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The week in Mexico: 4-25-2010

BY [DAVID GADDIS SMITH](#), UNION-TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2010 AT 1:58 A.M.

Tuberculosis report: The National City-based International Community Foundation has released a report titled "Tuberculosis in the San Diego-Tijuana Border Region: Time for Bi-National, Community-Based Solutions." Part of the report says, "Economic analyses have clearly demonstrated that U.S. investment in TB control in Mexico is a cost-effective means of controlling TB in the United States." The report can be seen at the website [icfdn.org](#).

Medicare in Mexico? Richard Kiy, president of the International Community Foundation, urged the U.S. government to consider starting a pilot program that would extend Medicare coverage for Americans living in Mexico. Speaking at a conference held Wednesday at the Institute of the Americas at the University of California San Diego to discuss medical care for Americans living in Mexico, Kiy said his organization's survey of Americans living in Mexico had 842 usable respondents. About 60 percent of them perceived Mexican health care to be comparable to what they received in the U.S. Still, 57 percent said they return to the U.S. for health care.

Pacheco awarded Cervantes Prize: Mexican writer José Emilio Pacheco received the Cervantes Prize in Spain on Friday. He bemoaned Mexico's violence to reporters earlier in the week, saying: "I think my work, my poetry, hasn't made a difference about anything. I would have liked for my work to have had enough influence to at least curtail the violence in Mexico a little bit."

Union threatens to blow up Cananea mine: The union representing striking miners who seized Mexico's Cananea copper mine in Sonora state 33 months ago said Thursday that explosives have been set to blow up the facility rather than hand it over to the mining concern Grupo Mexico. The threat came after the Supreme Court rejected a union appeal against unfavorable lower-court rulings that allow Grupo Mexico to end the collective contract and lay off workers at Cananea, Mexico's largest copper mine.

Mexican diplomat wounded, wife killed: Gunmen in El Salvador shot and seriously wounded a Mexican diplomat who works with the international police agency Interpol. Police said Guillermo Medina Alfaro's wife, Claudia de Medina, was killed. The shooting occurred while both were in their car in the Salvadoran capital.

Bodies found in Cuernavaca: Police discovered the bound bodies of two men in Cuernavaca, alongside a banner that threatened to kill 25 more drug-cartel members being held and interrogated in Acapulco. Police said the killings are part of a battle between traffickers Hector Beltrán Leyva and U.S.-born Edgar Véldez Villarreal, known as "La Barbie."

Gunmen abduct six from hotels in Monterrey: Dozens of gunmen burst into a Holiday Inn and another hotel in the state of Monterrey on Wednesday, searching from room to room and abducting at least six people, prosecutors said.

Tampico airport to be relocated: Authorities have decided to relocate an airport in Tampico in order to increase its capacity for cargo and passengers. The federal government and the Tamaulipas state government plan to invest \$205.3 million in the new airport, the Communications and Transport Ministry said. Tampico's airport is one of 13 operated by Grupo Aeroportuario del Centro Norte, which will remain concessionaire of the airport after the move.

Slim buying New York tower: Mexican billionaire Carlos Slim agreed to pay \$140 million for 417 Fifth Ave., a midtown Manhattan office tower, from a partnership that includes Goldman Sachs Group Inc., a person familiar with the transaction told Bloomberg News Service.

19 tons of pot seized in Tijuana: The Mexican army confiscated about 19 tons of marijuana in Tijuana that was packed and ready to be shipped north of the border, Gen. Alfonso Duarte said Wednesday.

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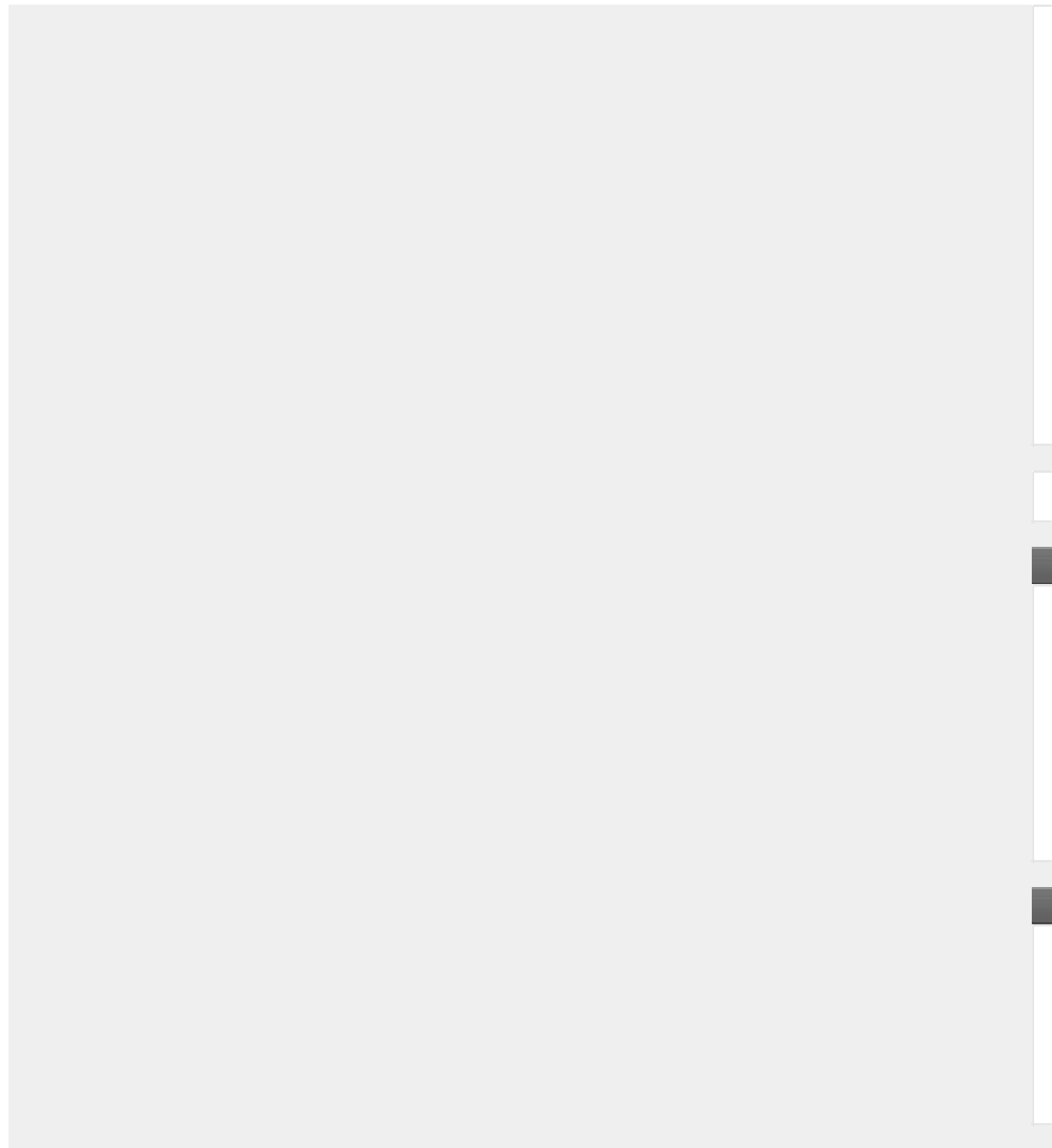
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sweep of bayfront between Lindbergh Field and Seaport Village — has always been a work in progress.



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