

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month with El Grito

AHTZIRY ZUÑIGA

SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

The Student Activities Board (w) and Hermana y Hermano registered student organizations at Arkansas State University, in concert with the A-State Multicultural Center, came together to host the traditional El Grito event Thursday at the Reng Student Union in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month.

The first of two events being hosted by the SAB for Hispanic Heritage Month, El Grito lit up the university campus, with a cultural plate painting activity for attendees to participate in and authentic Mexican street tacos on the menu for the night.

Latino music echoed off the union walls as students decorated their pottery. Emilia Gómez López, a senior biotechnology major from Silao, Guanajuato, Mexico, said the event reminded her of her hometown. “As a Mexican, [El Grito] is,



PHOTO COURTESY OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES BOARD FACEBOOK

El Grito attendees pose for a photo after eating authentic Mexican Street Tacos. El Grito was held to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month.

you know, like part of Mexico, here in the States, in a country where I have no one. So just being able to celebrate part of my heritage brings me a lot of joy,” Gómez López said.

The planning of the El Grito event took weeks of

collaboration from several student organizations. The organizations said they aimed to create a safe and inviting space for the Hispanic community at A-State.

A’Kirah Ester, a sophomore nursing major from Conway

and SAB event director for El Grito, said one goal of the event was to show support for diversity at A-State.

“It’s a way to let the students know that their school does support their culture, that they’re not alone in a more dominant,

race school, like a predominantly white institution,” Ester said. “My goal was to be able to have a cultural event specific to their cultural issues, a way to include everybody on campus and especially that specific culture.”

The name of the event, El Grito, also represents a symbol of heritage for many Mexican students at A-State. The Mexican “grito” commemorates the country’s “cry for independence” and is a yearly ceremony held in the capital of Mexico City, dating back to the start of the Mexican War of Independence on Sept. 16, 1810.

The cry for independence echoes worldwide for many Mexicans. Amber Cisneros, a senior animal science major from Hope, Arkansas, said El Grito is a long-standing tradition in her family that she is continuing at A-State.

“Every year, we celebrate Mexico Independence Day, and in Mexico, they do El Grito.

And we, my family, always watch it on YouTube. So every year, we stay up at midnight and we watch El Grito, and we do El Grito from our house,” Cisneros said. “Then, this semester, we did El Grito in our dorms, so we all got together and watched the Mexican Independence livestream.”

Henry Perez, a sophomore marketing major from Judsonia, Arkansas, and affiliate with the Hermana y Hermano organization, said he appreciated the A-State community for supporting the event.

“Being able to host an event like this with SAB and the Multicultural Center really delights me, just knowing that people are willing to come out, that they’re willing to get to spend time with us and learn a little bit more about the Hispanic culture, and just actually put in the same effort that we’re putting in with hosting this event,” Perez said.

Engineering Expo introduces students to career opportunities

ELLA DOBSON

SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

Students practiced pitches, explored job opportunities and networked at the advanced manufacturing, technology, and engineering expo Thursday. Hosted by the career development and engagement office, the expo was held at the Cooper Alumni Center.

Demi Foucault, project engineer for Hytrol, said expos like this are important to students and employers.

“I think having a lot of vendors here to expose students to what those industries look like is of great value to students. And then on the other side for employers, it helps us bring in new, fresh talent and young ideas,” Foucault said.

Students visited booths tailored to their interests

and major. The expo hosted representatives from Frito-Lay, PepsiCo, Nucor Steel and Dassault Falcon, among others.

While the majority of attendees were engineering majors, the event was open to any interested students.

Richard Falting, a sophomore electrical engineering major from Shreveport, Louisiana, said expos are a great way to build confidence.

“Being able to practice like this is great, where it’s very low stress, it’s not a one-on-one like a big interview or anything, it’s just coming to meet people and kind of explain about yourself,” Falting said. “You learn what people want. So even if you’re not going to get the job you want immediately, it’s definitely good to help you for the future.”

This event differed from past versions, as the career

development department tweaked the expo to focus on distinct fields of study. They invited employers from specific industries to allow for more meaningful interactions.

Elizabeth White, assistant director of career development and student engagement, said they wanted to “break the model” of traditional career expos by scaling down the number of employers they invite.

White said job hunting and applying can be a daunting task, so more intimate expos like this allow for students to gain valuable experience and practice and, for some, lead to direct employment after graduation.

White said there are a few important things students can do to fully prepare.

“First, practice your elevator pitch in the mirror. Understand that you’re smiling and you’re



Photo by Ella Dobson | Special to The Herald

Students talk with job representatives at the engineering expo in the Cooper Alumni Center. The career development and engagement office plans for more expos throughout the school year.

making eye contact. Then, come prepared with either your past experience or come up with some questions about some of the employers here. And have your resume reviewed,” White said.

Students can have their resume reviewed by contacting the career development and engagement office by email or in person at the Cooper Alumni Center.

Email at careers.AState.edu

White said A-State plans to host many more expos in the future, specifically the education fair in the spring semester.

NEWS BRIEF: Students explore Hispanic culture with Latin American folklore



Photo by Ella Dobson | Special to The Herald

Jade Garibay-Dealtan, Hermana y Hermano president, poses for a photo at the Urban Legends table in the Reng Student Union.

ELLA DOBSON

SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

The Multicultural Center set up a booth in the Reng Student Union for Hispanic Heritage Month to share the stories of famous Latin American urban legends, such as La Sayona, El Silbón,

La Llorona, among others.

Jade Garibay-Dealtan, a junior finance and business major from Los Angeles, organized and led the event as Hermana y Hermano’s president.

“We chose urban legends because it is close to Halloween time. Most of them are not proven true. There are some

sightings, evidence for it, but it’s just a fun, interesting thing for people to learn more about,” Garibay-Dealtan said.

Most urban legends are designed to keep children out of trouble and prevent people from misbehaving.

CONTINUED: FOLKLORE, 4A

CAMPUS CRIME



ALLIE CARSON

NEWS EDITOR

Sept. 28 | 3:57 P.M.

Corporal Jacob Foster was informed by dispatch at approximately 12:42 p.m. that the victim called dispatch to make a report about someone breaking his door. Foster had the victim come to the police department and fill out a statement. He told Foster that on Thursday, between 10:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m., he heard a loud bang and people running away.

He did not check the door until later that day and realized it was damaged. Nothing was stolen from the residence. Facilities already came and patched up the door so it would close properly.

The victim and his roommates did not press charges.

Upon reviewing the camera footage, Foster saw four black

females exit the room across from the victim’s at 11:51 p.m. on the North Park Quads (NPQ) building 2 camera and walk up to the victim’s residence and a black female wearing a yellow hoodie kick in the door.

The suspect and other females ran back into their room. A few minutes later they came back out and looked at the damage of the door, laughing, and then went back into their room.

After reviewing more camera footage, Foster located the suspects’ vehicle, a silver four-door sedan parked in front of NPQ 3. The suspect got in the vehicle with another female at 12:06 a.m. and proceeded to drive to Red Wolf Den apartments and drive around them twice before exiting the NPQ exit gate onto Caraway and leaving campus at 12:12 a.m.

After looking at the camera footage, Foster could not get

a visible enough picture for the license plate to be legible.

Sept. 27 | 3:10 A.M.

At approximately 1:32 a.m., Patrol Officer Marcus Caskey was conducting an extra patrol in the parking lot of Pack Place when he noticed a silver Toyota parked, not running, with the door open.

A female was lying on the ground on her back, hanging out of the vehicle with the bottom of her dress up around her midsection, exposing her lower body from her abdomen down.

After stepping out of the patrol unit, Caskey made contact with the suspect. After checking on her, Caskey assisted her from the ground to a nearby curb, where she could sit while he investigated the situation. The suspect refused medical attention.

CONTINUED: CAMPUS CRIME, 4A