

NEWS AND PROFILES CONNECTING THE LATINO AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN MINNESOTA

Latino American Today

July 2025 Issue 453

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**¡LATINO
AMERICANOS
CELEBRAN EL
DÍA DE LA
INDEPENDENCIA!**



Latino Americans Celebrate Independence Day!

Latino Americans Celebrate Independence Day 2025!



We wish all our readers, advertisers and supporters,
a happy, safe and fun 4th of July.
Enjoy the Summer! God Bless America!

Latino
American
Today

Rick Aguilar,
Founder and Publisher
Latino American Today



On The Cover

¡Latino Americanos Celebran el Día
de la Independencia!

Latino Americans Celebrate Independence Day!

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American
Today

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4 de Julio. Día de la patria.



Por Dr. Saul H. Carranza

El 4 de julio es mucho más que solamente una celebración patriótica. Es la celebración de la patria. La celebración de una nación en la que la constitución destaca que “todos los seres humanos son creados iguales y poseen derechos inalienables como la vida, la libertad y la búsqueda de la felicidad”. Cada año, en esta fecha, personas en todo el país celebramos el Día de la Independencia, conmemorando el momento en que las Trece Colonias declararon formalmente su separación del Imperio británico.

El 4 de julio de 1776 se considera el “día del nacimiento” de Estados Unidos como nación independiente. El 4 de julio no solo conmemora un evento histórico, sino que también sirve como recordatorio de los valores y aspiraciones que dieron origen a la nación estadounidense. Es un día en el que las personas reflexionan sobre la importancia de la libertad, la justicia y el ideal democrático.

La declaración de independencia de los Estados Unidos de América fue promulgada y adoptada oficialmente el 4 de Julio de 1776. Este es un documento redactado principalmente por Thomas Jefferson fue innovador para su época y es muy relevante para la nuestra. En él se promueven los derechos, libertad y autodeterminación de los

pueblos y principalmente de todos los que habitamos este país. Es mucho más que solamente un documento legal. Es la expresión colectiva de un pueblo que rechaza vivir bajo la autoridad de la monarquía o cualquier otro tipo de opresión y adopta la democracia como su forma de gobierno.

En 1863 el presidente Abraham Lincoln definiría magistralmente el sistema de gobierno emanado del acta de independencia como un gobierno “del pueblo, por el pueblo y para el pueblo”. Es decir, un gobierno en el que nadie está por encima de ley y en el que todos tienen derechos y obligaciones. El acta de independencia declara su oposición a los agravios y abusos del rey Jorge III al imponer leyes y decisiones arbitrarias. La esencia de la declaración expresa el sentimiento de un pueblo que quiere ser libre y gobernarse según sus propias convicciones y no bajo el totalitarismo.

El 4 de Julio es el momento también de celebrar la diversidad racial y cultural de los Estados Unidos. Nativos americanos e inmigrantes llegados de todo el mundo conformamos la nación más diversa de la tierra. En esta nación deseamos vivir en paz y armonía y con el acta de independencia también “sostenemos como evidentes estas verdades: que todas las personas son creadas iguales, que están dotadas por su Creador de ciertos derechos inalienables, entre los que están la vida, la libertad y la búsqueda de la felicidad” Feliz 4 de Julio. Dios bendiga a los Estados Unidos de América.

4th of July. A day to celebrate the nation.

By Dr. Saul H. Carranza

The 4th of July is much more than just a patriotic celebration. It is a celebration of the homeland. The celebration of a nation in which the constitution emphasizes that “all men are created equal and possess inalienable rights to pursue such as life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness”. Every year on this date, people across the country celebrate Independence Day, commemorating the moment when the Thirteen Colonies formally declared their secession from the British Empire.

July 4, 1776, is considered the “birthday” of the United States as an independent nation. The Fourth of July not only commemorates a historical event and also serves as a reminder of the values and aspirations that gave birth to the American nation. It is a day when people reflect on the importance of freedom, justice and democratic ideals.

The Declaration of Independence of the United States of America was officially promulgated and adopted on July 4, 1776. This is a document drafted mainly by Thomas Jefferson who was innovative for its time and is very relevant in ours. The declaration promotes the rights, freedom and self-determination of the people and mainly of all of us who inhabit this country. It is much more than just a legal document. It is the collective expression of a people that rejects living under the authority of monarchy or any other type of oppression and adopts democracy as its form of government.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln would masterfully define the system of government emanating from the Declaration of Independence as a government “of the people, by the people and for the people”. In other words, a government in which no one is above the law and in which everyone has rights and obligations. The Declaration of Independence states its opposition to the wrongs and abuses of King George III by imposing arbitrary laws and taxation. The essence of the declaration expresses the sentiment of a people who want to be free and govern themselves according to their own convictions and not under totalitarianism.

The 4th of July is also a time to celebrate the racial and cultural diversity of the United States. Native Americans and immigrants from around the world make up the most diverse nation on earth. In this nation we wish to live in peace and harmony and with the Declaration of Independence we also “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” Happy 4th of July. God bless the United States of America.

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Life, Liberty, Happiness... Happy Independence Day!



Marcia Malzahn

By Marcia Malzahn

The Declaration of Independence officially broke the ties between the thirteen American colonies and Great Britain. It set forth the ideas and principles behind a just and fair government. The Constitution outlined how this new government would function. These two documents are the most important to the foundation of the United States of America as a country.

On July 4, 1776, a group of men signed the Declaration of Independence document. Next year it will mark its 250th anniversary so I decided

to re-read these significant documents that formed our nation. As an immigrant of Nicaragua, I read both documents to prepare for the Oath Ceremony to become an American citizen. It's been many years now since I gave my oath and pledged allegiance to this amazing country. This month, I share with you the introductory and concluding words from the Declaration of Independence that we must remember:

*“We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that **all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of happiness** – That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and happiness...”*

The next paragraphs list all the injustices, injuries, and usurpations that the King of Great Britain did to the colonies of America. The King's acts justified the breaking away and dissolving all ties with Great Britain. The writers of the document concluded with these words:

*“We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World for the Rectitude of our Intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, **solemnly Publish and Declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political Connection between them and the State of Great-Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do.** – And for the support of this Declaration, **with a firm Reliance on the Protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred honor.**”*

The thirteen original colonies were: Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Massachusetts, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New York, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. Some of the most recognized men who signed are Samuel Adams, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin. But there were 56 signers in total! They represented the will of all the people of the colonies at the time

as the Congress members.

As we celebrate the immense work these founding fathers of our nation did, let's describe what it means to have the **“unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”**

Unalienable Rights

The term “unalienable” refers to rights that cannot be taken away, denied, or transferred. In the context of the Declaration of Independence, it signifies fundamental rights that are inherent to all individuals and are granted by their Creator. The term “rights” refers to the essential entitlements and freedoms guaranteed to individuals.

Life

With the terms *unalienable rights* defined above, we can then see clearly the “right to life” that each person has. And that includes from conception to natural death. One key differentiator between America and other nations has been that we protect and value life. Although, as a country, we are losing appreciation for this fundamental right of people who cannot defend themselves.

Liberty

The term “liberty” refers to the concept of freedom and the ability of individuals to act according to their own will, within the bounds of law and respect for others' rights. The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution emphasize this right to choose. It's central to the idea of self-government as a nation and to the protection of individual freedoms against oppressive governments. It is a right given to each person directly from God because He created us with the will to choose.

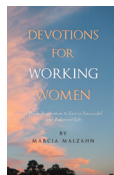
Pursuit of Happiness

The word “pursuit” refers to the act of *striving toward a goal, seeking something earnestly, or engaging in an endeavor to achieve or accomplish it*. Within the context of the Declaration of Independence, the “pursuit of happiness,” refers to the unalienable right each individual has to actively seek personal fulfillment, well-being, and joy. It embodies the freedom to aspire, to dream, and to work toward one's own version of happiness without oppression, as long as it respects the rights and freedoms of others. This pursuit is seen as an essential aspect of human liberty and individual dignity.

I encourage you to read the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. Remind yourself of the beautiful country America is and the foundational principles that make her a unique nation. Exercise your rights given by God to life, liberty, and to pursue happiness while respecting others' rights too. America is broken, and the nation is crying because its citizens are divided. People are walking around angry, and acts of violence have become normal. Therefore, I leave you with a Bible verse from Paul's words of wisdom to the church of Ephesus:

Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words and slander as well as all types of malicious behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you. (Ephesians 4:31 NLT)

Happy Independence Day!



Marcia is an inspirational keynote speaker and published author of five books: A daily devotional – *Devotions for Working Women*, *The Fire Within* – to help you find your purpose, friendship poems in *The Friendship Book*, also in Spanish *El Libro de la Amistad* (poemas de Amistad), and *Bring YOUR Shoes* to help emerging leaders with tools on how to lead. In her latest grandma baby book, *Inside Your Mama's Tummy*, Marcia inspires grandparents to form a bond with their grandchildren.

Marcia Malzahn is also president and founder of Malzahn Strategic, LLC a management consulting firm for community financial institutions. You can contact Marcia for speaking engagements through her website at [Crowning Achievements International](http://CrowningAchievementsInternational.com) or email her at mmalzahn@crowning-achievements.com.



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“Patapez,” monumental *alebrije* by Alejandro Camacho. Photo by Aaron Johnson-Ortiz for the Minnesota Latino Museum.



“Osita Emilia,” monumental *alebrije* by Miriam Salgado. Photo by Aaron Johnson-Ortiz for the Minnesota Latino Museum.



Artist Edgar Camargo with a hand-held *alebrije*.

ALEBRIJES KEEPERS OF THE ISLAND

“ALEBRIJES: Keepers of the Island,” a breath-taking outdoor public art exhibition on Raspberry Island on the Mississippi River in Saint Paul, running from June 1 to October 26, 2025. The Minnesota Latino Museum will transform the island into a fantastical dreamscape of color, fantasy, and imagination. The immersive exhibit features 16 large-scale papier-mâché sculptures – 8 “Alebrijes Monumentales,” monumental creations up to 16 feet tall; and 8 “Nahuales,” colorfully-painted fauna, up to 4 feet tall, representing Mexican spirit animals.

Open Exhibit Dates

Sunday, June 1, 2025 to
Sunday, October 26, 2025

Location for all events:
Raspberry Island, Saint Paul, MN 55107

Latino American Today – Interview With Wendy Heras

Tu nombre: Wendy Heras

A que te dedicas? Soy un Agente de Bienes y raíces en Minnesota y Wisconsin. También soy un agente de cierres Bilingue para Burnet Title.

Cuándo y Porqué comenzaste a jugar Golf? Conocí este juego de Golf en 2018, inmediatamente me enamoré del juego de Golf. Como madre soltera muy ocupada, nunca antes había tenido la oportunidad de practicar un deporte, este juego cambió mi vida de una manera muy positiva, física y mentalmente, me dio confianza y motivación para mi cuidado personal.

Cómo Aprendiste a jugar Golf? Tuve suerte de tener a alguien en mi vida en ese momento que me enseñó todo lo que necesitaba saber sobre el juego de Golf. Realmente doy ánimo a todas las mujeres y hombres latinos a que le den la oportunidad al juego de Golf, de cambiar sus vidas como lo hizo conmigo.

Tomaste Lecciones? No tomé lecciones privadas ni pagadas, aprendí bastante rápido y continué trabajando en mi juego por mi cuenta. Pero te recomiendo tomar lecciones si eres principiante.

Que te gusta del Golf? El golf es un juego mental, para mi ha sido como una terapia en muchos sentidos, también me mantiene activa físicamente. Me encanta pasar tiempo en la naturaleza, también soy muy competitiva, amo los desafíos, me encanta participar en torneos, acutalmente soy miembro de LPGA Amateurs Golf (Asociacion Profesional de Golf de Mujeres Aficionadas Mn Metro) y también me permite viajar por los Estados Unidos y lugares internacionales. He tenido la gran suerte de jugar en diferentes campos, dentro de Estados Unidos y México. Tengo un sueño de jugar en Europa y otras partes del mundo.

Te Ayuda en tu Negocio? Sí, definitivamente, esta es una manera increíble de establecer contactos y conocer nuevos amigos. Algunas de las personas más importantes de mi vida en este momento las he conocido a través de este increíble deporte.



L to R Wendy Heras,
Burnet Title,
Joannette Cintron,
Old National Bank,
Adriana Martinez,
Coldwell Banker Realty



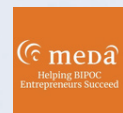
Wendy Heras

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Trade Schools offer a pathway to well-paying jobs with practical skills

Los latinos deberían trabajar más en el sector de los oficios, como la construcción, la carpintería, la fontanería, la electricidad y la calefacción, ventilación y aire acondicionado (HVAC). Ofrece una vía de acceso a empleos bien remunerados y con gran demanda, especialmente en el sector de la construcción, donde ya están muy representados, y puede ayudar a abordar la creciente escasez de mano de obra cualificada, al tiempo que ofrece oportunidades de promoción profesional y estabilidad económica.

Puntos clave:

- **Gran demanda de trabajadores cualificados**
El sector de la construcción, uno de los principales empleadores de trabajadores latinos, se enfrenta actualmente a una importante escasez de mano de obra cualificada, lo que lo convierte en un área primordial para aumentar la participación latina.
- **Oportunidades económicas:**
Los empleos en oficios suelen ofrecer salarios y beneficios competitivos, lo que supone una fuente de ingresos estable para los trabajadores latinos.
- **Diversas trayectorias profesionales:**
Los oficios abarcan una amplia gama de especialidades como carpintería, fontanería, electricidad y calefacción, ventilación y aire acondicionado, lo que permite la progresión profesional y la especialización.
- **Impacto en la comunidad:**
Una mayor presencia latina en los oficios puede beneficiar a las comunidades locales al crear una mano de obra más diversa y apoyar los proyectos de construcción locales.

Retos a superar:

- **Barreras lingüísticas:**
El idioma puede ser un obstáculo importante para los trabajadores latinos que se incorporan a los oficios, lo que requiere acceso a formación y apoyo bilingües.

The statement “More Hispanics should go to trade schools” is supported by the argument that trade schools offer a pathway to well-paying jobs with practical skills, which can be particularly beneficial for Hispanic communities due to factors like potential financial constraints, a focus on immediate career opportunities, and a high demand for skilled labor in certain trades; however, it’s important to consider individual career goals and ensure access to quality trade school programs for all demographics.

Key points supporting this argument:

- **High-demand, good-paying jobs:**
Many trade careers offer stable employment with competitive wages without requiring a four-year college degree, which can be particularly appealing to individuals facing financial barriers.
- **Hands-on learning:**
Trade schools provide practical, hands-on training that can be beneficial for learners who prefer a more active learning style.
- **Faster career entry:**
Trade school programs often have shorter durations compared to traditional college degrees, allowing individuals to enter the workforce sooner.
- **Community needs:**
Certain industries like construction, plumbing, and electrician work are in high demand in many communities and could benefit from a larger pool of skilled Hispanic workers.

Important considerations:

- **Access and awareness:**
Efforts should be made to ensure Hispanic communities have access to quality trade school programs and are informed about the potential career paths available.
- **Career counseling:**
Guidance is crucial to help individuals choose trade paths that align with their interests and local job market needs.
- **Addressing stereotypes:**
Combating negative stereotypes associated with trade work can encourage more Hispanic students to consider these pathways.



Mike Hilborn (R) with employee Juan Tillman

Mike Hilborn, Candidate for The Mayor of St. Paul!

St. Paul is moving in the wrong direction, but it's not too late to turn it around. I can no longer sit on the sidelines; it's time to do something. I am a candidate for the Mayor of St. Paul. The election will be held on November 4th, 2025.

I talk to so many St. Paul residents who are tired of the high taxes, unsafe neighborhoods, failing schools, crumbling streets and a downtown that looks so empty and tired! We can do better and that's why I need the voters in St. Paul to support my campaign. Here's a bit of my history:

My parents, Lloyd and Sally Hilborn, worked hard – dad worked on the assembly line as a UAW member at the Saint Paul Ford plant, and mom soldered circuit boards at Control Data. They instilled in me a strong work ethic and values of fairness, integrity, and perseverance – principles I now pass on to my own family.

As a child, my dad taught me the art of sales, taking me door-to-door to sell candy for the summer Athletic Club fundraiser. We worked late into the evening after he returned home from work, and I quickly learned the value of persistence. My brother Mark and I had a paper route, waking up at 5:00 AM to ensure the newspapers were delivered on time. I was also a Boy Scout, and thanks to my parents' encouragement, I earned my Eagle Scout rank by age 13. I graduated high school in 1981, and my family attended Wooddale Church. Today, I am a member of River Valley Church.

I attended Bethel University, graduating in 1985. To pay for school, I worked nights at UPS and was promoted to full-time management that same year. I raised my three sons in Saint Paul, and today they are 36, 34, and 32. My oldest has a family of his own, my middle son served four years in the U.S. Army and now lives in Rapid City, South Dakota, and my youngest, a software engineer, is married and lives in Sacramento, California.

In 1995, I launched a small business out of my garage in Saint Paul, which grew enough for me to leave UPS in 2000 and run it full-time. For the past 30 years, my company has operated in Saint Paul, growing to 45 employees who power wash in warm months and plow snow in the winter. We are a second-chance employer, hiring people who have been incarcerated or are in recovery. Our employees start at \$25 an hour and receive benefits like health and dental insurance, 401K, and paid time off. Both my business and my home are in Saint Paul.

Beyond my business, I serve on the Board of Directors for AccessAbility, Inc., helping individuals with disabilities and other challenges find meaningful jobs. I also speak at Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge, assisting those overcoming addiction, and work with Volunteers of America (VOA) to support individuals rebuilding their lives.

El espectáculo del miedo: Como caminar/liderar cuando todo parece incierto



By Gustavo Rios, City Lending Inc.

Vivimos tiempos en los que el miedo se ha convertido en protagonista, no solo en lo político o económico, sino también en las decisiones más íntimas como comprar una casa o apostar por un futuro en este país. Pero el miedo, lejos de ser un enemigo, puede transformarse en una herramienta si aprendemos a entenderlo. Este artículo invita a ver el miedo no como una barrera, sino como una oportunidad de crecimiento personal y colectivo. Es un llamado a la comunidad hispana a informarse, a no dejarse arrastrar por rumores, y a actuar con conciencia. Porque mientras muchos se paralizan, otros construyen. Y hoy más que nunca, necesitamos líderes que construyan. Comprar un hogar no debe ser una decisión basada en temor, sino en propósito y visión. El miedo no tiene la última palabra, la tiene el coraje de elegir avanzar.

The Spectacle of Fear: How to Walk and Lead When Everything Feels Uncertain

We are living in times where fear has taken center stage – not just in politics or the economy, but also in deeply personal decisions like buying a home or betting on a future in this country. Yet fear, far from being an enemy, can become a powerful tool if we learn how to understand it.

This article invites readers to see fear not as a barrier, but as an opportunity for personal and collective growth. It is a call to the Hispanic community to stay informed, to resist being swept up by rumors, and to act with clarity and purpose.

Because while many are paralyzed, others are building. And now more than ever, we need leaders who build.

Buying a home should not be a decision driven by fear, but one grounded in vision and intention. Fear doesn't get the final word – courage does.

William O'Brien State Park Day Use Area reopens with new accessibility improvements

By MN Dept. of Natural Resources Staff

Photos courtesy of Deb Rose, our staff photographer

Thanks to state Get Out MORE funds and to bonding money, the Walter F. Mondale Day Use Area at William O'Brien State Park opened with Riverway Campground and day use area improvements that will allow more accessibility to those with disabilities. Both the day use area and campground closed last year for construction.

"The improvements to the day use area are a prime example how DNR's Get Out MORE initiative is modernizing outdoor recreation experiences for Minnesotans," DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen said. "This project enhances access and helps welcome new users to public lands, which helps Minnesotans of all interests and abilities better connect with the outdoors. I'm thrilled that Get Out MORE will fund more of these kinds of projects over the next few years."

The renovations and additions to the Walter F. Mondale Day Use Area include these: two new accessible restroom buildings; a new picnic shelter near Lake Alice beach; accessibility improvements to two existing picnic shelters, including accessible routes from parking, grills and new vault toilets; safer parking lot with better beach access; larger, more accessible swimming beach with an ADA-compliant route to the water's edge; and new accessible canoe/kayak launch on Lake Alice

Improvements to the Riverway Campground include these: renovated shower building with a redesigned layout, variety of ADA-compliant fixtures and parking; six ADA-compliant campsites; resurfaced Riverside Trail; new accessible route to the park amphitheater; and resurfacing and regrading overflow parking and trail connections.

The park's office building also benefited with these additions: more accessible parking spaces; ADA-compliant outdoor service counter and windows; and automatic door openers.

"Universal Design" was used in the inception and completion of these changes. Universal design aims to create environments that are broadly accessible, understandable and usable by people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.

"We're excited to welcome the public back to this popular area of the park and offer improved amenities that all park visitors can enjoy," said Ann Pierce, director of Minnesota DNR's Parks and Trails Division.

This project was funded by state bonding funds and the Get Out MORE (Modernize Outdoor Recreation Experiences) initiative. **Get Out MORE** is a historic, one-time investment of \$150 million to help ensure Minnesotans of all abilities and interests enjoy a world-class recreation system, no matter which outdoor experience they choose.





Mercado Central es un próspero mercado de 35 negocios en la esquina de Lake Street y Avenida Bloomington en Minneapolis. con el interes para fomentar el desarrollo empresarial de los latinos en Mineápolis.

Mercado Central siempre ofrece una amplia variedad de artículos cotidianos y artesanales para comprar, platos deliciosos e ingredientes frescos para tus comidas: además como una gran variedad de servicios que puede utilizar.

HORARIO: 9 AM A 8 PM
ABIERTO DE LUNES A DOMINGO
¡7 DÍAS A LA SEMANA!



Businesses located at Mercado Central

Amigos del Mercado	El Callejon, LLC	Max Life Chiropractic, P.A.	Raices Sagradas Community Mental Health
Akasha's Place, LLC	Imperio's Beauty Salon, LLC	Metro Law Group	Restaurant El Popocatepetl
Cocina San Marcos Inc.	Interamerica Services, LLC	Musica y Novedades, LLC	Sastreria Don Jose, LLC
Candela, LLC	Isabella's Grocery, LLC	Ocatime's Relojeria	Tortilleria La Perla, LLC
Carniceria Valerie's, Inc.	Jhoaleymat International, LLC	Omniloren, LLC	The Best Tacos Del Sol, LLC
Dcard Insurance Services Company	Joyeria Ashley, LLC	Pupuseria El Rincon Salvadoreno, Inc.	Unidos MN
Del Sol Floreria, LLC	La Loma Wholesale, LLC	ProNat, LLC	Zero Degrees, Inc.
Deportes Azteca, LLC	La Reyna de los Jugos	Panaderia El Mexicano	Zapateria Aracely
Donald F. Noack Jr. Law Office	La Pinata Dulceria, LLC	Queblo Construct, LLC	
	Maria's Restaurante, Inc.		

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