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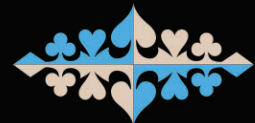
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OPINION

“Latinos Have Already Proven Loyalty. Now the Country Must Prove Its Loyalty to Us Before It Asks for More of Our Children.”

By Dr. José A. Flores

For generations, Latinos have answered this nation’s call—on the factory floor, in the fields, in classrooms, in hospitals, and on the front lines of every major U.S. conflict. Our families have sent sons and daughters into uniform long before the country was willing to see us as equals. Today, more than **1.5 million Latino veterans** live in the United States, a number that has grown steadily even as the overall veteran population has declined. According to federal labor data, the Latino veteran population increased by **25% between 2008 and 2023**, while the total veteran population fell by nearly **20%** during the same period. That is not the profile of a community avoiding service. It is the profile of a community that has consistently stepped forward.

Yet despite this record of loyalty, the country continues to treat Latino communities as disposable labor and deportable bodies. Immigration raids tear apart mixed-status families. Latino citizens are profiled as foreigners in their own neighborhoods. And even within the military itself, Latino service members report discrimination at rates higher than many other groups. A 2025 survey by the American Latino Veterans Association found that **more than half of Latino veterans—54%—experienced discrimination during their service**, even as they expressed deep pride in their contributions to the nation.

The data inside the Department of Defense tells a similar story. Latinos now make up **18–19% of the active-duty force**, a share that has grown steadily for two decades. But that growth is concentrated in the enlisted ranks. In the officer corps—where decisions, promotions, and long-term benefits are shaped—Latinos remain significantly underrepresented. The pipeline is full of Latino youth willing to serve; the bottleneck is a system that has not yet learned how to value them.

If you graphed the last twenty years of military demographics, the trend would be unmistakable:

- The **Latino line rises**, year after year.
- The **White non-Hispanic line declines**.
- The **Black line holds steady**, and
- The **Asian, Native, and multiracial lines slowly climb**.

The future of the U.S. military is a future of color. The question is whether the country will honor that reality—or continue to rely on our bodies while denying our communities justice.

Some families, including my own, are beginning to ask a question that previous generations were too humble, too hopeful, or too afraid to ask: **Why should we continue volunteering our children for a country that has not yet confronted its own systemic racism?** This is not disloyalty. It is accountability. It is a demand that the nation finally match our service with respect, opportunity, and equal protection under the law.

The United States is entering an era of labor shortages across nearly every sector—health care, manufacturing, education, transportation, and yes, the military. Every demographic projection shows that the country will depend more heavily on Latino workers and Latino youth

to sustain its economy and its defense. In other words, America needs us more than ever. And that gives our community leverage we have never had before.

Historically, communities of color have used their bodies—whether in labor, in protest, or in military service—as a form of political expression. During the Vietnam era, the Chicano Moratorium challenged the disproportionate deaths of Mexican American soldiers. Black civil rights leaders questioned why young men should fight abroad while being denied dignity at home. These movements were not anti-American. They were profoundly American: they insisted that citizenship must mean more than sacrifice; it must also mean equality.

Today’s Latino community stands at a similar crossroads. We have proven our loyalty in every measurable way—through service, through work, through cultural and economic contributions that now generate a **Latino GDP exceeding \$3 trillion**. The question is no longer whether Latinos are committed to this country. The question is whether this country is prepared to show the same commitment to us.

Before America asks for more of our children, it must confront the policies that criminalize our families. It must dismantle the barriers that keep Latino service members stuck in the lowest ranks. It must ensure that the next generation of Latino soldiers, nurses, engineers, and public servants inherit a nation that sees them not as labor to be used, but as citizens to be valued.

Loyalty is not a one-way street. Latinos have upheld our end of the promise. Now the country must uphold its own.



OPINIÓN

“Los latinos ya hemos demostrado lealtad; ahora este país debe demostrar la suya antes de pedirnos más de nuestros hijos.”

Durante generaciones, los latinos hemos respondido al llamado de esta nación: en las fábricas, en los campos, en las aulas, en los hospitales y en cada frente de guerra. Nuestras familias han enviado hijos e hijas al servicio militar mucho antes de que este país estuviera dispuesto a vernos como iguales. Hoy, más de **1.5 millones de veteranos latinos** viven en Estados Unidos, una cifra que ha crecido de manera constante incluso mientras la población total de veteranos disminuye. Según datos federales, la población de veteranos latinos aumentó **25% entre 2008 y 2023**, mientras que la población total de veteranos cayó casi **20%** en ese mismo periodo. Eso no es evasión del servicio. Es evidencia de compromiso.

Sin embargo, a pesar de este historial de lealtad, el país sigue tratando a nuestras comunidades como mano de obra desechable y cuerpos deportables. Las redadas migratorias destruyen familias de estatus mixto. A los ciudadanos latinos se les perfila como extranjeros en sus propios vecindarios. Y dentro de las fuerzas armadas, los latinos reportan niveles de discriminación más altos que muchos otros grupos. Una encuesta de 2025 de la American Latino Veterans Association reveló que **más de la mitad de los veteranos latinos—54%—experimentaron discriminación durante su servicio**, aun cuando expresan profundo orgullo por sus contribuciones al país.

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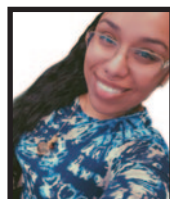
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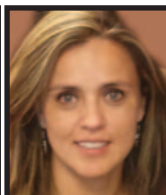
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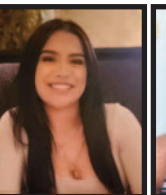
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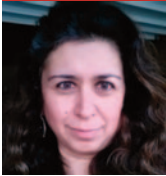


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SUNDAY NIGHT FUNNIES' 1ST ALL-HISPANIC SHOW



Brian B. knows a thing or two about comedy. He is the creator of The Sunday Night Funnies, a free admission, live stand-up comedy show in Grand Rapids that features a variety of comics from Michigan and around the country.

By Lisa Wiseman

"I started it in 2008. I think it was my mid-life crisis. Some guys just grow a ponytail or buy a motorcycle. I started a stand-up comedy show at the age of 50." Brian B. tries to appeal to everyone in the audience. "The Funnies has always been a diverse show. When putting together the lineup each week, I try to have a good mix of comedians, be it race, gender or age. I think our audience appreciates that as well." He has had shows with a lineup of all women, all comedians over the age of 50 for Older Americans month, all African-Americans for Black History month, and, most recently, he started his Cancer Survivors showcase with comedians who have been affected by cancer or are cancer survivors themselves, of which he, himself, is one. In fact, since the start of SNF, he has raised over \$30,000 for Gilda's Club of Grand Rapids.

Now, he is doing the first all-Hispanic lineup of comedians for SNF on May 3. "I wanted to celebrate the contribution Hispanic comedians have made to the show through the years and thought Cinco de Mayo would be a good time to do it. We're featuring seven extremely funny comics for this show; Armando Sanchez from Indiana, Lakeshore comics Emmanuel Lechuga and Kevin Sanchez, Kalamazoo comedienne Dominique Martinez, Rio, who hails from Lansing, and Detroit area comedians David Lesnieski and Ruben Ruben. Ruben has not performed at SNF for over 10 years, so I'm excited to have him back for this special show."

In addition to a great night of comedy, SNF will be giving away 4 tickets to see Selena, the 1997 movie about Tejano music star Selena Quintanilla Perez. The movie is showing at Wealthy Street Theatre on Tuesday, May 5 at 7:30 p.m. Both the movie and the show are sponsored by community radio station 88.1, WYCE.

The Sunday Night Funnies starts every Sunday night at 7:00 pm at its new location at The Chicago Beef Joint at 822 Ottawa, NW, Grand Rapids (across the street from The Garage Bar). Come join us for a night of fun and laughter!

Brian B. sabe un par de cosas sobre comedia. Es el creador de *The Sunday Night Funnies*, un espectáculo de comedia *stand-up* en vivo y de entrada gratuita en Grand Rapids, que presenta a una variedad de comediantes de Michigan y de todo el país.

Ahora, él está organizando la primera alineación de comediantes totalmente hispana para el SNF, que tendrá lugar el 3 de Mayo. «Quería celebrar la contribución que los comediantes hispanos han hecho al espectáculo a lo largo de los años, y pensé que el Cinco de Mayo sería un buen momento para hacerlo. Para este show presentaremos a siete comediantes sumamente divertidos: Armando Sánchez, de Indiana; los comediantes de Lakeshore, Emmanuel Lechuga y Kevin Sánchez; la comedianta de Kalamazoo, Dominique Martínez; Rio, oriundo de Lansing; y los comediantes del área de Detroit, David Lesnieski y Ruben Ruben. Además de una gran noche de comedia, el SNF sorteará 4 entradas para ver *Selena*, la película de 1997 sobre la estrella de la música tejana Selena Quintanilla Pérez. La película se proyectará en el Wealthy Street Theatre el martes 5 de mayo a las 7:30 p. m. Tanto la película como el espectáculo están patrocinados por la estación de radio comunitaria 88.1, WYCE.

El *Sunday Night Funnies* comienza todos los Domingos por la noche a las 7:00 p. m. en su nueva sede: The Chicago Beef Joint, ubicado en el 822 de Ottawa NW, Grand Rapids (justo enfrente de The Garage Bar). ¡Vengan a acompañarnos para disfrutar de una noche de diversión y risas!

Sunday Night Funnies
standup comedy

Cinco de Mayo show
All- Hispanic lineup

May 3

Armando Sanchez, Emmanuel Lechuga, Dominique Martinez, Kevin Sanchez, David Lesnieski, Rio, Ruben Ruben

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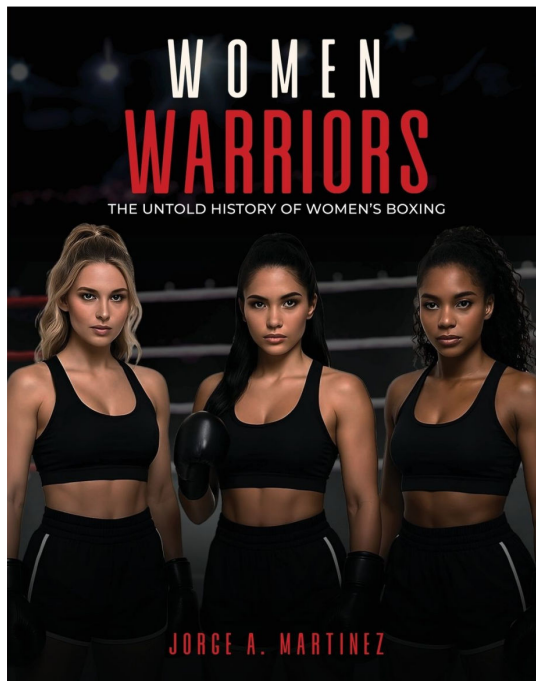
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Community News

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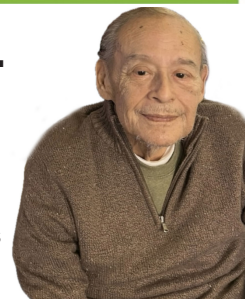
by Jorge A Martinez

www.barnesandnoble.com/w/women-warriors-jorge-a-martinez/1149499702



Obituary

Simon Aguilar Jr.



Simon Aguilar Jr., 84, of Grand Rapids, passed away peacefully on April 8, 2026. He was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, known for his strong work ethic from his years at Kelvinator and Steelcase. Simon loved golfing, community involvement, and hosting family gatherings, earning the nickname "Two Beer." He is survived by his wife Irma, three children, eight grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and a brother, along with many nieces and nephews. Funeral services are on April 15 at Matthyse Kuiper DeGraaf Funeral Home, with visitation prior. Memorial contributions can be made to the National Kidney Foundation.

Colin Kaepernick to Publish THE PERILOUS FIGHT—his Defining and Uncompromising Memoir—with Legacy Lit on September 15, 2026

Colin Kaepernick, the renowned Civil Rights Activist and former Super Bowl quarterback, is set to release his memoir, THE PERILOUS FIGHT, on September 15, 2026, published by Legacy Lit. The book explores Kaepernick's journey from a Black child adopted by a white family in Turlock, California, to his pivotal moment of protest during the national anthem in 2016. It details his experiences in the NFL and his awakening to issues of racial exploitation and identity. Kaepernick emphasizes that his act of kneeling was a deliberate choice shaped by years of personal and cultural reflection, not an impulsive decision.



The memoir is described as both personal and political, aiming to provide insight into the lasting questions of race, power, and justice. Available for pre-order now, the audiobook will feature Kaepernick's narration, highlighting its urgency and relevance. Kaepernick's story is framed as a collective struggle for equity, encouraging continued activism and understanding among all individuals.



TEJANO 616 EN EL 97.3 FM

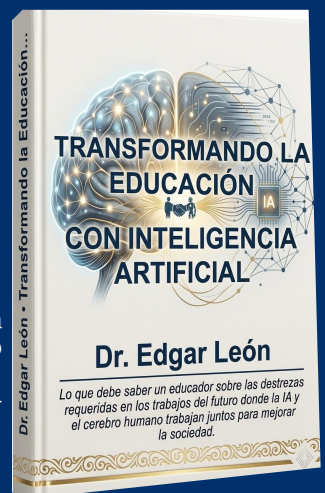
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TRANSFORMANDO LA EDUCACION CON INTELIGENCIA ARTIFICIAL: Lo que debe saber un educador sobre las destrezas requeridas en los trabajos del futuro (Spanish Edition) Kindle Edition

Por Dr. Edgar León

Transformando la Educación con Inteligencia Artificial es una guía clara y visionaria para educadores, líderes académicos y profesionales que quieren entender cómo la IA está cambiando el aprendizaje, el trabajo y el papel del docente. El libro combina ideas prácticas, fundamentos de neurociencia y ética educativa para ayudar al lector a enseñar mejor en un mundo acelerado por la tecnología. Transformando_la_Educacion_con_IA.docx



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Left Behind by the Algorithm



Special Report by Dr. Edgar León

By Edgar León

MAYAGUEZ, P.R. — In the lettuce fields of Yuma, Arizona, an AI-equipped machine now performs the work that forty-five farmworkers handled just a few seasons ago. One operator runs it; forty-four jobs have vanished. This scene is repeated across farmland, warehouses, and call centers. It is not a preview of the future — it is the present. And for more than 60 million Latino Americans, who make up 18 percent of the U.S. workforce, it represents a direct threat to economic stability.

The data is stark. A 2024 International Labor Organization–World Bank study found that up to half of the jobs that could benefit from generative AI are blocked by digital-access gaps. UCLA's Latino Policy and Politics Institute reports that 52 percent of Latinos in California work in high-automation-risk occupations. The Hispanic Federation estimates that Latinos make up 35 percent of all U.S. workers with **no digital skills** — a catastrophic figure in an AI-driven economy.

One fact underscores the national stakes: **by 2026, one in every two new workers entering the U.S. labor market will be Latino.** Their exclusion from the AI economy is not a Latino problem; it is an American one.

Dejados Atrás por el Algoritmo

MAYAGÜEZ, P.R. — En los campos de lechuga de Yuma, Arizona, una máquina equipada con inteligencia artificial realiza hoy el trabajo que cuarenta y cinco jornaleros hacían hace apenas unas temporadas. Un solo operador la maneja; los otros cuarenta y cuatro empleos desaparecieron. Esta escena se repite en tierras agrícolas, almacenes y centros de llamadas. No es un anticipo del futuro: es la realidad presente. Y para más de 60 millones de latinos —18 por ciento de la fuerza laboral estadounidense— representa una amenaza directa a su estabilidad económica.

Los datos son contundentes. Un estudio conjunto de la Organización Internacional del Trabajo y el Banco Mundial (2024) concluye que hasta la mitad de los empleos que podrían beneficiarse de la IA generativa están bloqueados por brechas de acceso digital. El Instituto de Políticas Latinas de UCLA señala que 52 por ciento de los latinos en California trabajan en ocupaciones de alto riesgo de automatización. La Hispanic Federation estima que los latinos representan **35 por ciento** de todos los trabajadores sin habilidades digitales —una cifra catastrófica en una economía impulsada por IA.

Un dato resume la urgencia nacional: **para 2026, uno de cada dos nuevos trabajadores que ingresen al mercado laboral será latino.** Su exclusión de la economía de IA no es un problema latino; es un problema estadounidense.

A CASCADE OF BARRIERS

Latino workers face not one obstacle but a chain of compounding disadvantages.

Digital access is the first. Only 57 percent of Hispanic adults own a laptop or desktop, compared to 82 percent of white adults, according to UnidosUS and Pew Research. A quarter rely solely on smartphones — devices inadequate for the advanced learning and knowledge work the new economy requires. Millions more lack reliable broadband, making participation in digital training or remote work structurally impossible.

Language deepens the divide. Most AI systems are designed and optimized in English. Research cited by HispanicPro Network shows that AI-generated Spanish content contains significantly more errors than

English output, especially in legal, financial, and health topics — precisely where Latino families need accuracy. Meanwhile, Spanish-language content moderation on WhatsApp and YouTube remains weaker, allowing misinformation to spread more easily.

Education pipelines leak early. Schools serving predominantly Latino communities offer fewer advanced STEM courses and inconsistent exposure to coding, robotics, and AI. These gaps suppress college readiness and STEM degree completion, shrinking the pool of Latino talent entering technology fields. Today, AI-related roles command a **56 percent wage premium**, yet hiring of 22- to 25-year-olds into high-AI-exposure jobs has already slowed by **14 percent** since 2024. The economy is accelerating; preparation is not.

UNA CASCADA DE BARRERAS

Los trabajadores latinos enfrentan no un obstáculo, sino una cadena de desventajas acumuladas.

El acceso digital es el primero. Solo 57 por ciento de los adultos hispanos posee una computadora portátil o de escritorio, comparado con 82 por ciento de los adultos blancos, según UnidosUS y Pew Research. Una cuarta parte depende exclusivamente del teléfono celular, insuficiente para el aprendizaje avanzado y el trabajo del conocimiento que exige la nueva economía. Millones carecen de banda ancha confiable, lo que hace imposible participar en capacitación digital o trabajo remoto.

El idioma profundiza la brecha. La mayoría de las plataformas de IA están diseñadas y optimizadas en inglés. Investigaciones citadas por HispanicPro Network muestran que el contenido generado por IA en español contiene muchos más errores que su equivalente en inglés, especialmente en temas legales, financieros y de salud —precisamente donde las familias latinas necesitan precisión. En WhatsApp y YouTube, la moderación de contenido en español es más débil, lo que facilita la propagación de desinformación.

La tubería educativa pierde talento desde temprano. Las escuelas que sirven a comunidades mayoritariamente latinas ofrecen menos cursos avanzados de STEM y menor exposición a codificación, robótica e IA. Estas brechas reducen la preparación universitaria y la obtención de títulos STEM, disminuyendo el número de latinos que ingresan a campos tecnológicos. Hoy, los empleos relacionados con IA pagan un **56 por ciento** más que roles comparables, pero la contratación de jóvenes de 22 a 25 años en ocupaciones con alta exposición a IA ha caído **14 por ciento** desde 2024. La economía acelera; la preparación no.

AGRICULTURE: THE SHARPEST EDGE OF DISRUPTION

No sector illustrates the speed of change more clearly than agriculture. Immigrants make up roughly **78 percent** of the U.S. farm workforce, and more than one million farmworkers — about **70 percent** of the total — are estimated to be undocumented, according to USDA data. This workforce helped drive a record **\$157 billion** in U.S. food exports in 2020. Now it faces mechanization at a pace unmatched since the rise of the combine harvester.

In Yuma, **90 percent** of farms use AI-guided lettuce thinners, shrinking crews from 45 workers to one. AI drones spray herbicides across 180,000 acres, with reductions of up to **99 percent** reported. In California, robots harvest strawberries. The Western Growers Association aims to automate **50 percent** of produce harvesting by 2031. The United Farm Workers warns that the pace mirrors the 1960s mechanical tomato harvester, which erased 32,000 jobs — except today's technology is faster, cheaper, and spreading across dozens of crops at once.

Yet displacement is not inevitable. Precision agriculture — a \$12.5 billion market in 2024 projected to reach **\$43.6 billion** by 2034 — is generating demand for drone operators, sensor technicians, AI equipment monitors, and crop-data analysts. Farmworkers, who know the land intimately, are ideal candidates. But without structured training pathways, they are locked out. For undocumented workers, federal retraining programs remain legally inaccessible.

AGRICULTURA: EL FILO MÁS AGUDO DE LA DISRUPCIÓN

Ningún sector muestra la velocidad del cambio tan claramente como la agricultura. Los inmigrantes constituyen aproximadamente **78 por ciento** de la fuerza laboral agrícola, y más de un millón de trabajadores —alrededor de **70 por ciento** del total— se estima que son indocumentados, según datos del USDA. Esta fuerza laboral impulsó exportaciones agrícolas récord de **\$157 mil millones** en 2020. Hoy enfrenta una mecanización sin precedentes desde la llegada de la cosechadora mecánica.

En Yuma, **90 por ciento** de las granjas utilizan adelgazadoras de lechuga guiadas por IA, reduciendo cuadrillas de 45 trabajadores a uno. Drones inteligentes rocían herbicidas en 180,000 acres, con reducciones de hasta **99 por ciento**. En California, robots cosechan fresas. La Western Growers Association busca automatizar **50 por ciento** de la cosecha de productos frescos para 2031. La United Farm Workers advierte que el ritmo recuerda a la cosechadora mecánica de tomate de los años 60, que eliminó 32,000 empleos —pero la tecnología actual es más rápida, más barata y se expande a docenas de cultivos simultáneamente.



Sin embargo, la sustitución permanente no es inevitable. La agricultura de precisión —un mercado de \$12.5 mil millones en 2024 proyectado a **\$43.6 mil millones** para 2034— está generando demanda de operadores de drones, técnicos de sensores, monitores de equipos de IA y analistas de datos agrícolas. Los trabajadores del campo, que conocen la tierra íntimamente, son candidatos ideales. Pero sin rutas de capacitación estructuradas, quedan excluidos. Para los indocumentados, los programas federales de reconversión laboral siguen siendo inaccesibles por ley.

WHAT MUST HAPPEN NOW

The solutions are clear, even if political will has lagged.

- 1. Expand bilingual AI literacy.** Hispanic Serving Institutions must launch free, bilingual AI and digital-skills programs tailored to the industries where Latinos work. Evening and weekend formats are essential.
- 2. Deploy Digital Equity Act funding where it matters.** The federal government's \$2.75 billion allocation must reach Latino-majority rural and urban communities, transforming libraries and community centers into digital learning hubs with Spanish-language support.
- 3. Retrain displaced agricultural workers.** Companies adopting AI automation should be required or incentivized to retrain workers as drone pilots, precision-equipment technicians, and data monitors — a farm-to-tech apprenticeship model that converts field expertise into digital credentials.
- 4. Demand Spanish-language AI parity.** Tech companies must invest in Spanish-language AI tools that match English-language accuracy. Parity should be a baseline expectation.
- 5. Extend retraining protections to undocumented workers.** Some states have begun doing this. National expansion is essential if the agricultural workforce is to transition rather than collapse.
- 6. Invest in Latino tech talent pipelines.** Organizations like LatinX in

AI — which has built a network of 10,000 researchers and awarded more than 1,100 conference grants — must receive dramatically increased support from universities, foundations, and corporations.

The World Economic Forum projects that **92 million jobs** will be displaced globally by 2030, while **170 million new roles** will emerge. Those who navigate this transition will be the workers with access to training, technology, and institutional support. Those left behind will be the ones already most vulnerable.

The fields of Yuma are quieter now. Whether the people who built their lives working them can find a place in the economy replacing them is a question technology cannot answer alone. Policy, investment, and urgency must do the rest — while there is still time to get it right.

LO QUE DEBE OCURRIR AHORA

Las soluciones existen, aunque la voluntad política ha sido insuficiente.

1. Expandir la alfabetización en IA de forma bilingüe. Las Instituciones al Servicio de los Hispanos deben ofrecer programas gratuitos de habilidades digitales e IA, en inglés y español, adaptados a los sectores donde trabajan los latinos.

2. Dirigir los fondos de la Ley de Equidad Digital a las comunidades latinas. Los \$2.75 mil millones federales deben llegar a comunidades rurales y urbanas de mayoría latina, convirtiendo bibliotecas y centros comunitarios en centros de aprendizaje digital con apoyo en español.

3. Reconversión laboral en agricultura. Las empresas que adopten automatización deben estar obligadas o incentivadas a capacitar a trabajadores desplazados como pilotos de drones, técnicos de precisión y monitores de datos.

4. Exigir paridad en IA en español. Las empresas tecnológicas deben garantizar que sus herramientas en español alcancen la misma precisión que en inglés.

5. Extender protecciones de capacitación a trabajadores indocumentados. Varios estados ya comenzaron; el país debe seguir ese camino.

6. Invertir en el talento latino en tecnología. Organizaciones como LatinX in AI —con más de 10,000 investigadores y más de 1,100 becas otorgadas— necesitan apoyo mucho mayor.

El Foro Económico Mundial proyecta que 92 millones de empleos serán desplazados para 2030, mientras surgirán **170 millones** nuevos. Quienes logren la transición serán quienes tengan acceso a capacitación, tecnología y apoyo institucional. Quienes no, serán los ya más vulnerables.

Los campos de Yuma están más silenciosos. Si quienes construyeron su vida trabajando en ellos podrán encontrar un lugar en la economía que los reemplaza es una pregunta que la tecnología no puede responder sola. La política, la inversión y la urgencia deben hacer el resto, mientras aún queda tiempo para hacerlo bien.

Si deseas, puedo preparar **versión bilingüe en columnas, caja de datos, o versión lista para impresión** con tipografía pesada para La Voz.

Los propios datos del Departamento de Defensa cuentan la misma historia. Los latinos representan hoy **18–19% del personal activo**, una proporción que ha crecido de manera constante durante dos décadas. Pero ese crecimiento se concentra en los rangos más bajos. En el cuerpo de oficiales—donde se toman decisiones, se distribuyen ascensos y se construyen carreras a largo plazo—los latinos siguen estando significativamente subrepresentados. La juventud latina está dispuesta a servir; el problema es un sistema que aún no sabe cómo valorarla.

Si se graficarán los últimos veinte años de demografía militar, la tendencia sería clara:

- La **línea latina sube**, año tras año.
- La **línea blanca no hispana baja**.
- La **línea afroamericana se mantiene estable**, y
- Las **líneas asiática, indígena y multirracial** avanzan lentamente hacia arriba.

El futuro de las fuerzas armadas de Estados Unidos es un futuro de color. La pregunta es si el país honrará esa realidad o si seguirá dependiendo de nuestros cuerpos mientras niega justicia a nuestras comunidades.

Algunas familias, incluida la mía, empiezan a plantear una pregunta que generaciones anteriores quizá no pudieron o no se atrevieron a formular: **¿Por qué debemos seguir entregando a nuestros hijos a un país que aún no ha enfrentado su propio racismo sistémico?** Esto no es deslealtad. Es responsabilidad. Es exigir que la nación finalmente corresponda nuestro servicio con respeto, oportunidades y protección igualitaria bajo la ley.

Estados Unidos está entrando en una era de escasez de mano de obra en casi todos los sectores—salud, manufactura, educación, transporte y, sí, también el militar. Todas las proyecciones demográficas muestran

que el país dependerá cada vez más de los trabajadores latinos y de la juventud latina para sostener su economía y su defensa. En otras palabras, América nos necesita más que nunca. Y eso le da a nuestra comunidad una influencia que nunca antes había tenido.

Históricamente, las comunidades de color han usado sus cuerpos—en el trabajo, en la protesta o en el servicio militar—como forma de expresión política. Durante la guerra de Vietnam, el Movimiento Chicano denunció las muertes desproporcionadas de soldados mexicanoamericanos. Líderes afroamericanos cuestionaron por qué los jóvenes debían pelear en el extranjero mientras se les negaba dignidad en casa. Aquellos movimientos no eran antiestadounidenses. Eran profundamente estadounidenses: insistían en que la ciudadanía debe significar algo más que sacrificio; debe significar igualdad.

Hoy, la comunidad latina se encuentra en una encrucijada similar. Hemos demostrado nuestra lealtad en todos los sentidos medibles—en el servicio, en el trabajo, en una contribución económica y cultural que ya supera un **PIB latino de más de 3 billones de dólares**. La pregunta ya no es si los latinos estamos comprometidos con este país. La pregunta es si este país está dispuesto a comprometerse con nosotros.

Antes de pedirnos más de nuestros hijos, Estados Unidos debe enfrentar las políticas que criminalizan a nuestras familias. Debe derribar las barreras que mantienen a los latinos estancados en los rangos más bajos. Debe garantizar que la próxima generación de soldados, enfermeras, ingenieros y servidores públicos latinos herede una nación que los vea no como mano de obra utilizable, sino como ciudadanos valiosos.

La lealtad no es una calle de un solo sentido. Los latinos hemos cumplido nuestra parte del trato. Ahora le toca al país cumplir la suya.

Deaths in Immigration Detention Centers Rising and Alarming Muertos como resultado de Detenciones Aumentan Causando Alarma

ICE Deaths Rise as New Investigations Spotlight Conditions in Detention Centers

A growing number of deaths inside U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention centers has prompted renewed scrutiny from advocates and federal watchdogs. According to recent federal disclosures and media reporting, **at least 17 people have died in ICE custody so far in 2026**, following **33 deaths in 2025**, the highest annual total in more than two decades.

Among the most recent cases, **Aled Damien Carbonell-Betancourt**, a 27-year-old Cuban national, was found unresponsive in his cell at the Krome detention facility in Miami on April 12. ICE initially described the case as a presumed suicide, though the official cause remains under investigation.

Earlier this year, ICE also reported the deaths of **Victor Manuel Diaz, Heber Sanchez Dominguez, Parady La, and Luis Nunez Caceres**. Advocates noted that several of these reports were released past the federal 90-day disclosure deadline, raising concerns about transparency.

In Texas, a detainee death at the East Montana facility was first labeled a suicide but later ruled a **homicide** by the local medical examiner, prompting additional questions about oversight and staffing.

The rising death toll comes as ICE's detained population has expanded **to more than 60,000 people**, nearly double the levels reported two years ago. Medical experts and civil rights groups say overcrowding, delayed medical care, and reduced oversight may be contributing factors. ICE maintains that detainees receive appropriate care and that investigations are ongoing.



Aumentan las muertes en centros de detención de ICE mientras crecen las investigaciones

El número creciente de muertes dentro de los centros de detención de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas (ICE) ha generado nuevas preocupaciones entre defensores y organismos federales de supervisión. Según informes recientes, **al menos 17 personas han muerto bajo custodia de ICE en 2026**, después de **33 muertes**

en 2025, la cifra anual más alta en más de veinte años.

Entre los casos más recientes se encuentra **Aled Damien Carbonell-Betancourt**, un cubano de 27 años hallado inconsciente en su celda en la instalación de Krome, en Miami, el 12 de abril. ICE describió inicialmente el caso como un posible suicidio, aunque la causa oficial sigue bajo investigación.

Este año ICE también reportó las muertes de **Victor Manuel Diaz, Heber Sanchez Dominguez, Parady La y Luis Nunez Caceres**. Defensores señalaron que varios de estos informes se publicaron después del plazo federal de 90 días, lo que generó dudas sobre la transparencia.

En Texas, una muerte en el centro East Montana fue descrita primero como suicidio, pero luego el médico forense local la clasificó **como homicidio**, aumentando las preocupaciones sobre la supervisión interna.

El aumento de muertes ocurre mientras la población detenida supera las **60,000 personas**, casi el doble de la registrada hace dos años. Expertos médicos y organizaciones civiles señalan que el hacinamiento, la atención médica tardía y la falta de supervisión podrían ser factores. ICE afirma que los detenidos reciben atención adecuada y que las investigaciones continúan.

All Gas, No Apologies: Gabriela Jaquez Arrives in the WNBA



In a league still expanding its cultural footprint, Gabriela Jaquez arrives not just as a rookie, but as a signal flare: bright, bilingual, and impossible to ignore.

By Odille Parker

Selected number five overall in the 2026 WNBA Draft by the Chicago Sky, Jaquez steps into the professional spotlight fresh off a championship run with the UCLA Bruins women's basketball, where she helped deliver the program's first NCAA title. In the final game, she didn't just participate – she orchestrated, dropping 21 points, 10 rebounds, and five assists in a dominant win.

Stats speak for themselves, but it's her style that lingers. Jaquez is what coaches call a "connector," or a player who stitches together possessions, who turns loose threats into structure. During her senior season with the Bruins, she averaged 13.5 points, 5.5 rebounds, and 2.1 assists, while shooting an efficient 53.9% from the field.

Her journey to the WNBA reads like a carefully layered origin story. A five-star recruit out of Camarillo, California, Jaquez dominated high school courts with eye-popping averages – over 34 points and nearly 16 rebounds per game as a senior. At UCLA, she evolved from a high-volume scorer into a multidimensional force, even moonlighting as a softball player. The nickname "All Gas Gabs" wasn't branding – it was a warning.

But numbers alone don't explain why she matters.

As a Mexican-American athlete representing Mexico internationally, she enters a WNBA that is increasingly global but still underrepresented when it comes to Latina voices. Her presence expands the league's cul-



Gabriela Jaquez, seleccionada en el quinto puesto general del Draft de la WNBA de 2026 por el Chicago Sky, llega como una nueva y dinámica jugadora tras ganar un campeonato

tural vocabulary. She becomes one of the few Mexican players to reach the WNBA, and part of a historic sibling duo alongside her brother in the NBA.

And she knows exactly what that means.

"It's very important to share our culture and represent the Latino community," she said after being drafted.

That carries more weight than any stat line. In a league where visibility is currency, Jaquez is investing in something bigger – making space for Latina athletes who rarely see themselves here.

Her impact on the WNBA won't just be measured in points or rebounds. It will show up in who starts watching, who starts believing, and who starts showing up to tryouts thinking, *there's a place for me here too.*

Jaquez isn't just joining the league. She's widening its doorway.



Noelia, stroke survivor

Un derrame cerebral le puede pasar a cualquiera.

Aprende R.Á.P.I.D.O.

Un accidente o derrame cerebral puede afectar a cualquier persona de cualquier edad. Noelia tenía 29 años, pero sufrió un derrame cerebral 8 días después de dar a luz.

Sobrevivió gracias a que actuó R.Á.P.I.D.O.

Aprende el acrónimo R.Á.P.I.D.O. Identifica los síntomas de un derrame, llama al 911 y salva tu vida o la de un ser querido.

- R.** Rostro caído
- Á.** Alteración del equilibrio
- P.** Pérdida de fuerza en el brazo
- I.** Impedimento visual repentino
- D.** Dificultad para hablar
- O.** Obtén ayuda, llama al 911

derramecerebral.org



THE MANUFACTURERS FEEDING MICHIGAN: Latino Industrial Powerhouses in the Midwest

Los fabricantes que alimentan a Michigan: Potencias industriales latinas en el Medio Oeste

The Latino Manufacturers Powering Michigan's Food Economy

Michigan's Latino community is growing, and so is the industrial engine behind it. While many Hispanic-owned businesses are known for retail, restaurants, and services, a quieter force is shaping the state's food supply: Latino-owned manufacturers whose products move through every grocery aisle, restaurant kitchen, and distribution warehouse in Michigan.

At the center of this network stands El Milagro Tortilla Company, one of the largest Latino-owned food manufacturers in the United States. Founded in 1950 by the late Raul Lopez, El Milagro is a family-owned enterprise which operates multi-state high-capacity plants capable of producing millions of tortillas per day. Though headquartered in Chicago, its influence in Michigan is unmistakable — from Grand Rapids to Detroit, El Milagro supplies the majority of tortillas, chips, tostadas, and masa used by Hispanic grocers, taquerias, mainstream bars and grills and food distributors. El Milagro includes plants in Atlanta Georgia, Indianapolis Indiana, San Marcos Texas and others.

But El Milagro is not alone. Regional producers like La Perla Tortilla Factory and El Ranchero/El Popular Brands have built strong Midwest distribution pipelines that reach deep into Michigan's Latino neighborhoods. Their products fill store shelves, anchor restaurant menus, and support a growing multicultural consumer base.

Michigan is also home to dozens of Latino-owned meat processors, bakeries, and specialty food manufacturers that operate behind the scenes. These companies produce chorizo, marinated meats, bolillos, pastries, and packaged foods that circulate through local supermarkets and independent tiendas.



Together, these manufacturers form a supply chain that is both economic and cultural — feeding families, supporting small businesses, and strengthening Michigan's Latino identity. As the state's Hispanic population continues to rise, these industrial powerhouses will play an even larger role in shaping Michigan's food future.

Los fabricantes latinos que impulsan la economía alimentaria de Michigan

La comunidad latina de Michigan sigue creciendo, y con ella crece también el motor industrial que la sostiene. Aunque muchos negocios hispanos son conocidos por sus tiendas, restaurantes y servicios, existe una fuerza más silenciosa que moldea el suministro de alimentos del estado: los fabricantes latinos cuyas marcas llegan a cada pasillo, cocina y almacén de distribución en Michigan.

En el centro de esta red se encuentra El Milagro Tortilla Company, uno de los fabricantes de alimentos latinos más grandes de Estados Unidos. Fundada en 1950, por Raul López epd, El Milagro sigue siendo negocio de familia y opera plantas de alta capacidad en varios estados que producen millones de tortillas al día. Aunque su sede está en Chicago, su presencia en Michigan es inconfundible: desde Grand Rapids hasta Detroit, El Milagro abastece la mayoría de las tortillas, chips, tostadas y masa utilizadas por supermercados latinos, taquerías y distribuidores. El Milagro incluye plantas de producción en Atlanta Georgia, Indianapolis Indiana, San Marcos Texas y más.

Pero El Milagro no está solo. Productores regionales como La Perla Tortilla Factory y El Ranchero/El Popular Brands han construido redes de distribución en el Medio Oeste que llegan profundamente a los vecindarios latinos de Michigan. Sus productos llenan los estantes, sostienen los menús y atienden a una base de consumidores cada vez más diversa.

Michigan también alberga docenas de procesadores de carne, panaderías y fabricantes de alimentos especializados de propiedad latina que operan tras bambalinas. Estas empresas producen chorizo, carnes marinadas, bolillos, pan dulce y alimentos empacados que circulan por supermercados locales y tiendas independientes.

En conjunto, estos fabricantes forman una cadena de suministro económica y cultural — alimentando familias, apoyando negocios locales y fortaleciendo la identidad latina de Michigan. A medida que la población hispana del estado continúa creciendo, estas potencias industriales tendrán un papel aún mayor en el futuro alimentario de Michigan.

Join us for monthly meetings at the Cook Library Center
First Wednesdays of every month
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
1100 Cesar E. Chavez Ave. SW

Networking

Join us on the first Wednesday of every month to connect with other Business owners and partners.

Neighborhood Updates

Hear important updates from various partners and different departments of the City of Grand Rapids.

Opportunities

Access opportunities like loans, city programs, and Chamber of Commerce activities.

Benefits include discounts on classes and all events, coaching, and support with connections or resources related to the business need!

SWBA
 701 Cesar E. Chavez Ave. S.W. • Grand Rapids, MI. 49503
 616-633-0580



MICHIGAN MADE, MEDC SUPPORTED.

XOCHI'S GIFT SHOP

BACKING SMALL BUSINESSES WITH BIG IMPACT

For over 40 years, Xochi's Gift Shop has been a staple of southwest Detroit. Located in Mexicantown, this family-owned business is filled with rich cultural heritage and handmade crafts. It's small businesses like Xochi's that make Michigan communities feel like home. The Michigan Economic Development Corporation is supporting entrepreneurs and revitalizing community spaces to make our state a more vibrant place to live, work, and grow.

Discover how the MEDC is supporting communities at [MICHIGANBUSINESS.ORG](https://www.MICHIGANBUSINESS.ORG)



**MICHIGAN ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

May Events / Eventos en Mayo

Tulip Time Festival

May 1-10, 2026

Holland, Mi

Tulip Time in Holland, Michigan, is a vibrant festival featuring millions of blooming tulips and draws attendees of all ages. Since 1929, the festival has offered not just stunning floral displays but also national entertainment, diverse activities, and large parades, creating a memorable experience for visitors and locals alike.

Tulip Time, en Holland, Michigan, es un festival vibrante que exhibe millones de tulipanes en flor y atrae a asistentes de todas las edades. Desde 1929, el festival ha ofrecido no solo impresionantes exhibiciones florales, sino también espectáculos de nivel nacional, actividades diversas y grandes desfiles, creando una experiencia memorable tanto para visitantes como para los habitantes locales.

Allegan, MI Monster Truck Wars

May 2, 2026

Allegan, Mi

America's fastest-growing Monster Truck series is bringing action-packed family-friendly entertainment back to Allegan.

May 2nd at Allegan County Fairgrounds

-Car-crushing Monster Trucks

-Quad Wars

-Kids Powerwheel Races

-Pre-show Pit Party

-RIDE in a real Monster Truck

La serie de Monster Trucks de mayor crecimiento en Estados Unidos regresa a Allegan con un espectáculo de entretenimiento familiar repleto de acción.

2 de Mayo en el Recinto Ferial del Condado de Allegan

-Monster Trucks aplastacoches

-Quad Wars

-Carreras de vehículos eléctricos infantiles (Power Wheels)

-Fiesta en boxes previa al espectáculo

-PASEA en un auténtico Monster Truck

<https://event.attendstar.com/event/show/allegan-county-monster-truck-wars-2026/?c=HS5QN4>

May 2, 2026

MeXo Cinco de Mayo Fiesta
Grand Rapids, Mi

MeXo is throwing a Cinco de Mayo Fiesta on Saturday, May 2nd and we want you there. Enjoy an unforgettable night of great spirits, ama-

zing food, and serious fun. Taco stations, craft cocktails, live DJ from 6-9PM.

Go VIP for West Michigan's premier agave tasting. Your \$50 ticket includes pours from 10 premium agave spirits, two of Chef Oscar's world famous tacos and 2 raffle tickets.

VIP Tasting Tickets:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1986436814987?aff=oddttdtcreator>

MeXo organiza una Fiesta del Cinco de Mayo este sábado 2 de mayo, ¡y queremos que estés allí! Disfruta de una noche inolvidable, repleta de excelentes bebidas, comida espectacular y diversión garantizada. Habrá estaciones de tacos, cócteles artesanales y un DJ en vivo de 6:00 p.m. a 9:00 p.m.

George Lopez

May 7, 2026

Flint, Mi

George Lopez is a multi-talented entertainer known for his roles in television, film, stand-up comedy, and literature. He has made important strides in Latino representation, tackling racial stereotypes and supporting his community. He has received a Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and is actively touring for his stand-up comedy shows.

George Lopez es un artista polifacético, reconocido por sus papeles en televisión, cine, comedia de *stand-up* y literatura. Reconocido como una figura influyente, Lopez apareció en el documental *Brown is the New Green* y fue nombrado por la revista *Time* como uno de los 25 hispanos más influyentes. Ha recibido una estrella en el Paseo de la Fama de Hollywood y se encuentra activamente de gira con sus espectáculos de comedia en vivo.

Mariachi Vargas De Tecalitlan

May 9, 2026

Detroit, Mi

Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán is bringing their El Legado Tour to Detroit on Saturday, May 9, 2026 at 7:30 PM at the Detroit Opera House. Known as "El Mejor Mariachi del Mundo," this legendary ensemble will deliver a powerful night of tradition, music, and Mexican heritage with their world-class musicianship and showmanship. Tickets are on sale now—don't miss this rare chance to experience the



Mariachi Vargas De Tecalitlan

May 9, 2026 · Detroit, Mi

soul of mariachi live in one of Detroit's premier venues.

El Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán trae su gira «El Legado» a Detroit el Sábado 9 de Mayo de 2026, a las 7:30 p.m., en la Detroit Opera House. Conocido como «El Mejor Mariachi del Mundo», este legendario conjunto ofrecerá una noche memorable, repleta de tradición, música y herencia mexicana, haciendo gala de su maestría musical y su espectacular presencia escénica de clase mundial. Las entradas ya están a la venta; no se pierda esta oportunidad única de vivir la esencia del mariachi en vivo en uno de los recintos más destacados de Detroit.

Michigan Cider Fest

May 16, 2026

Grand Rapids, Mi

Join the Michigan Cider Fest in downtown Grand Rapids at Rosa Park Circle, where you can savor various Michigan ciders along with live music and games. Local food trucks will offer food for purchase, and attendees receive 10 samples of Michigan Craft Cider and a commemorative glass. The festival is for those 21 and older, requiring a valid government ID for entry. All ticket sales are final; tickets can be transferred if unable to attend.

Unase al Michigan Cider Fest en el centro de Grand Rapids, en Rosa Park Circle, donde podrá degustar diversas sidras de Michigan, acompañadas de música en vivo y juegos. Varios *food trucks* locales ofrecerán comida a la venta, y los asistentes recibirán 10 muestras de sidra artesanal de Michigan, así como un vaso conmemorativo. El festival está dirigido a personas mayores de 21 años, y se requiere una identificación oficial válida para el ingreso.

The Kite Festival at Grand Haven

May 16-17, 2026

Grand Haven, Mi

The Grand Haven Kite Festival will take place on May 16-17 at Grand Haven State Park, offering a vibrant display of kites over Lake Michigan. Attendees can enjoy

synchronized routines by professional kite fliers, view giant show kites, and participate by bringing their own kites. This free, family-friendly event promises a colorful and creative weekend experience, weather permitting.

El Festival de Cometas de Grand Haven se celebrará los días 16 y 17 de Mayo en el Parque Estatal de Grand Haven, ofreciendo un vibrante espectáculo de cometas sobre el lago Michigan. Los asistentes podrán disfrutar de rutinas sincronizadas a cargo de pilotos profesionales, admirar cometas gigantes de exhibición y participar trayendo sus propias cometas.

Memorial Day Parade

May 25, 2026

Holland, Mi

The Downtown Holland Memorial Day Parade is scheduled for 9:30 am on Monday, May 25, starting at the corner of 8th Street and Central Avenue. The route proceeds to Columbia Avenue, south to 16th Street, and ends at Pilgrim Home Cemetery, where a public program will occur around 11:00 am. The parade aims to honor living veterans and commemorate those who died in service, organized by a committee focused on patriotism and service history. For inquiries, contact the Holland Memorial Day committee at hollandmemorialday-parade@gmail.com.

El Desfile del Día de los Caídos (Memorial Day) del Centro de Holland está programado para las 9:30 a. m. del Lunes 25 de Mayo, con inicio en la esquina de la 8.ª Calle y Central Avenue. La ruta continúa hacia Columbia Avenue, avanza hacia el sur hasta la 16.ª Calle y finaliza en el Cementerio Pilgrim Home, donde se llevará a cabo un acto público alrededor de las 11:00 a. m. El desfile tiene como objetivo honrar a los veteranos vivos y conmemorar a aquellos que fallecieron en acto de servicio; está organizado por un comité centrado en el patriotismo y la historia del servicio militar.



Plaza Mexico & Latin Styles parking lot full!



1949 Pontiac Silver Streak Hot Rod at 28th Street Metro Cruise



28th Street Metro Cruise 1951 Ford Custom at Rogers Plaza Mall parking lot



Sharp 1975 Chevy Chevelle Laguna S-3



Vrrooom! Lets go for a ride in this 1955 Ford Crown Victoria!



1938 Chevy Sedan owner Edward Delgado at Fiesta Car Show

Michigan Summer Collection Part II

Last month, our Lowrider readers viewed Car Events from May through October 2025. Michigan Festivals Car Shows happen with committees & Car Clubs working together. Bringing in Live entertainment, DJ's spinning music, food vendors, break dance groups, Bounce House for kids, Pin-up girls competed for Festival Queen.

Wyoming, MI 49509
9:00am - 1:00pm
NO FEE / Free Admission
Food & Drinks available

Ionia Cruisin' Classics
Saturday! June 6, 2026
Downtown Ionia
Ionia, MI 48846
9am - 3pm Free to Spectators
Registration: \$10
www.ioniacruisinclassics.com

La Voz Bilingual / The Voice Magazine
"Lowrider Corner" has been able to cover it.

Enjoy the picture collection.
Somos pocos pero locos en lowriding!

Having a Car Event?
Contact Homero
(616)893-3906
deeho123@comcast.net

CAR SHOWS UPDATE
MAY 2026

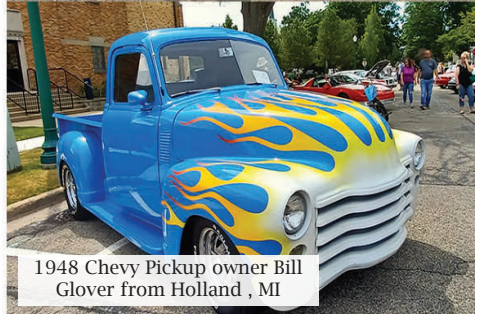
DUST OFF CAR SHOW
Saturday! May 16, 2026
Wyoming Moose Lodge
2630 Burlingame Ave SW



Lets go take a ride!



1940 Ford Coupe owner Pete from Hudsonville, MI



1948 Chevy Pickup owner Bill Glover from Holland, MI



1973 Checker Marthon Cab in Zeeland Car Show



1964 Chevy Impala owner E Pogg with Mariachi dancer Jaer standing proud and excited



Sweet 1985 Monte Carlo 2 Door Convertible



Lets take a ride at downtown Fiesta Car Show

La Voz



Encarnita "Kany" García de Jesús is a Puerto Rican singer and songwriter. Born in Toa Baja, Puerto Rico, García first appeared on television in 2004 as a contestant on *Objetivo Fama*. She is widely considered the most successful non-winner in the history of the show.

In 2006, García signed a recording contract with Sony BMG, releasing her debut album *Cualquier Día* (2007), which was a commercial success, spawning four top 40 singles on the *Billboard Latin Tracks*. She has won six Latin Grammy Awards out of twenty nominations and has been nominated for three Grammy Awards.

Encarnita "Kany" García de Jesús es una cantante y compositora puertorriqueña. Nacida en Toa Baja, Puerto Rico, García hizo su primera aparición televisiva en 2004 como concursante en "Objetivo Fama". Es ampliamente considerada como la participante no ganadora más exitosa en la historia del programa.

En 2006, García firmó un contrato discográfico con Sony BMG, lanzando su álbum debut "Cualquier Día" (2007), el cual resultó ser un éxito comercial, generando cuatro sencillos que alcanzaron el Top 40 en la lista "Billboard Latin Tracks". Ha ganado seis Premios Grammy Latinos de un total de veinte nominaciones, y ha sido nominada a tres Premios Grammy.

Kany García

Rodriguez Stops Camozzi, Claims Interim Gold at BKFC 88 in Denver

By Caged Minds Bare Knuckle Fighting Championship delivered a violent and memorable night at BKFC 88, held at the National Western Center in Denver, Colorado, as Esteban "Mohawk" Rodriguez captured interim cruiserweight gold with a dramatic knockout victory over hometown favorite Chris Camozzi.

The main event lived up to expectations with a high-paced and gritty battle. Rodriguez came out firing in round one, pushing a frantic pace and landing sharp right hands that opened cuts under Camozzi's left eye and across the bridge of his nose. Camozzi, showing veteran composure, slowed things down in the clinch and worked his way back into the fight with effective inside boxing.

Round two saw a more measured tempo, but the damage continued to accumulate. Both fighters traded heavy shots, with Camozzi bleeding from multiple areas yet still finding moments to land meaningful power punches. A brief controversy arose when Camozzi struck from a front headlock position, resulting in a foul call and a physician's check on Rodriguez. No points were deducted, and the fight resumed.

That moment proved pivotal. Rodriguez seemed to find a second wind, showcasing slick head movement and defensive awareness to avoid damage while setting up his offense. In the fourth round, he delivered the fight-ending blow—a short, crushing right uppercut off Camozzi's cheek that sent him to the canvas. The referee waved it off at 1:43 of round four, crowning Rodriguez the interim cruiserweight champion.

After the fight with his first child on the way, Chris Camozzi announces his retirement quote. I wanted to go out with some pain so I'd remember it".

In the co-main lightweight bout, Ramiro Figueroa turned in the most impressive performance of his young career, earning a unanimous decision over veteran Elvin Brito (49-45, 49-45, 48-46). Figueroa set the tone early with a knockdown from a straight right hand and controlled the fight with movement and distance striking. He consistently avoided Brito's clinch game while mixing in effective body work, showcasing a mature and calculated approach.

The heavyweight clash between Corey Willis and Josh Copeland ended prematurely but was highly competitive while it lasted. Copeland pressured forward looking for the clinch, but Willis appeared sharper and faster in open space. After two rounds of back-and-forth action, Copeland was forced to retire due to injury, giving Willis the TKO victory.

Josh Fremd wasted no time in his cruiserweight bout, scoring a first-round knockout over Jared Torgerson. Fremd dropped his opponent with a left hook early and followed up to secure the finish just 1:32 into the opening round.

Rodney Hinton delivered one of the fastest finishes of the night, stopping Andrew Yates just 22 seconds into the first round. A stiff jab set up a quick combination that sent Yates to the canvas. Though he attempted to continue, a cut under his left eye prompted the referee to wave off the bout.

In another cruiserweight contest, Deron Winn imposed a relentless pace against Erick Lozano, pushing him into the clinch and wearing him down along the ropes before securing a stoppage 47



seconds into round three.

Flyweight action saw Octavin Turner dominate Joby Steffensmeier en route to a unanimous decision victory (49-46, 50-45, 50-45). Turner displayed a well-rounded skill set, working effectively both inside and at range while showcasing slick head movement and punishing body shots. Despite the loss, Steffensmeier earned respect for his toughness and persistence.

The prelims featured standout performances as well. Anthony Yost scored a dominant unanimous decision over Angelo Trujillo, knocking him down four times throughout the fight. Matthew Maestas closed out the early card with a TKO win over Ruben Arroyo in round two, using his reach effectively before finishing the fight with a right uppercut in the clinch.

BKFC 88 proved to be a showcase of both rising talent and seasoned grit, headlined by Esteban Rodriguez's statement-making performance. With interim gold now around his waist, Rodriguez has firmly positioned himself as a major force in the cruiserweight division.

El BKFC 88 fue un evento impactante celebrado en Denver, donde Esteban "Mohawk" Rodríguez se adjudicó el título interino de peso crucero al noquear a Chris Camozzi en el cuarto asalto. La pelea estuvo marcada por intensos intercambios; Rodríguez impuso inicialmente un ritmo vertiginoso y conectó golpes certeros, antes de que Camozzi respondiera con un efectivo trabajo en el *clinch*. A pesar de un momento controvertido provocado por una falta, Rodríguez recuperó el impulso y remató a Camozzi con un decisivo *uppercut*. En el evento coestelar, Ramiro Figueroa se impuso por decisión unánime sobre Elvin Brito, exhibiendo una gran destreza en el combate a distancia. Otros combates destacados incluyeron una victoria por nocaut técnico de Corey Willis, tras la retirada de Josh Copeland debido a una lesión, así como impresionantes nocauts en el primer asalto protagonizados por Josh Fremd y Rodney Hinton. El evento puso de relieve tanto a talentos emergentes como a peleadores experimentados, consolidando la posición de Rodríguez dentro de la división de peso crucero.

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2026 MAY MODEL SEARCH



How Long Does Poison Ivy Last?

¿Cuánto dura la hiedra venenosa?

You've probably heard the phrase "leaves of three, let them be."

In the summer, avoiding the plant with three green leaves on red stems may be something you learned as a child. But if you like spending time outdoors, you might find you've brushed up against poison ivy without meaning to.

Let's look at poison ivy, symptoms of a poison ivy rash and how long it lasts.

What is a poison ivy rash?

The poison ivy plant is a common shrub or climbing vine that grows in wooded areas and fields.

A poison ivy rash is an allergic reaction to an oil in the leaves of the poison ivy plant. When your skin comes into contact with this oily sap called urushiol, you're likely to develop an itchy rash. As many as 90% of people who touch poison ivy develop a rash, according to the Cleveland Clinic. Urushiol isn't poisonous, unlike the name of the plants that carry it, but it is uncomfortable and even painful on human skin.

Symptoms of a poison ivy rash, according to the Mayo Clinic, include:

- Intense itching that starts before the rash
- Patches of redness
- Fluid-filled blisters

If you come into contact with poison ivy, immediately wash the area with lukewarm water and soap to reduce your chances of developing a rash. Be careful not to touch anything with the affected area before washing as the oil can transfer to other body parts, clothing, people, animals and surfaces with a touch. Wash any clothing and surfaces that may have had contact with the oil.

How long does poison ivy rash last?

The rash typically develops 12 to 48 hours after touching the leaves. It can last two to three weeks, and the severity of the rash can depend on exposure and an individual's sensitivity to urushiol. More oil over more skin will likely result in a larger rash.

Camping, hiking, gardening and working outdoors increases your risk of getting a poison ivy rash. Kids playing outside who aren't aware they should stay away from it can also be vulnerable.

Teach children how to identify poison ivy and other plants that produce urushiol, including poison oak and poison sumac.

- **Poison ivy:** a shrub or vine with sharp green leaflets on red stems growing in groups of three
- **Poison oak:** a shrub with rounded green leaflets on red stems growing in groups of three
- **Poison sumac:** a tall plant with clusters of seven to 13 smooth leaflets growing in pairs

How to treat poison ivy

Poison ivy generally isn't dangerous, but it can have side effects.

Scratches and popped blisters can become infected without proper treatment. Breathing in burning poison ivy can irritate your airways or cause breathing problems. Seek immediate medical care if you are struggling to breathe after poison ivy exposure.

If you have a poison ivy rash, here are a few things to do:

- Don't scratch: As tempting as it might be to relieve the itching, this can lead to infection.
- Don't touch blisters: This will also help prevent infection.
- Apply anti-itch creams such as calamine lotion or hydrocortisone to help relieve the itching
- Take antihistamines to help with the itching.
- Apply a cold compress
- Apply colloidal oatmeal to the affected area.

If the rash is severe, affects more than a quarter of your body or shows sign of fever or infection, talk to your primary care provider (PCP). Additionally, parents should consult with their child's PCP or pediatrician in the case of a rash to assess the level of allergy or reaction.

La hiedra venenosa, un arbusto o enredadera común caracterizado por tener tres hojas verdes sobre tallos rojizos, provoca una reacción alérgica que se manifiesta como una erupción cutánea, causada por su savia aceitosa: el urushiol. Los síntomas incluyen picazón intensa, enrojecimiento y ampollas llenas de líquido. La erupción aparece entre 12 y 48 horas después del contacto y puede persistir de dos a tres semanas; su gravedad depende del grado de exposición y de la sensibilidad individual. Es fundamental lavar la zona afectada de inmediato y evitar la propagación del aceite. El tratamiento incluye cremas para aliviar la picazón, antihistamínicos y compresas frías. Si la erupción es grave o presenta signos de infección, es necesario consultar a un médico.

Cómo tratar la hiedra venenosa

La hiedra venenosa generalmente no es peligrosa, pero puede tener efectos secundarios. Los rasguños y las ampollas reventadas pueden infectarse si no reciben el tratamiento adecuado. Inhalar el humo de la hiedra venenosa en combustión puede irritar las vías respiratorias o causar problemas respiratorios. Busque atención médica inmediata si tiene dificultades para respirar después de haber estado expuesto a la hiedra venenosa.

Si presenta una erupción cutánea causada por la hiedra venenosa, aquí tiene algunas medidas que puede tomar:

- *No se rasque: Por muy tentador que resulte aliviar la picazón, esto puede provocar una infección.*
- *No toque las ampollas: Esto también ayudará a prevenir infecciones.*
- *Aplique cremas antipicazón, como loción de calamina o hidrocortisona, para ayudar a aliviar el picor.*
- *Tome antihistamínicos para ayudar a controlar la picazón.*
- *Aplique una compresa fría.*
- *Aplique avena coloidal en la zona afectada.*

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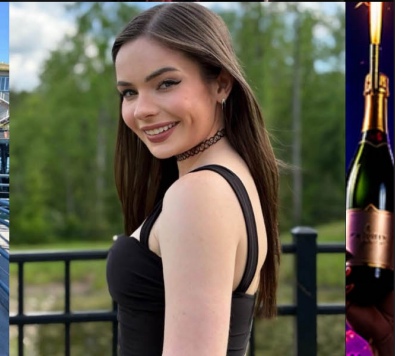
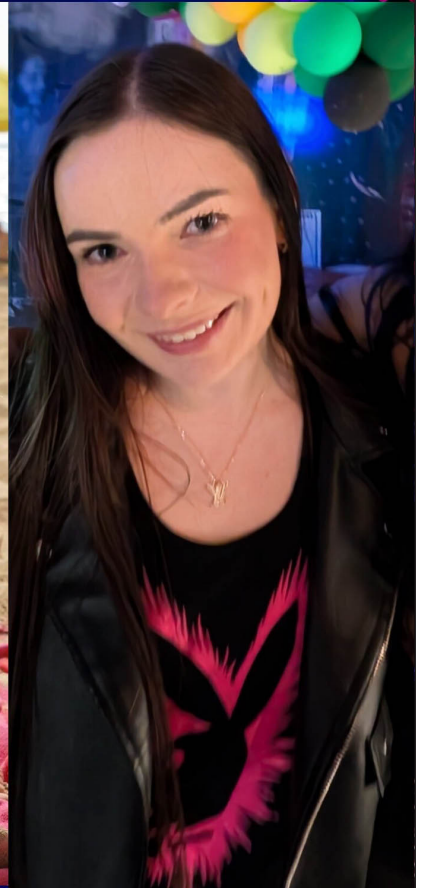
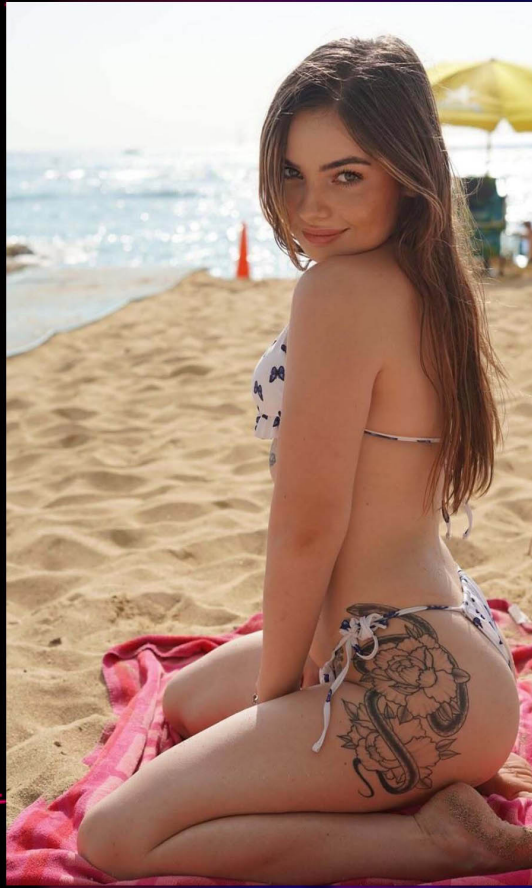
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