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WE CONTINUE CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE



**Celebrating Day of the Dead  
Celebrando el Día de los Muertos**

# Celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month with an Activist Agenda

## Celebrando el Mes Nacional de la Herencia Hispana con una agenda activista



As we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, I can't help but insist that we rethink the current misguided narrative that begins with leaders in our communities that coordinate and promote National Hispanic American Heritage Month events as huge fiestas focused on food booths, alcohol, music, arts and crafts, and large concerts. The message is "Celebrate by eating tacos and partying!" The media are quick to promote our fiestas in this way! Have we forgotten about the need to educate our community and other Americans about our presence in the Americas and what the geographic United States now represents? Hispanics are not just about celebrating through music, drinking, and boisterous gatherings! Yes, we love to party and have a great time, and we need to do that too. Still, we are missing a golden opportunity to engage our youth in the positive self-esteem that comes from learning about all of our history, our acts of patriotism, and our many contributions to innovations and achievements in science, medicine, technology, government, art, music, sports, and the culinary arts. We have so many positive accomplishments to be proud of and to share within our cultural communities that are relevant to our youth and the general public! We should hold our cultural committees responsible when organizing these types of celebrations that showcase our collective and historical presence in the Americas, which had begun long before the United States was a country.

Our nations and languages are significant among the many Indigenous nations that make up the first Americans (Original inhabitants of the Western Hemisphere). We must commit ourselves to educating our youth about our pre-Columbian nations that accomplished many remarkable feats in Astronomy, Construction, Medicine, City-State development, Commerce and Trade, Arts & Crafts making, Collective farming, Education, and the like. Where are the historical displays, and where is the speaker's bureau of enlightened motivational speakers at these fiestas? Where are the showcases of military leaders and decorated soldiers of Hispanic backgrounds who make up our community? What are visitors learning about us and taking home to educate their children, family, and friends?

We must showcase those positive role models from our communities so everyone can acknowledge them and learn from their successes. When and where have we paraded the hundreds of career professionals that make up our ethnic group in America? When and where have we celebrated our business and government representatives locally at these fiestas? Are we missing the boat by not highlighting our actual accomplishments at these gatherings? Are we engaging our communities in voter registration, conducting petition drives for candidates and issues, and educating them on the various voting strategies available to them? Are we encouraging our communities to run for public office at these gatherings? Are we promoting our candidates of color at these fiestas? How well are we doing in this regard? Is it just another "Taco Party and time to get drunk at your favorite beer tent and free concert? Let us evaluate our efforts! We have a lot of egomaniacs out there who thrive on personal recognition, but I believe there is a need for us to promote our many contributors to community advancement in all areas, and many in our community deserve recognition. You may agree or disagree with me, but I believe we can and should do more in this area.

*He escrito editoriales anteriormente sobre repensar la narrativa actual adoptada por un liderazgo equivocado en nuestras comunidades que promueve el Mes Nacional de la Herencia Hispana Americana como grandes fiestas centradas en puestos de comida, alcohol, música, artes y artesanías y grandes conciertos. El mensaje es: "¡Celebremos comiendo tacos y festejando!". Los medios de noticias se apresuran a promover nuestras fiestas de esta manera! ¡Hemos olvidado la necesidad de educar a nuestra propia comunidad y a otros estadounidenses sobre lo que representa*



nuestra presencia en las Américas y lo que es ahora el territorio geográfico de los Estados Unidos? ¡No se trata solo de celebrar a través de la música, la bebida y reuniones bulliciosas! Sí, nos encanta festejar y pasar un buen momento y también debemos hacerlo, pero estamos perdiendo una oportunidad de oro para involucrar a nuestras comunidades de jóvenes en el desarrollo de la autoestima positiva que surge de aprender sobre nuestra historia, nuestros actos de patriotismo, nuestras contribuciones en ciencia, medicina, industria, tecnología, gobierno, arte, música, deportes y artes culinarias. ¡Tenemos tantos logros positivos para revelar a nuestra comunidad cultural que son relevantes para nuestra juventud y el público en general! Deberíamos responsabilizarnos a nuestros comités organizadores culturales de organizar celebraciones que muestren nuestra presencia colectiva e histórica en las Américas, que comenzó mucho antes de que Estados Unidos se organizara como país.

*Nuestras naciones e idiomas son importantes entre la gran cantidad de naciones indígenas que conforman los primeros americanos; (habitantes originales del hemisferio occidental). Debemos comprometernos a educar a nuestros jóvenes sobre nuestras naciones precolombinas que lograron muchas hazañas notables en astronomía, construcción, medicina, desarrollo de ciudades-estado, comercio y intercambio, artes y manualidades, agricultura colectiva, educación y similares. ¿Dónde están las exhibiciones históricas, la colectiva de oradores motivadores e ilustrados en estas fiestas? ¿Dónde están las exposiciones de líderes militares y soldados decorados de origen hispano que componen nuestra comunidad?*

*Necesitamos mostrar modelos comunitarios positivos para que todos los reconozcan. ¿Cuándo y dónde hemos desfilado los cientos de profesionales de carrera que componen nuestro grupo étnico en Estados Unidos? ¿Cuándo y dónde hemos celebrado a nuestros representantes empresariales y gubernamentales a nivel local en estas fiestas? ¿Estamos perdiendo el tren al no resaltar nuestros logros reales en estas reuniones? ¿Estamos involucrando a nuestras comunidades en el registro de votantes, realizando campañas de petición para candidatos y temas, y educándolas sobre las diversas estrategias de votación disponibles para ellas? ¿Estamos alentando a nuestras comunidades a postularse para cargos públicos en estas reuniones? ¿Estamos promoviendo a nuestros candidatos de color en estas fiestas? ¿Qué tan bien lo estamos haciendo en este sentido? ¿Es solo otra "Fiesta de tacos" y tiempo para emborracharse visitando la carpa de cerveza favorita y un concierto gratuito? ¡Evaluemos nuestros esfuerzos! Hay muchos ególatras que prosperan con el reconocimiento personal, pero creo que es necesario que promovamos a nuestros muchos contribuyentes al avance de la comunidad en todas las áreas y muchos en nuestra comunidad merecen reconocimiento. Puede que esté de acuerdo o no conmigo, pero creo que podemos y debemos hacer más en esta área.*

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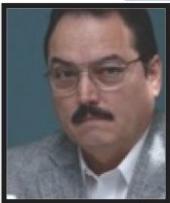
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# Quality Education for the Hispanic Community in the United States is Necessary



Por: Edgar León  
Education is the cornerstone of progress and social mobility. For the Hispanic community in the United States, it is more than an opportunity; it is an urgent necessity to ensure a bright future for our children. However, we face significant challenges in an educational system that, too often, does not fulfill its promises. It is essential that, as parents, we ensure our children receive quality education, not just attendance at centers that often act more like daycares than true academic institutions.

As a Hispanic, the son of a bus driver, and a seamstress mother with limited resources, I can attest that it is possible to succeed in the United States of America. Since there was not enough money at home, I started working as a newspaper vendor on a bicycle every day to contribute to the family budget. Even so, money had to be carefully spent on buying food and cheap clothing.

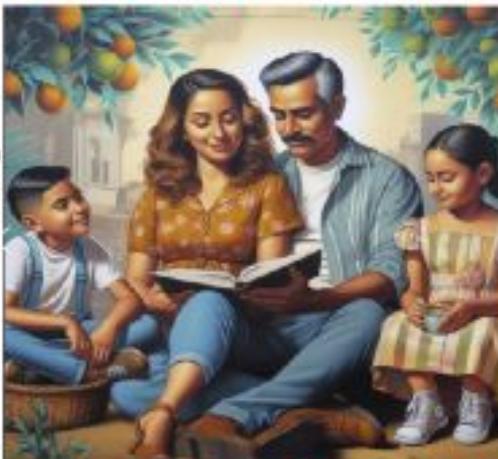
Thanks to having daily access to my mother's old and used Readers Digest at home, I was able to continue learning beyond the little bit of reading material I was given from my public school. Fortunately, in high school, I had a chemistry teacher, Mr. Vázquez, who filled out my college application because he didn't want me to work as a gas station attendant after graduation. To my surprise, I was accepted with an athletic scholarship that paid for my tuition and meals for college. After that, thanks to a professor, I completed the application to study for my master's degree at Michigan State University, for which I also received a scholarship for being a good student.

Upon graduating with a master's degree, I was able to get a job as a professor at the University of Puerto Rico, which lasted for five years before I returned to Michigan, where I obtained my doctorate. This gave me the opportunity to work in the Michigan Department of Education as a Migrant and Bilingual Education consultant. I was also able to be a teacher at a high school and a professor at Michigan State University for several years, where I had the chance to help many Hispanics with their graduate studies.

What I am trying to convey is that there are no excuses for poor Hispanic students who want to improve their lives by studying. With that being said, you will need to have a plan and be aware that racism against Hispanics still exists in the United States. There are no effective programs to help bilingual students in most schools where Hispanics are prevalent. The United States is struggling to keep teachers, and the struggle to find bilingual teachers is even worse partially because the importance of educating Hispanics is often ignored or there isn't enough funding for bilingual education. The reality is Hispanics are the fastest-growing minority in the United States, and this reality should not be ignored.

As of 2024, Hispanics are the largest minority group in the United States, making up a significant portion of the population. The Hispanic population has grown rapidly over the last few decades, increasing by about 47 million since 1980.

As of 2024, there are approximately 63 million Hispanics living in the U.S., accounting for about 19% of the total population. This makes them the



*La educación es la piedra angular del progreso y la movilidad social. Para la comunidad hispana en los Estados Unidos, es más que una oportunidad: es una necesidad imperiosa para asegurar un futuro brillante para nuestros hijos. Sin embargo, enfrentamos desafíos significativos en un sistema educativo que, en demasiadas ocasiones, no cumple con sus promesas. Es esencial que, como padres, nos aseguramos de que nuestros niños reciban una educación de calidad, no simplemente asistencia en centros que a menudo actúan más como guarderías que como verdaderas instituciones académicas.*

*La educación es un derecho fundamental, es responsabilidad de todos nosotros garantizar que nuestros hijos reciban lo mejor. No permitamos que nuestras escuelas se conviertan en simples centros de cuidado donde la administración, los maestros y el personal solo están interesados en su salario. En cambio, luchemos por un sistema donde cada niño hispano sea visto, valorado y educado de acuerdo con su potencial. Juntos, podemos construir un futuro donde la promesa de la educación en América se haga realidad para todos.*

*El futuro de nuestros hijos está en nuestras manos. Hagamos todo lo posible para garantizar que estén rodeados de educadores que creen en ellos y los guíen hacia el éxito. Porque al final del día, no solo estamos invirtiendo en su futuro, sino en el futuro de toda nuestra comunidad.*

largest minority group, surpassing other ethnic and racial minorities (Pew Research Center, ).

The reality is that many schools, especially those in areas with high populations of Hispanic migrants, have fallen into the trap of being "daycare centers" rather than educational centers. These schools, in some cases, have staff who see Hispanic students as a burden instead of teaching them to read and write to develop their full potential. This is not only an act of discrimination but a trap that perpetuates inequality and limits the opportunities for our Hispanic youth.

What is at stake is too important. We cannot allow our children to be victims of a system that does not serve them or teach them. Public schools need teachers who are not only trained but also dedicated and committed to the success of every student. It is vital that educators see in our children not only their origin but also their ability to contribute significantly to society.

## What can we do as parents?

**1. Research and Conscious Choice:** We must be proactive in choosing the schools we send our children to. Research academic performance, the diversity of the teaching staff, and the opinions of other parents in your community. Don't settle for the first option; explore all alternatives, including bilingual programs and charter schools that may offer more personalized approaches.

**2. Active Participation: Be present in your child's academic life.** Always attend parent-teacher meetings, participate in school committees, and stay in regular contact with educators. Your voice is powerful and can make a difference in how your child's needs are met.

**3. Demand Accountability:** Teachers and school staff must be accountable to the school administration and the families who trust them. If you observe discriminatory behavior or a lack of commitment to Hispanic students, do not hesitate to speak up and seek solutions. The school district receives a lot of money for that education.

**4. Community Support:** Take advantage of the power of the Hispanic community. Join local organizations that advocate for the education and well-being of migrant children. These networks can provide resources, support, and a sense of solidarity that is essential in fighting systemic inequalities.

**5. Have Books, Newspapers, and Magazines at Home:** Always keep your children reading something so they continue learning all the time. Keep quiet while your children read something. Don't rely on the little offered in school. True learning happens at home with their parents.

Education is a fundamental right, and it is our responsibility to ensure that our children receive the best. Let's not allow our schools to become mere daycare centers where the administration, teachers, and staff are only interested in their salary. Instead, let's fight for a system where every Hispanic child is seen, valued, and educated according to their potential. Together, we can build a future where the promise of education in America becomes a reality for everyone.

All Hispanics should register to vote in these elections so that Hispanics are recognized as a significant group that needs representation and educational support to progress. They should vote for candidates who directly favor Hispanics.

The future of our children is in our hands. Let's do everything possible to ensure that they are surrounded by educators who believe in them and guide them toward success. Because at the end of the day, we are not only investing in their future but in the future of our entire community.

# Community News

## Untold Latino Stories

Announcement; ( In bold letters) Untold Latino Stories; Everyone interested in the future of Latinos with a political opinion or social adjustment suggestion should participate. Mr. Jorge Martinez, published author and film maker invites all social justice warriors and conservative pundits to send their thoughts, views and opinions to Jorge's Corner; The Voice of the People. All submissions will be reviewed and examined. Some may be shared on radio programs or podcasts. No names will be used if writer wishes to remain anonymous. The most convincing arguments, position or suggestion will be included in articles of interest. There are thousands of untold Latino stories in the central valley. Ideas, stories and suggestions of all topics and genres are welcomed. We, as Latinos must demand more of leaders and of ourselves. We must remember voting for the lesser of two evils is still voting for evil. Its not hopeless and we shouldn't settle for inadequate candidates. Cadets at West Point Military Academy demand 100% of everyone, 100% of the time, and so should we. Submission should be sent to thejorgemartinez@yahoo.com



Luis Esquivel with family & Hombre & Dee.

**Black River Studios, LLC located in Holland, Michigan is a non-profited organization. They would like the community to know that there is a place that is willing to show your talent as songwriter, singing, DJ skills training, videos events, music videos, Podcast, film productions for various events. Management by Ben Herrera, Luis Esquivel, Marcos Galicia, Juan Tito Alfaro.**

(L-R) Ben Herrera Videos & owner., Marcos Galicia Counselor, Luis Esquivel Vice President, Juan Tito Alfaro DJ Music



**On Saturday, August 17, 2024, Carros - Trokas y Corridos Huapango Fest was held at 956 Godfrey Ave, Grand Rapids, MI parking lot. Silvano Cerdá, Luis Calderon & Lalo Garcia are Coordinators of this event. Maria Vlau from Berger Chevrolet Marketing was there for this Family Event which started at 1:00pm – 9:00pm. Groups of bands playing Lemanz, Los Parientes de Durango, Escolatas de la Sierra, Trakaleros de La Tigra, La Furia Del Ritmo & a Huapango Dance competition.**



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# The Unexpected Responses to Calls for Violence;



By Jorge Martinez  
Independent  
Freelance  
Journalists

Throughout history, numerous disingenuous leaders have called for violence. These calls are usually disguised as religious or political pleas for justice. A caveat is the wrong people always listen. In 1094, Pope Urban II called for Christian Knights to protect the Holy Land from invading Muslim Turks. Thousands of unqualified religious civilians appeared, serving no purpose other than clogging passage routes and thirsting for adventure. Along the way, they attacked Jewish communities seen as hostile to Christianity and murdered thousands.

The Pope's reason was ascendancy to the leader of Christianity. The following Crusades were about territory, commercial gain, and trading centers.

Similarly, Trump's disingenuous call for violence upon Xenophobic mobs prior to Jan 6th had nothing to do with protecting freedom but staying in power. Both false prophets made promises they could not keep. Trump promised post-arrest amnesty, and Pope Urban II promised forgiveness of all sins. Both the Crusaders and Trump's hordes wore red. Trump's shouts make America great again! While the Crusaders shouted Deus Vult! God wills it!

Calls for violence have always created unprecedented events that ultimately turned history's direction. Trump attacked America's election process, urging his hordes to invade the capitol and stop a sacred procedure. Pope Urban II urged a religious war, which culminated into the Holocaust of the 1930s to 40s. Both transformed unrelated strangers into invaders of hallowed ground. Across Europe, Warlords stopped fighting each other, joined forces, and sought fame, honor, and riches, sacking Eastern cities. Others moved by religious fervor formed religious orders dedicated to protecting Christians making the pilgrimage to the holy land. Eventually, The French Knights Templar became so rich and powerful French King Philip, convinced Pope Clement V to accuse them of heresy. They were hunted down, arrested, beheaded, or burnt at the stake. Trump's hordes were hunted down, arrested, and jailed. Like the Pope, Trump betrayed then abandoned the hordes who went to prison serving his purpose.

More recently, 20-year-old Thomas Mathew Crooks and 58-year-old Ryan Wesley Routh, both emotionally disturbed gun-loving registered Republicans, heard the call for violence as an opportunity to gain international acclaim by assassinating him. During the first attempt, in a pseudo moment of defiance, Trump raised his puny arm and effeminate fist, shaking it at the camera, which caused it to appear staged. His portrayal of a hero was hilarious, making it difficult to believe what happened was real. His gesture became another counterfeit patriotic performance, second only perhaps to the iconic staged second raising of the American Flag on Mount Suribachi Iwo Jima 1945.

Trump's Xenophobic calls for violence and endorsement of the Proud Boys, Boogaloo Movement, Oath Keepers, Three Percenters and other militia groups[1] alarmed minorities. Unexpectedly it was rogue cops and militia groups who first responded. Unexpectedly incidents of cops ambushed increased 103% as rogue cops applied overzealous enforcement. In Dallas Texas, 2016 Micah Johnson ambushed and killed five cops and wounded nine. Unprepared frantic cops overreacted and bombed the suspect[2], instead of isolating him and arrested him. No one offered a rebuttal, challenge or demand for an investigation. Suspecting others, arrested all unlikely black suspects. In response and unexpected millions of black and Latino purchased guns. The violence attracted social justice carnivores who recognized fear as the perfect tool to attract notoriety. Disingenuous ambitious black and Latino young men began offering self-defense and gun education and striving for political power. Asserting second amendment rights, Phillip B. Gomez addresses urban justice and hosted a podcast called The Latino Rifle Association of Berkeley California[3]. Stop and ponder. Why would an obviously privileged assimilated Mexican American male, calling himself Latino and Berkeley Law student assert gun safety, instead of pro bono legal defense? As he garners national media attention everything about Phillip who calls himself PB shrieks disingenuous. Contrary to every gun club in the country PB alleges to offer a non-toxic environment for alternative life styles and non-binary individuals. Really? Other than as a po-

litical ploy, why would a 23-year-old rich kid, whose parents pay his tuition risk public scrutiny? Does he not understand many minority gun owners acquire them illegally? Does he know between 2017 and 2021, 1,074,022 guns were stolen or about 200,000 guns a year? Does he not understand black-market sale of guns is a multimillion dollar a year business? More importantly, why is someone about to become a lawyer hawking guns on a podcast instead of starting a legal defense fund? Why does an apparently silver spoon urbanite with no apparent reason to feel threatened want a gun? A true Hijo del Pueblo, (man of the people) law student, would teach situational awareness and strategies for surviving a mass shooting. Or tactics for surviving police interrogation. More guns are not the answer as proven at the Uvalde Texas School Massacre 5-24-2022. Regrettably, Peter Arredondo, the chief of police is now facing felony charges for failing to act. Until mankind can overcome fear of death, vows of courage, oaths of allegiance and fidelity are superfluous. Regrettably, I suspect Peter Arredondo is being sacrificed to appease the parents of dead children. I lament Gov. Abbott is using Peter to divert attention from the Texas Rangers and DPS officers. I believe PB Gomez is seeking name recognition and planning to wrap Gay-Latino-urban self-defense and Gun-Rights into a rainbow driven political campaign. I lament, self-identified leaders like PB Gomez and state Senator Marie Alvarado Gil[4] of California appear to have personal gain as their purpose, not public service.



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# Hispanic Heritage Month: ELEMENTS OF PRIDE Nuestro Orgullo

**Reyna Masko** has worked for Ottawa County Friend of the Court for over 22 years. In 2013, Reyna was appointed as chair of the County's Cultural Intelligence Committee (CIC). The CIC was responsible for designing and implementing diversity and inclusion initiatives to educate employees on implicit bias, as well as to build strong ties with the community at large. In 2015 the CIC launched an Annual Diversity Forum to highlight the issues faced by underrepresented, ethnically and linguistically diverse, and LGBTQ+ communities, as well as the strategies that businesses and government agencies are executing to create a more inclusive and equitable county. In December of 2018, Reyna assisted in the establishment of the county's Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, which is responsible for identifying implicit bias in internal policies, procedures, practices, and in external service delivery.



*Reyna Masko ha trabajado para el Amigo de la Corte del Condado de Ottawa durante más de 22 años. En 2013, Reyna fue nombrada presidenta del Comité de Inteligencia Cultural (CIC) del condado. La CIC fue responsable de diseñar e implementar iniciativas de diversidad e inclusión para educar a los empleados sobre los prejuicios implícitos, así como para construir vínculos sólidos con la comunidad en general. En 2015, la CIC lanzó un Foro Anual sobre Diversidad para resaltar los problemas que enfrentan las comunidades LGBTQ+, étnica y lingüísticamente diversas y subrepresentadas, así como las estrategias que las empresas y el gobierno las agencias están ejecutando para crear un condado más inclusivo y equitativo. En diciembre de 2018, Reyna ayudó en el establecimiento de la Oficina de Diversidad, Equidad y Inclusión, que se encarga de identificar sesgo implícito en políticas, procedimientos y prácticas internas y en la prestación de servicios externos.*

**Eva Alvarez** is the proud daughter of immigrant parents from Mexico and advocates for immigrant rights. She holds her master's degree from Western Michigan University in Public Administration and is the Public Policy Coordinator for the Michigan Immigrant Rights Center. In that role she focuses on advocating for and influencing local, state, and federal policies impacting immigrants. Eva works to ensure that policies are a true reflection of our country's values by being inclusive of immigrants and their families. She has also represented clients before the Executive Office of Immigration Review and the Department of Homeland Security. In 2018, She helped launch Empowering Latina Leaders and Advocates for Success (ELLAS) - the first professional network in Southwest Michigan - with the mission to enrich and elevate Latina leaders and allies to become bridge builders and change agents in Southwest Michigan. Eva enjoys art, traveling, and spending time with her 3-year-old.



*Es la orgullosa hija de padres inmigrantes de México y defensora de los derechos de los inmigrantes. Tiene una maestría en Administración Pública de la Western Michigan University y es la Coordinadora de Políticas Públicas del Centro de Derechos de los Inmigrantes de Michigan. En ese cargo, se enfoca en defender e influir en las políticas locales, estatales y federales que impactan a los inmigrantes. Eva trabaja para garantizar que las políticas sean un fiel reflejo de los valores de nuestro país al incluir a los inmigrantes y sus familias. También ha representado a clientes ante la Oficina Ejecutiva de Revisión de Inmigración y el Departamento de Seguridad Nacional. En 2018, Ayudó a lanzar Empowering Latina Leaders and Advocates for Success (ELLAS), la primera red profesional en el suroeste de Michigan, con la misión de enriquecer y elevar a líderes y aliados latinos para que se conviertan en constructores de puentes y agentes de cambio en el suroeste de Michigan. Eva disfruta del arte, viajar y pasar tiempo con su hijo de 3 años.*



**Alberto Jimenez** Alberto Jimenez is a resident of Saginaw, Michigan. He was always drawn to the Cinco De Mayo Parade to watch the beautiful floats that each new generation created for the community. He learned about float making in Carrollton High School, where he constructed floats for the Homecoming parade. In 2010 his involvement with La Union Civica Mexicana contributed 6 artistic projects to influence the parade line up. Then Alberto moved on to the Mexican American Council to help provide the great lakes bay region youth to the Arts. In 2019 he received a grant to provide a cultural arts program for the youth. Currently Alberto Jimenez strongly supports the Arts at the Mexican American Council. In Partnership with the SVSU Marshall Fredricks Museum in 2020 the team was able to provide the youth with an art program once a month.

*Alberto Jiménez es residente de Saginaw, Michigan. Siempre se sintió atraído por el Desfile del Cinco de Mayo para ver las hermosas carrozas que cada nueva generación creaba para la comunidad. Aprendió a hacer carrozas en Carrollton High School, donde construyó carrozas para el desfile de bienvenida. En 2010, su participación con La Unión Cívica Mexicana contribuyó con 6 proyectos artísticos para influir en la programación del desfile. Luego Alberto pasó al Consejo Mexicano Americano para ayudar a proporcionar a la región de la Bahía de los Grandes Lagos jóvenes a las artes. En 2019 recibió una subvención para ofrecer un programa de artes culturales para jóvenes. Actualmente Alberto Jiménez apoya firmemente las Artes en el Consejo Mexicano Americano. En asociación con SVSU Marshall Fredricks Museo en 2020, el equipo pudo ofrecer a los jóvenes un programa de arte una vez al mes.*



**Alejandro Quiroga** MD, MBA | Corewell Health

He earned his medical degree from Universidad del Rosario – Colegio Mayor de Nuestra Señora del Rosario. He completed his residency at Nicklaus Children's Hospital in Miami, and his fellowship in pediatric nephrology at Montefiore Children's Hospital in New York. He was named president of Corewell Health West, formerly known as Spectrum Health.

*Obtuvo su título de médico en la Universidad del Rosario – Colegio Mayor de Nuestra Señora del Rosario. Completó su residencia en Nicklaus Children's Hospital en Miami y su especialización en nefrología pediátrica en Montefiore Children's Hospital en Nueva York. Fue nombrado presidente de Corewell Health West, anteriormente conocido como Spectrum Health.*

Hispanic Heritage Month:

# ELEMENTS OF PRIDE

## Nuestro Orgullo

### Juanita Bocanegra

Her father has a second-grade education, and mother went to school through the fourth grade. She was the first person in her extended family to graduate high school. Thanks to the support of both of her parents and husband, she went on to graduate from college and then earned a juris doctor degree. Bocanegra is a judge for the Fifty-Eighth District Court of Michigan in Ottawa County. She was elected to the bench in 2020, and she became Ottawa County's first bilingual judge and first Latina judge.

*Su padre tiene educación de segundo grado y su madre fue a la escuela hasta el cuarto grado. Fue la primera persona de su familia extendida en graduarse de la escuela secundaria. Gracias al apoyo de sus padres y de su esposo, se graduó de la universidad y luego obtuvo un título de doctora en derecho. Bocanegra es jueza del Tribunal del Quincuagésimo Octavo Distrito de Michigan en el condado de Ottawa. Fue elegida miembro del tribunal en 2020 y se convirtió en la primera jueza bilingüe y la primera jueza latina del condado de Ottawa.*



**LUJÁN, Ben Ray**, is an American politician who has served as the junior United States senator from New Mexico since 2021. He served as the U.S. representative for New Mexico's 3rd congressional district from 2009 to 2021 and the assistant House Democratic leader from 2019 to 2021.assistant Speaker (One Hundred Sixteenth Congress); was not a candidate for reelection to the House of Representatives but was elected as a Democrat to the United States Senate in 2020 for the term ending January 3, 2027.

*Es un político estadounidense que se ha desempeñado como senador junior de los Estados Unidos por Nuevo México desde 2021. Se desempeñó como representante de los Estados Unidos para el tercer distrito del Congreso de Nuevo México de 2009 a 2021 y asistente del líder demócrata de la Cámara de Representantes de 2019 a 2021.vicepresidente adjunto (uno Ciento XVI Congreso); No fue candidato a la reelección a la Cámara de Representantes, pero fue elegido demócrata para el Senado de los Estados Unidos en 2020 para el mandato que finaliza el 3 de enero de 2027.*

**CORTEZ MASTO, Catherine Marie**, is an American lawyer and politician serving as the senior United States senator from Nevada, a seat she has held since 2017. A member of the Democratic Party, Cortez Masto served as the 32nd attorney general of Nevada from 2007 to 2015.

*Es una abogada y política estadounidense que se desempeña como senadora principal de los Estados Unidos por Nevada, cargo que ocupa desde 2017. Miembro del Partido Demócrata, Cortez Masto se desempeñó como la 32.ª fiscal general de Nevada de 2007 a 2015.*



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# Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute Announces Fall 2024 Global Leaders



Last month, the Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute (CHLI) announced the Fall 2024 Global Leaders class. These exceptional individuals were chosen for the Global Leaders program because they have demonstrated outstanding leadership potential and a commitment to the progress of the Hispanic community.

CHLI's Global Leaders program is designed to connect college students and recent graduates with experienced leaders in public service, corporate, civic, and Congress to develop their skills and promote diversity of thought in the Hispanic community. The program focuses on developing participants' leadership, communication, and interpersonal skills through internships on Capitol Hill and with corporate partners.

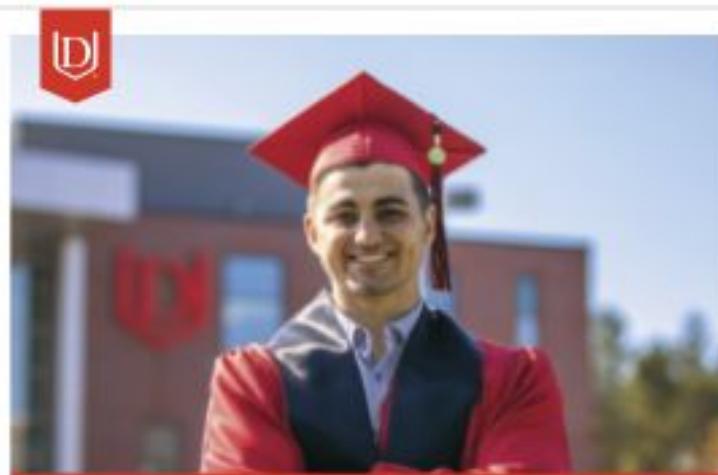
"I am impressed with the new class of Global Leaders and look forward to seeing how they will develop during their time in Washington this fall. With over 300 alumni as well as a number of corporate partners ready to assist the fall class of Global Leaders, 2024, I know that these young leaders will have an impact on their communities after completing the program," said the Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, President of CHLI.

The Fall 2024 Global Leaders are as follows:

**Samantha Carrillo**, San Francisco State University, 2024; CHLI Congressional Assignment: Congressman Juan Vargas (CA)  
**Fabiana González Becerra**, University of Puerto Rico, Bayamón, 2024; CHLI Congressional Assignment: Congressman David Valadao (CA)  
**Bianca Leon Garcia**, Dominican University, 2024; CHLI Congressional Assignment: Congressman Eric Sorenson (IL)  
**Monica Mata**, Florida International University, 2025; CHLI Congressional Assignment: Congresswoman Jasmine Crockett (TX)  
**Carleen Jiménez**, Wellesley College, 2024; CHLI Congressional Assignment: Congresswoman Jennifer González-Colón (PR)  
**Christopher Ojeda**, University of California, Berkeley, 2024; CHLI Congressional Assignment: Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (NV)  
**David Oliva**, Texas A&M University, 2023; CHLI Congressional Assignment: Congressman August Pfluger (TX)

*El mes pasado, el Instituto de Liderazgo Hispano del Congreso (CHLI) anunció la clase de Líderes Globales de Otoño de 2024. Estas personas excepcionales fueron elegidas para el programa Líderes Globales porque han demostrado un potencial de liderazgo sobresaliente y un compromiso con el progreso de la comunidad hispana.*

*El programa Líderes Globales de CHLI está diseñado para conectar a estudiantes universitarios y recién graduados con líderes experimentados en el servicio público, corporativo, cívico y del Congreso para desarrollar sus habilidades y promover la diversidad de pensamiento en la comunidad hispana. El programa se centra en desarrollar las habilidades interpersonales, de comunicación y de liderazgo de los participantes a través de pasantías en Capitol Hill y con socios corporativos.*



## Tu camino hacia un futuro bilingüe comienza con Casa Latina en Davenport

Sumérgete en el innovador programa **Casa Latina de Davenport University**, 100% en línea y diseñado para ayudarte a convertirte en un experto en tu campo elegido y ser profesionalmente competente en inglés y español. Desde flexibilidad académica hasta una comunidad de apoyo, descubre cómo podemos impulsar tu éxito en dos idiomas.

Atrévete a triunfar en dos idiomas.  
Visita [davenport.edu/casa-latina](http://davenport.edu/casa-latina)



## SECOND CONTEST YOUR IDEAS COUNT

Semillero de Ideas, a non-profit organization in Washington State, invites you to the 2024 Manzana Contest, Your Ideas Count.

In this second edition of the contest, workers will be able to participate agricultural in teams of two or more people.

Ideas that help them improve the apple harvest will be rewarded and improve the environment.

This year, both the amount and the number of prizes were increased due to the volume of farm workers who we know have ideas shocking. The team that wins the contest will receive \$3,000, second place \$2,000 and third place \$1,000.

The ideas shared with Semillero continue to belong to the team that delivered and generated.

Teams will be able to register and obtain more information on how to submit their entries. Ideas to the phone 509-619-3399 via call or WhatsApp. They will also be able to do it on the organization's Facebook, which is /SemilleroDelideas

The contest will be open until October 30th.

Last year, during the first edition of the contest, Luis was awarded Barrera, a farm worker from Mattawa, with \$1,000, for share an idea to pick more and better cherry.



SEMILLERO DE IDEAS

**Luis Nicholosi**  
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
DIRECTOR EJECUTIVO INTERINO  
luis.nicholosi@semilleroideas.org  
semilleroideas.org

+1 (509) 573-8476

[semilleroideas.org](http://semilleroideas.org)

@SemilleroDelideas





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# Grand Valley State University welcomes another class of more than 4,200 first-year students

Grand Valley State University welcomed one of the largest entering classes in its history this fall with an incoming class of 4,278 students.

While smaller than the record-breaking class of 2023, Grand Valley continued to succeed in attracting a more diverse student body, including a 21 percent increase in Black students and a nearly 8 percent increase in Hispanic students. GVSU is one of only three Michigan universities to welcome a first-year class of more than 4,200 students in the last 10 years.

Retention was strengthened, with rates for continuing undergraduate students improved for the third straight year, up 3.3 percent from 2021.

Grand Valley's growth coupled with improving retention/persistence creates a framework for long-term success, President Philomena V. Mantella wrote in a letter to the campus community. She expressed confidence in the university's work to advance its mission, serve its students, and invest in the community.

"GVSU's history of forward-thinking and con-

tinually adapting to the community's changing needs is why our university has grown from a small college in one community to a multi-campus academic and economic force in our region," Mantella said. "Challenges bring opportunity and I know that we will remain united in learning, innovating, and finding solutions as we continue our life-changing work for students."

Since 2020, GVSU's first-time-in-any-college enrollment is up 10 percent as a result of a strategy of balancing the nimbleness to meet immediate needs with the stability of creating a framework for long-term growth. Grand Valley's campuses host students from every county in the state of Michigan, all 50 states, Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico and international students from around the world.

*Despite national disruptions linked to the Federal student financial aid system, Grand Valley continues to represent one of the best values in higher education. In addition, programs like the Grand Valley Pledge and the 8th Grade Promise provide more stu-*



dents with tuition-free access to a Grand Valley degree.'

*Grand Valley State University dio la bienvenida a una de las clases entrantes más grandes de su historia este otoño con una clase entrante de 4,278 estudiantes.*

*La retención se fortaleció, y las tasas de estudiantes universitarios que continuaron mejoraron por tercer año consecutivo, un 3,3 por ciento más que en 2021.*

*El crecimiento de Grand Valley, junto con la mejora de la retención/persistencia, crea un marco para el éxito a largo plazo, escribió la presidenta Philomena V. Mantella en una carta a la comunidad universitaria. Expresó confianza en el trabajo de la universidad para avanzar en su misión, servir a sus estudiantes e invertir en la comunidad.*

An advertisement for Victoria Beer. The background is red with a repeating circular pattern. On the left, the word "Victoria" is written in a large, white, cursive script font. Below it, the text "CELEBRA" and "DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS" is displayed in a bold, white, sans-serif font. On the right, there are two bottles of Victoria beer standing upright. Each bottle features a black and white illustration of a skull wearing a sombrero and holding a bottle. The text "DIA DE LOS MUERTOS" is printed at the bottom of each bottle's label. At the very bottom left, the text "Todo con medida. Victoria™ Beer. Importada por Crown Imports, Chicago, IL" is visible.



*Each month we will feature a Latin American athlete representing our community in professional sports.*

By Odile Parker

The International Player Pathway Program (IPPP) is one of the initiatives put forth by the National Football League as part of its strategy to grow globally, providing international athletes the opportunity to play in the league. Alfredo Gutiérrez Urias is one of the players that got his start in the league as part of the program.

The offensive tackle from Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico was assigned to the San Francisco 49ers roster in 2021 as part of the program. He attended Grossmont College in El Cajon, California in early 2015, but transferred to Monterrey Institute of Technology where he played football on full scholarship after his NCAA eligibility process stalled. He was part of the team that won the National Student Organization of American Football Championship in 2019.

When the 49ers announced their final 53-man roster for the 2021, Gutiérrez was waived by the team prior to the season, but was re-signed to the practice squad due to an IPPP exception that allowed the team to have an extra practice squad member.

In 2022, Gutiérrez was one of eleven players who signed a reserve/futures contract with the 49ers. He made his NFL debut during week 2 of preseason against the Minnesota Vikings, being awarded the game ball by head coach Kyle Shanahan. He was waived later that month, but signed to the practice squad the following day.

He was signed by the 49ers as an extra squad member again in 2023. However, he was not among the players signed to reserve/future contracts in 2024, and became a free agent when his practice squad contract expired.

Although Gutiérrez remains a free agent and has not been signed by a team, he is one of the many players that receive the opportunity to play



## Alfredo Gutiérrez Urias

in the league through IPPP, as the NFL continues to look for strategies that increase the pool of talent and drive fan interest and growth globally.

*El Programa Internacional Player Pathway (IPPP) es una de las iniciativas presentadas por la Liga Nacional de Fútbol como parte de su estrategia para crecer globalmente, brindando a los atletas internacionales la oportunidad de jugar en la liga. Alfredo Gutiérrez Urias es uno de los jugadores que se inició en la liga como parte del programa.*

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### VOTE: Tuesday, November 5

By Andy Jones and Andre Stensel

This election is the most important in United States history. On the November ballot are races for all levels of government: national, state, county, and city, plus proposals.

If you're not registered to vote, now is the time! Voter Registration applications can be found in most local Latino grocery stores in Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo and Wyoming... or register online at Michigan Voter Information Center until October 21: [mi.gov/vote](http://mi.gov/vote).

Step 1: Make sure you're eligible. You must be:

- a U.S. citizen,
- a resident of the city where you plan to vote for at least 30-days (you must show proof of where you live),
- at least 18 years old,
- and not currently serving a sentence in jail or prison.

Check [mi.gov/vote](http://mi.gov/vote) to see if you are already registered.

Step 2: If you're not registered, complete the voter Registration application. Answer all the questions and SIGN THE APPLICATION. If you want to vote by mail (absentee), there is a check box to request an Absentee ballot.

Step 3: Submit your application. Take the application in person or mail it to the Clerk in the city where you live:

City Clerk  
300 Monroe NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

City Clerk  
4800 Beeson NE  
Kalamazoo, MI 49038

City Clerk  
1155-207 Street SW  
Wyoming, MI 49509

Step 4: You'll receive a voter identification card, with information about your in-person voting location.  
Check [mi.gov/vote](http://mi.gov/vote) to verify your voting location and view a sample ballot.

To register after October 21, you must go to the office of your City Clerk. Addresses can be found here:

[http://www.accesskent.com/Departments/Elections/voting\\_locations.htm](http://www.accesskent.com/Departments/Elections/voting_locations.htm)

#### How to Vote:

**At Your In-Person Voting Location:** At the polling location listed on your Voter Registration Card. The polls are open from 7 a.m. – 8 p.m. You must have your Michigan Driver's License or State Picture Identification card with you.

**Vote Early in Person – NOW!** Michigan voters can now vote in person before each statewide and federal election.

Early voting sites for all of Kent County can be found here:

[http://www.accesskent.com/Departments/Elections/voting\\_locations.htm](http://www.accesskent.com/Departments/Elections/voting_locations.htm)

**Vote by Mail:** Request an Absentee ballot before October 21. You will need to fill out an Absentee Voter application and return it to your City Clerk (addresses above). Your Absentee ballot will then be sent to you. When you receive your ballot, fill it out and return it by mail to the City Clerk ... Or personally drop it off by 8 p.m. on Election Day,

November 5. Drop box locations can be found here: [http://www.accesskent.com/Departments/Elections/voting\\_locations.htm](http://www.accesskent.com/Departments/Elections/voting_locations.htm)

YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE

THE COMMUNITY VOICE LA VOZ / OCTOBER 2024 13

# October Events / Eventos en Octubre

## Ofrendas: Celebrating el Día de Muertos 2024

September 28 – November 3, 2024

Detroit, MI

In celebration of Dia de Muertos, the Detroit Institute of Arts, in partnership with Detroit's Mexican Consulate, the Southwest Detroit Business Association and Mexicantown CDC, invite you to explore a community exhibition of ofrenda altars. In Mexico, and other Latin American countries, the Day of the Dead is the time of the year to celebrate the lives of close relatives, friends or community members who have passed away.

Objects important to lost loved ones, such as favorites foods, drinks, mementos and pictures, are collected and incorporated into elaborate displays that include pan de muerto (bread of the dead), sugar skulls, candles, flowers, papel picado (paper cutouts) and other decorations.

*Para celebrar el Día de Muertos, el Instituto de Artes de Detroit, en asociación con el Consulado Mexicano de Detroit, la Asociación Empresarial del Suroeste de Detroit y el CDC de Mexicantown, lo invitan a explorar una exhibición comunitaria de altares de ofrenda. En México y otros países latinoamericanos, el Día de Muertos es la época del año para celebrar la vida de familiares cercanos, amigos o miembros de la comunidad que han fallecido.*

*Objetos importantes para los seres queridos fallecidos, como comidas, bebidas, recuerdos e imágenes favoritas, se recopilan e incorporan en elaboradas exhibiciones que incluyen pan de muerto, calaveras de azúcar, velas, flores y papel picado. y otras decoraciones.*

## Tricks and Treats

October 6-13, 2024

Muskegon, MI

Michigan's Adventure

Everyone in the family is sure to have a boo-last with our spooky, kooky Halloween activities, live shows, a costume contest, seasonal food and drinks, and, of course, candy!

If that's not fang-tastic enough, you will also enjoy some of your favorite rides and attractions

throughout the park.

Sept. 14 - Oct 12 - 12 to 6 PM  
(Saturdays & Sundays)

Oct. 13 - 12 to 5 PM

*La aventura de Michigan / Trucos y golosinas, nuestro evento familiar diurno de otoño, regresa en 2024!*

*Seguramente todos los miembros de la familia disfrutarán de nuestras espeluznantes y excentricas actividades de Halloween, espectáculos en vivo, un concurso de disfraces, comidas y bebidas de temporada y, por supuesto, dulces!*

*Si eso no es lo suficientemente fantástico, también disfrutará de algunas de sus atracciones favoritas en todo el parque.*

## 6th Annual Día de Muertos Community Altar

October 2 - November 3, 2024  
Berrien Springs, MI

The museum's annual community ofrenda returns on October 2nd and will be on display inside the 1839 Courthouse through November 3rd. The community is invited to join us by placing photos and non-perishable, non-valuable items on the altar to remember our friends and family who have passed. And don't forget to join us from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on November 2nd for coffee, pastries, and memories for Day of the Dead! Items from the public will need to be picked up by November 27th or they will become property of the museum.

*La ofrenda comunitaria anual del museo regresa el 2 de octubre y estará en exhibición dentro del Palacio de Justicia de 1839 hasta el 3 de noviembre. Se invita a la comunidad a unirse a nosotros colocando fotografías y artículos no perecederos y no valiosos en el altar para recordar a nuestros amigos y familiares que fallecieron.*

*Y no olvides acompañarnos de 11:00 a 12:30 horas, el 2 de noviembre para café, pasteles y recuerdos del Día de Muertos! Los artículos del público deberán recogerse antes del 27 de noviembre o pasarán a ser propiedad del museo.*

## Les Miserables Misérables

October 8-13, 2024

Lansing, MI

Cameron Mackintosh presents



the acclaimed production of Boublil and Schönberg's Tony Award-winning musical phenomenon, Les Misérables. This brilliant staging has taken the world by storm and has been hailed as "a reborn dream of a production" (Daily Telegraph). Set against the backdrop of 19th century France, Les Misérables tells an enthralling story of broken dreams and unrequited love, passion, sacrifice, and redemption—a timeless testament to the survival of the human spirit. The magnificent score of Les Misérables includes the songs "I Dreamed a Dream," "On My Own," "Bring Him Home," "One Day More" and many more. Cameron Mackintosh presenta la aclamada producción del fenómeno musical ganador del premio Tony de Boublil y Schönberg.

*Los Miserables. Esta brillante puesta en escena ha conquistado al mundo y ha sido aclamada como "el sueño de una producción renacida" (Daily Telegraph). Con el telón de fondo de la Francia del siglo XIX, Los Miserables cuenta una apasionante historia de sueños rotos y amor no correspondido, pasión, sacrificio y redención, un testimonio atemporal de la supervivencia del espíritu humano. La magnífica partitura de Los Miserables incluye las canciones "I Dreamed a Dream", "On My Own", "Bring Him Home", "One Day More" y muchas más.*

## Zoo Goes Boo

October 18, 2024

Grand Rapids, MI

Your family friendly trick-or-treat destination is back! Behold the enchanting transformation as the Zoo turns into the ultimate Halloween destination. Enjoy bewitching decorations, twisted treat stations, and an endless supply of animal fun. Immerse yourself in the festivities, grab your best cape, and be captivated by magicians, fire performers, jugglers and more. You may even catch a glimpse of some villains too! A wickedly fun family tradition. Zoo Goes Boo, your place for spooky kooky fun for the whole family.

*Vuelve tu destino familiar para pedir dulces! Contempla la encantadora transformación a medida que el zoológico se convierte en el destino definitivo de Halloween. Disfrute de decoraciones fascinantes, estaciones de golosinas retorcidas y un suministro interminable de diversión animal. Sumérgete en las festividades, toma tu mejor capa y déjate cautivar por magos, artistas del fuego, malabaristas y más. ¡Quizás incluso puedes vislumbrar a algunos villanos también! Una tradición familiar tremadamente divertida. Zoo Goes Boo, tu lugar de diversión espeluznante y excentrica para toda la familia.*

## Grand Rapids Día de los Muertos Festival

October 26 - 27, 2024  
Grand Rapids, MI

*Celebrate Día de los Muertos! Enjoy a free cultural and educational event, created in collaboration with the Grand Rapids Día de Los Muertos Festival committee. Latin American altars honoring family and friends who have passed away will be on display throughout the festival. Music, Latino food, workshops, and crafts will also be available.*

October 26, 2024: 5:00-9:00 pm  
October 27, 2024: 3:00-9:00 pm

*Special thanks to the Grand Rapids Public Library Foundation for their support of this program. In-kind media supporter: WGVU Public Radio*

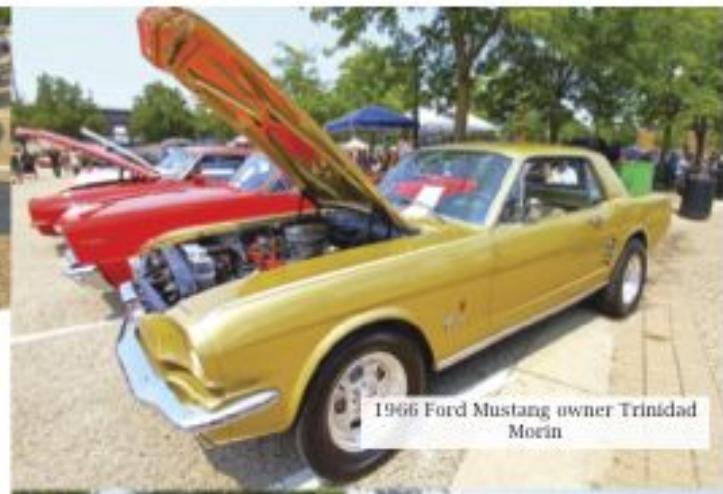
*Celebra el Día de los Muertos! Disfrute de un evento cultural y educativo gratuito, creado en colaboración con el comité del Festival del Día de Los Muertos de Grand Rapids. Durante todo el festival se exhibirán altares latinoamericanos en honor a familiares y amigos fallecidos. También habrá música, comida latina, talleres y artesanías.*



1956 Chevy 210 Sedan owner Dave Harman



1958 Chevy 2 door Blue Angel



1966 Ford Mustang owner Trinidad Morin

# LAUP CAR SHOW

The LAUP (Latino American United for Progress)

Fiesta Car Show held on Sunday, July 21, 2024, at the Holland Civic Center Place located at 150 W. 8 th Street, Holland, MI. was super exciting!

Fiesta Car Show coordinators and a crew of volunteers helped achieve a great outcome of car entries and people. With knowledge and skills out front, the committee organized this event successfully.

DJ's were sounding off good music. There were food trucks for authentic tacos and pop!

There was a good turnout of cars from Fort Wayne, IN, Chicago, IL, Saginaw, Muskegon, and Grand Rapids, MI. Lowriders, customs, muscle, hopping cars,

lowrider bikes, motorcycles, and trucks.

Awards were given at 4:00pm. Got to love it!

Somos pocos pero locos en lowriding!

Having a car event?

Contact Homero

(616)893-3906

deeho123@comcast.net

## Car Show Update October:

Slow & Low Chicago  
Lowrider Festival

Saturday, October 12, 2024

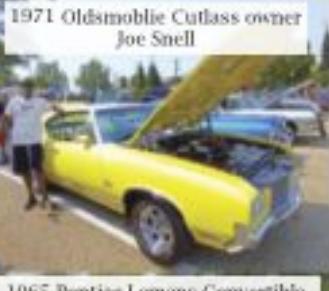
10:00am - 8:00pm

Navy Pier

600 East Grand Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60611



1956 Chevrolet 210 4 door



1965 Pontiac Lemans Convertible owner Ardee Rocha



1955 Ford F100 owner  
Mannes Body Shop



Nothing like a cool ride!



Amazing Mural! 1960's Chevy Impala owner Pablo Lopez



Toyo Rosas Jr. from Low 4 Life L. C.  
won Best of Show with 1957 Chevy  
Bel Air Malo at Fiesta Car Show



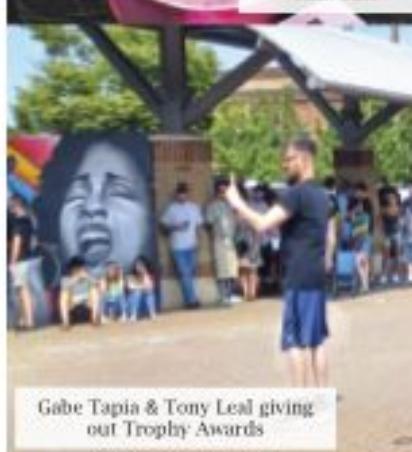
Suemos Car Club from  
Muskegon, MI



Beautiful Gold &  
Pink Bike



1989 Chevy Caprice  
owner Junior Ruiz



Gabe Tapia & Tony Leal giving  
out Trophy Awards



Ramiro Urbina (black  
shirt) with Grandson

# La Voz



Maria de los Angeles  
Becerra (born 12 February 2000) is an Argentine singer and former YouTuber. She became the first Argentine female singer to sing at the River Plate Stadium (in March 22nd and 23rd 2024), being also the first Argentine female artist singer to sold out those two consecutive stadiums. She has been dubbed as "a leading voice in Argentina's urban pop movement".

*Maria de los Angeles Becerra (nacida el 12 de febrero de 2000) es una cantante argentina y ex YouTuber. Se convirtió en la primera cantante argentina en cantar en el Estadio River Plate (los días 22 y 23 de marzo de 2024), siendo también la primera cantante artista argentina en agotar entradas en esos dos estadios consecutivos. Ha sido apodada como "una voz líder en el movimiento pop urbano de Argentina".*

## Maria Becerra

# Muskegon County Latino Festival



Photos by Homer R.



Back to our Roots 2024 - Celebrating 4th Annual Muskegon Latino Festival 2024

Hackey Park, Downtown Muskegon

Live music, DJ giving shout outs and music, Folkloric Dancers, Market Place to buy hats, jewelry, signs, paintings, food trucks with tacos, tamales, pupusas and so much more.

Back to our Roots 2024 - Celebrando el 4to Festival Anual Latino de Muskegon 2024

En el Parque Hackey, centro de Muskegon

Música en vivo, DJ dando gritos y música, Ballarines Folclóricos, Market Place para comprar sombreros, joyería, carteles, cuadros, trocas de comida con tacos, tamales, pupusas y mucho más.

## Juanes debuts as an actor at the Toronto International Film Festival, with the film "Pimpinero: Blood and Gasoline"

Last month, as part of the 49th edition of the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) and as part of the international Centrepiece programming, Colombian artist Juanes made his acting debut and attended the world premiere of the film PIMPINERO, Sangre y Gasolina , produced by Amazon Prime and directed by acclaimed Colombian filmmaker Andrés Baiz



In this feature film, Juanes , winner of multiple Grammy and Latin Grammy awards , makes his acting debut and immerses himself in a drama that mixes action, romance and ethical dilemmas. Alongside him, the stellar cast includes Laura Osma, Alberto Guerra and Alejandro Speitzer , who bring strength and depth to this story set in a desert as unforgiving as the decisions its characters face.

Pimpinero, Blood and Gasoline Produced by Dynamo for Amazon Prime Video, it will be available in theaters in Colombia starting October 10, 2024, and will premiere on Prime Video later in the year, reaching more than 240 countries and territories around the world.

Juanes ' big screen debut marks a new chapter in his prolific career, proving that his talent transcends music and reaches new horizons.

## Remember Selena! Viva Corpus Christi Texas

Never Released undiscovered Album of songs written about Selena Quintanilla-Perez and Corpus Christi, her home town. The CD includes the hidden international song contest winner, Selena Me Esta Esperando. The song was awarded first place by The West Coast Song Writers of Palo Alto California 2010. Certificate included. This is an exceptional occasion as Spanish songs are not equally respected by an all-white panel of judges. The song, like Selena transcended racial bias and swept the competition. Yet, it was rejected by multiple musical oligarchs. Jorge rare individual, film maker, author singer/song writer tells the story behind every song. Jorge explains why the CD was not released after an error was made in printing the cover. Like Jorge and Selena there are very few of these imperfect rare undiscovered CDs. This musical adventure began at Mike Torres exclusive studios with his accompaniments. Jorge sacrificed his car in trade to cover cost of recording. Jorge and Mike make magic in this musical adventure only a few will ever share. Receive the untold story via an emotional personal interview with Jorge before her day of remembrance March 31th, 1995. Visit Sea Side Memorial Park after dark and hear her crying in the sea breezes. Walk, dance and feel her spirit on Corpus Christi beach where she sang, young and full of love. Hear her lovers' pleas for her return. Feel, hear and see her spirit walking on the sands of Padre Island where she day dreamed of finding love. Be present, be there via this beautiful musical adventure written by someone who loved her. The CD is priced to sell and will go quickly. There will never be another Selena.

Send \$45.00, includes shipping and insurance to [thejorgemartinez@yahoo.com](mailto:thejorgemartinez@yahoo.com) pay pal.

## VOTE: El martes 5 de Noviembre

Por Judy Añorve and Anne Stanwick

Estas elecciones son las más importantes en la historia de Estados Unidos. En la papeleta (boleta, oficial) de noviembre están las contiendas electorales para todos los niveles de gobierno: federal, estatal, del condado y de la ciudad, además de las propuestas.

### Sí no está registrado para votar, registrarse ahora!

Las solicitudes de registro de votación se pueden enviar en casi todos los supermercados para la tierra de Grand Rapids, Kentwood y Wyoming. O registrarse en línea en el Michigan Voter Information Center (Centro de información para votantes de Michigan) hasta el 21 octubre: [mi.gov/vote](http://mi.gov/vote)

#### Instrucciones:

- Verifique que usted cumple con todos los requisitos. Deben:
  - ser ciudadano estadounidense;
  - ser habitante de la ciudad en donde planea votar durante por lo menos 30 días (debe registrar un domicilio que confirme dónde vive);
  - tener 18 años cumplidos;
  - y no estar cumpliendo una sentencia en la cárcel o prisión.
- Complete el Formulario de solicitud de registro de votantes. Responda a todas las preguntas. Recuerde PROPORCIONAR SOLICITUD. Si desea votar por correo (en ausencia), marque la casilla para pedir un Formulario de solicitud de papeleta de voto en ausencia.
- Presente su solicitud. Llene el formulario de solicitud en persona e envíelo por correo al secretario electoral (City Clerk) de la ciudad en donde vive.
- Recibirá una tarjeta de identificación de votante, con información sobre su centro de votación en persona. Visite [mi.gov/vote](http://mi.gov/vote) para verificar la ubicación de su centro de votación y ver una lista de maestros.
- Para registrarse después del 21 octubre, haga que presentarse al secretario electoral de la ciudad en donde vive.
- Cómo votar:
  - Vote en persona el 5 de noviembre en el centro de votación indicado en su tarjeta de registro electoral. La votación está entre las 7:00 a. m. a las 8:00 p. m. Debe presentarse con su licencia de conducir del estado de Michigan o una tarjeta de identificación del estado.
  - Votación anticipada en persona (MAIL-IN). Los votantes de Michigan ya pueden votar en persona antes de las elecciones (desde salvo, el 28 octubre hasta el domingo, el 3 noviembre). Para los centros de votación anticipada, visite: [https://www.accesskent.com/Depts/elections/Elections/polling\\_locations.htm](https://www.accesskent.com/Depts/elections/Elections/polling_locations.htm)
  - Vote por correo: Seleccione un Formulario de solicitud de papeleta de voto en ausencia antes de 23 de octubre. Necesitará llenar un Formulario de solicitud de papeleta de voto en ausencia y enviarlo o llevarlo al secretario electoral de su ciudad (City Clerk) a la dirección de arriba que corresponda. Se le enviará su papeleta de voto en ausencia. Al recibirla, complete la papeleta y envíela por correo al secretario electoral de su ciudad o llévela personalmente antes de las 8:00 p. m. el día de las elecciones: 5 de noviembre; 8 a. m.-4 p. m. Para las adiciones de ausencia electoral, visite: [https://www.accesskent.com/Depts/elections/Elections/polling\\_locations.htm](https://www.accesskent.com/Depts/elections/Elections/polling_locations.htm)

## SU VOTO ES SU VOZ

# ¡ESCÚCHANOS EN VIVO!

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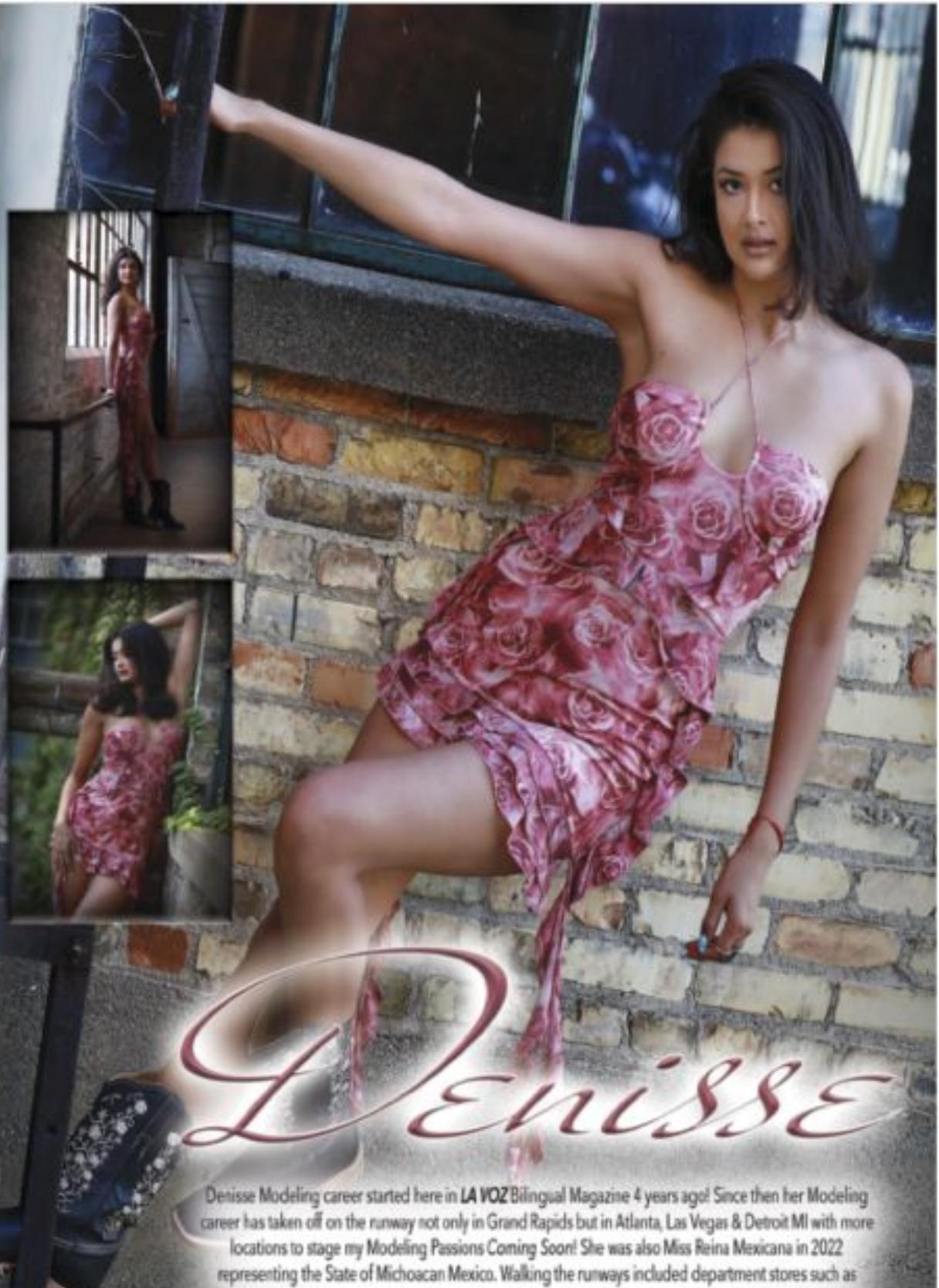


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APV STUDIOS  
616-635-0184 cell  
contact for quotes & how  
to get started  
\* multiple package deals \*



Denisse Modeling career started here in **LA VOZ** Bilingual Magazine 4 years ago! Since then her Modeling career has taken off on the runway not only in Grand Rapids but in Atlanta, Las Vegas & Detroit MI with more locations to stage my Modeling Passions Coming Soon! She was also Miss Reina Mexicana in 2022 representing the State of Michoacan Mexico. Walking the runways included department stores such as Dillard's, Grand Rapids Dress Boutique, SecondDance & R.C Caylen Atelier, as well as designers like The Trenches International, Impress by Lavish & Stoic (Fragrance Line).

Denisse will continue in her Modeling Career visiting cities like New York, Miami & Los Angeles while expanding her collaboration & networking areas with other Modeling Resources to skillfully further her experiences in the Modeling Industry!

**2024 OCTOBER MODEL SEARCH**



# How the Flu Shot Works to Protect You

## Cómo funciona la vacuna contra la gripe para protegerte

Influenza, commonly known as the flu, is a viral infection that targets the respiratory system, which is made up of your nose, throat and lungs.

Symptoms can include cough, congestion, muscle aches, fever and chills. Most people who get the flu will feel sick for a few days and then recover with no complications. However, in some people if the flu is left untreated, it can lead to long-term hospitalization and even death. Certain groups, such as children, seniors and people with a compromised immune system, are more vulnerable to getting infected and having complications than others.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends everyone 6 months and older with rare exceptions get an annual flu shot.

For optimal protection, individuals should get vaccinated in September or October, before peak flu season starts in December and February. Like the virus itself, the flu vaccine is constantly changing. Researchers

create formulas based on the previous year's strains and the strains currently circulating in other areas of the world to combat the latest variants.

The flu shot uses a small amount of inactivated virus to trigger the body's natural defenses. This exposure helps the immune system better identify and combat incoming pathogens in the future. It takes about two weeks for the body to create antibodies after the flu shot. Since the flu shot is an inactivated form of the flu virus, it cannot spread the infection.

In some instances, people experience side effects like low-grade fever, headache or muscle aches after taking the shot. Others may develop redness, soreness or swelling at the site of injection. These issues are usually resolved in one or two days.

For the 2024-2025 season, all flu vaccines will be trivalent, meaning they protect against three viral strains. Standard versions are grown and synthesized from chicken eggs. The CDC now recommends the same vaccine for people with egg allergies, but everyone should get the vaccine in a safe environment where immediate medical care is available.

Generally, flu vaccines can be administered to individuals six months and older.

Although the success rate varies from year to year, the flu vaccine has been shown to reduce the chance of infection by 40% to 60%. For vaccinated people who get the virus, they experience much milder symptoms and have fewer influenza-related complications.

Public health officials recommend getting both the flu and COVID-19 vaccines, and it's safe to get them together.

*La influenza, comúnmente conocida como gripe, es una infección viral que ataca el sistema respiratorio, que está formado por la nariz, la garganta y los pulmones.*

*Los síntomas pueden incluir tos, congestión, dolores musculares, fiebre y escalofríos. La mayoría de las personas que contraen gripe se sentirán enfermas durante unos días y luego se recuperarán sin complicaciones. Sin embargo, en algunas personas, si la gripe no se trata, puede provocar hospitalización prolongada e incluso la muerte. Ciertos grupos, como los niños, las personas mayores y las personas con un sistema inmunológico comprometido, son más vulnerables a infectarse y tener complicaciones que otros.*

*Los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades (CDC) recomiendan que todas las personas mayores de 6 meses, con raras excepciones, se vacunen contra la gripe anualmente.*

*Para una protección óptima, las personas deben vacunarse en septiembre u octubre, antes de que comience la temporada alta de gripe en diciembre y febrero. Al igual que el virus mismo, la vacuna contra la gripe cambia constantemente. Los investigadores crean fórmulas basadas en las cepas del año anterior y las que circulan actualmente en otras zonas del mundo para combatir las últimas variantes.*

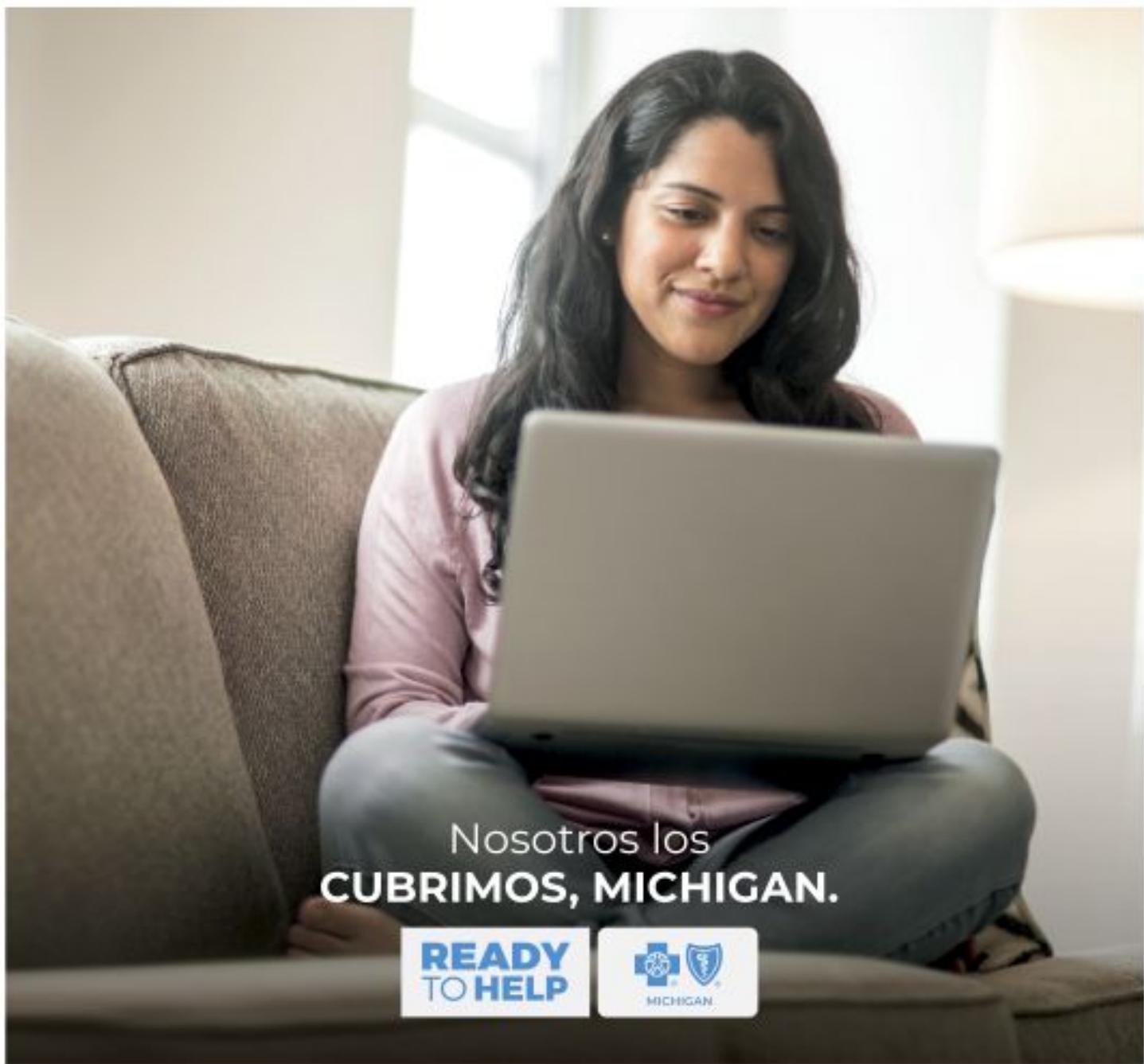


## ¿Listo para la escuela? No olvides tu mochila, lápices, ¡y vacunas!

Haz una cita con tu médico general o en un centro del departamento de salud.

El futuro es *nuestro*.  
[vaccinatwestmi.com](http://vaccinatwestmi.com)





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TO HELP**



Gracias al apoyo que brindamos a las clínicas gratuitas y con bajo costo, y a recursos como nuestra aplicación fácil de usar y nuestra línea de atención de enfermería las 24 horas del día, en Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan y Blue Care Network estamos preparados para apoyar la salud de todos los residentes de Michigan. Ya sea que necesite servicios de salud física o mental, estamos siempre a disposición para ayudar, cuando sea y donde sea que nos necesite.

Obtenga más información en  
**[MIBlueDaily.com/ReadyToHelp](http://MIBlueDaily.com/ReadyToHelp)**



N.º1 en satisfacción de los miembros entre los planes de salud comerciales de Michigan

For J.D. Power 2024 award information, visit [jdpower.com/awards](https://jdpower.com/awards).  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network are nonprofit corporations and independent licensees of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association.

# IRENE RANDAZZO

## Miss October LaVoz

As we enter the fall in Michigan keep an eye out for a NEW ERA of Modeling from our very own Great Lakes rising star Miss Irene Randazzo was selected as Miss. October from almost 300 nominations. She is taking every aspect of her modeling stock to an all time high so as we enter the classy and sassy holiday season know she will be on top. She recently took The NY Fashion week by storm and the best is yet to come from this Italian Goddess. Photos courtesy of Shaun Blain, lynn Henley & Lulu Elise (bathing suit).



The Community Voice FREE-GRADE  
**LAVOZ**  
2024 SELECTED FEATURE MODEL FOR OCTOBER

The cover of the magazine 'La Voz' for October 2024. It features a woman in a pink top and black pants holding a small dog. The title 'LAVOZ' is at the top in large red letters. Below it says '2024 SELECTED FEATURE MODEL FOR OCTOBER'. At the bottom, it says 'IRENE RANDAZZO' next to three jack-o'-lantern faces.

Michael Farage 'Cool Mike'  
For details contact Mike at:  
CCougari@aol.com, with all your  
concerns, comments & questions.  
(Con tus inquietudes, comentarios y  
preguntas comuníquese con Mike!  
CCougari@aol.com

# CLASSIFIEDS

Gordon Food Service, Inc. seeks **Application Functional Analyst** to define business scenarios, define requirements including developing function object test approach, & configuring software including design, enterprise structure, configuration of system, develop & conduct prototype. Reports to HQ in Wyoming, Michigan, but may telecommute from anywhere in the United States. Email resume to Rachel Connelly at [Rachel.Connelly@gfs.com](mailto:Rachel.Connelly@gfs.com). Reference job #0768582/Application Functional Analyst in subject line.

## ENGINEERING AIDE OFFICE TECHNICIAN-

Genesee County Road Commission (GCRC), Flint, Michigan, seeks a Permits Supervisor to facilitate all Permits Department activities. By delegation from the Director of Engineering, this individual will implement a program for the review, ap-

proval, issuance, and inspection of all roadway permit work within the GCRC right-of-way, supervise employees performing work related to such permits, and assign work to be performed by such directly-reporting employees. This individual will provide professional technical engineering support and serve as the Permits Department Supervisor. The job involves confidentiality, credibility, sound judgment, and accuracy.

Candidates must have knowledge, ability, and skill in the principles and practices of excellent customer service, as practiced in both the private and public sectors. This position is under the direction of the Director of Engineering. This position requires a Bachelor's degree in civil engineering and three (3) years of experience with emphasis in plan review, construction inspection, and

construction methods; or an Associate degree in civil engineering (or equivalent) and eight (8) years of experience with emphasis in plan review, construction inspection, and construction methods. Knowledge of computer software emphasizing Microsoft Office applications and OxCart Permit Systems is desirable. Must possess a High School Diploma / GED and a valid Michigan Driver's License. The salary range is \$72,987 - \$76,525, with a comprehensive benefits package including, but not limited to, medical/dental/vision insurance, life insurance, paid holidays and vacation, pension, and deferred compensation. Please email resumes to [sbreed@gcrc.org](mailto:sbreed@gcrc.org) or mail them to Sonia Breed, at the Genesee County Road Commission, 211 W. Oakley Street, Flint, Michigan 48503. GCRC will accept resumes

## Aspiring Journalist

The Community Voice / La Voz is searching for aspiring journalists to create content online and in our print magazine. Perfect for journalism students who are looking to build their portfolio or freelance writers wanting to contribute to reaching our communities.

*La Voz de Comunidad La Voz busca a periodistas de aspiración para crear el contenido en línea y en nuestra revista de letra. Perfecto para estudiantes de periodismo que miran para construir su carpeta o escritores freelances que quieren contribuir al alcance de nuestras comunidades.*

Email resume/CV to [primaveratl@gmail.com](mailto:primaveratl@gmail.com)

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### Horario de Reuniones

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7:00pm - 9:00pm

Sabado / Domingo  
7:00pm - 9:00pm



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Music is universal! Robert LaDew R.I.P. brother!  
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