

Casualties of War in Iraq 4,802 Afghan 3,103 as of Aug. 9, 2012



El Editor

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"El Respeto al Derecho Ajeno es la Paz" Lic Benito Juarez

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With No Papers and No Fear; Undocumented Immigrants Ride for Justice



Calling it the UndocuBus tour, a group of undocumented immigrants are making their way across several states to reach Charlotte, North Carolina, in time to make a difference at the Democratic National Convention.

children or adolescents by their parents. And they just may be making history. El Editor spoke to one of the riders on Tuesday August 7 who told us they were in New Orleans... that the trip was going well and that there had been no major problems so far.

ment action is very real. Starting out on July 28, in Phoenix, Arizona, the group has already stopped in Albuquerque, Denver, and Austin before heading to New Orleans

According to an update sent out by the group's web site, they participated in a rally at the Travis County Sheriff's office in Austin "to get him to cut his ties with deportation programs".

While in New Orleans, the group expects to meet with day laborers, civil rights leaders, and support others who are facing deportation.

In an article this past week in The Nation Magazine, the group was compared to the Freedom Riders of the Civil Rights movement, but the person we spoke to says she feels a bit uncomfortable with the comparison.

of thousands of people just like her who were brought into the country by their parents or under similar circumstances.

And she says that regardless of the policies in place or whatever changes may be made in the law; like possible future changes to the new deferred deportation policy change announced by the Obama administration in June; "what matters is how organized the undocumented are in order to address whatever may come."

According to the Immigration Policy Center, Texas has the second highest number of potential beneficiaries of the new policy with close to 1 million. Closer to home, in the 19th Congressional District, it is estimated that there are close to 3,000 potential beneficiaries; 2,680 which are of Mexican descent; 70 Asian, 40 South Americans, and 20 European and 20 of "other" nationalities.

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El Editor's Week in Review

Sure You're Registered to Vote?

According to the national LULAC office, "in this election, the Latino community stands poised to change the political landscape and to impact the critical, political issues that affect our community".

In a recent press release, LULAC says that there are 12.1 million "eligible but unregistered" voters.

While many organizations, including some here locally have concentrated on registering potential voters in the past, the efforts don't quite translate into actual votes.

Compounding the problem is that states like Texas are threatening to purge voter rolls of hundreds of thousands of names; who may still be eligible to vote.

Part of the problems is when people don't show a pattern of voting. The elections office sends out letters to names it identifies asking the recipient to essential confirm their existence.

According to the Houston Chronicle, "more than 1.5 million voters (in Texas) could be on the path to cancellation if they fail to vote or to update their records for two consecutive federal elections. One out of every 10 Texas voters registration is currently suspended. Among voters under 30, the figure is about one in five."

The law requires that voter rolls be reviewed and updated, but the major problem is that there seems to be flaws in the way that is done. The Chronicle report cites "outdated computer programs, faulty procedures and voter responses to generic form letters, often resulting in the wrong people being sent cancellation notices, including new homeowners, college students, Texans who work abroad and folks with common names".

Voters should make every effort to make sure that their local elections office has their current information, or update information which might have changed, like change in residence, or surname in the case of marriage. There is a national organization called, "Ya es Hora, Ve y Vota" which translated means "It's time, go vote". They have a toll free number where people can call to verify their registration status. The number is 1-888-VE-YOTA or 1-888-839-8682.

Or voters can go online at a Secretary of State web site at www.votetexas.gov where they can access their voter information to see if their voter registration is correct and current.

Complaint Filed With Elections Administrator

One day after the runoff election when by Lorezno "Bubba" Sedeno against County Commissioner Gilbert Flores, Lubbock resident Armando Gonzales filed a complaint with the elections office alleging irregularities on the part of the Sedeno campaign during the voting period. El Editor asked Dorothy Kennedy, Lubbock County Elections Administrator to tell us what the next step is.

Kennedy says that, "The Lubbock County Elections Office takes any and all complaints very serious. We are working in conjunction with the Secretary of State, who is the Chief Elections Officer for Texas, with due diligence to explore the merits of the letter from Mr. Gonzales." El Editor will follow this story and update if more information becomes available.

Deferred Deportation Fees Announced

For young undocumented immigrants who are directly impacted by a change in immigration policy called deferred deportation, their situation just got more expensive.

According to the US Citizenship and Immigration Services, or USCIS, persons applying for deferred deportation will be charged a \$465.00 dollar fee which will be used to finance the program.

In order to qualify for the deferral, all applicants must meet certain requirements before applying. They are: at least 5 years of continuous residency, must be enrolled in school, graduated from high school, or received a GED; also must have proof of previous military service or be enrolled in college; and they must be under 31 years of age as of the June 15 announcement date.

Applicants must also have a clean record, and must not have been convicted of a serious misdemeanor, 3 misdemeanors, or a felony.

For all of these applicants, the one thing that bonds them together is that they were brought here by their parents and did not have a choice in the matter.

Women Will Start Benefiting from ACA

Different components of the Affordable Care Act have begun to be implemented and one of the most important is that effective this past week, women must now receive preventive care related to women's health issues. Prior to the law being passed, insurance companies were not required to provide these services if women had a preexisting condition or they could provide them and charge additional premiums. But this change means that women will now be able to receive the services without having to pay additional premiums and at no cost sharing, meaning no co-pays.

The following health services will now be provided, well woman visits, screening and counseling for domestic violence, screening for gestational diabetes if a woman is sexually transmitted for high risk strains of HPV, counseling regarding sexually DNA testing infections; including HIV, screening for HIV, contraceptive counseling, and breast feeding support, supplies and counseling.

Perry, Not Washington, is the Problem

The Texas AFLCIO sent out a new release showing that the state of Texas "gets more money in federal tax dollars from Washington than it sends there". And yet, Governor Perry and other politicians of his breed continue to claim that Washington is the problem.

The primary reason cited in the report which first appeared in the Dallas Morning News, is the state's high poverty rate. And where there is poverty, it is usually government programs like Medicaid which are looked to, to help those in need. Here in the city of Lubbock, the last US Census showed that over 20% of the population lives below the federal poverty level. And yet, Perry continues to reject the Affordable Care Act's new Medicaid provision which would provide health insurance coverage to people who don't qualify under the present Medicaid rules, but would, under the new health care act.

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Censo busca contar bien a hispanos en EEUU



Debemos actualizarlos para cumplir con las necesidades de minorías como la hispana. Esa fue el ejercicio que desarrolló ayer la Oficina del Censo, pensando ya en el conteo del año 2020, donde esperan mejorar la calidad de preguntas, sobre todo en el ámbito de raza y origen.

Una interrogante separada o combinada, para maximizar las respuestas de hispanos en el próximo censo. Esa es la variable que comenzaron a analizar expertos, luego de obtener los resultados de un cuestionario alternativo, para explorar la calidad de las respuestas entregadas por la población latina de Estados Unidos.

El trabajo involucró la realización de 500,000 entrevistas a nivel nacional, además de foros de opinión.

El Censo encontró que una pregunta combinada sobre raza y origen, es más efectiva que una separada.

Mientras la interrogante combinada tuvo un índice de no respuesta cercano al 1%, la correspondiente sólo a la raza se situó entre 3.5 y 5.7%. Y la que se refirió sólo al origen hispano registró entre 4.1 y 5.4%.

"El reporte sobre la población hispana puede mejorar con investigaciones futuras. Recomendamos más tests para la pregunta combinada", aseguró Robert Groves, director de la oficina del censo.

Al ser consultados respecto a si el diseño de una pregunta combinada, versus una separada, podría impactar la participación de latinos en el conteo en 2020 o si de alguna

manera, disminuyó la identificación de este grupo en el jefe de estadísticas raciales, Nicholas Jones, fue claro.

"La pregunta combinada está más en la línea con la forma en que los latinos se autoidentifican a sí mismos, pero esta aproximación no redujo las proporciones de hispanos en los resultados", aseguró a La Opinión. Es decir, no esperan que un cambio como este, tenga un impacto estadístico significativo, que implique una variación en el número de población hispana.

Más bien de lo que se trata, es de adaptarse a las necesidades socioeconómicas de los que participan en el censo. "Las minorías están cambiando el perfil demográfico de este país y si no actualizamos las

preguntas, no será un reflejo de lo que ocurre en Estados Unidos", explicó a La Opinión Roberto Ramírez, jefe de etnicidad en la oficina de estadísticas, para la Sección de Estadísticas, para la Oficina del Censo.

En este sentido, de acuerdo a los resultados del cuestionario alternativo, una pregunta combinada sería de mayor utilidad, para identificar el origen dentro de la población latina, es decir, por ejemplo, mexicano, cubano, chileno.

Por ahora, Jones adelantó que es prematuro especular sobre cómo serán diseñadas las preguntas en el cuestionario de 2020, pero insistió en que ahora es el momento de realizar este tipo de análisis.

Otro de los cambios importantes, que los expertos debatieron ayer, fue el uso de la palabra "negro" dentro de las recomendaciones se sugirió su eliminación. Asimismo, consideraron la creación de categorías como árabes y nacidos en Medio Oriente.

En el último conteo, más de 21.7 millones (es decir 1 en 14) dieron respuestas complementarias en términos como "árabe", "haitiano", "mexicano" y "multirracial". Para el 1 de abril de 2010, de las 308.7 millones de personas que vivían en los Estados Unidos 50.5 millones (16%), eran de origen hispano.

Comentarios - Opiniones Our Editorial Voice

HOT NEWS, COLD RECEPTION

By José de la Isla
Hispanic Link News Service

UJUMECO CITY—As the East Coast recovered from a very hot spell, historic wild fires were recorded in New Mexico, Colorado throughout the Southwest, with record temperatures in the Midwest and other places. That's the scope, the picture frame for climate change as we know it. Mostly, we simply see it as weather variation, not the long-warned-about global climate change. The picture is still not large enough. To see a director's cut, a wide perspective calls for a multi-screen theater of mind and another geographical notion. What happens in one screening room is also the story running in the other theater.

In flaring of Greenland, NASA scientists warn that the ice sheet blanketing the island melted in July. Normally, about half of Greenland's ice melts in the summer. This year more melted than in any of the prior 30 years. It happened so fast that a computer error or malfunction was suspected — 97 percent of the ice sheet surface thawed at some point by mid-July. Climate knots no borders and the melt could begin affecting Atlantic Ocean water levels. The unfolding events are not about the first known ecological disaster in modern times. A Mexico City

engineer pointed out to me that the Europeans destroyed the verdant gardens that existed before 1521 which formed islands, called chinampas, in the Valley of Mexico. Their reason was to subjugate the great city of Tenochtitlan, the one Mexico City is built over. The military objective drained the canals that had made the old city like Venice. The transportation and causeways used by the native people to get goods to market from the outer frontiers were transformed into dry land.

Today's paradox is how Mexican government bankers deliver drinking water to those farm areas in the north central region where agricultural production and animal stock have fallen off due to drought. This region struggles with the worst dry spell in 81 years of recorded data. The situation of the native Tarahumara people brought national attention when the squadron of portable water tankers was sent to them after their reservoirs and private wells ran dry. About 350,000 head of cattle have starved in the state of Chihuahua in the last 12 months, perhaps a million nationally.

One person in the picturesque south central town of Tepic, Jalisco, at the margins of the drought area, says his town reservoir's water level has been going down for years and he doesn't expect improvement in a dozen years, if then.

A deeper-than-headline understanding comes from Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory in New York. Their climate simulations, averaged across the entire Southwest, conclude the conditions are like those of the 1930s Dust Bowl and the 1950s multi-year droughts. This is the shape of climate change in the U.S. Southwest and the North Central region of Mexico. The human tragedy in the making is too often presented as news briefs in North America. Another view about climate in the news — not weather sandwiched after sports — is needed. The 30-second brief before moving on to Tom Cruise's divorce medicalizes information too important when our ports, food and security are at stake in North America. It is the story about our relationship and responsibility to nature.

We could at least inform ourselves about measures to take with the same precision we do Santa Claus.

On Christmas Eve, the left-over Cold War radar at NORAD tracks the movement of Santa Claus from the North Pole, following the trajectory, time estimates and impediments causing delays to know how soon he gets to our home. Specialized jargon is translated into people-speak across nations, in complete sentences, without Murdock, in paragraph-size explanations so responsible, mature people know what's happening. We could at least take as seriously the moment of climate change as we do that of Santa Claus.

José de la Isla, a nationally syndicated columnist for Hispanic Link and Scripps Howard news services, has been recognized for two consecutive years for his commentaries by New America Media. His next book, The Rise of Latino Political Power, will appear early in 2013. Reach him at josejedi@yahoo.com

See this column in Spanish and more at www.HispanicLink.org ©2012

Congratulations to ABNA!

This past week, the Arnett Benson Neighborhood Association showed just what a neighborhood association is capable of doing for a community. The organization was selected by the Lubbock United Neighborhood Association to host the main National Night Out event in Lubbock this year. The event was held at one of the neighborhood's landmark locations, Rodgers Park and the Maggie Trejo Super Center.

If you happened to watch the 6PM KCBD NewsChannel 11 newscast which was broadcast live from the event, perhaps you noticed a hint of approval and admiration from the news anchors as they described what was taking place as they interviewed ABNA President Joe Rojas.

We ourselves watched a recording of the newscast with a sense of community and cultural pride as the Folklorico dancers took the stage and began their performance. We sensed that the people there also took pride in knowing that their neighborhood had been selected as the main host neighborhood. All bias aside, we congratulate Mr. Rojas and his association members, all the people from outside of the neighborhood who worked on the event, all of the participants, booth providers, and all the business sponsors who made the event possible.

One of the individuals involved in organizing the event called it "A great success". We couldn't agree more and we say "Congratulations on a Job Well Done!"

Who is the Real Political Opponent Here?

In every political race, someone has to win and someone has to lose. Consequently, the candidate and supporters on the losing side are faced with making the decision of how to respond to the loss.

In most cases, it is usually a candidate from an opposing party who has to make that choice. And so, if the reaction is nasty or vitriolic, then it is easier to understand. But in this case, it was a Democratic Primary runoff election, and both candidates were from the same party. But you couldn't tell by some of the remarks we saw posted online. The race between Gilbert Flores and Lorenzo "Bubba" Sedeno was a very contentious race between two candidates who have a different view of the role a Lubbock county commissioner plays and how they will do the job. Consequently, they each had their share of Democratic supporters, some who were more personally invested in the race than others.

In reading some of the comments posted on Facebook, we were struck by the hateful and divisive words posted after the election by one Democrat who had supported Flores. Just to give readers an example, here's the post as it appeared online: "No self respecting Democrat will vote for this disgusting traitor of a person for anything". The writer was referring to the winning candidate Lorenzo "Bubba" Sedeno.

That to us seems to be more of a personal and emotional attack on an individual as opposed to making a political argument for not voting for a particular candidate. Is that what we want Democratic voters to base their decision on when they decide who to vote for in November; when the opposing candidate is a Republican? We have to remember that a majority of voters in Precinct 3 who took time to vote made the decision to select Lorenzo "Bubba" Sedeno as the Democratic nominee. We don't think they would appreciate those types of comments about a candidate they found to be qualified enough to win their vote. These kinds of hateful comments only serve to discourage potential voter participation in the political process.

In a city as conservative as Lubbock, where we are quickly running the risk of becoming a one party city, perhaps it would be best to keep these personal attacks out of the public forum and settle our differences in a more civil manner and in a more proper forum.

We should stay focused on the main goal, which is to elect Democrats if they remain loyal to the party, profess to be Democrats and still believe in Democratic political principles.

If not, perhaps it is time to consider getting out, move on and join some other political party as some others have done. And we will also say that the Democratic Party has bigger battles to fight in order to regain some semblance of competitiveness in local and county political races.

The choice is very simple. Lose with grace and dignity, or strike out at the winner and their supporters and give Republicans even more reason to attract Democrats to their party.

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DIRIGENTES Y EXPERTOS HISPANOS OPINAN SOBRE LA LEY DE SALUD DE OBAMA

Por Elizabeth de Armas y Luis Carlos López

Hispanic Link News Service

Albura que el Tribunal Supremo ha convalidado la distintiva ley de salud nacional, Affordable Care Act, los estados deben abordar su interpretación y la implementación del contenido que es de 2.800 páginas de largo.

Al anunciarse el fallo el 28 de junio, muchos expertos hispanos y dirigentes de organizaciones lo aclamaron como victoria. Una encuesta realizada por Hispanic Link News Service después del fallo ha encontrado que otros están planteando serias objeciones referente a algunas de sus provisions más relevantes.

Analista de inversiones principal del proyecto sobre políticas de salud del Consejo Nacional de La Raza, Kara Ryan, dijo que el fallo era un "hito importante".

Para unos seis millones hispanos se abriría un camino a la cobertura médica si se implementa por completo la ley para el 2014. Afirma, indicando que esto significaría el mayor avance individual para cualquier grupo étnico.

Cuando un tercio de los hispanos de esta nación carece de seguro médico, así como el 20% de los afroamericanos.

Presidente del Tribunal Supremo, John Roberts, cambió de una posición conservadora y apoyó a los magistrados liberales cuando el Tribunal falló con un voto de 5 contra 4 indicando que cumple con la Constitución la ley de salud del Presidente Obama.

Nombrado por el profesor de Obama, George W. Bush, el presidente del Tribunal Supremo afirmó que el Congreso tiene la autoridad de recaudar impuestos. Roberts caminó por una delgada línea divisoria cuando puso límites sobre el requerimiento federal que los estados expandieran el programa Medicaid. Los expertos académicos de derecho debataron ad infinitum el por qué optó Roberts por abandonar a sus colegas conservadores.

El estado de Florida, cuya población es hispana en un 22,9%, además de Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, Carolina del Sur, Wisconsin, declaró que rechazarán la expansión de Medicaid; algunos expertos proyectan que esto será de unos cinco millones de individuos sin seguro médico. Ocho estados más — Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, Texas y Virginia — están tendiendo hacia el rechazo de la expansión.

Gobernadores de Florida, Rick Scott, enfrentó el dilema del seguro médico nacional como un "problema del costo del cuidado médico, y la ley del presidente Obama no hace nada por atender el problema", le dijo a Hispanic Link News Service su vocera, Lane Wright.

En Nevada, cuya población es hispana en un 27,1%, el gobernador Brian Sandoval en su día dijo que si el estado no se une al programa, se expandirá el gobierno. Un vocero le dijo a Hispanic Link News Service que está revisando toda la información antes de tomar una decisión.

Abogado de derechos civiles, James Lyons, mantuvo que si bien la ley se mantiene, el hecho que los estados tengan la opción de rechazar la expansión de Medicaid podría perjudicar a los hispanos. "Todo el mundo dice, 'El Tribunal Supremo confirmó la ley de salud, Affordable Care Act'. Pues sí, sí no. De hecho no la han confirmado para los pobres que no tienen seguro médico. Existe la ilusión de la disponibilidad de cuidados médicos, pero no será cierto".

Ciudadano de Washington, D.C., Wadi Romero-Curá, dijo que la ley en realidad es de beneficio a la población desatendida. Lo que él critica es que sea irresponsable económicamente.

"En vez de dirigirse al fraude que ocurre con Medicaid, Obama propuso esta ley simplemente para cubrir el gasto", dijo. "Esta ley corre el riesgo de propiciar a nuestros médicos y especialistas a favor de metas políticas. Si bien ayudará a los hispanos, temo que dañará al sector médico y por ende dañará a todos por último".

Congresista Mario Díaz-Balart (repúblicano por Florida) en una telefonada con el 29 de junio agregó otro punto conflictivo: "Desafortunadamente el presidente lo ha vendido como que si esto fuera una cosa gratis para todo el mundo [que] nadie va a pagar".

A pesar de las críticas y de la incertidumbre, la mayoría de las organizaciones hispanas siguen optimistas. Jessica González-Rojas, directora ejecutiva del National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health, dijo que los jóvenes latinos se han beneficiado de una provisión de la ley, la que permite que los padres de familia incluyan a su hijo en su seguro médico hasta que cumplen los 26 años. Más de 700 mil latinos ya están disfrutando de este beneficio.

A partir del primero de agosto, las mujeres podrán recibir cuidados médicos de prevención tales como las mamografías, anticonceptivos y pruebas de papillocitos, sin tener que pagar ningún pago.

Por el momento, la ley no cubre a los inmigrantes indocumentados, ni a aquellos capaces de comprar su propio seguro médico. Deben fiarse de los centros médicos comunitarios y del programa de emergencia de Medicaid, lo cual resulta más costoso.

González-Rojas añadió que la ley impone límites sobre las latinas en cuanto a temas de servicios de aborto. "Tememos la esperanza que surja algo de sabiduría de entre estos legisladores para considerar lo que le conviene al país y que ofrecer cobertura médica a todo nuestro pueblo", dijo González-Rojas. "Es una lucha... Hasta no incluir a todas estas personas, no vamos a dejar de pelear".

Fiestas Del Llano

Fiestas Patrias

FREE - FREE - FREE

2012 Hispanic Event of the Year!!

Everybody Loves A Parade

What: Parade/Desfile commemorating Diez y Seis de Septiembre celebrating the Independence of Mexico from Spain. The theme for this year is Fiestas Patrias 2012 A Heritage of Celebration

When: September 15th 10AM (Volunteers and staff will start lining up entries at 9AM).

Where: First Baptist Church Parking Lot, Broadway at Ave V, The parade route is from Broadway and Ave V East on Broadway to Ave M and North to the Fiestas D Llano site at the Lubbock Civic Center.

Who: Any and all organizations (veterans groups, politicians past and present, honor guards, businesses, school groups, car clubs, motorcycle groups, PTAs, Texas Tech student groups, carros alegóricos) wanting participate. Judging for cash prizes 1st Place (\$100), 2r Place (\$75), and 3rd Place (\$50) overall to be awarded immediately after the parade at the Civic Center Fiesta Del Llano stage. Please note that candy can be safely passed out to children.

Why: The parade is part of the Diez y Seis de Septiembre Celebration being held at the Lubbock Civic Center Friday, Saturday and Sunday September 14th, 15 th, and 16th. This free event is sponsored by The Fiestas Del Llano, Inc. Board of Directors. Please visit www.FiestaDelllano.com for parade applications and/or information.

Point-of-contact and Parade Chairman Frank Gutierrez 806-392-2892, e-mail: gtz2004@hotmail.com

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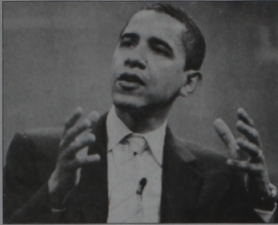
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Obama Orders \$30M More in Farm Drought Aid



President Barack Obama said he ordered an additional \$30 million to help crop and livestock farmers crippled by a "devastating" and "historic drought."

The U.S. Agriculture Department money, which has already been allocated and does not require congressional approval, is intended "to get more water to livestock and restore land impacted by drought," Obama told reporters before a White House Rural Council meeting on the government's drought response.

The council, composed of Cabinet-level and other officials from across the government, seeks to promote rural economic prosperity.

"We are seeing devastating drought throughout the country," Obama said Tuesday afternoon. "It is a historic drought, and it's having a profound impact on farmers and ranchers all across many states."

The administration has "already designated over 1,500 counties across 32 states as disaster areas, which gives qualified farmers access to low-interest emergency loans," Obama said.

"We've also opened up more land for haying and grazing," he said. "And we've worked with crop insurance companies to give farmers a short grace period on unpaid insurance premiums, since some families will be

struggling to make ends meet at the end of this crop year.

"This has been an all-hands-on-deck response," he said, thanking Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack for his leadership.

Obama pointed to additional administration steps to help people and businesses hurt by the drought. These included a Transportation Department program to help commercial truck drivers transport supplies to farmers and ranchers and Small Business Administration program for low-interest emergency loans.

"But obviously, we've got a lot more to do, because a lot of folks are being affected by this," he said.

"When there's a disaster like this, everybody needs to pull together."

Obama repeated his call for Congress to pass a five-year, \$500 billion farm bill.

Passing the bill would "not only provide important disaster relief tools, but also make necessary reforms and give farmers

the certainty that they deserve," he said.

Kevin Smith, a spokesman for House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, said the Republican-controlled House passed a bill to aid livestock producers, but the Democratic-controlled Senate did not act on it.

"A bipartisan House majority took responsible action to help farmers and ranchers suffering from drought," Smith said. "It's unfortunate that Senate Democrats have blocked this relief package from getting to us in need."

House Republicans Thursday passed a short-term \$383 million package of loans and grants for some drought-stricken livestock producers and farmers.

But Democratic leaders in the Senate, which passed the five-year agricultural policy omnibus farm bill June 21, said they wouldn't rush through the House measure simply because they were getting ready to begin their five-week summer recess.

"I'm not passing a bill that only covers some producers," Senate Agriculture Committee Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., said Thursday.

The end result was that Congress took no action to provide drought aid before breaking for the summer.

Mejoran perspectivas laborales para hispanos en EEUU

La economía y el empleo es lo que más preocupa a los votantes hispanos, y sin embargo, sus perspectivas laborales no son tan neguras: se prevé que el sector de la construcción crecerá un 2.9% anualmente hasta el 2020 y la creación de pequeños negocios se ha visto fuertemente impulsada precisamente por hispanos, sobre todo mexicanos.

Esos son algunos de los datos difundidos hoy por la organización Center for American Progress, con sede en Washington, que a pesar de dar señales positivas, destacó el alto nivel de desempleo entre hispanos.

Aproximadamente 2.3 millones de pequeños negocios en el país son de hispanos y el nivel con el que éstos han abierto es más del doble que la media nacional, señaló el informe que utilizó datos del censo.

Los latinos de origen mexicano son los que más destacan en el sector y son dueños de más del 45.8% de negocios hispanos en el país. El informe también

indicó que las mujeres son líderes entre los emprendedores y abren negocios a un nivel seis veces mayor que la media nacional. Las hispanas son dueñas de uno de cada 10 negocios en el país cuyo propietario es una mujer.

"Los hispanos representan el sector de crecimiento más rápido de la fuerza laboral", dijo la secretaria de trabajo Hilda

Solis, durante una conferencia con periodistas. "Si los hispanos progresan, nuestra nación progresará".

Estados Unidos cuenta con casi 25 millones de trabajadores hispanos, es decir, un 16% de la fuerza laboral estadounidense, según la Oficina de Estadísticas Laborales.

El reporte difundido -titulado "El estado de los hispanos en Estados Unidos" ("The State of Latinos in the United States")- señaló que los latinos podrían representar un 18% de la fuerza laboral antes del 2018 y un 24% antes del 2050.

A pesar de que hay más hispanos en el país que han nacido

pérdida de puestos de trabajo en el sector de la construcción. Aun así, la Oficina de Estadísticas Laborales proyecta que esta industria creará un 2.9% anual hasta el 2020.

"Este crecimiento puede beneficiar enormemente a los hispanos, quienes están ampliamente representados en el sector, sin embargo la mayoría de este crecimiento serán empleos recuperados que fueron eliminados durante la recesión", indicó el informe.

Se prevé que la industria de la salud y de la asistencia social sean las que más crezcan pero los hispanos están poco presentes en estos sectores: sólo representan un 10.4% de los trabajadores de esta industria.

California, Arizona, Illinois, Nueva York, Florida y Texas son los estados con los mayores niveles de desempleo entre hispanos.

El reporte también destacó que los niveles de educación de los latinos trabajadores son bajos: tan sólo uno de cada seis hispanos que trabaja y tiene más de 25 años cuenta con estudios universitarios.

El estudio del Center for American Progress está basado en datos de la oficina del censo, del Departamento de Trabajo de Estados Unidos, de los Centros de Control y Prevención de Enfermedades, del Centro Hispano Pew y del Consejo Nacional de Negocios de Mujeres, entre otros organismos.



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Arnett Benson National Night Out

Gael Garcia Bernal Becomes Youngest Actor to Receive Career Prize



Mexican actor Gael Garcia Bernal, just 33, became one of the youngest actors to win an award for career excellence in the 65-year history of the Locarno Film Festival on Wednesday, ahead of the Piazza Grande screening of Pablo Larrain's *No*, in which Garcia Bernal played a gifted advertising executive who helped to oust Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet.

Also on tap Wednesday was the world premiere screening *La Fille de nulle part* (The Girl From Nowhere), written, directed and produced by Jean-Claude Brisseau, who also played the film's male lead. The film, which screened in competition, was made with an extremely low budget from Brisseau's own savings.

Locarno artistic director Olivier Pere introduced Garcia Bernal as a "Latino divo," while Garcia Bernal marveled at the crowd that nearly filled the 8,800-seat

Piazza Grande, saying it was truly "grand" -- using the Spanish word that means both "big" and "great."

Garcia Bernal said that despite a career lasting more than 20 years and acting roles in more than 40 films, shorts and television programs that he still feels like he is "green" as an actor. "I think I still have a lot of room to grow," the diminutive Garcia Bernal said. "Perhaps not in terms of height, but in terms of experience."

Garcia Bernal was presented with Locarno's Excellence Award, the same award given to 66-year-old U.K. actress Charlotte Rampling earlier in the festival. Locarno also gave a Golden Leopard career award to reclusive French director Leos Carax, 52, while other career honors went to producer Anon Milchan, 68, and, soon, to 57-year-old Hong Kong director

Johnnie To. Perhaps as a nod to his comparatively young age, Garcia Bernal displayed a youthful exuberance when the black-and-gold prize, shaking the award over his head and using it to play air guitar.

Earlier, *La Fille de nulle part* turned heads in a full Fevi cinema, second only to *Piazza Grande* among Locarno's largest venues. The film, an unusual love story between a grieving widower who lost his wife a generation before played by Brisseau and a homeless woman, was made for just €62,000 (around \$77,000). Brisseau said the production used only one



camera, which was transported at times by an adapted baby carriage.

Stallone se aleja de "Los indestructibles 2"

La producción de la nueva película de Sylvester Stallone "Los indestructibles 2", le permitió al actor tomarse el tiempo necesario para recuperarse de la reciente muerte de su hijo, Sage. Michael Stallone, por lo que prevén está ausente en la promoción del filme.

Stallone, quien protagonizó la saga de "Rocky", tomó



la decisión de salir a vacacionar en compañía de su esposa Jennifer Flavin y de sus tres hijas, a bordo de un barco en la costa francesa, así se dio a conocer en el portal Chance.

En los días que Stallone vacaciona se le ha visto pensativo y reflexivo en la cubierta de la embarcación, como si recordara las palabras que

mencionó a la prensa tras la muerte de Sage "Cuando un padre pierde a un hijo no hay dolor más grande... Esta pérdida dolorosa la sentiremos durante el resto de nuestras vidas".

"Sage era nuestro primer hijo y el centro de nuestro universo. Estoy implorando humildemente para que todos dejen su memoria en paz", acotó el actor que a pesar de la pena lanzó un póster del filme "Los indestructibles 2", donde parodia la popular última cena de Leonardo Da Vinci.



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Kobe, LeBron power U.S. past Aussies



As the shot fell through the net, Kobe Bryant held up three fingers on each hand. It was his third straight 3-pointer in the fourth quarter, enough for the U.S. men's Olympic team to finally put away stubborn Australia.

Yes, all's fine with Bryant, and the Americans' gold medal hopes, as well.

Bryant silenced his critics and broke open a tight game with six 3-pointers in the second half Wednesday night as the U.S. advanced to the semifinals of the London Games with a 119-86 victory over Australia.

"Somebody made him mad. I could see it in his eyes," American Kevin Durant said. "I wanted him to kind of turn it on and that's what he did."

On a night when LeBron James had a triple-double, the story was Bryant's awakening from his Olympic slumber. The five-time NBA champion has even said this team could have beaten the Dream Team, and on the 20th anniversary

of that squad's gold medal win, he put on the kind of show that makes his claim hard to dismiss.

Bryant scored all of his 20 points after halftime, finally delivering the kind of game expected of him in London. He had insisted his time would come, and none of his teammates ever doubted it.

"I kind of knew what button to push with him. I was talking to him at half-time and in the third quarter and I guess I pushed the button. He woke up and to see that, I've been on the other side of the ball and had that situation before," teammate Carmelo Anthony said.

Bryant, a top-five scorer in NBA history, brushed away Anthony's attempts to take credit as easily as the questions he was hearing in London.

"He was just saying, 'Let's see what we see during the season.' But by that point, I was already revved up," Bryant said.

James finished with 11 points, 14 rebounds and 12 assists for the Americans, who advanced to their third straight Olympic semifinal meeting with Argentina, which beat Brazil earlier Wednesday. Deon Williams added 18 points, Anthony had 17 and Durant 14.

The Americans beat the Argentinians 126-97 on Monday in the final game of pool play, yet another night they didn't need much from Bryant, who came in averaging just 9.4 points and hearing whispers that something must be wrong with him, though both he and his teammates kept assuring people there was no problem.

"This time was different — eventually — after Bryant mistired on all four shots in the first half.

"Just kind of searching for something to get me going, for something that would activate the Black Mamba, as Coach calls it," Bryant said.

"That came when Australia scored the first 11 points of the second half, cutting the Americans' lead to three after back-to-back 3-pointers by Joe Ingles. The U.S. lead was only six before Bryant, who had never gotten in an offensive rhythm in London and just minutes earlier had committed another puzzling

offensive foul, finally broke out.

He made a 3-pointer, then baited away a pass, chased it down along the left sideline and pulled up for another 3 that made it 70-58. James followed with a basket that pushed it to 14, and the Americans never let the Australians get much closer.

Bryant made sure of it.

He finished 6 of 10 behind the arc, making three straight in the fourth quarter as part of a 17-2 run to blow it open, the crowd chanting "Kobe! Kobe!" before he finally missed on a ridiculously long attempt before calling it a night.

Partly Mills scored 26 points and Ingles had 19 for Australia, which had the misfortune of running into the U.S. in the quarterfinals for the second straight Olympics.

"The difference in the game was their transition baskets and 3-pointers, and Kobe got a little bit stuff," Mills said.

"And for great teams, that's all they need and they stretch it out."

Even the Australian fans were cheering for Bryant as he walked to the locker room after a postgame interview. First, he knocked fists with the Aussie's kangaroo mascot, wearing boxing gloves on his hands.

Bryant sure knocked out the Australians.

Bodies fell and blood flowed in a physical fight of his, the Americans taking plenty of hits but delivering them as well, such as the one that sent Australia's David Barlow to the bench with a bloody nose that took a while to control.

But the spirited play brought out the best in Bryant, who insists he's content taking a lesser role with other, much younger scorers such as James, Durant and Anthony willing to carry the load.

He said the same things in Beijing and came through with 20 points in the

gold-medal game, so the Americans know they can count on him to rise to a challenge.

They expect another one from Argentina, which beat the U.S. in 2004 on its way to the gold medal, a loss the Americans avenged before winning gold in Beijing.

Russia plays Spain in the semifinals.

The crowd on the first night of action at the North Greenwich Arena included NBA Commissioner David Stern and Deputy Commissioner Adam Silver, who have said they may prefer the Olympics be limited to players 23 and younger in the future.

First, they saw why fans want to keep seeing America's best — and what everyone expected from Bryant all along.

"You see it all the time, but that was the first time we've seen it here," Durant said. "He's so upset and when he does that he's in another world."



Successful Event for Obama Campaign

In Odessa, several organizations worked together to make sure that voters got motivated by hosting campaign style event on August 4. According to event coordinator and President of Una Voz Unida Art Leal told El Editor that the event was a great success. Enjoyed having people from all over the Permian Basin & West Texas area to have been part of the event and for this it was a great success!



Olimpiadas 2012: Marlen Esparza asegura bronce en boxeo

Marlen Esparza ganó su primera pelea en los Juegos Olímpicos de Londres con base en su técnica y excelente condición física a Kartha Magliocco, de Venezuela, por marcador 24-16. Con ello aseguró al menos una medalla de bronce.

Cuando Esparza salió del túnel de la londinense arena ExCel de boxeo hizo algo que nunca ha hecho en todo el tiempo que se le ha visto competir a nivel internacional y fue mirar a todos lados, saludar y sonreír.

"Estaba viendo a toda esa gente ahí [los espectadores de la sesión de boxeo olímpico] y me asusté, mi reacción fue sonreír," dijo Esparza después del combate.

Fue sin duda una gran pelea en el intercambio de golpes entre ella y la venezolana Kartha Magliocco, quien en ningún momento se dejó amedrentar por la calidad y poder que tiene la boxeadora de Houston.

Esparza, la ajedrecista por su estudio de cada movimiento, en un combate muy movido pudo estar siempre adelante en puntos.

"Estuvo excelente con sus golpes y para ser su primer combate en los Olímpicos luego de haber tenido en el sorteo el peso, esto afecta a las boxeadoras", dijo Christy Halbert, directora de la Comisión de Boxeo Femenil para las Américas de la Asociación Internacional de Boxeo Aficionado (AIBA).

El público en la arena ExCel, sede del boxeo olímpico en Londres 2012, favoreció a hacía porras por la venezolana Magliocco, quien dio todo su corazón como siempre lo hace. Pero la calidad de Esparza en el cuadrilátero se dejó ver todo el tiempo a lo largo de los cuatro rounds de la pelea.

"Marlen sabe que ella no es la favorita en este torneo pero una parte de ella lo goza, porque ella es una competidora muy feroz", dijo Halbert.

Después de la derrota de ayer para Estados Unidos que sufrió la boxeadora Queen Underwood, el triunfo de Marlen hoy 6 de agosto es un alivio para el equipo de boxeo del país.

Esparza boxeará el próximo miércoles 8 de agosto en la semifinal contra la dos veces campeona mundial, la china Ren Cancun, con quien Marlen perdió hace unos meses en China durante el mundial de AIBA.

"A ella le gusta pelear con alguien que ya lo había hecho y perdió pues entra con más seguridad al cuadrilátero", dijo Rudy Silva, entrenador de Esparza.

Esparza tiene confianza en que la revancha será en su favor y en que

la gente de su ciudad que tanto la ha apoyado lo seguirá haciendo.

"Estoy muy agradecida con mi gente de Houston porque siempre

ha estado conmigo", dijo Esparza, quien ya aseguró con este triunfo una medalla de bronce. Pero ella vino por el oro.

Glasheen, Valles & Inderman, LLP le gustaría felicitar a Kevin Glasheen y Jason Medina en obtener un veredicto del jurado de \$6,129,083.19 en Midland County en el caso de Hartlove vs Butts Recycling, Inc.

El cliente de nuestra oficina, Hartlove, perdió una mano en una maquina de compactación industrial de papel. La evidencia mostro que los interruptores de seguridad habían sido anulados. Nuestra oficina presento la demanda contra la compañía que era dueña de la maquina.

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Crean réplica del corazón para experimentar tratamientos

Un grupo de científicos ha creado la primera simulación exacta de un corazón que se podrá personalizar para probar terapias antes de aplicarlas al paciente y que servirá, a la vez, para sacar a la luz los entresijos aún por descubrir de uno de los órganos más complejos del cuerpo humano.

Desde hace más de dos años, expertos del Barcelona Supercomputing Center (BSC) y del Hospital de Sant Pau de la capital catalana trabajan en la recreación de un corazón que se espera que, ya a finales de este año, reproduzca a la perfección los mismos procesos que uno natural, aunque alimentado con sangre virtual.

"El corazón es una bomba mecánica muy sofisticada que tenemos que conocer mejor, porque todavía hay muchos puntos oscuros", explica a Efe el jefe de la Unidad de Imagen Cardíaca del

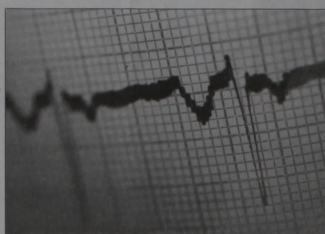
Sant Pau, Francesc Carreras.

Uno de estos retos a resolver empíricamente es el mecanismo electromecánico que activa el corazón para que se contraigan las fibras y se produzca el bombeo de sangre.

Si bien la medicina ya es capaz de arreglar problemas electromecánicos con aparatos de sincronización, como los marcapasos, todavía no ha podido describir por qué esas correcciones funcionan.

Carreras espera que la recreación ayude a entender esos procesos y que contribuya también a confirmar la teoría, aceptada ya por toda la comunidad médica, de que las fibras dentro del corazón conforman una única pieza helicoidal que se contrae por torsión, como cuando se escurre una toalla, para hacer la función de bombeo.

"Toda esta información es muy importante para entender los



mecanismos de las enfermedades del corazón, sobre todo las que afectan a las fibras, y dar mejores soluciones", destaca Carreras.

Una vez esté terminada la simulación, los cardiólogos, con los

datos obtenidos con electrocardiogramas y TAC de un paciente, podrán personalizar el corazón virtual y avanzar en el tiempo

para ver, en pocos minutos, cómo evolucionará la patología en 10 años.

"Sabremos con antelación, por ejemplo, cuál es el momento más indicado para cambiar una válvula que tiene una disfunción", destaca Carreras.

Para lograr las ecuaciones necesarias para reproducir como en la realidad todos los movimientos del corazón, la supercomputadora Mare Nostrum usa un millar de procesadores de forma simultánea.

"La parte más compleja es resolver de forma correcta todo el sistema de ecuaciones que describen el funcionamiento del corazón y eso implica resolver el problema eléctrico, la deformación del músculo cardíaco o el movimiento de las válvulas", explica José María Cella, responsable del BSC en el proyecto.

La última fase, aún pendiente de ejecutar, es insertar la sangre y para ello hay que resolver las ecuaciones que describen el movimiento del líquido tal y como sucede en la realidad.

"Esperamos que aproximadamente a finales de 2013 tengamos un prototipo completo para iniciar validaciones con casos de estudio clínico", subraya Cella.

Hasta entonces, el BSC trabajará para crear un mecanismo rápido que, en unos 20 minutos, sea capaz de ajustar los parámetros de serie que sean aproximados para personalizarlos en función de las características del corazón de cada paciente.

"La simulación debe ser capaz de reproducir de forma fidedigna y cuantitativamente correcta un corazón, pero no uno abstracto, sino el de una persona concreta", concluye Cella.

Descifran cómo funciona el olvido

Con la ayuda de ordenadores, científicos argentinos han descifrado mecanismos asociados al olvido que pueden servir para desarrollar tratamientos contra la depresión y enfermedades degenerativas como el mal de Alzheimer, explicó hoy a Efe uno de los responsables del estudio.

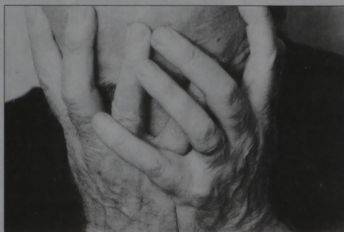
Los investigadores del Instituto Universitario del Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires desarrollaron un simulador del hipocampo, región del cerebro capaz de recordar situaciones, a través de un modelo matemático realizado en el ordenador.

La máxima aspiración es desarrollar una tecnología que ayude a crear un "chip" que pueda ser implantado a personas con enfermedades como el mal de Alzheimer y que active los procesos de la memoria, declaró el doctor

Pablo Argibay, a cargo del estudio iniciado hace seis años junto a la bioingeniera Victoria Weisz.

"Se trataría de un chip que podría ayudar a tener las funciones del hipocampo. Es una tecnología que aún no está disponible, pero que podría ayudar a las personas con enfermedades degenerativas", señaló el investigador, también perteneciente al Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas de Argentina.

Los científicos detectaron que cuando el hipocampo genera



nuevas neuronas, las memorias adquiridas más recientemente son mejor retenidas

y recordadas, mientras que las memorias más antiguas comienzan a ser difíciles de recordar, debido a "interferencias" producidas por las flamantes neuronas.

Para eso, los expertos desarrollan "un montón de fórmu-

las" que explican el funcionamiento del cerebro y simulan el accionar del hipocampo,

apuntó Argibay, del Laboratorio de Aprendizaje Biológico y Artificial del hospital.

"Hay pocas zonas del cerebro que generan nuevas neuronas. Las neuronas creadas en el hipocampo

ayudan a aceptar la novedad, es decir, queda muy grabado un recuerdo nuevo. Las personas que tienen ese proceso deteriorado tienen recuerdos muy viejos pero se pierden con lo nuevo", señaló. Este descubrimiento, explicó

el científico, puede servir también para las personas con depresión, a quienes se suele administrar fármacos que "ayudan a crear nuevas neuronas, las cuales permiten retener nuevas memorias y, de ese modo, desplazar las viejas memorias que son traumáticas".

"El hecho de conocer el funcionamiento del hipocampo mediante el simulador alienta a desarrollar teorías acerca de cómo podría producirse el olvido y cómo podríamos intervenir sobre el fenómeno", puntualizó.

El hipocampo, llamado así por su forma similar a un caballo de mar, está asociado a la denominada memoria episódica, que permite recordar un evento a partir de alguno de sus componentes, es decir, cuando a partir de una imagen es posible recordar una situación vivida.

La investigación se basó en la neurogénesis, descubierta en la década de 1980 por el científico argentino Fernando Nottebohm, quien contradijo la hipótesis aceptada durante décadas de que no podían crearse nuevas neuronas en el cerebro adulto.

"Si algunas demencias se produjeron como consecuencia de la pérdida de generación de neuronas, podríamos recuperar esa capacidad con una terapia basada en células madre o sustancias para que el fenómeno se produzca", dijo el responsable de la investigación, que será publicada en la revista "Cognition".

Por lo pronto, en el laboratorio del instituto universitario arman por estos días un robot con la capacidad de simular la función del hipocampo, lo que puede abrir paso a nuevos descubrimientos para no olvidar.

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'Dreamers' están listos para trámite

"Confíen en nosotros". Ese es el mensaje que está transmitiendo el gobierno a tan sólo siete días que se abran las aplicaciones de jóvenes indocumentados para la acción diferida. Con promesas de un entrenamiento riguroso de su personal y un proceso interno transparente, la Administración quiere maximizar tu participación. En tanto, organizaciones están preocupadas de que un grupo considerable decida esperar, por miedo.

A partir del próximo 15 de agosto, los jóvenes que se beneficiarán con el Proyecto de Ley del Sueño (Dreamers), podrán postular al proceso de acción diferida por dos años, con posibilidad de ser renovado. Este mecanismo les permitirá permanecer en el país y acceder a permisos de trabajo.

Incluso después de que el gobierno divulga las guías sobre el proceso de entrenamiento interno, aún persisten dudas dentro de organizaciones de jóvenes y activistas.

El director del Servicio de Ciudadanía e Inmigración, (USCIS), Alejandro Mayorkas, insistió en que "se están estableciendo protocolos para asegurar la calidad de las decisiones".

Un punto importante, considerando que la resolución de USCIS, no se puede apelar. "Entregaremos guías adicionales sobre el proceso, el 15 de agosto, respecto a la documentación necesaria para probar que se cumplen con los requerimientos", realció.

En una carta enviada por United We Dream y NILC, el 30 de julio pasado, las organizaciones mencionaron a Mayorkas sus preocupaciones. Existen dudas y "mensajes de miedo, que están causando que muchos potenciales postulantes, tomen la actitud de esperar".

En la misma página que cuando la aplicación sea denegada, USCIS realice una revisión por parte de un supervisor y provea al postulante de una explicación escrita de las razones del rechazo. Marielena Hincapié, directora ejecutiva de NILC, insistió ayer con Mayorkas, en que los jóvenes pueden tener "múltiples fallos", como manejar sin licencia o desobediencia civil y que aunque la agencia ha dicho que no las considera delitos menores, les preocupa

que USCIS haya estipulado "considerar la totalidad de los antecedentes". Eso es interpretado por activistas, como un riesgo en las aplicaciones de jóvenes.

Consultado por La Opinión respecto a una persona tiene múltiples delitos de tráfico y de desobediencia civil, Mayorkas dijo que "no comentaré situaciones hipotéticas y realicé que harán un análisis caso a caso", donde se considerarán todos los factores.

Aunque el director de USCIS, no especificó cuánto personal extra se contratará para manejar el volumen de aplicaciones, sí aclaró que la agencia ha estudiado los datos disponibles respecto al número de personas que podrían postular.

"Hemos comenzado a planear cómo mejorar la dotación de personal. Estamos desarrollando material de entrenamiento interno. [...] Queremos no sólo entrenar a la gente, pero hacerlo desde una posición de habilidad y precisión, identificando a los individuos más adecuados para entrenar a la fuerza de trabajo", agregó.

Un reporte del Instituto de Política Migratoria (MPI) indicó ayer, que un 72% de los jóvenes indocumentados se beneficiarán con el proceso de acción diferida de manera inmediata, es decir 1,260,000.

Ayer, United We Dream lanzó la campaña Oneat el Sueño, que busca ayudar a los jóvenes a través de talleres, foros y orientación para que realicen una aplicación exitosa. La directora ejecutiva de la Asociación Nacional de Abogados de Inmigración (AILA), Crystal Williams, aseguró que a lo largo del país, miles de abogados estarán orientando a jóvenes de manera gratuita.

También previno a los postulantes de buscar ayuda en personas que les indiquen que pueden acelerar el proceso o que deben aplicar ahora. Williams dijo que los únicos casos en que existe prisa, son los jóvenes que están cerca de cumplir los 18 años. Esto se debe a que si obtienen acción diferida, antes, no están sujetos a las barreras de reintegro de 3 y 10 años impuestas por la ley de inmigración.

After triumphing in the Republican primary in Texas last week, Tea Party It Boy Ted Cruz is virtually assured of winning a Senate seat in November. Unlike most of his Tea Party compatriots, he's widely considered to be super-smart, one of the right's leading legal minds. Conservatives are even embracing him as (gasp!) an "intellectual" — a label usually only deployed to heap scorn on scientists and other egg-headed freedom-killers.

But for a guy who's so smart, Cruz has some truly stupid views.

On Glenn Beck's radio show earlier this year, he said: "The federal government's already shown that they believe they can control every aspect of our life. I mean, right now Congress is trying to tell us what kind of light bulbs to buy and what kind of toilets. Right now you are prevented from buying a toilet that actually flushes because the bureaucrats in Washington know better than you do."

That old lavatory lament? Clearly Cruz hasn't been keeping up with the latest in toilet R&D.

Cruz is crazy-cray on Agenda 21, totally buying into the right-wing conspiracy theory. Agenda 21 is a two-decade-old, non-binding U.N. document that calls in general terms for things like improving living standards and

protecting ecosystems; it was almost universally forgotten until American "wingers" glommed onto it a couple of years ago. Cruz claims that George Soros is behind the

process seismic data for oil companies, and he seems to have inherited their affection for the industry.

Cruz has called for fast-tracking the Keystone XL

the Obama administration after the BP oil spill.

Step No. 2 of Cruz's 12-step economic plan is "Kill Cap and Trade." He seems to have missed the two-year-old news that it already died.

He claims (erroneously) that by adopting back-door regulations, "would take thousands of dollars from every family in America." And he claims (erroneously) that the EPA is still trying to foist it on America "by adopting back-door regulations."

Step No. 5 of Cruz's economic plan is "Restrain Abusive Environmental Enforcement." He explains the need for this plank by claiming (erroneously) that the Obama administration is trying to ban fracking.

And he seems to think the Endangered Species Act is a vast conspiracy designed to cripple capitalism as we know it. He writes, "Currently, the Obama Administration is using the alleged presence of a lizard to try to stop oil and gas exploration in West Texas." (Here's more on that dastardly lizard.)

And Cruz proudly notes on his website that he has defended property developers threatened by the dreaded arroyo toad.

Cruz may have gone to Harvard Law School and clerked for the Supreme Court, but on environmental issues, he sounds about as intellectual as Sarah Palin.



whole nefarious plot and that "Agenda 21 attempts to abolish 'unsustainable' environments, including golf courses, grazing pastures, and paved roads. It hopes to leave mother earth's surface unscratched by mankind. ... Agenda 21 subverts liberty, our property rights, and our sovereignty."

Cruz also, like many of his fellow Republicans, frequently spreads misinformation on environmental issues — particularly if it benefits the oil and gas biz. Cruz literally owes his existence to Big Oil: His parents met at an oil-exploration company and went on to start a business that

pipeline, claiming (erroneously) that it would "create tens of thousands of jobs."

He says Obama's refusal to rubber-stamp the Keystone plan "hurt the environment, by ensuring that we will continue to import more and more of our oil from overseas on tankers that inevitably suffer the risk of spills." Apparently he hasn't heard that pipelines spill too — right on American soil, no less — and that under Obama the U.S. is importing less oil than at any time in the last 16 years. Cruz also boasts on his website that he "helped lead the fight" against the offshore drilling moratorium put in place by

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