

El Editor

Casualties of
War in
Iraq 4,803
Afghan 3,243
as of Jan.
24, 2013

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Week of Jan. 24 thru Jan. 30, 2013

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Lubbock/Midland-Odessa Region

Meat Processing Plant in Plainview to Close Feb 1



The new year usually brings a sense of resolve to accomplish New Year's resolutions. But instead, for at least 2,000 Plainview residents, the new year has brought uncertainty and doubt about their futures.

On January 17, the Cargill Meat Solutions plant in Plainview announced that it was shutting down its operations due to the outside factors affecting their order production.

Established in 1971, the plant employs about 2,050 hourly wage and management employees combined. According to the corporation's web site, the company is a 24 hour operation with 3 shifts and produces 3.4 million pounds of beef per day.

Company officials announced the closing date to employees on January 17, and also announced that all employees would receive severance pay.

In a story in the January 17 edition of the Plainview Daily Herald, employees

interviewed were already contemplating their future which for some would mean moving out of Plainview.

Plainview is a city of 22,199 according to the latest Census figures. There is no doubt that such a large number of layoffs will impact the community and the area's economy in a severe way.

For example, the plant gives back to the community by donating to different community groups to the tune of \$50,000 per year. And coupled with employee donations also donates an average of \$100,000 per year to the United Way.

According to media reports, the closing was entirely due to circumstances beyond the company's control. "We delayed the decision to idle Plainview as long as possible, due in part to our outstanding team and ongoing excellent support from the community" said a company spokesman. Email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net

Neugebauer Votes to Protect Lower Tax Rates for Wealthy

It comes as no surprise that Congressman Randy Neugebauer voted against continued tax relief for the middle class. After all, the wealth he has amassed during his time in Congress, definitely does not qualify him to live in middle class territory.

And it didn't take long for Neugebauer to accumulate his millions either.

According to a report in The Washington Post published back in 2010, it only took a short 6 years for Neugebauer's wealth to increase by 66%; an average of 10.6% per year.

According to The Post, Neugebauer's wealth has increased to \$11.6 million from approximately \$5 million. Two years later, and it is a good bet that it has increased even more.

So it is telling that had the tax rates been extended, the outcome would have left the tax cuts intact for all income groups. It is easy to see why Neugebauer has repeatedly said that the budget deficit should be brought down through cuts to programs like Social Security, Medicare, food stamp programs, and other programs benefiting certain groups.

But, common sense ruled the day and after much hype and story after story about what would happen if Congress didn't act, a bill crafted by the Senate avert-

ing what had been called the "fiscal cliff" was passed a couple of hours before the New Year.

The bill extends the income tax levels passed during the Bush administration for individuals earning less than \$400,000 dollars (\$450,000 dollars for couples) per year. Democrats had been adamant that the level of earnings should be capped off at \$250,000 but relented in the end in order to try and get the bill passed.

The bill also includes tax credits for certain types of industries.

Another important component of the bill was an extension of a farm bill provision included in the 2008 Farm Bill.

Since a new Farm Bill was not passed in this last Congress, it was speculated that milk prices would triple in price. But a provision of the bill allowed for a continuation of that portion of the 2008 bill which will help to keep milk prices at their present levels for now.

Now, we head to the next battleground: the debt ceiling battle.

A battle which will be sure to place Neugebauer at odds with the majority of the middle class constituents he supposedly represents. Email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net

El Editor's Week in Review

New Legislative Session Begins in Austin

The new legislative session began in Austin on Tuesday January 8. Speaker of the House, Joe Straus, Republican from San Antonio retained his speakership when the lone candidate opposing him dropped out before voting began.

Once again, the 83rd legislature is in Republican hands, but Straus was already preaching bipartisanship.

According to the Austin American Statesman, Straus told the gathering, "Our capacity to work together is what distinguishes this body from Washington, D.C. In the Texas House, we don't put the Republicans on one side of the room and the Democrats on the other. In our House, there is no aisle that divides us. Instead, we work with our colleagues, regardless of party, because our mission transcends partisan politics."

To that we say, actions always speak louder than words.

Health Care Act - Where Texas Stands on Insurance Exchanges

The Affordable Health Care Act calls for states to set up insurance exchanges so that residents can shop for insurance coverage at competitive prices. But, in ruling on the constitutionality of the law, the Supreme Court ruled that states could opt out of setting up the exchanges. If they do, then residents of that state will participate in the federal insurance exchange set up by the federal government.

To date, 18 states have declared they will set up an exchange, 5 are planning to set up a partnership exchange, 8 are still undecided and 20 have already declared that they will default to the federal exchange.

This includes the state of Texas.

The enrollment period begins in October 2013 and coverage begins on January 1, 2014.

Historic Congress

A look at the makeup of the 113th Congress reveals that it includes the largest number of Hispanic legislators ever: a total of 31.

There are 3 US Senators, and 28 Representatives; with 23 of those being Democrats. In the Senate, the addition of Ted Cruz, Republican from Texas makes it 3 Hispanics. The other 2 are Marco Rubio, Republican from Florida, and Robert Menendez, a Democrat from New Jersey.

Texas is also responsible for at least 2 new Mexican American Congressmen. They are Democrats Joaquin Castro from San Antonio and Pete Gallego from Alpine.

Social Media and Hispanics

A recent survey shows that Hispanics show a greater enthusiasm than other groups for social media, but are more reluctant to share personal information.

The survey done by a California firm called uSamp, or United Sample surveyed 650 Hispanics.

Some of the findings included; 90 percent of Hispanics are likely to be on Facebook, compared with 81 percent of the general population, and 57 percent of Latinos use YouTube, as opposed to 46 percent of non-Hispanics.

But when Hispanics are asked to share their personal information like political affiliation, date of birth, or personal status, Hispanics were more reluctant than non Hispanics to do so.

Why you ask, it seems that it is a cultural difference that makes Hispanics more reluctant or sensitive to giving up personal information so easily.

Will New Congress Address Immigration Reform?

Most observers feel strongly that the issue of immigration reform must be addressed and addressed sooner rather than later.

But, with the recent emphasis placed on gun control, the issue of immigration, which once was seen as a priority by the President and Democrats, might be moved to the back burner.

The question of whether the issue of gun control will create more partisanship divisions which might hurt the attempt at bipartisanship needed to pass immigration reform is a valid one.

Already, Republican Senators John McCain and new Arizona Republican Senator Jeff Flake have said they are working on new legislation. Recently, Florida Senator Marco Rubio has been advancing his idea of reform also.

New Congressman Joaquin Castro told CNN that "Now that at least part of the fiscal cliff has been averted... immigration reform really should be a top priority."

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El Editor

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Kerry será confirmado en el Senado como secretario de Estado

Se prevé que John Kerry, un veterano y experimentado senador que entró en el Comité de Relaciones Exteriores de la cámara alta hace casi tres décadas, sea confirmado para el cargo de secretario de Estado para el segundo mandato de Barack Obama, sin problemas.

En la audiencia ante el Comité de Exteriores del Senado, Kerry será introducido por Clinton, actual secretaria de Estado, y por el senador republicano John McCain.

De 69 años y candidato presidencial demócrata en 2004, Kerry fue nombrado en diciembre pasado por Obama para hacerse cargo de la diplomacia estadounidense tras la marcha de Clinton, quien, pese a su popularidad, quiere ahora descansar y pasar más tiempo con su familia. La nominación de Kerry era espe-

rada desde que Susan Rice, embajadora de EEUU ante la ONU y una de las favoritas para el cargo, renunció a las posibilidades de aspirar a él tras las acusaciones republicanas de que mintió sobre el ataque al consulado estadounidense en Bengasi (Libia) del pasado 11 de septiembre.

Clinton le deja el listón muy alto en un momento en que el Departamento de Estado se enfrenta a posibles recortes de presupuesto como medida contra el elevado déficit y al reforzamiento de la seguridad de las instalaciones diplomáticas en el extranjero, decidido a raíz del ataque en Libia.

En los últimos cuatro años el senador por Massachusetts realizó importantes misiones diplomáticas encargadas por Obama en países como Siria, Egipto, Pakistán y

Afganistán.

Nacido en 1943 en Denver (Colorado), de pelo blanco y un metro noventa de estatura, aficionado a los deportes como el surf y el hockey, Kerry es hijo de un funcionario del servicio exterior y de una de las descendientes de la familia Forbes, una de las más antiguas y adineradas de Massachusetts.

Desde pequeño vivió por distintos países, conoció de primera mano la influencia de EEUU en la política internacional y la experiencia que más le marcó fue vivir en el Berlín dividido de los años 50 en plena Guerra Fría.

Los que le conocen aseguran que desde joven apuntaba maneras de líder; paciente pero rápido para ver las oportunidades, es un negociador nato. Es católico y ha casado dos veces. En la primera ocasión, con Julia Thorne, una heredera de Filadelfia con que tuvo dos hijas. Se divorció en 1988 y luego obtuvo la anulación eclesial para contraer matrimonio con Teresa Heinz Kerry, viuda del senador republicano John Heinz, magnate de las populares salsas.

Kerry planea vender sus participaciones en distintas empresas de la amplia cartera financiera de su familia para evitar posibles conflictos de interés si es confirmado para el cargo por el Senado, según una carta enviada por el mismo el pasado 8 de enero al Departamento de Estado.

La fortuna de Kerry, uno de los miembros más ricos del Senado, alcanza a unos 184 millones de dólares,

Mayor Undergoes Bypass Surgery

Lubbock Mayor Glen Robertson underwent bypass surgery late Tuesday night.

January 22, at Covenant Hospital. The city issued a press release saying that the Mayor was resting in the hospital's ICU.

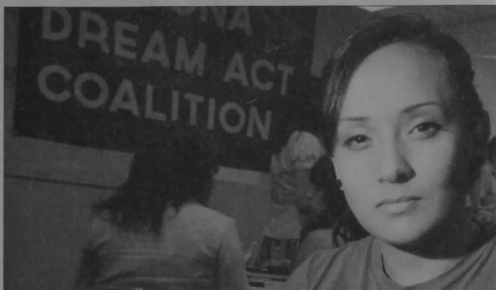
City Manager Lee Ann Dumbauld announced on Wednesday that the Mayor was still recovering and that Mayor Pro Tem Karen Gibson would assume the mayoral duties during Robertson's recovery period.

The family also issued a statement in which Karen Robertson, the Mayor's wife said, "We thank everyone in Lubbock for their continued support and prayers. Glen looks good and is resting comfortably. We hope to see him home as soon as possible."

The city also issued the following statement: "Due to The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule, the City of Lubbock will not be releasing any further details on Mayor Robertson's recovery. If there are any future updates, his family will release the information." Email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net



Deferred Action Granted To More Than 150,000 Undocumented Immigrants



The Obama administration has granted deferred action to 154,404 young undocumented immigrants, including more than 50,000 in the past month, according to data released on Friday by the Department of Homeland Security.

President Barack Obama announced in June 2012 that his administration would stop deporting some undocumented young people and instead grant them temporary work authorization and two years reprieve from deportation, a program called Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.

DHS began accepting applications Aug. 15, when thousands turned out to workshops across the country to learn how to apply, out of an estimated 1.4 million people who could be eligible for the program. As of Thursday, 407,899 un-

documented young people had applied for deferred action, and 13,366 had been rejected.

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals is considered by the administration as something of a Band-Aid ahead of comprehensive immigration reform efforts. The policy impacts roughly the same group of people as would be helped by the Dream Act, a bill that most recently failed in the Senate in 2010.

Immigrants are eligible if they entered the United States before the age of 16, are now under the age of 30 and have lived in the country for at least five years. They must either be in school, have graduated from high school or have a GED, or have been honorably discharged by the military. Reasons for rejection from the program include felony or significant misdemeanor convictions and being deemed

a threat to public safety or national security.

Anyone granted deferred action can still be deported, as DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano emphasized last June.

"This grant of deferred action is not immunity," Napolitano said. "It is not amnesty. It is an exercise of discretion so that these young people are not in the removal system. It will help us to continue to streamline immigration enforcement and ensure that resources are not spent pursuing the removal of low-priority cases involving productive young people."

DHS also added information to its online fact sheet on Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. Those answers stressed that "deferred action does not confer lawful status" and that DHS can take away deferred action at any time.

¿Que Pasa?

COUNCILMAN KLEIN TO HOST COFFEE WITH CITIZENS

District 3 City Councilmember Todd Klein will be hosting a Coffee with Citizens. Citizens will have the opportunity to visit and provide comments. Councilman Klein looks forward to obtaining citizen input and feedback on topics such as City public libraries, in particular the Godeke branch library; the forthcoming City of Lubbock fiscal budget; possible revisions to the City of Lubbock Charter; the receipt of reports to the City Council from City operated local government corporations and departments, including but not limited to LEDA and Market Lubbock, Inc.; as well as other topics. Saturday, January 26, 2013, 10:00 a.m.; United Market Street, East Coffee Shop Room; 3405 50th Street. All members of the public are invited to attend.

COVENANT HEALTH DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP MEETING TO FOCUS ON DIABETES & HEART

Covenant Health will host the next Diabetes Support Group meeting on Monday, February 4 at 6 p.m. at the Knippling Education Conference Center. The support group will focus on the heart since February is National Heart Month.

The support group is for anyone who is affected by diabetes, whether you are the patient or a caretaker. The speaker will be Wes Everett. Everett is an American Diabetes Association advocate as well as a diabetic. The focus of the meeting will be "Diabetes and Your Heart."

For more information about this support group call 806.725.7726. The Knippling Education Conference Center is located on the sixth floor of the West parking garage at the corner of 21st Street and Louisville Avenue.

ART-VENTURES ARTWORK ON DISPLAY IN LOBBY OF COVENANT WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S

Covenant Women's and Children's lobby is currently filled with artwork. This artwork is special because the 'artists' are the patients at Covenant Children's. Art-Ventures is a program in which Lubbock Arts Alliance and Lubbock Christian University team up and bring monthly activities to the children being hospitalized at Covenant Children's.

If you are interested in getting video/pictures of the artwork, please contact Whitney Bryant at bryantw1@covhs.org or call 725.6358

COVENANT SCHOOL OF NURSING ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL SEMESTER

Covenant School of Nursing is currently accepting application for the fall semester of 2013. The deadline will be 4 p.m. on March 18. Late applications will not be accepted.

All admission materials must be together in a large envelope. The materials can be mailed or delivered in person. Materials needed for admission include:

- Online application found on Covenant Health's website
- Resume
- Application fee
- Official, unopened high school transcript
- Official, unopened college/university transcript
- Three reference forms
- Passing TEAS V Entrance Exam scores
- Proof of Permanent Resident alien status if applicable

For more information and details about admission materials visit Covenant Health's website at <http://covson.covenanthealth.org>, call the Admission Office at 806.725.8902 or email inquiries to jonesd3@covhs.org.

Latino High School Graduation Rates Up 10%



More Latinos are graduating from high school than they were nearly a decade ago, according to a new study by the U.S. Department of Education.

According to the report done by the National Center for Education Statistics, Hispanic students graduated at a rate of 71 percent in 2010. That is a striking jump from 2006, when the rate was 61 percent.

The national rate is 78 percent and the rate for white students

is 83 percent. African Americans have the lowest rate at 66 percent while Asians graduated at a rate of 93 percent.

It's promising that the high school graduation rates are up for all ethnic groups in 2010 - especially for Hispanics, whose graduation rate has jumped almost 10 points since 2006.

- Secretary of Education Arne Duncan

"The new NCEP report is good news," Secretary of Education

Arne Duncan said in a statement. "It's promising that high school graduation rates are up for all ethnic groups in 2010 - especially for Hispanics, whose graduation rate has jumped almost 10 points since 2006."

Still, Duncan said, Latinos have a long way to go.

"The trends are hopeful but our high school dropout rate is still unsustainably high and it's untenable in many of our African-American and Latino communities," he said. "We have a long way to go here."

Jack Buckley, Commissioner for the NCEP, said while Latinos are performing better, the numbers are also up because more people are identifying themselves as Hispanic.

"The population of students has changed and there are more identifying themselves as Latinos," Buckley said.

Buckley pointed to California as an example of the improvements among Latinos. About 59

percent of Latinos in that state graduated in 2006, a number that climbed to 71 percent four years later.

According to Buckley, half of California's 4th graders identify themselves as Latino. He said the economy could be the reason for the improved scores.

"One thing that we see across the country in general is that graduation rates go up when the economy goes down," said Buckley.

There's a reason why education goes up when the economy tanks. "If you drop out of high school, you have no good jobs are there out there for you? None," Duncan said. "That wasn't true 10 or 15 years ago."

Graduation rates increased by more than a percentage point in 38 states between 2009 and 2010, the study found. Only the District of Columbia saw its graduation rates decline between that year and a percentage point during those years.

Biden dialogará en Google+ sobre violencia de armas

El vicepresidente de EE.UU., Joe Biden, participará este jueves en un diálogo con ciudadanos en internet a través de la plataforma Google+ sobre los esfuerzos iniciados por el Gobierno para reducir la violencia causada por las armas, informó hoy la Casa Blanca.

El diálogo comenzará a las 13:45 hora local (18:45 GMT) y será transmitido en vivo por la web de la Casa Blanca, indicó en un comunicado la residencia presidencial.

Biden ha liderado en las últimas semanas un grupo de trabajo encargado de presentar propuestas al presidente de EE.UU., Barack Obama, para un mayor control de las armas a raíz de la tragedia de la escuela Sandy Hook de Newtown (Connecticut), donde Adam Lanza mató a 20 niños y 6 adultos después de atacar a su madre y antes de suicidarse.

La semana pasada Obama dio el primer paso para un mayor control de las armas en el país con la firma de 23 decretos ejecutivos y pidió al Congreso que se sume al esfuerzo, además de pedir a toda la sociedad a asumir la responsabilidad de proteger a los niños de la violencia.

Las medidas firmadas por Obama incluyen la prohibición de comercializar armas de asalto, la exigencia de comprobación de

antecedentes criminales para todas las ventas y aumentar la cobertura médica en salud mental.

El acto de este jueves será seguido el viernes de un viaje a Richmond (Virginia) en el que Biden y otros funcionarios del Gobierno abordarán también el tema de la violencia vinculada a las armas, de acuerdo con la Casa Blanca.

Según una encuesta de Gallup divulgada hoy, una gran mayoría de los estadounidenses apoya las propuestas de plan presentado por Obama contra la violencia causada por las armas.

Un 91 % de los encuestados está a favor de un sistema de comprobación de antecedentes criminales para todos los compradores de armas, mientras que un 79 % apoya una mayor formación para los policías, equipos de emergencia y oficiales escuadras sobre cómo responder en caso de un ataque armado a un colegio.

Además, un 75 % respalda aumentar las penas para los que compran armas para dárselas a otras personas que no pueden hacerlo por sus antecedentes.

La prohibición de la venta de armas de asalto y de cargadores de alta capacidad obtuvo porcentajes de apoyo más bajos (60 % y 54 %, respectivamente).

El sondeo de Gallup se realizó el 19 y 20 de enero con entrevistas a 1.013 adultos de todo el país y tiene un margen de error de más o menos cuatro puntos porcentuales.

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Shakira y Gerard Piqué ya son padres de Milan



La cantante colombiana Shakira y el futbolista Gerard Piqué ya son padres de un varón que nació pasadas las 22:30 horas (10:30 p.m. hora local), en la Clínica Teknon de Barcelona.

El portal Sport.es informó que el parto está programado para la tarde-noche de este martes, por lo que la pareja llegó a la Clínica cerca de las 6:35 de la tarde por la entrada de mercancías.

"Quiero pedirles que me acompañen con sus oraciones en este día tan importante de mi vida", escribió la cantante en su cuenta de Twitter.

La doctora Carlota García-Valdecasas estuvo al frente de la intervención y tanto la madre como el recién nacido se encuentran en perfectas condiciones. El nacimiento se dio vía cesárea y la colombiana estuvo acompañada por Piqué. Los padres de la cantante viajaron desde Colombia también para estar junto a la intérprete.

La Fundación Pies Descalzos fundada por el cantante expresó que "los niños y el equipo estamos felices por el nacimiento de Milan! Te queremos Shakira".

Milan Piqué Mearak nació en un día especial porque se combina el número 2 y es que tanto Shakira como Piqué nacieron un 2 de febrero, ella en 1977 y él en 1987.

Lila Downs festeja nominación al Grammy

La cantante Lila Downs celebra su nominación al Grammy Americano, y se encuentra a la espera del estreno de la película "Mariachi gringo", para la cual actúa y ahora compone el tema principal.

En conferencia de prensa, Roberto López, presidente de Sony Music México, entregó a Downs un Disco de Platino más Oro por las más de 100 mil copias vendidas en México de su álbum "Pescados y Milagros", mismo por el que recientemente ganó el Grammy Latino y ahora está nominada al Grammy Americano en la categoría de Mejor Álbum Regional Mexicano.

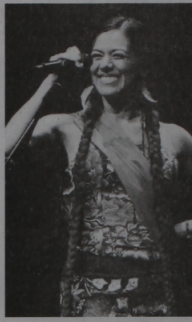
Lila Downs expresó su satisfacción por este reconocimiento a su trabajo y agradeció poder vivir el éxito a sus "cuarenta y tantos años".

"La verdad es que nunca pensé en los reconocimientos y en tener tanto éxito, sino simplemente busqué crecer y mostrar la riqueza musical y debo decir también que éste es un trabajo de mucho esfuerzo y que nunca me había sentido tan apoyada como ahora", dijo la cantante, que incluso estaba un poco nerviosa. Reconoció que el estar nomi-

nada a los Grammys Americanos le satisface, ya que muchos músicos aspiran a esto y simplemente no se les da el crédito y ahora ella tiene esta oportunidad, que se suma a los tantos logros en su carrera.

Referente a la película "Mariachi gringo", que se estrenará en marzo próximo, resaltó que ésta tiene un mensaje positivo al hablar de México y de su cultura musical.

Agregó que en dicha producción hace un personaje pequeño, en el cual ensaña a tocar la vihuela al gringo que viaja de Estados Unidos a México, con el sueño de conocer al mariachi. Asimismo, comentó que actu-



almente trabaja en el tema que será el tema principal de la película, el cual es una mezcla de sonidos entre música clásica y música trónica con mariachi y llevará como nombre "Nueve esquinas", donde hace un dúo con una de las alumnas de Guadalajara, Jalisco. "Estoy contenta por este trabajo y ahora hay que esperar a ver los resultados, pero la historia es divertida", dijo la cantautora, al referirse al filme exhibido en el Festival de Guadalajara, y en el que también participa la actriz Martha Higareda.

Con referencia a sus planes para este año, Downs señaló que planea

una gira por Estados Unidos, misma en la que hará un año por unos días para estar presente en el homenaje que se le realizará a su padre, el cineasta Allen Downs, que es organizado por algunas ex estudiantas de él, que también se han dado a la tarea de rescatar el material fílmico que éste realizó.

"Es un poco complicado describir a mi padre; sin embargo, puedo decir que es un apasionado que me permitió crecer en una familia abierta y empaparme de muchos temas", afirmó Lila.

"Tras presidir este homenaje, la cantante continuará con su gira de presentaciones por Canadá, España y Francia, y posiblemente a finales de año por Argentina.

Agregó que también entre sus planes está realizar un disco de boxeo, sin embargo, aún no lo tiene definido, al reconocer que otro trabajo que le gustaría hacer es un disco tributo a Lola Beltrán, quien a su consideración se la hecho poco en referencia a su legado.

El próximo 29 de septiembre realizará un concierto en el Auditorio Nacional, donde prepara algunas sorpresas; sin embargo, no adelantó mucho debido a que faltan muchos meses antes de que se realice.

Casados Mónica Noguera y Fher de Maná

Desde algún tiempo Mónica Noguera y Fher sostienen un romance, pero el vocalista de Maná sorprendió cuando confirmó que se había casado en televisión nacional. El líder de la banda mexicana se encontraba como invitado de un programa especial de María Celeste Arrarás y José Díaz Balart con motivo de la participación en la ceremonia inaugural del segundo término presidencial de Barack Obama.

Durante la emisión, el tema del romance no se pudo obviar y cuando le preguntaron por su nueva condonadora dijo que habían contraído matrimonio.

"La verdad, yo lo habíamos dicho, yo ya me casé con Mónica... Hace un par de meses, fue algo muy privado,

una ceremonia en la naturaleza, en el campo. Fue en Guadalajara, en un bosque, solamente estábamos ella y yo, descalzados, vestidos de blanco y es todo lo que les digo", explicó Fher. Mirálo aquí.

Según lo que explicó, parece más bien una ceremonia tipo ritual, a lo hippie. Si no se someten documentos legales, no hay matrimonio ante los ojos de la ley por se sientan.

Sin embargo el programa radial "Fórmula Espectacular", de Flor Rubio, asegura que la boda sucedió en Miami y que fue vendida a una publicación, por lo que no se han revelado más detalles al respecto.

¿Que opinas? ¿Hubo boda o no?

Dolores Prida, beloved columnist and playwright, dies at 69

Cuban-born playwright, journalist, and poet Dolores Prida, whose candid, humored, and often mordant columns about the most pressing social and political issues constituted one of the staples of Latino media, died of cardiac failure on January 20.

The night before, Ms. Prida attended the 20th anniversary celebration of LIPS, an advocacy group of Latina journalists and other professionals. The party's special guest was Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, who earlier that day had been interviewed in a public event at El Museo del Barrio by another member of the group, TV and radio host María Hinojosa. On her way back home, Ms. Prida felt sick and called her sister, who took her to Mount Sinai Hospital, her colleague and close friend Maite Junco told Latina magazine. Ms. Prida, who suffered from diabetes but was apparently in general good health, passed away on Sunday morning. "It's not known yet if she died of a heart attack or a stroke," said Junco, a former editor for the Daily New. "There will be an autopsy."

The news of Dolores' death spread quickly over the social media. In an email to LIPS members, Justice Sotomayor said: "Dolores was a visionary. As a writer she inspired us to think deeply about our culture. She will be missed." In addition to her weekly

column for El Diario La Prensa, Dolores Prida was a long-time contributor to the Daily News and Latina magazine, where she was in charge of one of its most popular columns, "Dolores Dice" (Dolores Says, in Spanish). "In many ways, Dolores was the heart and soul of the magazine," said Latina's executive editor Daniela Ocaña Pérez.

"She loved helping Latinas understand their self-worth and potential whether it was through her column's combination of wit and advice or by helping those of us putting together each magazine issue stay true to our mission of celebrating Latina life and accomplishments," said Ocaña Pérez. Dolores Prida was born on September 5, 1943, in Cabañén, Cuba. In 1961 she, her mother and her two siblings reunited in Miami with her father, who had left the island-nation shortly after the triumph of the Cuban Revolution. The family settled in New York City, where Ms. Prida would spend the rest of her life.

She took a job at a bakery and attended night classes at Hunter College for a few years before making an inroad into the publishing industry and launching her

career as a journalist. During the 1970s and 1980s, she was director of information services for the National Puerto Rican Forum, managing editor of the Spanish-language daily El Tiempo, New York correspondent for Vision magazine, senior editor of Nuestro magazine, literary manager for the theatrical organization International Arts Relations (INTAR), and publications director for the Association of Hispanic Arts (AHA).

Ms. Prida began writing short stories and poetry while still a teenager in Cuba. In the U.S. she published her first book, the collection of poems 37 poemas (1967), but it was as a playwright that she would establish her literary reputation. Alongside Eduardo Machado, Manuel Martín, Tato Laviera and others, she was one of the most active and one of the

first female playwrights that nourished the New York Latino stage during the 1980s and 1990s.

Her first play, Beautiful señoritas, premiered in 1977. It was followed by The Beggars Soap Opera, a musical comedy inspired in Bertolt Brecht's The Three Penny Opera (1979); Coser y cantar (1981); Pantalans (1986); Botánica (1991); Casa Propia (A House of Her Own, 1999), and Four Guys Named José ... and Una Mujer Named María (2000). Throughout her career, she received several distinctions: the Cintas Fellowship Award for Literature, the Creative Artistic Public Service Award for Playwriting (1976) and the Excellence in Arts Award, given by Manhattan Borough President (1987). In 1989 she was granted a Doctor of Humane Letters degree by Mount Holyoke College.

Reviewing Casa Propia in 1999 for the New York Times, D.J.R. Bruckner said: "Ms. Prida has a good ear for New York Hispanic street language, and this cast exploits it so hilariously that at times even a viewer with no Spanish may want to set aside the simultaneous translation earphones and take it in raw: the grimaces and gestures reveal what is meant, and the sound is too good to miss. (The play's characters) are likely to live with you for a long time."

So will Dolores' memory live in those who knew her. She will be sorely missed.

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Duncan dominates as Spurs mount comeback at Philly

As the '76ers' lead grew, the fans got louder, the fourth quarter a bit more wild.

It didn't get unpredictable. At least, not to anyone on the Spurs. Tim Duncan and Tony Parker have thrived in situations more uncomfortable than trailing on the road in the fourth against a sub-500 team.

Duncan and Parker pushed back hard-charging Philadelphia late in the game to lead San Antonio to its fifth straight win, 90-85 over the Philadelphia 76ers on Monday night.

Duncan had his fifth double-double of the season with 24 points and 17 rebounds and Parker had 20 points. The Spurs blew a 17-point lead in the first half before rallying late in the fourth to win again without guard Manu Ginobili. Ginobili is still out with a strained left hamstring.

After the Sixers turned the 17-point hole into a seven-point lead, the Spurs got it together.

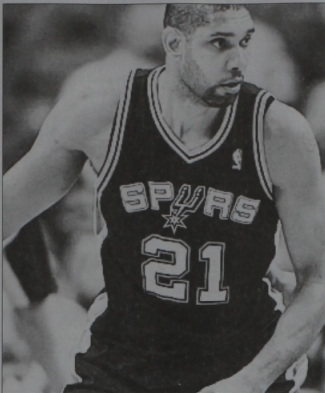
Kawhi Leonard dunked off a turnover, then burst a 3 off a defensive board to tie it 88-84. Duncan's jumper made it 84-82 and Parker swished one the next time down.

"We called a couple of things down the stretch that Tony and Timmy have been running for over a decade now," coach Gregg Popovich said. "The balls, they went in."

For the Sixers, the balls went out: They missed nine of their final 10 shots and the Spurs closed the game on a 15-3 run.

"When you're being played a long time, and you have a great coach, you know what to do," Parker said.

The Sixers seems lost. Evan Turner had 18 points and 12 rebounds, but the Sixers still lost for the seventh time in nine games. Andrew Bynum, out all



season with knee injured knees, said before the game he remained on target to return around the All-Star break.

The Sixers could use him. Without their best player, they've slumped to seven games under 500.

Without Ginobili for the fourth straight game, the Spurs got clutch baskets down the stretch to win their NBA-high 15th road game.

After a miserable first half, the Sixers turned to Spencer Hawes and Nick Young off the bench to come back. The Sixers erased the early 17-point hole with three straight big baskets in the fourth.

Royal Ivey pulled them within two. Turner's 14-footer tied it at 73-all and Hawes put them ahead for the first time in the game with a 17-footer that made it 75-73. Thaddeus Young's short jumper

put the crowd of 15,346 on their feet and stumped up the "Defense!" chant for the first time all game.

Nick Young's 3-pointer and long jumper gave the Sixers a seven-point lead. But then the sloppy play took hold. Easy missed shots. Turnovers. Duncan blocked Jue Holiday's layup.

"We recognized there was time left in the game," Duncan said. "We had to try to up on the defensive end and get some stops. We did just that."

Just like that, game over. "We didn't finish them off," Thaddeus Young said. "We've just got to figure out a way to get past those kinds of teams. We're trying to make runs, we're trying to get wins, we're trying to get wins." Led by Duncan, the Spurs took control of this one early and raked to a 17-point lead in the second

quarter.

At last in the third, the Sixers came ready to play, showing the sharp shooting touch that abandoned them in the first half. Hawes, who scored 16, buried a 3 as part of an 8-0 run that sliced the gap down to four. Young, however, missed two free throws that would have incited the Sixers closer.

As they do, the Spurs took advantage of the missed opportunities from the line. Parker pushed them back with a jumper and Leonard's thunderous dunk quickly made it 61-49.

They just couldn't put away the Sixers that easily. Maybe the outcome would have been different with Bynum. They'll need him in their playoff push.

"We're very concerned," coach Doug Collins said.

Bynum, their big offseason acquisition, again expressed optimism he finally be ready to play around next month's All-Star game. Bynum said he's been hurt on both his knees. He practiced jump shots with the Sixers at the morning's shootaround and insisted he was pain free.

Bynum, a free agent at the end of the year, has no intention of rushing back. There's still plenty he has to work on before he's cleared.

"It's going to be defensive slides, cutting, running full speed and stopping, backpedaling, jumping," he said. "Explosive stuff."

Bynum wasn't the only reason the Sixers' locker room was buzzing before the game. Former great Charles Barkley - his retired No. 34 hangs in the rafters - called the game for TNT and was a pregame visitor. Barkley received a huge standing ovation when the Sixers aired a video tribute to him.

Seau's family sues NFL over brain injuries, accuses league of deception

The family of Junior Seau has sued the NFL, claiming the former linebacker's suicide was the result of brain disease caused by violent hits he sustained while playing football.

The wrongful death lawsuit, filed Wednesday in California Superior Court in San Diego, blames the NFL for its "acts or omissions" that had the dangers of repetitive blows to the head. It says Seau developed chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) from those hits, and accuses the NFL of deliberately ignoring and concealing evidence of the risks associated with traumatic brain injuries.

Seau died at age 43 of a self-inflicted gunshot in May. He was diagnosed with CTE based on posthumous tests, earlier this month.

An Associated Press review in November found that more than 3,800 players have used the NFL over head injuries in at least 175 cases at the concussion issue has gained attention in recent years. More than 100 of the concussion lawsuits have been brought together before U.S. District Judge Anita B. Brody in Philadelphia.

"Our attorneys will review it and respond to the claims appropriately through the court," the NFL said in a statement Wednesday.

Helmet manufacturer Riddell Inc. also is being sued by the Seaus, who say Riddell was "negligent in their design, testing, assembly, manufacture, marketing and engineering of the helmets" used by NFL players. The suit says the helmets were unreasonably dangerous and unsafe.

Seau was one of the best linebackers during his 20 seasons in the NFL. He retired in 2009.

"We were saddened to learn that Jason, a loving father and teammate, suffered from CTE," the family said in a statement released to the AP. "While Junior always expected to play and quitte from his playing days, none of us ever contemplated that he would suffer a debilitating brain disease that would cause him to leave us too soon."

"We know this lawsuit will not bring back Junior. But it will send a message that the NFL needs to care for its former players, acknowledge its decades of deception on the issue of head injuries and player safety, and make the same safer for future generations."

Plaintiffs are listed as Gina Seau, Junior's ex-wife; Junior's children, Sydney, Luke and Hunter; and Bone Hoffman, trustee of Seau's estate.

The lawsuit accuses the league of glorifying the violence in pro football, and creating the impression that delivering big hits "is a badge of courage which does not seriously threaten one's health."

It singles out NFL Films and some of its videos for promoting the brutality of the game.

"In 1993's NFL Films, Junior Seau's ex-wife offered his opinion on the measure of a punishing hit: 'I can feel some dizziness. I know that guy is feeling double (that),' the suit says."

The NFL consistently has denied allegations similar to those in the lawsuit. "By NFL, both directly and in partnership with the NIH, Centers for Disease Control and other leading organizations, is committed to supporting a wide range of independent medical and scientific research that will both address CTE and promote the long-term health and safety of athletes at all levels," the league told the AP after it was revealed Seau had CTE.

The lawsuit claims money was behind the NFL's actions.

"The NFL knew or suspected that any rule changes that sought to recognize that link (to brain disease) and the health risk to NFL players would impose an economic cost that would significantly and adversely change the profit margins enjoyed by the NFL and its teams," the Seaus said in the suit.

The National Institutes of Health, based in Bethesda, Md., studied three unidentified brains, one of which was Seau's, and said the findings on Seau were similar to autopsies of other "with exposure to repetitive head injuries."

"It was important to us to get to the bottom of this, the truth," Gina Seau told the AP then. "And now that it has been conclusively determined from every expert that he had obviously had CTE, we just hope it is taken more seriously. You can't deny it exists, and it is hard to deny there is a link between head trauma and CTE. There's such strong evidence correlating head trauma and collisions and CTE."

In the final years of his life, Seau went through wild behavior swings, according to Gina and to 23-year-old son, Tyler. There also were signs of irritability, forgetfulness, anorexia and depression.

"He emotionally detached himself and would kind of 'go away' for a little bit," Tyler Seau said. "And then the depression and things like that. It started to progressively get worse."

Report: Sexual assault allegations against Crabtree 'not holding up'



The allegations of sexual assault against San Francisco 49ers wide receiver Michael Crabtree do not appear to be holding up against further scrutiny, according to a report in the San Francisco Chronicle. Crabtree was accused of assaulting a woman Jan. 12 in a hotel room after the 49ers beat the Green Bay Packers.

Crabtree was reportedly accompanied by three women to the hotel, and one filed the complaint of sexual assault with police. The other two, according to the paper's source, have

indicated that no assault took place. The source also said that there has not been any physical evidence discovered.

Police have said publicly that Crabtree has been cooperative, and he has denied any wrongdoing.

The hope is that the matter be resolved in the next 10 days, which would be prior to Super Bowl XLVII. Still, police chief Greg Suhr indicated to the paper that it could take longer.

"It will take as long as it takes, but we are going to do it right," Suhr said.

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


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Ley de salud Obama plantea dilema a gobernadores

Reanundan investigación sobre la mortífera gripe aviar



Los gobernadores de Estados Unidos que rechazan el seguro de salud para los pobres, como lo dicta la reestructuración del sistema federal de salud, podrían quedar políticamente descolocados en el tema inmigratorio. Un resurgido de la ley significa que algunos ciudadanos estadounidenses podrían verse forzados a quedar sin seguro, mientras que los inmigrantes legales residentes en el mismo estado podrían conseguirlo.

Es una consecuencia imprevista del modo en que la decisión del año pasado de la Corte Suprema cambió las disposiciones del seguro Medicaid en la ley del presidente Barack Obama.

La reestructuración del sistema expandió el programa

por debajo de la línea federal de pobreza, solo los inmigrantes legales, pero no los ciudadanos, serían elegibles para los subsidios", dijeron los documentos.

Esos se debe a que los inmigrantes serían elegibles para conseguir seguro privado subsidiado por el gobierno, pero no los ciudadanos de bajos ingresos. El gobierno de Obama confirmó la interpretación de Arizona.

Lo que Brewer significaba es que "rechazar la expansión, esencialmente se está recompensando a la población inmigrante a expensas de los ciudadanos plenos", comentó Matt Salo, director ejecutivo de la Asociación Nacional de Directores de Medicaid, un grupo no partidista que representa a los estados en Washington.

La situación podría requerir explicaciones al gobernador de Texas Rick Perry, puesto energicamente a la ley de Obama y al gobernador de Florida Rick Scott, que está estudiando su posición. Ambos estados tienen gran número de ciudadanos sin seguro y de inmigrantes legales.

"Creo que los políticos sentirán una gran presión para no

crear este tipo de desigualdad", opinó Jennifer Ng'andu, experta en política de salud en el Consejo Nacional de La Raza, uno de los principales grupos hispanos, que apoya la ley de Obama y exhorta a todos los estados a que la acepten.

Es una situación planteada en la Ley de atención accesible no fue planeada. Fue consecuencia de la ruta tortuosa que siguen los proyectos de ley desde el Congreso hasta el escritorio del presidente y en este caso ante los tribunales de justicia.

Por cierto, nadie dice que el gobierno está comprando seguro de salud para los inmigrantes sin documentación legal. Eso no está permitido. La cuestión aquí es entre ciudadanos estadounidenses e inmigrantes que están legalmente en Estados Unidos.

A partir del 1 de enero de 2014, la ley de Obama ofrecerá seguro de salud a millones de personas que no están aseguradas. Los no asegurados de clase media podrán conseguir seguro privado subsidiado. Los no asegurados de bajos ingresos recibirán Medicaid, un programa del gobierno financiado conjuntamente por Washington y los estados.

Los científicos de diversas partes del mundo que el año pasado suspendieron una investigación controversial sobre la mortífera gripe aviaria dicen que reanudar su trabajo ahora que las naciones adoptan nuevas reglas para mejorar la seguridad.

Las quejas se produjeron cuando los científicos en Holanda y Estados Unidos —reportaron haber creado variantes de la gripe aviaria más fáciles de propagar. Debido a un áspero debate sobre la supervisión de dicha investigación y sobre las posibilidades de que pudiera ayarla a terroristas, los científicos suspendieron voluntariamente su trabajo en enero del año pasado, y también lo hicieron más de tres docenas de los principales investigadores sobre la gripe".

Hay los investigadores anunciaron que levantaban su moratoria debido a que la pausa en su trabajo dio resultados: el tiempo al gobierno de Estados Unidos y otras autoridades en salud mundial para determinar cómo supervisar las investigaciones sobre gérmenes peligrosos.

Varios países ya promulgaron nuevas reglas. Estados Unidos está detallando sus propias normas, un proceso que el doctor Anthony Fauci, del Instituto Nacional de Salud, dijo debe completarse en cuestión de semanas.

En cartas publicadas esta semana en las revistas Science y Nature, los científicos escribieron que quienes cumplen con los requisitos de su nación tienen la responsabilidad de seguir estudiando de qué modo la mortífera gripe aviaria podría mutar para convertirse en una amenaza may-

or para los seres humanos, y quizás la próxima pandemia. Hasta ahora, el llamado virus H5N1 se propaga generalmente en aves de corral y otras aves, y raras vez afecta a seres humanos.

"El riesgo ya existe en la naturaleza. No es que la investigación realmente no pone en peligro", argumentó Yoshihiro Kawaka, de la Universidad de Wisconsin en Madison. El y Ron Fouchier, de la Universidad Erasmus, en Holanda, crearon por separado las nuevas cepas del virus que podrían propagarse por medio del aire.

La controversia estalló hace poco más de un año, cuando funcionarios estadounidenses, en reacción a las preocupaciones manifestadas por un panel asesor en bioseguridad, pidió a los dos laboratorios que no publicaran sus resultados. Se preocuparon de que los terroristas pudieran usar la información para crear un arma biológica. Asimismo, los científicos debataron si era buena idea crear nuevas cepas de la enfermedad y, de serlo, cómo prevenir accidentes de laboratorio.

A fin de cuentas, prevalecieron los investigadores de la gripe: el gobierno decidió que los datos no importan ninguna amenaza inminente de terrorismo y los dos laboratorios publicaron sus trabajos a mediados del 2012.

Fouchier anunció que en las próximas semanas empujará una nueva investigación en Holanda, con fondos europeos, para explorar exactamente qué mutaciones implican el mayor riesgo.

Los científicos financiados por Estados Unidos no pueden reanudar sus estudios hasta que se complete la política del gobierno al respecto.

Legisladores de Texas quieren armas en escuelas

El trófeo de esta semana en una universidad comunitaria del área de Houston motivó nuevos llamados para que se permita que los dueños legales de armas de fuego puedan portarlas, pero de forma oculta, en recintos universitarios de Texas, como medida de defensa.

Legisladores del estado ya analizan una propuesta de ley que permite llevar armas ocultas en las aulas. Una propuesta similar fracasó en 2011, pero la masacre del mes pasado en una escuela primaria en Newton, Connecticut, ayudó a reactivar el debate sobre la seguridad en las escuelas y el incidente del martes en el Lone Star College hizo que partidarios de esa medida buscasen respaldos.

El senador estatal republicano Brian Birdwell, que presentó la semana pasada la propuesta de Ley de Protec-

ción Personal en los Campus, dijo que el trófeo en Lone Star College muestra la necesidad de esa ley.

"Reafirma lo que ya sabemos: Cuando desarmas a ciudadanos respetuosos de la ley en quienes deberían confiar, los dejas indefensos", dijo Birdwell.

Las probabilidades de que la ley fuese aprobada son inciertas. La sesión comenzó el 8 de enero y continuará hasta el 27 de mayo. Hasta ahora, 14 senadores, todos republicanos, pero la masacre del mes pasado en una escuela primaria en Newton, Connecticut, ayudó a reactivar el debate sobre la seguridad en las escuelas y el incidente del martes en el Lone Star College hizo que partidarios de esa medida buscasen respaldos.

Los administradores escolares generalmente no respaldaron la propuesta, diciendo que les preocupaba que la presencia de

más armas de fuego traiga más violencia a los campus. Los partidarios dicen que es una importante medida de auto-defensa y que remite al derecho a portar armas.

"Empareja la situación en términos de seguridad", dijo la senadora republicana Donna Campbell. "Tenemos que permitirle a la gente la opción de protegerse".

Texas aprobó su ley de armas ocultas en 1995. Los poseedores de las licencias deben tener al menos 21 años y pasar un curso de entrenamiento.

El senador demócrata Rodney Ellis dijo que los partidarios de la propuesta deberían cuidarse de "usar un incidente así para conseguir ganancias políticas".

Ellis, que se opone a la propuesta, dijo que los profesores pudieran sentirse intimidados por los estudiantes si tienen que preocuparse de quién está armado.

Pentágono colocará a mujeres en frente de combate

El secretario de Defensa de Estados Unidos, Leon Panetta, retirará la prohibición militar para que las mujeres sirvan en combate, abriendo cientos de miles de posiciones en el frente y posiblemente puestos de comando elite después de más de una década en guerra, dijeron oficiales del Pentágono.

El cambio revolucionario, recomendado por el Estado Mayor Conjunto, anula un fallo de 1994 que prohibía que las mujeres pudiesen ser asignadas a unidades de combate terrestre más pequeñas.

La decisión de Panetta da a los servicios militares hasta enero de 2016 para buscar excepciones especiales si ellos creen que algunas posiciones deben seguir vedadas a las mujeres.

Las mujeres busquen posiciones de combate. Algunos puestos podrían abrirse incluso este año. Las



asignaciones para otros, como las fuerzas de operaciones especiales como los SEALs de la Armada y la Fuerza Delta del Ejército, podrían llevar más tiempo.

El funcionario dijo que para el 15 de mayo los jefes militares deben reportar a Panetta sus planes iniciales de implementación.

En vista de que el anuncio de la decisión de Panetta se espera

hasta el jueves, el oficial habló con la condición de ser identificado. La decisión de Panetta extiende la acción del Pentágono de hacer casi un año para abrir unos 14,500 puestos de combate para mujeres, casi todas ellas en el Ejército. Esta decisión podría abrir más de 230,000 puestos a mujeres en las unidades de Infantería del Ejército y de la Marina.

En años recientes las necesidades de la guerra empujaron a las mujeres a puestos médicos, policiales y de inteligencia militar que algunas veces venían aparejados —aunque no formalmente asignados— a unidades en el frente.

Las mujeres constituyen 14% de los 1.4 millones de militares en activo.

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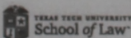
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