

The Community Voice

FREE-GRATIS

LAVOZ

Bilingual Magazine

February 2025 • Vol 27 • Michigan's Largest Bilingual Magazine • www.lavozweb.com



FEBRUARY
BLACK HISTORY MONTH
AND CHICANO MOVEMENT



Comedian
Felipe Esparza
in Grand Rapids

Photo by Emilio Olvera



¡Gana tu parte de \$160,000 en efectivo o un Mercedes-Benz 2025!

Sábados en Febrero | 6PM-9PM

GRAN PREMIO




Viernes, 28 de Febrero | 10PM & 11PM

*Cada semana, hay un ganador que se lleva \$10,000 en efectivo cada hora.
El 28 de Febrero, dos afortunados se llevarán a casa un Mercedes-Benz 2025.*

Gana una entrada por cada 50 puntos de recompensa obtenidos del 26 de Enero al 28 de Febrero



GUN LAKE™
CASINO · RESORT

1123 129th Avenue ♦ Wayland, MI 49348 ♦ 269.792.7777 ♦ gunlakecasino.com   



Consulte el Centro de recompensas para obtener más información. Ser mayores de 21 años para jugar o participar en promociones. Si cree que tiene problemas con apuestas, llamar al 800.270.7117. ©2024 Gun Lake Tribal Gaming Authority. La dirección se reserva todos los derechos. Pueden aplicarse otras restricciones.

Immigrants are People

By Santiago Rios

Immigration issues are often postured in a politicized way as a national "crisis," "disaster," "embarrassment," and worse. Deceptive and false political pandering has served to put all immigrants on America's "Most Wanted" list for all the wrong reasons.

This talk has, in effect, "dehumanized" people coming to this country fleeing violence and seeking a better life. Yet these people support our way of life in many ways, e.g., they contribute over 2 trillion annually to the economy, and immigrant workers are openly sought by industries that need them to thrive.

We are a nation of immigrants, and the United States has a longstanding tradition of encouraging people to come here for a "better life."

The call for detention camps and mass deportations (using the military) is not only wrong but shameful, fiscally irresponsible and based on a dangerous narrative that our nation can treat and "dispose" of immigrants as if they were not persons.

This issue is not really about immigration; it's about people. My Texas-born parents were proud working people who contributed much while toiling the fields as migratory farmworkers. Still, they sadly had to overcome the anguish and damage of being considered and treated as less than persons.

Cesar Chavez reminded us that "our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and our own." For Cesar, it was not just about fair wages and safe work conditions but also about human dignity, health, and protecting the environment. Sí, se puede!

The allure of the American Dream continues because we are a land of opportunity despite the negativity spewed for political reasons. As individuals, we can disagree on issues, but as Americans, we must find ways to walk together in peace and dignity for "their sakes and for our own." Thankfully, the American conscience is broad, deep, and powerful.

As a natural-born citizen and as a lawyer, proud of my Mexican American heritage, I believe in and support the American system of democracy and justice. I do not support violence or unlawfulness. And clearly, there is no disagreement that immigrants who are dangerous criminals must be addressed on an expedited basis. Nor is there any disagreement that our borders must be safe and secure.

I believe all people must be treated humanely and with dignity and respect.

I believe the immigration issues must be addressed with compassion in a way that reflects our core values of decency, democracy, justice, and our respect and love of all persons under God for all the world to see.

I believe the legal status of immigrants must be resolved with due process in a safe, orderly, non-violent, humane, and just manner.

I stand in solidarity with people who have come to our country seeking safety and a better life because this is the American way.

Las cuestiones de inmigración se presentan a menudo de forma politizada como una "crisis", un "desastre", una "vergüenza" nacional y cosas peores. La engañosa y falsa política ha servido para poner a todos los inmigrantes en la lista de los "más buscados" de Estados Unidos por todas las razones equivocadas.

En efecto, este discurso ha "deshumanizado" a las personas que vienen a este país huyendo de la violencia y buscando una vida mejor. Sin embargo, estas personas apoyan nuestro modo de vida de muchas maneras, por ejemplo, contribuyen con más de 2 billones de dólares anuales a la economía, y las industrias que los

necesitan para prosperar buscan abiertamente trabajadores inmigrantes.

Somos una nación de inmigrantes, y Estados Unidos tiene una larga tradición de alentar a las personas a venir aquí en busca de una "vida mejor".

El llamado a los campos de detención y las deportaciones masivas (utilizando el ejército) no solo es incorrecto sino vergonzoso; fiscalmente irresponsable y se basa en una narrativa peligrosa de que nuestra nación puede tratar y "deshacerse" de los inmigrantes como si no fueran personas.

En realidad, este tema no tiene que ver con la inmigración, sino con las personas. Mis padres, nacidos en Texas, eran trabajadores orgullosos que contribuyeron mucho mientras trabajaban en los campos como trabajadores agrícolas migrantes, pero lamentablemente tuvieron que superar la angustia y el daño de ser considerados y tratados como menos que personas.

César Chávez nos recordó que "nuestras ambiciones deben ser lo suficientemente amplias como para incluir las aspiraciones y necesidades de los demás, por su bien y por el nuestro". Para César no se trataba solo de salarios justos y condiciones de trabajo seguras, sino también de dignidad humana, salud y protección del medio ambiente. ¡Sí, se puede!

El atractivo del sueño americano continúa porque somos una tierra de oportunidades, a pesar de la negatividad que se esparce por razones políticas. Como individuos podemos estar en desacuerdo sobre cuestiones, pero como estadounidenses debemos encontrar maneras de caminar juntos en paz y dignidad "por el bien de ellos y por el nuestro". Afortunadamente, la conciencia estadounidense es amplia, profunda y poderosa.

Como ciudadano por nacimiento y abogado, orgulloso de mi herencia mexicano-estadounidense, creo en el sistema estadounidense de democracia y justicia y lo apoyo. No apoyo la violencia ni la ilegalidad. Y claramente no hay desacuerdo en que los inmigrantes que son criminales peligrosos deben ser tratados de manera expedita. Tampoco hay desacuerdo en que nuestras fronteras deben ser seguras y protegidas.

Creo que todas las personas deben ser tratadas humanamente y con dignidad y respeto.

Creo que las cuestiones de inmigración deben abordarse con compasión de una manera que refleje nuestros valores fundamentales de decencia, democracia, justicia y nuestro respeto y amor por todas las personas ante Dios, para que todo el mundo lo vea.

Creo que el estatus legal de los inmigrantes debe resolverse con el debido proceso de una manera segura, ordenada, no violenta, humana y justa.

Me solidarizo con las personas que han venido a nuestro país en busca de seguridad y una vida mejor, porque ese es el estilo de vida americano.

Santiago Rios is an attorney who lives in Lansing, Michigan and is active in many community service projects.

Santiago Rios es un abogado que vive en Lansing, Michigan y participa activamente en muchos proyectos de servicio comunitario.





03 Guest Editorial

by Santiago Rios

05 Latinos at Risk of Losing Jobs with the Arrival of Artificial Intelligence

06 Community News / Noticias de la Comunidad

07 The Daze of Our Lives

08 Activist Puerto Rican, Impacted us by Example

10 News/ Noticias

12 José Guadalupe Jimenez Jr.

15 Lowrider Classic Car Show at 55th Annual Fiesta Mexicana 2024

17 Comedian Felipe Esparza

18 Five top Hispanic Fashion Designers are Making waves in the U.S.

19 Miss Alisha Gilman 2025

23 Classifieds / Clasificados

©2002-12 by The Community Voice/
La Voz MI, LLC.
The Community Voice/La Voz
Magazine is published by
The Community Voice/La Voz MI, LLC
copyright ©2002-12.

Content contained in this publication
and on www.lavozweb.com internet
site are products of the publication
and are protected by the copyright
laws of the United States. The
copyright laws prohibit any copying,
redistributing, retransmitting, or
repurposing of any
copyright-protected material.

Reproduction, either in whole or in
part is forbidden without the pressed
written consent of the publisher.

February 2025, Volume 27 - No. 02
Reaching over 40,000 readers
Circulation 17,000 copies
Printed at Printwell
To contact The Community Voice/
La Voz Magazine
please call or write our
administrative office:
Attention Dr. José A. Flores,
Editor-in-Chief,
1052 Grandville Ave. S.W.,
Grand Rapids, MI. 49503 or
email: drjflores1@gmail.com

Please visit us at our website:
<http://www.lavozweb.com>
All inquiries should be directed to
Phone: 616-581-6271

La Voz MEET THE STAFF

drjflores1@gmail.com

Find us on / Encuentranos en:



Marte Smith
VP Marketing &
Public Relations



Dr. Edgar León
Writer



Virgen Milagros
Heuer-Reyes
Writer



Kindra A.
Peterson
Writer



Dr. José A.
Flores,
Editor-in-Chief



Odille Parker
Graphic Design



Dr. Dadsy Torres
Writer



Primavera Flores
Sales Rep.
Detroit



Concepción
Flores,
Guardian
Angel



'El Chayo'
Cervantes
Guardian Angel



Alyssa Flores
Detroit
Distribution



Odille S. Parker
Writer



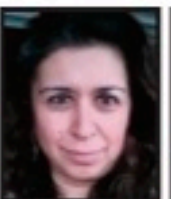
Andrés
Delacruz
Circulation
Saginaw



Scooter
Writer



Tom Ozinga
Editor



Lisa Villarreal
Wiseman
Writer



Anthony T.
Valdez
Photographer



Jorge Martínez
Writer



Homero
Rodríguez,
Sales/ Circulation
Grand Rapids



Mike Farage
Writer



Dee Rodríguez
Circulation
Grand Rapids



Daniel Flores,
Reporter/
Sales Rep
Grand Rapids

Latinos en Peligro de Quedar Sin Trabajo con la Llegada de La Inteligencia Artificial

Latinos at Risk of Losing Jobs with the Arrival of Artificial Intelligence



Por: Edgar León

Es preciso entender que la tecnología sigue avanzando a pasos agigantados y que la misma nos puede ayudar a prevenir y resolver los problemas del futuro. Nos ayuda para no gastar el tiempo en cosas que sean importantes. Hemos automatizado la manera de comunicarnos, de sembrar, de cocinar, de preparar ordenes de comida, de entretenernos y de hasta enamorarnos por medio de la tecnología. Hemos cortado las distancias entre países y hemos alargado la vida del ser humano gracias a la tecnología médica y nuevos métodos de prevención. Pero llegó la inteligencia artificial y ha cambiado todo en cuestión de un segundo.

Nos encontramos en un momento que las máquinas y robots no solo se hablan sino que trabajan en conjunto de forma autónoma sin intervención del ser humano. Ya existen robots que limpian los pisos de forma autónoma en las tiendas por departamento. También ya existen programas de computadoras de inteligencia artificial que responden a la voz de una persona para hacer un trabajo. Ya se puede pedir por teléfono celular que le contesten cualquier pregunta sobre cualquier tema y la inteligencia artificial va a buscar varias contestaciones en cuestión de segundos. Esto ha mejorado el servicio rápido al cliente porque ofrece las contestaciones de inmediato sin tener que llamar a ningún ser humano y esperar una contestación.

Hay que estar conscientes que todo ha cambiado en el tema de los trabajos que existen actualmente. La mayoría de los trabajos que existen hoy van a quedar obsoletos debido a que si una máquina puede hacer el trabajo que usted tiene, entonces usted se quedará sin empleo. Esto se debe a que hemos sido condicionados a un sistema dependiente de oficinas con personas y procesos de papel de forma burocrática. Ya se ha comprobado que esto causa pérdida de tiempo y dinero a las corporaciones existentes. Ya existen programas de inteligencia artificial, drones y robots para trabajar en la agricultura de forma efectiva y sin la necesidad de una persona.

La inteligencia artificial va a tener grupos de agentes de inteligencia artificial los cuales se van a intercomunicar entre ellas y van a solucionar los problemas de forma inmediata con menos errores, sin intervención política ni corrupción. Todos los días se crean nuevos programas para que la inteligencia artificial identifique las cosas por medio de sensores en su cámara y reaccione de acuerdo a programa ya establecidos de todo lo que pueda ver sus cámaras. Por eso los carros autónomos se mueven de forma segura y no chocan unos con otros.

La solución inmediata a este nuevo cambio en el ambiente laboral es comenzar a entrenar y educar a las personas en el uso y aplicación de la nueva tecnología. Hay que comenzar a preparar currículos nuevos, cursos a distancia, talleres cortos y específicos para aplicar la tecnología de la inteligencia artificial.

Es importante que los latinos se inserten en este nuevo movimiento de inteligencia artificial para que no se queden en el abandono ni sean nuevamente discriminados. Sabemos que este cambio requiere una infraestructura de acceso al internet eficiente y democrática. Esto se refiere a que los accesos a la nueva tecnología se solamente para los ricos, las áreas geográficas ricas de las ciudades y dejemos a los pobres y desventajados sin nada.

Las destrezas que son importantes son la lectura, la escritura, el desarrollo de la creatividad, la innovación de productos y soluciones existentes, la creación de videos con explicaciones que como resolver problemas, la escritura de "prompts" para inteligencia artificial y la



creación de redes de conocimiento a nivel mundial.

Los latinos no se deben quedar a esperar que le den la información de los nuevos trabajos. Los latinos deben comenzar a crear compañías de inteligencia artificial en todas sus fases para que puedan ayudarse a progresar entre todos en esta nueva era tecnológica que ya está presente en el mundo. Entrenar a los latinos en inteligencia artificial es fundamental para impulsar el desarrollo económico y social, reducir la brecha digital, y posicionar a los latinos como un actores clave en la revolución tecnológica.

It is crucial to understand that technology continues to advance by leaps and bounds, helping us prevent and solve future problems. It saves time on important matters. We have automated communication, farming, cooking, preparing food orders, entertainment, and even falling in love through technology. Technology has bridged the gap between countries and extended human life thanks to medical advancements and new prevention methods. But then artificial intelligence (AI) arrived and changed everything in an instant.

We are now at a point where machines and robots not only communicate with each other but work together autonomously without human intervention. There are already robots that clean department store floors autonomously. Computer programs with AI can now respond to a person's voice to perform tasks. You can ask your cell phone any question on any topic, and AI will provide multiple answers in seconds. This has improved customer service by delivering immediate responses without needing to call a human and wait for an answer. It is essential to be aware that the nature of jobs has fundamentally changed. Most current jobs will become obsolete because if a machine can do your job, you will lose your position. This is because we have been conditioned to rely on office systems staffed by people and paper-based bureaucratic processes. It has already been proven that this leads to time and money losses for companies. AI programs, drones, and robots already work effectively in agriculture without needing human involvement.

AI will comprise groups of AI agents that communicate with each other and solve problems instantly with fewer errors, without political interference or corruption. Every day, new programs are developed, enabling AI to identify objects through camera sensors and respond based on pre-established programming. This is why autonomous vehicles move safely without colliding with each other.

The immediate solution to this shift in the job market is to begin training and educating people in using and applying new technologies. We must start preparing new curricula, online courses, and short, specific workshops to apply AI technology.

It is important for Latinos to engage with this AI movement so they are not left behind or further marginalized. We know this change requires an infrastructure with efficient and democratic internet access, ensuring that access to new technology is not limited to the wealthy, affluent urban areas, leaving the poor and disadvantaged with nothing. Critical skills include reading, writing, creativity development, product and solution innovation, creating explanatory videos for problem-solving, writing AI prompts, and building global knowledge networks. Latinos cannot afford to wait passively for information on new jobs. They must begin creating AI companies in all sectors to help each other progress in this new technological era that is already here. Training Latinos in AI is fundamental to fostering economic and social development, closing the digital divide, and positioning Latinos as key players in the technological revolution.

Community News

Rosa Virginia "Vickie" Jimenez MICHIGAN SCHOOLS IMPACTED BY HER LIFE'S WORK!

Rosa Virginia "Vickie" Jimenez, 79, formerly of Corpus Christi, Texas, passed away on December 16, 2024 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Vickie was born on July 9, 1945, in McAllen, Texas and was raised in Corpus Christi, Texas.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Mauricio S. Jimenez Sr. and Christina Rubio Jimenez; her brothers and sister-in-law, Mauricio Jr. (Evelyna) and Ramon Lee Jimenez. She is survived by her loving sister and nephew, Belinda Jimenez and Mauricio III.

Vickie graduated from Mary Carroll High School in Corpus Christi, and from Texas A & I University in Kingsville, Texas, with a B.S. in secondary education. She received her Masters degree in Bilingual Education/Curriculum from Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan and attended Michigan State University.

She was a teacher for the Grand Rapids Public Schools, Lansing Public Schools, Danville, Illinois School District, and Albion Public Schools. Vickie held professional memberships in NEA, MEA, NABE, MABE, LULAC, to name a few. She was the first female Hispanic elected to a six-year term as a school board officer in Lansing, Michigan.

Vickie was highly involved in many civic organizations as a member, volunteer, task force, chairperson, board of directors, consultant and a recipient of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Hispanic Woman of the Year Award. She was always involved in the

Christian doctrine to the children at church.

During the years of 1980-1994, Vickie worked for the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), Lansing, Michigan. She worked on special projects where she sponsored, facilitated and moderated community groups where serious problems were addressed, discussed in formal settings, and researched, before recommending course of action toward resolution. Vickie was an Education Consultant for the Early Childhood Education Office with the MDE and conducted two of four regional statewide hearings for grants to fund preschool programs. She received a fellowship for completing a leadership development program focusing on public policy in education.

In addition to being academically accomplished, Vickie enjoyed cooking all the traditional Mexican-American dishes and was always exploring ways to upgrade dishes that her family and friends enjoyed. She enjoyed gardening – especially her roses – and listening to Spanish music. She enjoyed meeting people and made friends easily. She enjoyed traveling, and studied the educational programs of the places she traveled, including Mexico City, London, England, Spain and France. She was a strong, independent woman who loved her family and life and will be deeply missed. A private burial will be held at a later date.

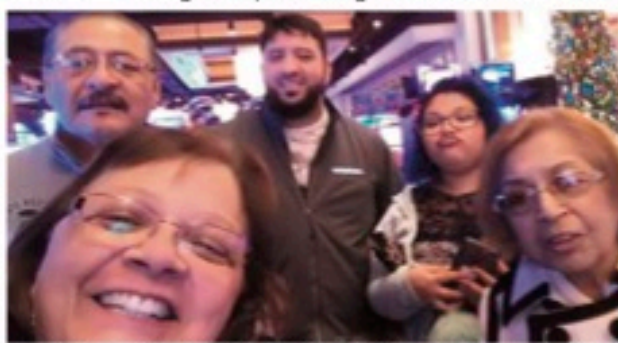
In lieu of flowers, Vicki's family has suggested a contribution to the American Cancer Society in her memory. Feel free to leave a memory or sign her personal guest book at www.heritagelifestory.com



TEJANO 616 EN EL 97.3 FM

**Sintoniza Tejano 616 en el 97.3 FM
con El Doc y el Valluco de DJ's
Martes/Tuesdays
Jueves/Thursdays
Domingos/Sundays
from 12:00 noon -2:00 p.m.**

www.theheat973.com



**Happy
Birthday
Lori &
Anthony!**

FEBRUARY BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND CHICANO MOVEMENT

February is designated as Black History Month in the United States, a time to celebrate and recognize the achievements of African Americans, while the Chicano Movement was a social and political activism movement by Mexican Americans fighting for civil rights and cultural recognition, particularly against systemic racism and inequalities they faced; both movements share a common thread of advocating for marginalized communities to claim their history and fight for equal treatment.

Febrero está designado como el Mes de la Historia Negra en los Estados Unidos, un momento para celebrar y reconocer los logros de los afroamericanos, mientras que el Movimiento Chicano fue un movimiento de activismo social y político de los mexicano-estadounidenses que luchaban por los derechos civiles y el reconocimiento cultural, particularmente contra el racismo sistémico y las desigualdades que enfrentaban; ambos movimientos comparten un hilo común de defensa de las comunidades marginadas para reclamar su historia y luchar por la igualdad de trato.

The Daze of our Lives



By Jorge Martinez
U.S. Veteran


Over the years, several attempts to treat troubled people across a wide spectrum have developed, although without much success. For example, Project Dare, an Avant-Garde outpatient counseling program for drug addicts, once existed in San Jose, California. It worked directly with the court system to divert addicts from incarceration to mandated counseling. It earned accolades during the San Jose PCP epidemic of 1989. Curiously, more than the clients, the most challenging were fellow counselors, also recovering addicts. They were all members of AA & NA.

Their failure proved how powerful drug addiction is. The Vietnam War had ended, and the Chicano and UFW movements were in full swing. Hoping to avoid the assassination of its leader, several courageous veterans agreed to provide security for Cesar Chavez secretly. I was a dreamer who believed I was protecting a genuine Latino grassroots, modern Emilio Zapata, fighting for the poor. This was before Miriam Pawel wrote *The Union of Their Dreams*, 2009, and *The Crusades of Cesar Chavez*, 2015. Discovering his charismatic leadership devolved into a destructive cult of personality was devastating. I know because it returned after Trump's victory pulled the scab off old wounds. I felt like Neville Chamberlain after the Munich Conference in 1938 after being duped by Hitler. I felt disoriented and deceived. I was shocked and disappointed. Latinos voted for the man who stood for everything wrong with America. We, the people once known as invisible, became the most highly visible, most misinformed minority in the nation. 45% of Latinos voted for Trump, bitter and confused, I remembered someone else who'd impressed me. As a teenager, I dreamed of being an artist, painting like Vincent Van Gogh and living in Paris. Due to my stuttering, I loved books, especially large colorful art books. As befitting an aspiring artist, I'd also developed theories of Van Gogh, who was generally said to be insane. I reasoned; without evidence, Van Gogh had merely been a misunderstood romantic. Critics claimed he suffered paranoia, which seems logical, especially today. Who isn't a little afraid of impending threats lingering beyond the horizon? Isn't it healthy to imagine what could happen? Besides, who claimed Vincent was suicidal? Was it someone he knew or an annoying medical student wearing a stethoscope and white lab coat? Anyway, haven't millions fallen in love with the wrong person? Critics claim he loved a prostitute who rejected his advances, including the gift he made to her of part of an ear. Couldn't it be argued for such a romantic, giving the love of your life a part of you doesn't seem that far-fetched? After all, how many have refused to continue living without their loved ones? It may be a weak argument, but again, it proves we don't know. And, if no one really knows, then aren't all things possible? Shouldn't this give us hope? Pondering upon old memories, I

glance at the wall-sized painting of *Starry Night*. I do not understand how his imagination came up with this. Yet I refuse to believe modern art critics knew him. As a lifelong storyteller, poet, singer, and songwriter, I've turned memories and nightmares into songs and poems, but it is difficult to explain if asked. Critics draw analogies from his brush strokes and colors, but it's only their interpretation. Vincent was a dreamer and inventor and, as such, a creator who, via his romantic struggles, created like a God, a powerful painting that inspired millions. His selections of colors, style, and endless swirls, angles, and shades that mesh and blend into other swirls may be an admission of the impossibility of finding permanence. In researching important events of 1889, the year he painted *Starry Night*, we find The Oklahoma Land Rush and the Eiffel Tower officially opened in Paris. In America, the Great Seattle Fire destroyed downtown Seattle. Which suggests that history may still favorably remember us. In Vincent's Van Gogh case, his works of art have passed through many hands and landed in the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, which is said to be priceless. Yet Don McLean, who wrote "Vincent" in 1971 during the Vietnam War, reminded us talking about mental illness was verboten. GIs returned shattered and impacted by PTSD, and greeted by a hostile nation and shunned. They turned to drugs, rebelled, and, like Vincent may have suffered similar issues passed on as spiritual DNA. Yet, nouveau-arrival Andrew Bustamante, the half-Mexican American CIA agent turned entrepreneur, advises against trusting others as it is how he exploited them. He doesn't offer insight into how to manage the discovery of betrayal. It's a disagreeable topic at best. Andrew's haggard appearance proves although someone appears harmless, all things can hide behind a smile. Sun-Tzu, the great warrior strategist, says deception is the first weapon of war. So, if we are to be lied too, manipulated, and used, shouldn't we choose to love without reservation? After all, no one lies on their deathbed and regrets having loved passionately. It's those who never loved, who never risked their hearts, who die filled with regret.

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



Quality Pest Control

"Serving Residential and Commercial Properties in the West Michigan Area"

Manuel Arizola • Certified Tech



2948 Union AVE SE
Wyoming, MI 49548
616-243-2871
616-366-5968
Bugassassin@yahoo.com
Se Habla Español

www.bug-assassin.com



Activist Puerto Rican, Impacted Us by Example

José "Cha Cha" Jiménez, was known throughout the United States and Puerto Rico for his undying commitment to his American community of Puerto Ricans in Chicago Illinois and beyond. His grassroots organizing activities in the inner city of Chicago gave him notoriety as a champion for the common good. His actions would upset city

planners and corporate thugs wanting to move the Puerto Rican residents out of Chicago's Lincoln Park making way for redevelopment and gentrification. José and others banded together and redirected a gang into an activists group. He became the Chairman and Founder of the Young Lords Organization in Chicago, and Co-Founder of the Rainbow Coalition. José passed away on January 10, 2025, at the age of 76. A pivotal figure in the civil rights and liberation movements in the U.S., Cha Cha's legacy is defined by his revolutionary spirit, steadfast vision for Puerto Rican self-determination, and unwavering commitment to justice. His influence in the Grand Rapids, Michigan community is also well engraved in our history.

Born on August 8, 1948, in Barrio San Salvador, Caguas, Puerto Rico, Cha Cha and his family moved to Chicago's Near North Side in the 1950s, settling in La Clark (now Old Town), one of the city's first Puerto Rican neighborhoods. Discriminatory zoning and redlining forced Puerto Rican families, including the Jiménez family, to move frequently, uprooting their communities. As a result, Cha Cha attended four different elementary schools. During this time, he formed a lifelong bond with Orlando Dávila, who later founded the Young Lords as a street gang to counter the hostility towards Lincoln Park's growing Puerto Rican community.

On September 23, 1968, under Cha Cha's leadership, the Young Lords became a human rights organization. **With the slogan *Tengo Puerto Rico en mi Corazón (I Have Puerto Rico in My Heart)*, the Young Lords Organization (YLO)** fought for Puerto Rican independence while tackling broader social issues like the gentrification and urban renewal of Lincoln Park—a deeply personal issue for Cha Cha shaped by his family's experience. The YLO became a revolutionary force, fighting for the rights of oppressed peoples, challenging institutionalized racism and police brutality, and advocating for access to healthcare, education, and housing.

"I was inspired by Cha Cha's political strength, his passion, and leadership. Young people followed him in awe," said Tony Báez, a former student activist in Puerto Rico who moved to Chicago in 1970 and quickly joined the Young Lords, serving as their Minister of Education.

"There was something special about Cha Cha, this young man, my same age, and from the same neighborhood in PR, that made me feel I had to join him in the fight against a colonial and imperialist monster. He fought for Latinos in a hostile city and country, and wanted Puerto Rican independence as much as I did," added Báez.

As Cha Cha's political consciousness expanded, so did the collective consciousness of those around him, igniting a political awakening within the Young Lords that mobilized the Barrio. Inspired by the Black Panther Party, Cha Cha emphasized political education as a tool for cultivating leaders within the most marginalized communities. **The Young Lords established free programs for breakfast, education,**

and healthcare, established community spaces like the People's Church and People's Park, and organized politically to engage city officials and demand change.

Billy "Ché" Brooks, Deputy Minister of Education of the Black Panther Party, described Cha Cha as a warrior who truly understood the essence of fighting for the People. He recalled an interview with Cha Cha published in the Black Panther Newspaper on June 17, 1969. In response to the question, "What inspired you to align yourself with the Black Panther Party?" Cha Cha stated: "Well, you see, we're starting to realize who our people really are, who our friends are, and who our enemies are. As we read and studied about other organizations that are appearing now in the United States, we see and recognize the Black Panther Party as a vanguard revolutionary party. This is why we follow them."

Brooks went on to explain that, "Cha Cha's commitment to engage in the ideological journey needed to fight for people in his neighborhood, fight against imperialism that colonized his people in Puerto Rico and the oppressed throughout the world, was a testament to Cha Cha and the Young Lords Organization's undying love for the People, who are the makers of revolutionary change."

The Young Lords' affiliation with the Black Panther Party, along with their role in the broader legacy of the Puerto Rican independence struggle, led to increased state suppression. In later years, Báez reflected on how Cha Cha kept the movement alive despite the mounting pressure: "Even as the police, FBI, and government came down with all their might against the Young Lords, Cha Cha found ways to keep us together. Even when he went underground, he never stopped reaching out to us, planning strategies, and inspiring action. He never stopped believing in our ability to fight for a better world. He always thought he would return to the movement, and that together, we would continue the struggle for justice."

"Cha Cha's ferocity and dedication to Puerto Rican independence helped create a framework for our self-determination and shaped a politicized Diaspora for Puerto Ricans in a city that was deeply segregated," said Dr. Jacqueline Lazú, longtime historian of the Young Lords in Chicago, and professor at DePaul University. She is also the author of two forthcoming books about the Young Lords: an anthology developed in collaboration with Cha Cha Jiménez to be published by Haymarket Books in Fall 2025 and a comprehensive historical monograph under contract with Duke University Press.

The Young Lords Organization in Chicago became the national headquarters, with chapters forming in cities like New York, Philadelphia, and Milwaukee to expand their work.

Cha Cha's vision for growth included strategic solidarity, aligned with the Black Panther's concept of intercommunalism. He was part of a broader network of activists and liberation groups focused on building solidarity among the most marginalized people. In 1969, Cha Cha joined forces with Fred Hampton of the Black Panther Party and William "Preacher" Fesperman of the Young Patriots Organization to form the Rainbow Coalition, a working-class, multiracial movement fighting for justice and liberation.

Cha Cha's vision for change extended into political power. In 1974, he became the first Latino to announce a run for Alderman in Chicago, opposing Mayor Richard J. Daley's gentrification plans, reshaping the city's political landscape and asserting Puerto Rican and Latino political power in a city that had often ignored their voices. In 1983, Cha Cha helped form the first Latino coalition for Harold Washington's historic mayoral campaign and mobilized voters as a precinct captain to elect Chicago's first Black mayor.

Helen Shiller, who served as the 46th Ward Alderman from 1987-2011, played a significant role as a volunteer in Cha Cha's campaign. Alongside Walter "Slim" Coleman, she helped to organize the Intercommunal Survival Committee, a white ally arm of the Black Panther Party. She reflected on his profound impact, describing him as "a friend, a comrade, a teacher, and a leader." She emphasized, "His leadership paved the way for the first Rainbow Coalition and for multiracial movements based on unity of principles, not just solidarity around interests. His fearlessness, friendship, and thoughtfulness will be missed."

Throughout his life, Cha Cha's struggles provided valuable insight, expanding his understanding of systemic issues and strengthening his connection with the people he fought for. **In his later years, Cha Cha lived in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he worked as a youth gang and addiction counselor, a deeply personal role that reflected his own journey.**

A lifelong learner, Cha Cha viewed everyone he met as having something valuable to teach. After spending a brief time at the old Waller High School (now Lincoln Park High School), he earned his GED before going on to earn a BA in Liberal Studies from Grand Valley State University in 2013, an AA in Business Administration from Grand Rapids Community College in 2017, and an MA in Public Administration from Central Michigan University in 2020.

Cha Cha dedicated himself to preserving the legacy of the Young Lords Organization by creating two significant archives at Grand Valley State University and DePaul University, ensuring the Young Lords' history would inspire future generations. He and other YLO members worked with institutional partners to establish the archives at DePaul, viewing the university's location in Lincoln Park—once the Young Lords' neighborhood before gentrification—as a symbolic step toward reparations.

Cha Cha had a profound love for music and theater, recognizing the arts as a powerful way to imagine and communicate the possibilities of

liberation. He co-created the movement's logo and much of its iconography, wrote songs and poems, and contributed to plays, films, and exhibitions over the years.



In 2018, the Young Lords Organization celebrated its 50th Anniversary with a symposium at DePaul University, featuring a historic panel with Cha Cha and former Puerto Rican political prisoner and Puerto Rican independence leader Oscar López Rivera. In 2023, original and new members of the Young Lords gathered at DePaul University to celebrate 55 years of the organization. Cha Cha was honored by DePaul's Center for Latino Research with the prestigious Public Intellectual Award. In 2024, a historical marker was placed on DePaul's Lincoln Park campus to honor the Young Lords' presence and legacy in the neighborhood and in the city of Chicago.

José "Cha Cha" Jiménez is survived by his children Jacqueline Jiménez, Sonia Jiménez, Melisa Jiménez, Alejandro Jiménez, and Jodette Lozano, and sisters Jenny Jiménez, Daisy Jiménez, and Mirna Jiménez. He was a proud grandfather and great-grandfather and is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and extended members of the Jiménez family, a pioneering family that shaped Puerto Rican Chicago within the Lincoln Park community. He was preceded in death by his parents, Eugenia Rodríguez Flores and Antonio Jiménez Rodríguez.



Cha Cha is remembered by countless friends, allies, colleagues, students and activists across the globe who shared his vision for justice and liberation. His life remains an enduring testament to the power of resilience, education, and revolutionary love.

Rest in Power, Chairman Cha Cha. Te tenemos en el corazón.

97.3 FM • URBAN MIX



**¡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. Music is universal! Robert LaDew R.I.P. brother! Your legacy in Grand Rapids is alive and well!

Dr. José A. Flores President, C.E.P.
616.581.6271
Asisted by Marte Smith
Dr. Edgar Leon

www.theheat973.com

97.3 FM URBAN MIX • THE HEAT

NOTICIAS EN BREVE

Mortgage rates climb above 7%, highest level since May

Mortgage rates topped 7% this week, a key psychological threshold, in a sign of the US housing market's unrelenting affordability challenges. The average rate on a standard, 30-year fixed mortgage was 7.04% in the week ending January 16, according to a survey of lenders released last month by Freddie Mac. It's the fifth consecutive weekly increase and the highest level since May.

Las tasas hipotecarias superaron el 7% esta semana, un umbral psicológico clave, en una señal de los incesantes desafíos de asequibilidad del mercado inmobiliario de EE. UU.

FDA bans red dye No. 3 from food, drinks and ingested drugs in the US

The US Food and Drug Administration has banned the use of red dye No. 3 in food, beverages and ingested drugs, more than 30 years after scientists discovered links to cancer in animals, the agency announced last month.

A synthetic color additive made from petroleum and chemically known as erythrosine, red dye No. 3 is used to give foods and beverages a bright cherry-red color.

La Administración de Alimentos y Medicamentos de Estados Unidos ha prohibido el uso del colorante rojo N° 3 en alimentos, bebidas y fármacos ingeridos, más de 30 años después de que los científicos descubrieran vínculos con el cáncer en animales, anunció la agencia el mes pasado.

MDHHS urges vaccinations as respiratory cases rise in Michigan Flu numbers expected to peak in coming weeks

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) encourages Michigan residents to get vaccinated, as increases in flu, COVID-19 and RSV activity have been observed and are expected to continue.

At the end of December, trends in respiratory illness reached the highest levels so far this season at both the national level (6.8% of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness) and in Michigan (4.5%). Michigan activity typically lags a few weeks behind the national trend, meaning the next few weeks are likely to see increasing local activity, especially as children return to school after the December holidays.

The majority of Michiganders are not up to date on the vaccinations that protect against these infections. Only 11% of Michigan residents have been vaccinated this season for COVID-19 and 23.6% have been vaccinated for influenza. It is not too late to get vaccinated against the flu, COVID-19 and RSV. All three of these vaccines can help protect against severe respiratory illness and can be given at the same time.

El Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos de Michigan (MDHHS) alienta a los residentes de Michigan a vacunarse, ya que se han observado aumentos en la actividad de la gripe, la COVID-19 y el VSR y se espera que continúen.

A fines de diciembre, las tendencias en enfermedades respiratorias alcanzaron los niveles más altos hasta el momento de esta temporada, tanto a nivel nacional (6,8 % de visitas ambulatorias por enfermedades similares a la gripe) como en Michigan (4,5 %). La actividad de Michigan generalmente se retrasa algunas semanas con respecto a la tendencia nacional, lo que significa que es probable que en las próximas semanas se observe un aumento de la actividad local, especialmente a medida que los niños regresan a la

escuela después de las vacaciones de Diciembre.

Governor Whitmer addresses Housing Discrimination by Landlords who refuse to accept housing vouchers!

Governor Gretchen Whitmer recently signed a bill that restricts landlords from denying housing based on the source of income, including vouchers. This legislation is part of a broader effort to protect renters from discrimination and ensure that everyone has access to safe and affordable housing. The new law applies to landlords with five or more rental units and prohibits them from using a tenant's source of income as a basis for denying or terminating housing.

This is a significant step towards creating a fairer housing system in Michigan.

La gobernadora Gretchen Whitmer firmó recientemente un proyecto de ley que prohíbe a los propietarios negar viviendas en función de la fuente de ingresos, incluidos los vales. Esta legislación forma parte de un esfuerzo más amplio para proteger a los inquilinos de la discriminación y garantizar que todos tengan acceso a una vivienda segura y asequible. La nueva ley se aplica a los propietarios con cinco o más unidades de alquiler y les prohíbe utilizar la fuente de ingresos de un inquilino como base para negar o rescindir la vivienda.

Movimiento Cosecha Michigan Leads Powerful March Against Deportations on MLK Day

On a frigid MLK Day with temperatures in the single digits, Movimiento Cosecha Michigan, a nonviolent movement fighting for immigrant rights, led a march in Grand Rapids to demand an end to deportations in Michigan. Defying the cold, nearly 100 people from Muskegon, Ionia, Holland, Ann Arbor, and other surrounding areas gathered in solidarity with the undocumented community under the banner of "No Deportations".

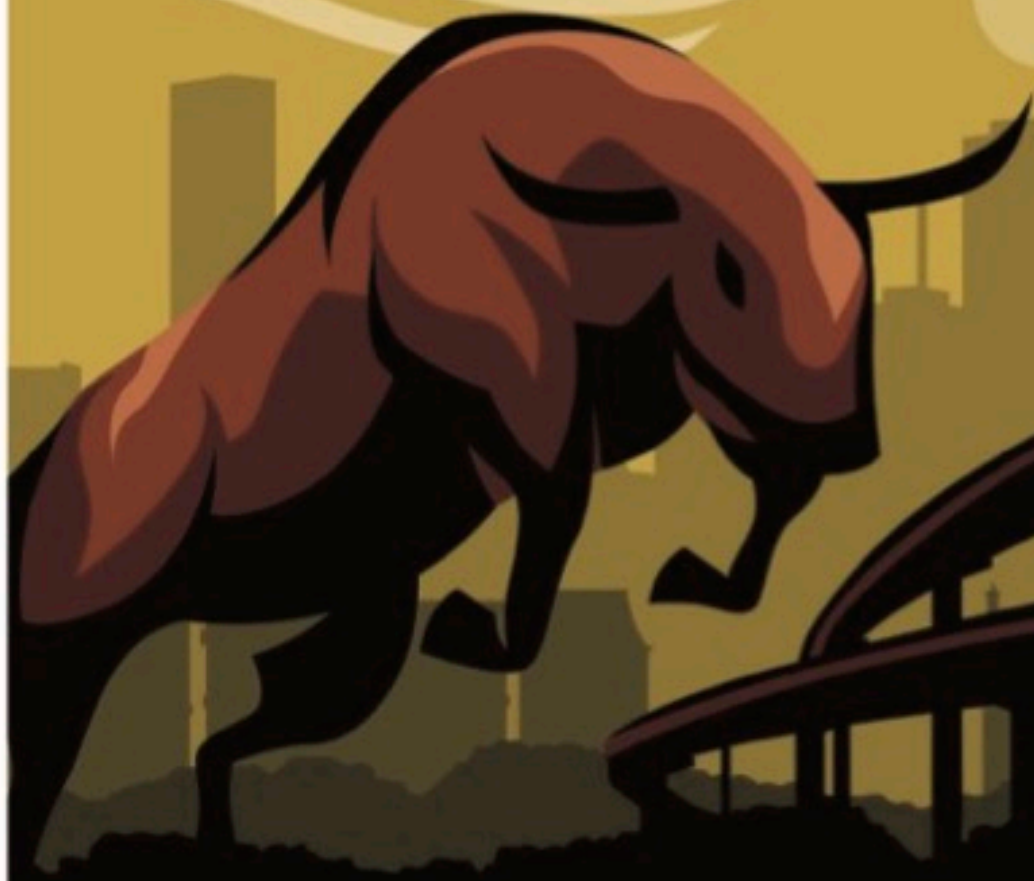
The rally began at Rosa Parks Circle at 4:00 p.m., coinciding with the inauguration of the new federal administration. Pro-immigrant groups such as GR Rapid Response to ICE, IWW, PSL of Michigan, Palestine Solidarity GR, UFW Foundation, Puertas Abiertas, Grand Rapids Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, Food Not Bombs, and Indivisible Grand Rapids joined in support. West Michigan Care Collective and other organizations provided warm coffee and established stations to help participants stay warm.

En un frígido día de MLK con temperaturas de un solo dígito, Movimiento Cosecha Michigan, un movimiento no violento que lucha por los derechos de los inmigrantes, encabezó una marcha en Grand Rapids para exigir el fin de las deportaciones en Michigan. Desafiando el frío, casi 100 personas de Muskegon, Ionia, Holland, Ann Arbor y otras áreas circundantes se reunieron en solidaridad con la comunidad indocumentada bajo el lema de "No a las deportaciones".

La manifestación comenzó en Rosa Parks Circle a las 4:00 p.m., coincidiendo con la inauguración de la nueva administración federal. Grupos pro inmigrantes como GR Rapid Response to ICE, IWW, PSL of Michigan, Palestine Solidarity GR, UFW Foundation, Puertas Abiertas, Grand Rapids Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, Food Not Bombs e Indivisible Grand Rapids se unieron en apoyo. West Michigan Care Collective y otras organizaciones proporcionaron café caliente y establecieron estaciones para ayudar a los participantes a mantenerse calientes.



Vuele sin escalas a Houston desde el Aeropuerto Internacional Gerald R. Ford. Ya sea por negocios o por placer, ofrecemos más de 30 destinos sin escalas. Obtenga más información sobre nuestras mejoras continuas y servicios actualizados en FlyFord.org.



SIN ESCALAS A

HOUSTON

DESDE EL AEROPUERTO INTERNACIONAL GERALD R. FORD

JOSE GUADALUPE JIMENEZ JR.

Have you heard the word, “NIMBY”? It is an acronym for the phrase, “Not In My Back Yard”, a term for opposition to something undesirable in one’s neighborhood. One man discovered how accurate that phrase was, and it just so happened, it WAS in his back yard.

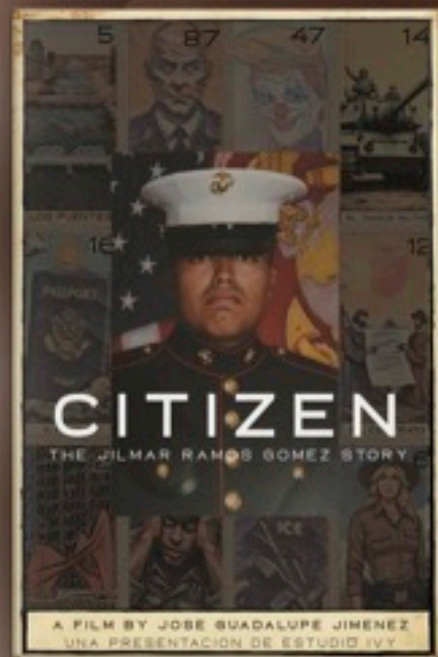
Meet the man behind the documentary, *Citizen: The Jilmar Ramos-Gomez Story*, filmmaker José Guadalupe Jimenez, Jr.

“I was doing research and working on another documentary when I came across Jilmar’s case. I knew the story I was following originally was related but was not aware how. I first became aware of the case when I saw it on the news. It was a press conference that included his mother, Maria, his attorneys, and members of the ACLU.

The documentary follows the case of Jilmar Ramos-Gomez, a 27-year-old decorated Marine veteran who, in 2018, was arrested after being accused of trespassing and damaging a fire alarm at a local hospital. Jilmar suffers from PTSD. He pleaded guilty to the charge and was released on bond by the judge, but instead, he was turned over to ICE and sent to a detention center in Calhoun County to await deportation. This should never have happened because Jilmar is a U.S. citizen, born and raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan. When he was arrested by police, he had his passport, a REAL ID, Drivers License, his military ID and his dog tags, yet he was nearly deported. “I felt his story needed to be told,” said José. “I am the son of immigrant parents from Mexico who was born and raised in California. This could be me. I was stopped several times myself, when traveling back and forth to Tijuana. I moved to Grand Rapids in 2017. I felt that my skills in filmmaking could help people who look like me, talk like me and have similar experiences to mine.”

José’s documentary premiered at Wealthy Street Theater on January 15, 2025. He is working with Caton Vance and Dominic Cipolla on future screenings and events. They have even had a request for it at Eastern Michigan University.

It is a powerful story that happens more than we know, and yes, even in your backyard. We will try to keep you informed when and where it is showing next.



STORY TO BE TOLD



JOSE

design by APV STUDIOS

writer: Lisa Wiseman



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

By Odille Parker

Karina Tovar made history last year when she was appointed a referee for the National Football League, making her the league's first Latina on-field referee.

Tovar, who was born and raised in El Paso, Texas, developed a passion for football early on in life. She played flag football during her high school career, pursuing officiating later on to stay connected to the game.

Before joining the NFL, she made a name for herself by working her way through youth leagues, high school and college games, gaining recognition for her precision and leadership on and off the field. Tovar was the only woman in her high school unit in Southern California before being promoted to be the first female official in the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC).

She was officiating in the Pac-12 Conference and positioned to make a jump to the Big 12 crew prior to her NFL appointment in April. She's no stranger to reaching milestones – she was part of the first all-female officiating crew at the 2023 Hula Bowl.

Kovar is only one of four female referees hired as on-field officials. She joined Sarah Thomas and Robin DeLorenzo as the only female on-field officials. DeLorenzo and Tovar also made history in December when the two of them were part of the Saints-Giants officiating crew, making it the first game that two women officiated together.

As a downfield official, Tovar also became the first woman to officiate at any position other than the line of scrimmage.

Karina Tovar hizo historia el año pasado cuando fue designada árbitro de la Liga Nacional de Fútbol Americano, lo que la convirtió en la primera árbitra latina en la cancha de la liga.

Tovar, que nació y se crió en El Paso, Texas, desarrolló una pasión por el fútbol americano desde muy temprana edad. Jugó flag fútbol americano durante su carrera en la escuela preparatoria y luego se dedicó a arbitrar para mantenerse conectada con el juego.

Antes de unirse a la NFL, se dio a conocer trabajando en ligas juveniles, juegos de la escuela preparatoria y la universidad, y ganó reconocimiento por su precisión y liderazgo dentro y fuera del campo. Tovar era la única mujer en su unidad de la escuela preparatoria en el sur de California antes de ser promovida a ser la primera mujer árbitro en la Conferencia de la Costa Atlántica (ACC).

Estaba oficiando en la Conferencia Pac-12 y posicionada para dar el salto al equipo Big 12 antes de su nombramiento en la NFL en abril. No es ajena a alcanzar logros: formó parte del primer equipo de árbitros exclusivamente femenino en el Hula Bowl 2023.

Kovar es solo una de las cuatro árbitras contratadas como



Karina Tovar

árbitros en el campo. Se unió a Sarah Thomas y Robin DeLorenzo como las únicas árbitros femeninas en el campo. DeLorenzo y Tovar también hicieron historia en Diciembre cuando las dos formaron parte del equipo de arbitraje de los Saints-Giants, lo que lo convirtió en el primer juego en el que dos mujeres arbitraron juntas.

Como árbitro de campo, Tovar también se convirtió en la primera mujer en arbitrar en cualquier posición que no fuera la línea de golpeo.



Atención integral del cáncer inspirada en ti

En el Centro de cáncer Lacks de Trinity Health, nuestro equipo oncológico médico, quirúrgico y de radiología trabajan juntos para crear un plan de tratamiento personalizado para ti. Desde el diagnóstico hasta el tratamiento, te guiamos en cada paso.

We See All of You™

CONTÁCTENOS HOY
TrinityWML.org/Cancer



Trinity Health
LACKS CANCER CENTER

February Events / Eventos en Febrero

2025 Michigan International Auto Show at DeVos Place February 1 - February 2, 2025 Grand Rapids, MI.

This is the greatest annual opportunity to view your next new vehicle! With hundreds on display trucks, SUVs, crossovers, electrics, hybrids, luxury and performance vehicles from over 35 manufacturers along with pre-production vehicles. Special features include the Million Dollar Motorway of exotic cars and the Gilmore Car Museum display. GRAutoShow.com
¡Esta es la mejor oportunidad anual para ver su próximo vehículo nuevo! Con cientos de camionetas, SUV, crossovers, vehículos eléctricos, híbridos, de lujo y de alto rendimiento en exhibición de más de 35 fabricantes, junto con vehículos de preproducción. Las características especiales incluyen la Million Dollar Motorway de autos exóticos y la exhibición del Gilmore Car Museum. GRAutoShow.com

Hiawatha Heritage Dog Sled Race February 1, 2025 Engadine, MI.

The Hiawatha Sportsman's Club has been around for nearly 100 years, but never before has it held an event like the Hiawatha Heritage Dog Sled Race. The 2-day even

will consist of two races - a 30-mile mushers' dash and a 100-mile overnight endurance race - across beautiful Hiawatha club trails. Each race will consist of 12 sled teams competing on a timed interval course.

El Club de Deportistas de Hiawatha existe desde hace casi 100 años, pero nunca antes había organizado un evento como la Carrera de Trineos de Perros Hiawatha Heritage. El evento de 2 días constará de dos carreras: una carrera de mushers de 30 millas y una carrera de resistencia nocturna de 100 millas, a lo largo de los hermosos senderos del club Hiawatha. Cada carrera constará de 12 equipos de trineos que competirán en un recorrido de intervalos cronometrados.

Ice Breaker Festival February 1 - 2, 2025 South Haven, MI.

Held annually on the first weekend of February, it's a time when the quiet winter streets of South Haven HEAT UP with activity and people! West Michigan's predominant and growing winter festival is showcasing dazzling ice sculptures, chili cook-off, cardboard sled races, pub slide, outdoor ice skating, horse drawn wagon rides, s'mores roasting and many more exciting



UP 200 & Midnight Run
February 13 - 16, 2025
Marquette, Mi.

activities throughout downtown South Haven.

El festival invernal predominante y en crecimiento del Oeste de Michigan presenta deslumbrantes esculturas de hielo, concurso de chili, carreras de trineos de cartón, tobogán de pub, patinaje sobre hielo al aire libre, paseos en carro tirado por caballos, asado de malvaviscos y muchas más actividades emocionantes en todo el centro de South Haven.

I-500 Snowmobile Race February 1, 2025 Sault Sainte Marie, MI.

The International 500 Snowmobile Race is not just Michigan's most thrilling experience for riders and motorsport fans of all kinds, it's not just the United States either, or for that matter, North America's! It's the most grueling and prestigious snowmobile race in the World! Since 1969, hundreds of thousands of diehard snowmobile and winter enthusiasts have journeyed to Sault Ste. Marie, MI to enjoy the frozen, snowy spectacle of the I-500, and be a part of the Upper Peninsula's most astonishing snowmobile action!

La carrera de motos de nieve International 500 no es solo la experiencia más emocionante de Michigan para los conductores y los fanáticos de los deportes de motor de todo tipo, ¡no es solo en los Estados Unidos ni tampoco en Norteamérica! ¡Es la carrera de motos de nieve más agotadora y prestigiosa del mundo!

Michigan Ice Fest February 12 - 16, 2025 Munising, MI.

A celebration of climbing in the Great Lakes with events for everyone from beginners to experts. Ice Climbing at it's best. If you are a novice or an expert, this is one event you do not want to miss. Quietly nestled on the south shore of Lake Superior we have some of the country's most outstanding ice climbing and the Ice Fest is at the center of it.

Una celebración de la escalada

en los Grandes Lagos con eventos para todos, desde principiantes hasta expertos. La escalada en hielo en su máxima expresión. Tanto si eres principiante como experto, este es un evento que no querrás perderte. Enclavados tranquilamente en la costa sur del Lago Superior, tenemos algunas de las escaladas en hielo más destacadas del país y el Ice Fest es el centro de todo ello.

UP 200 & Midnight Run February 13 - 16, 2025 Marquette, MI.

The U.P. 200 is one of America's premier 12-dog, mid distance sled dog races that draws racers from across the United States and Canada. Starting in Downtown Marquette, racers make the 230 mile journey to Grand Marais with a return to Marquette along the same trail.

La UP 200 es una de las principales carreras de trineos tirados por perros de 12 perros de media distancia de Estados Unidos, que atrae a participantes de todo Estados Unidos y Canadá. Los participantes comienzan en el centro de Marquette y recorren 230 millas hasta Grand Marais, con un regreso a Marquette por el mismo sendero.

CopperDog 150/CopperDog 80/CopperDog 30/ CopperDog 15 February 28 - March 2, 2025 Calumet, MI.

Fun for the whole family! Many activities to enjoy in addition to the race. The CopperDog 150 features teams of ten dogs and covers 150 miles in three days, while the CopperDog 40 features teams of six dogs and covers approximately forty miles in one day.

¡Diversión para toda la familia! Hay muchas actividades para disfrutar además de la carrera. La CopperDog 150 cuenta con equipos de diez perros y recorre 240 kilómetros en tres días, mientras que la CopperDog 40 cuenta con equipos de seis perros y recorre aproximadamente 64 kilómetros en un día.

Escucha a
ALEX CHÁVEZ
en:
97.3 FM THE HEAT
Estación de Grand Rapids,
MICHIGAN
U.S.A.
O sintonízalo vía WEB: www.theheat973.com



1958 Chevy Impala owner Ken Martin from Lansing, MI



1966 Cadillac Coupe DeVille



Batman is there showing off with a 1967 Buick Riviera



1951 Chevrolet Styleline Deluxe - owner Ambrosio Ledesma from Byron Center, MI



Lowrider 1963 Chevy Impala at downtown Grand Rapids Calder Plaza!



1958 Buick Riviera Special 2 door



1958 Oldsmobile Super 88 owner Jose from Club Zuni Grand Rapids, MI



1971 Olds Cutlass owner Joe Snell from Kalamazoo, MI



Cool bike with Grand Rapids Michigan Emblems



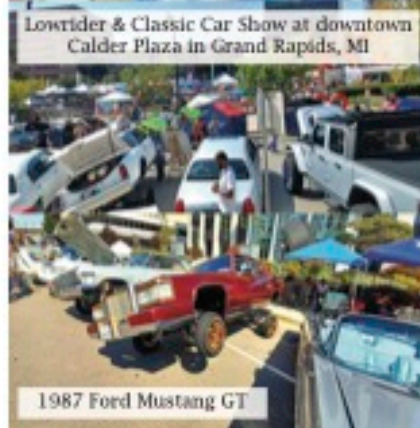
Reina Mexicana



Francisco Carcini with his daughter is a Board Member of Mexican Heritage Association of West Michigan



1984 Chevy El Camino owner Meme Hernandez of Cold Life C.C. from Grand Rapids, MI



1987 Ford Mustang GT



Aztec Dancer checking out Lowrider Car Show!

Michelle Ohse & Myla with Funeral Casket



1962 Chevy Impala owner Morro of Cold Life C.C. from Grand Rapids, MI

Lowrider Classic Car Show at 55th Annual Fiesta Mexicana 2024

As a Board Member with the Mexican Heritage Association of West Michigan (MHAWM), Franco Carcini hosted Lowrider Classic Car Show September 15, 2024, at Calder Plaza, 300 Ottawa Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI.

MHAWM taking their 55th Annual Fiesta Mexicana with the City of Grand Rapids were able to close Ottawa Avenue for the Car Show. Franco and his team lined up all Classic cars, Lowriders, Custom cars, Trucks, Motorcycles in the street for spectators to view.

They were able to showcase Lowrider bikes on the Calder Plaza sidewalk. Franco's team provided festival goers with the audience to watch cars hopping in the street.

LDJ Juan Tito Alfaro from AlphaMusic was live playing oldies and new tunes. A large crowd of people visited and admired the vehicles that Sunday afternoon. Everyone enjoyed the food tents, mercado, Live stage bands and entertainment available for the

whole family!

Awards of trophies for Best Car/Truck were awarded at the end of the day!

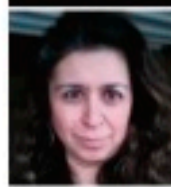
Somos pocos pero locos en lowriding!
Having a car event?
Contact Homero
(616)893-3906
deeho123@comcast.net

CAR SHOW UPDATES FOR FEBRUARY 2025:

Detroit Autorama 2025
72nd Annual Meguiar's Autorama Car Show
Dates: Friday, February 28, 2025 - Sunday, March 2, 2025
Venue: Huntington Place (Cobo Hall)
1 Washington Blvd
Detroit, MI 48226
General Admission: \$28.00
Children 6-12: \$10.00
Children 5 and Under Free



Hydraulic Hoppers ready for Hopping! 1990 Cadillac owner Vince Martinez of Cold Life C.C. from Grand Rapids, MI



By Lisa Wiseman

Comedian Felipe Esparza is bringing his stand-up comedy to Grand Rapids. Currently on his "At My Leisure" world tour, he will be traveling both across the U.S. and internationally. But you can catch him right here at Dr. Grins Comedy Club at the B.O.B. on February 27, 28 and March 1.

Born in Sinaloa, Mexico, he came to the United States when he was very young, about 4 or 5. He grew up in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles, California. Some of his biggest influences were comics such as Paul Rodriguez, Robin Williams, Eddie Murphy and George Carlin. "Growing up, I had a friend who had a record player and a lot of comedy albums. I was about 13 and I used to memorize all of these jokes." He began performing stand-up in 1994 after a stint in rehab. "I see myself doing this until I'm 100, or at least until I can't do it anymore!"

However, his career really took off when he won NBC's Last Comic Standing competition in 2010. He tried out for Seasons 1 & 5, but the 3rd time was the charm, and he made it all the way through to become the Season 7 winner.

Things started happening for Felipe a couple of years after that. He had his first one-hour special for Showtime in 2012. A lot of people don't know that he became vegan in 2011. "People don't believe me when I tell them I'm vegan, because I'm still a big guy. They ask, 'what are you eating, crops?'"

Currently he hosts three podcasts (one is 100% Spanish), What's Up Fool, History for Fools (with Butch Escobar) and Nace Una Leyenda: Chespirito. His new Netflix special, Raging Fool, comes out on February 11 and was directed by his wife, Lesa. He's had roles on both the big and small screens and has done numerous cartoon voiceovers. He has a guest role in the new Tim Allen series, Shifting Gears. Check out his website <https://felipesworld.com>.

He was even lucky enough to make a movie with one of his idols, Eddie Murphy (You People). "When Eddie Murphy told me 'You're hilarious', I almost crapped my pants! Hearing that from someone I admired, gave me more confidence in my stand-up." Does he prefer acting or stand-up? "Oh, I definitely prefer stand-up, getting on that stage and making people laugh. And I love touring and going to all these different places."

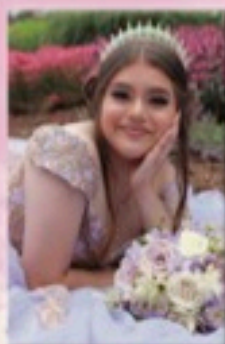
One of his favorite places is Amsterdam. He says he has even learned to speak a little Dutch. Maybe he can practice it while he's here in Grand Rapids. "I've been to De-

troit, Saginaw, Flint and Traverse City, but I don't think I've been to Grand Rapids."

Felipe is funny in any language. Get your tickets at www.etix.com. All shows are \$25.00 (not including convenience and handling fees). All shows are 18+, 9:45 shows are 21+. One show Thursday at 8:00 pm, 2 shows Friday and Saturday at 7:15 & 9:45 pm. Please note that Dr. Grins is card only, no cash.

El comediante Felipe Esparza trae su comedia a Grand Rapids. Actualmente se encuentra en su gira mundial "At My Leisure", que lo llevará por todo Estados Unidos y el mundo. Pero puedes verlo aquí en el Dr. Grins Comedy Club en el B.O.B. el 27 y 28 de Febrero y el 1 de Marzo.

Felipe es divertido en cualquier idioma. Consigue tus entradas en www.etix.com. Todos los espectáculos cuestan 25 dólares (no incluyen los gastos de gestión y conveniencia). Todos los espectáculos son para mayores de 18 años, los espectáculos de las 9:45 son para mayores de 21 años. Un espectáculo el jueves a las 20:00 h, 2 espectáculos el viernes y el sábado a las 7:15 y 9:45 pm. Dr. Grins solo acepta tarjetas, no se acepta efectivo.



APV STUDIOS

PRINCESS QUINCEAÑERA PACKAGES

PRINCESS 1

* 3 HR PHOTOGRAPHY/ALL DAY VIDEO
1 16x20 LINEN PRINT/COPYRIGHTS/PRINTS (UP TO 300)
HD VIDEO COVERAGE/2 EDITED DVD'S/HIGHLIGHTS/USB
CEREMONY/RECEPTION
(VIDEO EXPECTED TO END @ 10PM)

TRAVEL FEES MAY APPLY

PRINCESS 2

*ALL DAY PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEO
1 20x24 LUSTRE PRINT, 1 10x10 SOFT COVER SIGN ALBUM,
COPYRIGHTS/PRINTS (UP TO 400), 1 VINYL BANNER (24x60)
2 PHOTOS/DESIGN, 25 FREE THANK YOU CARDS, HD VIDEO COVERAGE
2 EDITED DVD'S/HIGHLIGHTS/DRONE/CEREMONY/RECEPTION
(VIDEO EXPECTED TO END @ 10PM)

CONTACT INFO:

616-635-0164 cell

apvphotovideo@yahoo.com

ID: APVPHOTOVIDEO59

FB: ANTHONY T. VALDEZ

BOOK YOUR SPECIAL EVENT FOR 2025-26
CUSTOMIZED PACKAGES AVAILABLE



Adriana Fonseca



Patricio Campillo



Willy Chavarria

Five top Hispanic fashion designers are making waves in the U.S.

1. Adriana Fonseca - Founder of By Fonseca, known for her sustainable fashion brand that repurposes dead-stock fabric. Adriana Fonseca is truly inspiring! As the founder of By Fonseca, she has carved a niche in the fashion industry with her commitment to sustainability and unique design aesthetic. Her brand focuses on repurposing dead-stock fabric to create one-of-a-kind pieces that emphasize quality and environmental responsibility. Each garment is made to order, ensuring that every piece is special and crafted with care.

Adriana's designs often feature animated silhouettes created through layering and texturizing, giving her collections a distinctive and playful vibe. Her dedication to sustainable fashion and her innovative approach to design have earned her a loyal following and recognition in the fashion world.

2. Willy Chavarria - A New York-based designer who infuses his heritage into his designs, creating bold and culturally rich pieces. Willy Chavarria is an American fashion designer born in Fresno, California. He is the founder of his eponymous label (stylized as WILLY CHAVARRIA) and is the current Senior Vice President of Design at Calvin Klein. Chavarria was born to an Irish-American mother and a Mexican-American father in July 1967. In his early 20s, he attended the Academy of Art University in San Francisco to pursue a degree in graphics design.

3. Raul Lopez - Founder of Luar, a brand that blends his Dominican heritage with contemporary fashion, known for its vibrant and playful designs. Raul Lopez is indeed a standout designer! He founded the brand Luar in 2011, and it has quickly become known for its innovative and boundary-pushing designs. Luar blends high fashion with street style, drawing inspiration from Lopez's Dominican heritage and New York upbringing. His work often explores themes of identity and culture, and he is praised for his craftsmanship and unique silhouettes.

Lopez has also made a name for himself by building a design team that includes many Latino, POC, and queer talents and by giving back to the community. His designs have been seen on celebrities like Beyoncé and Madonna, further cementing his influence in the fashion world.

4. Mariana Hinestroza - Founder of Agua Bendita, bringing Hispanic heritage to the mainstream through mass retail collaborations. Mariana Hinestroza and her best friend Catalina Álvarez founded Agua Bendita in 2003. The brand started with a dream to create unique, handmade swimsuits using discarded fabrics and Catalina's grandmother's sewing machine. Today, Agua Bendita is known for its vibrant, handcrafted designs and has expanded to over fifty countries. What makes Agua Bendita special is its commitment to empowering women. The brand works with Colombian artisans and many stay-at-home moms to create intricate, hand-embroidered pieces. This supports local communities and adds a unique, personal touch to each garment.

5. Patricio Campillo is a talented designer from Mexico City who has significantly impacted the fashion world. He launched his brand, The Pack, in 2015, which quickly gained recognition for its urban style and sustainable approach. His designs often incorporate elements of Mexican culture, particularly the charro tradition, a form of Mexican horse riding and associated attire. In recent years, Campillo has expanded its brand and introduced a new line under its own name, Campillo. His collections feature intricate details, such as hand-embroidered elements and unique dyeing techniques, showcasing his dedication to craftsmanship and cultural heritage. Campillo's work has been featured in international fashion events, including New York Fashion Week, and he has collaborated with various Mexican artists and talents to create visually stunning and culturally rich pieces.

1. Adriana Fonseca: fundadora de By Fonseca, conocida por su marca de moda sostenible que reutiliza telas de stock muerto. ¡Adriana Fonseca es verdaderamente inspiradora! Como fundadora de By Fonseca, se ha ganado un nicho en la industria de la moda con su compromiso con la sostenibilidad y la estética de diseño única.

2. Willy Chavarria: un diseñador con sede en Nueva York que infunde su herencia en sus diseños, creando piezas audaces y culturalmente ricas. Willy Chavarria es un diseñador de moda estadounidense nacido en Fresno, California. Es el fundador de su marca homónima (estilizada como WILLY CHAVARRIA) y actualmente es el vicepresidente sénior de diseño de Calvin Klein.

3. Raúl López: fundador de Luar, una marca que combina su herencia dominicana con la moda contemporánea, conocida por sus diseños vibrantes y divertidos. ¡Raúl López es, sin duda, un diseñador destacado! Fundó la marca Luar en 2011 y rápidamente se hizo conocida por sus diseños innovadores y rompedores de esquemas. Su trabajo a menudo explora temas de identidad y cultura, y es elogiado por su artesanía y sus siluetas únicas.

4. Mariana Hinestroza: fundadora de Agua Bendita, que lleva la herencia hispana al público en general a través de colaboraciones con minoristas masivos. Mariana Hinestroza, junto con su mejor amiga Catalina Álvarez, fundó Agua Bendita en 2003.

5. Patricio Campillo: es un talentoso diseñador de la Ciudad de México que ha tenido un impacto significativo en el mundo de la moda. Lanzó su marca The Pack en 2015, que rápidamente ganó reconocimiento por su estilo urbano y su enfoque sustentable. Sus diseños a menudo incorporan elementos de la cultura mexicana, en particular la tradición charra, que es una forma de montar a caballo mexicana y la vestimenta asociada. En los últimos años, Campillo ha ampliado su marca y ha presentado una nueva línea con su propio nombre, Campillo.



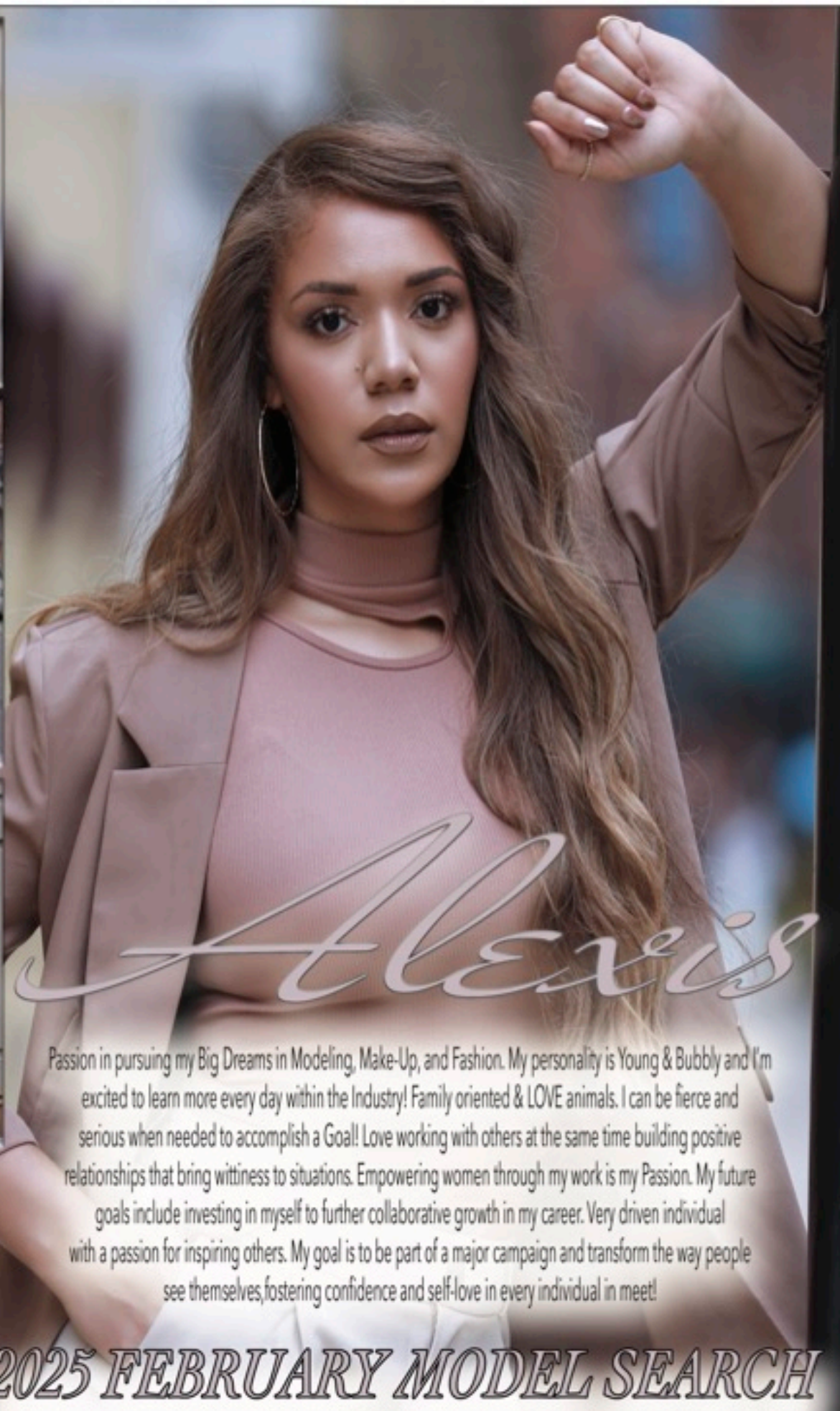
Mariana Hinestroza & Catalina Álvarez



Raul Lopez



APV STUDIOS
616-635-0164 cell
contact for quotes & how
to get started
* multiple package deals *



Passion in pursuing my Big Dreams in Modeling, Make-Up, and Fashion. My personality is Young & Bubbly and I'm excited to learn more every day within the Industry! Family oriented & LOVE animals. I can be fierce and serious when needed to accomplish a Goal! Love working with others at the same time building positive relationships that bring wittiness to situations. Empowering women through my work is my Passion. My future goals include investing in myself to further collaborative growth in my career. Very driven individual with a passion for inspiring others. My goal is to be part of a major campaign and transform the way people see themselves, fostering confidence and self-love in every individual I meet!

2025 FEBRUARY MODEL SEARCH



The Importance of Cervical Cancer Screenings

La importancia de las Pruebas de Detección del Cáncer de Cuello Uterino

Cervical cancer is one of the most preventable and treatable types of cancer. Yet each year, more than 11,000 Americans are diagnosed with cervical cancer, and around 4,000 women lose their lives to cervical cancer each year. Rates of cervical cancer have been decreasing in the last decade because of increased education and cervical screenings.

When to start getting cervical cancer screenings The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines suggest starting cervical cancer screening at age 21. Women should get a pap smear every three years from age 21 to age 30. From age 30 to age 65, get a pap smear every five years in coordination with HPV testing. From age 65 and older, if no abnormal results have been found in the past two screenings, cervical cancer screenings can be ceased.

HPV and cervical cancer

HPV testing is a crucial element of cervical cancer screening and prevention. HPV, or human papillomavirus, is a virus that can cause cervical cancer. HPV vaccinations are often provided in young adulthood, but individuals should check their HPV vaccination status.

Types of Cervical Cancer Screenings

These tests are given regularly to screen for HPV cells and cancerous and pre-cancerous cells. Cervical cancer screenings can also lead doctors to discover other non-cancerous conditions, such as infections or inflammation.

HPV testing

HPV testing is completed by testing cells from the cervix for HPV to gauge the risk of cervical cancer. This involves collecting a small sample of cervical cells during a pelvic exam. The sample is then sent to a lab that performs the testing.

Pap smears

A pap smear or pap test also involves the collection of a small sample of cervical cells during a pelvic exam. A pap smear tests the sample for cancerous, pre-cancerous or abnormal cell growth in the cervix.

Combination HPV testing and pap smear

A combination HPV test and pap smear refers to the use of the same cervical sample being tested for both HPV and cancerous growth. The main benefit is that it involves one visit, one pelvic exam, and sample collection rather than a separate collection for both tests.

How to understand screening test results

Screening test results usually come back from a cervical cancer screening within a few weeks.

HPV test results

An HPV test result will include HPV status – either negative or positive and whether it is high risk. Some women may see a positive HPV result after years of negative results. This can be a sign of a new HPV infection but can also be a reactivated HPV infection.

Pap smear test results

A pap smear comes back with one of three results: normal, abnormal, or unsatisfactory. A typical pap smear test result means no cancerous, pre-cancerous, or abnormal cells or cell growth was found. An unsatisfactory result means the screening couldn't be performed accurately or entirely. This can be caused by a sample that is too small or too large, blood or mucus altering the sample, or errors in the screening process. A second screening is likely needed.

An abnormal result means irregularities or abnormalities are found in the cervical cell sample. This does not inherently mean it is cancer, but doctors may recommend further testing and monitoring. Abnormal pap smear test results can include a few specific findings:

- Atypical squamous cells of undetermined significance (ASC-US):

These cells are abnormal, but the cause is unclear. Possible causes are irritation, infections, non-cancerous growths, and hormonal changes. Further testing is likely to be suggested.

- Atypical glandular cells (AGC):

Glandular cells are one type of cell in the cervix. If these are abnormal, further testing will be suggested.

- Low-grade squamous intraepithelial lesions (LSIL): These cells are abnormal due to changes from the HPV virus. More testing will be needed.

- Atypical squamous cells cannot exclude high-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion (ASC-H): Some cells found were high-severity in their abnormalities, and further testing will be needed.

- High-grade squamous intraepithelial lesions (HSIL): This means many abnormal cervical cells in the sample. These may be pre-cancerous and likely need further testing.

- Adenocarcinoma in situ (AIS): This means a pre-cancerous growth or lesion was found in the glandular cells of the cervix and will need treatment.

- Cervical cancer cells (squamous cell carcinoma or adenocarcinoma): This means cancerous cells were found in the sample.

By Dr. Patricia Ferguson, M.D., medical director, Senior Health Services, Emergent Holdings. Emergent Holdings is a separate entity contracted by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan to perform administrative services for the Blue Cross Medicare Advantage program.

¡ESCÚCHANOS EN VIVO!

La PODEROSA

93.3 FM 810AM



miRadioPoderosa.com  
616-949-9582



¡Anunciate! 616-451-0551

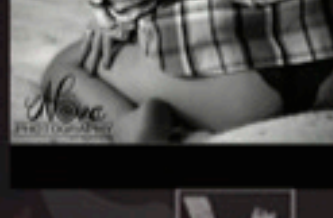


Alisha Gilman

In the upper east side of Michigan there is a rising "STAR". This classy & sassy super model is taking her career to new heights. Her name is Miss. Alisha Gilman and she has transformed into the ultimate professional making her a photographers favorite. Look for her this spring everywhere & to ABSOLUTELY own the summer modeling season in every phase. The Community Voice LaVoz is excited to welcome her into the sorority of sisterhood of monthly selected published models. Thank

You photography credits to: Vince Bloom, Razsa

Photography, Mark Olivarez of Razsa Photography, Nora Photography, Patrick Gamaliel Photography



CLASSIFIEDS

QUALITY CONTROL TECHNICIANS, LEAD MAN, CASTING BED SUPERVISORS-

As a leading company in the production and sale of prestress concrete bridge beams for the Great Lakes area, Peninsula Prestress Company operates in a field with significant demand. We are seeking a skilled and experienced General Laborer to join our team and contribute to our growing success. Starting at \$20/hour, this is an excellent opportunity to grow your career with a respected industry leader. Qualifications: Skills: Proficiency in tying rebar, pouring/vibrating concrete, and working with steel forms. Language: English required; bilingual in Spanish is highly preferred. Certifications: Hi-Lo (forklift) certification preferred or willingness to obtain. Physical Requirements:

Ability to lift heavy materials, work in varying weather conditions, and perform physically demanding tasks.

We are located in Clarks-ville Michigan which is about a 25-minute ride from Grand Rapids and even closer to Lowell and Ionia. The position is hourly pay, 99% outdoors, and includes Winter production. We work week-ends when necessary. Pay is based on experience and we are ready to interview from 7a.m. until 4 p.m. Monday thru Friday. Come on board and join a company that will provide free uniforms, boot reimbursement, outdoor gear, and give you the satisfaction of participating in the improvement of Michigan's bridges and roadways!!

**PROGRAM MANAGER
NEXT LEVEL LEADERS-**
The Haworth College of

Business at Western Michigan University seeks to fill a Program Manager Next Level Leaders position. For complete description, minimum requirements and application procedures, visit our website at: <http://www.wmich.edu/hr/jobs>. Posting #S926P. Only applications submitted through this site by the deadline of 1/24/2025 will be considered.

WMU is an AA/EQ employer. Minorities, women, veterans, individuals with disabilities and all other qualified individuals are encouraged to apply.

**MAINTENANCE
MECHANIC 8-10** - State of Michigan. Whitmore Lake, MI. www.GovernmentJobs.com \$21.42-35.55 an hour Full-time. No Degree Mentioned

Aspiring Journalist

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

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

Email resume/CV to primaveratf@gmail.com

GRUPO "ESPERANZA" A.A.

1953 28th Street SW
Wyoming, MI 49519

Horario de Reuniones

Lunes, Martes, Miércoles, Jueves, Viernes
7:00pm - 9:00pm
Sabado / Domingo
7:00pm - 9:00pm



Grocery Shop / Abarrotes La Familia

Grocery Shop/ Abarrotes La Familia

Your go-to neighborhood grocery store
Groceries • Fruits and Vegetables • Beer •
Cigars • Sweets
• Lottery • and more...
Abarrotes • Frutas y Verduras • Cerveza •

Ubicado en 1066
Calle César E. Chavez Ave S.W
Grand Rapids, Mi.

For more information /
Para más información

616-581-6271

Hours/Horario:

Monday - Thursday / Lunes - Jueves

11:00am to 12:30am

Friday & Saturday / Viernes y Sábado

11:00am - 2:00am

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

Se Renta Restaurante con
todo equipo para Taquería



Restaurant with Equipment
Ready for Business

Se Renta Carnicería Equipada
Meat Market - Ready for Business





**EN EL NOMBRE LLEVA LA FAMA
Y EN EL PRODUCTO LA CALIDAD**

BÚSQUELAS EN SU TIENDA FAVORITA

FOUNDED BY RAUL LOPEZ, SR.



THE FAME IS IN THE NAME, AND THE QUALITY IN THE PRODUCT



PARA SERVIRLE A USTED

616-452-6625