

This bi-weekly email newsletter is part of NHMC's Information Education Movement and aims to educate and empower the NHMC community by providing accurate information, debunking information fraud, and encouraging civic engagement.

Weekly Dose of Positivity: Congratulating Tom Llamas

Tom Llamas is the first Latino journalist to host a weeknight edition of NBC Nightly News. As a son of two Cuban immigrants, he started off his journalism career at 15 with his first internship at Telemundo. Llamas' achievement will increase Latino representation in media and serve as a positive example of the community. To learn more, click [here](#).



(Photo Credit: Loyola University)



(Photo Credit: Robert F. Bukaty / Associated Press)

Debunking Information Fraud:

Transgender Mice?

In President Trump's recent address to Congress, he made the claim that the Biden administration spent over \$8 million on 'making mice transgender.' This claim is misleading and has been debunked by the scientific community.

The studies in question were focused on examining the effects of hormone therapy on different aspects of health, including asthma, breast cancer, and the effectiveness of the HIV vaccine. The Biden administration spent \$8 million on investigating the effects of hormone therapy to ensure the safety of the American people.

It's important to clarify that the mice in these studies were *transgenic* (having artificially altered DNA) rather than "transgender," as the term was misused in the claim. Transgenic animals are often used in research to model human diseases and test medical treatments, not to "change" the sex or gender of animals. These studies were part of broader research into healthcare and were aimed at improving scientific knowledge.

These types of divisive narratives are harmful to the LGBTQ+ community, and it is imperative that the entire story is told. To learn more about this specific issue, [click here](#).

For more information on how to recognize information fraud, refer to [NHMC's Information Fraud Guide](#).

Consumer Information:

Tariffs and How They Impact You

Are you a big fan of maple syrup? How about avocados? Or cars? Well, expect all of them, and so much more, to get expensive due to the new tariffs. It is estimated by the Peterson Institute of International Economics that the average consumer is expected to spend an extra \$1,200 a year.

The tariffs on Canada are expected to make cars about \$3,000 more expensive. Houses will become less affordable because of the lumber imports. On March 11, President Trump imposed an additional tariff on aluminum and steel. In collaboration with the European Union, Canada has imposed a retaliatory tariff on about \$21 billion worth of U.S. goods. This includes a 25% surcharge on American consumers of Canadian electricity. To put this in perspective, roughly 5.6 million American homes are powered by Canada.

The tariffs on Mexico are bound to make things more expensive for the consumer. Mexico has been one of the largest contributors to U.S. fruits, like strawberries and bananas. In addition to fruits, the number one best-selling beer brand, Modelo, may see an increase in price.

To learn more about how tariffs work, click [here](#).

To learn more about how the tariffs can affect consumers, click [here](#).

Legislation Lookout:

States Supporting Non-Profits

This month, Governor Ned Lamont of Connecticut ensured safeties for the state's nonprofit and civil society organizations. Senate Bill 1453: An Act Concerning Emergency Nonprofit Assistance is designed to protect nonprofit organizations by investing an additional \$3 million during this current fiscal year.

In the chart below, you can see how funds in the Emergency Nonprofit Assistance Account will be allocated.



(Photo Credit: Connecticut's Official State Website)

Grant Type	Percentage	Amount
LGBTQ+ Services	45.3%	\$1,359,000
Reproductive Healthcare Services	26.7%	\$801,000
Refugee and Immigration Assistance	22.1%	\$663,000
Judicial Department-Grant Administration	3.8%	\$114,000
Community and Youth Empowerment Services	2.1%	\$63,000

Quote of the Week:

“Luquillo is a beach near where I'm from in Puerto Rico...White sand, palm trees, and the Coquí, this little tree frog...It sings its name. The tourists, man, they think it's noisy and annoying, but, to us Boricuas, it's a magical sound. And the Coquí, it mates for life, right? So, every sunset, thousands of these frogs start calling out to their one and only love. It's the music of the island.”

-Kamar de los Reyes

Kamar de los Reyes, a Puerto Rican, plays White Tiger in the Marvel reboot of *Daredevil: Born Again*. As a vigilante, he emphasizes the importance of doing the right thing. No one was aware that Kamar de los Reyes was battling cancer while filming. He sadly passed away in December 2024. His memory lives on in the noble, resilient character that is White Tiger. To learn more about him, click [here](#).

Useful Tips and Tools:

[NHMC Marches on the 60th Anniversary of "Bloody Sunday"](#)

[Sixty years after Bloody Sunday, civil rights leaders in Selma continue fight | Alabama | The Guardian](#)

[LULAC Press Statement on the Passing of Rep. Raul Grijalva](#)

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