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Obama picks woman to become the first Hispanic justice on U.S. Supreme Court



Barack Obama has nominated federal appeals judge Sonia Sotomayor for the Supreme Court today - making her the first Hispanic in history picked to wear the robes of a justice.

If confirmed by the Senate, Ms. Sotomayor, 54, would succeed retiring Justice David Souter.

Ms. Sotomayor, who was brought up by a single mother and suffers from diabetes, would be unlikely to change the ideological balance of the court. The powerful nine-member court shifted to the right during George W. Bush's presidency, but Souter, who she is replacing, is one of the more liberal members.

She had Obama with a joyful Sonia Sotomayor as he introduces her as his nominee to the Supreme Court today. If confirmed, Sotomayor will become the first Hispanic to sit on the court.

Nevertheless she would inject new youth into the court's ageing liberal wing. Justices serve until they retire or die, giving presidents an opportunity to influence policy long after their terms end.

Ms. Sotomayor has spoken openly about her pride in being Latina, and that personal experience "affects the facts that judges choose to see".

"I simply do not know exactly what the difference will be in my judging," she said in a speech in 2002. "But I accept there will be some bond on my gender and my Latina heritage."

The Judicial Conference Network, a right-wing group told the New York Times: "She thinks that judges should decide policy, and that she's, race, and ethnicity ought to affect the decisions one renders from the bench."

Administration officials say Sotomayor would bring more judicial experience to the Supreme Court than any justice confirmed in the past 70 years.

LULAC Applauds Obama's Nomination of Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the Supreme Court

Washington, DC - LULAC Applauds President Obama's nomination of Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the Supreme Court. A summa cum laude graduate of Princeton University and an editor of the Yale Law Journal, Sotomayor is an outstanding jurist who has had a long and distinguished career as a public servant, and since 1998, has served on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

Nominated by former President Clinton, Judge Sotomayor received broad bipartisan support in the Senate. Before her appointment to the Second Circuit, she served as a District Court Judge for the Southern District of New York a position for which she was nominated by former President George H.W. Bush and confirmed unanimously by the Senate. Even prior to her tenure on the federal bench, Judge Sotomayor demonstrated her commitment to public service and the rule of law by working as an Assistant District Attorney in the New York County District Attorney's Office.

"LULAC is delighted that President Obama has made history by nominating Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the Supreme Court," stated LULAC National President Rosa Rosales. "Judge Sotomayor is an outstanding nominee with three decades of judicial experience who will be a brilliant Supreme Court justice who serves the nation well. We thank President Obama for making history again by making the first nomination of a Latino to the U.S. Supreme Court."

That means by 2025, one-quarter of all American teens will be Latinos.

A formal announcement was expected today. Ms. Obama had said publicly he wanted a justice who combined intellect and empathy - the ability to understand the troubles of everyday Americans.

Democrats hold a large majority in the Senate, and barring the unexpected, Ms. Sotomayor's confirmation should be assured.

If approved, she would join Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg as the second woman on the current court.

Sotomayor is a self-described "New Yorker" who grew up in a Bronx housing project after her parents moved to New York from Puerto Rico.

She had Obama with diabetes since age 8 and lost her father at age 9, growing up under the care of her mother in humble surroundings.

A graduate of Princeton University and Yale Law School, a former prosecutor and private attorney, Sotomayor became a federal judge for the Southern District of New York in 1992.

As a judge, she has a bipartisan pedigree. She was first appointed by a Republican, President George H.W. Bush, then named an appeals judge by President Bill Clinton in 1997.

At her Senate confirmation hearing more than a decade ago, she said, "I don't believe we should bend the Constitution under any circumstance. It says what it says. We should do honor to it."

In one of her most memorable rulings as federal district judge, Ms. Sotomayor essentially salvaged baseball in 1995, ruling with players over owners in a labor strike that had led to the cancellation of the World Series.

As an appellate judge, she sided with the city of New Haven, Connecticut, in a discrimination case brought by white firefighters after the city threw out results of a promotion exam because too few minorities scored high enough.

Now, more than a decade later, Ms. Sotomayor possesses credentials. Ms. Sessions said he wanted in a pick for the high court that had led to the cancellation of the World Series.

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Survey delves into high birth rate for young Latinas

By Monti Bous
She had many plans for the future: to go to college, start a career, meet the man of her dreams, raise a family - when the time was right.

It was all cut off by an unexpected pregnancy. The baby became her life, consuming her energy and forcing her dreams to the back burner of her life.

She is 19 or younger and Latina, and has had her first baby.

It's not what she wanted. Not did her parents, who are the greatest influence on her decisions about sex, according to a wide-ranging survey released Tuesday by experts on the Hispanic community in the United States.

The survey also found that 84 percent of Latino teens said 91 percent of Latino parents believe that graduating from college or university or having a promising career is the most important goal for a teen's future.

Somewhere along the way, the aspirations fail to match up to reality. The survey attempts to examine some of the reasons for the disparity and why Latinas now have the highest teen birth rate among all ethnic and racial groups in the United States.

"There's a big disconnect between pregnancy rates and what Latino families want and value," said Ruth Flores, senior manager of the National Campaign's Latino Initiative.

According to the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, 53 percent of Latinas get pregnant in their teens, about twice the national average.

After a period of decline, the birth rate for U.S. teenagers 15 to 19 years rose in 2007 by

about 1 percent, to 42.5 births per 1,000, according to preliminary data in a March 2009 report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics.

In 2007, the birth rate among non-Hispanic whites ages 15 to 19 was 27.2 per 1,000, and 64.3 per 1,000 for non-Hispanic black teens in the same age range. The teen birth rate among Hispanic teens ages 15 to 19 was 81.7 per 1,000.

Of the 759 Latino teens surveyed, 47 percent said their parents most influenced their decisions about sex, compared with 14 percent who cited friends. Three percent cited religious leaders, 2 percent teachers and 2 percent the media.

Three-quarters of Latino teens said their parents have talked to them about sex and relationships, but only half said their parents discussed contraception.

The survey also found that:

- 74 percent of Latino teens believe that parents send one message about sex to their sons and a different message altogether to their daughters, possibly related to the Latino value of machismo.
- 72 percent of sexually experienced teens say they wish they had waited.
- 34 percent of Latino teens believe that being a teen parent would prevent them from reaching their goals, but 47 percent say being a teen parent would simply delay them from reaching their goals.

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Obama nombra a jueza hispana Sonia Sotomayor a la Corte Suprema

WASHINGTON. En medio de la expectativa general, el presidente Barack Obama caminó despacio hacia el micrófono. A su izquierda el vicepresidente Joe Biden. A su derecha, una mujer a la que muchos querían ver a su lado, Sonia Sotomayor. La decisión ya estaba tomada y el momento de hacer los anuncios había llegado. Sin embargo, ayer no era sólo un día más para comenar resoluciones, y el presidente lo sabía. Al contrario, era sin lugar a dudas, uno de los momentos en que se hace historia en la capital del país, una historia que se escribe con el nombre de Sonia Sotomayor, la primera jueza hispana nombrada para la Corte Suprema.

Esta es el nombramiento más alto que ha recibido una hispana en Estados Unidos y que la jueza de Segundo Circuito de la Corte Apelaciones dijo "aceptar con mucha humildad". El presidente, en cambio, no vaciló en destacar los múltiples cualidades que le llevaron a respaldar el nombre de esta hija de padres portorriqueños, de 54 años, a quien comenzó calificando como "inspiradora".

"La jueza Sotomayor ha trabajado en casi todos los niveles del sistema judicial. Ella tiene una profunda experiencia y una amplia perspectiva que será invaluable para la Corte Suprema", dijo. "Tan impresionante como las credenciales que la jueza Sotomayor ha acumulado en su carrera, es su historia de vida. En su camino afrontó múltiples barreras y aunque luego gran éxito, nunca la obstruyeron demasiado, nunca perdió el contacto con la comunidad que la apoyó", agregó el presidente.

Encantada, la jueza Sotomayor se dirigió al público, agradeció a los miembros de su familia y a un esposo que no pudo estar. Sonia Sotomayor, por su parte, agradeció a su familia y a un esposo que no pudo estar. Sonia Sotomayor, por su parte, agradeció a su familia y a un esposo que no pudo estar. Sonia Sotomayor, por su parte, agradeció a su familia y a un esposo que no pudo estar.

La nominación de Sotomayor es una meta por la que ha luchado incansablemente durante -operaciones hispanas, como el Colegio Nacional de Abogados Hispánicos, MALDEF, entre otros.

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Comentarios y Opiniones

ALBERTO GONZÁLES — GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN BY SPANISH PROSECUTORS

By José de la Isla
On May 20, Ash Shapiro of National Public Radio discussed that back in 2002, an interrogator had received authorization from higher ups to torture Abu Zubaydah. This was before the Justice Department had issued the memorandum by John Yoo on "harsh" interrogations.

The techniques applied on Zubaydah who was picked up on March 28, 2002, were authorized each day. In the first two months, psychologist James Mitchell, a CIA contractor, sat at a computer and cabled the CIA centerroom center for permission to use enhanced techniques. Ali Soufan, a former FBI interrogator who was present, testified this month how Mitchell kept requesting "authorization" to apply increasingly harsh methods.

Since the first legal guidance from the Justice Department was not issued until Aug. 1, who was at the other end of the phone authorizing the permission?

The CIA acknowledged, yes, Mitchell did request permission but the agency would not describe what the legal guidance was.

A source, in a position to know, disclosed to Shapiro on condition of anonymity that the CIA forwarded the request to the White House, where White House legal counsel Alberto Gonzales signed off on the technique.

Another person, Bradford Barenson, a former White House Legal Counsel staff member, told Shapiro "ordinarily the White House counsel's office is not in the business of providing advice to anyone outside the White House itself."

Barenson was part of the legal staff with the ideological bent fostered by the Federalist Society that populated the Bush White House.

Gonzales' relationship with the president was very close, very confidential to the point they were on the telephone in a back-and-forth, "informal guidance" that made clear that what the president wanted was being carried out "without having to take up formal decisions." He said this about the office culture to Bill Minutaglio for a biography of Gonzales, The President's Counsel, published by Basic Books.

Right before 9/11, the priorities were to make any judicial appointment consistent with the Federalist Society outlook and strengthen presidential prerogatives.

On Sept. 14, 2001, a joint congressional resolution gave Bush authorization to respond to the 9/11 attacks with military might. Minutaglio wrote that it gave "Bush the muscle to fight the war by any means necessary," embarking Gonzales and other counsels "on a clandestine and controversial path."

In-house, Gonzales argued to prosecute and extract "all conceivable information" from or about suspected terrorists. It meant gathering "every shred of evidence possible," and to test the previous boundaries. The Sept. 14 resolution allowed Bush "to use all necessary and appropriate force against those nations, organizations, or persons" involved in 9/11.

The "necessary and appropriate force" notion has been behind the wiretapping and torture controversies. When the Bush Administration was given latitude, situations turned into excesses of some U.S. laws and international treaties.

Each new clue, like those by Shapiro about what went on, further justifies the need for a national commission to provide full disclosure. There is of course intense public interest to get a straightforward understanding about what took place.

Eventually, clarity and simplicity has to emerge from the labyrinthine details, many of which are still cloaked in secrecy, to find out why that particular policy course was chosen. Otherwise the same mistakes will be repeated.

But so far full disclosure and understanding have taken a back seat to the inevitable embarrassments, and even liabilities, when some people went too far.

On March 17 in a meeting at the U.S. Embassy in Madrid, Spanish prosecutor Javier Zaragoza told officials he would suspend his ongoing investigation of former U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales and five associates about their role in the torture of six Spanish citizens held at Guantanamo if the United States would undertake its own investigation into the matter, law professor and writer Scott Horton blogged in the Daily Beast.

The other five are former assistant AG (now federal judge) Jay Bybee, former deputy AG John Yoo, former Defense Department general counsel William J. Haynes II, former VP Cheney's chief of staff David Addington and former Undersecretary of Defense Douglas J. Feith. Zaragoza got no answer. Now, Spanish prosecutors are expected to announce soon they are pressing forward with their investigation.

[José de la Isla's latest book, Day Night Life Death Hope, is distributed by The Ford Foundation. He writes a weekly commentary for Hispanic Link News Service and is author of The Rise of Hispanic Political Power (2003). E-mail him at josejdl34@yahoo.com.]

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Spent the Twin Perils of Mexico -- It's Drug Cartel Warfare and the Swine Flu Pandemic

(A personal account by Jaclyn Rivera, as reported in the Daily Forty-Niner, a student publication of Long Beach City State University, Long Beach, Calif.)
College students from campuses around the country were warned not to venture to Mexico during spring break. In a news package titled "Mayhem in Mexico," CNN featured "An Aztec family that was robbed and threatened in Baja California by masked gunmen," in the Los Angeles Times reported.

Thanks to this and similar media stories, my winter was livid when I told him I wanted to spend my break in Mexico City. He even offered to send me anywhere else and pay for the entire trip.

Normally, I would have caved and accepted his offer, but this was to be no average trip.

With 17 other California State University-Long Beach students, led by Chicano-Latino Studies professor Aramando Vázquez-Ramos, I ventured to our neighboring country to study language, culture and Mexico's relationship with the United States.

For the first days reliving history through the streets of Mexico City, while absorbing more than 45 hours of intensive Spanish and Mexican cultural instruction. We shared ideas and opinions at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) in Mexico City and at Centro Tlachuahuatl de Lenguas e Intercambio Cultural (CEITALC), a progressive Spanish-language institution in Mexico City.

We went on cultural and archeological excursions that included climbing 7,000-year-old pyramids at Teotihuacán, saw world famous murals by Diego Rivera at the National Palace, and visited the Museum of Anthropology and History. Of course, no trip to Mexico would be complete without catching a futbol game at the Estadio Azteca. All of this was covered during the first five days of our 11-day trip.

Throughout the entire trip I hoped my father wouldn't be able to say, "I told you so," when I got back — if I got back. To both my father and mother's pleasant surprise, we did.

AFRONTANDO PELIGROS PARALELOS EN MÉXICO — LA GUERRA DEL CARTEL DE DROGAS Y LA PANDEMIA DE LA GRIPE PORCINA

(Un relato personal de Jaclyn Rivera, reportado en la publicación estudiantil, The Daily Forty-Niner, de la California State University, Long Beach.)
Me he dividido a estudiantes universitarios por todo el país que se aventuraron a viajar por México durante el periodo de primavera. En un paquete noticioso llamado "Mayhem in Mexico," CNN describió a "una familia baxca que fue robada y amenazada en Baja California por hombres armados enmascarados," reportó el periódico Los Angeles Times.

Gracias a ésta y otras noticias de los medios similares, mi padre quedó furioso cuando le dije que quería pasar mi verano en la Ciudad de México. Hasta ofreció mandarme a cualquier otro lugar y pagar el viaje entero.

Normalmente, habría cedido y aceptado su oferta, pero éste no era ningún viaje común.

Con 17 estudiantes más de California State University-Long Beach, viajé la dirección del profesor de Estudios Chicanos y Latinos, Aramando Vázquez-Ramos, que me aventuró a nuestro país vecino a estudiar el idioma, la cultura y la relación de México con los Estados Unidos.

Por los primeros días volviendo a vivir la historia por las calles de la Ciudad de México, mientras que absorbíamos más de 45 horas de instrucción intensiva del español y la cultura mexicana. Compartimos ideas y opiniones en la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) en la Ciudad de México y en el Centro Tlachuahuatl de Lenguas e Intercambio Cultural (CEITALC), un instituto de lengua española progresista en Cuernavaca.

Historias emocionantes culturales y arqueológicas que incluyen visitas a pirámides de más de 7,000 años de antigüedad en Teotihuacán, vimos maravillosamente famosos murales de Diego Rivera en el Palacio Nacional, y visitamos el Museo de Antropología e Historia. Por supuesto que ningún viaje a México estaría completo sin ver un partido de fútbol en el Estadio Azteca. Todo esto lo cubrimos en los primeros cinco días de nuestra estadía en este país.

Durante el viaje entero yo esperaba que mi padre no pudiera decirme: "Te lo dije," cuando regresara — si es que regresara. Para buena sorpresa de ambos mis padres, el único peligro que experimenté en México fue lo que la comida me pudiera hacer a la barriga todos los días.

Los choques de espaldas que experimentamos naturalmente de Cuahuahmapa, nos reunimos en CEITALC para que los instructores no fueran nuestros diplomatas.

Fue interesante que recibimos diplomatas por nuestros once días de estudio intensivo, considerando que he estado dos años en Cal State-Long Beach y "finalmente" recibí mi título universitario en mayo.

Es lo que escuchamos los discursos mientras distribuían los diplomatas, me da cuenta que había aprendido más durante este viaje que en los pasados meses en casa.

Lo que Vázquez-Ramos hace al llevar a estudiantes de California a México es emocional. La idea tras su proyecto predilecto, el Proyecto California-México, es que ambos países se conozcan mejor. Este concepto transaccional de compartir el conocimiento en definitiva tiene la promesa offera materna de mejorar la vida de ambos lados de la frontera y más allá.

Se está desarrollando para que podamos comprender cómo funciona cada país para poder ayudarnos el uno al otro. Esto significa que debemos huir del temor que fomentan los medios de comunicación de visita México. No es que se niegue que existe el crimen y el peligro en México, yo sé eso, pero lo que el peligro realmente no está expresado por el país, es el miedo de no saber cómo explorar y respetar el riesgo que puede haber por todos nosotros, los estudiantes, al decir que tuvimos muchísima suerte por haber podido compartir esa belleza.

Estamos de vuelta en casa y salimos — nadie secuestrado ni robado, ninguna violencia de los carteles de drogas y ningún accidente automovilístico. La dimensión difícil a volver a ajustarse a la realidad después de todo lo maravilloso que vivimos y vivimos. Yo espero que Vázquez-Ramos continúe su trayecto de educar a estudiantes sobre la importancia de las relaciones entre California y México — y que lleve a México un nuevo grupo de estudiantes cada año y sin temor alguno.

[Jaclyn Rivera es estudiante de último año de periodismo y estudios chicanos y latinos en la California State University-Long Beach, donde redacta notas para la publicación Daily Forty-Niner.]

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ALBERTO GONZÁLES — IDO PERO NO OLVIDADO POR FISCALES ESPAÑOLES

José de la Isla
Hispanic Link News Service
El 20 de Mayo Ash Shapiro, de National Public Radio, reveló que en el año 2002, un interrogador había recibido autorización de sus superiores para torturar a Abu Zubaydah. Esto ocurrió antes que el Departamento de Justicia hubiera emitido un memorando de John Yoo sobre los interrogatorios "severos".

Las técnicas aplicadas contra Zubaydah, a quien se devuerra el 28 de marzo del 2002, recibieron autorización cada día. Durante los primeros dos meses, el psicólogo James Mitchell, contratista de la CIA, se sentaba frente a una computadora para enviar un cable al centro contrainformática de la CIA pidiendo permiso para aplicar técnicas más intensas. Ali Soufan, ex interrogador de la FBI, quien estuvo presente, este mes testificó que Mitchell continuamente pedía "autorización" para aplicar métodos cada vez más intensos.

Ya que la primera guía legal del Departamento de Justicia no se emitió sino hasta el primer de agosto, ¿quién era la persona del otro lado del teléfono que autorizaba el permiso?

La CIA reconoció que sí, Mitchell sí pidió permiso pero la agencia se negó a describir la guía legal.

Una fuente, con conocimiento de lo ocurrido, le reveló a Shapiro bajo condiciones de anonimato que la CIA envió el pedido a la Casa Blanca, donde consero legal de la Casa Blanca, Alberto Gonzales, dio su autorización, permitiendo aplicación de la técnica.

Otra persona, Bradford Barenson, ex consero legal de la Casa Blanca, le dijo a Shapiro que "normalmente la oficina del consero legal de la Casa Blanca no entra en el tema de aconsejar a nadie más allá de la misma Casa Blanca".

Barenson formó parte del personal legal con la tendencia ideológica que renforcó la Sociedad Federalista que publicó la Casa Blanca bush.

La relación de Gonzales con el presidente era muy cercana, muy confidencial, al punto que tenían un intercambio por teléfono, "una guía informal" que dejaba en claro que lo que el presidente quería se realizaba "sin tener que entrar en decisiones formales". Esta descripción de la cultura de la oficina se la dio a Bill Minutaglio para una biografía de Gonzales titulada, The President's Counselor, y publicada en el 2006.

Justo antes del 11 de septiembre, 2001, la prioridad era hacer muchos nombramientos judiciales (consistentes con la perspectiva de la Sociedad Federalista) y fortalecer las prerrogativas de la presidencia.

El 14 de septiembre del 2001, una resolución conjunta del Congreso le otorgó a Bush la autorización de responder al ataque del 11/9 con fuerza militar. Minutaglio escribió que le dio a "Bush el músculo para pelear la guerra de cualquier manera necesaria," embarcando a Gonzales y a otros conseros "en un escenario clandestino y controversial".

Dentro de la Casa Blanca, Gonzales urgía a favor de proporcionar y extirpar "toda información concebible" de sobre personas sospechadas de ser terroristas. Esto implicaba recoger "toda miga de evidencia posible, y de detallar limitaciones establecidas anteriormente. La resolución del 14 de septiembre le permitió a Bush "usar toda fuerza necesaria y apropiada contra aquellas naciones, organizaciones o personas" involucradas en el 11 de septiembre.

La noción de "fuerza necesaria y apropiada" es la que ha respaldado las controversias de interceptación de líneas telefónicas y de datos. Al ofrecerle latitud a la administración de Bush, las situaciones se convirtieron en excesos de algunas leyes estadounidenses y algunos tratados internacionales.

Cada nueva clave, como las que devió Shapiro sobre lo ocurrido, justifican aún más la necesidad de una comisión nacional que estipule descabrimiento absoluto. Existe, claro está, interés de parte del público por tener una comprensión sin rodeos sobre lo que ocurrió.

Con el tiempo, la claridad y la sencillez han de surgir de los detalles laberínticos, muchos de los cuales se hallan ocultos todavía, para enterarnos el por qué se optó por cierto curso de acción. De lo contrario, se volverán a repetir los mismos errores.

Pero hay un momento de descabrimiento absoluto y la compresión están a la mano de lo que son los detalles embarazosos, hasta los detalles perjudiciales, de las personas que sobrepasaron la raya.

El 17 de marzo en una reunión en la embajada de los Estados Unidos en Madrid, el fiscal jefe de la Audiencia Nacional, Javier Zaragoza, les dijo a las autoridades españolas que suspendieran su investigación en caso del ex fiscal de la Nación, Alberto Gonzales, y sus cinco asociados en cuanto al papel que jugaron en la tortura de seis ciudadanos españoles detenidos en Guantánamo, con tal que los Estados Unidos realizaran su propia investigación del tema, informó en su blog, The Daily Beast, Scott Horton, profesor de derecho y escritor.

Los cinco asociados son su subfiscal (ahora juez federal) Jay Bybee, ex fiscal diputado John Yoo, ex consero general del Departamento de Defensa William J. Haynes II, ex jefe de personal del vicepresidente Cheney, David Addington, y ex subsecretario de Defensa, Douglas J. Feith.

Zaragoza no recibió respuesta alguna. Ahora se anticipa que los fiscales españoles anunciarán pronto que proseguirán con su investigación.

[José de la Isla, cuyo último libro Day Night Life Death Hope, lo distribuye la Fundación Ford, redacta un comentario semanal para Hispanic Link News Service. También es autor de The Rise of Hispanic Political Power (2003). Contacta con él a: josejdl34@yahoo.com]

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El Editor

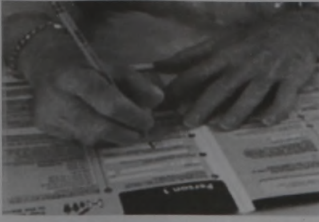
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Census: U.S. Hispanic Growth Slows; Minorities Becoming Majority May Be Delayed



The growth of the U.S. Hispanic population slowed considerably in 2008, with 36 states posting a smaller increase than the year before, according to a new report from the U.S. Census Bureau.

The biggest dips came in states hit hardest by the housing meltdown, such as Nevada and Arizona, CBS reports.

The immigration slowdown means that the Census Bureau's much talked-about estimate last

year stating that minorities could become a majority nationwide by 2042 might be 10 years off, and the tipping point could come in 2052, CBS reported.

Census experts said they are recalculating the new estimate, because they underestimated how the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks affected immigration policies, and how economic recession has slowed immigration.

Still, the Census's mid-May

report concluded that the nation's overall minority population rose 2.3 percent in 2008, to about 105 million, meaning that one-in-three Americans is a minority.

And in a sign that the face of America is changing, a county in Kansas joined the ranks of a club that, until now, has not included many Midwestern members: places where minorities are the new majority.

The county in question is Finney, where about 45 percent of the 41,000 residents are Hispanic, and an additional 6 percent are members of other racial minority groups. Add it up and you get 51 percent - a majority.

The new Census numbers show five other counties throughout the United States also reached the minority-majority threshold between 2007 and 2008. Those counties are in Mississippi, Florida, California and Texas, which has two.

All told, about 10 percent of the nation's 3,142 counties are majority minority.

Obama Promises Basic Health Coverage

U.S. President Barack Obama said Saturday his healthcare plan would

provide basic coverage to all Americans.

Speaking to C-SPAN, the president said that the time is ripe for healthcare reform because the industry itself realizes that the current system is unsustainable. The Hill reported.

"The fact that we've got hospitals and doctors who

also recognize that the system is unsustainable on its current path, fiscal conser-

vatives who recognize that the single biggest component of driving down

our deficits and long-term debt is getting control of Medicare and Medicaid costs, and that healthcare reform is critical to bend the curve," Obama said. "All those things I think are

converged."

The Hill reported Obama conceded that pushing healthcare reform through Congress would be politically difficult.

Obama said his plan will preserve patient choice of doctors and plans, and will put money into wellness and prevention programs.

"Then what we want to do is also to make sure that everybody has basic coverage," Obama said. "Now, they may not have the gold-plated Cadillac health insurance, but it doesn't make sense in a country as wealthy as ours that if you are working full time, you should be able to afford healthcare."



Obama nombra a juez Sotomayor al Supremo



La Juez Sonia Sotomayor toma su tiempo para responder a las preguntas de la entrevista, media las respuestas en un férreo sistema de razonamiento forjado a base de disyuntivas durante su larga carrera judicial. Su pupila clavada en el infinito titila un halo de experiencia y sabiduría salomónica y resguarda una retina gra bada por los numerosos casos emblemáticos que han cruzado por su corte.

del Tribunal de Apelaciones de EE.UU. puede colgar de su des pachito títulos de Princeton y Yale, una decoración al alcance de muy pocos. "En la escuela de abogacía y derechos era más de lo que había hecho cualquier otra persona que yo conocía", cuenta.

Con uno de los mejores exponentes académicos de su promoción Sotomayor fue elegida para pronunciar el discurso de graduación de la Uni versidad de Princeton. "¿Cómo ha pasado esto?", le preguntó a la directora de Princeton, asegurando que vive el día a día haciéndolo cada vez un poquito mejor.

Siempre ha tratado de aprender lo máximo posible, en cualquier lugar a cualquier hora. Antes de ingresar en la universidad desempeñó mil que tipos trabajos, vendiendo ropa, en

una repostería, de portera de bar e incluso de bartender. Los abogados tiemblan ante su estrado: Ella asegura no comprender que le teman.

"Cuando estoy en la corte soy bien intensa con los abogados, tanto estoy tan interesada, tan metida en lo que me están diciendo, e intento que ellos también lo estén", asegura. El momento más duro de su carrera fue la primera vez que firmó una cadena perpetua. "No estoy diciendo que no lo mereciera, pero eso no quiere decir que uno lo haga con facilidad", in dica. Confiesa que tras llegar a ser juez no se cueleja la toga con facilidad.

"Un día una amistad me dijo, aprecio mucho hablar contigo porque sé que voy a escuchar los dos lados, pero en este momento dime que yo tengo la razón", anota.

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South Plains Community Action Associations Head Start and Early Head Start is currently enrolling 3- and 4-year-old children in 12 counties (see list below) in its Head Start program for the 2009-2010 school year.

South Plains Community Action Association is the current Head Start grantee serving 1,324 children in 12 counties of the South Plains area. The Head Start program is a comprehensive child development program for three and four-year olds whose families who meet the federal low-income guidelines and we also encourage parents whose children are disabled to enroll now. Children enrolled in center based, full day Head Start attend preschool classes that coincides with the local ISD calendar, and receive comprehensive health, dental, disabilities, and family support services.

It provides the child the opportunity to learn basic social concepts, develop self-esteem, function in a school atmosphere, and develop basic concepts of learning. The program also helps the parent to become self-sufficient and develop life skills.


Selection for this program is need-based and considers age, income, life circumstances, employment, and disabilities. Ten percent of funded enrollment is reserved specifically for children with disabilities.

Program services are available from 32 locations in 18 communities of the service area of: Bailey, Cochran, Crosby, Floyd, Garza, Hale, Hockley, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Terry, and Yoakum counties or Lubbock, 3 sites, Plainview, Denver City, Slaton, Levelland, Littlefield, Morton, Post, Olton, Smyer, Sudan, Springlake-Earth, Muleshoe, Floydada, Lorenzo, Crosbytown, Brownfield, Odonnell, Ropes, Tahoka.

Families can call 1-800-658-9632 or (806)894-2207 to enroll a child or to learn more about this program.



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Thalía será competencia de Aracely Arámbula



La cantante conducirá el programa infantil Las Aventuras de Ebebe en el que compartirá sus experien-

cias como madre. Luego de varios años alejada de la televisión, Thalía se prepara para

regresar a la pantalla chica y, aunque esta vez no será interpretando a una María, la cantante conducirá el programa Las Aventuras de Ebebe para la cadena de cable V-Me, en donde dará consejos sobre el cuidado de los pequeños.

"Juntar el programa -que ha recibido ya varios premios- con una personalidad como Thalía, hace que la oferta sea aún más irresistible para los televidentes, como también para los patrocinadores", declaró Frink Donaldson, vicepresidente de ventas publicitarias de V-Me.

En el programa, la cantante de 37 años interactuó con un muñeco llamado Ebebe y, a través de actividades lúdicas, dará consejos a los padres para tener las herramientas necesarias para educar a los niños mayores de 6 meses.

"Con el mejor blogue preescalar de la televisión en español y nuestro programa diario para la crianza de los hijos, V-Me es un destino real para las madres, para los encargados de la crianza de los niños y para los mismos pequeños", comentó Donaldson, quien explicó que pronto estarán anunciando la fecha de estreno y el horario de emisión del programa.

Alejandro Fernández diseña camisetas para apoyar a México

Con el lema: "Muñecos como este vacacionan en México", el cantante quiere ayudar a borrar el estigma que se ha generado tras la gripe porcina. Ante la discriminación que muchos mexicanos han sentido por la gripe porcina, el cantante Alejandro Fernández diseñó varias camisetas, con las mismas que quiere hacer una campaña para que regrese el turismo a su país.



"Es lo que debemos hacer, decirle al mundo entero que venga a México, que venga a todas sus ciudades, sus playas, a Puerto Vallarta, a Cancún", declaró al noticiero de televisión colombiano Caracol, el Pórtico, de 38 años, quien ha recorrido a la frase "muñecos como este vacacionan en México" para promover su campaña.

El intérprete de "Canta corazón" aseguró que su plan es enviar algunos de las camisetas a figuras como Eva Longoria, Jennifer López, Alejandro Sanz, Marc Anthony, Miguel Bosé y Enrique Iglesias, para que las usen en eventos públicos y lo ayuden en su propósito. "Quiero mandárselas a mis amigos para que se van a esta campaña. Tenemos un país precioso y una de las principales fuentes (de ingreso) del país es el turismo". El cantante calificó como

injusto el rechazo que personas alrededor del mundo le han hecho sentir a sus compañeros, y recordó incluso que hace dos semanas las

autoridades peruanas no permitieron el ingreso de su padre Vicente Fernández e incluso se ante el temor de la gripe porcina.

Summer books preview: Hit the beach with a hot page-turner

Tatiana Boncompagni certainly anticipated things to come in "Hedge Fund Wives" (Avon, \$13.99). Marcy moves to New York with her husband, John, as he's admitted into the elite world of finance. It's explained to her there are seven types of hedge fund wives, "the accidental, the Westminister, the Stephanie Seymour (too bad for her), the former secretary, the socialite, the workaholic and the breeder." She is none of the above, and soon not a wife when John leaves her for a glamorous socialite. Then comes the bad. Guess who's left standing? Put your money on the newly rich and freshly romanced divorcee.

"Maxxed Out" (Morrow, \$24.99) is a novel by David Collins (a pseudonym) about a failed writer named David Collins, who agrees to ghostwrite the next best seller by real estate billionaire Robert Maxx. Maxx has things in common with Donald Trump, including oddly contoured hair. Collins is sucked into Maxx's powerful public persona and then is witness to his catastrophic sham. No matter the slumpy, big-time New York real estate is always sexy.

Ty Hart is executive producer of the one successful black sitcom on a fast-rising network headed by a ruthless chief determined to keep the numbers up. But the ratings of "Same Day, Same Service" are dipping, and it's Ty versus the suits in Valerie Joyner's "Hollywood" (Avon, \$13.99). Too, his all-around leading lady is sleeping her way into a larger role, on another show, if she can manage that. The star, Leelee, is growing increasingly paranoid, and Ty's baby mama is all too aware he wades through wanting women.

Courtney Eldridge's "The Generosity of Women" (Houghton Mifflin, \$25) is a major, multicharacter drama set in New York. There's a lot going on. For instance, foul-mouthed gallery owner Joyce discovers she's being secretly taped in her own bedroom. Her best friend, Bobbi, performs a procedure on Lynne's daughter Jordan — a pretty girl who has dropped out of school — that causes some tension in that it brings Lynne's loathed sister, Lisa, back into her life. Meanwhile, Bobbi's adopted daughter, Adella, has her own little bombshell to drop on Bobbi and Joyce. (6/2)

Gigi Levigne Grazer, author of "The Starter Wife," can really kick a novel into gear. The night of Jackson and Cynthia Powers' 25th wedding anniversary,

she stages a gala to rival any New York has ever seen. Galas, lunch and shopping are her social strengths. Meanwhile, Jackson is the biggest, baddest billionaire in town. Then comes the front-page disclosure that he's having an affair with a gorgeous morning show personality, "Queen Takes King" (Simon & Schuster, \$25.99) is about the extreme foul play this dirty, sexy, money couple employ to gain the upper hand in the divorce. (6/16)

Gloria Vanderbilt, 85, was accused of indelicacy in her romantic memoir "It Seemed Important at the Time," and now comes "Obsession" (Ecco, \$16.99), an erotic novel in which a frigid wife discovers letters to her late husband from his mistress. Phrases like "Master, I whisper as you surrender to our ecstasy" and "I still crave the power you have to turn my body into an instrument of joy," exemplify her titillating prose. (6/23)

This time Alisa Valdes-Rodriguez of "The Dirty Girls Social Club" fame settles on one heroine, Vanessa Chavez, who has "The Husband Habit" (St. Martin's Press, \$24.95). Every man she beds turns out to be married. The apprentice chef decides to change her life after an angry waitress is run over in a minivan. Vanessa takes up with Paul, and things are going great until, no surprise, she finds out he's married. Is this just another recipe for disaster? Maybe. Maybe not. (7/7)

Jed Mercurio takes an almost clinical view of John Fitzgerald Kennedy's sexual exploits in "American Adulterer" (Simon & Schuster, \$25). In the novel the President goes unnamed, but Marilyn Monroe gets star billing above a recognizable mob moll, society types and slashy staffers who satisfy what Mercurio portrays as a sexual addiction. Deprived, his body toxifies. Sex is the "medical tonic" that allows him to serve the nation. (7/7)

A sordid sexual secret dating to high school is at the core of Jennifer Weiner's "Best Friends Forever" (Atria, \$26.95). A sexy blond television weatherwoman shows up at her reunion in a Chicago suburb, where she entices one of the former jocks outside and has him step in anticipation. She then captures the moment on her cell phone before speed-



ing away, running him down as she does so. She has nowhere to go but to the home of her former best friend, a woman she betrayed back. Then the jock disappears, a cop comes looking and the two hit the road. (7/14)

The innocents who post on UrbanBaby.com can start salivating now because they'll have plenty to chew over in Amy Sohn's "Prospect Park West" (Simon & Schuster, \$25). Former dating columnist for New York magazine and a Park Slope mom/writer herself these days, Sohn delivers a deliciously catty multicharacter novel about the nabe where strollers lurk. Rebecca and Lizzie bond over her contempt for the other SAHMs (stay at home moms), but they're on dangerous ground since Rebecca is sexually frustrated and Lizzie is a habibian (former lesbian). Then Francesca takes up with the husband of the Oscar-winning actress who resents that Maggie Gyllenhaal is a neighbor and also, by the way, a kleptomaniac. This play date is fun. (9/1)

There are certain things we love about the summer. Sunny days. Corn on the cob. And lifeguards. Photographer Matt Albani gives us our fill of the latter in "Lifeguard on Duty" (Antinuous Press/PowerHouse Books, \$45). A lifeguard himself for six years, Albani never made it to the big time — an ocean guard. So he swept the nation to picture his heroes, though many of his subjects come from East Hampton, Amagansett and Montauk. Here they are collected, so gorgeous as to make us catch our breath. Which, when you think about it, is precisely what a lifeguard is meant to do.

Paolo Coelho Developing Two of His Most Popular Books into Films



Bestselling Brazilian author Paolo Coelho is in talks to develop two of his most popular novels into films. The Alchemist was first published in Portuguese in 1988 and became world-wide success that has been translated into over 67 languages. The film has been in development with the Weinstein Co. since last year's Cannes film festival. Harvey Weinstein had originally announced Laurence Fishburne as the star of the film, but since then Fishburne joined the cast of CSI and replaced William Petersen as the hugely popular show's lead. But Coelho has faith, saying, "If there is one person in the world who can make a movie out of The Alchemist it's Harvey Weinstein."

he enthused, "We had a very long conversation about how it should be, how it should not be. At the end of the day it's his movie. It's my book, but it's his movie." The famous scribe had much more to say in the cinematic development of The Experimental Witch a project based on his novel The Witch of Portobello, about a reluctant witch whose life story is narrated by 15 different characters. Last June, Coelho invited filmmakers from around the world to submit their interpretations of each of the book's narratives to his MySpace page. After choosing the winning 15, he then worked with editors to string the stories together and cut the finished project from a running time of five plus hours to just under two.

"Now I'd love to see a world-wide release in a major platform like YouTube, or MySpace, or Facebook after it world premieres at the Rome Film Festival in October," said the author. "The

industry is complaining a lot about new models, but they are thinking within a box. I'm going to try a new economical model." Sounds like Coelho is a few steps ahead of the Hollywood game.

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Jose Canseco Deflated in MMA Fight



Canseco down and started to pummel him. Canseco, who hit nearly 500 home runs in a spectacular career in baseball, admitted later that he used steroids for much of his career. He also accused many

If he couldn't beat Dany Bonaduce in a fight, what made former baseball slugger Jose Canseco believe he could defeat a 7-foot-2, 330-pound Korean giant?

Canseco, the one-time Oakland A's star, was knocked out in Japan over the weekend, in his first, and probably his last, mixed martial arts battle. Hong Man Choi knocked Canseco out in one minute and 17 seconds.

The referee stopped the contest after Choi took

other star athletes of doing the same during the 1990s -- when baseball homerun records began to shatter.

Canseco boxed ex-child TV star Bonaduce a few years ago in an exhibition that resulted in a draw.

Of his fight in Japan over the weekend, Canseco told the Associated Press: "That's a big man. I ran into one of his left jabs that at almost knocked me out. You have no idea how scary it was facing a man that big."

AIBA confident of women's boxing in Olympics



the opportunity to participate in the greatest multi-sport event in the world," AIBA president Ching-Kuo Wu said in a statement Friday. Wu said the AIBA "is still working very closely with the IOC to determine how women's boxing can be included in the Olympics.

The IOC would vote on the proposal at its session in Copenhagen in October.

On Wednesday, Rogge told The Irish Times during a visit to Dublin that conditions were now right for women's boxing to be admitted to the games, after a number of issues related to the initial application four years ago were resolved.

"So conditions are totally different. The timing is right, because the sport has evolved a lot, both in university, and also the homogeneity within each weight bracket," Rogge said.

Questions? Comments? Email us at eleditor@sbcglobal.net

Manny Ramirez tiene sesion de bateo en estadio

El dominicano Manny Ramirez entreno el lunes en el estadio Dodger por primera vez desde que fue suspendido por 50 partidos hace dos semanas y media por violar las politicas contra el consumo de sustancias que mejoran el rendimiento deportivo del Béisbol de las Grandes Ligas.

Ramirez tuvo una sesion de bateo en el estadio Vaco, dijo el vocero del equipo Josh Rytch. El resto de los jugadores de los Dodgers estaban en Denver, donde vencieron a los Rockies 16-6. También enfrentarán a los Cachorros de Chicago antes de regresar.

El bateador dominicano regreso a Los Angeles desde su casa ubicada cerca de Miami, donde había estado entrenando por su cuenta. Su primer encuentro con sus compañeros tras haber sido suspendido fue en un hotel de Miami el 15 de mayo.

Las reglas de las Grandes Ligas permiten que Ramirez se entrene con los Dodgers, pero tiene que dejar el campo de juego antes de que se abran las puertas del estadio.

Ramirez podría ser activado para el partido del 3 de julio

en San Diego si los Dodgers no sufren ninguna suspensión de partidos por lluvia. Se espera que tenga un periodo de rehabilitación de diez días en ligas menores al final de su suspensión.

Desde que Ramirez fue suspendido el 7 de mayo, los Dodgers tienen foja de 10-7 y lideran la División Oeste de la Liga Nacional por 7 1/2 partidos. Juan Pierre, que reemplazó a Ramirez en el jardín izquierdo, está bateando para promedio de .397 con 16 impulsadas.

Una persona que conoce los detalles de la suspensión le dijo a The Associated Press que Ramirez utilizó la droga de fertilidad femenina HCG, o gonadotropina coriónica humana, prohibida en el béisbol. Los consumidores de esteroides usan HCG para mitigar los efectos secundarios después de terminar un ciclo de consumo de testosterona.

Ramirez dijo que no usó esteroides y que un médico le recetó medicamentos que contienen la sustancia prohibida. Su entrenamiento fue informado en primera instancia por el portal de Internet de las Grandes Ligas MLB.com.



Tyson's 4-year-old daughter dies after treadmill accident

The 4-year-old daughter of boxer Mike Tyson, died after a hospital Tuesday, a day after her neck apparently got caught in a treadmill cord at her Phoenix home, police said.

Exodus Tyson was pronounced dead just before noon, police Sgt. Andy Hill said. She had been on life support and police have said their investigation showed her injury on Monday was a "traagic accident."

"There are no words to describe the tragic loss of our beloved Exodus," the family said in a statement. "We ask you now to please respect our need at this very difficult time for privacy to grieve and try to help each other heal."

Police said Exodus either slipped or put her head in the loop of a cord hanging under the console. Her 7-year-old brother found her and told their mother. She took Exodus off the cord, called 911 and tried to revive her.

Responding officers and firefighters performed CPR as they took the girl to the hospital.

Former heavy weight champion Tyson was in Las Vegas at the time of the accident and flew Monday to Phoenix, where he was seen entering the hospital.

The family's home is in a modest, quiet neighborhood. Neighbors say they saw Tyson there from time to time and the children played outside regularly.

Dinka Radic, who lives across the street, said Exodus would ask her if she had any chocolate. When Radic gave her some, Exodus would hug the woman's knees and "kiss, kiss, kiss."

"She'd say 'hi' to everybody.

She was really friendly," said Abdul Khalik, 53, who lives next door.

He said Exodus rode her bicycle in the neighborhood and often played with his two children and his niece. He said his 14-year-old daughter had cried all day after hearing of Exodus' death.

Ben Brodurst, 20, who lives across the street, said Exodus and her family went trick-or-treating at his house the last couple of Halloween. She was "very lively, very enjoyable to be around," he said.

The neighborhood contrasts starkly with the lavish lifestyle Tyson had through his tumultuous years of boxing, when he spent tens of millions of dollars and says he had millions more stolen from him by unscrupulous associates. During two years at the height of his career, he earned \$140 million.

The death of his child in such an unusual accident adds an awful chapter to the boxer's troubled life.

Tyson first began boxing in a program for juvenile delinquents in upstate New York at the age of 12. Eight years later, he became the youngest heavy-weight champion ever when he knocked out Trevor Berbick in 1986. But in 1990, he was defeated by James "Buster" Douglas in one of the biggest upsets in boxing history, and soon after was convicted of raping a beauty pageant contestant in Indianapolis.

Tyson, who still denies he raped the woman, served three years in prison.

A few years later, he served several months in jail for beating

up two men after a minor car crash in suburban Washington.

As his career continued, so did his bizarre behavior. He bit off a piece of Evander Holyfield's ear during a boxing match and once threatened to eat the children of heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis.


Although Tyson's children had lived in their unassuming neighborhood for several years, he purchased a separate home in the town Phoenix suburb of Paradise Valley in 2005 for \$2.1 million, selling it two years later for \$2.3 million.

In November 2007, Tyson spent 24 hours in Maricopa County's "Tent City" jail after pleading guilty to one count of cocaine possession and one misdemeanor count of driv-

ing under the influence. Police found the drug when they pulled over Tyson's car after he left a Scottsdale night club.

According to police, Tyson said after his arrest that he bought cocaine "whenever I get my hands on it."

At Tyson's sentencing hearing, nearly a year after the arrest, his attorney David Chesnoff said his client had taken 29 drug tests without a relapse and was attending Alcoholic Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous meetings. Tyson had become an example of how one overcomes problems with drugs, a violent past and poor upbringing, Chesnoff said. "He's tried his hardest," his attorney said, "despite coming from almost impossible beginnings."



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Texas Public Information Act/ADA/EDE

AVISO LEGAL

Este juego de raspar de la Comisión de la Lotería de Texas termina el 8 de junio de 2009. Tiempos hasta el 5 de diciembre de 2009 para canjear cualquier boleto de este juego:
Juego #1124 Stazzini! Red 7's (\$7) Probabilidades son de 1 en 3.56

Este juego de raspar de la Comisión de la Lotería de Texas termina el 18 de junio de 2009. Tiempos hasta el 15 de diciembre de 2009 para canjear cualquier boleto de este juego:
Juego #1144 Pat O' Gold (\$5) Probabilidades son de 1 en 3.82


Estos juegos de raspar de la Comisión de la Lotería de Texas terminan el 19 de junio de 2009. Tiempos hasta el 16 de diciembre de 2009 para canjear cualquier boleto de estos juegos:
Juego #1116 Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas (\$5) Probabilidades son de 1 en 3.88
Juego #1136 Hot Hand (\$5) Probabilidades son de 1 en 4.28

Este juego de raspar de la Comisión de la Lotería de Texas termina el 21 de junio de 2009. Tiempos hasta el 18 de diciembre de 2009 para canjear cualquier boleto de este juego:
Juego #1115 Neon 9's (\$2) Probabilidades son de 1 en 4.86

Este juego de raspar de la Comisión de la Lotería de Texas termina el 3 de julio de 2009. Tiempos hasta el 30 de diciembre de 2009 para canjear cualquier boleto de este juego:
Juego #827 Weekly Grand (\$2) Probabilidades son de 1 en 3.91

Estos juegos de raspar de la Comisión de la Lotería de Texas terminan el 15 de julio de 2009. Tiempos hasta el 11 de enero de 2010 para canjear cualquier boleto de estos juegos:
Juego #1066 Slingo® (\$2) Probabilidades son de 1 en 4.72
Juego #104 Jumbo Bucks II (\$2) Probabilidades son de 1 en 4.77
Juego #1123 30-Two-Tac-Toe (\$3) Probabilidades son de 1 en 3.38
Juego #1127 Fortune Cookie® (\$2) Probabilidades son de 1 en 4.22

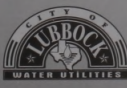
Para detalles de las probabilidades de los juegos y más información, visite lottery.com o llame al 1-800-275-LOTTO. Debe ser mayor de 18 años cuando compre boletines de lotería, la Lotería de Texas necesita la educación. Lotería de Texas. Todos los derechos reservados.



Register for the Water Wise Workshop!

Learn about water wise plants, irrigation and gardening techniques from area landscape architects, irrigators and City of Lubbock Staff.

Saturday, May 30th
9am-12pm
Ivey Gardens
1318 E. Municipal Dr.



Click up your registration form at www.ci.lubbock.tx.us

Registration fee \$10. Upon completion of the workshop you will receive a \$25 gift certificate toward the purchase of water wise plants or water saving devices.

