

ACEH will honor Pepe with showing of 'Escuela'

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Holland, MI —

The Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony will meet Saturday to view the film, "Escuela" (school), which ACEH is sponsoring to honor its late president, Gary Pepe.

The film will be shown at 5:20 p.m. at the Knickerbocker Theatre, 86 E. Eighth St. Part of the Tulipanes Latino Art and Film Festival, the showing is free and open to everyone.

"Escuela" is the story of a contemporary Mexican American migrant family and their struggles to educate their children while obtaining employment. Centered around the daughter, Lilliana, as she enters high school, the film follows the back-and-forth movement of her family between their home in Texas and the California agricultural fields, and the impact this makes on the young woman.

ACEH president Marvin Younger, who taught fifth grade in local schools, said "This is a timely and important film for teachers and families as children start back to school. As a society we have to understand, especially in these poor economic times, that the only thing more expensive than education is ignorance. Migrant families seem to understand this reality at the core of their being."

Pepe was a social worker for Allegan County Mental Health, and earlier for Child and Family Services in Holland. He had been a community mediator, a member of the Migrant Resource Council, and a worker with teens at the Ottawa Family Court. He served as ACEH president in 2003, and died in May 2005. The Gary Pepe Memorial Fund at the Holland/Zeeland Community Foundation is funding the local showing of "Escuela."