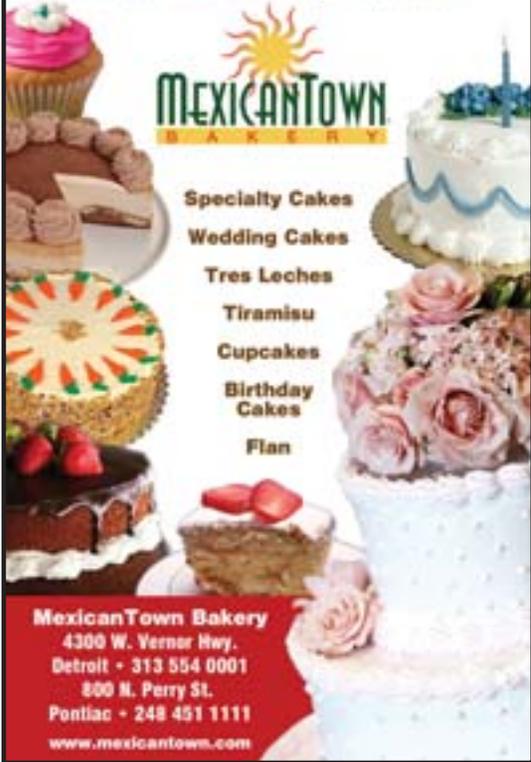


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Detroit-based MG Multi-Servicios hosted a Grand Opening of its new office at 2880 E. Washtenaw in Ypsilanti.

Michigan expands Web help for small, rural libraries

LANSING, March 17, 2010 (AP): The Library of Michigan is expanding its efforts to help small and rural libraries boost their online presence.

More than 40 Michigan libraries have applied to join a program called *Plinkit* that allows them to set up a Web site providing easily updated information to the public as well as access to their catalogs.

The state says some of those libraries will get Web sites through the program starting this spring.

The expansion follows a pilot project involving five libraries that ran from September through December.

The pilot project involved the Constantine Township Library in St. Joseph County, New Buffalo Township Public Library in Berrien County, Homer Public Library, Vernon District Public Library and the library in Belding.

On the Net: Library of Michigan: <http://michlibrary.org>
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Trinidad Sanchez, 40, at the Bowen Branch Library November 1, 1999

Obama se dispone a reformar la enseñanza estadounidense

Por PHILIP ELLIOTT

WASHINGTON, D.C., el 13 de marzo del 2010 (AP): El presidente Barack Obama prometió el sábado reformar la polémica ley de la enseñanza llamada popularmente Ningún Niño Rezagado, y aseguró que con la reforma los estudiantes de secundaria estarán más preparados para enfrentar la vida y pondrá además en las aulas maestros más calificados.

Obama indicó que enviará al Congreso su propuesta para reformar la ley del 2001 centrada en la responsabilidad en las aulas pero que no alcanzó sus objetivos originales.

El momento del anuncio sugiere que Obama tiene puestos sus ojos más allá de la reforma de la atención médica, todavía pendiente en el Congreso y que le ha obligado a retrasar su viaje internacional de la próxima semana y ha puesto en peligro las posibilidades electorales de su partido en los comicios de noviembre.

La enseñanza—al contrario que la reforma de las regulaciones financieras y las leyes defensoras del medio ambiente, igualmente pendientes en el Congreso—es un tema popular que podría beneficiar a los republicanos, que intentan recuperar la mayoría de ambas cámaras en los comicios de noviembre. Pocos votantes se oponen a la mejora de la enseñanza.

“Bajo estas directrices, las escuelas que obtienen la excelencia o muestras un auténtico avance serán recompensadas, y los distritos locales serán animados a que se comprometan con el cambio en las escuelas que están fallando a

(Continúa en la Página 3)

Air Service-Cuban Lawsuit - US air charter companies fight Cuba judgment

By LAURA WIDES-MUÑOZ, AP Hispanic Affairs Writer

MIAMI, March 16, 2010 (AP): Eight charter companies that provide air travel between the U.S. and Cuba sought Tuesday to block an order requiring them to help pay a \$27 million award won by a woman who said she was tricked into marrying a Cuban spy.

Ana Margarita Martínez says Cuban "defector" Juan Pablo Roque romanced and married her at the behest of the island's government in an effort to infiltrate the Miami Cuban exile community and then fled back to the island. She won a default judgment against Cuba in 2001, citing debilitating emotional anguish. In 2007 she persuaded a state court to require the charter companies to pay her any fees owed to tour companies on the island. She argued that those tour companies are indirectly owned by Cuba.

In a hearing in Miami federal court, the charter companies' attorney Ira Kurzban asked Chief U.S. District Judge Federico Moreno to halt the order of payments to Martínez. Moreno did not immediately rule.

Kurzban said if the companies are required to pay Martínez instead of paying the fees they owe to Havana Tours in Cuba, their charter planes won't be allowed to land there.

"If that goes on for some time, they're going to be shut down, and that could affect the entire travel to Cuba," said Kurzban. More than 100 charter flights flew from Miami and New York this week to Cuba's main airport in Havana, according to Cuban customs data. The charter companies say the majority of passengers are Cuban-Americans visiting their relatives.

Last year, President Barack Obama lifted Bush administration restrictions on such visits in an effort to strengthen ties between families and to help increase Cubans' access to information outside of what is provided by the state's tightly controlled media.

Because of the U.S. government's interest in such exchanges, an attorney for the U.S. Justice Department asked Moreno Tuesday to delay his ruling until the government could decide whether to get involved in the case. The government now has until March 31 to intervene.

Martínez has already been granted about \$200,000 in frozen Cuban assets but says she wants Cuba to pay the full award. She has repeatedly said her goal is not to halt travel between the two countries.

"I need to close this chapter of my life. Justice has to be served," she said outside the courtroom.

Martínez, a public relations consultant in Miami, said she met Roque at church in 1992, and he became a father figure to her young children during the four years they were together—at one point even offering to adopt them before he returned to the island in 1996.

Roque left Miami just after the Cuban military shot down planes flown by Brothers to the Rescue, a Cuban exile group that dropped pro-democracy pamphlets over the island and assisted Cuban migrants attempting to reach U.S. shores. Four members of the group were killed. He was convicted in absentia of belonging to a larger Cuban spy ring.

During the hearing, Martínez's attorney Robert Hartley argued Moreno has no jurisdiction in the case because the charter companies are U.S. corporations and the case should remain in state court. Kurzban countered that because the fund being sought belongs to a foreign government, the case should fall to a federal judge.

Kurzban also argued that Martínez failed to get a required federal license to collect money belonging to a foreign government. He added that since Havana Tours is not directly owned by Cuba, under U.S. law it cannot be treated as an agent or entity of that state. Hartley said he believed further investigation would show more direct payments between the companies and Cuba.



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| <p>Culturas Publications, Inc. Rebecca McQueen Olga Castilleja</p> <p><i>Editorial:</i> Rico, Editor Davide García Art/Graphics/Web: Jennifer Retholtz</p> <p><i>Advertising:</i> Nanette Nieto 419-242-7744 Mary Neller 419-241-8284 Rico 313-729-4435</p> <p><i>Distribution:</i> Wally, Rico, & Olgita Luis</p> | <p>Publisher Chief Financial Officer Manager</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>rico@laprensa1.com, 313-729-4435</i> Cartoonist, Spanglish, Pau & Yami</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Graphics Manager & Webmaster</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Marketing Manager Marketing Representative Cacographer, Layout & Sales</p> <p style="text-align: right;">NW Ohio & SE Michigan NE Ohio</p> |
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Census targets tech-savvy Latino youth

By JACOB ADELMAN, Associated Press Writer

March 10, 2010 (AP): Groups pushing for robust Latino participation in the 2010 census announced a new campaign Thursday in L.A. that aims to reach the hard-to-count demographic through its smart-phone-toting youngsters.

The “*Be Counted, Represent*” campaign offers music downloads and a chance at concert tickets to cell phone users who share their e-mail addresses and phone numbers with organizers and forward information about the census to their friends.

Principal organizers *Voto Latino* and the *Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)* stress in their messages that undercounted areas risk losing funding for transit, infrastructure and other needs, as well as political representation.

They hope those messages promoting participation in the count will zip throughout the social networks of youngsters who can persuade their parents to fill out and return their census forms.

“You’re looked at by many, many, many people as being powerful when it comes to money that they can line their pockets with,” actress *Rosario Dawson*, a *Voto Latino* co-founder, told teenagers gathered in the library of a predominantly Latino high school. “When it’s money that can line your pockets, no one ever says anything. But we’re saying something.”

The campaign offers a package of 25 music downloads curated for a young Latino audience to cell phone users who share their zip codes, e-mail addresses and cell phone numbers with the program’s organizers. The downloads include songs by such artists as Pitbull, Mos Def, and Morrissey.

Users can also get songs by taking census quizzes on a smart phone application that they download.

If they invite their friends to download the application, they’re entered into a raffle for tickets to a “secret concert” to be held in the Los Angeles area in April.

Anyone can participate, although the campaign is aimed at teens and 20-somethings.

Organizers said such measures are a way to get through to an ethnic group that has been hard for census officials to reach because of indifference, language barriers and—for some—deportation fears.

Alejandro Fernández, an 18-year-old L.A. high school senior, who attended the announcement, said he planned to download the census application on his Web-enabled phone and would share it with friends who will spread the word to their parents.

“They’ll be exposed to what the census is really about and not be scared,” he said.

Joe Martínez, who will be attending Tiffin University in Ohio on a wrestling scholarship, agrees.

Obama se dispone a reformar la enseñanza estadounidense

(Continuación de Página LP1)

sus alumnos”, dijo Obama en su alocución radial semanal.

“Para la mayoría de las escuelas que quedan en el medio—las escuelas que lo hacen bien podrían hacerlo mejor—fomentaremos la continuidad de la mejoría para ayudar a los jóvenes a mantenerse en el sendero hacia un futuro mejor, a prepararse para los puestos de trabajo del siglo XXI”.

Aunque la alocución de Obama fue muy parca en detalles específicos, el mandatario no ha ocultado su pasión por el cambio. Con ese fin ha utilizado ya fondos federales para hacer que las escuelas eleven las normas de rendimiento y preparen a más estudiantes para la universidad.

Con ese fin incluyó 3.500 millones de dólares en el plan de gastos extraordinarios del año pasado para ayudar a las escuelas con calamitosos resultados y ha propuesto 900 millones de dólares más para los estados y distritos escolares que acepten cambiar de forma drástica o incluso clausuren sus peores escuelas.

El gobierno propuso además 50 millones de dólares para financiar programas de prevención de abandono de los estudios secundarios.

Levin, Stabenow announce \$429 Million in education funding

March 10, 2010: Michigan schools will receive hundreds of millions of dollars in new recovery stabilization funds, *U.S. Sens. Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow*, both D-Mich., announced.

The \$429,781,767 awarded by the U.S. Department of Education was made available by the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* to continue supporting educational programs across the state.

“Recovery act funds have been key in keeping our schools open and making sure children across the state have teachers in their classrooms,” Levin said. “This funding is absolutely critical to ensure that students in our schools are protected from the worst impacts of the recession, and that jobs are protected and created across the state.”

“This funding is vital to our state’s education system during these difficult economic times,” said Stabenow. “By keeping our teachers and school staff at work and our schools open, we can help ensure that Michigan children continue to receive an education.”

The state of Michigan has used past stabilization funds to create or save 9,300 education jobs while supporting other educational reform programs.

To qualify for this funding, the state had to provide data on education reform to the Department of Education, including on how educators are evaluated, to what extent the state tracks student performance and growth, and the extent to which underperforming schools are improving.

The complete application, requirements, and summary of the requirements can be found here: <http://www.ed.gov/programs/statestabilization/applicant.html>.

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