En anticipación de un incremento en las detenciones, y de esos procesos, básicamente van a tener que hacerlo una prioridad para el tribunal", comentó *Soni*, abogada del *Immigrant Defenders Law Center* en Los Ángeles.

Exitosa aceptación de identificación para los residentes de Detroit

Por: Isabel Flores, Corresponsal La Prensa

Detroit, MI, 31 17: A casi dos meses de que se comenzara a expedir la Identificación de Detroit, los resultados han sido muy positivos. *Raquel Castañeda-López*, Consejal del Sexto Distrito de la ciudad, dijo sentirse muy emocionada ya que en las primeras dos semanas se registraron más de 500 personas y el número sigue aumentando día con día.

Castañeda fue quien propuso esta iniciativa porque deseaba que todos los residentes se sintieran bienvenidos. "Estuvimos haciendo estudios y descubrimos que hay varios grupos en la ciudad que no cuenta con una identificación, lo que les impide acceder a muchos servicios. Es por eso que trabajamos con la comunidad, con un grupo de líderes de Nueva York y con el Consejal *Carlos Menchaca* de Nueva York, ya que ellos tienen una identificación, así que les expusimos nuestro deseo por crear el mismo programa en Detroit. Nos brindaron todo su apoyo y es así como ahora nosotros podemos brindar a nuestra comunidad la oportunidad de contar con una identificación".

Desde el 2014 se empezó a trabajar con esta iniciativa y el pasado 7 de diciembre se anunció de manera oficial el lanzamiento de la Identificación de Detroit. "Hemos tenido muy buena respuesta, los centros están llenos con gente llamando para sacarse su identificación, no importa si son inmigrantes o gente sin hogar, todas las personas son bienvenidas para obtener esta identificación, incluso los que no la necesitan; por ejemplo, yo obtuve la mía y mucha gente que ya cuenta con una identificación de Michigan la está tramitando por todos los beneficios que tiene en instituciones oficiales y descuentos en tiendas", destacó.

Las instituciones que la aceptan como identificación válida, son:

Departamento de Policía de Detroit, DTE Energy, DPS (Detroit Public School), Ciudad de Detroit (departamentos de Agua y Alcantarillado), One Detroit Union, Biblioteca pública, Centro Médico de Detroit (DMC), Centro de Servicios Sociales y de la salud en la Comunidad (CHASS),



Departamento de Parques y recreaciones.

Además se pueden obtener descuentos del 5% al 35% en diferentes establecimientos de la ciudad, entre los que se encuentran, salones de belleza, tiendas de novia, tiendas de ropa, centros de arte, librerías, agencias de carros, servicios de celulares, dentistas, electrónica, cines, gimnasios, florerías, pizzerías, restaurantes, mueblerías, servicios médicos, museos e instituciones culturales, farmacias, servicios profesionales, deportes, tours, entre otros más.

Todos los residentes de Detroit pueden obtener esta identificación, incluyendo las personas que no tienen hogar, inmigrantes sin importar su estatus migratorio, historial o creencia religiosa.

Los requisitos son los siguientes:

1. Presentar una identificación y prueba de residencia. Para lo cual se creó un sistema de puntos que se dividen en Categorías A, B y C y se deben acumular hasta 300 puntos. Los documentos de la categoría A valen 200 puntos, los de la categoría B de 50 a 200 puntos y en la categoría C se incluyeron los comprobantes de residencia de la ciudad de Detroit, por lo que todo el interesado debe presentar una identificación de la categoría A o B más un documento de la categoría C. En total deben acumular 300 puntos.

Por ejemplo, en la categoría A hay documentos con un valor de 200 puntos como pasaportes, licencia de manejo, matrícula consular, credencial para votar, entre otros. Mientras que en la categoría B la tarjeta de transferencia electrónica de beneficios (EBT), tiene un valor de 200 puntos. El acta de nacimiento, la tarjeta del seguro social, la carta de autorización ITIN, la licencia de matrimonio o de divorcio, entre otros, tienen un valor de 125 puntos. Y así sucesivamente hay diferentes documentos que se pueden presentar, por lo que se invita a visitar el sitio

[web http://detroitmi.gov/DetroitID](http://detroitmi.gov/DetroitID) para encontrar la lista completa de documentos.

2. Realizar una cita en el centro más cercano, a través de internet: <http://detroitmi.gov/DetroitID> o llamando al Tel. 1 800-408-1599

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3. Completar la solicitud, la cual obtiene directamente en el centro de atención.

La Identificación tiene un costo de \$25 dólares para personas de 18 años en adelante y de \$10 dólares para personas entre 14 y 18 años de edad y para adultos mayores de 62 años. La vigencia es de dos años y tiene un costo de renovación de \$10 dólares.

"Hay muchas barreras que enfrenta la gente cuando están tratando de obtener algún servicio o recurso de la ciudad, es por eso que queremos quitar esas barreras. Estoy muy orgullosa del resultado que hemos obtenido, estamos demostrando que la ciudad es inclusiva y nosotros celebramos la diversidad de nuestros residentes. Me alegra ver que nos estamos moviendo en esta dirección y lo seguiremos haciendo para el beneficio de nuestra gente, estamos trabajando duro para poder ayudar a la gente que de verdad lo necesita más", agregó el Consejal *Castañeda*, quien aprovechó para agradecer al grupo de la coalición de líderes comunitarios que ayudó a crear el programa, al Alcalde *Mike Duggan* y a todos que hicieron esto posible.

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Justice Sotomayor says universities need more diversity

By ED WHITE, Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Jan. 30, 2017 (AP): U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor on Monday said increasing diversity on college campuses is a key to diversifying society at large, noting that the number of black students at the University of Michigan is a "real problem."

Sotomayor received an honorary degree and participated in a forum about the future of university communities as part of a series of events celebrating the University of Michigan's bicentennial. Her visit occurred about three years after she wrote a vigorous dissent in a Supreme Court decision that upheld the state of Michigan's ban on race in college admissions.

Sotomayor, the first Latina on the Supreme Court and daughter of Puerto Rican-born parents, was asked by a moderator what a university will need to look like in the years ahead to be inclusive and

innovative.

"It's going to look a lot like Michigan," she said to applause, "but with even greater diversity."

The percentage of black undergraduate students at the University of Michigan has been pretty steady in recent years at less than 5 percent. Hispanics are 5.5 percent. White undergraduates are 65.4 percent.

The U.S. is "making large improvements toward" an equal society, Sotomayor said, but "we're still far from it."

"When you look at the number of African-Americans at the University of Michigan, there's a real problem," she said. "And why is diversity important? ... For me, the answer is quite simple: It's because until we reach that equality in education, we can't reach equality in the larger society. It starts here and it ends here."

Sotomayor said university President Mark Schlissel told her about Michigan's national rankings in a num-

ber of categories.

"You need to figure out how you engage everyone in receiving that quality education," she said.

Michigan voters in 2006 said race couldn't be used as a factor in admissions at public universities. In 2014, the Supreme Court ruled that the constitutional amendment was legal.

A university spokeswoman, Kim Broekhuizen, said getting more black students is "imperative" to making the campus more diverse and inclusive. She said the ban on using race as a factor in admissions is a hurdle.

The university has been sensitive to concerns that too few blacks are enrolled. In October, Robert Sellers was appointed as chief diversity officer as part of broader efforts to improve diversity. There's also an \$85 million, five-year plan in a number of areas, including recruitment and outreach.

Morris y Leuer guían a Pistons a triunfo sobre Timberwolves

AUBURNHILLS, 31117 (AP): Marcus Morris anotó 36 puntos, la mayor cantidad de su carrera, y los Pistons de Detroit contuvieron a los Timberwolves de Minnesota en una victoria de 116-108 el viernes.

Jon Leuer también registró la mayor aportación ofensiva de su carrera con 24 unidades para Detroit, que se apuntó el triunfo pese a que sus bases titulares Reggie Jackson y

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope se sumaron para acertar apenas cinco de 20 tiros de campo. Morris logró 13 de sus puntos en el tercer periodo.

Karl-Anthony Towns terminó con 24 tantos y 11 rebotes por Minnesota, y Andrewiggins añadió 21 unidades. Zach LaVine hizo 20 puntos por los Timberwolves.

Andre Drummond acabó con 12 tantos y 18 tableros a favor de los Pistons.

Detroit ganaba 92-82 en el último cuarto antes que una racha de 7-0 de los Timberwolves redujera la ventaja de los locales a tres puntos, pero los Pistons respondieron con un ataque de 10-0.

Morris rebasó la marca previa de su carrera de 34 puntos al anotar sus últimos dos tantos en tiros libres con 24,2 segundos restantes. Eso dio a Detroit una ventaja de 112-106.

Judge: Green card holders shouldn't be part of travel ban

DEARBORN, Feb. 3, 2017 (AP): A federal judge in Detroit says U.S. green-card holders shouldn't be affected by President Donald Trump's order temporarily banning refugees and immigrants from seven mostly Muslim countries.

The Arab-American Civil Rights League argued in the suit filed this week in

Detroit's U.S. District Court that the executive action is unconstitutional and targets immigrant communities. It represents about a half-dozen legal, permanent residents, some of whom have been turned away from U.S.-bound planes.

The restraining order released Friday from U.S. District Judge Victoria Roberts

covers legal permanent residents, not some others that also are part of the lawsuit. She says lawyers for the government clarified to her that the ban doesn't apply to "lawful" permanent residents.

Trump says the ban is about safety, not religion. It faces numerous legal challenges.

SDBA and 'Café con Leche' host Latino cultural event, Feb. 10—Part of DIA exhibit

DETROIT, Feb. 1, 2017: The Southwest Detroit Business Association (SDBA) and Café Con Leche has announced the free event, "Adventura de Café en Oaxaca," inside the Atrium at the SDBA beginning at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 10, 2017, located at 7752 W. Vernor Hwy., Detroit.

Guests will enjoy photographs, stories, chocolate and coffee from Oaxaca, a hub for food and culture in Mexico. The event is part of the Bitter|Sweet: Coffee, Tea & Chocolate exhibition at the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA), which explores how hot drinks like coffee and tea changed the drinking habits and social customs across the world.

"This event is a great way to share the important role that Mexico has played in shaping our world's history," said Kathy Wendler, president of the SDBA. "This history includes the diverse culture and community that makes southwest De-

troit such an important destination for our state and region."

Owners of Café con Leche—Jodi Carbonell and Melissa Fernández—along with Chris Hooten and local artist Lisa Luevaños traveled to Oaxaca, Mexico to document the lives of coffee farmers in the area. The group captured photographs and stories of the day-to-day duties that are crucial to ensure the growth of quality coffee beans. In addition to sharing photos and stories from their trip, the hosts will offer guests a sampling of chocolate and coffee made with fresh beans from Oaxaca farmers.

"I was struck by how integrated coffee farming was into the lives of the villagers," said Chris Hooten of Café con Leche. "Just as the plants were scattered around their houses and the trees of the valley are woven into the fabric of the forest, the cultivation of the coffee was woven into the economics of the area."

Oaxaca, Mexico is located in southwestern Mexico and

is a hub for food, history, music, and historic landmarks. Coffee farmers interviewed on the trip to the area formed a cooperative within their community to treat their coffee to a higher standard. The coffee from Oaxaca is used at Café con Leche, a coffee shop located in Detroit's New Center area, which promotes uniting the local community through authentic Latin drinks.

Adventura de Café en Oaxaca is part of the Bitter|Sweet: Coffee, Tea & Chocolate exhibition at the DIA, which is the first exhibition to activate all five of the senses. Learn how coffee, tea and chocolate have changed social customs across the world.

The exhibition at the DIA is complemented by events throughout the metro Detroit area that showcase how hot beverages changed the world.

The DIA exhibit—the Bitter|Sweet: Coffee, Tea & Chocolate—runs through March 5, 2017.

Access to Justice Awards Nominations

Nominations are being accepted for the 2017 Northwest Ohio Access to Justice Awards. Nominate individuals, organizations, and businesses for their extraordinary assistance in helping low-income northwest Ohio residents receive fairness and

equal justice and gain stability in their lives. The deadline for entries is Friday, February 17, 2017.

Nominations may be submitted for the Public Interest Law Award for attorneys and law firms, and the Community Advocacy Award for activism and

long-term enhancements for low-income area residents. Honorees will be recognized at the 2017 Access to Justice Awards Dinner scheduled for Wednesday, May 10 at The Pinnacle. The 2017 keynote speaker is activist Mia Birdsong.



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College & Career Readiness Summit at BGSU

By José Luna, TPS

On February 1st, at the Bowling Green State University (BGSU) Student Union, TPS Latino Students attended the First Annual College & Career Readiness Summit. In an effort to help kids understand their role in their future, a committee made up of individuals from BGSU Admissions, UT Pharmaceutical Admissions, Lourdes University, Toledo Public Schools' Career Tech Office, Scott HS Counseling, & Hispanic Outreach, and NW Ohio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce planned and ran the career event.

Over 140 students from grades 9-12 attended workshops aimed at giving students a greater understanding of how they can better

postsecondary experience for themselves.

Ninth graders worked with Ms. Crowl, Scott HS Counselor, on career investigation and listened to a presentation by *Rojelio Sánchez* on the Pitfalls youth can encounter that can impede their success.

Tenth graders attended a Career Day and the ECHHO College Fair.

Eleventh graders received a workshop on "How to Find the Right Postsecondary Program for Them". The program was run by Ms. *Lauryn Vargas* from BGSU Admissions and Ms. *Angela López* from UT Pharmaceutical Admissions.

Twelfth graders were privy to a workshop on "How to Write a Bio". This workshop was run

by Professor *Alina Rodríguez* from Lourdes University. Support and logistics was carried out by The Office of Hispanic Outreach-TPS, Adelante Inc., NW Ohio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, BGSU Admissions, and The Pipe Fitters Local 50.

Mrs. *Ursula Barrera-Richards* was the keynote speaker for the College & Career Readiness Summit. Her message to the students was that success is the result focused efforts & hard work throughout their high schools years and into adulthood. This event was yet another attempt to help students understand that career success is born through a continued process.

Sofia Quintero Center to expand Community Gardens in spring with BUGG

By Kevin Milliken, La Prensa Correspondent

It may be the middle of winter, but *Joe Balderas* is still the busiest guy at the *Sofia Quintero Art and Cultural Center (SQACC)*, simply because he's getting ready for spring. This is the time of year he and recent retiree *Arturo Quintero* spend a lot of time in SQACC's wood workshop—measuring and cutting, drawing and designing, painting and plotting.

The director of buildings and grounds has a lot more greenspace to work with this year, as the SQACC community gardens will take up a few more lots along the Broadway Corridor. The *Lucas County Land Bank* has awarded SQACC three land parcels and Toledo city government transferred the former *Jones Junior High School* site to the nonprofit group.

Balderas managed to save a couple of garages when houses were torn down on those sites. Those are now used to store large amounts of lawn and garden equipment, including a zero-turn mower.

A two-story garage is being converted into a wood shop, while a lower floor is used as a boat-making workshop for a juvenile court program. Balderas is in the process of refurbishing a fire damaged home that SQACC bought to use as its "garden house," which will include his office. SQACC replaced damaged insulation, redid the wiring, and put in new windows and siding.

"Sometimes it's a lot of fun and sometimes it's like, man, that's a lot of stuff," said Balderas. "But it keeps me alive, keeps me moving. Sometimes I come in, do my paperwork, and I'm off and running with the kids."

The 3.8-acre former school site will be known as the *Broadway Urban Garden Greenspace*, or *BUGG*.

There will be the middle of winter, but *Joe Balderas* is still the busiest guy at the *Sofia Quintero Art and Cultural Center (SQACC)*, simply because he's getting ready for spring. This is the time of year he and recent retiree *Arturo Quintero* spend a lot of time in SQACC's wood workshop—measuring and cutting, drawing and designing, painting and plotting.

Just by chance, there was a firm in that area cutting down trees, so I walked over to them and asked what they were going to do with that mulch," said Balderas. "They said they were going to just take it home and dump it. I told them I'd take it if they didn't want it. I told them to keep dumping it until I tell them to stop. They've dumped about 50 truckloads so far."

Balderas rattled off all the public gardens now under SQACC sponsorship, including a habitat garden, a rain garden, the SQACC garden next door to its event hall, a fruit orchard just off Western Ave., and a vertical garden, which last year boasted 1,000 strawberry plants.

The *BUGG garden* last year produced 2,400 pounds of fresh produce which was sold to the *Seagate Food Bank* to supply its clients with garden-fresh vegetables, including tomatoes, kale, peppers, okra, and other plants. The produce was picked on Tuesdays and Thursdays and delivered the same day to the food bank.

"These people were getting produce so fresh that it was on the vine just three hours before and now it's in their hands," said Balderas. "That's even fresher than the market. You can't get much fresher than that. We'll be doing that again this year."

In turn, all of the produce grown in the original SQACC garden is now dedicated to the teaching kitchen within the main center's rental hall. That commercial-grade kitchen, known as *Nana's Kitchen*, is used to teach

Latino families about healthier cooking and eating habits. That garden usually yields about 800 pounds of produce per season.

"Those are all big gardens. There's going to be a point where we say that's it," said Balderas. "You've still got to maintain all of it."

Much of the people-power to pick vegetables and maintain the garden comes from youthful offenders assigned by *Lucas County Juvenile Court*.

"The kids come and learn and they work. It's a social thing where they make friends," Balderas explained. "We actually pay the kids to learn and work. I call it 'learn and earn.' They get paid \$7.50 an hour and we cap it at \$400 to \$500 so we can get more kids coming in. Last year, 32 kids got to make some money—and the good thing is all that money gets put back into the local economy. They buy shoes, clothing, whatever. It's a win-win. The money just keeps circulating."

Balderas also tries to "color the gardens" with art to match the vibrant colors of the wall murals found throughout the Old South End.

"We'll be painting the raised beds again this spring so it's not just that wood-color look," he said. "We paint them bright reds and blues and greens. We'll put in some garden art. Some BGSU students last year painted the back of the garage—a picture of a bee and some people working in the garden. So it's colorful and we'll be adding more and more color to the garden. A garden is more than just different shades of green."

SQACC is seeking financial help for the labor to build the hoop-house. The nonprofit designated \$2,300 raised from produce sales to help fund the construction. But another \$3,500 in donations is needed to finish the job.

Need-based scholarships available thru NOSF

February 1, 2017: The *Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund (NOSF)* is accepting applications for the 2017-2018 school year for need-based scholarships for grades Kindergarten through eighth worth up to \$1,500 for children to use at a nonpublic school or \$500 for homeschool expenses.

Families need to reside in Allen, Crawford, Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Henry, Huron, Lucas, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, Van Wert, Williams, Wood, or Wyandot Counties.

NOSF is a partner with the *Children's Scholarship Fund* and awards need-based scholarships to provide parents with a choice for their child's edu-

cation. The *Children's Scholarship Fund* was founded in 1998 by the late Ted Forstmann and the late John Walton who saw a need for educational alternatives for families.

Since 1999, the Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund has awarded a total of \$12 million in scholarships to 14,000 students, part of that includes \$4 million in matching funds. All funds raised locally by NOSF are matched by the Children's Scholarship Fund and are used for scholarships in NW Ohio.

The Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund is the only privately funded need-based scholarship program in northwest Ohio that awards scholarships to children who other-

wise might not be able to afford private schools for kindergarten through eighth grade and who do not qualify for an Educational Choice Voucher. Eligible families are required to demonstrate their financial need as measured by standards similar to the Federal School Lunch program.

Interested families can find more information about the program on the NOSF website at www.nosf.org and apply online <http://tinyurl.com/NOSF17AP>.

For more information contact Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund at (419) 720-7048. Deadline to apply for the 2017-2018 school year is Friday, April 28, 2017.



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Federal judge rejects Ohio's new lethal injection process

By ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS, Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Jan. 26, 2017 (AP): Ohio's efforts to restart executions, including a law shielding the source of its drugs, hit a new setback Thursday as a federal judge declared the state's latest lethal injection process unconstitutional and delayed three executions, including one scheduled next month.

The ruling by *Magistrate Judge Michael Merz* in Dayton followed a weeklong hearing over the three-drug method Ohio planned to use Feb. 15 on death row inmate *Ronald Phillips*.

It was the latest in several delays over the years for Phillips, who in the past had his execution delayed by court rulings and by his request, ultimately denied, to donate organs to family members after his death.

The 43-year-old Phillips was sentenced to die for raping and killing his girlfriend's 3-year-old daughter, Sheila Marie Evans, in 1993.

The judge agreed with attorneys for Phillips and two other condemned killers that the first drug in the process, the sedative *midazolam*, couldn't pass a constitutional bar of causing "substantial risk of serious harm" previously set by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The judge also barred the state from using the second and third drugs in the protocol that paralyze inmates and stop their hearts.

Using those drugs is "completely inconsistent with the position" the state previously took when it announced it would no longer use them in executions, the judge said.

Lawyers for death row inmates successfully argued that a compounded dose of the anesthetic pentobarbital was "a sufficiently available alternative method" to satisfy the U.S. Supreme Court's constitutional test, the judge said.

Merz wrote that he recognizes yet another delay in executions does not serve the goal of crime deterrence through speedy executions.

"However, when executions are routinely delayed decades in Ohio, it is very debatable how much loss in

deterrence there is from waiting until a case can be tried on the merits," Merz said.

The state appealed Thursday afternoon to the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati. Messages were left with the attorneys representing the condemned inmates.

Executions have been on hold in Ohio since January 2014, when *Dennis McGuire* gasped and snorted during the 26 minutes it took him to die, the longest execution since the state resumed putting prisoners to death in 1999.

The state used a two-drug method with McGuire, starting with *midazolam* in its first use for executions in the country.

Ohio then discontinued that method, but it struggled to find new supplies of drugs as drugmakers placed them off-limits for executions.

In October, the prisons agency said it would use *midazolam*; *rocuronium bromide*, which causes paralysis; and *potassium chloride*, which stops the heart. The state hasn't said where it got the drugs.

Records show Ohio has enough on hand for dozens of executions. The state says that doesn't take into account the drugs' expiration dates and other factors.

The initial dose of *midazolam* would have been 50 times greater than that used for McGuire.

The state prisons director has also said Ohio is trying to buy supplies of a reversal drug if *midazolam* fails to properly render an inmate unconscious.

Attorneys challenging Ohio's new three-drug method said *midazolam* is unlikely to relieve an inmate's pain.

The drug, which is meant to sedate inmates, also was used in a problematic 2014 execution in Arizona. But last year, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the use of *midazolam* in an Oklahoma case.

The state said the three-drug method is similar to its past execution process, which survived court challenges. State attorneys also say the Supreme Court ruling last year makes clear the use of *midazolam* is allowable.

The leader of the state's

execution team testified on Jan. 4 that McGuire's execution was unlike anything he'd seen before.

The man testifying anonymously as Team Member No. 10 said he "was wondering what was going on" during the 2014 execution.

A second execution team member, identified as Team Member No. 21, testified that he didn't believe McGuire suffered.

Thursday's ruling also delays the March 15 execution of *Gary Otte*, sentenced to die for robbing and killing two people over two days in February in Parma in suburban Cleveland. It also delays the April 12 execution of *Raymond Tibbets*, sentenced to die for killing his wife and the man who'd let the couple stay with him in Cincinnati.

The State of Michigan does not have the death penalty.

Editor's Note: Ohio House Democratic Whip *Nickie Antonio* (D-Lakewood) issued the following statement today in response to a ruling by U.S. District Court Magistrate Judge Michael Merz that declared Ohio's new three-drug lethal injection process unconstitutional.

"When the proposed drugs for lethal injection are found to be unconstitutional because they may cause 'substantial risk of serious harm', it is immoral for the state to continue to fight to use them," said Antonio. "I believe it is long past time we abolish the death penalty in Ohio and replace it with a sentence of life without parole."

Antonio has repeatedly introduced legislation to end capital punishment and replace it with *life without parole*, citing research that shows the death penalty does not deter violent crime and is administered with disparities across economic and racial lines.

In the 131st General Assembly, she sponsored Ohio House Bill 289 with Dayton-area Rep. Niraj Antani (R-Miami Township) and plans to reintroduce the bill in the coming months.



OBITUARIES



RAYMOND S. PACHECO SR.

Raymond S. Pacheco Sr. of Toledo OH passed away January 25, 2017. He was born January 6, 1929 in Mexico. Raymond lived a full and rich life. He enjoyed a nice conversation with family and friends. His greatest wealth was the love he had for his family.

Raymond is survived by his dear wife, Alicia Pacheco, and their children, Alicia (Melvin) Peepers, Raymond (Tina) Pacheco Jr., Gloria (Paul) Rios, Linda (Oswaldo) Pacheco-Vera, Edward (Theresa) Pacheco, and Maria (Gregory) Cole; also surviving are many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mr. Pacheco was preceded in death by his sons Moises, Juan, and David Pacheco and daughters Cecilia and Rosario Pacheco.

Source: Urbanski Funeral Home; <http://urbanskifuneralhome.com/>

New study finds Michigan drivers are paying some of the highest auto insurance premiums in the nation

LANSING, Jan. 25, 2017: Michigan drivers are paying some of the highest auto insurance premiums in the country, according to data released this month by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC).

Michigan drivers, on average, paid \$1,350 in 2014 for their auto insurance premiums, almost twice as much as drivers in neighboring Ohio, Indiana, and Wisconsin.

"This study reinforces a harsh reality for drivers across our state: They pay some of the highest auto insurance premiums in the country," said Mark Fisk, spokesper-

son for the Michigan Insurance Coalition. "It also shows that Michigan's auto no-fault laws are in desperate need of reform to make car insurance more affordable for drivers across the state."

Michigan is the only state in the country that requires drivers to purchase unlimited, lifetime medical benefits with their auto insurance policy, driving up the cost of auto insurance premiums.

It's no coincidence Michigan also has one of the highest rates of uninsured drivers in the country. As many as 21 percent of drivers in the state don't have car insurance, either because they can't afford it or are choosing to pay

for other necessities like food, day care and housing. For some, their car insurance premiums are like a second mortgage.

"Our antiquated auto insurance laws haven't undergone significant reforms since they were enacted in 1973," said Fisk. "The Legislature must make common sense reforms to Michigan's costly auto no-fault insurance laws to level the playing field for all Michigan drivers."

According to NAIC data, drivers in Ohio paid \$766 for car insurance in 2014, Indiana drivers paid \$728 and drivers in Wisconsin paid \$716.

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MATIAS PONCE: Midwest Chicano stars in stage revival of 'Zoot Suit'

By Kevin Milliken, La Prensa Correspondent

The plotline of every Hollywood hopeful's dream sequence is playing out in real-life for a Toledo native who went to Los Angeles several years ago to pursue an acting career. While he initially sought TV and film roles, *Matias Ponce* now hopes the stage is where he'll find fame.

Every actor hopes for their big break, but usually ends up slogging through side jobs while honing their craft. Ponce has had his share of "side hustles" to make ends meet, but did get his big break when the leading actor in the play *Zoot Suit* abruptly quit. Ponce was his understudy for the role—and just days before the revival debuts—he finds himself in the lead role instead.

"I would consider this my first real break after being here for seven years," he said. "I caught a really big break—doing a really amazing, great play at the biggest theater in Los Angeles. What else more could I have asked for?"

The big break came just over a week before *Zoot Suit* opened on stage with previews this week, forcing Ponce to polish his lines, hone his character *Henry Reyna*, and stow away any nerves. Ponce had been focusing on his own role in the ensemble cast, a much smaller part with its own character and choreography to learn and perfect.

"There's a joke I say to myself—I feel like I have the whole weight of the Chicano culture of Los Angeles on my shoulders now because I have to represent the epitome of that," he

said with a laugh. "I'm just a kid from Ohio, from Toledo, man. Keeps me in check."

Zoot Suit became a smash-hit theater production in its initial 1978 stage run, later to become Broadway's first Chicano play and a major motion picture in 1982. Long-time, well-respected actor Edward James Olmos made the *El Pachuco* role famous, both on stage and in film.

Original director Luis Valdez is bringing back the play for a three-month run to L.A.'s Mark Taper Forum to celebrate Center Theatre Group's 50th anniversary. The stage production weaves fact and fiction together to portray the events surrounding the infamous 1942 *Sleepy Lagoon murder* and the subsequent *Zoot Suit* riots. A recent *New York Times* article describes the plot:

"A fantastical reimagining of the so-called *Sleepy Lagoon* murder case, in which 12 Latino youths were unjustly convicted by a biased judge, *Zoot Suit* features racist prosecutors and lovelorn kids, lively swing tunes and family squabbles. The infamous *Zoot Suit* riots, a series of racially motivated attacks against Mexican-American youths in the summer of 1943, figures in as well.

Looming over it all is *El Pachuco*, a mythical trickster figure who can stop time and materialize wherever he pleases (think *Prospero*, but with a lot more *panache*), and "The Press," a barking headline made flesh."

For Ponce, it's not only the role of a lifetime, but he finds a lot of personal satisfaction in it—because it's an important piece of recent *Chicano* history. He's been exploring his Mexican-American roots, so the stage play became a favorite long before casting took place.

"Growing up in Toledo and Ohio and being Mexican-American and being in the Midwest, I really didn't have a Chicano culture there," he said.

"I never really grew up with any of that until I moved to California. When I first got there, there was this sort of identity-searching. I'm third generation, but am I *Chicano*? Can I consider myself *Chicano*? At first, I really couldn't grasp the term until I understood what it was. Since I've been living here and since I'm involved with this play and this history, I feel a sense of responsibility to be honest and stay as honest as I can about portraying these young Mexican American kids, these young *Chicanos* growing up in the 1940's and during World War II."

Ponce readily admits he's a third-generation Mexican-American who took his heritage for granted while growing up. But he's traveled to Mexico several times to see his biological father and become more attune to his culture while working in Latino parts in theater and elsewhere.

"It's become an important issue for me," he said. "You have to know what's come before you. You have to know your ancestry. You have to

know your peers. You have to know your elders. If I'm able to learn about some of the first Mexican immigrants who came to the United States, I can better relate to all the *Angelinos* who were born here, grew up with that culture. I have a lot of close friends here now. I'm now among the *Chicanos*. I'm part of that culture now."

To this point, Ponce had still seen himself as a Hollywood outsider, someone who took a chance pursuing an acting career that may—or may not—bear fruit.

"Now that I'm doing this play, I definitely feel like I'm planting roots now," said Ponce. "This is from having the opportunity to be a part of this piece and how much it means to the city of L.A. and how important it is to the history and culture of this city. It's a very big deal for me and I've very fortunate and lucky and blessed that a kid from Ohio, Toledo of all places in the country, gets to portray the lead role in such an iconic play, an iconic piece of time that's still relevant."

Libbey High School Grad

The *Libbey High School* graduate pointed out it was a poignant time when Mexican-American kids were "just trying to grasp what it meant to be American" at a time when they were different "because your color was brown or your skin was black or you sound different when you spoke English because you have an accent." The "war hysteria" affected a lot of other minority groups because the Japanese were placed in internment camps stateside.

"That's a defining time for a lot of groups and specific types of people who were starting to plant the roots of what makes America so diverse," he said, likening it to the recent protests in the opening days of the Trump presidency and the social media outcry. "It cycles and repeats itself. It repeats itself in different forms and in different ways. But the issues are the same."

Ponce first read the script for *Zoot Suit* several years ago and saw the play performed in San Diego in 2012. Both the script and performance grabbed his attention quickly.

"My reaction was if this play is ever produced, which is rarely ever done, this is a play I have to get a chance to audition for," he said. "This is a play that has to be done within my lifetime before I get any older. If this happens, I better know about it."

The *Center Theatre Group* is comprised of three L.A. venues which have drawn some of Hollywood's biggest names to the stage over the past half-century. Ponce called it "L.A.'s version of Broadway."

"This is the pinnacle of doing theater in L.A. I've reached the highest that I can get in doing theater in L.A.," he said. "I'm pretty proud of that because I told myself I wanted to do one of these theaters before I turn 30. I'm 27 now."

Ponce describes the *Henry Reyna* role as a "troubled, brooding, very masculine *Chicano* man who is going through a trial for a crime he did not do." The character is based on an

actual man.

Sleepy Lagoon—which Ponce described as "kind of a *Lovers Lane*"—was where teens and young adults would hang out and have fun. A lot of the gangs would fight over it as part of their "territory." *Zoot suits* gave those young Mexican-American gang members identity

"The baggy dress pants, the high-waist belt, the suspenders, and the long dress coat that draped, the porcine hat, and just the coolness of that, what it was for them," he said.

Sofar, Ponce has had roles in an independent film and a Netflix movie, in addition to previous stage roles. He has taken up street photography as a money-making hobby to make ends meet.

"I've had those experiences, but nothing that's been satisfying artistically," he said. "I took a break from theater in 2014, because you're always broke, it's time-consuming, and nobody respects theater in L.A., nobody cares about theater in L.A. So I took a step away."

Ponce first heard about auditions for the play last summer, but didn't think he had a chance. But he knew a casting director and a member of the production team. He auditioned in September and had to go through four call-backs—two for acting and two for dancing, as the theater production relies heavily on swing dance numbers. He left for Mexico afterward to visit his father, then received an urgent call from his mom a week before Thanksgiving. He had to cut his visit short and scramble to fly back to Hollywood for one final audition.

"I went in, no pressure, just have fun doing what I love to do—even if it's for five minutes," he said. "I just did what I had worked on before and tried to be myself."

Rehearsals started Jan. 3 with a grueling six-day per week, eight hours per-day schedule, Broadway-style.

"This is my job full time right now, and I'm not complaining about it," he said. "The first two weeks were amazing—learning the choreography, blocking the scenes, meeting everybody table readings, breaking down the script, vibing off everyone's energy. It's a true ensemble piece. It was a rush."

The timing of the play itself is becoming more important—a historic look at turbulent times for immigrants. History seems to be repeating itself now, as the new Trump administration takes a tough stance on immigrants of many origins—Muslims and Mexicans, especially.

Ponce feels blessed to have the lead role while the play is being directed by the man who originally brought it to the stage nearly 40 years ago: *Luis Valdez*, who also directed the movie *La Bamba*, telling the life story of singer *Ritchie Valens* [née *Valenzuela*].

"This man is very revered



Photo by Scott Gleine

and he has a lot of history. He's a great person to really learn from and just soak in every word he says and everything he's teaching us about his philosophy about theater and his whole passion for this play," said Ponce. "This play is his baby. This is the play that brought him so much recognition. You don't get a chance like that very often."

The comparisons will never cease to the original stage play. In fact, the actors who originally portrayed *Henry Reyna* and *Della Barrios*, the young lovers at the heart of the play, this time around play *Henry's* (Ponce's) parents.

"I've never experienced anything like that before—ever. Here's an opportunity given to me—it's yours. This is what you've wanted for seven years—all that complaining, all that hollering and crying. You've got it, now what are you going to do with it?" he recalled telling himself, still sounding dumbfounded. "All of L.A. is going to be looking at me for the next three months."

According to the *NY Times* article, 800 Latino actors and dancers auditioned for the production. Ponce beat out that talented group for the central role. *Demian Bichir*, a star in his native Mexico before coming to Los Angeles, was nominated for an Academy Award for his role in the 2011 film "A Better Life." *Jeanine Mason*, a Cuban-American actress and dancer from Miami who plays *Della*, was the youngest competitor to win the Fox series' "So You Think You Can Dance."

"I don't really care about the outcome of it. I just want to do the work. I want to do my best, give it my all," said Ponce. "I also want to represent where I'm from—being from Ohio, being from Toledo, being Mexican American from the Midwest and enjoy the ride. Who knows what can happen after this run. If this thing goes to Broadway, I don't know what I would do."

For now, Ponce plans to take his big break, work hard, and run with the opportunity. At some point, he'll celebrate. But with just days to opening night, his sole focus is on his role in the play.

"This new year has been rewarding. I'm just fortunate and blessed to be where I am right now," Ponce said. "Sometimes we tend to forget the good things that we have, because we focus on all things we don't have. If I'm supposed to be the lead of this play at this moment, carry this role and be the heart of this play, then so be it. I'm going to give it my all, because this is what I came here to do."

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Cleveland Public Schools hosts Open House

By La Prensa Staff; photos by Mychal Lilly

The Cleveland Metropolitan Schools District (CMSD) showcased its education success stories during an Open House for parents/students on Feb. 1, 2017. Students were invited to consider their college or career choices at a High School Choice Fair, held at the Wolstein Center on the Cleveland State University Campus.

CMSD is offering open enrollment to all Cleveland High School students from now through March 13. Students were allowed to enroll in a school that offers career tech prep programs and curriculum options such as science and medicine, robotics, engineering, information

technology, health careers, visual/performing arts, culinary arts, environmental studies, civic and business leadership, and game design.

CMSD officials offered teens information on the district's growing portfolio of high schools, including three new facilities. School choice advisors were on hand to assist with enrolling students. Eighth graders in particular were urged to attend the fair to choose where they'll attend high school during the 2017-18 academic year.

Their high school choices included:

MC2 STEM High School, East Technical High School, Martin Luther King Jr. Career Campus, Bard High

School Early College Cleveland, Cleveland High School for Digital Arts, Cleveland School of the Arts, JFK Eagle Academy, PACT at John F. Kennedy High School, John Marshall School of Information Technology, John Marshall School of Engineering, Lincoln-West School of Science and Health, Lincoln-West School of Global Studies, Garrett Morgan School of Science, Max S. Hayes High School, Facing History New Tech, New Text East, New Tech West at Max Hayes, Whitney M. Young Leadership Academy (2-12), Glenville High School, and John Adams High School.



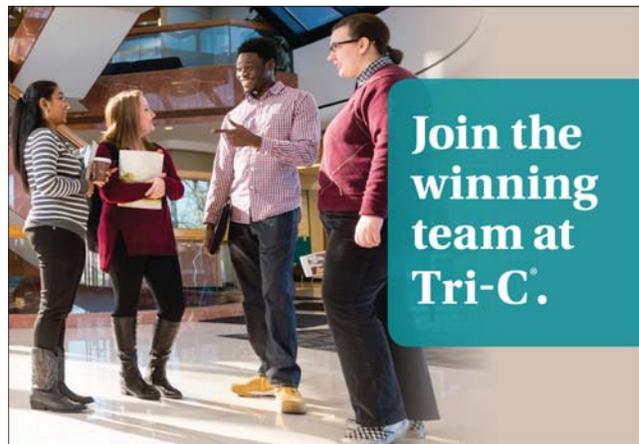
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Rotarians on Relief Mission, helping in Honduras

By Kevin Milliken, La Prensa Correspondent

Feb. 6, 2017: Nine members of Northwest Ohio Rotary clubs spent the week in Central America, helping with major projects at two orphanages in a poverty-stricken remote mountain village.

Phil Barbosa, who works in the Toledo Dept. of Neighborhoods, made his fourth journey, while Guisselle Mendoza-McDonald, Adelante, Inc. executive director, is on her first excursion to Honduras. Barbosa is representing the Swanton Rotary, while Ms. Mendoza-McDonald is a member of Toledo Rotary. Other members of the team come from those clubs, as well as Bellevue and Tiffin Rotary.

For Ms. Mendoza-McDonald, whose parents emigrated to the U.S. from Nicaragua when she was a young girl, the trip means a way to rediscover her roots and pay it forward for all the blessings she received as a U.S.-American. She became a U.S. citizen last year.

"Aside from it being rewarding and feels good, I feel like I have to do it. I feel like it's something I'm destined to do because I come from a poorer country and took advantage of the American Dream," she said. "We've stayed grounded and humble and speak the language. We didn't forget about what life was like in Nicaragua."

Ms. Mendoza-McDonald is a Toledo Rotary member. For many of the team members like her, the desire to help goes way beyond writing a check for a remote cause. They're hands-on people.

"With us donating shoes and clothes and other little things, it's going to carry them a long way," she said. "I have all these people in the group who don't speak the language, so I want to be doing the interpreting and translation and so they can do a good job of what we're intending to do. I hope it's not the last time, either."

"When you're asked, you just do," said Barbosa, now on his third mission trip. "You don't ask when, you just do. It's all about doing."

Barbosa particularly enjoys the relationship-building over the years with the children of the orphanage. He stated it's particularly gratifying to see them grow, develop, and start to thrive.

"They're a hoot. I don't dance. They always want me to dance," he quipped. "It's warmed up over the years. They've gotten to see me and know I'm coming back. It's hard, because there is, for me, a little bit of a language barrier still. But they're getting better at English. My Spanish is still pretty poor. But the last time we were able to use the *wifi* and go into Google Translate."

The girls want to help with the work, so Barbosa frequently is showing them what to do. By the end of the week, the young children have tugged at his heartstrings quite thoroughly.

"We hope we get everything

done, so we can just hang out a little more, playing volleyball and playing basketball, kid things," said Barbosa.

There are plenty of first-timers in the group who anxiously awaited what they would find in Central America once they arrived.

"I'm really excited. This is really my first time even really traveling out of the country," said Dan Skilliter, a Toledo Rotary member and co-owner of a marketing production and design company. "I've always had the desire to go internationally and do a mission trip and this one popped up at the right time in life."

"I've been wanting to go for many years, ever since I joined Rotary in 2012 and this is the first time the stars have aligned to allow me to go," said Andria Dorsten-Ebert, development director at Advocates for Basic Legal Equality (ABLE), whose goal is to brush up on her bilingual skills. "That's what I'm hoping, especially working at ABLE. I hope to use it more when I get back."

Ms. Dorsten-Ebert was a double major at Otterbein College in international studies and Spanish and chairs Toledo Rotary's international service committee.

"I am expecting to be just as transformed by the work I do there as I hope the people are by the gifts that we bring them and the activities that we do for them," she said. "I also appreciate we're working from one Rotary Club to another."

Houston to Honduras

The team flew to Houston, then Honduras, over the weekend, speaking with La Prensa by phone during various legs of the trip. The team will spend Sunday through Saturday on three projects.

"I certainly look forward to it, because the folks couldn't be more gracious," said Colin McQuade, a private-practice lawyer and judge for the eastern district court of Fulton County.

"I think we're helping. Over the years that we've been there, there's been a lot of strides, things that are cleaner, and they appreciate what we've been able to do. It may be the only time that they see an American and that's good for them to see."

"It's a very humbling experience. You're sometimes in a neighborhood where it's a block house, a corrugated steel roof, with a cistern on top to catch water so they can use their restroom facilities," said McQuade. "It's very humbling. They couldn't be more proud to give us a tour of their house, which is obviously very modest. The kids are always clean. They're a very proud people, no question about it."

"Just some self-satisfaction, knowing you're helping people who need help," said Steve Sas, 51, who owns a To-

ledo fire extinguisher distributorship and is on his sixth Honduras trip. "It's nice to help someone who wants to help themselves. It's very gratifying."

"I almost didn't come back because the first time was such an awesome experience and I didn't think anything else could live up to it," said Gina Reuber, a paralegal and a member of the Tiffin Rotary. "I came back with such a different perspective on life and I knew it would slip away. I want to go and get that back, because we just forget how fortunate we are here. I remember getting back and wondering why am I in a bad mood about anything? I want to keep that alive."

Sean McGhee, a project leader who has been on 30-plus trips to Honduras, travels to the region to do his "due diligence" and raise funds for each project trip. Most Rotarians pay their own way at a cost of \$1,200 to \$1,500 for hotel, airfare and other costs, but seven clubs across northern Ohio donated more than \$30,000 to fund the materials and other costs of this week's work.

"I'm always very blessed to go down with wonderful people that have put their faith in not only me, but our projects and the people we deal with down there, because it is strictly a leap of faith that you're going to be safe but productive," he said.

El Tapotel

The first project involves building a kindergarten in El Tapotel, creating two classrooms to move a preschool out of the main building, which is currently a K-8 school. This is the sixth school built by Northwest Ohio Rotarians. According to McGhee, enrollment runs from 60 to 90 kids at the preschool, ranging in age from three to seven years of age.

"If the parents don't send them, there's nobody telling them they have to go to school," said McGhee. "A lot of the kids that are in kindergarten are the ones who have come into the city from the mountains looking for jobs."

The second project involves upgrading a vocational program at a school that houses 1,000 students. The program teaches children how to raise tilapia and sell the fish. The money raised, in turn, is used to feed the student body in the morning. The waste products are then used to fertilize a vegetable garden, where beans and rice are raised for resale. A chicken coop will be built so students can add eggs to what they sell.

"It's one of our pilot projects to where we're looking to do more vocational projects there, so these kids can go out and create fish farms on their own, which raises money for their families," explained McGhee, who owns a financial planning firm in Sylvania Township. "At least they're acquiring some skills."

The third project will involve a kitchen upgrade at Casa La Niña, which has not had refrigeration for several months. The Rotarians also will help to upgrade the computer system at the school.

"Last time I was down there in May, they were just starting to teach the kids bilingual (skills)," said McGhee. "We're really excited to see what kind of progress they've made with that."

Barbosa stated one of the biggest challenges is tracking down the materials for the projects in-country. Many times it takes several trips to find everything needed to complete their work.

"There really isn't a traditional Lowe's or Home Depot," he said. "They do have True Value (hardware stores), but they don't stock lumber or certain items. It makes getting around a little more challenging and you're relying on someone else who must have a pickup truck."

The Northwest Ohio team will partner with the *Usula Rotary Club*, a 40-member group in nearby San Pedro Sula, which is in the northwest corner of Honduras. Those members will lend a hand on all three projects throughout the week. Many hands are needed, because of the lengthy trip across treacherous mountain terrain to reach the villages, which means each team member can put in about five hours of work each day before returning to a heavily-guarded hotel.

"I don't think I've seen it all and I hope I never see it all. Every trip is different. Every project is different. It's trying to do the best we can with what we have," said McGhee, a ten-year veteran of the Honduras trips. "The hospitality and the fellowship and the people of Honduras are absolutely wonderful. We look forward to more projects."



So what do team members say to critics who say they should take care of people on the home front first? Each Rotary member takes a much more global view to their responses.

"When you go down there and you see that their children only have one set of clothes and no shoes and there is no government aid and there is some representation of family, you know that the people are genuine and they actually do try to make a better life for themselves," said McGhee. "Here (in the U.S.) we have all kinds of help and down there, there basically is none."

"I do believe in taking care of the home front and something I spend a lot of my time on," said Skilliter. "But at the exact same time, there are amenities we have in the United States that some nowhere else in the world they don't have. Yes, there are issues at home but there are bigger issues abroad."

Each member of the work team will come back a changed person. Those who have been to Honduras before note that it's hard to leave.

"After I stop crying, I get anxious to get back to see my own family," admitted McQuade.

"You'd like to have one of them come home with you," admitted Sas, who has a grown daughter. "My wife always talks about it. I bring her a lot of pictures. Makes it tough leaving after that whole week. They're so needy and you know you could give them a much better life than they have. But it's just so difficult to do. Some other Rotarians have."

"It's a chance to make a

difference in the world. You really can change one person's life," said Chris Caputo, a Bellevue Rotary who owns a financial planning practice and is making his ninth trip to Honduras. "We come down here and we're hands-on. Every once in a while you find an individual here that you're able to do something for and next thing you know they're now a student in school or they're at a university and they have a career that they never thought they would dream of. Every time we leave there's a new story."

Editor's Note: Ms. Dorsten-Ebert, Ms. Mendoza-McDonald, and Mr. Skilliter, spoke at the Toledo Rotary's weekly luncheon at the Park Inn Ballroom on Feb. 6th concerning the trip to Honduras.

Andria Dorsten Ebert has a degree in International Studies and Spanish and has found a perfect fit for her Rotary service in the International Service Committee. Serving on the committee since joining Toledo Rotary in 2012, Andria served as the vice-chair in 2015-16 and is the current 2016-17 ISC chair.

Guisselle Mendoza-McDonald is a newer Rotarian, joining the club in June 2015, but dove into active service using her bilingual skills and Nicaraguan heritage to support the International Service Committee's projects in Central America.

Dan Skilliter is a 4th generation Rotarian. He joined the Toledo Rotary Club in 2011, served as chairman of the New Member Committee and has served on many other committees. Dan serves on the Foundation Advisory Committee and is a member of the Club board.

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Cleveland Foundation announces free skating in Public Square on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14

CLEVELAND: The Cleveland Foundation has announced it will present a free afternoon and evening of ice skating on Cleveland Foundation Skating Rink, to coincide with Valentine's Day. From 3 to 11 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2017, skaters will enjoy free skate rentals and a free 45-minute session on the ice, weather permitting.

Tickets are required and will be distributed at Public Square on Feb. 14 beginning at noon on a first come, first served basis; no more than 150 tickets will be distributed per time slot. Additional activities during the Feb. 14 free skate will be announced.

"The Cleveland Foundation Skating Rink on Public Square has proven to be one of

our community's top destinations during the winter months," said Romm Richard, President and CEO of the Cleveland Foundation. "We wanted to provide a chance for residents to celebrate their love for Cleveland by coming out and enjoying this vibrant gathering place in the heart of our city."

In November 2016, the Cleveland Foundation announced a \$100,000 grant to support ongoing community programming on Cleveland Foundation Centennial Plaza in Cleveland Public Square. The grant to the Group Plan Commission continued the foundation's support for the Square, including \$8 million for the transformation of Public Square and the creation of

Cleveland Foundation Centennial Plaza.

That same month, on Nov. 26, the foundation presented a free day of ice skating on Cleveland Foundation Skating Rink to coincide with the return of Winterfest in Public Square. More than 1,900 ice skaters took advantage of the free opportunity to enjoy the official opening of the skating rink.

The Cleveland Foundation Skating Rink will remain open for the season until Feb. 28, 2017 with skating available for \$10 per skater, which includes skate rental.

Additional information about Cleveland Public Square programming is available via: <http://www.clevelandpublicsquare.com>.

CIFF conversation on April 8 with A.O. Scott of the New York Times

Feb. 1, 2017: The 41st Cleveland International Film Festival has announced a CIFF Special Presentation: A One-on-One Conversation with A.O. Scott, which will take place Saturday, April 8th, 2017, at 2:30 p.m. at the Ritz-Carlton Cleveland.

The Plain Dealer's Joanna Connors will also participate in the hour-long program where Mr. Scott will discuss film, art, and the importance and evolution of film festivals.

Mr. Scott is the film critic at The New York Times, frequent contributor to the paper's Book Review and Sunday Magazine, and a constant champion of film festivals.

Tickets are \$35 and include a paperback copy of Mr. Scott's book, *Better Living Through Criticism: How to Think About Art, Pleasure, Beauty, and Truth*, which was published to wide acclaim in 2016. Mr. Scott will be available after the program to sign copies of his book (additional copies will be available for



purchase). Space is limited, so make your reservations by visiting clevelandfilm.org/presentations.

Mr. Scott will also be presented with CIFF's inaugural Distinguished Award of Appreciation on Sunday, April 9th as part of CIFF41 Closing Night Ceremonies.

Mr. Scott was selected to be the first recipient of this award as a tribute to his genuine appreciation of film festivals — a topic that Mr. Scott has often written from and about.

Anyone in attendance at any of the films showing on Closing Night is invited to attend the awards presentation program at Tower City Center.

The 41st Cleveland Inter-

national Film Festival, presented by Dollar Bank, will take place March 29th – April 9th at Tower City Cinemas and select neighborhood screening locations. CIFF41 program details will be announced on Friday, March 3rd at clevelandfilm.org.

Program Guides will be available at all Dollar Bank branches, and throughout the area, the week of March 6th. Tickets will go on sale to CIFF members on Friday, March 10th and to the general public on Friday, March 17th.

The Cleveland International Film Festival is supported in part by the residents of Cuyahoga County through a public grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture.

Tri-C Westshore Campus explores Hispanic customs, Feb. 15

WESTLAKE: The Westshore Campus of Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) will explore the vibrant Hispanic culture at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2017 as part of its Learning for Life lecture series.

The free program will examine Hispanic customs through dance, music, language, and culinary traditions while addressing how cultural misconceptions

can affect relationships and communities.

The session will be led by Alia Almashni, who works with Northeast Ohio businesses and organizations to teach cultural understanding. Almashni grew up in Puerto Rico and has taught Spanish at Tri-C since 2010.

The program will be held in room 112 of Westshore Campus, located at 31001

Clemens Road in Westlake. No registration is required.

Westshore Campus dedicated this year's lecture series to cultural compassion and understanding. Visit www.tri-c.edu/LearningForLife for a schedule of upcoming events.

For more information, contact Bhavna Thakkar at 216-987-5803 or bhavna.thakkar@tri-c.edu.



El Centro de Servicios Sociales

Upcoming Events

February 2016

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

February 7 – ESOL Orientation will be held at El Centro from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Orientation is required in order to attend ESOL classes provided by Lorain County Community College ABLE Consortium at El Centro.

February 21 - El Centro Food Pantry – In collaboration with Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio at El Centro from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Income eligible households (below 200% of the poverty level) are given one box of food on a first-come, first-served basis – FREE. Photo ID and proof of residency required. (This event occurs every third Thursday of each month at the same time)

For more information on any of these events please contact El Centro at 440-277-8235. Address: 2800 Pearl Avenue Lorain Ohio 44055

Tri-C wins 'Bellwether Award' for Workforce Development

CLEVELAND, Feb. 2, 2017: Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) won its first national Bellwether Award for the workforce development programs in place at its Manufacturing Technology Center of Excellence.

The honor recognizes College job-training initiatives designed to produce graduates in high-demand fields. The programs provide the skilled workforce needed to build the regional economy.

"Our goal at Tri-C is to be more than a training provider for industry," said William Gary, executive vice president of the College's Workforce, Community and Eco-



conomic Development division. "We want to be a catalyst for solutions to benefit all of Northeast Ohio."

The Community College Futures Assembly, which sponsors the Bellwether Awards, announced this year's winners Tuesday at its annual meeting.

The award highlights trendsetting programs that other colleges might find worthy of replicating. Tri-C is one of only three community colleges in Ohio named a Bellwether winner since the award debuted in 1995.

Tri-C was one of 10 Bellwether Award finalists in this year's Workforce Development category. Awards also were given in the categories of Instructional Programs & Services and Planning, Governance & Finance.

The Community College Futures Assembly meets annually as an independent policy think-tank to identify the critical issues faced by colleges and diverse solutions established by leading institutions.

In symbolic move, officials make Cincinnati 'sanctuary city'

CINCINNATI, Feb. 2, 2017 (AP): The city council has declared Cincinnati as a "sanctuary city," a label that isn't legally defined but typically indicates reduced cooperation with federal immigration authorities on some matters involving people who are in the U.S. without documentation.

It's mostly symbolic. Mayor John Cranley has said

Cincinnati has long welcomed immigrants and will continue to support them, but won't break federal law. Supporters and opponents of the move packed the council meeting.

The Cincinnati Enquirer reports one man urged the city not to jeopardize its federal funding. President Donald Trump has threatened to withhold money

from local jurisdictions that don't cooperate with federal immigration authorities.

WCPO-TV reports Cincinnati police indicated they won't enforce immigration laws, but the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office plans to continue detaining undocumented inmates if requested by federal authorities.

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EEUU, una nación de inmigrantes que reniega de ellos

Por **JERRY SCHWARTZ**, Associated Press

NUEVA YORK, 2117 (AP): Estados Unidos siempre se ha sentido una nación de inmigrantes. Un país que le abre sus puertas a todos, forjado por inmigrantes, que se identifica con el lema "e pluribus unum", o *unidad en la diversidad*.

La historia del país, no obstante, está llena de esfuerzos por cerrarle las puertas a chinos, europeos del este y del sur, y, más recientemente, a quienes vienen de naciones predominantemente musulmanas.

La relación de Estados Unidos con la inmigración es más bien compleja.

"Muchos de nosotros — políticos, gente que habla contra el impacto de las medidas del gobierno— decimos que 'somos una nación de inmigrantes y todo esto va en contra de nuestros valores más importantes'. Pero eso es totalmente falso", afirmó Erica Lee, directora del Centro de Investigaciones Históricas de la Inmigración de la Universidad de Minnesota. "También tenemos un largo historial de rechazar inmigrantes, denegarlos, construir muros. Esa es la otra cara de la moneda".

Said Mae Ngai, profesora de historia de la *Columbia Uni-*

versity y autor de "Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America", expresó: "Nos debatimos con estas cosas. Las dos tendencias siempre han estado presentes".

Los líderes de la era colonial sabían que necesitaban inmigrantes para poblar la tierra. Pero Benjamin Franklin refunfuñaba ante la perspectiva de que llegasen alemanes "impuros" (en el sentido de que no los consideraban blancos) y una ley de 1798 (Alien and Sedition Acts) hizo que resultase más difícil conseguir la ciudadanía y más fácil deportar

a los extranjeros considerados peligrosos.

Fueron todas medidas polémicas y la mayoría expiraron en pocos años, pero la ley sobre las deportaciones sigue vigente incluso hoy. Y su justificación — que algunos inmigrantes pueden ser intrusos peligrosos — ha sido invocada una y otra vez.

El surgimiento del "Know Nothings", un partido muy católico contrario a la inmigración en las décadas de 1840 y 1850, fue generado por el arribo de alemanes e irlandeses y el temor de que los católicos recién llegados fuesen fieles al papa e incapaces de aceptar los valores estadounidenses.

"Si reemplazas 'musulmán' por 'católico', lo que se decía entonces es muy parecido a lo que se dice hoy", comentó Lee.

En 1868 Estados Unidos firmó un tratado que alentaba la inmigración china. Veinticuatro años después, una ley conocida como la *Chinese Exclusion Act* rechazó a los inmigrantes de lo que ya era la nación más poblada del mundo. ¿Qué pasó en el interín? Los inmigrantes chinos que habían contribuido decisivamente a la conquista del Oeste empezaron a ser vistos como una amenaza, el "Peligro Amarillo".

Se mezclaron el temor y el fanatismo y en 1917 el Congreso aprobó una ley que requería que se tomase un examen de lectura y escritura a los inmigrantes. "Sabían que no podían decir 'que no vengan judíos e italianos'", pero ese fue el objetivo de la ley, sostuvo Ngai.

En 1921 y 1924, luego de la *Primera Guerra Mundial* y de la revolución rusa, se impusieron cuotas de extranjeros, que fijaban límites a la cantidad de gente que podía venir de determinados países. Se desalentó la inmigración de África y no se aceptó gente de Asia ni de los países árabes. También se redujo la llegada de europeos del sur y del este.

Se impidió al ingreso de refugiados judíos de Europa durante y después de la *Segunda Guerra Mundial*, primero por temor a que hubiese elementos proalemanes y luego por temor a que hubiese comunistas. "La historia no es benévola con esto, porque sabemos lo absurdo de todo", expresó *Rebecca Kobrin*, profesora adjunta de historia en Columbia.

A pesar de las suspicacias acerca de los inmigrantes, el país reconoce sus aportes, según *María Cristina García*, profesora de estudios estadounidenses de la *Cornell University*.

"Desde los comienzos de la república, se reconoció que los inmigrantes eran esenciales para la creación de una nación: Los inmigrantes cultivaron los llanos, trabajaron en las fábricas, construyeron calles, canales y las vías férreas. Extrajeron minerales, plantaron y cosecharon cultivos, ofrecieron servicios básicos. El gobierno y las empresas reclutaron mano de obra

extranjera para permitir el crecimiento económico", dijo García.

De un modo u otro, la inmigración pasó a ser parte de la historia del país.

"Es algo fundamental", dijo William Thiesen, un neoyorquino de 37 años que visitaba el Tenement Museum el martes. "Creo que ser estadounidense es ser inmigrante. Es la fábrica de la nación. Todos somos inmigrantes".

El escritor británico *Israel Zangwell* acuñó la frase "crisol de razas" en 1908, en una obra teatral. El protagonista, un inmigrante ruso judío, afirma: "¿Cuál es la gloria de Roma y Jerusalén, donde todas las naciones y razas vienen a adorar y mirar hacia atrás, comparado con la gloria de Estados Unidos, donde todas las razas y las naciones vienen a trabajar y a mirar hacia adelante!".

Más de 100 años después, y a pesar de algunos recelos de momento, ese sentir persiste.

"Estados Unidos ha sido el sueño de toda persona joven educada", afirmó *Sony Barua*, empleado municipal de la ciudad india de Licknow. "Sigue siendo la tierra de las oportunidades".

Entre octubre del 2015 y

junio del 2016 se recibieron más de 700.000 solicitudes de ciudadanía, un 25% más que en el año previo. Y Estados Unidos emitió más de 10 millones de visas en el 2015.

Pero el país es menos acogedor que en el pasado: En el 2010 un millón de inmigrantes obtuvieron la residencia permanente, la misma cantidad que 100 años antes, cuando la población era menos de un tercio de lo que es ahora.

La ambivalencia de Estados Unidos hacia la inmigración se refleja en la Estatua de la Libertad, que tiene en su base el poema de Emma Lazarus que dice: "Dadme a vuestros rendidos, a vuestros pobres, a vuestras masas hacinadas que anhelan respirar en libertad... Enviadme a estos, los desamparados, sacudidos por las tempestades".

La estatua, un regalo de Francia para conmemorar las revoluciones francesa y estadounidense, no obstante, "mira hacia la ciudad", dice Ngai, de Columbia. "No a los recién llegados".

El reporter de la *Associated Press* *Tim Sullivan* colaboró en este despacho desde Nueva Delhi.

Immigrant rights group files lawsuit against Trump ban

By **GILLIAN FLACCUS**, Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore., 2117 (AP): Immigrant rights groups filed a federal lawsuit Wednesday in Portland seeking an injunction against *Donald Trump's* executive order on immigration.

Unite Oregon, a nonprofit made up of immigrants, refugees and people of color, filed the suit asking the court to prohibit the government from "unconstitutionally banishing" lawful immigrants or refugees who seek to return to their homes, jobs or reunite with families at Portland International Airport.

The suit asks that the order be declared unconstitutional and also seeks to allow people detained at the airport to be afforded access to legal help from the *American Civil Liberties Union*.

Mat dos Santos, legal director for the *ACLU of Oregon*, has signed the suit as has attorney Stephen Manning of the *Immigration Law*

Group.

Pro bono attorneys in Portland have been helping from one to three people a day who called a hotline before they were detained by federal officials when they entered Portland International Airport or before they traveled, dos Santos said at a Wednesday news conference.

But ACLU's attorneys have repeatedly been denied access to travelers who are being questioned inside the airport, he said.

Trump's order, which has spurred protests nationwide, temporarily suspends the entire U.S. refugee program and bans all entry from seven countries with majority-Muslim populations for 90 days. The suit filed in Portland is the latest legal challenge. Washington state's attorney general sued Trump on Monday over the order.

Muwafaq Alkattan, an Iraqi refugee who arrived in Oregon with his wife and four daughters in 2012, said even

though his family was already safely here, Trump's action was having a profound effect on them including fears that some of his family will never be able to visit them.

"It feels risky to be a refugee," said Alkattan, who worked as a civil engineer in Iraq on a UNICEF program to rebuild that nation's schools. He now works for *Unite Oregon*.

The news conference also attracted some people from Portland's Iraqi refugee community, who came with questions about the future for green card applicants and those who want to apply for citizenship.

Ahmed Ali, who said he worked as a journalist in Iraq for years, came to the U.S. in 2015.

"People don't understand. No one saw this coming. They are panicked," Ali said of his fellow Iraqi refugees. "What are we supposed to do?"

LARA's CMEAA statement on banning Immigrants on basis of Nationality

LANSING, MI: On Friday, January 27, 2017, the White House issued an Executive Order titled "Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry Into the United States" relating to visa issuance, screening procedures, and refugees.

The Executive Order "suspends" the immigrant and nonimmigrant entry of nationals from the designated countries of *Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen* to the United States for at least 90 days. It also suspends refugees' entry into the United States for a minimum of 120 days, and in the case of Syrian refugees, indefinitely.

• **Michigan's LARA responded as follows:**

"We join all US-Ameri-

cans in our concern about national security but the newly signed series of executive orders is tearing apart families and further displacing thousands of vulnerable refugees, in desperate need of a place of refuge.

"Furthermore, the Administration has let down nationals from the seven affected countries, as well as, the refugees who have already underwent an arduous immigration process. Despite this, no assurances can be made to the refugees as the Administration has provided limited explanation of the changes or what to expect in the future.

"There is still confusion about the interpretation of the executive orders, leading to uncertainty and fear in many households. To

those Michigan families, the Commission pledges its support to help them understand the nuances of the executive order and impact upon the *Middle Eastern American community*.

"We wish to impress upon all the importance of the United States remaining a beacon of hope for those seeking refuge from oppression and persecution. As a nation built of immigrants, we must stand together against these divisive policies aimed at the exclusion of human beings solely on the basis of race, religion, or ethnicity."

On the Internet: http://www.michigan.gov/lara/0,4601,7-154-75952_75956--,00.html

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Rep. Tim Ryan blasts Trump on Bill Maher show

By La Prensa Staff

US Congressman Tim Ryan is never one to mince words with anyone on anything. So one of the political favorites to run for Ohio governor next year took aim at President Donald Trump and all of the controversies caused in his first week in office.

Rep. Ryan (D-Youngstown) appeared the Jan. 27, 2017 episode of *Real Time with Bill Maher*, a weekly political satire show aired on HBO. The show featured a panel discussion of hot political topics that also featured conservative political columnist Grover Norquist, president of *Americans for Tax Reform*, and Latina actress Eva Longoria. Maher openly questioned whether fascism was taking root in the White House.

Ryan took the president to task over his use of Twitter, essentially calling them rants from the Oval Office that have dire consequences.

"There were three to five million who voted illegally. That just started as a Tweet. But now you're president of the United States," he said. "That Tweet now turns into an investigation."

Host Maher responded with the line that the subjects "have to pretend that the king is sane, like what happened in the Middle Ages."

"Now a six-year old is in charge of the country and he says he believes in the Easter bunny, everybody starts looking for eggs," Maher quipped to enthusiastic applause.

The panel discussion then moved on to the president's fractured relationship with the Washington, DC press corps, which began with controversy and got worse as the week progressed.

"Trump is trying to make the press and media the opposition party and he's doing a good job at it because the media has a lower approval rating than Trump," noted Ms. Longoria. "The fact he thinks the press should be compliant and at the service of the presidency is not in the tradition of the American press and it's not in the spirit of the First Amendment which guarantees the press be protected from government censorship."

Trump took issue from the moment he took office, even debating the media over how many Americans attended his inauguration.

"We do need the American press to be the truth-sayers right now. They cannot be reporting 'alternative facts,'" said Ms. Longoria.

"Sometimes people overstate, whether you're doing it for comic effect or to make a point. It doesn't help to overstate and it doesn't help when he does it, either and he ought not," added Norquist. "If you want to say 'I think there were many people at my inauguration, say many. Don't give a number or a comparison that may not hold up.'"



Eva Longoria

Maher asked Rep. Ryan if he saw Trump doing more to ensure the safety of US-America's food supply. But the Youngstown Democrat quickly noted the president's executive order stopping the EPA from enforcing regulations and his nominee to be Agriculture Secretary, calling it a "total big ag" appointment.

"I think this is a good issue for Democrats to talk about, how we change the food system, get local food into our schools. We're poisoning our kids right now with what we feed them," he said. "We have huge rates of diabetes that's driving up the Medicare program and it's driving up the cost of the Medicaid program and if we want to get it right, we've got to start getting healthy food into our schools so our kids won't have diabetes. It'll bring the cost of the health care program down, free up more money for education, free college, and clean pipes across the U.S."

Bill Maher asks Eva Longoria

Maher asked Ms. Longoria if Donald Trump she knew before politics is any different from the one in the White House now. The actress stated she did not know him well, but both were invited one time to a New York event that benefited migrant farmworkers. Longoria stated Trump sent her a note with his regrets he could not attend, along with a check.

"He made a donation—to Latinos," she said with a laugh, to applause from the studio audience, an obvious reference to the ongoing feud between Trump and the Mexican-American community over his proposal to build a border wall. Ms. Longoria is a 9th Generation Latina from Corpus Christi, Texas.

Maher then asked the Latina actress if she expects protests like the recent women's march to continue during Trump's presidency and whether those will make a difference.

"I hope it's not a moment, but that it's a movement," Ms. Longoria responded. "What I hope is the way the Tea Party did it—and they were much smaller than that crowd on Saturday (Jan. 20).

I feel like Occupy Wall Street was short-lived because there was no focus. What was the agenda? Who was in charge of it? It just kind of fizzled out and that cannot happen with this movement. There was such a cross-section at that march—black, white, young, old, Republican, Democrat. It started from the inspiring movement of 'I don't want my rights rolled back.' I don't want a limit of women's rights. I want an expansion of women's rights."

The Latina actress stated her hope the momentum from the march could carry forward

(Continued on Page 15)

Red, blue states split over Trump's 'sanctuary city' order

By ANDREW SELSKY, Associated Press

SALEM, Ore., Feb. 2, 2017 (AP)—Donald Trump's promised crackdown on "sanctuary cities" has triggered divergent actions from blue and red states, revealing the deep national divide on immigration as some move to follow his order and others break with the U.S. government to protect immigrants in the country without documentation.

California, the nation's largest state, is pushing for a statewide sanctuary that would prohibit law enforcement from cooperating with federal immigration authorities, while a fellow U.S.-Mexico border state, Texas, is seeking to withhold funding from cities with the policies.

Trump's recent executive orders threatening to withhold federal funding from communities with sanctuary policies and calling for a border wall have produced widespread protests and fears that more immigration restrictions are in the future. The president's supporters have hailed the efforts.

Cities have mostly taken up sanctuary laws. There's no official definition, but often they tell police not to inquire about the immigration status of those they arrest or they decline requests from immigration officials to keep defendants in custody while they await deportation.

But states like California would not be the first to block police from enforcing federal immigration law. Oregon pioneered statewide sanctuary in a 1987 law, when immigrant workers and their families were sometimes housed in appalling conditions despite their importance to agricultural profits.

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown said she will enforce that law. "They mow our lawns. They pick our grapes," Brown said last week. "They take care of our children and they take care of our seniors, and I want to make sure they feel welcome in Oregon."

Advocates say the laws ensure people in the country without documentation will come forward to report crimes

without fear of deportation. Opponents cite concerns about crime.

San Francisco reaffirmed its commitment to sanctuary policies by suing Trump on Tuesday, the same day California state senators advanced legislation that would provide money for lawyers for immigrants facing deportation and hamper any attempt to create a Muslim registry.

The state is home to an estimated 2.3 million immigrants in the country without documentation. "We want to make sure that police officers don't abandon their beat and go enforce immigration laws," said Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de Leon of Los Angeles.

Some California Republicans fought back. State Sen. Jeff Stone voted against the measure, saying, "I think this bill is making it that much more difficult for the federal authorities to get the most dangerous criminals that we want to deport to keep our communities safe."

Three states away, Texas' Republican governor, Greg Abbott, embraced Trump's order, saying the administration is showing the potential to secure the border.

He instructed lawmakers to send him a bill by June that punishes local governments that don't cooperate with federal immigration authorities. Abbott wants to withhold taxpayer money to cities that don't detain immigrants and to remove locally elected officials if they don't comply.

Travis County Sheriff Sally Hernández, who runs the jails in Austin, plans this week to stop honoring all federal immigration requests to detain suspects and only comply with requests to hold those accused of murder, aggravated sexual assault and human trafficking. Abbott responded by blocking \$1.5 million in criminal justice grants to the county.

Idaho also is moving to enforce Trump's order, though the state has no sanctuary cities. A bill this week would hold back taxpayer money.

The actions come in a different political climate from when Oregon instituted its

statewide protections. The governor's office said Oregon has not faced any federal reprisals over the years but that it could change.

Gov. Browns said she would fight for Oregon's law, including taking legal action, if Washington, DC tries to withhold federal funding as leverage.

The law means immigrants can go to police when they are a victim of a crime or witness one, without fearing deportation, said Jann Carson, associate director of the ACLU of Oregon.

"The biggest result is that Oregon police have not participated in INS, now ICE, raids on migrant farms, apartment buildings, roadblocks," Carson said.

She said immigrants here without documentation can't receive welfare benefits but that many pay taxes. The Social Security Administration estimated immigrants and their employers paid \$13 billion in payroll taxes in 2010.

Former lawmaker Dick Springer helped pass Oregon's measure 30 years ago. He said it was driven by unsanitary and crowded living conditions for migrant workers and the agriculture industry's dependence on those workers.

"We were aware of really atrocious conditions for farmworkers ... 50 people would be living in a barn," Springer said in a telephone interview Tuesday.

The 1987 measure received bipartisan support. Asked if it makes Oregon a sanctuary state, Springer said that was his intent.

"We're not going to hassle people that want to make a living and are contributing to our economy," he said, choking up with emotion. "They have a very strong work ethic. They have commitment to faith and to family. Those are the families we cherish, embrace and welcome."

Associated Press reporters Jonathan J. Cooper in Sacramento, California; Kimberlee Kruesi in Boise, Idaho; Paul J. Weber and David Saleh Rauf in Austin, Texas, contributed to this report.

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All items must be received by 4:30 pm EST on February 17, 2017.

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Catholic Club re-dedicates building to celebrate 75th Anniversary!

Toledo, OH: The Catholic Club is celebrating its 75th Anniversary year during 2017. A re-dedication of the building will take place on Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at 11:30 am. This date is exactly 75 years from the opening of the Catholic Club in 1942.

A short ceremony will include a blessing of the building followed by refreshments. Children and parents will be on hand for a traditional ribbon cutting to highlight this day. Everyone in the community is invited to attend.

Lourdes offers Summer Study in Ireland

Feb. 1, 2017: *Lourdes University* is offering a Summer 2017 Study Abroad Program that culminates with a 15-day immersion in Ireland. The opportunity includes five weeks of coursework and runs May 15 through June 18.

Interested individuals will enroll in ENG 211 Postcolonial Irish Literature and then complete the second course SWK 250 International Social Work in Tullycross, Ireland from June 4 – 18, 2017. Students receive six general education undergraduate college credits.

Tullycross, Ireland is a small island country with a rich and varied history. This study-abroad program is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity regardless of academic interests or previous travel experience. Students study on a campus on the western coast of Ireland in Tullycross, County Galway and live in thatched-roof cottages during the two weeks abroad.

The cost of the Summer Study Abroad in Ireland program is 6 credits of tuition plus a \$3,000 program fee that includes airfare, lodging, island trip, medieval banquet and evening meals on selected dates.

Interested individuals can contact Terry Keller, Interim Dean of the College of Education and Human Services, at tkeller@lourdes.edu or visit www.lourdes.edu/ireland. Lourdes University has offered Ireland Study Abroad programs for the past few years to both undergraduate and graduate students.

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Rep. Tim Ryan blasts Trump on Bill Maher show

(Continued from Page 13)

long enough to have an effect on the mid-term Congressional elections in 2018. But that would take heavy turnout from Democrats during the mid-term election and a get-out-the-vote effort.

"There's a lot of governor's races up and if we win governor's races, this is where Democrats tend to forget to vote in off-year elections and organize in off-year elections, noted Rep. Ryan. "If you look at the numbers in Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin—how do you think people like Scott Walker keep getting elected? We win the presidential in Wisconsin, usually. If you win those governor's races, you start adjusting the map for the House of Representatives. You can pick up two or three seats in Ohio, two or three seats in Michigan, two or three seats in Wisconsin—all of a sudden you start to unlock some of this stuff."

Rep. Ryan followed up on the Maher show by taking a public stand against the president's executive order to ban refugees from Muslim-majority nations. The Youngstown Democrat signed on as a co-sponsor of the "Statue of Liberty Values Act" (SOLVE), legislation aimed at stopping Trump's use of executive orders to ban immigration and halt a refugee resettlement program. The bill would prohibit funds, resources, and fees from being made available by Congress to federal agencies trying to enforce the ban.

"President Trump's executive actions banning immigrants

and refugees—primarily Muslims—to our country is a dramatic and shameful departure from the values system that has helped make the United States a beacon of hope, compassion, and freedom around the world," said Ryan in a statement.

"These orders make it impossible for us to welcome brave interpreters and their families who have assisted U.S. Armed Forces abroad to the safety of our shores and discourages interpreters from working with our troops in the future. It denies bright, driven students the opportunity to study at our universities and contribute to new research that could benefit the world. It senselessly tears apart young families who are simply trying to find refuge from horror, the likes of which many of us can only imagine."

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Mayor D. Michael Collins Memorial Blood Drive

Mayor D. Michael Collins died two years ago today, on February 6, 2015. To honor the memory of Mayor Collins, Mayor Hicks-Hudson has scheduled a Blood Drive at the *Toledo Police Patrolman's Association* at 1947 Franklin Avenue on March 23, 2017, from 9 am to 3 pm. All citizens who are able to donate blood are warmly invited to participate in the Mayor D. Michael Collins Memorial Blood Drive.

People with computer skills may sign up under the "Give Blood" heading at www.redcross.org, using sponsor code GOVCTR. Citizens who prefer to register by phone may call the Mayor's Office at 419-245-1007. Registration is strongly recommended, but people who drop in will not be turned away.

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Full time Administrative Staff position available. For a complete job description & instructions on how to apply for this position visit <https://bgsu.hiretouch.com/> or contact the Office of Human Resources. BGSU. AA/EEO/Disabilities/Veterans. In compliance with the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA), if you have a disability and would like to request an accommodation in order to apply for a position with Bowling Green State University, please call 419-372-8421.

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Notice of Public Hearings February 15 and 16



The Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority will hold three public hearings:

- **12:30 p.m. AND 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 15, 2017, at the Authority's Administration offices, 1127 W Central Ave, Toledo OH 43610, and;**
- **6:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 16, 2017, at the Sylvania Branch Library, 6749 Monroe St, Sylvania, Ohio 43560;**

for the purpose of discussing with the public, information on service modifications of various routes to be effective March 19, 2017. The site is accessible to persons with mobility impairments. Interpretive services for the hearing-impaired and Limited English Proficient person/s will be provided upon a 48-hour advanced request notice. Individuals wishing to comment in person on the proposed changes should be present.

Proposed Service Changes:

- Introduce experimental route **6** King Road/City of Sylvania, to replace **2C** name, routing, and schedule adjustments. Modification in routing with timepoints of Franklin Park Mall, Flower Hospital, Lourdes University, Meijer, and Wal-Mart (map available at TARTA.com)
- Schedule adjustments to route **3** on all trips; no longer interlining with route **2C/6** King Road/City of Sylvania
- Schedule adjustments to **10L**
- Discontinue route **7** due to low ridership and new route **20M** service
- Discontinue route **42** due to low ridership, Berdan ramp closure and increase service from routes **26D/L** and **17B/E**
- Schedule adjustments for other routes **5, 10, 11/12/13/14, 15A/E, 17E/B, 22F, 24/T, 27H/N, 28/30, 34, 43, and 44X**



Comments may also be made by writing to James K. Gee, General Manager, Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority, PO Box 792, Toledo OH 43697-0792. All comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 22, 2017, to be included as part of the official record for final route adjustments and implementation purposes.

1127 W Central Ave is accessible via TARTA 20M/T and 20/24; 6749 Monroe St, Sylvania, Ohio 43560 is accessible via TARTA 2C and 1/4 Sylvania Call-A-Ride.



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