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El Leñador

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MISSION STATEMENT

El Leñador is an English and Spanish newspaper produced by Humboldt State University students. Our staff cover and provide news to Latinx and other diverse communities on campus and in Humboldt County. We are committed to providing relevant news and expanding the representations and stories told about people of color and other marginalized groups. Our work helps create more social, political and cultural diversity in local media.

El Leñador es un periodico en español y inglés producido por estudiantes de la Universidad Estatal de Humboldt. Nuestro personal cubre y provee noticias a la comunidad Latinx y otras comunidades diversas en el campus y en el condado de Humboldt. Estamos comprometidos a brindar noticias actuales y ampliar la representación y las historias que son contados sobre la gente de color y otros grupos marginados. Nuestros esfuerzos ayudan a crear una diversa presencia social, política y cultural en los medios locales.

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El leñador

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Humboldt County Sheriff Department says Blue Lake murders not connected

by Alexandra Gonzalez

Humboldt County Sheriff's Department released a press release on Monday, Oct. 25 concerning two homicides that occurred on Sept. 11 and Oct. 1 in the Blue Lake Area. Community members have been on high alert after these two cases occurred in close proximity to each other.

HCSD stated in the press release that despite the close proximity of these cases in location and date of discovery, investigators have not officially determined a connection between the two incidents at this time. However, the cases are still under active investigation.

"We don't believe there to be a significant threat to the public," said Samantha Karges, Public Information Specialist for HCSD, by telephone on Wednesday, Oct. 27.

El Leñador asked Krages about an image that is circulating on social media stating that there is a serial killer in the area.

"We do not suspect there to be a serial killer in the area," Karges said by phone.

According to the press release, the sheriff's department has been receiving input from the public about safety concerns of the trail system near the Mad River Levee. This is the same area where the Oct. 1 homicide occurred.

As a precaution, the HCSD also shared some general safety tips for people recreating anywhere in Humboldt County.

These included:

- If possible, recreate during daylight hours and don't go alone.
- Choose a route well-traveled by other recreators.
- If you see anyone or anything suspicious, change course and go into a store or public building to avoid danger.
- Stay alert at all times. If you're listening to music as you walk, turn down the volume so you can still hear bike bells and warnings from other walkers and runners

coming up behind you.

- Stay on an established trail.
- Do not hitchhike or accept rides from strangers.
- Inform a friend of where you are going and when you plan to return. Stick to that schedule and if extending your stay, be sure to update that friend.
- Put your phone away and don't carry large sums of cash.
- Consider taking a basic self-defense class.
- If you are experiencing an emergency, call 9-1-1.

Anyone who may have information about either of these cases should contact the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office Major Crimes Division at (707) 445-7251 or the Sheriff's Office Crime Tip line at (707) 268-2539.

The full press release can be read online at <https://humboldt.gov.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=4305>.

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INFO: Andrea Juarez
El Leñador Advisor
aj1252@humboldt.edu
(credit/registration questions)

El Departamento del Sheriff del condado de Humboldt dice que los asesinatos de Blue Lake no están conectados

por Alexandra Gonzalez traducido por Alexandra Gonzalez

El Departamento del Sheriff del condado de Humboldt emitió un comunicado de prensa el lunes 25 de octubre sobre dos homicidios que ocurrieron el 11 de septiembre y el 1 de octubre en el área de Blue Lake. Los miembros de la comunidad han estado en alerta después de que estos dos casos ocurrieron muy cerca uno del otro.

La Oficina del Sheriff del Condado de Humboldt declaró en el comunicado de prensa que a pesar de la proximidad de estos casos en el lugar y la fecha del descubrimiento, los investigadores no han determinado oficialmente una conexión entre los dos incidentes en este momento. Sin embargo, los casos aún se encuentran bajo investigación activa.

"No creemos que haya una amenaza significativa para el público," dijo Samantha Karges, especialista en información pública de la Oficina del Sheriff del Condado de Humboldt, por teléfono el

miércoles 27 de octubre.

El Leñador le preguntó a Krages sobre una imagen que circula en las redes sociales donde dice que hay un asesino en serie en la zona.

"No sospechamos que haya un asesino en serie en el área," dijo Krages por teléfono.

Según el comunicado de prensa, el departamento del alguacil ha estado recibiendo comentarios del público sobre las preocupaciones de seguridad del sistema de senderos cerca del Mad River Levee. Esta es la misma área donde ocurrió el homicidio del 1 de octubre.

Como medida de precaución, la Oficina del Sheriff del Condado de Humboldt también compartió algunos consejos generales de seguridad para las personas que recrean en cualquier lugar del condado de Humboldt.

Estos precauciones incluyen:

- Si es posible, recree durante las horas del día y no vaya solo.
- Elija una ruta muy transitada por otros.
- Si ve a alguien o algo sospechoso, cambie de rumbo y entre en una tienda o edificio público para evitar el peligro.
- Manténgase alerta en todo momento. Si está escuchando música mientras camina, baje el volumen para que aún pueda escuchar las campanas de las bicicletas y las advertencias de otros caminantes y corredores que se acercan detrás de usted.
- Manténgase en un sendero establecido.
- No haga autostop ni acepte paseos de extraños.
- Informe a un amigo a dónde va y cuándo planea regresar. Cumpla con ese horario y si extiende su estadía, asegúrese de actualizar a ese amigo.
- Guarde su teléfono y no lleve grandes sumas de dinero en efectivo.
- Considere tomar una clase básica de

defensa personal.

- Si tiene una emergencia, llame al 9-1-1.

Cualquier persona que pueda tener información sobre cualquiera de estos casos debe comunicarse con la División de Delitos Mayores de la Oficina del Sheriff del Condado de Humboldt al (707) 445-7251 o con la línea de información sobre delitos de la Oficina del Sheriff al (707) 268-2539.

Puede leer el comunicado de prensa completo aquí <https://humboldt.gov.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=4305>.

Free meal swipes available for HSU students

by Karina Ramos Villalobos

As a college student do you find yourself being on campus for hours during the week and you're hungry but don't have a meal plan, or do you find paying for food on campus to be expensive?

The Swipe Assistance Program is an evolution of the previous Emergency J-point program. Before, students would need to pay per item. Now, it's a swipe-in system with your student ID and after you swipe-in, it's all you can eat meals. When the dining facilities made changes to its program, Ravin Craig, Oh SNAP coordinator, aligned it with new systems to support students that may be food insecure.

"The idea is we're giving swipes to students to help them get through the week when they are on campus," Craig said. "So they can meet their nutritional needs, eat a meal every day on campus is the idea. And it's free."

Students are given a number of swipes based on how many days they plan on being on campus weekly. If students have a meal plan they would be less likely to be considered for free swipe. Swipes go directly into your student ID in two business days.

Max Flores, a fourth-year Wildlife major, wasn't aware of emergency swipes. According to Craig, only 23 students have signed up for the Swipe Assistance program for the fall 2021 semester.

"I like catch myself spending a lot of money at the Depot because I haven't been at the J since a freshman," Flores said. "I try and take advantage of most free programs HSU has."

According to Kaitlynn Gerton, a dining service employee, without the swipe system, meals costs:

Breakfast - \$7.25
Lunch/Brunch - \$9.75
Dinner - \$10.25



You can use your emergency swipes at the J dining services and have all you can eat meals. | Photo by Karina Ramos Villalobos

The other portion of the program allows students who have meal plans to donate swipes to the Swipe Assistance Program to help other students in need. According to Craig, they are still working out the details on how to do that.

How does the Swipe Assistance Program work?

Students need to email rdc23@humboldt.edu and ask for the Swipe Assistance program. Craig follows up with those emails and sends a series of questions for students to answer. The questionnaire helps Craig understand what students may need and helps her connect students to other food resources on and off-campus.

Where Can Students Use Swipes?

The swipes can only be used at the J dining services for any meal of the day. Swipes can not be used at the Depot or at the College Market Place.

Can students get more free swipes?

After students have used up all their free swipes they can reach out to Craig by email at rdc23@humboldt.edu and she will follow up with students to give more swipes to those who need them.

Will the Swipe Assistance Program be available for future semesters?

"Definitely next semester," Craig said. "As long as I can keep it going, there will be a version of this for as long as I have control. And you know even past me leaving, people are invested in this happening. The thing I can't guarantee — that it will work the exact same way."

How Can Students Stay Updated or Learn More?

You can find more information about the Swipe Assistance Program on Oh SNAP's website www.hsuohsnap.org. You can follow Oh SNAP's Instagram [@hsuohsnap](https://www.instagram.com/hsuohsnap) to stay updated on different food resources and other on-campus activities.



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Hardship money still available for students after HSU distributes \$13 million in October

by Alexis Valtenbergs

In mid-October, almost \$13 million in COVID relief grants were divided and automatically disbursed to Humboldt State University students' accounts.

Peggy Metzger, director for the Office of Financial Aid at HSU, said that students who filed a FAFSA or California Dream Act Application automatically received grants between \$500 and \$3000, depending on the student's Expected Family Contribution.

There is still money available for students who did not apply for a FAFSA or California Dream Act Application.

"Students who did not file a FAFSA or CADAA can request a grant up to \$750 by submitting a Hardship Request Form," Metzger said.

There is about \$600,000 in COVID relief funds left that can be used for hardship relief. HSU has until March 2022 to spend it all. Hardship Request Forms can be filled out online at finaid.humboldt.edu/aid-types.

On Oct. 12, the Financial Aid Office notified HSU students that the Emergency COVID grants were being directly paid out to them later in the week to help them with financial aid. Many students were surprised and relieved that more money was coming to them.

Journalism senior Skylar Gaven received COVID relief money in October. The emergency grant helped Gaven make ends meet. "It is helpful, I mean, I really do appreciate it," Gaven said. "It has helped me a lot, as far as savings and just getting groceries and stuff like that."

Jorge Amaya Mijango, a sophomore majoring in Zoology, is a first generation college student. He received COVID relief money as well.

"The grant helps me cover some costs that I wouldn't be able to cover and purchase necessary things that will help me throughout my time at HSU," Amaya Mijango said.

OCTOBER 2021	\$13 million disbursed to HSU students who qualified for FAFSA or the California Dream Act Application
HARDSHIP FUNDS	Students who didn't get money in October can request hardship funds by filling out a Hardship Request Form
SPRING 2022	HSU has until March 2022 to spend the rest of COVID emergency funds (\$600,000)

Source: HSU Financial Aid Office

HSU still has hardship funds left over to disburse to students | Design by Alexis Valtenbergs

The October COVID funding was the third round of funding from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund. The first round was authorized in spring 2020 and the

second round was passed in fall 2021. Now is the perfect time to fill out the FAFSA. Go to studentaid.gov to renew an old application or start a new one.

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COVID-19 Vaccine and Booster Update for adults and kids

by Alexandra Gonzalez

Vaccines for Youth 5 - 11 years old

The Humboldt County Joint Information Center has stated in an email to El Leñador that the COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5 to 11 is expected to be available soon in pediatricians offices, pharmacies and at Public Health clinics.

Humboldt County residents are encouraged to contact their child's primary care provider with questions about the vaccines.

On Oct. 29, the FDA approved the Pfizer vaccine for emergency use in children ages 5-11 years old. An advisory panel to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has also unanimously recommended its use on Nov. 2.

According to the FDA, The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for children 5 through 11 years of age is administered as a two-dose series, three weeks apart. It is a lower dose than that used for individuals 12 years of age and older.

The CDC Director is expected to make a formal recommendation for the 5-11 age group in the coming days, said the Joint Information Center.

Vaccines for children ages 12 and older are already available. For more information about vaccine mandates at schools, parents should contact the Humboldt County Office of Education.

Booster Vaccines

Booster vaccines are now available for community members. Residents who completed a two-dose series of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine at least six months ago are now eligible for a booster dose, according to the Humboldt County Joint Information Center.

Both the CDC and California Department of Public Health recommend booster shots for the following people:

- People 65 years and older residents in long-term care settings
- People aged 50-64 years with certain underlying medical conditions
- People aged 18-49 years with certain underlying medical conditions may receive a booster, based on their individual benefits and risks
- People aged 18-64 years who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional, based on their individual benefits and risks.

Which Booster Vaccine?

The Humboldt County Joint Information Center recommends that residents who

received the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine at least two months ago should receive a booster dose of Pfizer or Moderna.

COVID-19 and flu vaccines may be administered at the same appointment if both are available, according to the Joint Information Center. Side effects from booster shots are similar to those reported following

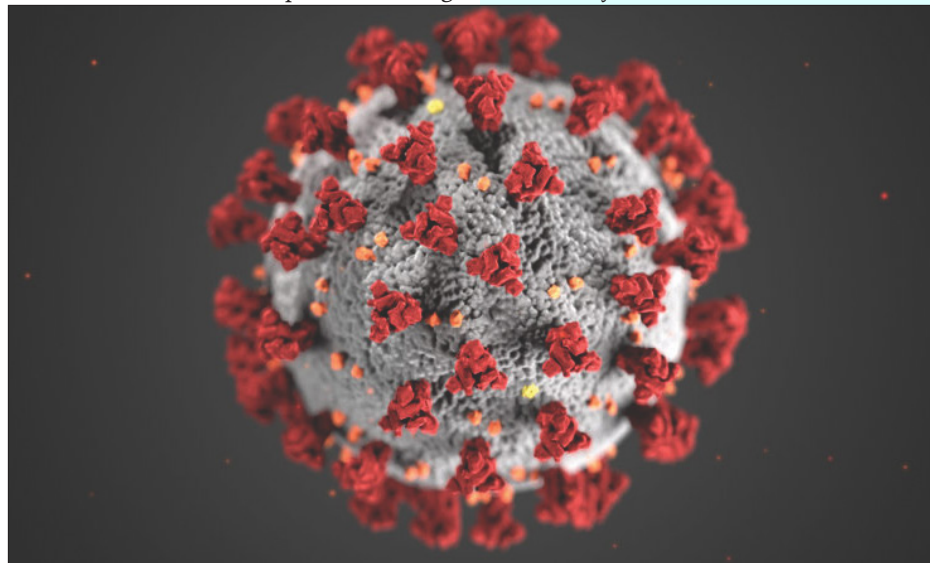


Image: Center for Disease Control & Prevention

first and second doses, primarily soreness, redness and swelling at the injection site, and some may also experience a fever, headache, nausea or fatigue.

Where and How to Get a Vaccine

Booster vaccines are available at all Public Health vaccination clinics and pharmacies in Humboldt. Most pharmacies allow walk-ins, but it is recommended to call ahead to confirm.

Once the vaccine is authorized for children ages 5-11, appointments will be available at myturn.ca.gov.

Appointments for people ages 12 and up are available at www.myturn.ca.gov.

The CDC offers a program where people can text their ZIP code to 438829 to check availability at participating pharmacies. For more information about vaccines visit www.vaccines.gov.

Actualización de vacunas y refuerzos para adultos y niños

by Alexandra Gonzalez traducido por Desiree Osornio

Vacunas para los jóvenes de 5 a 11 años

En un correo electrónico enviado a El Leñador, El Centro de Información Conjunta del Condado de Humboldt ha declarado que se espera que la vacuna COVID-19 para niños de 5 a 11 años esté disponible pronto en los consultorios de los pediatras, las farmacias y en las clínicas de Salud Pública.

serie de dos dosis de la vacuna Pfizer-BioNTech o Moderna COVID-19 hace al menos seis meses son ahora elegibles para una dosis de refuerzo, según el Centro de Información Conjunta del Condado de Humboldt.

Tanto el CDC como el Departamento de Salud Pública de California recomiendan las vacunas de refuerzo para las siguientes personas:

- Personas de 65 años o más
- Residentes en centros de atención a largo plazo
- Personas de 50 a 64 años con ciertas condiciones médicas subyacentes
- Las personas de 18 a 49 años con ciertas condiciones médicas subyacentes pueden recibir un refuerzo, según sus beneficios y riesgos
- Las personas de 18 a 64 años que tienen un mayor riesgo de exposición y transmisión de COVID-19 por motivos laborales o institucionales, en función de sus beneficios y riesgos individuales.

¿Qué vacuna de refuerzo?

El Centro de Información Conjunta del Condado de Humboldt recomienda que los residentes que recibieron la vacuna COVID-19 de Johnson & Johnson hace al menos dos meses reciban una dosis de refuerzo de Pfizer o Moderna.

La vacuna COVID-19 y la de la gripe pueden administrarse en la misma cita si ambas están disponibles, según el Centro de Información Conjunta. Los efectos secundarios de las vacunas de refuerzo son similares a los registrados tras la primera y segunda dosis, principalmente dolor, enrojecimiento e hinchazón en el lugar de la inyección, y algunos pueden experimentar también fiebre, dolor de cabeza, náusea o fatiga.

Dónde y cómo vacunarse

Las vacunas de refuerzo están disponibles en todas las clínicas de vacunación de Salud Pública y en las farmacias de Humboldt. La mayoría de las farmacias admiten visitas sin cita previa, pero se recomienda llamar antes para confirmar.

Una vez que se autorice la vacuna para los niños de 5 a 11 años, las citas estarán disponibles en myturn.ca.gov

Las personas de 12 años en adelante pueden pedir cita en www.myturn.ca.gov.

El CDC ofrece un programa en el que las personas pueden enviar un mensaje de texto con su código postal al 438829 para comprobar la disponibilidad en las farmacias participantes. Para más información sobre las vacunas visite www.vaccines.gov.

Se anima a los residentes del condado de Humboldt a que se pongan en contacto con el proveedor de atención primaria de sus hijos si tienen preguntas sobre las vacunas.

El 29 de octubre, la FDA aprobó la vacuna Pfizer para su uso de emergencia en niños de 5 a 11 años. Un panel asesor de los Centros de Control y Prevención de Enfermedades también ha recomendado unánimemente su uso el 2 de noviembre.

Según la FDA, la vacuna COVID-19 de Pfizer-BioNTech para niños de 5 a 11 años se administra en una serie de dos dosis, con un intervalo de tres semanas. Es una dosis más baja que la utilizada para individuos de 12 años de edad y mayores.

Se espera que el director de los CDC haga una recomendación formal para el grupo de edad de 5 a 11 años en los próximos días, dice ese Centro de Información Conjunta.

Las vacunas para los niños de 12 años o más ya están disponibles. Para obtener más información sobre los mandatos de vacunación en las escuelas, los padres deben ponerse en contacto con la Oficina de Educación del Condado de Humboldt.

Vacunas de refuerzo

Las vacunas de refuerzo ya están disponibles para los miembros de la comunidad. Los residentes que completaron una



Image Courtesy of California Faculty Association

CSU chancellor's bargaining team denies better workplace proposals made by the California Faculty Association

by Alexandra Gonzalez

The California Faculty Association has been working for the last 18 months to update their contract with California State University management. The CFA is the union for all unit 3 faculty which includes all faculty, including tenure-track faculty, lecturers, librarians, counselors, and coaches on all 23 CSU campuses. As of Sept. 30, CFA efforts to work with the chancellor's office have officially reached an impasse.

According to the Higher Education Employer-Employee Relations Act (HEERA) of 1979, impasse means that "the parties have reached a point in meeting and conferring at which their differences in positions are such that further meetings would be futile."

"You know it's just a recognition that we're not getting anywhere, we've got... really revolutionary, really fantastic proposals and the chancellor's office is just saying no to everything," said Loren Cannon, CFA Humboldt Chapter President and lecturer at HSU.

There are 19 articles that CFA is looking to improve on. Key issues include anti-racism and social justice proposals, more job security, improved parental and family support for all faculty, improved salaries, better safety protocols that decrease police presence on campus, and to fully recognize and compensate for the cultural taxation placed on faculty. Almost all of the proposals made on behalf of the CFA union have been denied by the chancellor's office bargaining team.

Director of Forensics at HSU, Aaron Donaldson, shared that although he has a doctorate, a masters and has coached national debate champions, he has no guarantee,

as a lecturer, that he will have a job next year because of the current contract structures. Yet, he is expected to plan for budgets and recruitments a year in advance for the forensic team with no compensation.

Donaldson is not alone in this uncertainty, as many lecturers at HSU have no path to permanency. According to Cannon, lecturers - even those who have worked for decades at HSU - have a small chance at securing a permanent position under the current contract. This continuously puts lecturers in danger of losing housing and medical insurance if their classes get cut.

"When faculty members are being respected, treated well, treated fairly, that's really good for students," said Cannon. "So our fates are always linked in this really important, significant way."

Now that CFA has declared an impasse, the bargaining process will move onto what is called mediation. If the CFA finds the proposals are not honoring the needs of the faculty in the CSU, a strike will be legally allowed after a final best offer is made by the chancellor's bargaining team.

The organization Students for Quality Education is one way for students to stand in solidarity with faculty and staff at HSU. SEQ works alongside the CFA to be a direct pipeline between the students and faculty. More information on joining SEQ can be found at www.csusqe.org

The CFA also asks that students and community members sign the petition urging President Jackson to act on supporting the faculty at HSU. The petition can be found at www.bit.ly/CFApetition

El leñador

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“Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings” broke numerous records at the box office and will be streaming on Disney+ on Nov. 12. Above left photo, left-right: Main characters, Xialing (Meng'er Zhang), Shang-Chi (Simu Liu), and Katy (Awkwafina) prepare to fight the Dweller-in-Darkness. Right photo, Xialing runs an underground fight club in China. | Photos courtesy Walt Disney Studios

Movie Review: ‘Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings’

by Josie de la Torre

The awaited “Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings” premiered Sept. 3, directed by Destin Daniel Cretton, and broke numerous records during Labor Day weekend. Starring Simu Liu as Shang-Chi, and Awkwafina as Katy, this film pays respect to martial arts films and Chinese and Asian heritage. The movie will be available to watch on Disney+ on Nov. 12 for everyone to see.

“I thought I could change my name, start a new life... but I could never escape his shadow,” Shang-Chi said.

The film follows Shang-Chi, otherwise known as Shaun, who lives in San Francisco working as a valet driver with his friend Katy. Unknown to Katy, Shang-Chi has escaped his prior life as a killer trained in martial arts to get revenge on his mother’s killers. After a decade of escaping his past, he is soon attacked for the green pendant his mother gave him. The attack eventually leads him to being reunited with his family and much more.

This movie is great for being a stand-alone film if you are new to the Marvel Cinematic Universe. Shang-Chi goes in-depth with the struggles of younger Asian Americans and touches on the importance of family, individualism, and the struggle of being a part of two worlds.

What sets this movie apart from the rest of the MCU is the authenticity of it as a whole. Some scenes were spoken in Mandarin instead of being entirely in English. Also, having an Asian superhero lead on screen as part of the MCU is refreshing

as it paves the way for more diversity.

I was enamored with the fight sequences. They reminded me of fight scenes from movies like “Ip Man” because of their martial art elements. Fight scenes with kung fu and tai chi are portrayed beautifully, but I think they used too much computer-generated imagery towards the end of the movie.

It made me happy to see someone similar to me on the big movie screen and not portrayed as the stereotypes Asian Americans are thought to be. While I did enjoy the movie, I wish they could have given Shang-Chi’s sister, Xialing, more screen time because she is just that awesome and deserved more character development.

Like previous Asian American films like “Crazy Rich Asians” and “Farewell,” hopefully this is another step for Asian Americans to be portrayed more accurately in Hollywood. Ultimately, this film gives younger generations a superhero they can look up to.

“... This film gives younger generations a superhero they can look up to.”

- Josie De la Torre

Reseña de la película: ‘Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings’

por Josie de la Torre, traducido por Fernanda Delgado

La esperada película “Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings” dirigida por Destin Daniel Cretton se estrenó el 3 de septiembre, y rompió numerosos récords durante el fin de semana del Día del Trabajo. Protagonizada por Simu Liu como Shang-Chi y Awkwafina como Katy, esta película rinde homenaje a las películas de artes marciales y a la herencia china y asiática. El filme estará disponible en Disney+ el 12 de noviembre para que todos lo vean.

“Pensé que podía cambiar mi nombre, comenzar una nueva vida ... pero nunca podría escapar de su sombra,” dijo Shang-Chi. La película sigue a Shang-Chi, también conocido como Shaun, que vive en San Francisco y trabaja como valet con su amiga Katy. Sin que Katy lo supiera, Shang-Chi ha escapado de su vida anterior como asesino entrenado en artes marciales para vengarse de los asesinos de su madre. Después de una década de escapar de su pasado, pronto es atacado por un colgante verde que le dio su madre. Finalmente el ataque lo lleva a reunirse con su familia y a mucho más.

Esta película es excelente por ser de cine independiente si eres nuevo en Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU, por sus siglas en inglés). Shang-Chi profundiza la lucha de los jóvenes estadounidenses de origen asiático y aborda la importancia de la familia, el individualismo y el desafío de ser

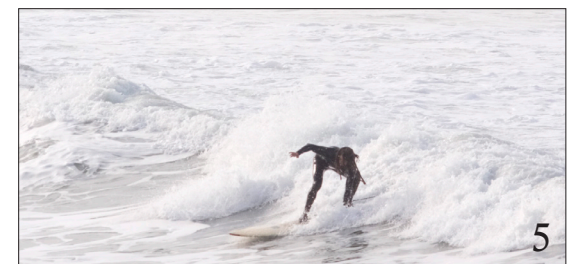
parte de dos mundos.

Lo que distingue a esta película del resto del MCU es la autenticidad de la misma en su conjunto. En algunas escenas se habló en mandarín en lugar de estar completamente en inglés. Además, tener un superhéroe asiático protagonista en la pantalla como parte del MCU es refrescante, ya que alisa el camino para una mayor diversidad. Me enamoré de las secuencias de lucha. Me recordaron a las escenas de lucha de películas como “Ip Man” debido a los elementos de artes marciales. Las escenas de lucha con kung fu y tai chi están bellamente representadas, pero creo que hacia el final de la película usaron demasiadas imágenes generadas por computadora.

Me hizo feliz ver a alguien similar a mí en la gran pantalla de cine y no representado bajo el estereotipo asiático-americano. Si bien disfruté la película, desearía que pudieran haberle dado a la hermana de Shang-Chi, Xialing, más tiempo frente a la pantalla porque ella es increíble y merecía un personaje más desarrollado.

Al igual que las películas asiático-americanas anteriores como “Crazy Rich Asians” y “Farewell,” es de esperar que este sea otro paso para que los asiático-americanos sean representados con mayor precisión en Hollywood. En última instancia, esta película les da a las generaciones más jóvenes un superhéroe al que también pueden admirar.

Humboldt County BIPOC surfers find p



by Ricardo Lara Nava

During this time of year in Humboldt County, surfers eagerly wake up early in the morning and get ready to head into the tides of the Pacific ocean. Fall and winter are prime surfing times.

Veteran body surfer Alejandro Escudero Ochoa, and surfers like Kory Lamberts and Kunal Mehta, put on their wetsuits, wax their boards, fasten the surfboards' leashes to their ankles and jump into the cold morning waters.

What makes these surfers stand out from anybody else is that they are men of color. In a county that is majority white, it is no surprise that BIPOC surfers aren't commonly seen in this area of California.

The event Paddle out for Justice began in 2020 after the death of George Floyd and took place again in the summer of 2021. It was created by local surfer, Melissa Meiris.

"This event aims to make visible the injustices faced by Black & Brown people in our communities and nation," Meiris said. "To honor the memories of Black & Brown people killed at the hands of police, and to raise money for six amazing local organizations led by and for People of Color."

Having said that, these surfers aren't aware of any club or organization that is specific to BIPOC surfers in Humboldt.

Escudero Ochoa, Lamberts and Mehta agreed to speak to *El Leñador* and express the enjoyment of the sport called surfing.

Alejandro Escudero Ochoa

Years surfing: 41

Favorite surfing spot in Humboldt: Big Lagoon

Escudero Ochoa, now 53, was 12 years old when he was introduced to bodyboarding by his friend while out on the beach one day. A body board is about half the size of a surfboard and instead of standing on it, the surfer lays on it and glides with the waves. After having tried the bodyboard he really liked it and stuck to it. He has been body surfing for 41 years now.

Escudero Ochoa was born in Mexico City but grew up in Acapulco and Los Angeles. He identifies as Mestizo, which is someone who's mixed with Indigenous and European ancestry. While living close to the beach, his appreciation of the ocean grew the more he surfed.

"It's really a spiritual practice and people who are really soul surfers understand that," Escudero Ochoa said. "But people who just want to make a name for themselves, who just want to show off and have fun with it, don't actually see the real depth of what it is."

When Escudero Ochoa began surfing in Humboldt County, he was criticized by other surfers who would say "Why don't you ride a surfboard like a real surfer would." Escudero Ochoa didn't pay attention to the discouraging surfers and would continue to

body surf.

"Only the Yurok or the Wiyot can tell me to get out of the water," Escudero Ochoa said. This doesn't happen anymore since he has established his presence in the water.

While bodysurfing, Escudero Ochoa has faced fierce waters and dangerous encounters, such as rescuing a friend who was bitten by a shark. He has saved multiple people and a dog from the rough waters.

"You have to be proficient in understanding how the ocean works to be there," Escudero Ochoa said.

When Escudero Ochoa isn't surfing, he's making art. He discovered his artistic side when he was studying at Humboldt State University. He graduated with an art degree in 1991, but didn't want to leave Humboldt County, so he became a carpenter.

Escudero Ochoa was recently surfing in Hawaii, a place he often visits because it reminds him of Acapulco.

"I go back to Hawaii because it is untouched in the sense that there is still fish, clean waters and jungle," Escudero Ochoa said. "It really reminds me of where I grew up."

Kory Lamberts

Years surfing: 2

Favorite surfing spot in Humboldt: Camel Rock

Lamberts, 26, a HSU student majoring in environmental studies and minoring in scientific diving, started surfing after he had returned home to the Bay Area in 2019, from a full-ride scholarship playing football at Middle Tennessee State University. He was introduced to surfing by a friend of his who is a professional surfer from Japan and took him out for the first time near Oceanview, San Francisco.

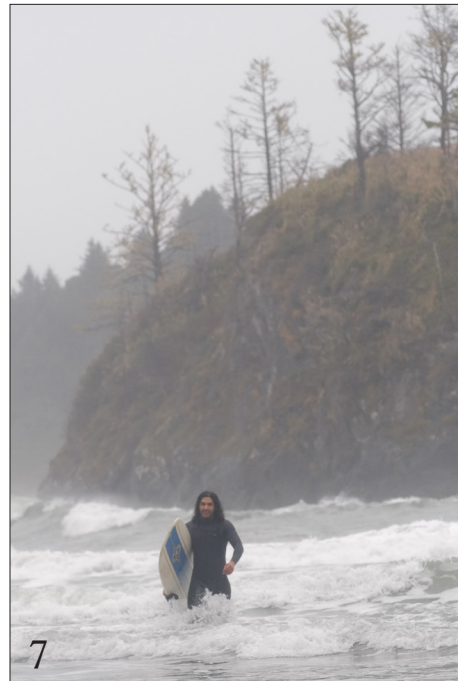
"I just got out there and got thrashed but it felt good," he said. "There was this duality of calmness and raw energy from the ocean that was calming but also humbling and motivating in a way."

Once Lamberts left the Bay Area to come to Humboldt for school, he bought a used board online and began cruising with the waves.

"I was living in Eureka at the time, and I was driving up every morning, going to surf. I didn't even check the waves or anything really. I was just going and I was getting absolutely thrashed," Lamberts said. "I just really fell in love with the ocean, and learning to respect it."

While surfing can be relaxing there's an awareness of being Black in these spaces that he keeps having every time he's in the

Peace, beauty and wisdom on the water



Photos 1-3: Alejandro Escudero Ochoa steers through the rough waves with his bodyboard at College Cove near Trinidad on Oct. 26.
Photos 4-6: Kory Lamberts surfs early in the morning and scrapes his palm while wrestling out of the water at Camel Rock on Oct. 29.
Photos 7-9: Kunal Mehta and his board battle the rough, cold waters at College Cove on Oct. 26. | Photos by Ricardo Lara Nava



water. A thought only a person of color can understand, as Lamberts said, “I can be in the most beautiful expanses of nature. I can be in the ocean. I can be in the canyon somewhere. But due to living in this system and being traumatized by the system, and having to deal with this system, it’s like those things can’t escape.”

During the summer of 2021, Lamberts was invited to join the Santa Cruz Black Surf Club for their Juneteenth paddle out. There were 50 people in attendance who paddled out into the ocean, many of them for their first time.

“We went out and held a healing space in the water, reclaimed the space to find some healing in these spaces that are really Indigenous and African people,” he says, “Colonization has displaced us, and these places hold that trauma.”

For Lamberts, surfing is just one of the few things that he does in the ocean. He has been invited to the 30th annual National Association of Black Scuba Divers conference in Saint Lusa which he hopes to make contact with Diving with a Purpose, an organization that dives for sunken slave ships in the transatlantic slave trade route, to apply his scientific diving skills there.

Kunal Mehta

Years surfing: 1

Favorite surfing spot in Humboldt: Moonstone Beach

A beginner in the waters of Humboldt County, Kunal Mehta, 27, from the East Bay, began surfing local beaches about a year ago. The outdoors became this mystery for him.

“I don’t know how people get attached to doing things like skiing or snowboarding, I was attached to the water and the beach because it looked super fun,” Mehta said.

Mehta goes to College of the Redwoods where he is working on getting his construction and drafting certification. Prior to coming to Humboldt, he went to school in Pomona in Los Angeles County.

“In LA, the music and the culture really helped my music taste but my outdoor taste grew later in life,” he said.

Mehta was part of The Seas backcountry program, where they took him into the forest for six months to build trails. That’s when he found Arcata and fell in love with the area.

He got a used surfboard from a friend of a friend and got his wetsuit in exchange for a six-pack of beer. Now, Mehta works on his surfing skills whenever he gets the chance.

“I’m still exploring the area and I don’t want to go by myself because it’s dangerous,” he said.

Despite this, Mehta describes his experience surfing saying, “You get transported to another world — it’s otherworldly — I feel spiritual and connected to the world.”

How to get started surfing:

Equipment:

HSU’s Center Activities rents surfing equipment such as boards and wetsuits to students and community members. People can rent a surfboard with a leash for \$10 a day or \$20 for the weekend. HSU students can also take advantage of the “surf package,” which includes a surfboard, wetsuit, booties and a leash for \$20 a day or \$32 for the weekend; non-students will need to pay \$26 a day and \$45 for the weekend.

Lessons:

For people who want to get an instructor to go with them in the water, Pacific Outfitters offer a surfing class that includes a surfboard, wet suit, hood and booties (\$179.99+).

Tips regarding equipment:

Benji Conrad, owner of Seven Seas Surf & Cycle in Sunnybrae, shares a few things people should keep in mind when out surfing in the waters of Humboldt county:

- Invest in a 5mm wetsuit with a hood - the waters in Humboldt county are really cold.
- Get a high volume board - they are easier to paddle and to catch waves
- Always carry surf wax - this will keep the surfer from slipping off there board
- Check the conditions of the beach you want to surf at - use websites such as magicseaweed.com to plan ahead
- Don’t be afraid to ask other surfers - strongly recommended if your new to the area because you might learn something you didn’t know
- Be aware of your surroundings - there are sharks in the waters and if you see one get out of the water or if the waves are looking rough stay out.

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Local Latina creates organic skincare products

by Danielle Hendrickson

Veronica Montez fulfilled her dreams in March of 2020 when she became the proud owner of Heart of V, an all natural beauty and skincare business in Eureka. From a young age Veronica Montez has been destined to do big things, and everyone around her knew it.

She was born and raised in West Covina into a Mexican-American family full of singers and artists. Montez, mother of two, moved to Humboldt County for her husband's job in 2014. After nearly two decades of putting her heart and soul into motherhood, she decided to dive into her other passions.

"I wanted to give myself a gift," Montez said. "As mothers we put our children first, so I felt I needed to do something for myself."

Montez always had a passion for beauty and helping people so she decided to enroll in esthetician school. After graduating and passing the state board in 2019, she decided to take her passion to the next level.

Opening a natural skincare business

After teaching herself everything about skincare online, Montez decided to start making beauty products using only organic ingredients. Just two weeks before the COVID-19 lockdown, Montez opened up her own small business, The Heart of V. She specializes in making organic products to help heal and soothe sensitive skin.

"It's a process trying to grow organically," Montez said. "It's time consuming but I can't rush the process. What's meant to be, will happen."

According to Montez, people are beginning to become more informed about the chemicals in the products they put into and on their body. Lab made chemicals are found in nearly every product imaginable and many are detrimental to our health.

"If you're eating something, if you're drinking something, if you're putting it on your skin, there should be a purpose for why it's in that product," Montez said. "When you look into the ingredients of what you're buying at most retailers, it's a lot of unnecessary ingredients. All the ingredients I use come from plants."

Montez's mother, Alicia Castorena, got to live out her dreams for years by being a floral designer and she couldn't be happier that her daughter is doing the same.

"She has that go get it attitude," Castorena said. "When she wants something, and she has wanted this for a very long time, she



Veronica Montez makes organic face oil and body butter. | Photos by Ricardo Lara Nava



goes and gets it. I believe in my daughter and I really see all the ambition she has for this. Her heart is in the right place and I think that goes a long way."

Through lots of trial and error, Montez has been able to curate the perfect concoctions for her business. By doing countless hours of research and development, she has become a skincare enthusiast.

She shares that the most rewarding part of her job is helping people feel good about themselves. Montez believes that putting yourself first and taking care of yourself is important.

"I put my heart into my skincare," Montez said, when asked about the reasoning behind her company name. "I put my heart into my products. I put my heart into doing a service. I wanted a name that would reflect all of that."

Montez has an online storefront that can be found at www.theheartofv.com. She often takes part in vending events where she is able to meet many people in the county. Currently her products are in Evolve boutique in Eureka and soon to be in many more.

Latina crea productos orgánicos para la piel

por Danielle Hendrickson traducido por Fernanda Delgado

especializa en la elaboración de productos orgánicos para ayudar a curar y calmar la piel sensible.

"Es un proceso que intenta crecer orgánicamente," dijo Montez. "Lleva mucho tiempo, pero no puedo acelerar el proceso. Lo que está destinado a suceder, sucederá."

Según Montez, la gente está comenzando a estar más informada acerca de los químicos en los productos que se colocan dentro y fuera de su cuerpo. Los químicos fabricados en laboratorio se encuentran en casi todos los productos imaginables y muchos son perjudiciales para nuestra salud.

"Si está comiendo algo, si está bebiendo algo, si se lo pone en la piel, debe haber un propósito por el que está en ese producto," dijo Montez. "Cuando analizas los ingredientes de lo que estás comprando en la mayoría de los comercios, hay muchos ingredientes innecesarios. Todos los ingredientes que utilizo provienen de plantas."

La madre de Montez, Alicia Castorena, logró cumplir sus sueños durante años siendo diseñadora floral y no podría estar más feliz de que su hija esté haciendo lo mismo.

"Ella tiene esa actitud de ir a por ello," dijo Castorena. "Cuando quiere algo, y lo ha querido durante mucho tiempo, va y lo consigue. Creo en mi hija y realmente veo toda la ambición que tiene por esto. Su corazón está en el lugar correcto y creo que eso es muy útil."

A través de muchas pruebas y errores, Montez ha podido seleccionar las mezclas perfectas para su negocio. Al realizar innumerables horas de investigación y desarrollo, se ha convertido en una entusiasta del cuidado de la piel.

Ella comparte que la parte más gratificante de su trabajo es ayudar a las personas a sentirse bien consigo mismas. Montez cree que ponerse primero y cuidarse así mismo es importante.

"Puse mi corazón en el cuidado de mi piel," dijo Montez, cuando se le preguntó sobre el razonamiento detrás del nombre de su empresa. "Pongo mi corazón en mis productos. Pongo mi corazón en hacer un servicio. Quería un nombre que reflejara todo eso."

Montez tiene una tienda en línea que se puede encontrar en www.theheartofv.com. A menudo participa en eventos de venta ambulante en los que puede conocer a muchas personas del condado. Actualmente sus productos están en la boutique Evolve en Eureka y pronto estarán en muchas más.

Latinx couple open a barbershop and nail salon

by Karina Ramos Villalobos



Top left, Jennifer Murillo works on Emma Renteria, a regular customer's nail set. The other nails are past customers. A la izquierda, Jennifer Murillo trabaja en las ungas de Emma Renteria, una cliente regular. Estas imagenes son algunos de los trabajos pasados de Murillo que ella misma diseñó dibujando con un pequeño pincel. | Top left photo by Karina Ramos Villalobos, other photos submitted by Jennifer Murillo

Latinx-couple Jennifer Murillo and Carlos Bautista opened a new barbershop and nail salon called, His and Hers Studio in Arcata in March 2021.

Murillo, 22, who is originally from Riverside, came to Humboldt county to play soccer at College of the Redwoods and pursue a degree in kinesiology. Bautista, 22, grew up in Humboldt county and went to CR to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering. Now, Murillo and Bautista are successfully pursuing careers in the beauty industry.

Downstairs of His and Hers Studio you can smell a fresh cut from Bautista's barber-shop and upstairs you can find Murillo's nail salon filled with colorful nail polish on the walls.

When the COVID-19 pandemic first began Murillo's full-time job as an office worker cut her hours and during that extra free time, she picked up an old nail kit she had since she was a sophomore in high school. Her mother gifted it to her because of Murillo's personal interest in creating art while doing a nail set.

"I have always been kinda of very artistic," said Murillo. "Since I was a kid I

always wanted to be an artist and that's what I wanted to do. But eventually, I figured out it was hard to sell art because you can have such a small amount of an audience."

Murillo is a self-taught nail technician. At a young age, she watched hours of tutorial videos about makeup and nail application to incorporate art like gemstones, rhinestones and drawings into a nail set.

Emma Renteria, a regular client of Murillo who drives all the way from Fortuna, says that the conversations while getting her nails done are fun because of Murillo's funny personality. At the end of her session, Renteria leaves feeling empowered with her new set of acrylic nails.

"Powerful. It makes you feel more beautiful," said Renteria. "You know because you have a piece of art on you."

Murillo says that she enjoys doing nails because she sees the clients' behavior before and after they get their nails done. Seeing that transformation uplifts Murillo's spirit.

"It's so crazy how in between those two hours that I'm doing their nails and they have nails at the end, they're literally talking with their hands," Murillo said. "They're



Carlos Bautista and Jennifer Murillo will be in this studio for the next five years. Carlos Bautista y Jennifer Murillo

literally sitting up straight, their voices are way louder than it was in the beginning."

Opening the studio together and maintaining separate businesses, both Murillo and Bautista have received positive support from community members, while creating a space for themselves to thrive and feel comfortable.

"Here I'm a lot more comfortable, I'm in my own space," Bautista said. "It's me and Jenn so it's a lot more comforting. I can do whatever I want in here and decorate how I like."

Bautista began cutting hair in 2019 when his brother randomly came home with a pair of clippers and asked Bautista to cut his hair. Bautista is a self-taught barber; he would practice with his friends' hair and watched many Youtube videos.

According to Bautista, one of his favorite and most popular styles to cut are skin fades. A regular client, Cristian Ramirez usually gets a skin fade and keeps coming back to Bautista because of his cool vibe and friendly personality. Ramirez gets a haircut every two weeks by Bautista and leaves the shop feeling fresh.

"It makes me feel good," Ramirez said.

"It's like the saying goes you look good, you feel good and that's pretty much what I get when I go to the shop."

You can learn more information about His and Hers Studio on their website www.hndhstudio.com. You can follow Murillo on Instagram @jennnailedit. You can follow Bautista on Instagram @barber_cloz. The studio is open from Tuesday - Saturday from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. at 1175 11th St, Arcata, CA 95521.

Nail Pricing

- Two colored acrylics full set - \$60 - \$100
- Freestyle Full Set - \$65-95
- Manicure - \$45
- Nail Fix - \$7
- Acrylic Nail Removal - \$25

Barbershop Pricing

- Skin fade or skin taper - \$30
- Freestyle Full Set - \$75
- Zero Fade - \$27
- Basic Haircut - \$25
- Buzzcut - \$20

Pareja latinx abre barbería y salón de uñas

por Karina Ramos Villalobos traducido por Desiree Osornio



Ello estarán en este estudio durante los próximos cinco años. | Photo by Karina Ramos Villalobos

La pareja latinx Jennifer Murillo y Carlos Bautista abrieron una nueva barbería y salón de uñas llamado, "His and Hers Studio" en Arcata en marzo de 2021.

Murillo, de 22 años, que es originaria de Riverside, llegó al condado de Humboldt para jugar fútbol en College of the Redwoods y obtener una licenciatura en kinesiología. Bautista, de 22 años, creció en el condado de Humboldt y se fue a CR para obtener un título en ingeniería mecánica. Ahora, Murillo y Bautista siguen con éxito en sus carreras en la industria de la belleza.

En el piso de abajo de His and Hers Studio se puede oler un corte fresco de la barbería de Bautista y en el de arriba se encuentra el salón de uñas de Murillo lleno de barniz en las paredes.

Cuando comenzó la pandemia del COVID-19, el trabajo a tiempo completo de Murillo como oficinista le recortó las horas y durante ese tiempo libre extra, recogió un viejo juego de uñas que tenía desde que estaba en segundo de la preparatoria. Algo que su madre le regaló por el interés personal de Murillo en crear arte mientras se hacía un juego de uñas.

"Siempre ha sido muy artística," dijo

Murillo. "Desde que era una niña siempre quise ser artista y eso es lo que quería hacer. Pero con el tiempo, me di cuenta de que era difícil vender arte porque puedes tener muy poco público."

Murillo es una técnica de uñas autodidacta. Desde muy joven, vió horas de videos sobre maquillaje y aplicación de uñas para incorporar arte como piedras preciosas, pedrería y dibujos en un juego de uñas.

Emma Renteria, una cliente habitual de Murillo que viene en coche desde Fortuna, dice que las conversaciones mientras le hacen las uñas son divertidas por la divertida personalidad de Murillo. Al final de su sesión, Renteria sale sintiéndose fortalecida con su nuevo juego de uñas acrílicas.

"Es poderoso. Te hace sentir más bella," dijo Renteria. "¿Lo sabes? porque llevas una obra de arte encima."

Murillo dice que disfruta haciendo uñas porque ve el comportamiento de las clientas antes y después de hacerse las uñas. Ver esa transformación eleva el espíritu de Murillo.

"Es una locura cómo entre esas dos horas que les estoy haciendo las uñas y que las tienen al final, están literalmente hablando con las manos", dijo Murillo. "Están



Carlos Bautista styles up Irvin Pasacasio (top right) during his lunch break. Other images are past clients model their haircuts. Bautista estiliza Irvin Pasacasio (parte derecha) durante su hora de almuerzo. Los otros imagenes son de los clientes anteriores de Bautista modelando sus cortes de pelo. | Photos por Karina Ramos Villalobos, photos enviados por Carlos Bautista

sentadas con la espalda recta, sus voces son mucho más fuertes que al principio."

Al abrir el estudio juntas y mantener negocios separados, tanto Murillo como Bautista han recibido el apoyo positivo de los miembros de la comunidad, a la vez que han creado un espacio para ellos mismos para prosperar y sentirse cómodos.

"Aquí estoy mucho más cómodo, estoy en mi propio espacio," dijo Bautista. "Somos Jenn y yo, así que es mucho más reconfortante. Puedo hacer lo que quiera aquí y decorar como quiera".

Bautista empezó a cortar pelo en 2019 cuando su hermano llegó a casa por casualidad con un par de maquinillas y le pidió a Bautista que le cortara el pelo. Bautista es un barbero autodidacta; practicaba con el pelo de sus amigos y veía muchos videos de YouTube.

Según Bautista, uno de sus estilos favoritos y más populares para cortar es un skin fade. Un cliente habitual, Cristian Ramírez, suele hacerse un skin fade y sigue acudiendo a Bautista por su buen rollo y su personalidad amable. Ramírez se corta el pelo cada dos semanas con Bautista y sale de la tienda sintiéndose fresco.

"Me hace sentir bien," dijo Ramírez. "Es como el dicho que dice que si te ves bien, te sientes bien y eso es más o menos lo que obtengo cuando voy a la tienda."

Puede obtener más información sobre el estudio His and Hers en su página web www.hndhstudio.com. Puede seguir a Murillo en Instagram [@jennnailedit](https://www.instagram.com/jennnailedit). Puede seguir a Bautista en Instagram [@barber_cloz](https://www.instagram.com/barber_cloz). El estudio está abierto de martes a sábado de 10 a.m. a 5 p.m. en 1175 11th St, Arcata, CA 95521.

Precios de las uñas

- Set completo de acrílicos de dos colores - \$60-\$100
- Set completo de estilo libre - \$65-95
- Manicura - \$45
- Arreglo de uñas - \$7
- Eliminación de uñas acrílicas - \$25

Precios de barbería

- Desvanecimiento de la piel o reducción de la piel - \$30
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The term 'Latinx' is at the crossroads of inclusion and diversity

by Frank Rocha

The term "Latinx" has become popular in the past five to 10 years due to social movements and pop culture. Latinx was created to be gender neutral, but also to be more inclusive to people from the Caribbean, Central and South America.

Even though the legal term describing the Latino community is still "Hispanic," more people are accepting Latinx as the proper term and deem it a crossroad of culture and diversity. However, even the term Latinx is still controversial.

"It isn't a term we should impose on everyone, everyone needs to have their own power to say, this is how I identify," said Nancy Pérez, assistant professor of Critical Race Gender Sexuality Studies at Humboldt State University. "And if Latinx is a term that brings us together for all these wonderful conversations, let it do that work."

The term Latinx is gender-neutral, derived from Chicano(s)/Chicana(s), then to Latino(s)/Latina(s). The term continues to evolve and grow to describe the Latino community, but it's not entirely inclusive.

"A lot of Indigenous communities or immigrants think the term is very violent because it's still not inclusive of their own indigenous language and history, and that's very accurate," said Pérez. "A lot of Afro-Latinx scholars are saying the term is being used in a way for anti-black."

Black Latinos who identify as Afro-Latinx are finding a community that feels more inclusive to who they are. Some believe that Latinx community does not recognize black Latinos who come from Latin America or the Caribbean.

Not only has the term Latinx offended some people, "Hispanic" isn't a term that Pérez, Rosamel Benavides-Garb, Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Social sciences at HSU, and José Juan Rodríguez Gutierrez, center liaison for El Centro Académico Cultural at HSU, believe to be acceptable or should be used on campus. During Latinx Heritage Month at HSU, the institution substituted the word Hispanic with the new term.

"In order to not leave out any countries and not be contrary to the entire definition of Latinx, that's why we use it," said Gutierrez. "That's why we say Latinx because Hispanic doesn't include everybody and that's not fair."

The role of Latinx was not made to be



Graphic by Frank Rocha

exclusive, but rather inclusive. So, if someone else decides to choose another form of Latinx, it's their choice and right to identify themselves as such.

"Hispanic is not a good term for us, let me just put it out there," said Benavides-Garb. "If you are really listening and sensitive to this population then you have two options: Latino/Latina (plurals in both cases) or Latinx."

Latinx has evolved into new terms, stemming from terms like Chicax, which refers to Mexican Americans who are either male(chicano) or female(chicana), Chicax@ (pronounced Chicax-at), the gender-binary form of Chicax and Afro-Latinx, which refers to Black Latino individuals from Latin America and the Caribbean. Latine, is the gender neutral term to Latino, the e is to help Spanish speakers say the term easier than Latinx, and for more individuals to accept the term.

"The x is an inclusive term," said Benavides-Garb. "Some older generations, people not associated with the university, people in the community are still having a hard time understanding Latinx or 'Latino-eques.'"

The term is in its own evolution, and

can branch out to new terms for people who do not find that Latinx represents them. Having Latinx, Latine, Chicax@, etc. be accepted universally would eliminate diversity in the Latino community by generalizing the whole. Like the term Hispanic, which refers to the entire Hispanic population.

"Latinx is being accepted more and more, because it takes care of precisely what this struggle is, inclusion and diversity," said Benavides-Garb. "I think it's a good solution at this moment for where we are in our societal process of dealing with issues of social justice."

Issues of social justice and inclusion was the main reason the term has evolved from Hispanic to Latinx today. Without the others who stood up against the generalization of a diverse group and society's normalization of Hispanic, the terms mentioned above would not have been possible.

"It's not only your look, but your heritage," said Benavides-Garb. "You can be a white person and be Latinx; it's a cultural paradigm."

Latinx is a widely accepted term but doesn't have the full acceptance by the Latino community. Pérez believes that Latinx

shouldn't be universally recognized and doesn't believe there should be a definitive term that recognizes the Latino community across the globe.

"I wouldn't want it to be universal," said Pérez. "The community organizing in their mobilizations and movements get to dictate depending on their lived experience, and what they are fighting for."

Social justice movements and community organizations continue to evolve and so does Latinx or any other term that comes from it. Benavides-Garb believes that Latinx, from a different perspective, is a manifestation of the social justice movement. Some members of the Latino community are using the term to meet others who are like themselves and to find a community that is gender inclusive and accepts all nationalities.

"I think Latinx is a conversation starter, it's a crossroad where we can come together as a community and learn the history of the Latino/Latinas in our community and get to know each other," said Pérez. "I think we get to universalize the Latino experience."

El término “latinx” se encuentra en la encrucijada de inclusión y diversidad

por Frank Rocha traducido por Fernanda Delgado

El término “latinx” se ha vuelto popular en los últimos cinco a diez años debido a los movimientos sociales y la cultura pop. Latinx fue creado para ser neutral en cuanto al género, pero también para ser más inclusivo para las personas del Caribe, Centroamérica y Sudamérica.

A pesar de que el término legal que describe a la comunidad latina sigue siendo “hispano,” más personas están aceptando latinx como el término apropiado y lo consideran una encrucijada de cultura y diversidad. Sin embargo, incluso el término latinx sigue siendo controvertido.

“No es un término que debamos imponer a todos, todos deben tener el poder para decir, así es como me identifico” dijo Nancy Pérez, profesora asistente de Estudios Críticos de Raza, Género y Sexualidad en la Universidad Estatal de Humboldt. “Y si latinx es un término que nos une para todas estas maravillosas conversaciones, déjalo ser.”

El término latinx es neutral en cuanto al género, y deriva de chicano(s)/chicana(s), y de latino(s)/latina(s). El término continúa evolucionando y creciendo para describir a la comunidad latina, pero no es del todo inclusivo.

“Muchas comunidades indígenas o inmigrantes piensan que el término es muy violento porque aún no incluye la lengua ni la historia indígena, y eso es muy exacto” dijo Pérez. “Muchos académicos afrolatinos están diciendo que el término se está utilizando de una manera anti-afro.”

Los afrolatinos que se identifican como afro-latinx están encontrando una comunidad que sienten que es más inclusiva con quienes son. Algunos creen que la comunidad latinx no reconoce a los afrolatinos que vienen de América Latina o el Caribe.

El término latinx no sólo ha ofendido a algunas personas, sino que “hispano” no es un término que Pérez, Rosamel Benavides-Garb, Decano Interino de la Facultad de Artes y Ciencias Sociales de HSU, y José Juan Rodríguez Gutiérrez, enlace central de El Centro Académico Cultural en HSU, cree que es aceptable o debe usarse en el campus. Durante el Mes de la Herencia Latinx en HSU, la institución sustituyó la palabra hispano por el nuevo término.

“Para no dejar fuera a ningún país y no ser contrario a toda la definición de latinx, es la razón por lo que lo usamos,” dijo Gutiérrez. “Por eso decimos latinx porque los hispanos no incluyen a todos y eso no es justo.”



Graphica por Frank Rocha

El término latinx no se hizo para ser exclusivo, sino más bien inclusivo. Entonces, si alguien más decide elegir otra forma de latinx, es su elección y tiene derecho a identificarse como tal.

“Hispano no es un buen término para nosotros, permítanme decirlo,” dijo Benavides-Garb. “Si realmente escuchas y eres sensible a esta población, entonces tienes dos opciones: latino/latina (plurales en ambos casos) o latinx.”

El concepto de latinx ha evolucionado y ha dado origen a nuevos términos, como chicanx, que se refiere a los mexicanoamericanos que son hombres (chicano) o mujeres (chicana), chican@ (pronunciado Chican-at), la forma binaria de género de chicanx y afro-latinx, que se refiere a personas latinas de ascendencia Africana de América Latina y el Caribe. Latine, es el término de género neutro para latino, la “e” es para ayudar a los hispanohablantes a decir el término más fácilmente que latinx, y para que más personas lo acepten.

“La ‘x’ es un término inclusivo,” dijo Benavides-Garb. “Algunas generaciones mayores, personas no asociadas con la universidad, personas de la comunidad todavía tienen dificultades para entender el Latinx o “Latino-equis.”

El término está en su propia evolución y puede extenderse a nuevos términos para las personas que encuentran que latinx no los representa. La aceptación universal de latinx, latinos, chicanos, etc. eliminaría la diversidad en la comunidad latina al generalizar el conjunto. Como el término hispano, que se refiere a toda la población hispana.

“Latinx está siendo aceptado cada vez más, porque se ocupa precisamente de lo que se trata esta lucha de inclusión y diversidad,” dijo Benavides-Garb. “Creo que es una buena solución en este momento para el lugar en el que nos encontramos, en proceso social de abordar los problemas de justicia social.”

Los problemas de justicia social e inclusión fueron la razón principal por la que el término ha evolucionado de hispano a latinx en la actualidad. Sin los otros que se opusieron a la generalización de un grupo diverso y la normalización de la sociedad hispana, los términos antes mencionados no hubieran sido posibles.

“No es sólo tu apariencia, sino tu herencia,” dijo Benavides-Garb. “Puedes ser una persona blanca y latina; es un paradigma cultural.”

Latinx es un término ampliamente

aceptado, pero no tiene la aceptación total de la comunidad latina. Pérez cree que Latinx no debe ser reconocido universalmente y no cree que deba haber un término definitivo que reconozca a la comunidad latina en todo el mundo.

“No quisiera que fuera universal” dijo Pérez. “La comunidad que se organiza en movilizaciones y movimientos es la que decide dependiendo de su experiencia vivida y por lo que están luchando.”

Los movimientos de justicia social y las organizaciones comunitarias continúan evolucionando y también lo hace el término latinx o cualquier otro término que derive de él. Benavides-Garb cree que latinx, desde una perspectiva diferente, es una manifestación del movimiento por la justicia social. Algunos miembros de la comunidad latina están usando el término para conocer a otros que son como ellos y para encontrar una comunidad que incluya el género y acepte todas las nacionalidades.

“Creo que latinx es un tema de conversación, es una encrucijada en la que podemos unirnos como comunidad y aprender la historia de los latinos/latinas en nuestra comunidad y conocernos unos a otros” dijo Pérez. “Creo que podemos universalizar la experiencia latina.”



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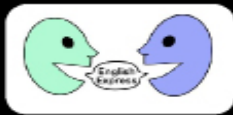
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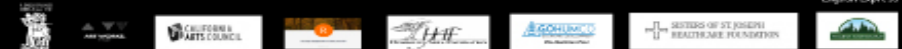
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HSU Volunteer Program for Latinx kids

Programa de HSU para niños latinx

by Leslie Arjon-Rodriguez

This semester I decided to volunteer at Puentes again. This is my second semester volunteering in this program. Puentes is one of the many volunteering programs run by Youth Educational Services at Humboldt State University.

Currently there are 10 active programs that are virtual student led, semester-long programs. Puentes facilitates the needs of the Latinx community by connecting students to resources and volunteer opportunities on and off campus. Their goal is to bridge the cultural gap that exists between Spanish and English speaking communities in Humboldt County.

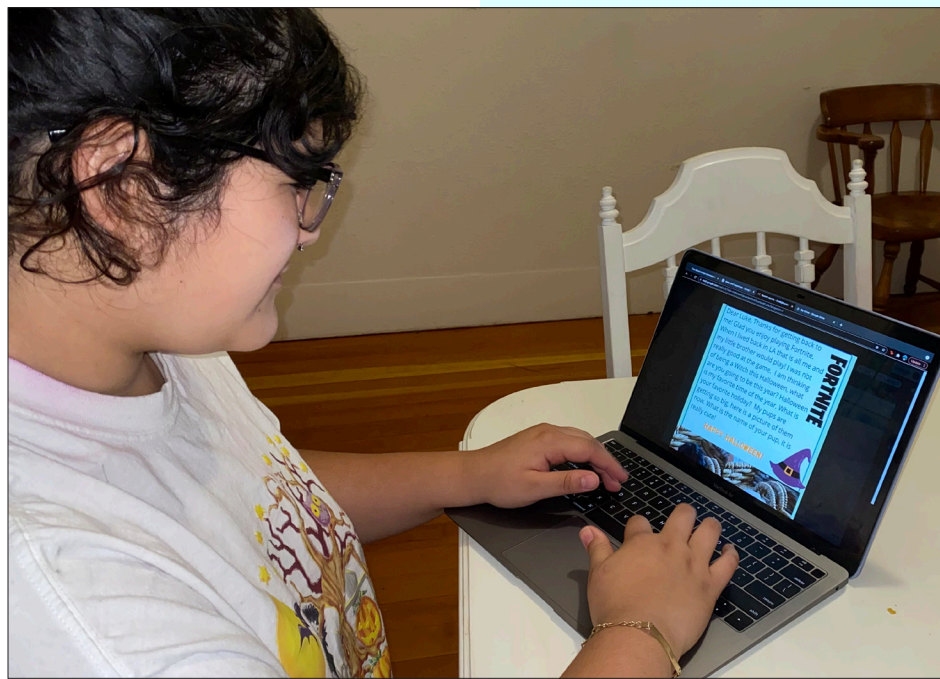
As a Latina, being involved in Puentes makes me feel that I am doing something important in the Latinx community. I know I am making a difference and being a role model for the Latinx youth I get to work with.

“I hope that my volunteers gain new ways in which they actively help their community in regards to children and the Latinx community here in Humboldt County,” Gisell Carmona, program director at Puentes, said. “As well as take what they’ve gained and use it in their everyday activities as we do, we make sure to have workshops with the volunteers every week that cover important topics such as non-violence and collaborating with the community to name a few.”

When I first found out about Puentes I thought it would be a great opportunity to build friendships in the community. Programs like Puentes are very important in Humboldt County because they help support the small the Latinx community here.

“Being a part of Puentes, I believe, is one of the ways you can get involved with the Hispanic and Latino community,” Carmona said. “Especialmente en the Humboldt community, I feel like it’s important to reach out to those minority groups within our community and bring a sense of belonging and support to students in need.”

The other volunteers and I are currently working with Morris Elementary in a pen pal project. Each of us are paired with one student in the class. I really enjoy hearing about these kids’ lives and what



Leslie Arjon-Rodriguez finishing up a letter to send to her pen pal. | Photo by Meg Maestretti

they want to be when they grow up. To me it is a great opportunity to share and motivate young Latinx students that they can also make a difference.

“The pen pal exchange is going great,” Malea Smith said, Y.E.S. coordinator. “Letters provide an opportunity for K-12 students to improve communication skills while learning about the college experience.”

I truly feel that this program is a safe space for students like me. As my first language being Spanish and as a first generation college student, my parents were not able to guide me through the process of what it feels to be in college, or what is needed to succeed in college. Through Puentes, I am able to talk about my college experiences with these students and it feels good knowing that I can be a role model for them.

Applicants do not need to be fluent in Spanish in order to volunteer with Puentes. For more information or questions about the program, people can email puentes@humboldt.edu.

por Leslie Arjon-Rodriguez traducido por Nancy Garcia

hacemos nosotros, nos aseguramos de tener talleres con los voluntarios cada semana que hablan sobre temas importantes como la no violencia y colaborando con la comunidad, para nombrar algunas.”

Cuando primero descubrí a Puentes pensé que era una gran oportunidad para hacer amistades en la comunidad. Programas como Puentes son muy importantes para el Condado de Humboldt porque ayudan a apoyar la pequeña comunidad latinx que existe aquí.

“Creo que siendo parte de Puentes es una de las maneras de que te puedes involucrar con la comunidad hispana y latina,” dijo Carmona. “Especialmente en la comunidad de Humboldt, siento que es importante extender la mano a esas minoridades dentro de nuestra comunidad y hacer que se sienten que sí pertenecen y apoyar a esos estudiantes que lo necesitan.”

Los otros voluntarios y yo actualmente estamos trabajando con Morris Elementary en un proyecto de amigos por correspondencia. Cada uno de nosotros estamos emparejados con un estudiante en la clase. Disfruto mucho aprender sobre las vidas de estos jóvenes y que quieren hacer cuando crezcan. Para mi, esta es una buena oportunidad para compartir y motivar estudiantes latinx jóvenes para que puedan hacer una diferencia.

“El programa de amigos por correspondencia es espectacular,” dijo Malea Smith, coordinadora de Y.E.S. “Las Letras proveen la oportunidad para que estudiantes K-12 mejoren sus habilidades de comunicación y a la vez aprendan sobre la experiencia en la universidad.”

Verdaderamente siento que este programa es un espacio seguro para estudiantes como yo. Mi primer idioma siendo el español y siendo un estudiante de universidad de primera generación, mis padres no pudieron guiarme durante el proceso de cómo se siente estar en la universidad, o que se necesita para triunfar en la universidad. A través de Puentes, puedo hablar sobre mi experiencia universitaria con estos estudiantes y se siente bien sabiendo que puedo ser una modelo para seguir para ellos.

Aplicantes no necesitan ser fluidos en español para ser voluntarios con Puentes. Para más información o si tiene alguna pregunta sobre el programa, pueden contactar a puentes@humboldt.edu.

Este semestre decide ser voluntaria con Puentes de nuevo. Este es mi segundo semestre siendo voluntaria en este programa. Puentes es uno de varios programas de voluntariado con Youth Educational Services en la Universidad Estatal de Humboldt.

Actualmente, hay 10 programas activos que son liderados por estudiantes. Puentes facilita las necesidades de la comunidad Latinx a conectando estudiantes a recursos y oportunidades de ser voluntarios en y fuera del campus. Su meta es cerrar la brecha cultural que existe entre la comunidad hispanohablante y la comunidad que habla inglés en el Condado de Humboldt.

Siendo una latina, estar involucrada con Puentes me hace sentir que estoy haciendo algo importante en la comunidad. Se que estoy haciendo una diferencia y que soy una modelo para seguir para los jóvenes latinx con los que tengo la oportunidad trabajar.

“Espero que mis voluntarios ganen nuevas maneras en cuales pueden ayudar activamente a su comunidad, hablando de los linos y la comunidad latinx aquí en el Condado de Humboldt,” dijo Gisell Carmona, directora de programa en Puentes. “Así como tomar lo que han ganado y usarlo en actividades de todos los días como lo

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