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Luly Del Real, p. 4

'A moral disaster': AP reveals scope of migrant kids' program

By GARANCE BURKE and MARTHA MENDOZA, Associated Press

19 XII 18 (AP): Decades after the U.S. stopped institutionalizing kids because large and crowded orphanages were causing lasting trauma, it is happening again. The federal government has placed most of the 14,300 migrant children in its care in detention centers and residential facilities packed with hundreds, or thousands, of kids.

As the year draws to a close, some 5,400 detained migrant children in the U.S. are sleeping in shelters with more than 1,000 other children. Some 9,800 are in facilities with 100-plus total kids, according to confidential government data obtained and cross-checked by The Associated Press.

Three months after President Donald Trump took office, the same federal program had 2,720 migrant youth in its care—most in shelters with a few dozen kids or in foster programs.

Until now, public information has been limited about the number of youths held at each facility overseen by the Office of Refugee Resettlement. The AP obtained data showing the number of children in individual detention centers, shelters and foster care programs for nearly every week over the past 20 months, revealing in detail the expanse of a program at the center of the Trump administration's immigration crackdown.

It's been taking at least twice as long as it did in January 2016, on average two months now, for youth to get out of ORR custody, in part because the administration added more restrictive screening measures for parents and relatives who would take them in. That changed Tuesday when officials ended a policy requiring every adult in households where migrant children will live to provide the government with fingerprints.

All still must submit to background checks, and parents themselves still need to be fingerprinted. Nonetheless, officials said they could now process some children more rapidly, and hoped to shorten shelter stays that had dragged on so long kids sometimes wondered if their parents had abandoned them for good.

"It's a pain we will never get

through," said Cecilio Ramirez Castaneda, a Salvadoran who was separated from his 12-year-old son, Omar, when they were apprehended in June under the administration's "zero tolerance" policy, which led to nearly 3,000 children being separated from their families.

Omar feared his father had given up on him during his five months in a Texas shelter.

Ramirez was reunited with Omar last month only to learn that his son had been hospitalized for depression and medicated for unclear reasons, and suffered a broken arm, while in government custody.

"It's a system that causes irreparable damage," Ramirez said.

Experts say the anxiety and distrust children suffer while institutionalized can cause long-lasting mental and physical health problems. It's worse for younger children, those who stay more than a few days and those who are in larger facilities with less personal care.

"This is a moral disaster," said Dr. Jack Shonkoff, who heads Harvard University's Center on the Developing Child. "We are inflicting punishments on innocent children that will have lifelong consequences."

Administration officials say increased need has driven them to expand the number of beds available for migrant children from 6,500 last fall to 16,000 today. Sheltering children in large facilities, while not preferable, is a better alternative than holding them for long periods at Border Patrol stations, said Mark Weber, a spokesman for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which oversees ORR.

"There are a large number of children and it's a difficult situation, and we are just working hard to make sure they are taken care of and placed responsibly," Weber said.

Weber confirmed a number of the shelter populations from the data the AP obtained. To further verify the data, reporters contacted more than a dozen programs that contract with ORR. Reporters also cross-referenced previously collected population numbers.

The kids in these programs range in age from toddlers to 17. The vast majority crossed the border without their parents, but some were separated from their families at the border earlier this year.

The care they receive varies greatly in the opaque network, which has encompassed 150 different facilities over the last 20 months in 17 states: Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, and Washington state.

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

•Through dozens of interviews and data analysis, AP found:

•As of Dec. 17, some 9,800 children were in facilities housing more than 100 kids; 5,405 of those were in three facilities with more than 1,000 youths in Texas and Florida.

•Texas had the most growth in the number of kids under ORR custody—about 8,700, up from 1,368 in April 2017. New York had the second-highest number of children—about 1,650, up from 210 in April 2017.

Dozens of the care providers have been sued or disciplined before for mistreating kids. Now new litigation is piling up as attorneys fight to get migrant children released. This December, many will be enduring their first holidays without family.

Manuel Marcelino Tzah, a Guatemalan father whose 12-year-old daughter, Manuela, was taken from him and held in a Houston facility for nearly two months, said his family is still processing the pain of separation.

"Sometimes she remembers it and is hit with the sadness of it," said Marcelino, whose immigration case is pending in a New York court near his new home in Brooklyn. "I tell her what happened, happened, and now we are here and struggling for a better life."

Associated Press data journalist Larry Fenn contributed to this report.

As number of kids detained soared, so did accusations of sexual abuse by gov't agents

By ASTRID GALVAN, Associated Press

PHOENIX, 19XII18 (AP): The number of children being held in immigrant shelters has soared over the past few years, bringing with it a number of issues, especially in Arizona, where several workers in charge of caring for them have been charged with sexually-based crimes.

In Arizona, where over 800 immigrant kids are being held, the state's largest provider of shelters has been forced to shut down two facilities over improper background checks for employees. The state health department launched an investigation this summer after reports of abuse at different shelters operated by Texas-based Southwest Key, which is also the largest provider of shelters for immigrant children in Arizona.

Over 1,600 kids were detained in Arizona earlier this year, until Southwest Key was forced to close two large facilities in the Fall. That number is now about 800.

Still, that's only a fraction of the 14,300 immigrant children in detention centers and residential facilities nationwide.

Most are being held in facilities with over 100 kids, according to confidential government data obtained and cross-checked by The Associated Press.

The public has been severely limited in what it knows about how many youths are held at facilities, but the AP has obtained data detailing how many kids are

where. The policies of Donald Trump's administration, including extended background checks and deportation referrals for adult relatives who come forward to take the children in, have resulted in a spike in more kids being held, and they're often held for longer periods of time.

In Arizona, two shelters, one in Mesa and another in Tucson, hold over 100 kids at any given time. But that's only after two other shelters that had much higher capacity had to close down in the agreement with the state.

Before Casa Phoenix closed in November, it had been housing nearly 400 kids for several months. The other facility that closed, in Youngtown, housed over 130 children in the months before it closed.

Arizona has seen numerous allegations of sexual abuse, including one made by the government of El Salvador, which said it received reports of three children, 12 to 17, who were sexually abused at unnamed shelters in Arizona.

In August, police arrested a 33-year-old man on suspicion of sexually abusing a 14-year-old girl at the same Southwest Key shelter where just weeks earlier first lady Melania Trump had taken a tour.

In September, a former youth care worker was convicted of sexually abusing seven teenage boys at a Phoenix-area shelter for immigrant children.

Until now, public information has been limited about the number of youths held at each

facility overseen by the Office of Refugee Resettlement, even for attorneys representing the kids. But the AP obtained data showing the number of children in individual ORR detention centers, shelters and foster care programs for nearly every week over the past 20 months, revealing in detail the expanse of a program at the center of the Trump administration's immigration crackdown.

Administration officials said increased need has driven them to expand the number of beds available for migrant children from 6,500 last fall to 16,000 today.

"Expanding a mix of permanent and temporary bed capacity is a prudent step to ensure that the Border Patrol can continue its vital national security mission to prevent illegal migration, trafficking and protect the borders of the United States," said Mark Weber, a spokesman for U.S. Health and Human Services, which oversees ORR.

In Arizona, the agreement Southwest Key made with the state health department this year came after it failed to get the proper fingerprint clearance from all employees on time.

Dr. Cara Christ, the health department director, chided Southwest Key.

"Southwest Key's lack of ability to deliver a simple report on the critical protections these children have against dangerous felons

(Continued on Page 11)

Mexican president wants US to grant more work visas

MEXICOCITY, Dec. 19, 2018 (AP): Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said Wednesday he hopes to negotiate more U.S. work visas for Central American migrants as well as those from his own country, and his administration promised to protect migrants, even as police reported two Hondurans were killed in the border city of Tijuana.

Officials of the new administration said Mexico's policy toward migrants has changed, from a policy of "containment" to one of respect for human rights.

"We are going to leave behind the attitude of discrimination," said Alejandro Encinas, the assistant secretary of the interior. Mexico said it is going to increase funding and hire more employees

for the country's refugee agency, which has been notoriously understaffed and slow to process asylum claims.

The agency said applications for refugee status have increased dramatically in Mexico and are expected to total about 28,000 this year, compared to 14,603 in 2017 and just 2,137 in 2014.

The changes are part of López Obrador's plan to discourage emigration not by coercion, but by creating jobs in Mexico and Central America won't have to emigrate.

"We want the United States to give work visas for Mexico and to increase the number of visas, and that there also be work visas for Central Americans," López Obrador said. The United States currently offers a limited number of H-2A agri-

cultural work visas.

His comments came one day after the administration of Donald Trump pledged \$4.8 billion in development projects for southern Mexico and \$5.8 for the Central American nations of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.

"This new relationship with the U.S. government is on the right track," López Obrador said.

However, Central American migrants who arrived large numbers in October continue to face difficulties in Mexico.

Police in the northern border city of Tijuana said two young Honduran migrants were killed in an apparent robbery Saturday after leaving a shelter for under-age migrants. Three suspects have been arrested in the crime.

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Chile evalúa libertad condicional a violadores de DDHH

Por EVA VERGARA, Associated Press

SANTIAGO DE CHILE, 19 XII 18 (AP): El Tribunal Constitucional de Chile (TC) escuchó el miércoles alegatos en favor y en contra de que los violadores de derechos humanos accedan a la libertad condicional y se logre mantener o flexibilizar los requisitos para acceder al beneficio.

La sesión fue convocada por el TC, que acogió una petición de diputados del oficialismo conservador que buscan que se declare inconstitucional una modificación de noviembre que endureció los requisitos para que los criminales de lesa humanidad accedan a las libertades condicionales. El TC escuchará el jueves los alegatos definitivos y en una fecha por definir entregará su fallo, que podría favorecer a los presos de Punta Peuco, una prisión especial para poco más de un centenar de agentes del Estado que reprimieron y asesinaron durante la dictadura de Augusto Pinochet (1973-1990).

La mayoría de los diez miembros del TC es proclive a los sectores conservadores, lo que se refleja en sus fallos, que son inapelables.

El tema de una eventual liberación de los criminales del régimen de Pinochet causa tal malestar entre quienes sufrieron la persecución de los organismos represivos que varias decenas de manifestantes se reunieron frente a las puertas del TC con carteles y fotografías de detenidos desaparecidos.

Varios partidarios o familiares de los criminales de lesa humanidad fueron agredidos por los

manifestantes cuando se retiraban del tribunal, incluido su presidente Iván Aróstica, quien al ser reconocido fue golpeado por varias mujeres, una de las cuales lo pateó en el pecho provocando que cayera al suelo. Cuando Aróstica se levantó, trató de defenderse hasta que llegó la policía y se lo llevó en un vehículo.

Vittoria E. Natto —una de las manifestantes a pesar de ser hija de un represor— dijo a The Associated Press que “nosotros como hijos estamos de acuerdo en apoyar que no puede haber impunidad... los requisitos no deben rebajarse”.

“Mi padre fue también un genocida y él nunca se arrepintió. Dijo siempre ‘matamos pocos, teníamos que matar más’”, añadió Natto, del grupo *Hijos Desobedientes*, cuyos padres fueron torturadores.

En noviembre la oposición votó en favor de modificar la ley de 1925, que antes sólo beneficiaba a los delincuentes comunes. Si el cambio fuera aprobado por el TC, también beneficiaría a los condenados por violaciones a los derechos humanos, quienes para ser liberados tendrían que haber colaborado con el esclarecimiento del delito, confesado su participación y expresado su arrepentimiento. Sin embargo, se estima que la mayoría de los presos de Punta Peuco no cumplirían con estos requisitos.

Álvaro Paul Díaz, profesor de la Universidad Católica de Santiago, dijo durante la sesión del miércoles ante el TC que el derecho internacional “no prohíbe la misericordia”, no les niega la libertad condicional a los condenados por crímenes de lesa

humanidad, pues “se aplican las mismas sentencias usadas con el resto de los criminales”. Agregó que “los militares están siendo condenados por (un) procedimiento inquisitivo que es violador de los derechos humanos”, con lo que arrancó aplausos en la sala entre los partidarios de los ocupantes de Punta Peuco.

En contraste, María Alejandra Sepúlveda, de la ONG Cruzada Solidaria, calificó la modificación de “antojadiza” y dijo que ninguna ley podrá establecer “diferencias arbitrarias”.

Álvaro Ahumada, presidente y sobreviviente de Villa Grimaldi, una de las peores cárceles secretas de la dictadura, señaló que “los sobrevivientes demandamos una justicia proporcional al daño causado conforme lo estipulan los instrumentos del derecho internacional que Chile ha ratificado”.

A su vez, Haydee Oberreuter Umazabal, que tras el golpe militar de 1973 fue detenida por marinos que la torturaron y provocaron que perdiera el bebé que esperaba, aseguró que “no puede haber perdón si no se reconoce la falta”.

La dictadura dejó 40.018 víctimas, que incluyen 3.065 opositores muertos, de los cuales aún falta por encontrar poco más de un millar de cadáveres.

En 1978, cuando se encontraron los primeros detenidos desaparecidos en el fondo de una mina de cal, Pinochet ordenó desenterrar los cuerpos de fosas clandestinas y hacerlos desaparecer de nuevo.

Policía de LA retirará a agentes de ICE de sus cárceles

LOS ÁNGELES, 20 XII 18 (AP): El nuevo jefe de policía del condado Los Ángeles, Alex Villanueva, dijo que va a retirar a los agentes federales de inmigración de las cárceles bajo su jurisdicción.

El jefe policial señaló asimismo esta semana, durante una reunión de la Junta de Supervisores, que considera restringir los delitos por los que las autoridades carcelarias deben colaborar con el Servicio de Control de Inmigración y Aduanas (ICE por sus siglas en inglés).

“Vamos a retirar físicamente al ICE de las

prisiones del condado”, declaró Villanueva el martes a la junta durante un foro sobre una ley en California dirigida a incrementar la transparencia de la colaboración policial con los agentes de inmigración.

Villanueva logró una sorpresiva victoria en los comicios del mes pasado por la titularidad de la jefatura de policía más grande de la nación. Durante su campaña, el teniente de policía retirado dijo que sacaría a los agentes de inmigración de las prisiones.

En la reunión del martes, el comandante de policía Elier Morejon dijo que el departamento continuará trasladando presos implicados

en delitos más graves a las autoridades de inmigración.

Morejon dijo que las autoridades están trabajando en la logística para efectuar las transferencias y evaluar la política del departamento de difundir en internet las fechas de excarcelación de los reclusos, incluidos inmigrantes buscados por agentes federales para deportarlos.

Unos 1.200 presos fueron transferidos al ICE en 2017, agregó.

Una portavoz del ICE declinó hacer declaraciones sobre los cambios propuestos.

Wall Street en baja al mediodía

NUEVA YORK, 20 XII 18 (AP): Los precios de las acciones bajaban el jueves al mediodía en la Bolsa de Valores de Nueva York, un día después de una abrupta caída en el mercado.

Los principales índices perdían más de 1%, con lo

que las pérdidas de los últimos seis días ascienden a 6%.

El índice S&P 500 está ahora aproximadamente 16% más abajo de lo que estaba en su cumbre en septiembre.

Microsoft y Amazon

descendían 3,4%.

El S&P 500 bajaba 36 unidades (1,4%) a 2.471, mientras el promedio industrial Dow Jones descendía 379 (1,6%) a 22.950 y el tecnológico Nasdaq perdía 115 (1,7%) a 6.524.

Corea del Norte dice que no se desnuclearizará a menos que EEUU retire su amenaza nuclear

SEÚL, 20 XII 18 (AP): Corea del Norte dice que no se desnuclearizará a menos que EEUU retire su amenaza nuclear.

Puerto Rico pierde 130.000 habitantes el año pasado

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, 19 XII 18 (AP): Puerto Rico perdió 130.000 habitantes entre julio de 2017 y 2018, un período durante el cual sufrió el embate del huracán María, informó el miércoles la Oficina del Censo de Estados Unidos.

El territorio estadounidense tiene una población de 3,2 millones, con una caída de 14% durante la última década y casi 4% en un año.

Puerto Rico ya perdía población antes de sufrir los embates de María en septiembre de 2017. La isla

está sumida en la recesión desde hace 12 años, y tras el huracán decenas de miles de personas migraron al continente. La tormenta de categoría 4 destruyó el sistema eléctrico y causó daños estimados en 100.000 millones de dólares.

EEUU compromete 10.600 millones para desalentar migración

CIUDAD DE MÉXICO, 18 XII 18 (AP): Estados Unidos ha comprometido una inversión de 10.600 millones de dólares para Centroamérica y el sur de México con el fin de desalentar la migración.

El objetivo de esos fondos será generar mejores condiciones de seguridad y oportunidades de empleo con el fin de intentar que los centroamericanos opten por trabajar en sus países en lugar de emigrar.

El plan fue anunciado mediante un comunicado conjunto de México y Estados Unidos. El Departamento de Estado emitió la nota de prensa el martes y el canciller mexicano, Marcelo Ebrard, la leyó en la capital mexicana. “Pienso que son buenas

noticias, muy buenas para México”, dijo el nuevo responsable de la política exterior mexicana.

“Los compromisos aquí establecidos significan más que duplicar la inversión extranjera en el sur de México a partir del 2019”, agregó.

Los estados sureños de Chiapas y Oaxaca son algunas de las regiones más pobres del país. El presidente Andrés Manuel López Obrador, que asumió el cargo el 1 de diciembre, ha dicho que una de sus prioridades es incentivar el desarrollo en esas zonas. Como parte de sus planes para el sur de México se encuentra también el proyecto del “Tren Maya” que recorrerá gran parte de la península de Yucatán y llegará a Chiapas.

Todavía se desconoce qué podría ofrecer México a

cambio de la inversión estadounidense ya que el nuevo gobierno aún no ha presentado los detalles de la que será su política migratoria.

Washington ha dejado claro que lo que quiere es que todos aquellos migrantes que han solicitado asilo en Estados Unidos esperen en territorio mexicano hasta que su petición sea tramitada.

Actualmente, los migrantes esperan en la zona fronteriza de México hasta que las autoridades estadounidenses pueden atenderlos e iniciar el trámite de asilo o refugio. Pero una vez que entran en Estados Unidos el proceso comienza y son las autoridades de ese país las que tienen que hacerse cargo de ellos.

Invitan a preservar la cultura mexicana a través de la Fundación CasArt

“Mi compromiso con la comunidad hispana es preservar nuestro patrimonio y cultura”; Luly Del Real

Por: Isabel Flores, Corresponsal La Prensa

DETROIT, 16 de dic., 2018: La Fundación CasArt invita a desarrollar las actividades artísticas para fomentar la cultura popular y las tradiciones mexicanas, a través de alguno de sus cursos: danza, tejido, bordado, teatro, cocina y en breve iniciará el taller de corte y confección, así como de música, entre otros que se están planeando.

La Fundación CasArt es una organización sin fines de lucro creada hace dos años, dedicada a promover y fomentar el desarrollo del arte con sentido social. “Cuando digo sentido social, me refiero a que es para todo mundo”, comentó María de Lourdes Del Real (mejor conocida como Luly del Real), presidenta de la Fundación. “Nuestro objetivo principal es crear de manera gradual la estructura física y técnica de una casa de la cultura con espacios y programas culturales para capacitación, desarrollo y disfrute de la comunidad, todo con el fin de apoyar y difundir las manifestaciones artísticas de la cultura popular mexicana”.

Luly dijo que aunque todavía no tienen un espacio fijo para dar los talleres, están recibiendo el apoyo de diferentes iglesias o instituciones que les abren las puertas. “Estamos en busca de un lugar pero mientras tanto, ya estamos dando los talleres en diferentes áreas de Detroit por el momento, ya que el proyecto no es algo local, sino que se va a desarrollar en diferentes ciudades de alrededor”.

Actualmente se encuentran colaborando con otra asociación para dar las clases de teatro y se tiene planeado empezar en breve varios talleres más. “Iniciamos con clases de ballet y poco a poco hemos ido creando diferentes cursos, tanto para niños como para adultos”, agregó la entrevistada.

Cabe destacar que los talleres son para el público en general que desee mantener la capacitación artística y cultura mexicana. “Me interesa mucho organizar eventos e intercambio cultural para agradecer de alguna manera

todo el apoyo que he recibido de los americanos para llevar a cabo este proyecto. No solo los latinos pueden atender estas actividades, sino también aquellos que deseen conocer más sobre nuestra cultura”, señaló.

Asimismo, Luly informó que en breve comenzarán a reclutar voluntarios con ciertos conocimientos artísticos para que puedan ayudar a los que no tienen ninguna habilidad y de esta manera recibir a toda la gente. En un principio, los interesados aportarán de manera completamente voluntaria su tiempo para poder ir desarrollando más talleres, pero la idea es que con el tiempo puedan recibir una gratificación. Los interesados pueden estar pendientes de la página de facebook de la Fundación (www.facebook.com/CasArtFoundation), en donde se darán a conocer los detalles.

En cuanto a quienes deseen inscribirse en alguno de los talleres de la fundación y/o recibir mayor información, pueden enviar mensaje a través de facebook, o bien comunicarse con Luly del Real al (248) 766-3664 o con alguno de los miembros de la mesa directiva: Claudia Canales Nowicki - vicepresidente, Ada Irma Cepeda Rodríguez - tesorera, Leonor Floran Garduno - secretaria, Erika Valencia, Xochitl VanderPlas - substitutas.

Luly Del Real

Originaria de Chihuahua, Luly es una Instructora Comunitaria de Nutrición que actualmente trabaja para la Extensión de la Universidad del Estado de Michigan en el Condado de Oakland. Se mudó a Michigan desde México, con su esposo y su familia en el año 2000 debido a su trabajo con la industria automotriz. Obtuvo su maestría en educación en ciencias de la alimentación y psicología a través de la Universidad Estatal de Michigan. También cuenta con una licenciatura en bellas artes de la Universidad de Arte de Chihuahua México con una especialización en danza folklórica.

En su misión de extender y



Luly Del Real

preservar su herencia, raíces y tradiciones a los niños hispanos en Michigan, estableció un grupo de danza folklórica mexicana hace once años, llamada “Joyas de México” ballet Folklórico, donde brinda a los niños de la comunidad hispana la oportunidad de aprender sobre su cultura y herencia; años más tarde creó un segundo grupo de baile llamado “Matices” ballet Folklórico formado por ciudadanos mexicanos que residen en el área metropolitana de Detroit y se unieron a esta iniciativa para difundir la cultura mexicana en todo Michigan.

A pesar de realizar un excelente trabajo con estos dos grupos de ballet, Luly crea la Fundación CasArt. “Vengo de una familia muy altruista, así que apoyar a la comunidad es algo que he aprendido desde casa. Siempre había tenido esa intención de darle algo a la comunidad y como amo el arte, encontré que esa era la vía a través de la cual podía desarrollar algo con sentido social”, destacó Del Real. “Con los grupos de danza hemos ido a muchos escenarios de Michigan y fuera del Estado, es ahí donde me he dado cuenta de las necesidades de la comunidad migrante, de los que no tuvieron la fortuna de haber venido a este país en avión; así que mi objetivo principal es poder llevarles un poco de distracción y capacitación, a quienes no cuentan con recursos para pagar actividades artísticas caras. Los talleres de CasArt tienen una cuota mínima para que puedan acudir y desarrollar sus capacidades artísticas”.

Michigan legislature spares most wetlands in lame-duck bill

By JOHN FLESHER, AP Environmental Writer

TRAVERSE CITY, Dec. 21, 2018 (AP): An effort to drastically curtail legal protection of Michigan wetlands fell short Friday as the state legislature approved a scaled-down bill that continues to require permits for degrading many bogs, marshes and similar waterways but also makes key concessions to developers.

The measure enacted in the waning hours of a frantic lame-duck session rewrote a previous version that critics warned could leave at least 550,000 acres of wetlands vulnerable to being drained, filled or otherwise damaged, along with 4,200 lakes and thousands of miles of streams.

The final bill discarded most of the regulatory exemptions the earlier one had included. But some groups still urged Republican Gov. Rick Snyder to veto it before he leaves office at the end of December, saying it would weaken the Department of Environmental Quality's ability to shield waterways that provide wildlife habitat, prevent flooding and filter out contaminants.

“It’s a net loss to the

environment,” said Nick Occhipinti, government affairs director for the Michigan League of Conservation Voters.

Farmers, builders and property rights advocates have long complained that too many wetlands are off-limits to development and that regulators are heavy-handed and unreasonable.

Much of the debate focuses on how to determine whether particular wetlands are eligible for protection, especially those not directly connected to a navigable water body such as a lake or river.

A bill sponsored by Sen. Tom Caspersen, an Escanaba Republican, sought to substantially narrow the definition of protected wetlands. It passed the Senate but drew fierce objections from organizations such as the Sierra Club and the Natural Resources Defense Council, along with those representing hunting and fishing interests.

Early Friday morning, the House—and later the Senate—approved a substitute version that left the protected wetland definition largely intact. It also dropped provisions to deregulate inland lakes.

But it trimmed the list of “rare and imperiled” wet-

lands that would be assured preservation, deleting several types of swamps and the northern wet mesic prairie. Other new provisions require the DEQ to take extra steps when denying applications for permits to degrade wetlands and when sanctioning violators.

The bill also would enable developers and landowners to recoup some costs from the DEQ if they successfully challenge its rulings, which Occhipinti said could make the department more reluctant to rigorously enforce the law.

“It’s leaps and bounds better than it was, but still not something we’re out there supporting,” said Tom Zimmicki of the Michigan Environmental Council.

The Michigan Farm Bureau supported the final version, government relations manager Matt Smego said.

“Our primary interest is having a clear understanding of what a wetland is,” Smego said, adding that landowners applying for permits don’t want to be told by regulators that “you’ll find out if it’s a wetland when we tell you.”

Officials: 1st Michigan child dies from flu this season

LANSING, Dec. 22, 2018 (AP): Michigan health officials say a child from Osceola County is the first in the state to die from the flu this season.

No other details about the case were disclosed Friday by the Michigan Department

of Health and Human Services. The rural county is in the northwestern Lower Peninsula, roughly 60 miles (96.5 kilometers) north of Grand Rapids.

The state says six children in the U.S. have died from the flu during the 2018-19 season. Officials add 39.5 percent of Michigan resi-

dents were vaccinated last season, below the national rate of nearly 42 percent.

Two Michigan children died last year from flu-related complications.

The department recommends everyone 6 months of age and older get a seasonal flu vaccine.

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Lucas Co. Auditor Anita López enters "Deadline Season"

By La Prensa Staff

Dec. 24, 2018: While everyone celebrates the holiday season, the Lucas County Auditor's office is gearing up for a busy season of deadlines ranging from property values to dog license applications. County auditor Anita López and her staff have the tough task of focusing the public on those deadlines during a very distracting time of celebration for families and households.

Ms. López, the only Latino to hold county-wide office in Lucas County, won re-election without opposition in November, then found herself in a dispute with the state tax commissioner over property values. The contention focused on property value increases from the Ohio Dept. of Taxation that were much higher than the county auditor's revaluation process, which occurs every six years.

State taxation officials recommended increases in property values that Ms. López thought were overinflated. Countywide, property values will increase nine percent on average, although some communities will see hikes as high as 12 percent. Ms. López contended that the state's analysis doesn't accurately reflect Lucas County's housing market, then took a stand with the state once she received feedback from angry property owners.

State taxation officials ended up filing a formal order, demanding Ms. López comply with their assessment, threatening to withhold funding to local school districts and governments if she refused to adjust property values accordingly. That

essentially forced the hand of Ms. López.

In response, the county auditor is encouraging any property owner who disputes the increased value to challenge it through the county's Board of Revision. Property owners can begin filing challenges after Jan. 1, which will likely keep the county auditor's office busy.

Ms. López plans to make sure of that, vowing to put the proper appeal paperwork into the hands of every interested citizen so they have a chance to be heard at least locally. The county auditor also plans to run newspaper ads reminding property owners of their rights and the deadlines.

Ms. López has gained a reputation as a champion of taxpayers, after taking over the county auditor's office during the economic downturn that led to a lot of property foreclosures. The heavy reliance on local levy dollars prompted Ms. López to establish an online tax calculator, so home and business owners could see firsthand how levy increases would directly impact them on their property tax bill. Other consumer-friendly measures have followed over the years.

Meantime, dog licensing for the 2019 season began Dec. 1 and runs through Jan. 31, 2019. A one-year dog license costs \$25, while a three-year license runs \$75. A lifetime dog license costs \$250. You can obtain a dog license at 31 retailers across Lucas County, directly through the county auditor's office at One Government Center or at Lucas Co. Canine Care and Control, 410



S. Erie St., or online at: <http://lcapps.co.lucas.oh.us/OnlineDogTags/StartOrder.aspx>.

Canine owners who purchase a dog license will also receive a Lucas County Loves Dogs reward card in key fob form, good for discounts at 15 local vendors, including dog-related retailers, pizza shops, a car wash and others. According to the auditor's office, taking advantage of offers attached to the rewards card throughout the year could offset the cost of a dog license.

Anyone who misses the dog license deadline will be assessed a penalty of \$25 per pet. Ohio law requires dog owners to obtain a license for any dog over three months of age.

The dog tag system is designed to reunite lost pets with their owners. There is an online Lucas County dog tag database available to search dog owner information. The license on a dog's collar identifies the owner so the pet can be returned home or turned in at Lucas County Canine Care and Control, where the owner will be notified in person or by phone and certified mail. ¿Preguntas? Lucas County Auditor at (419) 213-4443.

Toledo Public Schools to host Career Expo

By La Prensa Staff

Toledo Public Schools (TPS) is attempting to expose its students districtwide to a wide variety of future opportunities by hosting a Career Connect Expo on January 15 and 16, 2019 at the SeaGate Convention Centre downtown. This is the first time TPS administrators have held such an event.

TPS is inviting companies to host interactive career exploration booths in an attempt to reach 1,600 eighth grade students. The hope is to make an impactful difference in a young student's life, by introducing a wide variety of career pathways which education officials believe will make a difference in the economic sustainability of the Toledo metro region.

"What we're doing is using a resource, a tool known as Naviance, which is implemented through the eighth-grade curriculum, said José Rosales, a TPS career and technology education student liaison, who is on a committee to organize the event. "We know their top three career cluster interests. They've taken a career assessment. I'm looking at a report for Oakdale Elementary and it tells me their top three for those students. So when they come down to the Expo, we'll guide them into those career pathways to learn more."

Information technology is just one career area that will be showcased at the event. Other areas will include law and public safety, public relations, government, hospitality and tourism, education, and marketing. The eighth graders also will be exposed to the district's various career tech programs, such as aviation technology, business, construction and carpentry, and others.

According to Rosales, there also will be 400 to 500 high school seniors in attendance at the expo. All are enrolled in career tech programs at various TPS high schools. The expo also will feature 10 college admissions representatives, as well as the school district's 40 to 50 partnerships with industry, including available apprenticeships in the skilled trades.

"They will actually come and have a job fair, where all of our industry partners that

are going to be participating will have an opportunity to do on-site interviews of the seniors," said Rosales. "Best-case scenario, for example, is IBEW (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers) will be there and able to interview students from the Rogers (HS) Construction Academy that they know are ready for some type of internship or apprenticeship."

Rosales is helping to organize the first-ever event, drawing local professionals to share their knowledge and opportunities with Latino teens and others. But the monumental task of putting the expo together moves the students forward on career pathways unlike at any other time.

"The committee has been working hard since August and, to be honest, the district, right at the top, including [TPS Superintendent] Dr. Romules Durant, identified a need, a gap," he said. "One of those gaps is the shortage of skilled workers. According to the Dept. of Labor, 200,000 jobs unfilled in the year 2020 has a direct impact on our community here in Northwest Ohio," specifically central city, impoverished neighborhoods. We have a solution. We just need to create this true pipeline program for these kids to know what careers are out there for them."

That could have a direct impact on Latino students. Among the 2,000 plus teens who will attend the expo, 150 to 200 are expected to be Latino. If those students can find a career pathway that interests them and enroll in either a career tech program or land an apprenticeship, dozens of families could have a brighter economic future.

That's what motivates Rosales, who has a background in helping establish mentoring relationships for young people in both the African-American and Latino communities, to create cultural competence and to help future educators learn more about the communities in which they serve. In fact, he has returned to the University of Toledo where he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees to now work on a doctorate in educational theory and social foundations.

"Our students are really able to capitalize on that, because they're not only coming to



José Rosales

learn, but the eighth graders may spark their interest and be able to matriculate into one of our 40 career tech programs across the district," he explained. "These kids are able to get into a program as early as their freshman year to start making those steps to be career and college ready."

Along the way, those students may have a chance to take College Credit Plus courses, which offers free classes. Once they graduate, they can directly enter a college major or apprenticeship.

"Some people may view it as a challenge, but we think this is an opportunity to make a huge impact on the lives of these eighth graders and seniors, and ultimately on the community members in which we serve, because this is very holistic," said Rosales. "This is a holistic approach. We have all these colleges, industry partners, and four branches of the military who are truly invested in the kids within our community, hoping this will spark an interest. This is all data-driven. We can look after the expo to see if our curriculum is on track or needs adjusted."

While the committee has recruited industry professionals to share their knowledge, the expo also is an opportunity for the TPS career tech programs to showcase themselves, hoping to land interested eighth graders and continue to grow. Rosales stated that has sparked a competition of sorts, because students will be bussed from their home school to anywhere in the district to attend the program of their choice.

"What we're trying to do ultimately is put the right kids in the right programs for the right reasons," said Rosales.

Toledo Zoo Volunteer Program Lauded

TOLEDO, Dec. 20, 2018: Leaders influence others first by who they are and then by what they do. Toledo Zoo's volunteer program is considered a leader and model for Zoo's around the world and recently received several prominent awards for their efforts.

The Zoo's volunteer manager, Bill Davis, recently received the Clean Streams Partner Award from the Partners for Clean Streams at their 11th Annual General Meeting at Olander Park in Sylvania. Davis accepted the award, that also recognized the long-standing partnership with PNC Bank and the ZOOTEENS program, on behalf of all ZOOTEENS past and present, as well as the Zoo's volunteer staff.

Through Davis' efforts, the volunteer program was also recently awarded a \$2,000 grant from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums to support their Party for the Planet Spring



nominated by Josina Lott Residential and Community Services, a local organization the program has supported for over a decade. The teenage volunteer corps were honored for their compassion and service to area organizations and individuals with disabilities.

"The Zoo is extremely proud of our volunteer program, that is made up of nearly 900 individuals, ages 13–92 who give over 67,000 of hours of service to the Zoo and our community each year. They help make the quality guest experience our visitors have come to know and love through their personal interactions and extensive knowledge of our animals. They are the face of our Zoo and help drive our mission forward in the community," said Shayla Bell Moriarty, Toledo Zoo's director of communications.

into Action Family Event. Party for the Planet is the Zoo's community recycling event held the weekend of Earth Day in April. After the event, the Zoo will have the opportunity to submit activities to the Party for the Planet® Spring into Action contest, where the winning organization will receive a \$25,000 conservation donation.

The ZOOTEENS program as a whole was also honored as volunteer(s) of the year by the Ohio Provider Resource Association or OPRA, a statewide association of service providers for Ohioans with developmental disabilities. The ZOOTEENS program was

Songs for Our Sister: 10th Anniversary Celebration

TOLEDO: On Sunday, January 13, 2019, Toledo School for the Arts will present Songs for Our Sister: 10th Anniversary Celebration.

Celebrating 10 years of the Maryanne Russo Jazz Memorial Scholarship, the concert will feature many of the area's best-known jazz and blues musicians. The concert will feature alumni and current students from Toledo School for the Arts, some of whom have received regional and national recognition.

"I cannot believe it's been 10 years since the ini-

tiation of Songs for Our Sisters series and Mary Ann Russo Scholarship ... my mother would be so pleased to see how many students we have helped financially through the Mary Ann Russo jazz scholarship fund and our family is committed to its continued mission," said Mary Ann Russo's daughter, Lisa Young.

Songs for Our Sister supports the Mary Ann Russo Jazz Scholarship for Toledo School for the Arts students who wish to participate in private vocal jazz lessons taught by Dr. Lee Ellen Martin (UT & BGSU Vocal Jazz

Instructor) as well as tuition to the New York Voices Vocal Jazz Camp. The scholarship also provides a college scholarship for a TSA Senior.

The concert takes place Sunday, January 13, at 3pm in The Flying Pig Café, located in the Toledo School for the Arts, 333 14th Street. Complimentary snacks and beverages will be offered, as well as a silent auction.

Tickets are \$40 and can be purchased at the door prior to the performance, by calling 419-246-8732 x226, or online by visiting ts4arts.org.

Catholic Migrant Farmer Network seeks more support

By La Prensa Staff

The Catholic Migrant Farmworker Network (CMFN), like many other aid agencies, finds itself extraordinarily busy and immersed in a diverse array of issues these days, as the Trump administration continues to focus on Latino immigrant groups with its public policy.

CMFN claims to be "a pastoral presence in the lives of migrant and seasonal farmworkers" and has part of its founding roots in Toledo. The nonprofit group was co-founded in 1986 by retired Toledo priest *Father Dick Notter* and other Catholic leaders who worked with migrant farmworkers across the country. Notter served as the group's first director on a part-time basis.

"One (purpose) is to call attention to church people for the need to reach out to farmworkers to develop a kind of communication network at all levels in the church regarding these issues and to develop human and spiritual development of farmworkers, as well as their pastoral leadership within the migrant community," he explained.

CMFN's mission is to promote the formation of welcoming church communities by advocating social justice, dignity, and respect for all in order that we may be a missionary church. That mission is advanced through pastoral leadership courses, retreats, workshops, newsletters, pastoral visits, immersion trips and published resources for migrant ministers.

"It really started as a way to network people, in particular, Catholic ministry folks who were working with farmworkers, so that as those people moved around the country, there would be some continuity, like in the religious formation of the children, first Communion and so on," said Fr. Notter. "The leadership training began fairly early. We would go to different dioceses around the country where they requested training. That continues today."

The most recent pastoral training occurred in the Stockton, California Diocese. Another one is scheduled in Monterrey, California. Ohio has played a big role in that training, with similar sessions held in Toledo, Youngstown, and Columbus. Lansing and Detroit also held trainings for migrant farmworkers to pastor to their peers in the Catholic faith.

CMFN developed all the curriculum and bilingual training materials, including the story of *Our Lady of Guadalupe* in comic book form.

CMFN leaders cite the life of migrant farmworker families continues to grow more difficult in the current times of political and social unrest in the U.S. "While the normal tensions of the constant moving from state to state following the harvest; interruption of children's schooling multiple times per year; and difficulty in linking up with local Churches due to language, cultural, economic and social differences serves to separate our migrant families," the group's website states.

"It is certainly one of the most difficult (periods) to be a migrant farmworker, I would say. In some areas, there has been progress in terms of working conditions and housing," he said. "But now they're facing this really anti-immigrant mentality that's really rubbing off on anybody associated with farm work—whether they be citizens, legal residents, or what they are."

CMFN has sent fundraising letters to supporters and posted a similar effort on crowdsource.com, telling potential donors the group "helps bridge the differences and distances that separate the people of God." CMFN is recognized as a national Catholic organization by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"A lot of that is raising awareness at the local level of church members that they are our brothers and sisters and the need to reach out to them," said Fr. Notter, now 81. "There are things you can do at the local level as well. Probably the biggest focus is working with the farmworkers themselves with these leadership training programs."

The retired priest began working with migrant farmworkers in the 1960's while still attending the Catholic seminary. He was recruited to serve as a driver for a pair of Mexican priests brought stateside each summer to serve as missionaries to migrant farmworkers before the diocese developed a Hispanic ministry.

"I did that for a couple of summers and fell in love with the people and the culture," he said. "That winter we approached a priest to see if the bishop would approve us to go to Mexico for language school. That happened and since then I've been involved



Father Notter

with the farmworker community."

While assigned to a Fremont parish, Father Notter was part of a group known as Ohio Citizens for Farm Labor, which advocated for laws and policies promoting farmworker safety. Father Notter also was involved in the social justice movements that resulted in the formation of the Toledo-based *Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC)* and *United Farmworkers of America* union. He achieved senior status as a Catholic priest a decade ago.

Father Notter spends his present days as a volunteer priest with circuses and traveling shows, mainly in the southern U.S. He stated he spends more time away from Toledo than in Toledo these days. In fact, he'll leave for Florida just after Christmas and estimated he'll be gone until Ash Wednesday, when he returns from South Texas. He mainly conducts Mass and ministers to Catholic circus performers, but has also presided at baptisms and other religious rites. That part of his pastoral career began in Florida years ago while ministering to the needs of the migrant farmworker community.

"I would spend two months in the winter in Florida two months in Texas visiting with the farmworkers who would come to Ohio in the summer," he explained. "One particular year in Florida at St. Ann's, that parish included a neighboring town where a lot of carnival and circus people lived. One night after the Spanish Mass, a retired circus performer from Central America came up to me and asked me to perform the baptism of a baby. That was 23 years ago and the rest is history."

Anyone seeking to support CMFN or learn more about the organization can visit their web page at www.cmfn.org or via social media at www.facebook.com/CMFVN.

Muere la cantante galardonada con el Grammy Nancy Wilson

Por ANDREW DALTON y HILLEL ITALIE, Associated Press

LOS ÁNGELES, 14 XII 18 (AP): Nancy Wilson, una "estilista de canciones" ganadora del Grammy cuya pulida voz pop-jazz la convirtió en una artista merecedora de discos de platino, ha muerto.

Wilson, quien se retiró de los escenarios en 2011, murió tras una larga enfermedad en su casa en Pioneertown, una comunidad en el desierto de California próxima al Parque Nacional de Joshua Tree, dijo su manager y publicista Devra Hall Levy a The Associated Press el jueves en la noche. Tenía 81 años.

Influenciada por Dinah Washington, Nat "King" Cole y otras estrellas, Wilson lo abarcó todo, desde los estándares del jazz a "Little Green Apples", y tan solo en la década de 1960 lanzó ocho discos que alcanzaron el top 20 de las listas de éxitos pop de Billboard. A veces elegante y discreta, otras rápida, afable y un poco traviesa, famosa por temas como "Guess Who I Saw Today", con la que se dio a conocer, y su éxito de 1964 "You Don't Know How Glad I Am" que tomaban elementos de Broadway, el pop y el jazz.

Se resistió a identificarse con una única categoría, especialmente con el jazz, y se refirió a sí misma como una "estilista de canciones".

"La música que canto hoy en día era la música pop en los 60", dijo al diario San Francisco Chronicle en 2010. "Nunca me he considerado una cantante de jazz (...). Tomo una letra y la hago mía. Me considero una intérprete de la letra".

Las de cenas de álbumes de Wilson incluían una célebre colaboración con Cannonball Adderley, "Nancy Wilson/Cannonball Adderley", un pequeño ensamble que podría ser calificado de jazz, "Broadway - My Way"; "Lush Life"; y "The Nancy Wilson Show!", un popular disco grabado durante un concierto.

"How Glad I Am" le dio un Grammy en 1965 a la mejor interpretación R&B, y después ganó premios Grammy al mejor álbum vocal jazz en 2005 por el íntimo "R.S.V.P. (Rare Songs, Very Personal)" y en 2007 por "Turned to Blue", una muestra del swing relajado que logró dominar hacia el final de su vida. The

National Endowment for the Arts le otorgó el reconocimiento Jazz Masters Fellowship en 2004 por su trayectoria.

Wilson tuvo también una prolífica carrera en televisión, cine y radio, con participaciones en "Hawaii Five-O" o "Police Story", en "Meteor Man" de Robert Townshend o presentando la serie de NPR "Jazz Profiles" durante años. Además fue miembro activo del movimiento por los derechos civiles, incluyendo en la marcha de Selma de 1965, y recibió un premio Image de la organización por los derechos civiles NAACP en 1998.

Wilson contrajo matrimonio en dos ocasiones, con el baterista Kenny Dennis, de quien se divorció en 1970, y con Wiley Burton, quien murió en 2008. Wilson tuvo tres hijos.

Nació en Chillicothe, Ohio, era la mayor de seis hijos de un trabajador de una fundidora de hierro y una trabajadora doméstica. Wilson cantaba en la iglesia cuando era niña y para los 4 años había decidido su profesión. Estaba en secundaria cuando ganó un concurso de talento patrocinado por una estación local de televisión y tras esto le dieron su propio programa. Tras estudiar brevemente en el Central State College, salió de gira por Ohio con la agrupación *Rusty Bryant's Carolyn Club Big Band* y conoció a jazzistas como Adderley, que la impulsaron para que se mudara a Nueva York.

Pronto tenía presentaciones regulares en The Blue Morocco, y entró en contacto con el manager de Adderley, John Levy.

"Fijó una sesión para grabar un demo", dijo Wilson después durante una entrevista con la Filarmónica de Los Angeles. "Ray Bryant y yo grabamos 'Guess Who I Saw Today', 'Sometimes I'm Happy' y otras dos canciones. Las enviamos a Capitol y en cinco días el teléfono sonó. A las seis semanas tenía todo lo que yo quería".

Su primer álbum, "Like in Love!" se editó en 1959 y tras esto tuvo su mayor éxito comercial a la década siguiente, a pesar de competir con sonidos más modernos. Aunque hizo versiones de



canciones de los Beatles y de Stevie Wonder, estaba tan fuera de la escena musical contemporánea que un entrevistador alguna vez la sorprendió al preguntarle sobre Cream, el trío rock de Eric Clapton.

"Me tardé años en saber de qué se trataba esa pregunta. Hay que recordar que estaba trabajando constantemente o viajando para presentarme, los 60 fueron para mí de trabajo", dijo a JazzWax en 2010.

En la década de 1970 y después, continuó grabando discos y presentándose alrededor del mundo, en clubs, salas de conciertos y festivales de jazz de Newport a Tokio. Oficialmente dejó de salir de gira con un concierto en la Universidad de Ohio en septiembre de 2011, aunque había pensado en retirarse por años. Cuando cumplió 70 años en 2007 fue invitada de honor a la gala del Carnegie Hall. El espectáculo terminó con Wilson interpretando algunos de sus éxitos como "Never, Never Will I Marry", "I Can't Make You Love Me" y la clásica de Gershwin "How Long Has This Been Going On?".

"Después de 55 años haciendo lo que hago profesionalmente tengo el derecho de preguntar ¿por cuánto tiempo más? Me estoy tratando de retirar gente", dijo riendo antes de salir del escenario en medio de una ovación.

Siguiendo los deseos de Wilson no habrá un funeral, señaló su familia en un comunicado. Una celebración de su vida se realizará probablemente en febrero, en el mes de su nacimiento.

Le sobreviven su hijo Kacy Dennis y sus hijas Samantha Burton y Sheryl Burton, así como sus hermanas Karen Davis y Brenda Vann y cinco nietos.

Italie informó desde Nueva York.

'Draft Sen. Sherrod Brown' group supports 2020 presidential bid

CLEVELAND, Dec. 18, 2018 (AP): Supporters of Ohio's Democratic U.S. senator have launched a "Committee to Draft Sherrod Brown" for a 2020 presidential run.

Cleveland attorney Michael Wager and Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley are heading the effort, which they say

will promote Brown's messages on economic growth and "the dignity of work." Community events and digital organizing are also planned and a website is up.

Sen. Brown won a third term in November in an election that stood out in Ohio amid sweeping Republican successes in a state that Donald Trump car-

ried in 2016. Brown says his victory showed Democrats can win by fighting for workers without compromising progressive values, although he hasn't made a decision on 2020.

Sen. Brown is among dozens of Democrats who are considered possible 2020 candidates.

Massachusetts fastest growing state in the Northeast

BOSTON, Dec. 19, 2018 (AP): Massachusetts is the fastest growing state in the Northeast—with many of its newest residents coming from other countries.

That's according to the latest numbers from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Massachusetts Secretary of State William Galvin said the numbers

show Massachusetts is growing twice as fast as it did in the previous decade.

Since 2010, the population in Massachusetts has increased by an estimated 5.4 percent, reaching almost 7 million residents.

Connecticut was the only Northeast state to lose population since 2010. Rhode Island gained population, but at a slower pace.

Galvin said the driving factor behind Massachusetts' population growth appears to be international immigration.

He said while Massachusetts continues to lose population by residents moving to other states, the loss is offset by twice that number of people moving to the state from other countries.

Cuba y MLB alcanzan acuerdo para firma de peloteros

Por MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN y RONALD BLUM, Associated Press

LA HABANA, 19 XII 18 (AP): Las Grandes Ligas, su sindicato de jugadores y la Federación Cubana de Béisbol alcanzaron un acuerdo que permitirá a los peloteros de la isla firmar contratos con los clubes en Estados Unidos sin tener que desertar, un esfuerzo que busca eliminar el peligroso tráfico de individuos que llevaba décadas.

El acuerdo, vigente hasta el 31 de octubre de 2021, facilita a los cubanos firmar bajo reglas similares a las de jugadores bajo contrato con clubes en Japón, Corea del Sur y Taiwán.

"Durante años, las Grandes Ligas de Béisbol han estado buscando poner fin a la trata de jugadores de béisbol de Cuba por parte de organizaciones criminales al crear una alternativa segura y legal para que esos jugadores firmen con Clubes de las Grandes Ligas", dijo el comisionado Rob Manfred en un comunicado divulgado el miércoles. "Creemos que este acuerdo logra ese objetivo y permitirá que la próxima generación de jugadores cubanos persiga su sueño sin tener que enfrentar muchas de las dificultades experimentadas por jugadores actuales y ex jugadores cubanos que han jugado en las Grandes Ligas de Béisbol".

Dependiendo de la calidad que muestren los futuros peloteros, el acuerdo podría significar millones de dólares en ingresos para la federación cubana. La organización carece de recursos suficientes y ha atestado una declinación en la calidad de sus peloteros e instalaciones durante los años recientes, a medida que el talento emigra al extranjero.

El acuerdo representa un paso adelante en las relaciones entre Estados Unidos y Cuba, durante un momento de tensiones entre el gobierno cubano y la administración del presidente Donald Trump, quien ha prometido revertir la apertura fomentada por su antecesor Barack Obama en 2014 hacia la isla.

Las Grandes Ligas explicaron que el acuerdo fue permitido por una licencia general emitida en 2016 por la Oficina de Control de Activos Extranjeros del Departamento del Tesoro. Esa licencia no se limitaba al béisbol.

"El béisbol ha sido siempre un puente entre nuestras dos naciones, al facilitar las conexiones entre la gente y los acuerdos más amplios que han unido a nuestros países", comentó

el senador Patrick Leahy, demócrata por el estado de Vermont.

El republicano Jeff Flake, senador por Arizona, consideró que el acuerdo fue un "jonrón".

"Mejorará la vida de los peloteros cubanos, quienes no tendrán que arriesgarse más a un tránsito inseguro hacia Estados Unidos", tuiteó.

Toda disputa entre MLB y la federación cubana será zanjada por la Cámara Internacional de Comercio.

"Establecer un proceso legal y seguro para ingresar a nuestro sistema es el paso más importante que podemos dar para poner fin a la explotación y el peligro para los jugadores cubanos que buscan una carrera en las Grandes Ligas de Béisbol", dijo el director ejecutivo del sindicato Tony Clark. "La seguridad y el bienestar de estos jóvenes sigue siendo nuestra principal preocupación".

El pelotero podrá decidir si quiere que un agente registrado ante el sindicato negocie un convenio de Grandes Ligas. Podría recurrir a un representante distinto para negociar un acuerdo de las menores.

Solo los jugadores con contratos con la federación cubana están cubiertos bajo el acuerdo. La federación cubana acordó permitir la contratación todos los peloteros de 25 años o mayor edad con al menos seis años de experiencia profesional. Estarán bajo la categoría de profesionales internacionales en el contrato colectivo de MLB, y no estarán sujetos a los montos para firmas de peloteros internacionales aficionados.

La federación cubana tendrá la facultad de permitir que jugadores más jóvenes firmen contratos de ligas menores con organizaciones de MLB.

"Hoy es un día en que estoy extremadamente feliz", manifestó en un comunicado Yasiel Puig, jardinero de los Dodgers de Los Ángeles, quien fue trasladado fuera de Cuba por traficantes vinculados con un cartel mexicano de las drogas, de acuerdo con testimonios rendidos ante una corte. "Saber que los futuros jugadores cubanos no pasarán por lo que pasamos me hace muy feliz".

Los peloteros cubanos tienen una larga historia en las mayores. Minnie Miñoso fue elegido nueve veces al juego de Estrellas, Tony Oliva acumuló ocho selecciones, mientras que Camilo Pascual y Tony

Pérez participaron en ese encuentro siete veces.

Orlando y Liván Hernández, Puig, Aroldis Chapman y otros se han convertido en astros durante las décadas recientes, otros han sido un fiasco tras firmar convenios millonarios.

El jardinero Rusney Castillo llegó a un acuerdo por siete años y 72,5 millones de dólares con Boston en 2014 y ha aparecido apenas en 99 juegos con los Medias Rojas. Ha disputado 347 duelos en las menores.

"Saber que la próxima generación de jugadores de béisbol cubanos no deberá pasar por el sufrimiento que experimentaron los jugadores cubanos del pasado es la realización de un sueño imposible para todos nosotros", comentó José Abreu, primera base de los Medias Blancas de Chicago. "Por fin acabará la explotación por parte de contrabandistas y agencias sin escrúpulos que se aprovechaban de los peloteros cubanos. A la fecha, sigo siendo acosado por ellos".

Cualquier pelotero que esté en posibilidades de firmar con clubes de Grandes Ligas podrá hacerlo sin salir de Cuba. La cuota pagada por el equipo que lo contrate estará regida por las mismas reglas que en otros sistemas de las mayores: 20% de los primeros 25 millones de dólares en un contrato con las Grandes Ligas, 17,5% de los siguientes 25 millones y 15% de cualquier monto por encima de los 50 millones.

Habrà una tarifa complementaria de 15% sobre cualquier bono, escala salarial y opciones ejercidas.

Para los contratos de las menores, la cuota será de 25% del bono por la firma, y habrá una tarifa complementaria para cualquier profesional extranjero que llegue a su primer acuerdo que incluya términos de Grandes Ligas si éstos se terminan ejerciendo.

Un ex pelotero de la federación cubana bajo contrato de MLB podrá regresar a Cuba durante el receso de invierno en Norteamérica. Podrá jugar en Cuba durante el receso si cuenta con el consentimiento de su equipo de Grandes Ligas.

Los jugadores requerirán el consentimiento de una serie de funcionarios deportivos en su país, antes



de que la federación cubana acceda a cederlos, de acuerdo con Higinio Vélez, el presidente de esa organización.

Vélez describió el nuevo sistema como una forma de proteger la calidad del béisbol cubano, permitiendo simultáneamente que los peloteros lleguen a las mayores sin recurrir a contrabandistas y sin romper los vínculos con su nación.

Refiriéndose a las familias de los jóvenes peloteros, el presidente de la federación cubana dijo: "Éste es el camino legal, el camino seguro, del cual siempre hemos soñado para sus hijos".

"El contrato hoy le da una vida segura, tranquila, de poder jugar en Cuba, de poder ser contratado en cualquier equipo de las Grandes Ligas... de poder regresar, estar con sus familias, viajar con sus familias, ir y regresar legalmente cada vez que puedan, o si lo desean".

La salida de jóvenes peloteros cubanos hacia MLB se ha reducido desde que se impusieron límites en las firmas de jugadores aficionados internacionales desde el 2 de julio de 2017.

Para 2017-18, el jardinero Julio Pablo Martínez obtuvo 2,8 millones de dólares con Texas. El otro bono por fichaje superior a los 300.000 dólares con un amateur cubano fue de 750.000 dólares por el campocorto Eddy Díaz (Colorado).

En el período actual de fichajes, que comenzó el 2 de julio, el mayor bono por firma para un pelotero amateur cubano ha sido de 975.000 dólares para el jardinero Jairo Pomares con San Francisco.

Blum, contribuyó con este despacho desde Nueva York.

Historias de penurias de cubanos para llegar a Grandes Ligas

Por NOAH TRISTER, Associated Press

20 XII 18 (AP): La próxima generación de astros cubanos del béisbol tendrá un camino hacia las Grandes Ligas mucho más despejado del que tuvieron sus mayores.

Los cubanos podrán firmar con clubes de Estados Unidos siguiendo las mismas reglas que los japoneses, sudcoreanos y taiwaneses en el marco de un acuerdo entre las Grandes Ligas, la asociación de peloteros de Estados Unidos y la Federación Cubana de Béisbol. Ya no tendrán necesidad de desertar.

Por décadas, los peloteros cubanos que llegaron a Estados Unidos lo hicieron en circunstancias misteriosas y circularon todo tipo de rumores acerca de las penurias que vivieron para irse de la isla. Aquí algunos ejemplos:

LLEGA GARBEY: Antes de que siquiera hubiesen nacido estrellas de la talla de Yasiel Puig y Yoenis Céspedes, Bárbaro Garbey hizo su debut en los Tigres de Detroit, quienes ganaron la Serie Mundial de 1984. Llegó con la flotilla de Mariel de 1980, cuando el gobierno permitió la salida de unos 125.000 cubanos.

Un cuarto de siglo después, Garbey dijo al diario USA Today que tuvo que intentar varias veces sumarse a la flotilla.

"Las primeras tres veces me reconocieron y me dijeron que eso no era para mí", comentó. "La cuarta, el tipo me reconoció también, pero me dijo, ¿así que te quieres ir? Pues vete al diablo".

LOS JUGADORES DE LA SELECCIÓN: La llegada de desertores cubanos se disparó en 1991, cuando el pitcher René Arocha, que estaba en Estados Unidos con la selección isleña, abandonó la delegación en un aeropuerto de Miami. El talentoso torpedero Rey Ordóñez, por su parte, escaló un cerco cuando dejó el equipo nacional en los Juegos Mundiales Universitarios de 1993 en Buffalo, Nueva York.

El lanzador Rolando Rojo estaba en Georgia con la selección olímpica cubana de 1996 y se escapó de un hotel. Reapareció en Miami y participó en el Juego de las Estrellas de 1998 con la camiseta de Tampa Bay.

LOS HERMANOS HERNÁNDEZ: La selección cubana se entrenaba en México en 1995 cuando Liván Hernández se escapó del hotel y viajó en avión a Venezuela. Dos años después, fue el Jugador Más Valioso de la Serie Mundial con los Marlins de Miami.

A su medio hermano Orlando Hernández lo marginaron de la pelota cubana tras la partida de Liván, pero pudo escaparse con un pequeño grupo en una embarcación en diciembre de 1997. Llegó a las Bahamas y terminó firmando con los Yanquis. Se coronó tres veces con los Yanquis y también ganó una Serie Mundial con los Medias Blancas en 2005.

LA ODISEA DE PUIG: Puig salió de Cuba en 2012, después de varios intentos fallidos. Fue sacado de la isla por traficantes asociados a una banda mexicana de narcotraficantes, según un testimonio prestado en un juzgado.

El astro de los Dodgers dijo el miércoles en un comunicado que le alegraba saber que en el futuro los peloteros cubanos no tendrán que sobrellevar ese tipo de odiseas para salir.

Countries with Universal Health Care

Listed by Country and Start Date of Universal Health Care

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



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

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Wednesdays, January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; February 6, 13, 20, 27; March 6, 13, 20, 27; 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.

STEAM Club

We'll provide the materials and you provide the creativity as we explore science, technology, engineering, art and mechanics. All skill levels welcome. Intended for children ages ten and up. Preregistration required.

Wednesdays, January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; February 6, 13, 20, 27; March 6, 13, 20, 27; 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Line Dancing

Line Dancing to R & B and Soul Music, taught by Ms. Evelyn Henry. Come to learn this new skill or practice what you already know and make new friends at the same time. Preregistration required.

Fridays, January 4, 11, 18, 25; February 1, 8, 15, 22; March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Yoga for Beginners

Adults, join the weekly Friday yoga class taught by Tom Gorman. Please

bring your own yoga mat or beach towel

Saturdays, January 5, 12, 19, 26; February 2, 9, 16, 23; March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; 10 a.m. - noon

Yarn Club

Knitting/crochet instructor Valerie Dillard will teach and review the basic stitches of knitting and crochet. The Yarn Club is open to teens and adults. Yarn is provided for practice. Please bring knitting needles (size 9 or 10) or a crochet hook (size G or H). Preregistration required.

Saturdays, January 5, 19; February 2, 16; March 2, 16, 30; 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Knights of The Square Table Chess Club

Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned player, come to our open play sessions. Preregistration required.

Mondays, January 7, 14, 21, 28; February 4, 11, 18, 25; March 4, 11, 18, 25; 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Job Help Mondays

Learn how to compose and assemble your own resume, set up your own email



account, attach your resume in an email to a job website, save your resume online, apply for a job online and set up your own account with online job websites. Preregistration required.

Mondays, January 7, 14, 21, 28; February 4, 11, 18, 25; March 4, 11, 18, 25; 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Zumba®

Shed pounds while dancing to merengue, salsa and other hot Latin beats. Preregistration required.

Tuesdays, January 8, 15, 22, 29; February 5, 12, 19, 26; March 5, 12, 19, 26; 5:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.

Sewing Club

Learn hand sewing and sewing machine skills. A few sewing machines will be provided but you are welcome to bring your own portable machine. Beginners and those with some background in sewing are welcome. Preregistration required.

Lourdes Bennett: El Centro hires new Go-To Person for community relations

By La Prensa Staff

LORAIN, Dec. 24, 2018: Administrative assistant Lourdes Bennett has hit the ground running for Lorain-based El Centro de Servicios Sociales, Inc., as the main community contact for Latino families and individuals. Ms. Bennett joined the Latino nonprofit organization in October, replacing operations manager Manny Pedraza, who left for a position at Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) to mentor students.

"He grew in the position with more and more responsibility he had," she explained. "With him leaving, I have to try to fill those shoes. He had been here so long and had a system going and so I'm just trying to learn that system and do some of the things he did and maybe just bring some new ideas that I have on some of the items as well."

But Ms. Bennett will serve as much more than an administrative assistant to executive director Victor Leandry in a position that has evolved into the lifeblood of the nonprofit. For example, she helped organize a *Breakfast with Santa* event held Saturday, Dec. 15 in collaboration with *One Neighborhood Engagement (ONE)* and the *Community Foundation of Lorain County*.

Ms. Bennett, 51, has a wide-ranging background, previously working in intellectual property law and for an executive search firm in Cleveland. The Lorain native commuted to Cleveland each day for more than a decade, three hours round trip, to her job as an office manager until the executive search firm closed its offices



there. A bit of divine serendipity led her to El Centro.

"I wanted to stay more in Lorain, maybe help out, be more of an asset since I was born and raised here," she said. "It gave me an opportunity to step back, see where I am in my life, with my family, and how can I give back at this point. A friend saw the position, texted me and said 'This would be perfect for you.' It just happened to work out timing-wise."

Ms. Bennett grew up just a couple of blocks from El Centro's offices, so she had a good knowledge of the nonprofit, even though her family never needed any of its services. Her father worked at a steel plant and somehow provided for 14 children, who were raised by a stay-at-home mom. But friends and family actively took part in the programs and services offered.

"Lorain is in my blood," she said. "I'm very passionate about Lorain. I'm very thankful to have found this position at El Centro, which does such a wonderful job with all of its services. I didn't

realize all of the services done here. I'm very proud to be a Lorainite."

Ms. Bennett has been married for 28 years and has two grown sons, 31 and 20. She has one grandson. She is the 13th of 14 children, growing up in a strict Catholic household. While her mom is still alive, her father passed away 14 years ago. Her parents came to the Lorain area from Puerto Rico, speaking no English. Her father worked at U.S. Steel for nearly four decades.

"It was a huge sacrifice for them, especially not knowing the language," she said. "I'm very proud of where my mom and dad came from and everything they did for us to get us where we are, all 14 of us. All of us are successful, married with kids, so I'm very proud of that as well."

Ms. Bennett has had to acclimate to her new job quickly, as El Centro has been quite busy in the last several weeks with a number of different programs. One recent program was a holiday gift drive for an estimated 250 Latino seniors that struggle with isolation, poverty and lack of support.

An ongoing program began Dec. 1, hosting bilingual financial education classes to improve the financial literacy of El Centro clients and community members, focused on financial recovery and credit repair, along with budgeting and saving.

A third El Centro program in collaboration with *Church of the Open Door* in Elyria recently provided food boxes in the community for Christmas. El Centro coordinated the food drive, while church members delivered the food boxes the week before Christmas.

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CELEBRITY BARTENDER EVENT:

The public is invited to join in the fun on Friday nights from 6-9 pm. with the Celebrity Bartenders as the crowd cheers and the big bell rings as the tip donations role in for the Mexican Mutual Society! Delicious Mexican food is available from Hector's Kitchen. • December 28, 2018. Shots Bar Reunion.

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

MMS 2019 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE:

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

SAVE THE DATE! MMS NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY!

The public is invited to the New Year's Eve Party at the Mexican Mutual Society, 1820 East 28th Street. Enjoy party food and a Champagne toast at midnight. Celebration is 8pm-1am. Join us as we dance to all the tunes we love from every genre on our iTunes Digital Jukebox. We will party from the East Coast to the West Coast with the help of the MMS BIG Screen TV...possibly the biggest TV screen in the City!

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Seth D. Pevnick appointed Curator of Greek and Roman Art

CLEVELAND, December 20, 2018: The Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA) has announced the appointment of Seth D. Pevnick as Curator of Greek and Roman Art. The museum's outstanding collection of art from classical antiquity is characterized by singular works of great quality, including many that are exceptional for their distinctive iconography, form, craftsmanship or cultural significance.

Pevnick's appointment follows an international search. He will assume his responsibilities at the CMA in March 2019.

"Seth is an exceptional curator and an impressive scholar who understands the complexities of collecting antiquities in the 21st century, as well as the importance of our collection as a springboard for exhibitions and a wide range of programs for audiences of all ages. He is also deeply committed to education. Complementing his PhD in archaeology, Seth has an MA in education, which will serve him well in helping to make the classical world accessible and relevant to visitors. We very much look forward to having Seth as a colleague in Cleveland, and to experiencing the ways that he will encourage museum audiences to engage with the art of the ancient world," said Director William M. Griswold.

As Curator of Greek and Roman Art, Pevnick will oversee the care and development of the collection of art of the ancient Mediterranean, including the art of Egypt and the Ancient Near East. Working closely with the Director and Chief Curator, Pevnick will identify and recommend works of art to augment the collection. He will also oversee special exhibitions exploring all aspects of art from classical antiquity.



Seth is currently the Chief Curator and Richard E. Perry Curator of Greek and Roman Art at the Tampa Museum of Art, where he has served since 2009. From July 2014 to April 2015, he served as Acting Director at the Tampa Museum of Art. Seth has curated numerous exhibitions including the major traveling exhibition *Poseidon and the Sea: Myth, Cult, and Daily Life* (2014–15); *Echoes of Antiquity: Revisiting and Reimagining the Ancient World* (2015); *Animals in Ancient Art* (2016); and *Patricia Cronin, Aphrodite, and the Lure of Antiquity: Conversations with the Collection* (2018).

Prior to his employment at Tampa, from 2008–9, Pevnick was a Curatorial Assistant in the Department of Antiquities at the J. Paul Getty Museum, Getty Villa, where he co-curated *The Chimaera of Arezzo*, a collaborative exhibition with the Republic of Italy. Pevnick holds a PhD in Archaeology from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a BA in Classical Archaeology from Dartmouth College.

About the Cleveland Museum of Art

The Cleveland Museum of Art's collections include more than 45,000 objects and spans 6,000 years of achievement in the arts. The museum is a significant international forum for exhibitions, scholarship, and performing arts. One of the top comprehensive art museums in the nation and free of charge to all, the Cleveland Museum of Art is located in the dynamic University Circle neighborhood.

For more information about the museum, its holdings, programs and events, call 888-CMA-0033 or visit ClevelandArt.org.

Cleveland Foundation grantmaking tops \$100 million in 2018

CLEVELAND, Dec. 18, 2018: The Cleveland Foundation's board of directors has approved \$12.3 million in grants for the month of December. Supporting residents of Cuyahoga, Lake, and Geauga counties, the foundation and its donors have invested \$28.5 million for the fourth quarter of 2018 and \$100.2 million for the year to date.

"This month's grants emphasize the importance of providing crucial services and opportunities for our youth and marginalized residents," said India Pierce Lee, Cleveland Foundation senior vice president for program. "As the year comes to a close, we're grateful to be able to support so many wonderful organizations that are making such a difference in Greater Cleveland."

This marks the second consecutive year in which the foundation has granted out more than \$100 million, with last year's \$101 million being the highest single-year distribution since the foundation was established in 1914.

Highlights of December grants approved by the foundation's Board of Directors include:

Health

- Harrington Discovery Institute at University Hospitals (\$1,000,000) – Supports the establishment of a transatlantic affiliation with a leading European university to establish a global Center of Excellence for rare disease

and new medicines • Centers for Families and Children (\$1,000,000) – Assist with the continued transition to managed health care for the organization which provides comprehensive integrated care and programming for more than 25,000 individuals, including many living with mental illness

Education

- Cleveland State University Foundation (\$159,000) – Support for year four of the Cleveland Foundation Teaching Fellows Program, a paid internship program in partnership with Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) that is modeled after other highly successful urban teacher residency programs across the country • Esperanza Inc. (\$400,000) – Academic support and family resources for Hispanic students in CMSD, including an expansion of services in the wake of a significant increase of families from Puerto Rico • Seeds of Literacy (\$300,000) – General funding to assist with current operations for Ohio's only nationally-accredited adult literacy agency, as well as long-term planning in response to recent changes in federal and state funding • Teach for America (\$400,000) – Continued support to assist with recruitment and training of incoming teachers, professional development and support for current members, and leadership development, placement and retention of alumni

Youth & Social Services

- After School All Stars



Cleveland (\$132,770) – Expand year-round, school-based, comprehensive after-school programs for Marion Sterling Elementary School, which will be located in Cleveland Municipal Housing Authority's Olde Cedar housing and conducted in partnership with Cuyahoga Community College

- West Side Catholic Center (\$190,000) – Support construction of an elevator at the organization's Economic Opportunities building, which will provide for the expansion of workforce development services and ensure that all clients have access to program spaces • Youth Opportunities Unlimited (\$350,000) – Continued support for the organization's youth and young adult workforce programming and initiatives, including new partnerships with Boys and Girls Clubs and Habitat for Humanity

Environment

- Nature Center at Shaker Lakes (\$300,000) – Support the renovation of the 35-year-old All People's Trail boardwalk, including improved ADA accessibility, a link to the Lake to Lake Trail and a new trailhead entrance; the grant also enhances educational programming and interactive viewing areas.

Accusations of sexual abuse

(Continued from Page 2)

demonstrate an utter disregard for Arizona law, the mutual agreement with the department, and calls into question the privilege you enjoy operating a health care institution in the state of Arizona," Christ said in a letter to the nonprofit.

Under the agreement, Southwest Key was required to hire a third-party health care consultant to evaluate

the company's quality-management practices and systems, hire an on-site state-approved "evaluator" at each of its 11 other facilities for at least a year and allow the health department to inspect its facilities without notice.

Health Department spokeswoman Melissa Blasius-Nuñez said Southwest Key had hired the consultant as the settlement required, along

with some monitors.

"We will fully and completely comply with this agreement," fellow Southwest Key spokesman Jeff Eller said in a statement when the settlement was reached. "We are committed to making the improvements that are spelled out and we look forward to building on these changes for the future."

Countries with Universal Health Care

Listed by Country and Start Date of Universal Health Care

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

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DMC and fighting the flu

DETROIT, December 2018: The *Detroit Medical Center* is taking necessary precautions to minimize the spread of influenza this year. Currently, local flu activity has been noted in Michigan and there is a rise of confirmed flu cases in the *Metro Detroit area*.

Hospital patients, younger children and senior citizens are particularly susceptible to catching and spreading these illnesses, according to *Dr. Teena Chopra*, Corporate Medical Director of Infection Prevention and Hospital Epidemiology, DMC Harper University Hospital.

To protect patients, visitors and staff, the *Detroit Medical Center* – effective immediately – is implementing new patient visitation guidelines. Visitors under the age of 12 will not be allowed to visit our inpatient and observation units and only two visitors will be allowed at a time. Any visitor displaying symptoms of sore throat, runny nose, muscle aches, fever, cough, sneezing or chills will not be permitted to visit a patient. These temporary guidelines will remain in effect while we are experiencing a high volume of seasonal flu activity present in the community. Exceptions will be made in special circumstances, such as when a visit is deemed

critical because of a patient's condition.

"One of the challenges in fighting flu is that the virus can spread very easily," *Dr. Chopra* said. "However, every step we can take to ensure the spread of flu is kept to a minimum is a step in the right direction in the fight against the flu."

Should visitors arrive at the hospital during normal business or visiting hours with children under the age of 12, they will not be permitted to visit inpatient and observation units. Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette signage have been placed at the main entrances of our hospitals and several other locations throughout our facilities. Frequent hand washing and the covering of coughs and sneezes can go a long way to help prevent the transmission of flu and other germs.

"The DMC strives to be as ready as possible before the peak of flu season," *Dr. Chopra* said. "By taking these steps, our patients, our community and our staff will be well protected when they step inside the doors of a DMC hospital."

All *Detroit Medical Center* staff, volunteers, medical staff and students in patient care areas are required to receive the influenza vaccination or wear a surgical/procedure mask during flu season. For more information about what symptoms to look for and what



to do if a child feels sick, visit www.dmc.org/about-us/flu-news.

About Detroit Medical Center: The *Detroit Medical Center* operates eight hospitals and institutes, including *Children's Hospital of Michigan*, *Detroit Receiving Hospital*, *Harper University Hospital*, *Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital*, *Hutzel Women's Hospital*, *Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan*, *Sinai-Grace Hospital* and *DMC Heart Hospital*. The *Detroit Medical Center* is a leading regional health care system with a mission of excellence in clinical care, research and medical education. The *Detroit Medical Center* is proud to be the *Official Healthcare Services Provider* of the *Detroit Tigers* and *Detroit Red Wings*.

For more information, visit www.dmc.org. "Like" us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/dmcheals>, follow us on Twitter at @dmc_heals or check out our YouTube page at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/DetroitMedicalCenter>.

US adults aren't getting taller, but putting on pounds

By *MIKE STOBBE, AP Medical Writer*

NEW YORK, Dec. 20, 2018 (AP): You don't need to hang the mistletoe higher but you might want to skip the holiday cookies.

A new report released Thursday shows U.S. adults aren't getting any taller but they are still getting fatter.

The average U.S. adult is overweight and just a few pounds from obese, thanks to average weight increases in all groups—but particularly whites and Latinos.

Overall, the average height for men actually fell very slightly over the past decade. There was no change for women.

One factor may be the shift in the country's population. There's a growing number of Mexican-Americans, and that group tends to be a little shorter, said one of the report's authors, *Cynthia Ogden* of the *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*.

The findings come from

a 2015-16 health survey that measures height and weight. More than 5,000 U.S. adults took part.

CDC records date back to the early 1960s, when the average man was a little over 5 feet, 8 inches tall and weighed 166 pounds. Now, men are almost 1 inch taller and more than 30 pounds heavier. But today's average height of 5 feet, 9 inches is about a tenth of an inch shorter than about a decade ago.

The average woman in the early 1960s was 5 feet, 3 inches and 140 pounds. Now, women are a half-inch taller and about 30 pounds heavier, on average. The average height is about the same as it was a decade earlier: 5 feet, 4 inches.

Other survey findings:
• In the last decade, the average weight of men rose about 2 pounds, to 198. For women, it rose 6 pounds, to nearly 171.

• Men have 40-inch waistlines, on average. Women's

waistlines are a little under 39 inches.

• The average height of black men and white men has been holding about steady, at a little under 5 feet 10.

• Mexican-American and Asian-American men are roughly 3 inches shorter than whites and blacks, on average. There was a similar height gap in women.

In 2016, about 18 percent of the nation's population was Hispanic, up from about 13 percent in 2000, according to U.S. Census figures. Mexican-Americans account for nearly two-thirds of the Hispanic population.

Editor's Note: The Associated Press Health & Science Department receives support from the *Howard Hughes Medical Institute's* Department of Science Education. *The AP is solely responsible for all content.*

NY mayor, NY Gov. supports legalizing marijuana

NEW YORK, Dec. 20, 2018 (AP): New York Mayor *Bill de Blasio* says he's in favor of legalizing marijuana, but only if it's done right. The mayor spoke Thursday at a Dominican cultural center in upper Manhattan.

De Blasio follows New

York Gov. *Andrew Cuomo* in jumping aboard a marijuana legalization train that is gaining momentum.

The Democratic mayor says legalization should include the expunging of petty crimes for pot. And he'd like marijuana sales to be closed to corporate

interests and open to New Yorkers—especially African-Americans and Latinos, who he says have been unfairly prosecuted for its use.

New York's Democratic governor announced his support for legalization last week.

Latino Community Report highlights the impact of Mental Health, Suicidal Ideation, and Opioid Use Disorders among Latinos in Ohio

COLUMBUS, Dec. 2018: The *Latino Affairs Commission* in collaboration with the *Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS)* has conducted a health equity study to explore the impact of behavioral health issues and use of opioids affecting Hispanic/Latinos in Ohio. The study utilized a mixed method research design analyzing quantitative data from substance abuse treatment admissions in the public behavioral health system and qualitative data from roundtable conversations across the state in 2017-2018.

The *Latino Community Report* is found on the Commission's website: <http://ochla.ohio.gov>

Understanding the dynamics that impact mental health, substance abuse and exposure to trauma among Hispanic/Latinos in Ohio is critical to our state's leadership, local governments and healthcare systems. Mixed and immigrant families face

unique challenges in their effort to integrate to society as they are exposed to behavioral health issues such as trauma, suicidal ideation, and domestic violence.

Furthermore, social determinants of health, cultural norms and stigma surrounding mental health contribute to low seeking behavior of these constituents to find help for mental health and opioid addiction. One key finding is that one fifth of Latino clients who reported taking opioids also reported having a mental health history. The report highlights the importance for competent prevention and treatment services for behavioral health issues and opioid use disorders for Ohio's Latino community.

As a commission, we have the responsibility to present matters that impact the quality of life for Hispanic Ohioans, and the issues outlined in this report are timely and relevant," stated *Lilly Cavanaugh*, Executive Director of the Commission [OLA]. The report provides ten policy

implications and recommendations for consideration. *Dr. Surendra Bir Adhikari*, OhioMHAS Health Disparities Research Lead reflected that the study points to the emergent need for culturally and linguistically competent interventions to address the changing Hispanic/Latino demographics.

Ohio has experienced rapid diversification in its population and the Latino community has doubled since 2000 to an estimated 437,000 in 2017, according to the *American Community Survey*. Most of this population reside in urban areas and their growth has impacted most counties across the state.

The *Ohio Latino Affairs Commission (OLA/OCHLA)* is an organization that advises state government on issues affecting Hispanic Ohioans, connects the diverse Latino communities across the state, and builds the capacity of community organizations so they may better serve the fast-growing Latino population of Ohio.



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

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Donald Trump and Betsy DeVos continue to attack protections for students

Op Ed by Miguel A. González, NEA Communications

WASHINGTON, DC, Dec. 18, 2018: *Donald Trump* and *Betsy DeVos* created the *Federal Commission on School Safety* that was supposed to address gun violence in our schools and recommend actions schools should take to keep our students safe. Instead, their commission announced today that it recommends stripping students of civil rights protections, which seek to prevent racial disparities in student discipline. Although the report does not endorse the DeVos idea that teachers should be forced to carry firearms in school, it does recommend pressuring educators to possess dangerous firearms in our schools.

The following statement can be attributed to NEA President Lily Eskelsen García:

"Instead of the Federal Commission on School Safety taking its charge seriously — addressing gun laws in this country and putting supports in place for students after the horrors of Parkland, Marshall County, Santa Fe and the countless other school

shootings that have occurred this year — Betsy DeVos and the commission are doing the exact opposite. The recommendations do little to make students safer in our nation's public schools. They are dishonoring the memory of the students and educators who have lost their lives.

"More to the point, today's announcement is further proof that we cannot count on Betsy DeVos to protect students' civil rights. Her decision to rescind critical federal guidance meant to address racial disparities in school discipline undermines the safety and dignity of students and educators in our public schools.

"Schools should continue to advance responsible and fair discipline policies and practices because they are best for students, the learning environment and meet legal obligations to address discrimination. Educators, schools and school districts must continue to enforce anti-discrimination laws. Period."

"Betsy DeVos' U.S. Department of Education is using the commission to pursue her agenda to dismantle students' civil rights pro-

tections — an agenda that affects our most vulnerable students the hardest. We do not need the appearance of safety; we need real solutions that create safe schools and address the underlying root of school violence. We need strategies to create positive, supportive learning environments and prevention efforts that end the hardening and over-policing of our public schools.

"The commission's recommendations were decided in a vacuum without any real input from the real education experts — America's teachers and school personnel working in public schools. We do not need more guns in schools. Students deserve real solutions that will keep them safe — that is what our students have asked of us. It is shameful that the Trump Administration is using the real risk of gun violence in our schools to strip vulnerable students of their civil rights, while doing nothing to keep all our students safe."

Follow on Twitter at @NEAmedia and @Lily_NEA

Judge blocks restrictions on who can apply for asylum

By COLLEEN LONG, Associated Press

WASHINGTON, DC, Dec. 19, 2018 (AP): A federal judge on Wednesday blocked Trump administration policies that prevented immigrants who suffered gang violence or domestic abuse in their home countries from seeking asylum.

U.S. District Court Judge Emmet Sullivan declared that some of the guidance that then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions issued this year cannot be used to determine whether an immigrant has a credible fear of persecution or torture in their home countries, the first step to making an asylum claim in the U.S.

The judge said the administration's policy on asylum seekers violates federal immigration law and that "it is the will of Congress—not the whims of the executive" that sets the standards for expedited removal.

It was yet another legal blow for President Donald Trump's efforts to harden immigration policies without Congress changing laws. The White House said Wednesday's ruling "will further overwhelm our immigration courts with meritless cases, making the existing massive backlog even worse."

Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said, "Today's ruling is only the latest example of judicial activism that encourages migrants to take dangerous risks; empowers criminal organizations that spread turmoil in our hemisphere; and undermines the laws, borders, Constitution, and sovereignty of the United States."

A U.S. judge in San Francisco Wednesday extended his decision blocking the Trump administration from enforcing a ban on asylum for any immigrants who illegally cross the U.S.-Mexico border.

Judge Jon Tigar ruled in favor of keeping the ban

on hold pending the outcome of a lawsuit challenging it. The case could take months to resolve. He had previously blocked the ban for 30 days.

The ban conflicts with an immigration law that says immigrants can apply for asylum regardless of how they enter the U.S., Tigar said.

The administration has asked the Supreme Court to allow that asylum policy to go forward.

Responding to Sullivan's ruling, a Justice Department spokesman, Steven Stafford, said Sessions' guidance had followed the requirements for asylum under U.S. law.

"We are reviewing our options with regard to this ruling, and we will continue to restore the rule of law in our immigration system," he said.

Trump administration officials say the asylum process is being exploited by immigrants who are counting on passing the initial credible-fear screening and being released into the country. Only about 9 percent of all people who initially claim asylum are granted it, and tens of thousands of families from Central America are coming to the U.S. every month.

The immigration policy change had an immediate impact.

Immigration lawyers say people whom they expected would pass credible-fear screenings began to fail them, and lawyers say immigration judges are signing off on more denials during appeals, effectively ending what could have been a years' long asylum process before it began.

But Trump officials also say the number of people claiming credible fear has risen dramatically.

Asylum can be granted to people who were persecuted in their home country or could be persecuted if forced to return. Thousands of people seek asylum each month at U.S. Customs and Border Protection stations along the southwest border.

The *American Civil Lib-*

erties Union sued the government over the June 11 change on behalf of 12 parents and children who were wrongly found not to have a credible fear of return. Sullivan's ruling impacts thousands of cases where immigrants are in expedited removal proceedings.

Among the plaintiffs was a woman identified only by a pseudonym, Grace. The ACLU said Grace's partner beat her and her children, and sexually assaulted her and her daughter. Once, the ACLU says, her daughter suffered a miscarriage after he attacked her. The lawsuit says police did not act when she contacted them. The lawsuit says Grace was found not to have a credible fear of persecution.

The judge also ordered the government to return any of the plaintiffs who may have been deported back to the U.S., and prevent further deportations.

"This ruling is a defeat for the Trump administration's all-out assault on the rights of asylum seekers. The government's attempt to obliterate asylum protections is unlawful and inconsistent with our country's longstanding commitment to provide protection to immigrants fleeing for their lives," said Jennifer Chang Newell, managing attorney of the *ACLU's Immigrants' Rights Project*, who argued the case.

The judge who issued the ruling attracted attention one day earlier for his public exhortation of former Trump administration adviser Michael Flynn, saying he felt disgusted and disdainful of Flynn's crimes. He allowed Flynn to postpone his sentencing so Flynn could continue cooperating with investigators and get credit that could allow him to avoid prison.

Associated Press writer Sudhin Thanawala in San Francisco contributed to this report.

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Lawmakers call for probe into Guatemalan child's death

LORDSBURG, N.M., Dec. 18, 2018 (AP): Lawmakers visiting the Border Patrol station where a 7-year-old Guatemalan girl was taken hours before her death are demanding an investigation into the response by federal agents.

Members of the *Congressional Hispanic*

Caucus spoke Tuesday outside the *Border Patrol* station in Lordsburg, New Mexico.

Jakelin Caal and her father were taken into custody Dec. 6 at the Antelope Wells port of entry in rural New Mexico. She began vomiting and later stopped breathing while being transported to Lordsburg.

U.S. Rep. Raúl Ruiz, a California Democrat and doctor, questioned whether the Border Patrol should have called for an air evacuation as soon as Jakelin's father reported her distress.

She was eventually air-lifted to an El Paso, Texas, hospital, but died hours later.

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The Sphinx Competition: Tickets are On-Sale Now!

The *Sphinx Competition* finals concert is coming up on February 2nd, 2019, 7:30pm at Orchestra Hall—join us for a night of transforming lives through the power of diversity in the arts.

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of the competition, young Black and Latinx string players compete under the guidance of an internationally renowned panel of judges, and perform with established professional musicians in a competition setting. The result is a

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Hot Meals provided to older adults on Christmas day

According to the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc., "Christmas can be a lonely time of year for many older adults who may have recently lost a spouse or other loved ones. Older adults looking for a hot meal, some entertainment and some company on Christmas can easily find all three."

For those 60 years of age and over looking for a hot Christmas meal and some company were treated at the Margaret Hunt Senior Center, 2120 Garden Lake Parkway in Toledo on Christmas Day for a hot lunch from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Guitarist and singer Gene Zenz provided the entertainment.

This meal was made possible by the Area Office on Aging, Valley Services Inc. and the Hunt Center.

La Prensa photos taken at an earlier event hosted by the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc.



LA JUNTA ELECTORAL DEL CONDADO DE CUYAHOGA COMENZÓ LA BÚSQUEDA DE UN NUEVO LOCAL PARA EL VOTO ADELANTADO

CLEVELAND: La Junta Electoral del Condado de Cuyahoga inició el proceso de seleccionar un edificio para llevar a cabo el proceso de voto adelantado.

Hoy en la reunión de la Junta se le solicitó al Director, *Pat McDonald*, que lanzara una búsqueda de un centro para ejercer el voto por adelantado más adecuado para acomodar un gran número de votantes. Actualmente las personas acuden a las oficinas centrales de la Junta Electoral, ubicadas en el 2925 Euclid Avenue en el centro de Cleveland.

La Junta espera identificar una nueva facilidad lo más pronto posible, para poder ubicar allí el voto por adelantado antes de la Elección Presidencial del 2020. "Se

espera que mucho más de 50,000 personas voten por adelantado en los 29 días que preceden a la primaria de marzo y a la elección presidencial general," indicó *Pat McDonald*, el Director de la Junta Electoral. "El voto por adelantado ha creado congestiones de tránsito, escasez de estacionamiento y largas filas que podrían formarse en las afueras del actual edificio. Esperamos que una nueva ubicación alivie estos inconvenientes y mejore nuestro servicio," expresó *McDonald*.

La Junta está buscando un local que sea lo suficientemente grande para que pueda acomodar miles de votantes por día, provea amplio estacionamiento, y esté ubicado cerca del transporte público.

McDonald está alentado a los agentes de bienes raíces

comerciales, propietarios de locales privados y al público en general a contactar a la Junta si tienen una ubicación en mente que pueda suplir estas necesidades. "Otros condados han sido muy creativos y exitosos en encontrar nuevas ubicaciones para el voto temprano en lugares como tiendas por departamentos, centros comerciales y edificios corporativos que están vacantes. Todas las ideas son bienvenidas," aseguró *McDonald*.

Como parte del proceso de selección, la Junta además alienta a las partes interesadas en la administración electoral y a los líderes comunitarios a compartir sus opiniones sobre los propuestos centros de votación adelantada.



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The Latina population is growing 4 times faster than the overall female population in the United States. Latinas historically experience more adversity and challenges on their paths to success than women from other cultural/language groups. The goal of the *Día de la Mujer* (Women's Day) conference is to motivate, inspire and connect Latinas by providing them with resources they can use to improve their lives.

Created by MSU students and staff, the annual *Día de la Mujer Conference* highlights the struggles of Latin Women (Latinas) in Michigan and focuses on developing solutions to address their issues. 2018 marked the 25th Annual Conference, making MSU the leading institution in the nation to provide a venue for Latinas to discuss issues and develop solutions.

Since its inception, the conference has grown into a multi-faceted series of workshops focusing on education, health, legal, STEM, finance & business, inter-personal relationships and self-empowerment.

The theme for 2019 is: "*She Exists Because She Resists.*" This conference is an excellent opportunity for all, especially for the intercultural development of our students at Michigan State University. Cultural understanding is an expectation of all Michigan State University students and DDLM provides an excellent out of the classroom learning experience. Your financial contribution will enable us to maintain our free registration for students and offer a professional conference experience and learning opportunity to all who attend.

When you sponsor our event, you receive high-level exposure, thereby positioning your department/organization as a leader in the advancement of Latinas through: Organization exposure; On-site signage and recognition; Online exposure; Speaking opportunities; Exhibition space; Complimentary event passes;

Don't miss this powerful opportunity to reinforce your organization's name, services, and information to a wider, yet targeted, Latina audience. For more information contact: *Juan Flores*, DDLM Coordinator at (517) 353-9590 or e-mail: floresj2@msu.edu

Sincerely,
Culturas de las Razas Unidas, Executive Board
DDLM 2019 Planning Committee

Countries with Universal Health Care

Listed by Country and Start Date of Universal Health Care

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

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