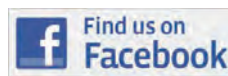




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marzo de 2025

Spanglish Lazo Cultural Edition

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¡SÍ SE PUEDE! CÉSAR CHÁVEZ

César Chávez: One of the Greatest Civil Rights Leaders of Our Times (March 31, 1927- April 23, 1993)

By Linda Alvarado-Arce

As we take time today to celebrate César Chávez's birthday with this special edition of La Prensa. I would like to remind everyone of how one person, through pacifist means, mobilized so many people around the nation and accomplished so much in a world that was and is still today so indifferent to our Brown brothers and sisters. Our Brown brothers and sisters who help plant the seeds of the crops we eat. Who pick the crops with their bare hands and under the hot sun for long hours and very little pay. Who sorts, packs, and or cans the foods we eat and that you find on the shelves of our favorite grocery stores? The same Brown faces that work in the poultry, pork, and beef farms, feeding, cleaning, and caring for the food that goes into our bodies every, single, day.

Our essential service workers who without them, I am not sure who would do this work. And, if they were all deported, based on this constant threat of deportation, or if they self-deport themselves due to the horrific thought of the possibility of being detained, deported, and separated from their families because many live in mixed-status homes where some family members are documented, in the process of naturalization, and others undocumented, how much more our food would cost? The price of food and necessities is already outrageously high!

So, ask yourself, WHY IS THIS HAPPENING? Why is this happening to a group of people who have come (most legally) to the U.S. to survive, work, and educate themselves and their children and

who provide so much for all of us? Especially when U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Mexico's President Manuel Avila Camacho signed a series of laws and agreements initiated on August 4, 1942, that went until 1964 and made it legal to allow Mexican workers in the U.S.

This agreement, known as the *Bracero Agreement*, stemmed from the labor shortages in the U.S. due to World War II. According to Immigration History (2019), "During World War II, the U.S. government negotiated with the Mexican government to recruit Mexican workers, all men and without their families, to work on short-term contracts on farms and in other war industries" (p. 1). The *Bracero Agreement* allowed roughly one million Mexicans to be temporarily admitted into the U.S. as migrant farm workers (Huber, 2010a; Johnson, 1998). It made U.S. employers pay "the transportation and living expenses of Mexican laborers, as well as wages equal to those of American farmworkers, doing similar work" (Migration Policy Institute, 2013, p. 3).

According to Carrasco (1998), when the U.S. needed Mexican laborers, they would "enthusiastically" welcome the "immigrants to fill gaps in the labor pool" (p. 77). These jobs, according to Carrasco (1998), are usually "characterized by harsh working conditions, enormous amounts of physical labor, and minimal remuneration. In addition to abject working conditions, immigrants have also faced discrimination and resentment" (p. 77).

According to the United Nations Global Issues: Migration (2021) webpage, "Since the earliest times, humanity has been on the move. Some people move in search of work or economic opportunities, to join fam-

ily, or to study. Others move to escape conflict, persecution, terrorism, or human rights violations. Still others move in response to the adverse effects of climate change, natural disasters, or other environmental factors" (p. 1). Most of us, unless you are indigenous, are all immigrants who came to the Americas fleeing, displaced, or were sent here from your original country of origin- this is NOT a debate.

According to the United Nations (n.d.) webpage, through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), there are, "An estimated 281 million people, approximately 3.6% of the world's population, currently live outside their country of origin, many of whose migration is characterized by varying degrees of compulsion." Most immigrants have been forced to leave their homes because of human, civil, and political rights violations, as well as economic, social, and cultural rights such as the right to health, housing, or education. According to Malala Yousafzai (2019), in her book *WE ARE DISPLACED*,

"no one leaves home unless home is the mouth of a shark. you only run for the border when you see the whole city running as well."

-Warsan Shire, "Home,"

So today, and really every day, let's remember the lessons of César Chávez. Let's remember how we all got here.



Appreciate the less fortunate, educate ourselves, and let's try to find solutions to living together peacefully while being appreciative of all our immigrants today and every day.

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Op-Ed: Language is culture

By Colette Córdova

March 2, 2025: On Saturday, March 1, 2025, *President Donald Trump* signed an executive order declaring English the official language of the United States, which reversed a policy from the Clinton administration. The order grants federal agencies and organizations the autonomy to decide whether they will continue offering services and documents in languages other than English, thus rescinding a mandate from former President Bill Clinton requiring entities provide language assistance to those who do not speak English.

As one who grew up in a bicultural household and embraces the concept of being multilingual, this comes as an affront to those who do not have English as their “crib” language. Language is culture. If you take away someone’s language, or in essence make them feel it is the lessor or inferior language to the dominant one, in this case English, it can be traumatic. Your language is your identity as is your name. Native Americans suffered trauma when made to change their names and had their languages taken away. In extreme cases, they were moved to dormitories to live in far off places away from their parents and were forced into the dominant culture stripped of their culture and language.

Did you know that Eskimos have multiple ways of saying the word *snow*? The French also have many more words for emotional expressions than the German language. Did you know there are multiple ways of saying the word *kite* in Spanish? The Spaniards and other countries say “cometa”, in Mexico they use “papalote”, and in Puerto Rico “chiringa” among others. Each region has influences of native, indigenous languages influencing their words. The word Michigan is a native word as is Maumee, both which are just taken for granted as part of the English vernacular.

Language is fluid and changes over time. As new concepts or inventions are thought of, new words come into existence such as in the world of technology: Internet, World Wide Web, smart



Colette Córdova

phone, laptop, etc. Language is a form of communication where each group uses it for their own culture, whether that be the work culture to exchange information to get tasks done. For example, insurance companies have a special code they speak. In the hospital culture they use medical terms they’ve studied to execute their practice, or lawyers who have words to define the laws. Cultures of people also have their own language which is not only used to exchange information, but just for day-to-day life for food, shopping, family events, or other endeavors. Also, people use it for communicating on a deeper level to express one’s needs, emotions, thoughts, spirituality, or expressions of love and friendship.

Language is part of who you are, your identity, and self-concept. All languages are equal. I would encourage all organizations who are providing assistance to non-English speakers to continue so learners too can participate while they acquire English and adapt to a new environment. By not continuing this assistance, the impact would be enormous not allowing the non-English speaker the ability to communicate and their right to get their basic needs met as a human being. We are a country of many languages and need to continue to be a compassionate people. I encourage everyone reading this to learn a second language, especially those who only speak English to broaden their horizons and appreciate the difficulties that arise when one learns another language.



LOS TIGRES DEL NORTE VIENEN POR PRIMERA VEZ AL DEVOS PERFORMANCE HALL

¡Boletos a la Venta Ahora!

Grand Rapids – El grupo musical *Los Tigres Del Norte*, anuncia fecha en el *DeVos Performance Hall* este 30 de Noviembre de 2025. Boletos a la venta ahora en DeVosPerformanceHall.com.

¡Los Jefes de Jefes te invitan a jugar *La Lotería* en su nueva gira 2025! Con un legado inigualable y décadas de éxitos, este show te llevará a un viaje musical inolvidable a través de sus más grandes clásicos y lo más nuevo de su repertorio. ¡No te quedes fuera y consigue tus boletos ahora!

LOS TIGRES DEL NORTE TO PERFORM AT DEVOS PERFORMANCE HALL

Tickets on Sale Now!

Grand Rapids: Musical group, *Los Tigres Del Norte*, announced that they will be bringing their 2025 *La Lotería Tour* to *DeVos Performance Hall* on November 30, 2025. Tickets are on sale now at DeVosPerformanceHall.com.

Los Jefes de Jefes invite you to play *La Lotería* on their new 2025 tour! With an unmatched legacy and decades of hits, this show will take you on an unforgettable musical journey through their greatest classics and newest songs. Don’t miss out—get your tickets now!

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Positive impacts of pilot program to strengthen child care industry

LANSING, Mich.: The Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP) and partner organizations released a report on March 7, 2025 highlighting the positive impacts of a pilot program to increase wages for child care professionals in order to improve child care access and affordability for Michigan families. The report highlights the pilot program's "substantial positive change" on staffing and quality of care, and its findings will be used to inform additional upcoming efforts, including a second pilot program launching later this year.

"Michigan's child care providers serve an absolutely critical role for children, families, employers, and our economy as a whole, and we know that by investing in them, we are investing in our state's overall success," said *Dr. Beverly Walker-Griffea*, director of MiLEAP. "MiLEAP is continuing to collaborate with partners across the state to find ways to attract and retain high-quality child care professionals, expanding space for more children, and giving more options for Michigan's families."

"As we work with partners across the state to expand access to affordable child care, we continue to hear that child care professionals need more support to stay and thrive in this industry," said *Emily*

Laidlaw, deputy director of Early Education at MiLEAP. "Our recent pilot demonstrated the impact higher wages has on recruitment and retention, and we are continuing to work with our partners to find ways to replicate the effort across the state."

"In order ensure Michigan has a robust child care industry that has the capacity to meet the unique needs of all working families, we need to invest in early childhood educators," said *Alicia Guevara*, CEO of the Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC). "Increasing compensation both recognizes and helps keep highly skilled early educators in the industry to ensure more high-quality early care and education programs are available for families. We will continue to work with MiLEAP and the thousands of dedicated child care providers in Michigan to find ways to grow and strengthen the industry."

For families seeking child care options, visit the *Great Start to Quality's* website www.greatstarttoquality.org/find-programs/.

For families with children turning 4 before Dec. 1, 2025, enrollment will open soon for FREE high-quality PreK for the 2025-26 school year. Visit MIPreKforAll.org to find programs near you that meet your family's unique needs.

Selena Quintanilla-Pérez

April 16, 1971

March 31, 1995



**La Prensa salutes
César Chávez**

March 31, 1927 - April 23, 1993

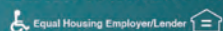
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Paint An Axolotl Workshops at Casa de Rosado Galeria & Cultural Center

Let's paint an Axolotl! Casa de Rosado Galeria & Cultural Center will host painting workshops on Saturday, March 29, 2025 @ 1PM, Sunday, April 6, 2025 @ 1PM, Saturday, April 12, 2025 @ 1PM, Saturday, April 19, 2025 @ 1PM, and Friday April 25, 2025, @ 7PM.



The Axolotl is a symbol of the indigenous people of Mexico. Workshops will explore the natural habit of the Axolotl, the chinampas of Mexico, and their connection to indigenous identity and empowerment. The workshop lasts about 2 hours. All supplies will be provided. Workshops are family friendly. Adults must participate in classes with those under 18 and assist them during the workshop. Registration required.

Classes run on a suggested \$20 donation basis. Free classes are provided to those experiencing a hardship. Casa de Rosado Galeria & Cultural Center, a 501(c)3 Hispanic cultural center focused on the arts located at 204 E Mt Hope Ave, Lansing, MI.

For more information visit www.facebook.com/casaderosado.

Resources for Immigrants in Michigan

1 Know Your Rights

Find Michigan-specific information about your rights, how to prepare your family for enforcement, what to do if ICE comes to your door, and what to do after someone is arrested or detained.



bit.ly/MIRCKYR

2 Immigration Legal Services

If you are in need of immigration legal services, call us at **734-239-6863**. If lines are busy, leave a message and we will return your call.



3 All detainees can call MIRC for free from detention



michiganimmigrant.org

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Con Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan y Blue Care Network, tiene la certeza de que está recibiendo el mejor acceso a la atención del estado. No solo ofrecemos la red de médicos y hospitales más grande de Michigan, sino que también nos aseguramos de que tenga acceso a ellos sin importar a dónde vaya, con recursos como nuestra aplicación móvil fácil de usar y nuestra línea de atención de enfermería las 24 horas del día. Se merece sentirse lo mejor posible, y siempre estamos preparados para ayudar a que así sea.

Obtenga más información en
MIBlueDaily.com/ReadyToHelp