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December 2024 • Vol 26 • Michigan's Largest Bilingual Magazine • www.lavozweb.com



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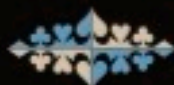


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Who's Mandate Will Rule America after Election 2024?



By Dr. José A. Flores

The votes continue to roll in, as counts are not completed to date, and re-counts continue. With an estimated 244 million registered in America it hasn't been summarized yet as to how many Americans actually cast their ballots in this pivotal election. We know that by comparison to previous elections it was barely over the majority of votes cast that directed a shift in political party's agendas. But was it a mandate? News media traditionally build a "frenzied hype" about what direction the country is headed by the voter turnout. Approximately 62% of votes cast for the presidency and split fairly evenly between Donald Trump: 76,828,951 or 50% and Kamala Harris: 74,312,576 or 48.4% while the official count has not been concluded. So where is the mandate?

- The claim of a "Majority of Americans want a Trump Agenda" is a far claim from reality as it doesn't take into account the will of the number of disillusioned voters that sat out the election for a myriad of reasons. Voter turnout of the popular vote was again disproportionately overshadowed by an unfair system of the Electoral College process which fails to require Electors of each state to follow the will of its voters.

- **As of the latest information, 33 states and the District of Columbia have laws that require electors to vote based on the popular vote. These states bind their electors to vote for the candidate who won the most votes in their state. The remaining states do not have such laws, allowing electors to vote freely. The Electors in this election voted for Donald Trump!**

Voters should recognize that the system of Electors vs popular vote are at odds with one another if some electors are allowed to disregard the "will of the people" as democracy requires. What good is "one man, one vote" if the system doesn't follow it. Also, how democratic is it if we call elections before every vote is counted? This election had the victor declared the night of the election yet many states across the country had not yet completed their counts and overseas, military voters and some mail-in and disputed votes remained uncounted. Again, this is a contradiction to democratic elections! Calling the system "rigged" is an understatement!

More introspection should be made into the reasons why voters again failed to participate in the ritual of voting. We should look specifically at the issue of inflation as it related to higher wages and the distribution of wealth in our country as inflation was identified as the number one reason for change in direction by many voters through exit polling interviews.

While inflation is not controlled by a particular president, nor is the cost of eggs or gasoline, our leaders due get the blame for the condition of the economy and cost of goods.

Higher wages for employees can contribute to inflation through a process known as **wage-push inflation**. Here's how it works:

- 1. Increased Costs for Employers:** When wages rise, employers face higher labor costs.
- 2. Higher Prices for Goods and Services:** To maintain profit margins, employers often pass these increased costs onto consumers by raising the prices of goods and services.
- 3. Demand-Pull Inflation:** Higher wages can also increase consumers' purchasing power, leading to greater demand for goods and services. If the supply doesn't keep up with this increased demand, prices can rise further.

This creates a cycle where higher wages lead to higher prices, which in turn can lead to further wage demands, contributing to overall inflation.



Here's a summary of the average wage growth in the U.S. from 2012 to 2024:

Year Average Wage Growth (%)	
2012	-3.12
2013	-1.28
2014	-3.55
2015	-3.48
2016	-1.13
2017	-3.45
2018	-3.62
2019	-3.75
2020	-2.83
2021	-8.89
2022	-5.32
2023	-4.43

2024 - 4.7

Here's a summary of the minimum wage increases in Michigan from 2012 to 2024:

Year Minimum Wage

2012	\$7.40
2013	\$7.40
2014	\$8.15
2015	\$8.15
2016	\$8.50
2017	\$8.90
2018	\$9.25
2019	\$9.45
2020	\$9.65
2021	\$9.65
2022	\$9.87
2023	\$10.10
2024	\$10.33

Starting in 2025, the minimum wage will increase to \$10.56 on January 1st, and then to \$12.48 on February 21st, 2025.



I often complain about the cost of eggs, milk and a hamburger as the rising wages at grocers and retail restaurant chains have risen faster than wages. The top must give up some of the profits hoarded currently to offset the cost of wages. It isn't fair to America for exacerbated greed to ruin the foundations of our democracy! It is unfair that corporate interests in America rack up financial fortunes through the benefits given them through tax loopholes and laws passed enabling companies to increase their profits without passing benefits to their employees. Without an adjustment of fortunes leading to some distribution of wealth, the rich will continue to get richer, and the working class will continue to suffer regardless of how many dollars they increase their wages.

We are doomed to fall further and further behind as workers in America while corporate CEO's, managers and stockholders get rich off our labor and the market booms. I feel trapped in a 40-60-hour work schedule just to make ends meet! Many of my friends feel the same and our political party affiliations have failed us! Republicans and Democrats are waking up to the reality that things aren't right, and it doesn't matter who we vote for! I understand the system is "rigged!" We must hold our elected officials accountable no matter what party affiliation they claim! The mandate is to uplift the working class of America!

....Spanish version on page 18



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December 2024, Volume 26 - No. 12
Reaching over 40,000 readers
Circulation 17,000 copies
Printed at Printwell
To contact The Community Voice/
La Voz Magazine
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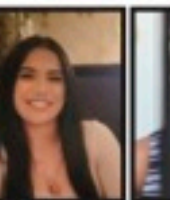
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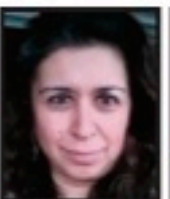
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Future Elections must Reduce Fear



Por: Edgar León

In Puerto Rico's political arena, the use of fear-based propaganda to shape public opinion and sway electoral outcomes is used heavily. Advertising agencies and political strategists, aware of the vulnerability of many voters, use this psychological tool astutely to instill fear about what could happen if a particular political opponent comes to power. The messages circulating on the island often warn of abstract yet powerful threats: the loss of property, the rise of communism, the elimination of social health benefits, or the threat of renunciation of citizenship.

Fear is used as a Weapon of Manipulation.

Ads, radio messages, and WhatsApp chains often paint a dystopian future in which the "opponent's" policies would lead to chaos. These narratives focus on very real, yet exaggerated or distorted fears: that the government in power will seize private property, impose a communist system, eliminate health benefits, or that Puerto Ricans will lose their U.S. citizenship. By implanting these fears in voters' minds, political strategists can condition their decisions without having to discuss concrete proposals or viable political solutions. These strategies are effective with undereducated populations.

In the Case of Puerto Rico: Elections are commonly influenced by Fear

Despite corruption scandals involving prominent political figures, with convictions for fraud and mishandling of public funds, many people continue to support parties whose leaders have been accused of stealing federal and state money. Education limits the effects of disinformation campaigns. Education is our most powerful tool against manipulation. If voters were able to read and critically understand the information they receive, they would be far less susceptible to easily believe fear-based messages. Literacy and having a solid civic awareness, is essential for citizens to make informed decisions.

However, Puerto Rico's education system faces serious deficiencies. It has been speculated for years that the Department of Education on the island has been inefficient by design. This phenomenon is not accidental: it is presumed that a deficient educational system contributes to the creation of a society that is easily manipulated and does not question the simplified narratives presented through the media and social media platforms.

It is vital for us to recognize that the lower an individual's level of education, the easier it is for them to fall into the trap of misinformation. Therefore, the solution to this problem begins with deep educational reform that prioritizes the development of critical thinking skills, civic education, and media literacy. Future generations must be educated to analyze political messages with discernment, recognize fallacies, and exercise their right to vote with knowledge and responsibility.

The future of Puerto Rico and the United States depends on its citizens' ability to free themselves from the yoke of fear-based manipulation. Through inclusive and transformative education, we ensure that Puerto Ricans and all Americans are free to make informed decisions, without fear, or deception, and have certainty that their vote has the power to change the course of the island and our nation.

The election experience on the island mirrors that of mainland United States as Political manipulation through fear labeled one candidate ignorant, communist leaning and extreme while another a savior of the country capable of returning the U.S. to greatness! The exit polls showed that this was especially effective among less-educated sectors of society including Latinos. Social media moguls obviously used the strategy of playing on people's emotions, taking advantage of their lack of education to generate fear about an uncertain future. What we have learned from the U.S. presidential election is that we must act to educate by the masses as our collective future depends on it!

En el ámbito político de Puerto Rico, el uso de la propaganda basada en el miedo para moldear la opinión pública e influir en los resultados electorales es un recurso muy utilizado. Las agencias de publicidad y los estrategas políticos, conscientes de la vulnerabilidad de muchos votantes, utilizan astutamente esta herramienta psicológica para infundir miedo sobre lo que podría suceder si un determinado oponente político llega al

poder. Los mensajes que circulan en la isla a menudo advierten de amenazas abstractas pero poderosas: la pérdida de la propiedad, el ascenso del comunismo, la eliminación de los beneficios sociales de salud o incluso la posible pérdida de la ciudadanía estadounidense.

El miedo como arma de manipulación

Los anuncios, los mensajes de radio y las cadenas de WhatsApp a menudo pintan un futuro distópico en el que las políticas del "opponente" conducirían al caos. Estas narrativas se centran en miedos muy reales, pero exagerados o distorsionados: que el gobierno en el poder se apodere de la propiedad privada, imponga un sistema comunista, elimine los beneficios de salud o que los puertorriqueños pierdan su ciudadanía estadounidense. Al implantar estos temores en las mentes de los votantes, los estrategas políticos pueden condicionar sus decisiones sin tener que discutir propuestas concretas o soluciones políticas viables.

El caso de Puerto Rico: las elecciones se ven comúnmente influenciadas por el miedo

A pesar de los escándalos de corrupción que involucran a figuras políticas prominentes, con condenas por fraude y malversación de fondos públicos, muchas personas continúan apoyando a partidos cuyos líderes han sido acusados de robar dinero federal y estatal. La educación puede limitar los efectos de las campañas de desinformación. La educación es la herramienta más poderosa contra la manipulación. Si los votantes pudieran leer y comprender críticamente la información que reciben, serían mucho menos susceptibles a los mensajes basados en el miedo. La alfabetización, tener una conciencia cívica sólida, es esencial para que los ciudadanos tomen decisiones informadas.

Sin embargo, el sistema educativo de Puerto Rico enfrenta serias deficiencias. Se ha especulado durante años que el Departamento de Educación en la isla ha sido ineficiente por diseño. Este fenómeno no es casual: se presume que un sistema educativo deficiente contribuye a la creación de una sociedad que se deja manipular fácilmente y no cuestiona las narrativas simplificadas presentadas a través de los medios de comunicación.

Es vital reconocer que cuanto más bajo es el nivel de educación de un individuo, más fácil es que caiga en la trampa de la desinformación. Por lo tanto, la solución a este problema comienza con una reforma educativa profunda que priorice el desarrollo de habilidades de pensamiento crítico, educación cívica y alfabetización mediática. Las generaciones futuras deben ser educadas para analizar los mensajes políticos con discernimiento, reconocer falacias y ejercer su derecho al voto con conocimiento y responsabilidad.

El futuro de Puerto Rico y los Estados Unidos depende de la capacidad de sus ciudadanos para liberarse del yugo de la manipulación basada en el miedo. A través de una educación inclusiva y transformadora, aseguramos que los puertorriqueños y todos los estadounidenses sean libres de tomar decisiones informadas, sin miedo ni engaño, y tengan la certeza de que su voto tiene el poder de cambiar el rumbo de la isla y nuestra nación.

La experiencia electoral en la isla refleja la de los Estados Unidos continentales: la manipulación política a través del miedo etiquetó a un candidato como ignorante, de tendencia comunista y extremista, mientras que otro fue un salvador del país capaz de devolver a los EE. UU. a la grandeza. Las encuestas de salida de las urnas mostraron que esto fue especialmente efectivo entre los sectores menos educados de la sociedad, incluidos los latinos. Los magnates de las redes sociales obviamente utilizaron la estrategia de jugar con las emociones de la gente, aprovechándose de su falta de educación para generar miedo sobre un futuro incierto. ¡Debemos actuar para educar a las masas, ya que nuestro futuro colectivo depende de ello!



Community News

Festival del Día de los Muertos - Grand Rapids



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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 31st, 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 pay pal.



Unbelievable Coincidence or Miracle on Highway 33



By Jorge Martinez
U.S. Veteran

Everyone has made up their minds, even about things they know nothing about. They interpret the world through tunnel vision, feelings, thoughts and through the lens of their innate nature. There are hundreds of variations of personality quirks, phobias and personal biases often confused as character. Coming from a large family I confess unraveled confusion. Years of being away and decades of study enabled me to see them as individuals for which I am no longer responsible nor accountable for. This was especially challenging concerning my sisters. Studying religion and being a writer helped develop introspection. I have discovered good writers dig deep into themselves to gain distance, perspective, and merciless honesty.



I have always believed in God, not man-made religions, nor preachers who speak for God yet require donations. Those who use religion to separate, look down upon or feel superior to others I see as an enemy of humanity. This brings up interpretations of Godliness and the divine. Sharing similar interpretations determines how one fits into society. I've discovered its best NOT to share your thoughts if they differ from others who rarely tolerate different opinions. My assessments developed from growing up in a crowded house and being born into a racist-classist hierarchy. This made me angry, curious, and suspicious. I recently came upon an event so rare it may be a miracle. Oddly, like the manger where Jesus was born, it happened in an unlikely place Cesar Chavez called The Valley of Tears. Interestingly, I have always believed in miracles because I'm still here.

My curious nature has led to hazardous situations which include volunteering for war. Later, I was told I had pancreatic cancer and given six months to live. My saintly Aunt Gloria prayed for me and the spots on my pancreas disappeared. So, was it a horrible misinterpretation by Kaiser Doctors or did focused spiritual energy of multiple faithful people heal me? Yet, it was not my first miracle. As a child I heard God's voice, heard spirits talking in the darkness and saw shapes in the heat waves of sweltering summer days. After watching Marcelino Pan y Vino, I visited our small barrio church and spent hours talking with Jesus. We live in an isolated barrio surrounded by pastures, cotton, and corn fields. Did I have an auditory hallucination or did God ask, "Do birds sing because they are happy, or are they happy because they sing?" I did not know I wasn't supposed to hear God, so I began whistling. Slowly my shyness faded, and my stuttering improved. Was it a misinterpretation, hallucination or did God talk to me? Curiously, throughout the war in the Persian Gulf I felt God watching and kept looking up expecting to see something miraculous, which may have saved my life as rockets fell out of the skies frequently.

Today, living in a small rural central valley community, surrounded by dairies and poverty, I am surrounded by overt racial stratification. Mex-Americans are so poor, underserved and economically behind it is often compared to Appalachia. Lack of job opportunities and discrimination are so blatant, it feels like a movie. The desperation is observable so consequently, Latinos don't vote. Even though the town of 12,000 has approx. 60% Latino, there are no Latinos in City Hall. We have three part time city council members who don't return phone calls and a part time mayor who works as police chief of a neighboring town. After five years, I've yet to speak to an elected representative. The City Manager seemingly makes most decisions.

As if to add insult to injury, it smells of putrid delta water and cow manure which attracts giant black flies. At night coyotes howl and owls' screech. Racial discrimination is rampant throughout the valley. White business owners hire whites and exploit poor whites only a little

less than Mexican immigrants who are hired to do the dirty work. Whites are usually hired as bosses and supervisors and the cycle of discrimination continues. This is true of every occupation everywhere and throughout history which explains why there were no Latino teachers, dentists, doctors, nurses, or milkmen growing up.

Then, something happened, as if planned, some 30 years ago a young man we'll call Bobby Joe Cantu began working as a yard

man for Yancy's Lumber and Hardware in Patterson California. He was an ordinary poor Mex-American guy, just out of high school, married and living life. He was hired for \$2.98 an hour as a yard man who did everything. While in high school his white teachers couldn't pronounce his name, so they stripped him of identity and disconnected him from his ancestors and history. It was ordinary common, casual racism accomplished with approval of alleged educated school administrators. Even though Mex-Americans said the same pledge of allegiance, we were still considered foreigners. Jose De La Luz became Joe Lightbulb. Domingo de la Nieve became Ice Cream Sunday and so forth. As customary, after Bobby Joe was injured, he was laid off. Sometime later he was rehired by accident. They kept him on with a disability which was rare. Even though he was thought of as "intellectually inferior", he was given an opportunity to become an "inside guy" learning inventory, management and ultimately became indispensable.

Bobby Joe Cantu worked at Yancy's since 1982. Then Bada-bing-Bada boom! As if out of nowhere or by miracle he became part owner. Something so rare and unheard of could be called a miracle. There is no burning bush, nor rays of golden light. There is no stigmata or smell of vanilla. Bobby Joe Cantu is an ordinary courteous soft spoken unassuming man. He smiles when asked about his good fortune and continues to work hard. Was it pure luck, divine intervention or a misunderstanding? I find it a little funny they also have a Jesus, a 6-foot 7 man who could be Samson and a possible Mary Magdalene. Of course, there is always a Doubting Thomas. Some might say it's a lucky break. I call it the Miracle on Highway 33.

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

Nominations Encouraged for Michigan Lottery's Excellence in Education Awards to Honor Outstanding Educators

Excellence
in EducationSM



Parents, students, school staff members, and others are encouraged to nominate outstanding public-school educators for the Michigan Lottery's 2024-25 Excellence in Education awards.

All public-school employees may be nominated for the Excellence in Education awards, which recognize educators who go "above and beyond" to make a difference in the lives of children. To nominate a public-school educator, go to <https://www.michiganlottery.com/excellence-in-education>.

"It is an honor to recognize the incredible work done by educators in communities across the state with the Excellence in Education awards," said Lottery Commissioner, Suzanna Shkreli. "Public educators play such an important role in the development of our children by teaching lifelong skills, being a constant and supportive presence in students' lives, and inspiring them to reach their full potential."

The Michigan Lottery established the Excellence in Education awards in 2014 to recognize outstanding public-school educators across the state during the school year.

One outstanding educator will be selected each week and will receive a \$2,000 cash prize. At the end of the school year, one of these weekly award winners will be selected to receive the Lottery's Educator of the Year award and will receive a \$10,000 cash prize.

Winners of the weekly award are featured in a news segment on the Lottery's media partner stations: WXYZ-TV in Detroit, FOX 17 in Grand Rapids, FOX 47 in Lansing, WNEM-TV in Saginaw, and WWTW-TV in Traverse City.

The winner of the 2024 Educator of the Year award was Samantha TwoCrow, the director of the Indigenous Education Program for Suttons Bay Public Schools.

Hundreds of educators were nominated during the 2023-24 school year, which was the 10th year of the Excellence in Education awards program. Thirty-four of these nominees, including TwoCrow, were selected to win a weekly award.

Previous winners of the Educator of the Year award:

2023 – Kathryn Kluzak, a kindergarten teacher with Robert L. Green Elementary in East Lansing.

2022 – Spencer Vanderheide, a high school teacher with Kenowa Hills High School in Grand Rapids.

2021 – Janice Smith, a school social worker at Fisher Magnet Lower Academy in Detroit.

2020 – Megan Sidge, an Autism Spectrum Disorder teacher at Hickory Woods Elementary in Walled Lake.

2019 – Stewart Kielliszewski, an Earth science, biology, mechatronics, and media teacher for eighth through 12 graders at the Uby Community Schools.

2018 – Kerri Moccio, a first-grade literacy intervention specialist at Bedford Elementary School in Dearborn Heights.

2017 – Linda Holzwarth, a social studies teacher at Portage West Middle School in Portage.

2016 – Daniel Carr, a Spanish and sports marketing teacher at Waverly High School in Lansing.

2015 – Michael Craig, a special education teacher at the Charles Drew Transition Center in Detroit.

Excellence In Education award nominees should demonstrate the following qualities:

- Excellence – Their work consistently helps students and/or their schools or school districts advance to higher levels of academic achievement.
- Dedication – They consistently go above and beyond expectations to help students succeed.
- Inspiration – Their work inspires others around them to exceed expectations either academically or professionally.
- Leadership – They demonstrate clear leadership skills in their positions with their school or school districts.
- Effectiveness – The nominee's work has clear and positive results on the educational advancement of students within the school or school district.



Se anima a los padres, estudiantes, miembros del personal escolar y otras personas a nominar a educadores destacados de escuelas públicas para los premios a la Excelencia en la Educación 2024-25 de la Lotería de Michigan.

Todos los empleados de las escuelas públicas pueden ser nominados para los premios a la Excelencia en la Educación, que reconocen a los educadores que van "más allá" para marcar una diferencia en la vida de los niños. Para nominar a un educador de una escuela pública, visite <https://www.michiganlottery.com/excellence-in-education>.

La Lotería de Michigan estableció los premios a la Excelencia en la Educación en 2014 para reconocer a los educadores destacados de las escuelas públicas de todo el estado durante el año escolar.

Cada semana se seleccionará a un educador destacado y recibirá un premio en efectivo de \$2000. Al final del año escolar, uno de estos ganadores de premios semanales será seleccionado para recibir el premio Educador del Año de la Lotería y recibirá un premio en efectivo de \$10 000.

Los ganadores del premio semanal aparecen en un segmento de noticias en las estaciones asociadas de medios de la Lotería: WXYZ-TV en Detroit, FOX 17 en Grand Rapids, FOX 47 en Lansing, WNEM-TV en Saginaw y WWTW-TV en Traverse City.

La ganadora del premio Educador del Año 2024 fue Samantha TwoCrow, directora del Programa de Educación Indígena de las Escuelas Públicas de Suttons Bay.

Cientos de educadores fueron nominados durante el año escolar 2023-24, que fue el décimo año del programa de premios a la Excelencia en la Educación. Treinta y cuatro de estos nominados, incluido TwoCrow, fueron seleccionados para ganar un premio semanal.

Regala algo

Maravilloso

¡Gana hasta \$500,000 al instante!

\$10

*The most
Wonderful
Time
of the year!*
WIN UP TO \$500,000!

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Greetings*

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ESCANEA PARA
MÁS DETALLES
DEL SORTEO
"JUGUEMOS EN
ESTAS FIESTAS"

Divertido de regalar y divertido de recibir, es fácil sorprender con algo maravilloso usando los Holiday Instants de la Lotería de Michigan. A todos les gusta tener la oportunidad de ganar hasta **\$500,000**, con un total de **\$63.5 millones** en premios.

Así que este año, regala la diversión instantánea para estas fiestas. Y no olvides hacer las fiestas aún más especiales participando en el sorteo "Juguemos en estas Fiestas".



Use only at Michigan Lottery locations. For more information on Michigan Lottery games, visit www.michiganlottery.com.
Official odds of winning the Michigan Lottery are available at www.michiganlottery.com. For more information, visit www.michiganlottery.com.



Grand Rapids New Year's Celebrations / Celebraciones de Año Nuevo

Say goodbye to 2024 and ring in 2025 in Grand Rapids, which celebrates the new year with everything from extravagant adult parties to fun-filled activities for kids and families.

New Year's Eve for Families

Craig's Cruisers Annual New Years Eve Party offers two time slots: noon-4pm and 5-9pm, both offering unlimited access to go-karts, laser tag, bumper cars and other attractions, plus a pizza & pasta buffet, party favors and a confetti cannon countdown.

Neon New Year's Eve at Walker Ice & Fitness Center is an open skate party on an NHL-sized indoor ice rink. From 5pm-7pm.

Roll into 2024 at a bowling alley: New Year's Eve at Clique Lanes means pizza and unlimited bowling from 12:30pm-3pm, 3:30pm-6pm, 6:30pm-9pm or 10pm-12:30am.

New Year's Eve at Battle GR includes three unlimited fun sessions – one at 3pm-5:30pm for families with kids under 10, one at 6pm-8:30pm for families with kids older than 10, and one from 9pm-1am for the 18+ crowd. Play laser tag, archery tag, corn hole, football bowling and more.

The Grand Rapids Griffins host their 27th Annual New Year's Eve Celebration, featuring fireworks and open skating at Van Andel Arena after their game against the Cleveland Monsters.

Other ideas for closing out the old year with kids:

Drive through the Christmas Lite Show at LMCU Ballpark, open until 9pm, to see over one million lights, animated displays, lighted tunnels and more.

The Grand Rapids Public Museum closes at 5pm New Year's Eve – so you can take the kids to see the mind-bending Nature of Color exhibit and the Historic Grand Rapids LEGO Display before you get ready for your night out. Or swing by the Grand Rapids Art Museum – it also closes at 5pm – to see Brick by Brick: The Creative Art of LEGO, which includes an interactive LEGO building area. Or see them both!

New Year's Eve for Adults

Sweat 2024 out of your system at the 42nd Annual Reeds Lake Resolution Run around the historic East Grand Rapids lake. The USAT-certified four-mile run starts at 2pm, with a new kids' race commencing at 1:30pm.

See the classic Talking Heads concert film "Stop Making Sense" at Wealthy Theatre – join in the fun at an early at an 8pm screening or ring in midnight with the 11pm screening.

Dive into a Neon District New Year at General Wood Shop, inspired by the neon light, pulsating beats and futuristic vibes of the Tokyo nightlife scene.

Head to Cedar Springs, 20 minutes or so from Grand Rapids, for the New Year's Springin' Eve Celebration, an annual outdoor event featuring live music, local food, dancing, a light show and midnight ball drop on Main Street.

Party with hard rock band Trixy Tang – voted West Michigan's #1 cover band by readers of Revue Magazine – at Twisted Bull in Kentwood.

Attend a NYE concert: Echoes of Pink Floyd & Full Cord present Dark Side of the Ball, a 17+ event at downtown GR's The Intersection.

New Year's Day

Many attractions are closed on Jan. 1 – but scores of restaurants, breweries and stores will be open for your dining, drinking and shopping pleasure.

Snow willing, you can take the kids sledding at Richmond Park, Belknap Park, Johnson Park and Cascade Township Park.


Does your New Year's resolution involve healthy living? Get off on the right foot with a day of snowshoeing, cross-country skiing or some other outdoor winter sport. Or get your steps in with a walk around the Downtown Refreshment Area – you can enjoy food and beverages from approved restaurants while you stroll.

See a movie in downtown's Studio Park entertainment complex or at Celebration! Cinema locations on the city's north (with giant IMAX screen), south or southwest side.

Despídete del 2024 y dale la bienvenida al 2025 en Grand Rapids, que celebra el Año Nuevo con todo tipo de actividades, desde extravagantes fiestas para adultos hasta divertidas actividades para niños y familias.

Desde empezar la fiesta anual de Nochevieja en Craig's Cruisers o en el Walker Ice & Fitness Center es una fiesta de patinaje abierta en una pista de hielo cubierta del tamaño de la NHL o en el Clique Lanes significa pizza y bolos ilimitados, o Grand Rapids Griffins que organizan su 27.º aniversario de celebración de Nochevieja, con fuegos artificiales y patinaje libre en el Van Andel Arena después de su partido contra los Cleveland Monsters.


Otras ideas para cerrar el año viejo con niño, recorrer el Swhos de Christmas Lite en el estadio LMCU Ballpark, abierto hasta las 21:00 h, para ver más de un millón de luces, exhibiciones animadas, túneles iluminados y mucho más.



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New Year's Celebrations in Michigan

New Year's Eve 2025

December 31, 2024

Allegan, MI

It's a traditional New Year's ball, but it's a massive one! Party by the Allegan riverfront while warming up over fire pits, listening to live music and watching fireworks at midnight. The ball is Michigan's biggest – measuring 10.5 feet in diameter and displaying more than 30,000 multicolored LED lights – and drops 25 feet from the top of the Allegan Event ZIP zip line tower.

16th Annual New Year's Eve Ride

December 31, 2024 at 11:00 am

Detroit, MI

Join us for our 16th New Year's Eve Ride. Meet at Shed 2 of Eastern Market in time for an 11am departure. 10-mile route around downtown/midtown at a leisurely 10 mph pace.

Castaway's New Year's Eve 2025

December 31, 2024

Howell, MI

Head to Castaway Cafe on December 31st for a fun New Year's Eve celebration! Bring your family and friends to enjoy playcapes, bounce houses, and even a live DJ.

There will be a pizza buffet for everyone, and you can pick up party favors to enjoy at home later. The big balloon drop happens at 6:00

PM, making it a perfect early celebration for families with children.

New Year's Eve Cruise

December 31, 2024

Lansing, MI

The Michigan Princess provides the best entertainment value in the Capital region. Charter this beautiful vessel for your upcoming party or meeting. Our main dock is located just south of Downtown Lansing. For reservations visit www.michiganprincess.com

New Year's Eve Ball Drop

December 31, 2024

Ludington, MI

This annual event is free for families! Enjoy musical entertainment, outdoor beer garden, commemorative light-up cups, midnight ball drop and a fireworks display! What a way to ring in the new year!

New Year's Eve Great Turtle Drop

December 31, 2024

Mackinac Island, MI

Head to Main Street on Mackinac Island for a local tradition that you'll never forget: the Great Turtle Drop! Weighing 70 pounds, this lit-up fiberglass turtle slowly ascends to great fanfare among year-round residents and winter visitors. Many Native Americans noted that the is-

land resembles a domed turtle shell floating in the water. Coming from the original Native American name "Michilimackinac," as it was interpreted by the French, "the Place of the Great Turtle" name dates back centuries.

Marquette New Year's Eve Ball Drop

December 31, 2024

Marquette, MI

Every New Year's Eve, locals and visitors alike gather in Downtown Marquette to ring in the New Year with a ball drop and block party right in downtown Marquette!

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM: Kickoff the evening with a

Family Friendly Ball Drop

10:00 PM - 1:00AM: Ball Drop Bash & Block Party

New Year's Eve in the Haven

December 31, 2024

South Haven, MI

Get ready to ring in the New Year with South Haven's most electrifying celebration yet! This year's celebration will feature bigger LED screens lighting up the night sky, more laser lights cutting through the crisp air, and sound systems booming as you dance in the streets with your friends and neighbors. South Haven will come alive in ways you've never experienced before—come be part of it!

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¡Amigos, listen to 973FM Heat Radio!

¡Escuchen esta estación de Radio!

Radio D.J.'s are joining daily to empower our community through a real respect for diversity! We must tear down the walls that separate our community and advance racial and social equality.

Friendship and respect are a good place to start the dialogue.

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Assisted by Marte Smith

Dr. Edgar Leon

www.theheat973.com

97.3 FM URBAN MIX • THE HEAT

Latinos in Congress Grows / Crecen latinos en el Congreso

The number of Latinos in the Senate will hit a new record next year, going from five to seven, thanks to the victories of Rep. Ruben Gallego, D-Ariz., and Republican business owner Bernie Moreno in Ohio.

The 119th Congress will also include a few other history-making Latino lawmakers in the House, even though Hispanic representation in that chamber will decrease slightly, from 48 to 45.



A new analysis from the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) assessing Latino gains and losses in Congress shows that Hispanic candidates successfully pursued congressional seats in 12 states in the 2024 election — achieving important milestones in New Jersey, Washington, Colorado and California, as well as in Arizona and Ohio.

The partisan composition of the Latino senators did not change dramatically, according to the analysis. It went from three Democrats and two Republicans to four Democrats and three Republicans. Similarly, in the House, the partisan composition of Latino members of Congress went from 35 Democrats and 13 Republicans to 36 Democrats and nine Republicans.

"Latinos pursued congressional spots across the country in groundbreaking races in both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives," Arturo Vargas, chief executive officer of NALEO, said in a statement. "Although Latino seats in the U.S. House of Representatives decreased, Latino candidates on both sides of the aisle made history in this election cycle." There will be a total of 52 Latino members of the 119th Congress starting next year.

El número de latinos en el Senado alcanzará un nuevo récord el año próximo, al pasar de cinco a siete, gracias a las victorias del representante demócrata por Arizona, Rubén Gallego, y del empresario republicano Bernie Moreno en Ohio.

El 119° Congreso también incluirá a otros legisladores latinos que harán historia en la Cámara de Representantes, aunque la representación hispana en esa cámara disminuirá ligeramente, de 48 a 45.

Habrán un total de 52 miembros latinos en el 119° Congreso a partir del próximo año.

LATINO MEMBERS OF THE 119TH CONGRESS

(Incumbents Prior to Election 2024 in bold)

U.S. SENATE

State	Name
AZ	Ruben Gallego (D)
CA	Alex Padilla (D)
FL	Marco Rubio (R)
NM	Ben Ray Lujan (D)
NV	Catherine Cortez Masto (D)
OH	Bernie Moreno (D)
TX	Ted Cruz (R)

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

District	Name	District	Name
AZ-6	Juan Ciscomani (R)	IL-3	Della Ramirez (D)
AZ-7	Raul Grijalva (D)	IL-4	Jesús "Chuy" García (D)
CA-16	Sam Liccardo (D)	ND-8	Robert Menendez, Jr. (D)
CA-24	Salud Carbajal (D)	ND-9	Nellie Pou (D)
CA-25	Raul Ruiz (D)	NH-2	Cabrill Vazquez (D)
CA-29	Lu María Rivas (D)	NH-3	Teresa Leger Fernandez (D)
CA-31	Gil Cisneros (D)	NH-7	Mydia Velazquez (D)
CA-33	Pete Aguilar (D)	NY-13	Nicole Mallietakis (R)
CA-34	Jimmy Gomez (D)	NY-13	Adriano Espallat (D)
CA-35	Norma Torres (D)	NY-14	Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D)
CA-38	Linda Sánchez (D)	NY-15	Ritchie Torres (D)
CA-42	Robert Garcia (D)	OR-6	Andrea Salinas (D)
CA-44	Monette Diaz Barragan (D)	TX-15	Monica De La Cruz (R)
CA-46	Leo Correa (D)	TX-16	Veronica Escobar (D)
CA-49	Mike Levin (D)	TX-20	Joaquin Castro (D)
CA-52	Juan Vargas (D)	TX-23	Tony Gonzalez (R)
CO-6	Cabe Evans (R)	TX-26	Henry Cuellar (D)
FL-9	Darren Soto (D)	TX-29	Sylvia Garcia (D)
FL-10	Marcelo Alejandro Freid (D)	TX-34	Vicente Gonzalez (D)
FL-13	Anna Paulina Luna (R)	TX-35	Gregorio "Greg" Casar (D)
FL-26	María Díaz-Balart (R)	WA-3	Marie Chaussekamp Perez (D)
FL-27	María Elvira Salazar (R)	WA-6	Emily Randall (D)
FL-28	Carlos Giménez (R)		

This information reflects unofficial election results and media reports as of November 21, 2024.
ELECTION 2024 RACES TO WATCH / POST ELECTION

HISPANIC SCHOLARSHIPS HELP STUDENTS STEP UP!

Hispanic Scholarship Fund

The Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF) awards more than \$30 million in scholarships annually. An estimated 10,000 outstanding students are selected each year as HSF Scholars. These individuals are eligible for scholarships, as well as other benefits like mentorship, wellness training and career services.

- **Amount:** \$500 to \$5,000, based on need
- **Eligibility:** You must be of Hispanic heritage, have at least a 3.0 GPA or equivalent as a high school student (or 2.5 as a college or graduate student) and plan to enroll full-time in an accredited four-year university or graduate school. You also must be a U.S. citizen, permanent legal resident or DACA recipient and must submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- **How to apply:** You can apply online via the HSF website. The application becomes available on January 1 and must be submitted by February 15.

LULAC National Scholarship Fund

The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) National Scholarship Fund was established in 1975. The goal is to open the door to college access for underserved communities by partnering with grassroots advocates and corporations to fund scholarships for members of the Latino community.

- **Amount:** \$250 to \$2,000, depending on award level
- **Eligibility:** You must have a participating LULAC Council in your area. There are 62 councils in 12 states, including Arizona, Arkansas, California, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Massachusetts, New Mexico, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Washington, D.C. You must have applied to or be enrolled full-time in an eligible program, including a two- or four-year college, university or vocational school. You must also be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident or DACA recipient. To be eligible for an Honors Award valued at \$500 to \$2,000, you must have at least a 3.0 GPA, and to be eligible for a \$2,000 National Scholastic Achievement Award, you must have at least a 3.5 GPA.
- **How to apply:** You can apply online through the LULAC National Educational Service Centers website at LNEsc.org. The application opens on February 15 and is due to a participating LULAC Council by March 31. You'll need to submit your application form, school transcripts, a personal essay and verification of admission to an eligible program.





Tatiana Suarez

By Odille Parker

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

Standing up in triumph is a feeling that Tatiana Suarez is familiar with both inside and outside of the ring.

The MMA fighter and former wrestler currently competes in the women's Strawweight division of the UFC, ranking #1 in the UFC women's strawweight rankings and #10 in the women's pound-for-pound rankings.

Suarez, born in Covina, California, is of Mexican descent and began her wrestling career at an early age, placing second at the 2007 Junior World Championships and being named ASICS National High School Wrestler of the Year. She earned that same title the following year, also winning gold at the Pan American Championships, bronze at the World Championships, and another bronze at the World Championships.

She continued her success, and by 2010, she was ranked number one freestyle wrestler in the US at 55 kg (121 lbs).

Suarez felt a pain in her neck while training for the 2012 Summer Olympics. The MRI showed a malignant node on her thyroid. Over the next 18 months, her focus shifted off the ring and on to beating cancer.

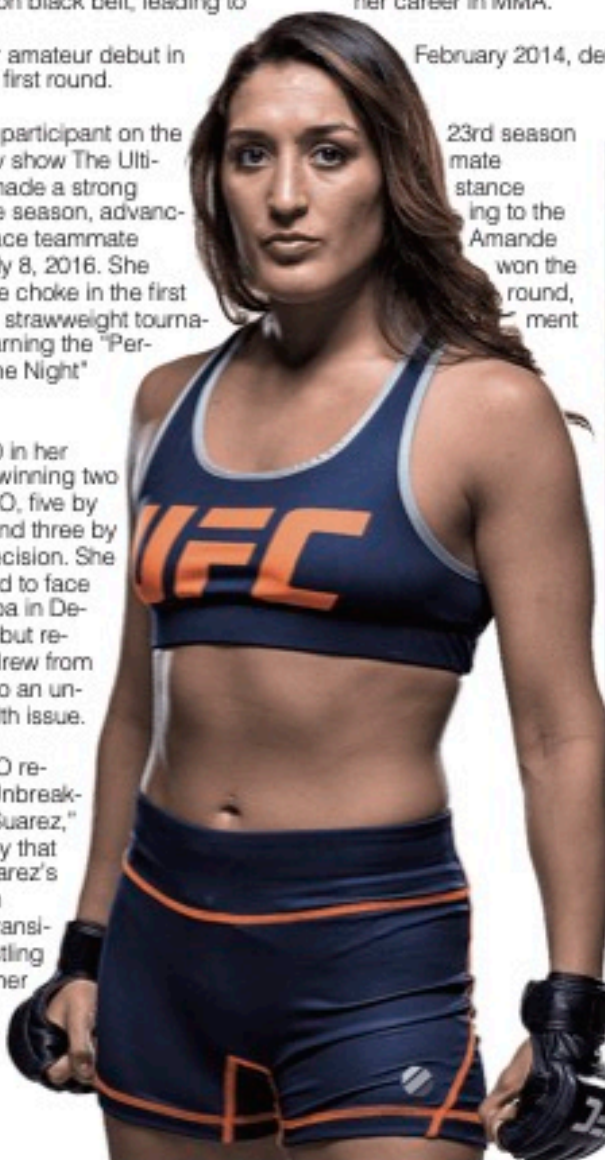
In 2013, after being cancer-free for more than a year, she began training again, opting to try jiu-jitsu, and after seeing success in just a handful of sessions, Suarez felt confident that she would become a world champion black belt, leading to her career in MMA.

She made her amateur debut in February 2014, defeating Elizabeth Rodrigues by TKO in the first round.

Suarez was a participant on the 23rd season of the reality tv show The Ultimate Fighter. She made a strong stance throughout the season, advancing to the semifinals to face teammate Cooper on July 8, 2016. She won the fight by D'Arce choke in the first round, becoming the strawweight tournament winner and earning the "Performance of the Night" bonus.

Suarez is 10-0 in her MMA career, winning two matches by KO, five by submission, and three by unanimous decision. She was scheduled to face Vinya Jandiroba in December 2024 but reportedly withdrew from the fight due to an unspecified health issue.

This year, HBO released "The Unbreakable Tatiana Suarez," a documentary that chronicles Suarez's life, battle with cancer, and transition from wrestling to MMA after her time away from the spotlight.



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Tatiana Suarez está familiarizada con la sensación de ponerse de pie triunfante, tanto dentro como fuera del ring.

La luchadora de MMA y ex luchadora actualmente compite en la división de peso paja femenina de la UFC, ocupando el puesto número 1 en el ranking de peso paja femenino de la UFC y el número 10 en el ranking de libra por libra femenina.

Suarez, nacida en Covina, California, es de ascendencia mexicana y comenzó su carrera de lucha libre a una edad temprana, quedando en segundo lugar en el Campeonato Mundial Junior de 2007 y siendo nombrada Luchadora Nacional de Escuelas Secundarias del Año de la ASIC. Obtuvo ese mismo título el año siguiente, ganando también el oro en el Campeonato Panamericano, bronce en el Campeonato Mundial y otro bronce en el Campeonato Mundial.

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Vea cuánto más saludable puede estar.

En Trinity Health, lo vemos a usted con todo su potencial. Comprendemos que tener sobrepeso considerable puede evitar que disfrute los momentos diarios. Podemos ayudarle. Nuestros expertos en cirugía bariátrica lo acompañan en cada paso de su camino de pérdida de peso, y le ayudan a alcanzar su potencial y a lograr sus objetivos.

Es hora de que se sienta mejor, más saludable y que viva su vida al máximo.

¡COMIENCE SU CAMINO HOY!



Trinity Health
CIRUGÍA BARIÁTRICA

"We See All of You™"

December Events / Eventos en Noviembre

December 1, 2014 - January 4, 2025

Enlighten at Frederik Meijer Gardens
Grand Rapids, MI

Step into a world of enchantment with ENLIGHTEN, the ultimate winter light show experience. This dazzling display of lights and festive wonder is perfect for families, friends, and anyone looking to celebrate the season in a spectacular way.

Immerse yourself in a uniquely Meijer Gardens experience filled with shimmering lights, breathtaking displays, and magical moments that will create memories to last a lifetime. Whether you're exploring the illuminated paths, enjoying festive treats, or capturing the perfect photo, ENLIGHTEN offers something for everyone.

Entra en un mundo de encanto con ENLIGHTEN, la mejor experiencia de espectáculo de luces invernal. Este deslumbrante despliegue de luces y maravillas festivas es perfecto para familias, amigos y cualquiera que quiera celebrar la temporada de una manera espectacular.

Sumérgete en una experiencia única en los Jardines Meijer, llena de luces brillantes, exhibiciones impresionantes y momentos mágicos que crearán recuerdos que durarán toda la vida. Ya sea que estés explorando los senderos iluminados, disfrutando de delicias festivas o capturando la foto perfecta, ENLIGHTEN ofrece algo para todos.

December 1 - 8, 2024

A Christmas Carol
Kalamazoo, MI

In this raucous version, the entire show is performed by five actors, most of whom play multiple roles. It's a unique production filled with music, puppetry, pantomime, and farce. Every time the actors switch characters, we're reminded that we're watching the magic of live theatrical storytelling unfolding in front of our eyes.

En esta estridente versión, todo el espectáculo es interpretado por cinco actores, la mayoría de los cuales desempeñan múltiples papeles. Es una producción única llena de música, títeres,

pantomima y farsa. Cada vez que los actores cambian de personaje, recordamos que estamos viendo la magia de la narración teatral en vivo que se desarrolla frente a nuestros ojos.

December 3 - 31, 2024

International Festival of Lights
Battle Creek, MI

Creating holiday magic for a brighter world is what Battle Creek's International Festival of Lights is all about. Once again, this traditional festival of lights will return in all its splendor and beauty to delight visitors from both near and far. Colorful displays sparkle and shimmer along the Battle Creek River, and light the way along State Street every night throughout this festive event.

Crear magia navideña para un mundo más brillante es de lo que se trata el Festival Internacional de Luces de Battle Creek. Un año más, esta tradicional fiesta de las luces volverá en todo su esplendor y belleza para deleitar a visitantes de cerca y de lejos. Muestras coloridas brillan y brillan a lo largo del río Battle Creek e iluminan el camino a lo largo de State Street todas las noches durante este evento festivo.

December 3, 2024

Parade of Lights
Holland, MI

Santa Claus arrives in Downtown Holland during the annual Parade of Lights on Tuesday, December 3 at 6:30 pm. He'll be escorted by 75 floats, trucks, antique cars, walkers and marching bands...all decked out from top to bottom in thousands of sparkling lights! This brightly lit holiday procession is fun for the entire family and a holiday tradition for the entire community! The Parade of Lights will begin at the corner of 8th Street and Columbia Avenue at 6:30 pm and proceed west down 8th Street until it reaches the Holland Civic Center, home of the Holiday Kerstmarkt! The Parade of Lights is proudly sponsored by Gentex Corporation.

Santa Claus llega al centro de Holanda durante el Desfile de Luces anual el martes 3 de diciembre a las 6:30 p.m. Estará escoltado por 75 carrozas, camiones, autos antiguos, caminantes y bandas de música... ¡todos adornados de arriba a

abajo con miles de luces brillantes!

¡Esta procesión navideña brillantemente iluminada es divertida para toda la familia y una tradición navideña para toda la comunidad! El Desfile de Luces comenzará en la esquina de 8th Street y Columbia Avenue a las 6:30 pm y continuará hacia el oeste por 8th Street hasta llegar al Holland Civic Center, sede del Holiday Kerstmarkt. El Desfile de Luces está patrocinado con orgullo por Gentex Corporation.

December 15, 2024

Shakira - Las Mujeres Ya No Lloran World Tour
Detroit, MI

On the heels of her chart-topping new album, Grammy®, and Latin Grammy® Award-winning artist Shakira has just announced the first string dates on her highly anticipated world tour, "Las Mujeres Ya No Lloran". The tour's first leg will start on November 2 in Palm Desert, CA, and include a stop at Little Caesars Arena on Sunday, December 15 at 7:30 pm. Known for her dynamic and high-energy performances, Shakira will bring tracks from her new album and her legendary catalog of hits to life on stage.

Tickets available @
<https://seetix.link/Blaexu>

La primera etapa de la gira comenzará el 2 de noviembre en Palm Desert, CA, e incluirá una parada en el Little Caesars Arena el domingo 15 de diciembre a las 7:30 p.m. Conocida por sus actuaciones dinámicas y llenas de energía, Shakira dará vida en el escenario a los temas de su nuevo álbum y a su legendario catálogo de éxitos. Entradas disponibles @ <https://seetix.link/Blaexu>

December 19 - 24, 2024

Santa's Wonderland Returns to Cabela's- FREE Photos with Santa!
Grandville, MI

Get ready for the holiday season with Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's annual Santa's Wonderland experience! Bring your family to your



local Cabela's store to join over two million kids and families in taking a photo with Santa. Reservations are highly recommended, so book your spot online at www.cabelas.com/santa.

Prepárate para la temporada navideña con Bass Pro Shops y la experiencia anual Santa's Wonderland de Cabela! Traiga a su familia a la tienda Cabela's local para unirse a más de dos millones de niños y familias para tomarse una foto con Santa. Se recomienda encarecidamente hacer reservaciones, así que reserve su lugar en línea en www.cabelas.com/santa.

December 20, 2024 - January 5, 2025

Christmas and Holiday Traditions
Grand Rapids, MI

This exhibition honoring cultures and holiday traditions from around the world has grown to 46 unique displays depicting fact and folklore, past and present. University of Michigan Health-West: Christmas & Holiday Traditions is a hallmark Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park exhibition. Dedicate time to appreciate the stunning presentations of winter plantings, the artistry of our adorned Christmas trees, intriguing cultural displays and the beloved Railway Garden. Venture outdoors and discover the beauty of nature with wintertime walks. Indoors and out, our magnificent grounds sparkle with 350,000 lights.

Esta exposición que honra las culturas y las tradiciones navideñas de todo el mundo ha crecido hasta contar con 46 exhibiciones únicas que representan hechos y folklore, pasados y presentes. University of Michigan Health-West: Christmas & Holiday Traditions es una exposición distintiva de Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park. Aventúrese al aire libre y descubra la belleza de la naturaleza con caminatas invernales. Por dentro y por fuera, nuestros magníficos terrenos brillan con 350.000 luces.

3rd Annual Rides on Riverfront Car Show

RIDES ON RIVERFRONT CAR SHOW 203 S. Washington Ave, Saginaw, MI

Photos by Tony Martinez

This 1940 Ford Coupe Classic
Cool Blue!



Tony Martinez Xclusive C.C.

(L-R) Tony Martinez, Jose
Nortega, Xclusive C.C. Member,
Toyo Jr Rosas & Tony Martinez's
Dad



Xclusive Car Club Members from
Saginaw, MI



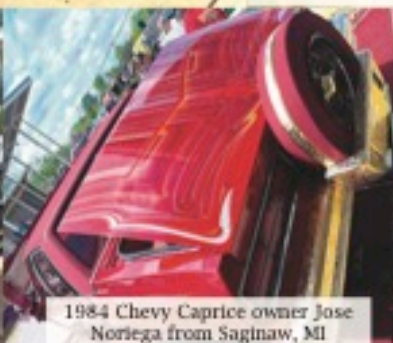
1957 Chevy Bel Air MALO
from Low 4 Life C. C. owner
Toyo Jr Rosas from
Saginaw, MI



Grading Staff crew!



1984 Chevy Caprice owner Jose
Nortega from Saginaw, MI



1964 Chevy Impala owner Martinez Sr
from XCLUSIVE C.C. leading the crew in
SAGINAW, MI



HOSTED BY XCLUSIVE C. C.
AUGUST 18, 2024
203 S. WASHINGTON AVE
SAGINAW, MI

Tony Martinez from
XCLUSIVE CAR CLUB:

First of all, we want to thank everyone that came out & Attended and Participated in The 3rd Annual Rides On The Riverfront Car Show at the SVRC Marketplace.

Even though we had a little rain that wasn't going to be enough to stop us...A huge Thank You to Rachel Caudy for the time, effort, and hard work she always puts into this show. You do a wonderful job and we do appreciate it. It doesn't go unnoticed!!

To all our XCLUSIVE CAR CLUB Members that worked hard in an effort to have this show run smoothly, Thank You Gentleman.

We would like to thank Louie Garcia from Midwest Tejano Radio for providing us with the great entertainment throughout the day and for your Sponsorship.

Shot Out to all the Food and Mer-

chandise vendors that participated in the event we do appreciate you being there!!

Congratulations to all the Winners like (Toyo Jr Rosas who won Best Of Show) that came out and didn't let the clouds stop them!! Last, but not least, Thank You to all our Sponsors that donated to our Car Show. We'll definitely be back in 2025 with a bigger and better show so we hope to see you then.

Somos pocos pero locos en lowriding!

Having a car event?
Contact Homero
(616)893-3906
deehol23@comcast.net

CAR SHOW UPDATES FOR
JANUARY:

2025 MICHIGAN INTERNATIONAL
AUTOSHOW
January 30 - February 02, 2025
DeVos Places
303 Monroe Ave NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Cool Colors on this Chevy Camaro
& Dodge Challenger at the Xclusive
Car Show



Time to start your engines &
check them out!



Disturbed Jeep checking out the
sights



1960's Chevy Impala SS Original
Gangsters Mural on the Trunk



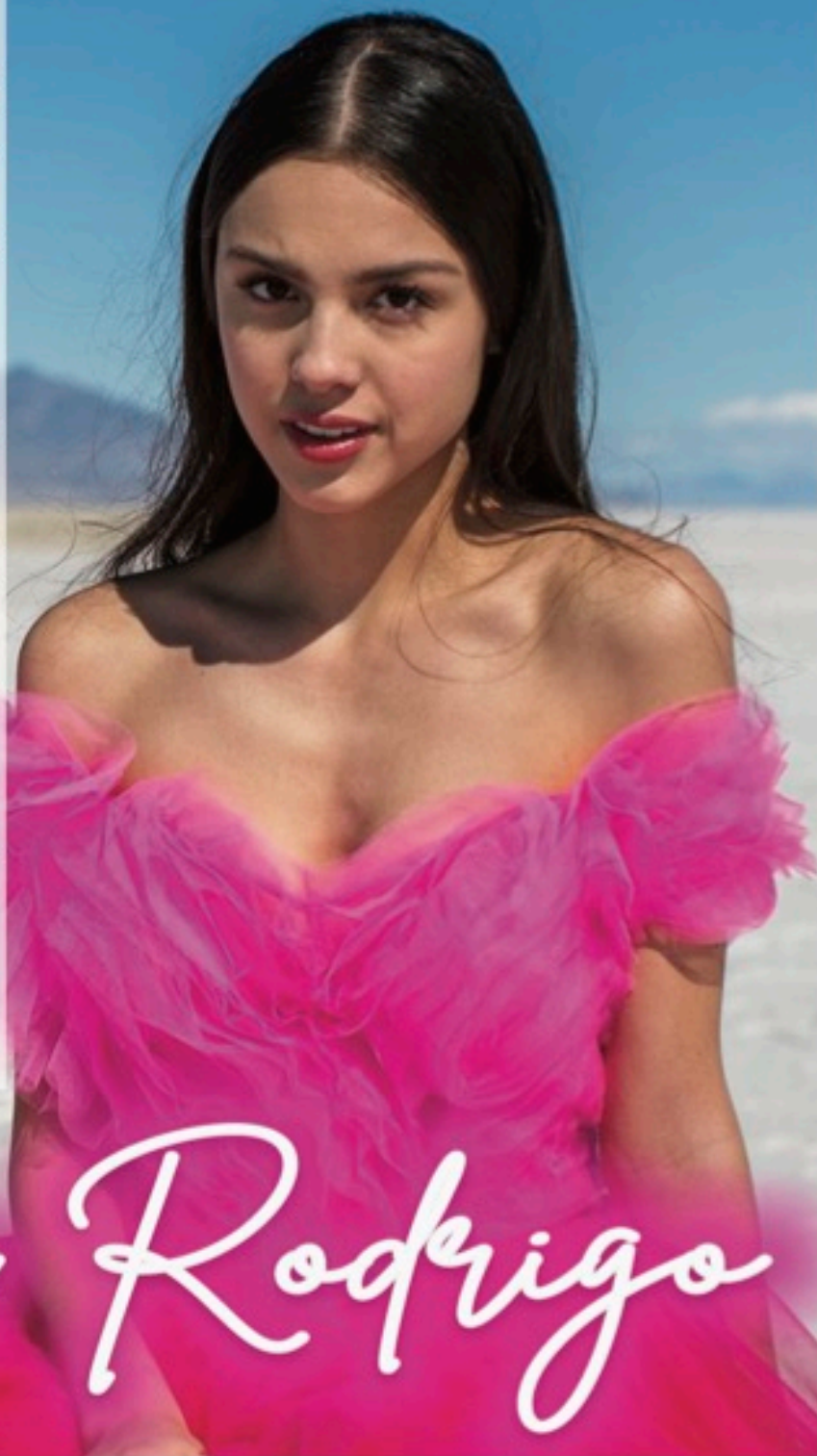
Xclusive C. C. Members getting
Car Show Awards ready!



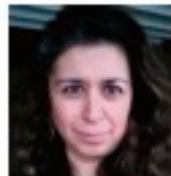
La Voz

Olivia Isabel Rodrigo (born February 20, 2003) is an American singer-songwriter and actress. She first became known for starring on the Disney Channel series *Bizaardvark* (2016–2019) and the Disney+ series *High School Musical: The Musical: The Series* (2019–2022). Shifting focus onto her recording career, Rodrigo signed with Geffen Records to release her 2021 single, "Drivers License", which peaked atop the US Billboard Hot 100 and raised her to international prominence. Her debut studio album, *Sour* (2021), was released in May of that year; it spawned her second number-one song, "Good 4 U", and won her three Grammy Awards. Overall, Rodrigo has released three Billboard Hot 100 number-one singles, two Billboard 200 number-one albums, and eight multi-platinum songs by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA). Her accolades include an American Music Award, seven Billboard Music Awards, and four MTV Video Music Awards. She was recognized as Time's Entertainer of the Year in 2021, Billboard's Woman of the Year in 2022, and has twice been awarded "Songwriter of the Year" at the ASCAP Pop Music Awards in 2022 and 2024.

Olivia Isabel Rodrigo (nacida el 20 de febrero de 2003) es una cantautora y actriz estadounidense. Se hizo conocida por primera vez por protagonizar la serie de Disney Channel Bizaardvark (2016-2019) y la serie de Disney+ High School Musical: The Musical: The Series (2019-2022). Pasando a centrarse en su carrera discográfica, Rodrigo firmó con Geffen Records para lanzar su sencillo de 2021, "Drivers License", que alcanzó la cima del Billboard Hot 100 de EE. UU. y la elevó a la prominencia internacional. Su álbum de estudio debut, Sour (2021), fue lanzado en mayo de ese año; generó su segunda canción número uno, "Good 4 U", y ganó tres premios Grammy. En total, Rodrigo ha lanzado tres sencillos número uno de Billboard Hot 100, dos álbumes número uno de Billboard 200 y ocho canciones multiplatino de la Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA). Sus elogios incluyen un American Music Award, siete Billboard Music Awards y cuatro MTV Video Music Awards. Fue reconocida como Artista del Año por Time en 2021, Mujer del Año por Billboard en 2022 y ha sido galardonada dos veces como "Compositora del Año" en los Premios de Música Pop ASCAP en 2022 y 2024.



Olivia Rodrigo



By Lisa Wiseman

GR Comic-Con was held at DeVos Place November 15-17. If you have never been to a Comic-Con, it is a memorable experience. There was so much to see and do, you begin to wonder if 3 days is enough to experience everything.

You don't have to dress up, be a gamer or a comic book enthusiast to enjoy GR Comic-Con. They have vendors that sell art, jewelry, clothes, posters, figurines and, in case you are hungry, plenty of food.

There are games, costume contests, panel discussions, and plenty of cosplayers. Cosplayers dress as their favorite comic book, anime or movie characters, and there are several that really put a lot of time and effort into their look. It was fun just to watch what people were wearing.

Then there are the celebrity guests, you can get an autograph or picture taken with your favorite actor, illustrator, author or social media personality. This year, they had Walter Koenig from the original Star Trek series, Khary Payton from The Walking Dead, Dee Wallace Stone from E.T., Chris Sarandon from The Princess Bride, Martin Klebba from Pirates of the Caribbean and the list goes on and on.

And one of the big draws this year was actor Danny Trejo. Danny, probably best known for his role as Machete, has been in over 400 movie and television roles, has a couple of eateries (Trejo's Tacos, Trejo's Coffee & Donuts), and at 80, still has a few projects in the works. He was nice enough to grant LaVoz an interview while in Grand Rapids.

Next up is Kalamazoo Comic-Con at the Kalamazoo Expo Center coming in April 2025, so start working on your costumes! Go to www.grcomiccon for more information.

La Comic-Con de GR se celebró en DeVos Place del 15 al 17 de Noviembre. Si nunca has asistido a una Comic-Con, es una experiencia memorable. Habla tanto para ver y hacer que empiezas a preguntarte si 3 días son suficientes para experimentarlo todo.

No tienes que disfrazarte, ser un jugador o un entusiasta de los cómics para disfrutar de la Comic-Con de GR. Tienen vendedores que venden arte, joyas, ropa, carteles, figuras y, en caso de que tengas hambre, mucha comida. Hay juegos, concursos de disfraces, mesas redondas y muchos cosplayers. Los cosplayers se visten como sus personajes favoritos de cómic, anime o película, y hay varios que realmente dedican mucho tiempo y esfuerzo a su apariencia. Fue divertido simplemente ver lo que vestía la gente.

Luego están los invitados famosos, puedes conseguir un autógrafo o tomarte una foto con tu actor, ilustrador, autor o personalidad de las redes sociales favorito. Este año, contaron con Walter Koenig de la serie original de Star Trek, Khary Payton de The Walking Dead, Dee Wallace Stone de E.T., Chris Sarandon de La princesa prometida, Martin Klebba de Piratas del Caribe y la lista sigue y sigue.



Y uno de los grandes atractivos de este año fue el actor Danny Trejo. Danny, probablemente más conocido por su papel de Machete, ha participado en más de 400 películas y programas de televisión, tiene un par de restaurantes (Trejo's Tacos, Trejo's Coffee & Donuts) y, a sus 80 años, todavía tiene algunos proyectos en marcha. Tuvo la amabilidad de concederle una entrevista a LaVoz mientras estaba en Grand Rapids.

El próximo evento de Comic-Con, es en el Centro Expo de Kalamazoo en Abril de 2025, así que ¡empieza a trabajar en tus disfraces! Visita www.grcomiccon para obtener más información.



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¿Quién gobernará Estados Unidos después de las elecciones de 2024?



... Versión en español del artículo de la pag. 6

Los votos siguen llegando, ya que los recuentos no se han completado hasta la fecha y los recuentos continúan. Con un estimado de 244 millones de votantes registrados en Estados Unidos, aún no se ha resumido cuántos estadounidenses realmente emitieron sus votos en esta elección crucial. Sabemos que, en comparación con elecciones anteriores, fue apenas la mayoría de los votos emitidos lo que dirigió un cambio en las agendas de los partidos políticos. Pero ¿fue un mandato? Los medios de comunicación tradicionalmente construyen un "bombo frenético" sobre la dirección que está tomando el país según la participación electoral. Aproximadamente el 62% de los votos emitidos para la presidencia se dividieron de manera bastante uniforme entre Donald Trump: 76,828,951 o 50% y Kamala Harris: 74,312,576 o 48.4%, mientras que el recuento oficial no ha concluido. Entonces, ¿dónde está el mandato?

- La afirmación de que "la mayoría de los estadounidenses quieren una agenda de Trump" está lejos de la realidad, ya que no tiene en cuenta la voluntad de la cantidad de votantes desilusionados que se abstuvieron de participar en las elecciones por una miríada de razones. La participación electoral en el voto popular se vio nuevamente eclipsada de manera desproporcionada por un sistema injusto del proceso del Colegio Electoral que no exige que los electores de cada estado respeten la voluntad de sus votantes.

- Según la información más reciente, 33 estados y el Distrito de Columbia tienen leyes que exigen que los electores voten en función del voto popular. Estos estados obligan a sus electores a votar por el candidato que haya obtenido la mayor cantidad de votos en su estado. Los estados restantes no tienen tales leyes, lo que permite a los electores votar libremente. ¡Los electores en esta elección votaron por Donald Trump!

Los votantes deben reconocer que el sistema de electores versus voto popular está en desacuerdo entre sí si se permite que algunos electores ignoren la "voluntad del pueblo", como lo exige la democracia. ¿De qué sirve el principio de "un hombre, un voto" si el sistema no lo respeta? Además, ¿qué tan democrático es que convoquemos elecciones antes de que se cuente cada voto? En estas elecciones, se declaró al vencedor la noche de la elección, pero muchos estados del país aún no habían completado sus recuentos y, en el extranjero, los votantes militares y algunos votos por correo y los votos en disputa permanecieron sin contar. Una vez más, ¡esto es una contradicción con las elecciones democráticas! ¡Calificar el sistema de "amañado" es quedarse corto!

Se debe hacer una mayor introspección sobre las razones por las que los votantes nuevamente no participaron en el ritual de votar. Deberíamos analizar específicamente la cuestión de la inflación en relación con los salarios más altos y la distribución de la riqueza en nuestro país, ya que muchos votantes identificaron la inflación como la razón número uno para el cambio de dirección a través de las entrevistas de las encuestas de salida.

Si bien la inflación no está controlada por un presidente en particular, ni tampoco lo está el costo de los huevos o la gasolina, nuestros líderes deben ser culpados por la condición de la economía y el costo de los bienes.

Los salarios más altos para los empleados pueden contribuir a la inflación a través de un proceso conocido como inflación salarial. Así es como funciona:

1. Aumento de los costes para los empleadores: cuando los salarios aumentan, los empleadores se enfrentan a unos costes laborales más elevados.
2. Aumento de los precios de los bienes y servicios: para mantener los márgenes de beneficio, los empleadores suelen trasladar estos costes aumentados a los consumidores aumentando los precios de los bienes y servicios.
3. Inflación por demanda: los salarios más altos también pueden aumentar el poder adquisitivo de los consumidores, lo que conduce a una mayor demanda de bienes y servicios. Si la oferta no se mantiene al día

con este aumento de la demanda, los precios pueden subir aún más. Esto crea un ciclo en el que los salarios más altos conducen a precios más altos, lo que a su vez puede conducir a mayores demandas salariales, lo que contribuye a la inflación general. Aquí hay un resumen del crecimiento salarial promedio en los EE. UU. de 2012 a 2024:

Año Crecimiento salarial promedio (%)

2012	3,12
2013	1,28
2014	3,55
2015	3,48
2016	1,13
2017	3,45
2018	3,62
2019	3,75
2020	2,83
2021	8,89
2022	5,32
2023	4,43
2024	4,7

A continuación, se muestra un resumen de los aumentos del salario mínimo en Michigan de 2012 a 2024:

Año Salario mínimo

2012	\$7,40
2013	\$7,40
2014	\$8,15
2015	\$8,15
2016	\$8,50
2017	\$8,90
2018	\$9,25
2019	\$9,45
2020	\$9,65
2021	\$9,65
2022	\$9,87
2023	\$10,10
2024	\$10,33

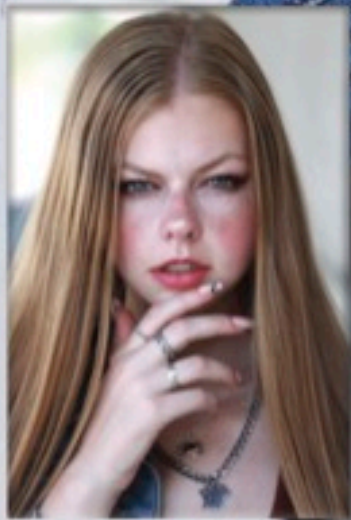
A partir de 2025, el salario mínimo aumentará a

\$10.56 el 1 de enero y luego a \$12.48 el 21 de febrero de 2025.

A menudo me quejo del costo de los huevos, la leche y una hamburguesa, ya que los salarios en las tiendas de comestibles y las cadenas de restaurantes minoristas han aumentado más rápido que los salarios. Los que están en la cima deben renunciar a parte de las ganancias acumuladas actualmente para compensar el costo de los salarios. ¡No es justo para Estados Unidos que la codicia exacerbada arruine los cimientos de nuestra democracia! Es injusto que los intereses corporativos en Estados Unidos acumulen fortunas financieras a través de los beneficios que les otorgan las lagunas fiscales y las leyes aprobadas que permiten a las empresas aumentar sus ganancias sin trasladar los beneficios a sus empleados. Sin un ajuste de las fortunas que conduzca a una cierta distribución de la riqueza, los ricos seguirán enriqueciéndose y la clase trabajadora seguirá sufriendo independientemente de cuántos dólares aumenten sus salarios.

Estamos condenados, los trabajadores estadounidenses se quedan cada vez más atrás, mientras que los directores ejecutivos, gerentes y accionistas de las empresas se enriquecen con nuestro trabajo y el mercado crece. ¡Me siento atrapado en un horario de trabajo de 40 a 60 horas solo para llegar a fin de mes! ¡Muchos de mis amigos sienten lo mismo y nuestras afiliaciones políticas nos han fallado! ¡Los republicanos y los demócratas están despertando a la realidad de que las cosas no están bien y no importa por quién votemos! ¡Entiendo que el sistema está "amañado"! ¡Debemos hacer que nuestros funcionarios electos rindan cuentas sin importar a qué afiliación partidaria afirmen! ¡El mandato es elevar a la clase trabajadora de Estados Unidos!





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Kaylee

My name is Kaylee & I have been Modeling for almost 4 years now. I Love Modeling because it is a way to express yourself through an image. I Love to be Creative & Work out of my Comfort Zone! I enjoy all aspects of print and Runway Modeling, from connecting with new people to seeing the final product. I have my Bachelors Degree in Fashion Merchandising & it has been really fun combining the two. I've even designed some of my own cloths for photoshoots. When I'm not Modeling, I'm working on my Small Business,

"Creative Caterpillar Designs. I hand make a variety of items & bring them to Artist Markets around the area.

I am so Thankful for every New Experience and Opportunity that comes my way!

2024 DECEMBER MODEL SEARCH



How Long Does It Take to See the Benefits of Quitting Smoking?

Smoking cigarettes is at an 80-year low in the United States, but still more 49 million Americans smoke each year. Smoking increases the risk of developing cancer, heart disease, heart attacks, stroke, respiratory diseases and other health problems. Quitting smoking is one of the most effective steps you can take to improve your health. Your body starts healing and recovering from smoking within hours after your last cigarette. The benefits of quitting smoking improve and compound over time. A smoker who quits by age 30 can return, over time, to the same mortality risks as a non-smoker. It is never too late to quit.

1 day after quitting smoking

Smoking raises blood pressure levels and reduces the amount of oxygen in your bloodstream, raising the risk of a heart attack. It also increases the risk of stroke from blood clotting. These risks are already starting to lower after one day of quitting smoking. Your blood pressure will have begun to drop, and oxygen levels increased after even one day free from cigarettes and smoking.

2 days after quitting smoking

Smoking dulls your senses of taste and smell. Within two days you may begin to taste and smell food and scents better than when you smoked.

1 week after quitting smoking

After a week smoke-free, you will be able to more easily breath fully and deeply due to your bronchial tubes relaxing and losing the stress caused by smoking. You may notice less of a smoker's cough and feel like you have more energy. Although you may experience a new cough in the first week or two of quitting smoking, this is your body clearing mucus from your lungs. Smoking makes your lungs less effective at clearing chest congestion, so your lungs' improved health after quitting smoking leads to an increased ability to clear out this mucus. This won't last long, so stick with it.

1-6 months after quitting smoking

During this period, your circulatory and respiratory systems continue to heal from the damage caused by smoking. Coughing will decrease, and you will find it easier to breathe. Your risk of infection, heart attack and stroke are lowering. At this point, many lifestyle differences should be noticeable, and you may start to forget what some things felt like as a smoker. You will likely notice:

- money saved that was spent on tobacco and cigarettes
- breathing more easily and enjoy time outside more
- more time in your day that used to be spent smoking
- foods and scents are more enjoyable
- you can be more physically active

1 year after quitting smoking

After one year of quitting smoking, your risk of heart attack is much lower than it was when you were smoking. During the next couple of years, your risk of heart attack and coronary heart disease continue to decrease. You will be able to breathe much better and handle more physical activity and exertion.

5 years after quitting smoking

After five years smoke-free, your risk of coronary heart disease is half that of a smoker. At this point, the risk of stroke is sharply decreased, and the risk of developing cancers of the mouth, throat or larynx are half what they were before you quit smoking.

10 years after quitting smoking

After 10 years of quitting smoking, your risk of developing lung cancer is half what it is for a smoker. The risk of developing cancers of the bladder, esophagus and kidney is also dramatically reduced. New cells have replaced some of the old smoking-damaged cells.

15 years after quitting smoking

After 15 years smoke-free, your risk of heart disease will be close to that of someone who never smoked. Your risk of developing many cancers is significantly decreased, and you will have gained back a level of health that was not possible as a smoker.

Get help to quit smoking

While quitting cold turkey is one way to go about it, it is not the only way. There is not one right way to quit smoking. Michigan has a free Tobacco Quit Program that can help you quit smoking today.

To enroll in the Tobacco Quit Program:

Visit: MI Tobacco Quitlink

Call: 1-800-QUIT-NOW (784-8669)

TTY: 1-888-229-2182

24 hours a day, seven days a week

El consumo de cigarrillos se encuentra en su nivel más bajo en 80 años en los Estados Unidos, pero aún así, 49 millones de estadounidenses fuman cada año. Fumar aumenta el riesgo de desarrollar cáncer, enfermedades cardíacas, ataques cardíacos, accidentes cerebrovasculares, enfermedades respiratorias y otros problemas de salud. Dejar de fumar es una de las medidas más efectivas que puede tomar para mejorar su salud. Su cuerpo comienza a sanar y recuperarse después de fumar pocas horas después de su último cigarrillo. Los beneficios de dejar de fumar mejoran y se agravan con el tiempo. Un fumador que deja de fumar antes de los 30 años puede volver, con el tiempo, a correr los mismos riesgos de mortalidad que un no fumador. Nunca es demasiado tarde para dejar de fumar.

Obtenga ayuda para dejar de fumar

Si bien dejar de fumar de golpe es una forma de hacerlo, no es la única. No existe una única manera correcta de dejar de fumar.

Michigan tiene un programa gratuito para dejar de fumar que puede ayudarlo a dejar de fumar hoy.

Para inscribirse en el Programa para dejar de fumar:

Visita: MI Tobacco Quitlink

Llame al: 1-800-QUIT-NOW (784-8669)

Teléfono de texto: 1-888-229-2182

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Akira

{ Ah-Kira }

It is often written 'saving the best for last,' as we close out another outstanding year of selected feature monthly models at The Community Voice/La Voz Magazine. Welcome to month 12 of the 2024 year & our stunning Miss Akira. She was chosen from a application pool of over 200 applicants and for the photoshoot she simply took center stage to the next level crushing every aspect of this shoot & also earning a position for our 2025 Grand Haven Beach Photoshoot. Akira simply is stunning and carries herself in fine style and grace classy and very sassy. Look for her to emerge in 2025 as one of Michigan's top ten models.

CLASSIFIEDS

SURVEYOR TECHNICIAN-

Coleman Engineering is hiring for a Surveyor Technician in our Green Bay, WI office to assist the Project Surveyor with various tasks while working in the field. The candidate must possess excellent follow through skills, be attentive to detail, work well with others, and be able to communicate effectively with clients and coworkers. Applicants must be able to complete required paperwork and sketches, as well as have the ability and knowledge to read and understand maps. The job entails walking over varying terrain and in varying weather conditions. Candidates will be required to perform light manual labor, follow all safety guidelines, and lift over 50 lbs. In addition to other duties, the Survey Technician will be responsible for the operation of survey equipment, and some travel will be required.

Job Requirements

- Ability to work independently as well as with a crew. Ambitious, willing and eager to learn.
 - Strong verbal and written communication skills.
 - Must demonstrate clear commitment to delivering excellent customer service.
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- Ability to safely operate ATV, UTV, snowmobile and boat. Coleman Engineering Company offers competitive salaries and benefits, including 401K plan and the opportunity to advance your career in a professional and challenging work environment. Email resumes to LeAna Lindquist by clicking the APPLY button. EOE

FINANCE DIRECTOR-

Sumpter Township is currently accepting resumes for this position, reporting to the Township Manager and

Board of Trustees. This is a full-time position with a base salary pay range of \$87,000 - \$95,000 (dependent on qualifications & experience) and benefits package. Please visit our website at "www.sumptertwp.org", COMMUNITY/JOB OPENINGS for further information on the position description, duties and requirements. Please submit your resume and cover letter in confidence to ATTN: Township Manager, 23480 Sumpter Rd, Belleville, MI 48111.

Sumpter Township is an equal opportunity employer that is committed to diversity and inclusion in the workplace. We prohibit discrimination and harassment of any kind based on race, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, genetic information, pregnancy, or any other protected characteristic as outlined by federal, state, or local laws.

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.

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Sunday/ Domingo 11:00am - 12:30am



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