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ALLIANCES WITH DIVERSE PEOPLE EARNED OUR NATION'S INDEPENDEN

LAS ALIANZAS CON PERSONAS DIVERSAS LOGRARON LA INDEPENDENCIA DE NUESTRA NACIÓN



I have often wondered how we have come to a place and time where diversity and alliances with people of

different races and nationalities have less importance By Dr. José A. Flores today than when our nation declared

Spaniards, Mexicans, Cubans, Puerto Ricans, Natives-Onieda Nation, and African Americans became

and fought for its' independ-

allies to the American Revolutionary Army and colonists that sought our nation's independence in 1776. The actual alliances were forged long before the war and continued beyond the period of the War for Independence of 1776. We know through reading American history that American colonists sought out and obtained the assistance of Viceroy of New Spain and Governor of Louisiana Bernardo de Gálvez through the Spanish crown's covert support of the American colonists supplied the Continental Army with money, weapons, gunpowder, and uniforms. He also assisted Cuban and Caribbean colonies send needed money and supplies to support American independence from England's Monarch. Bernardo networked with Diego de Gardoquí who coordinated shipments of Supplies to American ports. Both men would become American heroes and recognized the George Washington and others for their service. In 2014 he was named an Honorary U.S. Citizen by Congress.

Bernardo Gálvez led his multiethnic army of Mexicans, Cubans, Puerto Ricans, and other Spanish Colonial troops in campaigns that captured Natchez in 1781 securing the Gulf Coast and protecting the southern flank of the Continental Army. He effectively repelled British forces and helped to secure American Independence through his actions.

Diego de Gardoquí became Spain's first ambassador to the United States and along with José de Gálvez (Bernardo's uncle) would help Spain enter the war on the side of American revolutionaries in the Franco-Spanish alliance against Great Britain. Gardoqui would also attend the swearing in ceremony in the Inauguration of George Washington and participate in the celebratory parade in 1789.

Black Americans also served the Continental Army for promises of freedom. Black Patriots would include James Armistead Lafayette who contributed to the victory at Yorktown, Peter Salem who valiantly fought at Bunker Hill killing British Major Picairn and Rhode Islands Black Regiment formed of former slaves. These early demonstrations of diverse "People of Color" contributing to the ideals of American liberty cannot be denied through the elimination of a focus on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion as our country seeks to re-write American History! Hopefully there will always be a journalist or a historian that will seek to keep the truth of U.S. History burning a bright white candle fighting to push back the evils of ethnic cleansing, denying "true history" and highlighting he accomplishments of ordinary Americans from all walks of life, all religions, all nationalities, races. ethnicities, genders, immigrants, non-citizens, and other unsung patriots. We cannot continue to give rise to division and racial hate in America as we celebrate our nation's birth. Remember in World War III we will need everyone to support us! May God continue to bless our nation!

A menudo me he preguntado cómo hemos llegado a un punto en que en la Tercera Guerra Mundial necesitaremos el apoyo de que la diversidad y las alianzas con personas de diferentes razas todos! ¡Que Dios siga bendiciendo a nuestra nación!

y nacionalidades tienen menos importancia hoy que cuando nuestra nación declaró y luchó por su independencia.



Españoles, mexicanos, cubanos, puertorriqueños, indigenas de la Nación Onieda y atroamericanos se aliaron con el Elército Revolucionario Estadounidense y los colonos que buscaron la independencia de nuestra nación en 1776. Estas alianzas se foriaron mucho antes de la guerra y continuaron después de la Guerra de Independencia de 1776. Sabemos, a través de la his-

toria estadounidense, que los colonos buscaron y obtuvieron la ayuda del virrey de Nueva España y gobernador de Luisiana, Bernardo de Gálvez, guien, mediante el apoyo encubierto de la corona española, suministró al Ejército Continental dinero. armas, pólvora y uniformes. También ayudó a las colonias cubanas y caribeñas a enviar el dinero y los suministros necesarlos para apoyar la independencia estadounidense de la monarquía Inglesa. Bernardo conectó con Diego de Gardoqui, quien coordinó los envíos de suministros a los puertos estadounidenses. Ambos se convertirían en héroes estadounidenses y reconocerían a George Washington y a otros por su servicio. En 2014, el Congreso lo nombró Cludadano Honorario de los Estados Un-

Bernardo Gálvez lideró su ejército multiétnico de mexicanos, cubanos, puertorriqueños y otras tropas coloniales españolas en las campañas que capturaron Natchez en 1781, asegurando la Costa del Golfo y protegiendo el flanco sur del Ejército Continental. Repelió eficazmente a las fuerzas británicas y contribuyó a la independencia estadounidense con sus acciones.

Diego de Gardoquí se convirtió en el primer embajador de España en Estados Unidos y, junto con José de Gálvez (tío de Bernardo), ayudaría a España a entrar en la guerra del lado de los revolucionarios estadounidenses en la alianza franco-española contra Gran Bretaña. Gardoqui también asistiría a la ceremonia de juramentación de George Washington y participaría en el desfile de celebración en 1789.

Los afroamericanos también sirvieron en el Ejército Continental por promesas de libertad. Entre los patriotas afroamericanos se encuentran James Armistead Lafayette, quien contribuyó a la victoria en Yorktown; Peter Salem, quien luchó valientemente en Bunker Hill matando al mayor británico Picairn; y el Regimiento Negro de Rhode Island, formado por antiguos esclavos. Estas primeras demostraciones de la diversidad de "personas de color" que contribuyeron a los ideales de la libertad estadounidense no pueden negarse eliminando el enfoque en la diversidad, la equidad y la inclusión, mientras nuestro país busca reescribir la historia estadounidense. Esperemos que siempre haya un periodista o un historiador que busque mantener viva la verdad de la historia de Estados Unidos, luchando por contrarrestar los males de la limpieza étnica, negando la "verdadera historia" y destacando los logros de los estadounidenses comunes de todos los ámbitos de la vida, todas las religiones, todas las nacionalidades y todas las razas. Etnias, géneros, inmigrantes, no ciudadanos y otros patriotas anónimos. No podemos seguir fomentando la división y el odio racial en Estados Unidos mientras celebramos el nacimiento de nuestra nación. ¡Recuerden





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Legend of La Lechuza, Like it's never been

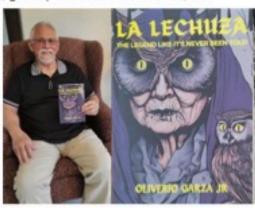


By Primavera Flores

In the guiet, windswept town of Cotulla, Texas—just an hour north of the Mexican border-a young boy named Oliverio Garza Jr., affectionately called Keto by his family, grew up under star-strewn skies, the

rustle of mesquite trees, and the myste-

rious whispers of the night. These were no ordinary nights. They were filled with chilling bedtime stories told by his elders-tales designed not just to entertain, but to frighten the children into good behavior. Among these stories, one stood out from the rest: the terrifying legend of La Lechuza.



lence spreads from town to town, La Lechuza exacts vengeance upon the wicked-Rico, Marcos, and Jose-painting vivid, bloody. and morally charged scenes.



While rooted in Mexican-Tejano folklore, the story also carries a deeper message: protecting the innocent and seeking justice for the marginalized. It's a reminder that beneath the feathers and fright lies a tale of redemption, empowerment, and justice served. With hand-drawn

illustrations and gripping prose, La Lechuza is not intended for young children. The dark, intense themes make it more suitable for teens 14+ and adults who appreciate folklore with teeth. It's the kind of book that belongs on the shelf of every mystery lover who's ever wondered what hides in the shadows-and whether the things we fear might be watching out for us after all.

For some readers, Oliverio Garza Jr.'s La Lechuza will be a chilling

rediscovery of a tale that once haunted their childhood. For others, it will serve as a gateway into a rich oral tradition they've never encountered before. Either way, it's a powerful contribution to the preservation of oral folklore—reminding us that legends are living, breathing stories passed from voice to page, generation to generation.

And Oliverio, once the wide-eyed boy begging his elders for more scary stories, is now the storyteller keeping the legend alive. He says, "

passed on from generation to generation."

La Lechuza is now available on Amazon in paperback (\$12) and Kindle (\$6).

Please write to us for a signed copy of La Lechuza.

Oliverio Garza Jr., un joven de Cotulla, Texas, fue profundamente influenciado por la leyenda de La Lechuza, una mujer que se transforma en búho por la noche para vengarse de sus malhechores. Su creencia en La Lechuza surgió tras una experiencia inquietante: silbó a la criatura, lo que provocó que lo persiguiera. Oliverio se mudó a Adrian, Michigan, donde crió a su familia y más tarde se convirtió en músico tejano. Inspirado por su infancia, comenzó a escribir y finalmente creó La Lechuza: La leyenda como nunca se ha contado. En este libro de una belleza cautivadora, Oliverio reimagina a La Lechuza como un espíritu vengativo con ojos brillantes, capaz de hipnotizar a sus enemigos. La historia transmite un mensaje más profundo: proteger a los inocentes y buscar justicia para los marginados, destacando la importancia de la redención, el empoderamiento y la justicia. Con ilustraciones dibujadas a mano y una prosa cautivadora, La Lechuza es ideal para adolescentes mayores de 14 años y adul-

La Lechuza ya está disponible en Amazon en formato de bolsillo (12 \$) y Kindle (6 \$).

Sigue el enlace a Amazon: https://a.co/d/7XT5pfZ Escribenos para obtener una copia firmada de La Lechuza.

The atmosphere was perfect for folklore to take root. Moonlit evenings brought family gatherings where uncles and aunts would sit the children down and recount stories of the supernatural that made the kids cry, lose sleep, and glance nervously at the windows and rooftops. One legend—the tale of a lady who transforms into an owl at night seeking revenge on all of her wrongdoers-left a lasting mark on young Oliverio's imagination.

Oliverio's belief in La Lechuza wasn't built on stories alone-it was sealed by a moment of eerie experience. At the age of while chatting outside with his cousin Jesús, the boys spotted a large owl perched nearby. Remembering the elders' warnings, Keto dared to whistle at the creature, testing the myth that whistling at La Lechuza would provoke her wrath.

In an instant, the owl swooped down, chasing the boys in a whirlwind. He hopes that the story of La Lechuza will keep going and getting of panic. From that day forward, Oliverio no longer questioned the warnings of his elders. The legend was real to him, and it was terrify-

In 1967, Oliverio moved to Adrian, Michigan, where he built a life with Follow the link to Amazon. https://a.co/d/7XT5pfZ his wife Rosalinda. Together, they raised three sons and are now proud grandparents to seven grandchildren. Over the years, Oliverio served in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War and later played Tejano music with friends and fellow musicians Librado Rocha, Rufus de la Cruz, and Rudy Alafita, who were all honored for being the pioneers of Tejano music of Detroit in 2023. After retiring from Delphi, he found joy in storytelling once again. This time-with a deeper purpose.

While on a trip to Hawaii, the voice of one of his grandchildren echoed in his memory, reigniting a flame that had long been flickering in the background. Inspired by his childhood and determined to preserve the stories that once shaped him, Oliverio began writing. That spark led to the creation of his debut book: La Lechuza: The Legend Like It's Never Been Told.

In this hauntingly beautiful book, Oliverio goes beyond merely retelling the legend-he reimagines. La Lechuza, in his version, is not just a terrifying creature of the night. She is a woman once wronged-vic- tos que apreclan el folclore con intensidad. timized by violence and injustice-who transforms into a vengeful owl-like spirit with glowing eyes capable of hypnotizing her enemies. Garza says, "She puts society in its place." She becomes a powerful guardian of the innocent and a nightmare for wrongdoers. As vio-



Community News





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Hispanic Events in Michigan July, August and September 2025

July/ Julio:

Unity in the Community:

Scheduled for Friday, August 8, according to a Hispanic events website.

Programado para el Viernes 8 de Agosto, según un sitio web de eventos hispanos.

August / Agosto:

Grand Rapids Hispanic Festival:

Held at Calder Plaza in downtown Grand Rapids, this festival is a celebration of Hispanic culture with food, music, dancing, and fun for the whole family, according to the Hispanic Center of West Michigan.

Este festival, que se celebra en Calder Plaza en el centro de Grand Rapids, es una celebración de la cultura hispana con comida, música, baile y diversión para toda la familia, según el Centro Hispano del Oeste de Michigan.

Kzoo Latinx Festival:.

This festival in Kalamazoo celebrates Latinx diversity with music, dancing, food, and artisan products, according to El Concilio Kalamazoo.

Este Festival en Kalamazoo celebra la diversidad latina con música, baile, comida y productos artesanales, según El Concilio Kalamazoo.

West Michigan Latino Health 5K Walk/Run:

In Grand Rapids, this event promotes healthy lifestyles within the Hispanic community with a 5K walk/run, food, kids' activities, and an awards ceremony.

En Grand Rapids, este evento promueve estilos de vida saludables



dentro de la comunidad hispana con una caminata/carrera de 5K, comida, actividades para niños y una ceremonia de premios.

September/ Septiembre:

Grand Haven Hispanic Heritage Flesta:

This annual event in Grand Haven celebrates Hispanic cultures and the contributions of Hispanic Americans with live music, authentic food, and a fun atmosphere.

Este evento anual en Grand Haven celebra las culturas hispanas y las contribuciones de los hispanoamericanos con música en vivo, comida auténtica y un ambiente divertido.

Fiesta Mexicana:

Held in Grand Rapids, this festival focuses on Mexican culture, history, and traditions, featuring music, dance, food, and carnival games.

Este festival, que se celebra en Grand Rapids, se centra en la cultura, la historia y las tradiciones mexicanas, con música, danza, comida y juegos de carnaval.

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¡Ayudar a su hijo/a a aprender a leer puede suceder en cualquier momento y en cualquier lugar! Cada vez que usted lee, canta y habla con su hijo/a, le ayuda a desarrollar habilidades importantes. Madre/Padre: pueden convertir una visita al supermercado en un momento de aprendizaje.



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rump's Militarization of L.A



As per Army Intelligence, it's not always the bestqualified who wins, but the best manipulator. Trump

man who has been wronged. He weaponized lies and mis-By Jorge Martinez information to inflame, create chaos.

and enrage his supporters. Via insults, violent rhetoric, and accusations, he enlisted millions of underachieving, poorly educated whites to do his bidding. Using antiimmigrant rhetoric, he enlisted middle-class angry white men who see their hierarchical status threatened. He masterfully misdirected the shame of underachieving disgruntled whites from themselves to democratic leaders and immigrants. He filled his cabinet with mutually ambitious individuals more loyal to him than their

oath to the Constitution. Consequently, the assassinations of John and Melissa Hortman were predictable and could have been prevented. It's no surprise that malcontent, unhinged Christian nationalists would voluntarily commit murder. Wayne Ivey Police Chief in Brevard County, Florida, vowed to kill protestors. Consequently, Washington, DC, abandoned during the Jan 6th riots by Trump, braced and trembled at the possibilities. Meanwhile, the world witnessed the televised expenditure of millions at Trump's whim. Unimpressed, Melania sat sullenly as Marco Rubio yawned, and Pete Hegseth watched Trump execute a dismal salute at parading troops. I predicted a protest in Los Angeles, not because of its large immigrant population, but because it's in California. A state that was once Mexico. Angelenos, especially Mexican Americans, have a long history of resisting tyranny, oppression, and injustice. There are more soldiers now stationed in Los Angeles than there are in Middle Eastern countries in active war zones. Describing the protests as Armageddon, Tom Homan, the angry border czar, declared Los Angeles ground zero for I.C.E. raids. Yet, Republican hypocrisy is unfathorn-

able and its depth immeasurable. Because, to no one's surprise, billionaires demanded that Trump reduce raids on their hotels, restauhas mastered misrepresenting himself as a common rants, and multimillion-dollar agriculture businesses, and he agreed.

After all, who will make the beds, clean the toilet, and pick the strawberries?

Some have heard of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's theory of stupidity. He wrote, evil disguised as stupidity is defenseless against protests, nor logic accomplishes anything. Reason falls on deaf ears, facts are disregarded, and irrefutable evidence is ignored. Every upsurge of political power infects supporters with stupidity and virtually becomes a sociological-psychological imperative. Individuals give up autonomy as their stupidity intermingles with the stupidity of others. They surrender to slogans, catchwords, and fall under a spontaneous flash mob spell. blinded and capable of evil, but inca-

pable of recognizing it as such. In here lies Trump's mastery of deception. He convinced millions of average disgruntled white men in coal, bible, and copper belt regions that their personal failures and shame in career, family, and society can be blamed on Black, Native Americans, Asians, and Mexican Americans. Speaking for the common loser, Trump predictably described Senator Alex Padilla as looking like an illegal. Blatantly racist Republicans applauded Padilla's televised humiliation and illegal detention. It gets much worse. America stands on the precipice of an economic and political catastrophe. Perhaps unbeknownst, Trump has heavily militarized the American-Mexican border in preparation for a possible repetition of the 1916 Punitive Expedition. He vowed to attack the cartels, claiming they pose a threat to National security. In 2020, Trump considered firing missiles at drug labs and then denying responsibility. Despite being warned that this would trigger a humanitarian crisis comparable to Gaza and spur massive migration as occurred during the Mexican Revolution of 1910 to 1920. Trump declared them terrorist organizations with no real knowledge of the power of drug cartels, culture,

and addiction. Literally, weaponizing and radicalizing them against America. Since then, Trump has mobilized 9,200 active-duty troops equipped with 20-ton armored Stryker vehicles and an Aviation Support Battalion. As of March 2025, there are 13,300 troops or more. They have UH-60 Black Hawks and CH-47 Chinooks for heavy lifting. Should a border incident occur, another spontaneous invasion could begin. Casualties would be high, and fighting would depend on whether Americans meet cartel soldiers or Mexican Army privates. Demonstrating arrogance, Trump demanded total surrender of Iran's leadership, as he sends rockets to Israel, which has illegally bombed Gaza since Oct 8th, 2023 [6]. Causing a humanitarian crisis. Mexico will repel any invasion as it did in 1916, and fighting will occur. Guerilla warfare teaches that it's not the best trained or equipped that wins, but the most committed. It's not the biggest army, but the most motivated, as proven in Vietnam and Ukraine. American Army privates earn \$2,319.00 a month while Mexican privates earn about \$400.00. Americans view Mexicans as inferior, while Mexicans blame America for a hundred injustices. History will tell the rest.









Each month we will feature a Latin American athlete representing our community in professional sports.

Playing both right field and third base for the Philadelphia Phillies, Nick Castellanos con-

tinues to be a standout in the game.

Castellanos, born in South Florida, gives a nod to his Latino heritage through his father's Cuban descent. He attended the American Heritage School in Plantation, Florida, helping the school win the Florida State championship in his sophomore year. He transferred to Archbishop McCarthy High School before his junior year, winning Gatorade Player of the Year for the state of Florida before his junior year.

He finished his senior season with a .542 batting average, 34 runs scored, 41 RBIs, and 22 stolen bases, leading his team to a Class 4A state championship.

Castellanos also played for the United States national baseball team in the 2009 Pan American Junior Championship, being named to the All-Tournament team. He committed to attend the University of Miami to play for the Hurricanes' baseball team.

Rather than playing for the Hurricanes, Castellanos was drafted as the 44th overall pick in the 2010 Major League Baseball draft by the Detroit Tigers.

He switched from shortstop to third base, appearing in seven games for the Gulf Coast Tigers that season. He played for the West Michigan Whitecaps that season, batting .312 with seven home runs and 76 RBIs, leading the Midwest League

with 158 hits and being named the Tigers' minor league player of the

When the major league toasters expanded in 2013, Castellanos was among the players promoted to the Tigers, making his major league debut on September 1 and recording his first major league hit, an infield single, off of Danny Duffy.

The Tigers traded Prince Fielder after the 2013 season, shifting Miguel Cabrera to first base and Castellanos as their starting third baseman.

Castellanos finished his rookie season with a .259 batting average, 11 home runs, 31 doubles, and 66 RBIs. He was named the 2014 Detroit Tigers/Detroit Sports Media Association Rookie of the Year.

Castellanos was traded to the Chicago Cubs in July 2019. For that season, he has a .289 batting average, 27 home runs, 73 RBIs, and an MLB-leading 58 doubles. He also joined the Hall of Fame as one of the only right-handed batters to hit 55 doubles and 25 home runs in the same season.

In January 2020, Castellanos signed a four-year, \$64 million contract with the Cincinnati Reds. He earned his first All-Star selection in 2021, posting career highs in batting average (.309) and home runs (34), while also driving in 100 runs.

He opted out of his contract after the 2021 season, becoming a free agent, and signed with the Philadelphia Phillies to a five-year, \$100 million contract in 2022.





Me after catching a ball from Castellanos at the Phillies/Pirates game at PNC Park in June

In that season, he batted .263/.305/.389 in 524 atbats. He swung at 57% of all pitches, the highest percentage of all major league batters that season.

He was a key player in the Phillies' 2023 postseason run, hitting two home runs in Games 3 and 4 of the National League Division Series and becoming the first player in MLB history to hit multiple home runs in consecutive postseason games. In Game 1 of the 2023 National League Championship Series, Castellanos hit a home run in his first plate appearance, joining Reggie Jackson as the only players in postseason history to hit five home runs in a three-game span.

Castellanos played in all 162 games for the Phillies in 2024, slashing .254/.311/.431 with 23 home runs, 86 RBI, and six stolen bases.

In June 2025, Castellanos was benched in the second game of the Phillies' series against the Miami Marlins due to 'inappropriate' comments, ending his game-starting streak at 236, which was the second-longest active streak in MLB behind the Braves' Matt Olson (405). It was the longest Phillies

Nick Castellanos, nacido en Florida, hace una guiño a su herencia latina a través de la ascendencia cubana de su padre. Se ayudó a la American Heritage School en Plantation, Florida, ayudando a ganar el campeonato estatal de Florida. Se terminó su último año con un promedio de bateo de.542, 34 carreras anotadas, 41 carreras impulsadas y 22 bases robadas.

Castellanos también jugó para la selección nacional de béisbol de Estados Unidos en el Campeonato Panamericano Juvenil de 2009 y a la Universidad de Miami para jugar con el equipo de béisbol de los Hurricanes. En 2010, he fue seleccionado en el puesto 44 del draft de las Grandes Ligas de Detroit.

Castellanos fue traspasado a los Cachorros de Chicago en 2019 y terminó su temporada de novato con un promedio de bateo de.259, 11 jonrones, 31 dobles y 66 carreras impulsadas.

Castellanos firmó un contrato de cuatro años por \$64 millones con los Cincinnati Reds en 2020. En 2022, he fue un jugador clave en la postemporada de los Phillies, conectando dos jonrones en los Juegos 3 y 4 de la Serie Divisional de la Liga Nacional.

Why Are Americans Upset About D.E.I.A?

people being treated fairly, being included in the hiring process at companies, and having easily accessible facilities. Demographics such as the

(DEIA) is the intention to have various groups of

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility

By Kindra A. Peterson Hispanic and Black American communities have

felt the negative effects of job losses due to the actions of the Trump administration. According to Executive Order 14151, all DEIA-related positions were subject to the termination of those employees. Sources note that some of the people who were affected by these terminations are as follows: Mahri Stainnak, Sherrell Pyatt, Jessica Swan, and General Charles Q. Brown. Stainnak was a new hire put in place to hire technical recruits in government, such as engineers and scientists, yet was still terminated from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) after moving to another department before her dismissal. Pyatt was an employee at the Department of Homeland Security who assisted with client disputes. Swan was in charge of incoming grants that were planned to help over 5 million English language learners (ELL). General Brown was only the 2nd Black American man to serve as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, but his military rank didn't matter according to the termination mandates of Executive Order 14151; it doesn't specify what qualifies as job-related terminations, nor does it protect federal employees from unrelated job terminations. The order was effective immediately for employees currently and previously working in DEIA offices.

Corporations that experienced a loss of sales due to consumer backlash for DEIA terminations were Sam's Club, Walmart, Lowe's, Google, Target, IBM, UnitedHealth Group, Bud Light, Constellation Brands, Victoria's Secret, Coca-Cola, Pepsi, McDonald's, Amazon, and Disney. These companies were targeted by organizations that actively campaigned for nationwide boycotts. This was beyond belief

since companies such as Target previously supported black-owned businesses in-store product distribution. They experienced public backlash and boycotts that affected reported sales drops. IBM removed funds intended to promote DEIA and hiring incentives that enhanced diversity. However, several companies resisted ending their DEIA programs, such as Burger King and Costco.

So, why do underrepresented communities who benefited from DEIA initiatives feel slighted? It is my strong belief that discrimination is a direct reflection of a "Power group's" feeling of inadequacy, which prompts constant unfair treatment of others and systematic privileges to be implemented in order to further disadvantage and subjugate people who are included under the term "protected classes." Woke culture is closely related to DEIA. "Woke" means that you are aware of social injustices and acknowledge that there is a need for action to bring about the changes needed for justice to prevail. People who are affected by discrimination as a result of dismantled DEIA programs within companies quickly become aware of inequalities. What if the tables were turned and someone took away "your job" as a result of what state you came from, and based it on the level of educational performance of that state? Following this logic and example, you would be fired and/or replaced as not being the "brightest or best qualified" due to your state educational ranking. According to the overall public-school rankings of 2025, the East Coast states, such as New York, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania, ranked exceptionally higher (in the top 5 performers) than the Southern states, such as Missouri, Mississippi, and Alabama (ranked near the bottom). Would it be fair to only hire people from the East Coast states? How would you feel if you were not hired or fired for being from a southern state? Where is the "White privilege?" This data should really be considered when thinking about the possibility of reverse discrimination.



Celebraciones del 4 de Julio 2025

Up the Lake Fireworks July 3, 2025 South Haven, Mi

South Haven's Light Up the Lake fireworks show is on July 3rd! Claim a spot along the beach or lakeshore prior to dusk when fireworks will be set off the North Pier. View the show from Riverfront Park or North & South Beaches and turn up your radios! The entire fireworks display will be coordinated with music on COSY 103.7 FM. 3-hour pre-show broadcast begins at 7:00 pm on COSY. Now you can watch a livestream of the fireworks from the comfort of your home! Click this link: www.southhaven.org/webcam. Fuegos Artificiales "Up the Lake" ¡El espectáculo de fuegos artificiales "llumina el Lago" de South Haven es el 3 de Julio! Reserve un lugar en la playa o la orilla

Muelle Norte. ¡Vea el espectáculo desde Riverfront Park o las Playas Norte y Sur y encienda la radio! Ahora puede ver la transmisión en vivo de los fuegos artificiales desde la comodidad de su hogar! Haga clic en este enlace: www.southhaven.org/webcam.

del lago antes del anochecer, cuando se en-

cenderán los fuegos artificiales desde el

July 4, 2025

4th of July on Mackinac Island

On Mackinac Island, the Fourth of July is a spectacle of Americana set against the backdrop of its timeless charm. On top of the beloved horse-drawn carriage tours, bicycle adventures, and every day activities on Mackinac, the day begins with the oldest Stone Skipping Competition in the US, followed by family games at Windermere Point, a Star Spangled 4th of July at Fort Mackinac and ends with a mesmerizing display of light as fireworks conclude the day of fun.

En la isla Mackinac, el 4 de Julio es un espectáculo típico de Estados Unidos con su encanto atemporal como telón de fondo. Además de los apreciados paseos en carruaje tirado por caballos, las aventuras en bicicleta y las actividades cotidianas en Mackinac, el día comienza con la competencia de lanzamiento de piedras más antigua de Estados Unidos, seguida de juegos familiares en Windermere Point, un 4 de julio con estrellas y rayas en Fort Mackinac y culmina con un fascinante espectáculo de luces y fuegos artificiales que culminan la divertida jornada.

July 4, 2025

el día de la carrera, cuesta \$40. La inscripción incluye una camiseta y una medalla de finalista. Se entregarán premios a los mejores corredores, tanto masculinos como temeninos.

July 4, 2025

Traverse City 4th of July Fireworks

Welcome to the Traverse City Boom Boom Club, where we're gearing up to light up the skies once again this Fourth of July! As the city's premier destination for fireworks festivities, we're thrilled to invite you to join us for an unforgettable evening of celebration and spectacle. Join us on July 4th as we light up the sky over Grand Traverse Bay. Bienvenidos al Club Boom Boom de Traverse City! Nos preparamos para iluminar el cielo una vez más este 4 de julio. Como el principal destino de la ciudad para las festividades de fuegos artificiales, nos complace invitarlos a una noche inolvidable de celebración y espectáculo. Acompáñenos el 4 de julio para iluminar el cielo de la Bahía de Grand Traverse.

July 5, 2025 **Grand Rapids Fireworks** Ah-Nab-Awen Park

Fireworks will light up the Grand Rapids skies Saturday, July 5th at Ah-Nab-Awen Park in downtown Grand Rapids in celebration of Independence Day. The July 5th spectacular, which promises to be an amazing experience for families across West Michigan, is free and open to the public.

Los fuegos artificiales iluminarán el cielo de Grand Rapids el sábado 5 de julio en el Parque Ah-Nab-Awen, en el centro de Grand Rapids, para celebrar el Día de la Independencia. El espectáculo del 5 de julio. que promete ser una experiencia increíble para las familias del oeste de Michigan, es gratuito y abierto al público.

July 4, 2025

Holland 4th of July Fireworks

Fireworks will light up the sky over Lake Macatawa this 4th of July!

The Macatawa Area Coordinating Council (MACC) is hosting this year's 4th of July fireworks at Kollen Park. Bring your family and friends, a blanket or chair, and enjoy the Independence Day celebration! Fireworks will begin at dark, but food trucks will be serving throughout the day.

¿Los fuegos artificiales iluminarán el cielo donde se invita a los del lago Macatawa este 4 de Julio! El Consejo Coordinador del Área de Macatawa (MACC) presenta los fuegos artificiales del 4 de julio de este año en el Parque Kollen. ¡Traigan a sus familiares y amigos, una manta o una silla, y disfruten de la celebración del Día de la Independencia! Los fuegos artificiales comenzarán al anochecer, pero habrá food trucks sirviendo tanto en línea como durante todo el día.



Grand Parade route prior to the parade step off on July 4th. Advanced entry is \$35 and late entry online and on race day is \$40 Entry includes a t-shirt and a finisher's medal. Prizes will be awarded to top male and female runners. Shirts are only guaranteed to those who pre-register by June 24th, 2024. Remaining shirts will be available first come/first serve at packet pickup/registration on race day.

Esta es una Carrera Popular de 1 milla corredores a recorrer la ruta del Gran Destile antes

de la salida del desfile el 4 de julio. La inscripción anticipada cuesta \$35 v la inscripción tardía.

12 THE COMMUNITY VOICE LA VOZ / JULY 2025

Saturday! June 14, 2025 Protest in Grand Rapids, MI

Thousands of protestors gather in downtown Grand Rapids to peacefully protest Trump Administration on June 14. They all walked to Rosa Park Circle with people in bright Lime & orange stripe vests! A peace fully March at 2pm around the street chanting. Circled from Rosa Park!

Massive crowds! White, black, Latino, all human! All ages.

Miles de manifestantes se reunieron en el centro de Grand Rapids para protestar pacificamente contra la administración Trump el 14 de Junio. ¡Todos caminaron hasta Rosa Park Circle con gente vestida con chalecos de rayas brillantes color lima y naranja! Una marcha pacifica a las 2 p. m. recorrió la calle coreando consignas. ¡Partieron en círculo desde Rosa Park! ¡Multitudes masivas! Blancos, negros, latinos, ¡todos humanos! De todas las edades.





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¡Amigos, listen to 97.3FM Heat Radio! ¡Escuchen esta estación de Radio!

Radio D.J.'s are joining daily to empower our community through a real respect for diversity! We must tear down the walls that separate our community and advance racial and social equality.

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LaDew R.I.P. brother!

Your legacy in Grand Rapids is alive and well!

Dr. José A. FloresPresident, C.E.P. 616.581.6271 Asisted by Marte Smith Dr. Edgar Leon

97.3 FM URBAN MIX • THE HEAT

July Events / Eventos en Julio

Anderson Midway Carnival -Manistee National Forest **Festival** July 2-6, 2025 Manistee, Mi

This is the signature event of the Manistee Area Chamber of Commerce. Hosted every year over the 4th of July/Independence Day Holiday, the Manistee National Forest Festival is a Manistee County tradition stretching back over 80 years Each year, the Forest Festival highlights events such as the Festival Marketplace, Carnival, Fireworks over Lake Michigan, and much

Este es el evento insignia de la Cámara de Comercio del Área de Manistee, Celebrado cada año durante el 4 de julio, Día de la Independencia, el Festival Nacional del Bosque de Manistee es una tradición del condado de Manistee con más de 80 años de antigüedad.

2025 Street Performer Series July 3, 2025 Holland, Mi

Downtown Holland 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Every Thursday, from June 12 through August 14, musicians, caricature artists, face painters, jugglers, magicians and even aerial acrobats will entertain visitors stro-Iling along the 8th Street. Enjoy the sights and sounds of street performers every Thursday evening while you're out shopping and dining in Downtown Holland!

Centro de Holland, de 16:30 a 8:30 h. Todos los jueves, del 12 de junio al 14 de agosto, músicos, caricaturistas, pintacaritas, malabaristas, magos e incluso acróbatas aéreos entretendrán a los visitantes que pasean por la Calle 8. ¡Disfruta de las vistas y los sonidos de los artistas calleieros todos los jueves por la noche mientras compras y cenas dad. en el centro de Holland!

Wild Encounters with John Ball Zoo July 8, 2025 Grand Rapids, Mi

Join us for a fun and interactive program with John Ball Zoo! Learn about animals and their habitats through hands-on activities. Zoo educators will introduce fascinating creatures, share exciting facts, and answer all your animal-related questions!

¡Unete a nosotros en un pro-

grama divertido e interactivo con el Zoológico John Ball! Aprende sobre los animales y sus hábitats mediante actividades prácticas. Los educadores del zoológico te presentarán criaturas fascinantes, compartirán datos interesantes y responderán a todas tus preguntas sobre animales.

2025 Black Arts Festival July 12, 2025 Kalamazoo, Mi

Black Arts Festival celebrates the origins of our organization and its mission to uplift black artistry within the community. This familyfriendly event brings together artists of all genres and locals for a day of vibrant live performances, DJ sets, and a diverse mix of retail, food, and information yendors. With a focus on showcasing the richness of black artistry and history, the festival offers a safe, welcoming space for creative expression. Yard games and activities add to the fun, making it a celebration of family, culture, and community.

El Festival de Artes Negras celebra los orígenes de nuestra organización y su misión de promover el arte negro en la comunidad. Este evento familiar reúne a artistas de todos los géneros y residentes locales en un día de vibrantes presentaciones en vivo, sesiones de DJ y una diversa selección de tiendas, restaurantes y puestos de información. Con el objetivo de mostrar la riqueza del arte y la historia negra, el festival ofrece un espacio seguro y acogedor para la expresión creativa. Los juegos y actividades en el patio se suman a la diversión, convirtiéndolo en una celebración de la familia, la cultura y la comuni-

Grand Haven Triathlon July 13, 2025 Grand Haven, Mi

The perfect racing destination offering Sprint & Olympic distances. In addition to a wonderful vacation destination, you'll enjoy swimming in the clear waters of Lake Michigan, one of the smoothest and most scenic bike course in the Midwest and the most scenic run course on the City Boardwalk along the City riverfront.



El destino perfecto para carreras, con distancias Sprint y Olímpica. Además de ser un maravilloso destino vacacional. disfrutarás nadando en las cristalinas aguas del Lago Michigan, uno de los circuitos de ciclismo más suaves y pintores- July 26, 2025 cos del Medio Oeste y el circuito Lansing, Mi de carrera más pintoresco del City Boardwalk, a orillas del río.

Cadillac Festival of the Arts July 18-19, 2025 Cadillac, Mi

The festival features the Phyllis Olson Juried Art Fair, named in honor of local artist Phyllis Olson. This fair attracts artists from various disciplines, offering attendees a diverse range of artworks to appreciate and purchase. Up North Arts

In addition to the art fair, the festival includes live musical performances, a variety of food vendors, and family-friendly activities, all set quila de Lansing es un festival against the scenic backdrop of Lake Cadillac.

El festival incluye la Feria de Arte con Jurado Phyllis Olson, nombrada en honor a la artista local Phyllis Olson. Esta feria atrae a artistas de diversas disciplinas y ofrece a los asistentes una amplia gama de obras de arte para apreciar y ad- August 1-2, 2025

Up North Arts

Además de la feria de arte, el festival incluye actuaciones mu- sing, that has been going on for sicales en vivo, una variedad de puestos de comida y actividades para toda la familia, todo con el pintoresco lago Cadillac como telón de fondo.

Ottawa County Fair July 21-26, 2025 Holland, Mi

The Ottawa County Fair is filled with many Carnival Games and Rides, Attractions, Grandstand Events, 4H Animals and so much

Keep watching for more details on the Ottawa County Fair www.Ottawacountyfair.com

La Feria del Condado de Ottawa está repleta de juegos y atracciones de carnaval, eventos en tribuna, animales 4H y mucho

Para más detalles sobre la Feria del Condado de Ottawa, siga visitando www.Ottawacounty-

Taco & Teguila Festival

The third Annual Lansing Taco & Teguila Fest is on Saturday, July 26, 2025, from 4 pm to 8 pm. VIP Entry starts at 3 pm.

Lansing Taco and Tequila Fest is an outdoor tequila festival located at Adado Riverfront Park. This festival features 100+ different tequilas, margaritas, beer & ciders. The festival also features live music, other vendors, and food trucks.

El tercer Festival Anual de Tacos y Tequila de Lansing se celebrará el sábado 26 de julio de 2025, de 4:00 a 8:00 pm. La entrada VIP comienza a las 3:00 pm.El Festival de Tacos y Tede tequila al aire libre ubicado en el Parque Adado Riverfront. Este festival ofrece más de 100 teguilas, margaritas, cervezas y sidras diferentes. También incluye música en vivo, otros vendedores y food trucks.

2025 JazzFest Michigan Lansing, Mi

JazzFest Michigan is an annual music festival in Old Town Lanover 30 years.

Four Venues & Five Days: We've added a kickoff concert on Wednesday night and a Sunday Gospel Fest. There are four venues: the MICA Stage, MessageMakers Stage, Tripp Stage, and Urban-Beat Stage.

JazzFest Michigan es un festival de música anual en el casco antiguo de Lansing, que se lleva celebrando más de 30 años. Cuatro sedes y cinco días: Hemos añadido un concierto inaugural el miércoles por la noche y un festival de gospel el domingo. Hay cuatro sedes: el escenario MICA, el escenario MessageMakers, el escenario Tripp y el escenario UrbanBeat.



Executive Motorsports 4th Annual Open House & Car Show!

On Sunday afternoon, June 1, 2025, we headed out to the 4th Annual Open House Community Event at 1701 Clyde Park Avenue - Suite C80, Wyoming, MI. The owner of Executive Motorsports, Steve Russo, wanted to give it back to the community. Steve has been involved with cars since 1990's. Started out with helping at festivals, car events particularly with 28th Street Metro Cruise.

People looked inside the building and were amazed at the cars being displayed.

From 12 noon to 6 pm they had 4 DJ's
Troy Cesar, Ted Omega Supreme & DJ
Composition playing jamming music,
Food vendor trucks outside & drinks to
quench your thirst! In the Open House
we met Don & Dale from Low 4 Life
C.C. Grand Rapids, MI, Christian & Car-

melita Maldonado from Cold Life C.C. Stanton, MI, & Sueños C.C. from Muskegon.

Steve would like to personally thank his wife Andrea & family, Alize & Damien Allen from Midwest Executives C.C. He would thank everyone who made his Open House a success!

Having a car event? Contact Homero ·(616)893-3906 deeho123@comcast.net

CAR SHOWS UPDATE MAY 2025

9th Annual Heykoop Veteran Memorial Car Show & Benefit Saturday! July 5, 2025 149 Shoreline Dr Muskegon, MI 49440 8:00am - 2:00pm Zeeland Show & Shine Car Show Saturday, July 12, 2025 Downtown Zeeland 21 S. Elm Street, City Hall Zeeland, MI 49464 9:00am - 2:30pm Free to visitors Registration: \$10

LAUP's Fiesta Car Show Sunday! July 20, 2025 Holland Civic Center 150 W 8th Street Holland, MI 49423 Registration - 9:30am - 1:00pm \$25 car - \$20 Motorcycle / Bicycle Car Show: 11:00am - 4:00pm

32nd Annual Car Capital Auto Show Saturday! July 26, 2025 240 Museum Dr. Lansing, MI 48933 10:00am - 2:30pm





JUNETEENTH JAM

By Lisa Wiseman The 5th Annual Justice For All Juneteenth Jam took place at Calder Plaza in downtown Grand Rapids on Thursday from 4 to 8 pm. Also known as

Emancipation Day, Freedom Day, or Jubilee Day, it was a day to celebrate black art, entertainment, culture and experience. What is Juneteenth? On June 19, 1865, Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas and announced that the more than 250,000 enslaved black people in the state were free by executive decree. This day came to be known as "Juneteenth" by the newly freed people of Texas.

When this free event was first started by Julius Rogers in 2021, it was held at Rosa Parks Circle with about 300 people attending and about 10 food vendors. This was the first year it was held at the Calder Plaza and has grown to about 2,000-3,000 attendees and 50 plus vendors. It is an opportunity to support several black-owned businesses and artists in our community and learn more about this holiday. People enjoyed food, music, dancers, martial arts exhibitions, speeches by community leaders, games for the kids, and live performances by local artists. There was even a breakdance battle. It is great to see how this event has grown and is bringing the community closer together.



Karol G Announces New Album 'Tropicoqueta: 'My Heart Is Overflowing'

The announcement comes after the release of her latest single, "Latina Foreva."

Karol G is gearing up to light up the summer with all her tropical splendor.

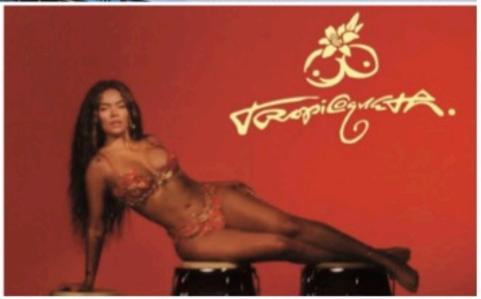
The Colombian superstar announced her fifth studio album, Tropicoqueta, in an Instagram video posted on June "Finally sharing this with you," she wrote in

the caption. "My heart is overflowing." While she hasn't revealed the official release date yet, Karol promised that Tropicoqueta is coming "very soon."

In the 50-second video, the singer surprises fans by channeling iconic artists Charo and Carmen Miranda, but with her own unique twist: instead of Miranda's classic fruit headpieces, she rocks a pair of bongos strapped to her waist, coconuts as part of her top, and a bright orange outfit — setting the stage for a radiant, Latin rhythm-filled new era.

The announcement comes after the release of her latest single, "Latina Foreva," which dropped on May 22. "I've had this idea for a long time to make a song that captures everything we Latinas are, because I feel like Latinas are in style ... Latinas were never out of style!" the artist recently told Billboard Español. "We're the life of the party. A party with Latinas isn't the same as a party without Latinas."

Last month, Karol G released her documentary Tomorrow Was Beautiful, which premiered on Netflix. "This is a very special piece for my



fans. It's an opportunity to show people who Carolina is, beyond just Karol G," the singer told Billboard Español on the red carpet ahead of the documentary's premiere on May 6 in New York City.

Karol G se prepara para iluminar el verano con todo su esplendor tropical.

La superestrella colombiana anunció su quinto álbum de estudio, Tropicoqueta, en un video de Instagram publicado en Junio. "Por fin comparto esto con ustedes", escribió en el pie de foto. "Tengo el corazón rebosante". Si bien aún no ha revelado la fecha oficial de lanzamiento, Karol prometió que Tropicoqueta llegará "muy pronto".

El anuncio llega tras el lanzamiento de su último sencillo, "Latina Foreva", el pasado 22 de Mayo. "Llevo mucho tiempo con la idea de hacer una canción que capture todo lo que somos las latinas, porque siento que las latinas están de moda... ¡Las latinas nunca han pasado de moda!", declaró recientemente la artista a Biliboard Español. "Somos el alma de la fiesta. Una fiesta con latinas no es lo mismo que una fiesta sin latinas".







When you are looking for a physician for your child, do you choose a pediatrician or a family doctor? Who is best for the health of your family?

Here are the differences between the two types of doctors and the factors to consider in making a decision:

What is a pediatrician?

Pediatricians are primary care doctors who specialize in treating children, including physical, social, and mental health. Like other medical doctors, pediatricians attend four years of medical school and three years in a pediatric residency program. Their training focuses exclusively on children with limited to no adult experience.

In a visit to a pediatrician, they will:

- · Perform well-child visits
- · Physical exams.
- · Give vaccines
- Diagnose and treat illnesses, injuries, and health conditions.
- Prescribe medications
- Track your child's physical, emotional, and social development.
- . Offer advice and answers to parents' questions
- · Refer patients to specialists as necessary

Pediatricians may see your infant after delivery and could become their doctor immediately. They will see children for well visits according to the schedule recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and any sick visits that may be required. Children and teens may see a pediatrician into their early 20s, although this may vary by practice.

What is a family doctor?

Family doctors, also known as primary care physicians, study several medical fields to provide broad care for major and minor health issues for individuals throughout their lives. They have also attended four years of medical school and three years of a medical residency. Primary care physicians can see whole families, including children. Primary care physicians can also see your infant after delivery and become your infant's doctor immediately after birth.

Primary care providers offer:

- Well-child visits
- · Annual physicals and vaccinations
- · Preventive care for physical and mental health
- Prescribing medications
- Diagnosing and treating injuries, illnesses, and chronic conditions
- Tracking physical, emotional, and social development for children

- · Advice and answers to questions for all ages
- · Screening tests
- Healthy lifestyle counseling
- Referrals to specialists as necessary

They will be aware of the medical history of the whole family, as well.

What kind of doctor is best for a child?

If you are looking for one physician to treat your whole family, a family doctor may be what you need. This can save trips as you make appointments for multiple family members at the same time.

However, a pediatrician may be more appropriate if your child has pediatric-specific medical conditions. Your decision also may depend on where you live and what kind of practices are readily available.

Finding and developing a relationship with a physician you like and trust is an important part of health care for you and your family.

Al buscar un médico para su hijo, ¿prefiere un pediatra o un médico de familia? ¿Quién es el más adecuado para la salud de su familia?

Al buscar un médico para su hijo, es importante considerar qué tipo de médico prefiere: un pediatra o un médico de familia. Los pediatras se especializan en el tratamiento de niños, incluyendo la salud física, social y mental. Cuentan con cuatro años de medicina y tres años de residencia pediátrica. En una consulta, los pediatras realizan controles de salud infantil, exámenes físicos, vacunas, diagnóstico y tratamiento de enfermedades, tratamientos, medicamentos y seguimiento del desarrollo físico, emocional y social del niño. Los médicos de familia, por otro lado, se especializan en diversas áreas de la medicina, brindando atención integral a personas de todos los tamaños. Ofrecen consultas, exámenes físicos, atención preventiva, prescripción de medicamentos, diagnóstico y tratamiento de enfermedades crónicas y consejos sobre estilos de vida saludables.

Encontrar y desarrollar una relación con un médico que le agrade y en quien confíe es fundamental para su salud y la de su familia.



Gracias al apoyo que brindamos a las clínicas gratuitas y con bajo costo, y a recursos como nuestra aplicación fácil de usar y nuestra línea de atención de enfermería las 24 horas del día, en Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan y Blue Care Network estamos preparados para apoyar la salud de todos los residentes de Michigan. Ya sea que necesite servicios de salud física o mental, estamos siempre a disposición para ayudar, cuando sea y donde sea que nos necesite.

Obtenga más información en MIBlueDaily.com/ReadyToHelp

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network are nonprofit corporations and independent licensees of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association.



Miss. 4th of July - 2025





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HORNET HUB ADVISOR-

Kalamazoo College seeks Hornet Hub Advisor in Kalamazoo, Ml. Duties: serve as coordinator for student outreach content: study abroad/study away. Work with Center for International Program (CIP) to counsel students regarding the process of study abroad/away,

review transcripts to ensure school programs; provide students meet requirements. write letters of recommendation; refer students to degree programs; provide students with information on degree programs, admission reto study abroad participants; ment program sessions for conduct follow-up interviews with counselees: recruit, select, train, supervise activities for

programs; compile and study occupational, educational, and economic information to assist counselees; plan and conduct orientation study abroad. International programs/conferences: explain services of CIP to com- ties/programs approx 1 wk munity groups, faculty, and staff; oversight of content, arrange for speakers, and collaborate with on-campus groups for special orientation sessions; develop content for orientation sessions, workshops, simulations, and web-based materials with CIP staff; collaborate with teachers and admin in the development, evaluation, and revision of

Friday & Saturday / Viernes y Sábado

11:00am -2:00am

Sunday/ Pomingo 11:00am -12:30am

programming for United World College students on campus, organize advising and check-in sessions; award ceremony, and mentorship for UWC students; quirements, and financial aid design, organize and imple-F/J visa holders on campus with CIP staff and campus: manage the study abroad programs or partner programs; assist in the advising, application, selection, orientation and reentry processes and programs for students participating in travel reg to partner universiin duration 1-2 times per yr. Annual travel reg for conferences and workshops, visits to local partner institutions in DC, NY, PA, and MN. Qualifications: Bach Degree in educational and global leadership; higher education; academic counseling or related. Employer will accept foreign equivalent. Apply to S. Gillig at

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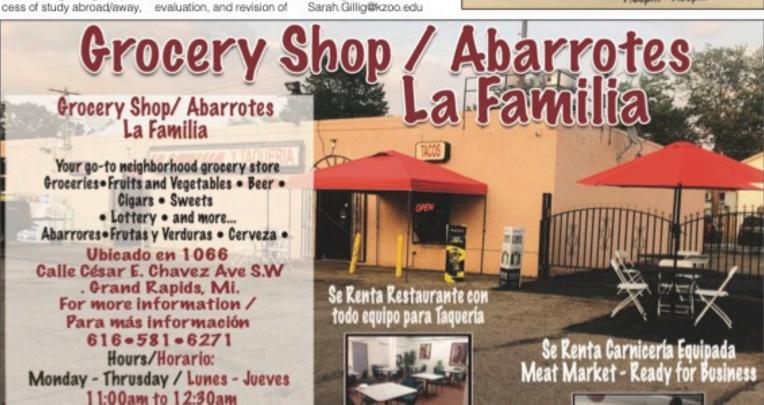
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