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Bilingual Magazine

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**Back
to
School
2026**

**Regreso
a
Clases
2026**

**VOTE AUGUST 4TH
VOTAR EL 4 DE AGOSTO**

**AMERICANS CONCERNED
ABOUT MIDTERM ELECTIONS**



CONFLICT

**Estadounidenses preocupados
por las elecciones intermedias**



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AMERICANS VOTE IN MASS TO ADDRESS CONCERNS! ¡AMERICANOS VOTEN PARA EXPRESAR SU DISGUSTO!



By Dr. José A. Flores

Americans don't need a briefing to understand the pressure they're under in August 2026. They feel it every time they walk into a grocery store and see prices that refuse to fall. They feel it when gas hovers around four dollars a gallon, when diesel pushes past five, when electricity and heating bills arrive higher than the month before. They feel it when rent rises faster than wages, when job security feels fragile even with unemployment near 4 percent, and when the war in Iran continues to rattle global markets and American nerves. The question echoing across kitchen tables **and workspaces is simple: Are we better off today?**

But Americans are asking something deeper too. They want a level playing field. They want a government that is honest, fair, and accountable — one where the rule of law applies to everyone equally, not selectively. They want an end to corruption, to insider dealing, to the perception that some leaders serve corporate interests before the public interest. They want leaders who understand that trust is earned, not inherited, and that even the appearance of impropriety erodes the foundation of democracy.

This frustration is not abstract. It is rooted in lived experience. Families are working harder just to stay in place. Grocery staples cost more than they did a year ago. Energy prices have climbed. The national debt has surged past 120 percent of GDP. And while the economy may look strong on paper, Americans are asking why their paychecks don't stretch the way they used to — and why political power seems to stretch only for the well-connected.

As the August primaries and November midterms approach, both parties are fighting to win the message war on the economy. Some blame global conflict for rising prices. Others point to domestic policy failures or corporate pricing power. But voters are not interested in excuses. They are interested in fairness. They are interested in leaders who will protect the integrity of the system, not manipulate it.

And that is why voting matters more than ever.

Voting is how Americans level the playing field. It is how they demand honesty, accountability, and equal justice. It is how they insist that one person, one vote, remains the backbone of the republic. In a year defined by war abroad and financial strain at home, voting becomes an act of self-determination — a declaration of the future Americans want and the values they refuse to compromise.

When voters step into the booth this year,

they should carry one question with them: **Are we better off today?** And they should answer it with the full force of their vote.



Los estadounidenses no necesitan un informe para entender la presión que sienten en agosto de 2026. La sienten cada vez que entran al supermercado y ven precios que no bajan. La sienten cuando la gasolina ronda los cuatro dólares por galón, cuando el diésel supera los cinco, cuando las facturas de energía llegan más altas que el mes anterior. La sienten cuando la renta sube más rápido que los salarios, cuando la seguridad laboral parece frágil aun con el desempleo cerca del 4 por ciento, y cuando la guerra en Irán sigue sacudiendo los mercados globales y los nervios del país. La pregunta que resuena en hogares y trabajos es clara: **¿Estamos mejor hoy?**

Pero los estadounidenses también preguntan algo más profundo. Quieren igualdad de condiciones. Quieren un gobierno honesto, justo y responsable — uno donde la ley se aplique por igual a todos. Quieren el fin de la corrupción, de los tratos internos, de la percepción de que algunos líderes sirven primero a intereses corporativos y no al público. Quieren líderes que entiendan que la confianza se gana y que incluso la apariencia de impropiedad debilita la democracia.

Esta frustración no es abstracta. Nace de la experiencia diaria. Las familias trabajan más duro solo para mantenerse a flote. Los alimentos cuestan más que hace un año. La energía ha subido. La deuda nacional supera el 120 por ciento

del PIB. Y aunque la economía parezca fuerte en los números, los estadounidenses se preguntan por qué sus cheques no rinden como antes — y por qué el poder político parece rendir solo para los bien conectados.

Mientras se acercan las primarias de Agosto y las elecciones de Noviembre, ambos partidos luchan por ganar la guerra del mensaje económico. Algunos culpan al conflicto global. Otros señalan fallas internas o el poder corporativo. Pero los votantes no quieren excusas. Quieren justicia. Quieren líderes que protejan la integridad del sistema, no que la manipulen.

Por eso votar importa más que nunca.

Votar es cómo los estadounidenses nivelan el campo de juego. Es cómo exigen honestidad, responsabilidad y justicia igual para todos. Es cómo defienden que una persona, un voto siga siendo la columna vertebral de la república. En un año marcado por la guerra en el extranjero y la presión económica en casa, votar se convierte en un acto de autodeterminación.

Cuando entren a la urna este año, deben llevar consigo una sola pregunta: **¿Estamos mejor hoy?** Y responderla con toda la fuerza de su voto.



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La Voz

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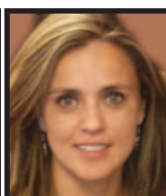
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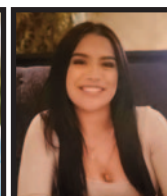
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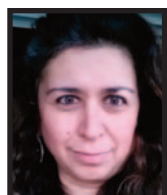
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CREATING SUPER SOLDIERS IS DANGEROUS!



By Jorge Martinez
U.S. Veteran

Watching old World War II films of German troops advancing into France is frightening. An unaware viewer might imagine these men were “super soldiers,” charging into gunfire at an impossible pace. The same myth sometimes surrounds Japanese soldiers after Pearl Harbor in 1941, who appeared almost impossible to defeat. We later learned that many German soldiers were ordinary men pushed beyond normal human limits with methamphetamine, especially Pervitin, produced by the Temmler pharmaceutical company. Hitler’s doctors also used drugs to keep him functioning. This should not be confused with ordinary medical treatment, but it does show how leaders can become tempted to use medicine to manufacture endurance, aggression, and obedience.

That history does not mean German war crimes were caused only by drug use. Nazi brutality was rooted in ideology, racism, dehumanization, obedience, and state indoctrination. Still, stimulant overuse could intensify the conditions of war that encourage brutality: sleep deprivation, emotional numbing, impulsivity, overconfidence, reduced fear, and the desire to keep going beyond exhaustion. History shows that armies are often tempted by the idea that biology can be manipulated and optimized for war. The result was not a true super soldier, but a soldier pushed beyond healthy limits, often at great psychological cost.

U.S. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth’s testosterone screening proposal is not the same as distributing speed to troops. Testing soldiers and prescribing a standard to create “Super Soldiers” is a dangerous course. Testosterone replacement therapy can be legitimate when a person is properly diagnosed with low testosterone and has symptoms that justify treatment. The danger lies in the framing. When high testosterone is linked to lethality, and when the Army is told it must ensure the “right” testosterone levels for combat, health care begins to move toward biological exploitation. In essence, Pete Hegseth—who has not experienced combat in the way many frontline veterans have—seems to believe a soldier can be made more effective by being biologically weaponized. His goal to require higher levels of testosterone for older soldiers sets a dangerous precedent!

There are real dangers in that approach. General testing can create pressure among soldiers who have no symptoms. It can encourage over-diagnosis, fertility loss, unnecessary treatment, and career anxiety if hormone levels become tied to readiness or advancement. It can also redefine masculinity and personal worth in biological terms, stigmatizing anyone who does not fit a narrow image of the “warrior.” Historically, armies that chemically or hormonally enhance soldiers risk confusing aggression with readiness and mistaking artificial stimulation for genuine resilience.

The lesson from World War II should be caution, not direct equivalence. Armies should treat medical problems; they should not use soldiers as experiments in aggression. If Hegseth’s goal is health and readiness, then testosterone treatment must be separated from career advancement, combat identity, and command pressure. If his objective is to create “super soldiers,” then America risks repeating an old mistake: believing that chemicals or hormones can override human limits without moral, medical, and psychological consequences.

Trump and Hegseth should also learn from the evidence they might be tempted to misuse. One NHANES III analysis of 134 adolescent males found that Mexican-American males had the highest testosterone levels among the groups studied, especially in the 16–19 age range. But the sample was small, and the finding does not mean Mexican-American males universally have higher testosterone than other males. As someone who has actually been in war, I cannot remember one incident or moment where taking more risks in order to do more damage would have served me or my country.

Ver películas sobre la Segunda Guerra Mundial puede llevar a los espectadores a percibir erróneamente a los soldados alemanes y japoneses como «supersoldados», cuando en realidad muchos eran hombres comunes potenciados por drogas como la metanfetamina. Si bien el consumo de drogas no fue la única causa de los crímenes de guerra nazis, sí agravó las brutales condiciones del conflicto. La propuesta del secretario de Guerra de EE. UU., Pete Hegseth, de realizar pruebas de detección de testosterona conlleva el riesgo de convertir a los soldados en armas biológicas, lo que podría derivar en sobrediagnósticos y en una redefinición perjudicial de la masculinidad. Las lecciones de la Segunda Guerra Mundial aconsejan cautela ante el uso de intervenciones médicas para explotar los límites biológicos de los soldados, subrayando los costos psicológicos y morales asociados a tales prácticas. Las intenciones de Hegseth deberían centrarse en la salud, sin vincularla a la eficacia en combate. La evidencia histórica advierte sobre el uso indebido de datos médicos y destaca que una agresividad temeraria no equivale a una estrategia militar eficaz.

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Community News

Dawn Marie Ibarra

Aug 12, 1970 — Jun 24, 2026

Dawn Marie Gallegos Ibarra, 55, passed away on June 24, 2026, surrounded by family and friends. A devoted mother to Alejandro, Alisha, and Angelo, she dedicated her life to nurturing them with unconditional love. Married to Carlos Ibarra since 2025, their love was profound. Dawn was remembered for her caring heart and passion for cooking, music, and antiques. She is survived by her husband, children, grandchildren, parents, siblings, and close friends. Preceded in death by loved ones, she battled cancer with resilience. Contributions in her memory can be made to New Day Community Church.

To send a message of sympathy to the family, sign Dawn's online guest book, or to share a favorite memory, please visit: www.MichiganCremation.com



Dawn Marie Gallegos Ibarra, de 55 años, falleció el 24 de junio de 2026, rodeada de familiares y amigos. Madre dedicada de Alejandro, Alisha y Angelo, consagró su vida a criarlos con amor incondicional. Estuvo casada con Carlos Ibarra desde 2025, compartiendo un amor profundo. Dawn será recordada por su corazón bondadoso y su pasión por la cocina, la música y las antigüedades. Le sobreviven su esposo, hijos, nietos, padres, hermanos y amigos cercanos. Tras haber perdido a seres queridos anteriormente, ella luchó contra el cáncer con gran fortaleza. Se pueden realizar donaciones en su memoria a la iglesia New Day Community Church.

Para enviar un mensaje de condolencia a la familia, firmar el libro de visitas virtual de Dawn o compartir algún recuerdo especial, por favor visite: www.MichiganCremation.com

Mr. & Mrs. Emilio & Jazmin Braun Community News

Jazmin Serrano Miranda and Emilio Braun united in marriage on July 17, 2026, at Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church with Father Kyle Kilpatrick. Proud parents Lucy & Anbrocio Ledesma and Eddie Braun and Juan Sr. & Maricela Serrano.

Jazmin Serrano Miranda y Emilio Braun contrajeron matrimonio el pasado 17 de Julio de 2026 en la Iglesia Católica del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús, oficiado por el padre Kyle Kilpatrick. Sus orgullosos padres son Lucy y Anbrocio Ledesma, Eddie Braun, y Juan Sr. y Maricela Serrano.



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LIVE NATION

AMERICAS WHISPERS GROW LOUDER



By Reyna Hernández

Americans are no longer whispering their concerns — they are shouting them. Across the country, citizens are calling for a renewed, coordinated No Kings protest wave



to confront what they see as a government drifting into corruption, secrecy, and authoritarian behavior. The message is simple: No president is a monarch, and no administration is entitled to operate above the law.

The public's anger is fueled by a growing list of scandals and abuses. The release of the Epstein files, with their disturbing implications about elite protection networks, has reignited demands for transparency. Recent deaths at the hands of ICE agents have shaken communities already fearful of unchecked federal power. Meanwhile, the militarization of American cities — armored vehicles in neighborhoods, tactical units deployed for routine enforcement — has left many wondering whether the government sees its own citizens as adversaries.

Economic corruption is another accelerant. Reports of insider stock trading, market manipulation, and policymaking shaped by corporate donors have deepened the belief that Washington serves wealth, not voters. And as November approaches, Americans are alarmed by discussions of ICE or military presence near polling places, a move critics warn could intimidate voters and suppress turnout.

Representative Elissa Slotkin, speaking at the Brookings Institution, recently warned that “the erosion of democratic norms is not theoretical — it is happening in real time,” urging vigilance against federal overreach, corporate capture of elections, and any attempt to weaponize law enforcement during voting.

This is why Americans are calling for another coordinated No Kings mobilization: not out of partisanship, but out of a belief that democracy survives only when the people refuse to be ruled by fear, secrecy, or corruption.

Los estadounidenses ya no susurran sus preocupaciones — las gritan. En todo el país, ciudadanos exigen una nueva ola coordinada de protestas No Kings para enfrentar lo que consideran un gobierno que se desliza hacia la corrupción, el secreto y el autoritarismo. El mensaje es claro: ningún presidente es un rey, y ninguna administración tiene derecho a operar por encima de la ley.

La indignación pública crece con cada escándalo. La publicación de los archivos de Epstein, con sus implicaciones inquietantes sobre redes de protección para los poderosos, ha reavivado la demanda de transparencia. Las recientes muertes a manos de agentes de ICE han sacudido a comunidades ya temerosas del poder federal sin control. Y la militarización de nuestras ciudades — vehículos blindados, unidades tácticas en barrios residenciales — hace que muchos se pregunten si el gobierno ve a sus propios ciudadanos como enemigos.

La corrupción económica también alimenta el fuego: tráfico de información privilegiada, manipulación del mercado, y políticas moldeadas por intereses corporativos profundizan

la sensación de que Washington sirve a los ricos, no a los votantes. Y mientras se acerca noviembre, preocupa la posibilidad de presencia de ICE o militares en los centros de votación, lo que críticos advierten podría intimidar a los votantes.

La representante Elissa Slotkin, en su intervención en Brookings, advirtió que “la erosión de las normas democráticas ya está ocurriendo,” llamando a resistir el abuso de poder federal y la influencia corporativa en las elecciones.

Por eso los estadounidenses exigen otra movilización No Kings: porque la democracia solo sobrevive cuando el pueblo se niega a ser gobernado por el miedo, el secreto o la corrupción.

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Pioneers of Transformation: The Impact of Latina Academics, Scientists, and Leaders on the Destiny of the United States



By Edgar León

The demographic fabric of the United States is undergoing an irreversible transformation. As the fastest-growing minority in the nation, the Hispanic community sustains fundamental pillars of the country's geopolitical, scientific, and economic competitiveness. Within this shift, the leadership of Latina women emerges as a critical driver of progress. Analyzing their trajectories shows how investment in higher education for Latinas translates into a strategic dividend for the entire nation.



Ramirez: The first Guatemalan-American elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, Ramirez draws on her background in social services to champion affordable housing, healthcare expansion, and comprehensive immigration reform with a pathway to citizenship.

• Representative Gina Hinojosa:

A civil rights attorney and Texas state legislator, Hinojosa has spearheaded fights for public education funding and healthcare access, carrying Latina executive leadership into major statewide policy debates. She is running for Governor of Texas in the upcoming election.

While concise, their records demonstrate how community-grounded leadership builds a direct pipeline from grassroots advocacy to national decision-making.

This progress honors the sacrifices of past generations—including the countless Latina mothers who raised families despite poverty—by building upon their legacy in spaces once closed to them.

Beyond the Domestic Sphere: Dismantling Stereotypes

To understand the true impact of Latinas, we must dismantle historical biases that pigeonholed them within the domestic sphere. The notion that Hispanic women should be confined to household duties is a discriminatory reading that ignores reality. Today, Latinas lead high-tech laboratories, command space missions, helm Fortune 500 companies, legislate in Congress, and shape constitutional law from the highest court.

Aerospace and Scientific Leadership: Dr. Ellen Ochoa

In cutting-edge science, Dr. Ellen Ochoa set an international benchmark. Graduating with a doctorate in electrical engineering from Stanford University, Ochoa became the first Hispanic woman in space aboard the Space Shuttle Discovery in 1993. A co-inventor on multiple optical processing patents, she later served as Director of NASA's Johnson Space Center in 2013, proving that Latina scientific leadership operates without borders.

Corporate Innovation: Geisha Williams

In critical infrastructure, Cuban-American executive Geisha Williams broke major barriers in 2017 when she became the first Latina to lead a Fortune 500 company as President and CEO of PG&E Corporation. Holding an engineering degree and an MBA, Williams directed operations for one of the nation's largest utility companies with a strong focus on clean energy, demonstrating how technical preparation enables Latinas to restructure vital industries.

Constitutional Jurisprudence: Justice Sonia Sotomayor

In public power, Justice Sonia Sotomayor represents the apex of legal influence as the Supreme Court's first Hispanic member. Raised in the Bronx and educated at Princeton and Yale Law School, Sotomayor has consistently stood as a vocal defender of fundamental rights. Her jurisprudence is marked by a resolute defense of birthright citizenship and a steadfast protest against racial profiling, consistently holding law enforcement and state institutions accountable to due process. Her presence on the bench ensures that the rule of law reflects the constitutional protections guaranteed to every individual, regardless of background.

Legislative and Executive Frontiers: Delia Ramirez and Gina Hinojosa

This influence extends into state and federal governance, where leaders use their platform to expand access and equity.

• Congresswoman Delia

The National Imperative

These trajectories reveal a clear pattern: every top Latina leader relied on robust academic ecosystems and financial support to access higher education. As the young Hispanic demographic grows, funding Latina education is a national priority.

Key Takeaway: Investing in graduate scholarships, research funds, and mentorship for Latinas is not charity; it is a high-yield national investment. Ensuring young Latinas complete higher education equips the nation with the innovators, scientists, and decision-makers who will drive America's future.

El tejido demográfico de Estados Unidos está atravesando una transformación irreversible. Como la minoría de más rápido crecimiento en la nación, la comunidad hispana sostiene pilares fundamentales de la competitividad geopolítica, científica y económica del país. Dentro de este cambio, el liderazgo de las mujeres latinas emerge como un motor crítico de progreso. Analizar sus trayectorias demuestra cómo la inversión en la educación superior para las latinas se traduce en un dividendo estratégico para toda la nación.

Este progreso honra los sacrificios de las generaciones pasadas —incluidas las innumerables madres latinas que sacaron adelante a sus familias a pesar de la pobreza— al construir sobre su legado en espacios que alguna vez les estuvieron cerrados.

Más allá de la esfera doméstica: Desmantelando estereotipos

Para comprender el verdadero impacto de las latinas, debemos desmantelar los sesgos históricos que las encasillaron dentro del ámbito doméstico. La noción de que las mujeres hispanas deben limitarse a las tareas del hogar es una interpretación discriminatoria que ignora la realidad. Hoy en día, las latinas dirigen laboratorios de alta tecnología, comandan misiones espaciales, lideran empresas de la lista Fortune 500, legislan en el Congreso y moldean el derecho constitucional desde la corte más alta del país.

Liderazgo aeroespacial y científico: Dra. Ellen Ochoa

En la ciencia de vanguardia, la Dra. Ellen Ochoa marcó un referente internacional. Graduada con un doctorado en ingeniería eléctrica de la Universidad de Stanford, Ochoa se convirtió en la primera mujer hispana en viajar al espacio a bordo del transbordador espacial Discovery en 1993. Coinventora de múltiples patentes de procesamiento óptico, más tarde se desempeñó como Directora del Centro Espacial Johnson de la NASA en 2013, demostrando que el liderazgo científico latina opera sin fronteras.

Pioneras de la transformación: El impacto de las académicas, científicas y líderes latinas en el destino de Estados Unidos

Innovación corporativa: Geisha Williams

En infraestructura crítica, la ejecutiva cubanoamericana Geisha Williams rompió grandes barreras en 2017 cuando se convirtió en la primera latina en liderar una empresa de la lista Fortune 500 como presidenta y CEO de PG&E Corporation. Con un título en ingeniería y una maestría en administración de empresas (MBA), Williams dirigió las operaciones de una de las empresas de servicios públicos más grandes de la nación con un fuerte enfoque en las energías limpias, demostrando cómo la preparación técnica permite a las latinas reestructurar industrias vitales.



• **Congresista Delia Ramirez:** La primera guatemalteco-americana electa a la Cámara de Representantes de EE. UU., Ramirez aprovecha su experiencia en servicios sociales para defender la vivienda asequible, la expansión de la atención médica y una reforma migratoria integral con una vía hacia la ciudadanía.

• **Representante Gina Hinojosa:** Abogada de derechos civiles y legisladora estatal de Texas, Hinojosa ha liderado luchas por el financiamiento de la educación pública y el

acceso a la salud, llevando el liderazgo ejecutivo latina a los grandes debates de política pública estatal. **Se lanzó como candidata para ser gobernadora de Texas en este ciclo de elecciones.**

Jurisprudencia constitucional: Jueza Sonia Sotomayor

En el poder público, la jueza Sonia Sotomayor representa el ápice de la influencia legal como la primera integrante hispana del Tribunal Supremo. Criada en el Bronx y educada en Princeton y en la Escuela de Derecho de Yale, Sotomayor se ha mantenido firmemente como una firme defensora de los derechos fundamentales. Su jurisprudencia destaca por una resuelta defensa de la ciudadanía por nacimiento y una constante protesta contra la discriminación por perfil racial, exigiendo de manera continua que las fuerzas del orden y las instituciones estatales rincan cuentas ante el debido proceso. Su presencia en el estrado garantiza que el estado de derecho refleje las protecciones constitucionales garantizadas a cada individuo, independientemente de su origen.

Aunque concisos, sus expedientes demuestran cómo el liderazgo arraigado en la comunidad construye un canal directo desde la defensa de base hasta la toma de decisiones a nivel nacional.

El imperativo nacional

Estas trayectorias revelan un patrón claro: cada líder latina de alto nivel dependió de ecosistemas académicos sólidos y mecanismos de apoyo financiero para acceder a la educación superior. A medida que la joven demografía hispana crece, financiar la educación de las latinas es una prioridad de seguridad nacional.

Conclusión clave: Invertir en becas de posgrado, fondos de investigación y programas de tutoría para latinas no es un acto de caridad; es una inversión nacional de alto rendimiento. Garantizar que las jóvenes latinas completen la educación superior equipa a la nación con las innovadoras, científicas y líderes que impulsarán el futuro de Estados Unidos.

Fronteras legislativas y ejecutivas: Delia Ramirez y Gina Hinojosa

Esta influencia se extiende a la gobernanza estatal y federal, donde estas líderes utilizan sus plataformas para expandir el acceso y la equidad.



Nothing like dancing on the sidewalk!



Brothers Bentley & Jayden with their mom Cecilia listening to Tejano Sound Band

Tejano Sound Band performed live, free family concert in Fennville, MI June 27, 2026



Downtown Fennville in New Pavilion Park people gather to hear & dance



Photos By Homer Rodriguez

Amigos having a good time listening to Tejano Sound Band



Tejano Sound Band on June 27, 2026 at New Pavilion Park, Fennville, MI



Michigan School Calendars in 2026: What Families, Educators, and Districts Need to Know

Calendarios escolares de Michigan para 2026: Lo que las familias, los educadores y los distritos necesitan saber

Los calendarios escolares en Michigan influyen considerablemente en diversos aspectos de la planificación familiar y del distrito, más allá de simplemente señalar el inicio y el final de las clases. A fecha de 28 de abril de 2026, los distritos deben equilibrar la autonomía local con las normativas estatales, lo que da lugar a calendarios variados entre las distintas comunidades. Cada distrito establece su propio horario dentro del marco estatal, lo que afecta a la fecha de inicio del curso escolar; esta fecha se ve influida notablemente por leyes estatales que tradicionalmente favorecen el comienzo de las clases después del Día del Trabajo (*Labor Day*). Las decisiones locales, los contratos docentes, las fechas de exámenes estatales y los eventos comunitarios contribuyen a estas diferencias en los horarios.

School calendars in Michigan significantly impact various aspects of family and district planning beyond just marking the first and last days of class. As of April 28, 2026, districts are tasked with balancing local autonomy and state regulations, resulting in diverse calendars across communities. Each district sets its own schedule within the state's framework, impacting the start date of school, which is notably influenced by state laws that traditionally prefer post-Labor Day openings. Local decisions, teacher contracts, state testing dates, and community events contribute to the differing schedules.

Key holidays, including New Year's Day, Memorial Day, and Thanksgiving, also shape district calendars, affecting not only school closures but also attendance patterns and travel plans. Furthermore, school calendars must accommodate assessment schedules released by the Michigan Department of Education, which detail important testing dates like the M-STEP, PSAT, and SAT, influencing classroom pacing and activities.

Moreover, Michigan endorses balanced calendar options designed to lessen summer learning loss and distribute instructional time more evenly throughout the year. Families are encouraged to consult their district's published calendar annually and stay updated on any revisions caused by weather or other disruptions.

Michigan's educational approach includes balanced calendars that distribute breaks evenly throughout the year, contrasting with the traditional long summer recess. This flexibility is intended to combat learning loss and assist family scheduling. Notably, while some districts implement these calendars, many families still experience the conventional school structure.

The significance of attendance trends in calendar design is highlighted by Michigan's reported improvement, with K-12 attendance reaching 91.3% and a decline in chronic absenteeism to 27.9% for the 2024-25 school year. Effective calendar planning can mitigate attendance issues by reducing unnecessary interruptions and offering clear schedules for families.

Families should consider various aspects beyond just the start and end dates of the school year when reviewing a school calendar. Comprehensive calendars should include half-days, professional development days, holiday breaks, testing schedules, and policies for weather-related closures. Regular updates are crucial, as changes may occur post-approval due to unforeseen circumstances.

To stay informed about calendar updates in 2026, families should consult official district and state sources for the most accurate information. The combination of local governance, state holidays, assessment timelines, and attendance priorities influences Michigan school calendars, underscoring the importance of clarity and accessibility for parents, educators, and students alike. An effective calendar is necessary for smooth operation throughout the academic year in Michigan's diverse educational landscape.

*Las festividades clave, como el Día de Año Nuevo, el Día de los Caídos (*Memorial Day*) y el Día de Acción de Gracias, también moldean los calendarios de los distritos, afectando no solo a los cierres escolares, sino también a los patrones de asistencia y a los planes de viaje. Además, los calendarios escolares deben ajustarse a los cronogramas de evaluación publicados por el Departamento de Educación de Michigan, los cuales detallan fechas importantes de exámenes como el M-STEP, el PSAT y el SAT, influyendo así en el ritmo de enseñanza y en las actividades del aula.*

Asimismo, Michigan promueve opciones de calendarios equilibrados diseñados para reducir la pérdida de conocimientos durante el verano y distribuir el tiempo de instrucción de manera más uniforme a lo largo del año. Se recomienda a las familias consultar anualmente el calendario publicado por su distrito y mantenerse informadas sobre cualquier modificación derivada de condiciones meteorológicas u otras interrupciones.

El enfoque educativo de Michigan incluye calendarios equilibrados que distribuyen los periodos de descanso de forma equitativa durante el año, a diferencia del tradicional y prolongado receso estival. Esta flexibilidad busca combatir la pérdida de aprendizaje y facilitar la organización familiar. Cabe destacar que, si bien algunos distritos implementan estos calendarios, muchas familias siguen experimentando la estructura escolar convencional.

La importancia de las tendencias de asistencia en el diseño del calendario queda patente en la mejora registrada en Michigan, donde la asistencia en los niveles K-12 alcanzó el 91,3 % y el absentismo crónico descendió al 27,9 % durante el curso escolar 2024-25. Una planificación eficaz del calendario puede mitigar los problemas de asistencia al reducir las interrupciones innecesarias y ofrecer horarios claros para las familias.

Al revisar el calendario escolar, las familias deben considerar diversos aspectos que van más allá de las fechas de inicio y fin del año lectivo. Un calendario completo debe incluir jornadas de horario reducido, días de desarrollo profesional, periodos de vacaciones, cronogramas de exámenes y las políticas aplicables en caso de cierre por condiciones meteorológicas. Es fundamental contar con actualizaciones periódicas, ya que pueden surgir cambios tras la aprobación inicial debido a circunstancias imprevistas.

Para mantenerse informadas sobre las actualizaciones del calendario de 2026, las familias deben consultar las fuentes oficiales del distrito y del estado, donde encontrarán la información más precisa. La normativa local, los días festivos estatales, los plazos de evaluación y las prioridades de asistencia influyen en la configuración de los calendarios escolares de Michigan, lo que pone de relieve la importancia de que estos sean claros y accesibles tanto para padres y educadores como para los estudiantes. Disponer de un calendario eficaz es esencial para garantizar el buen funcionamiento de las actividades a lo largo del año académico en el diverso panorama educativo de Michigan.

From Sonora to the NBA: Karim López's Historic Rise



By Odille Parker

For generations, Mexican basketball fans have watched the NBA from the outside, celebrating players with Mexican roots while waiting for one born and raised in Mexico to truly crack the league's biggest stage. On draft night in June, that wait ended.

When Karim López heard his name called with the 21st overall pick in the 2026 NBA Draft, becoming the first Mexican-born player ever selected in the first round, it wasn't just a personal achievement. It was a moment that belonged to an entire country. The selection, made by Detroit before his rights were dealt to the Memphis Grizzlies, marked a breakthrough many believed was long overdue.

Born in Hermosillo, Sonora, López's basketball journey has never followed the conventional path. The son of former Mexican National Team player Jesús Hiram López, he grew up around the game before leaving home at just 14 years old to join the famed Joventut Badalona academy in Spain. Instead of chasing college basketball in the United States, López continued betting on professional development, eventually joining the New Zealand Breakers through the Australian NBL's highly respected Next Stars program, a pipeline that has produced NBA talent like LaMelo Ball and Josh Giddey.

That gamble paid off.

During the 2025-26 season, the 6-foot-8 forward averaged 11.9 points, 6.1 rebounds, 1.9 assists, 1.2 steals and 1.0 blocks in just over 25 minutes per game. He also became the highest-scoring draft-eligible player in the history of the NBL Next Stars program, showcasing the blend of physicality, defensive versatility and relentless motor that made NBA scouts take notice.

Yet statistics tell only part of López's story.

On draft night, emotion poured out as soon as Commissioner Adam Silver announced his name. Fighting back tears, López summed up the moment simply: "I'm blessed... I have no words." He later explained the Mexican flag stitched inside his suit jacket.

"I wanted to represent my country. Represent where I'm from. Represent my faith, and represent myself."

Those words resonate far beyond the NBA. In a country where soccer dominates headlines and basketball often struggles for visibility, López represents possibility. Before him, Eduardo Nájera stood as the only Mexican-born player ever drafted into the NBA, going in the second round in 2000. López has now raised the ceiling, showing that a first-round path is possible for the next generation.

The work, however, is only beginning.

López enters Memphis as a high-upside wing whose athleticism and defensive instincts could earn him early

opportunities. His ability to guard multiple positions and attack the basket already translates to the NBA game. The next step will be refining his perimeter shooting and tightening his handle, skills that could determine whether he becomes a dependable rotation player or develops into something even bigger.

Long before draft night, López understood what his rise could mean back home.

"A goal of mine is to hopefully reach young people in Mexico," he said before declaring for the draft. "Trying to grow the sport and inspire athletes... Show people that it doesn't matter where you're from."

For Latino fans, especially those who rarely see themselves reflected in the NBA's biggest moments, that's the real story. Karim López didn't just make history.

He expanded what Mexican basketball players can dream about next.



Por primera vez, un jugador nacido en México, Karim López, fue seleccionado en la primera ronda del Draft de la NBA, marcando un hito histórico para el país. Elegido en el puesto número 21 por Detroit y posteriormente traspasado a Memphis, el logro de López simboliza una esperanza para las futuras generaciones. Criado en Hermosillo, desarrolló su carrera baloncestística en España y Nueva Zelanda, destacando en la NBL y registrando estadísticas impresionantes en su última temporada. Expresó con emoción el orgullo de representar a México y su deseo de inspirar a los jóvenes atletas de su país. Gracias a sus cualidades atléticas y su potencial, la trayectoria de López podría redefinir las oportunidades para los jugadores de baloncesto mexicanos e inspirar a una nueva generación de talento.

Del "¿y si...?" al "ya es una realidad"

Para los alumnos de Grand Valley, el futuro significa oportunidad e innovación. El futuro es global, nos conecta y nos une. Es local, le da forma a los espacios en los que trabajamos y en los que vivimos. Es un compromiso con el progreso. El futuro es donde las mentes son libres de imaginar lo que podría ser. En GVSU, el futuro es ahora. Y sea lo que sea el futuro para ti, te ayudaremos a llegar allí.

gvsu.edu



Award-Winning Children's Author Irma L. Hersel Releases New Bilingual Activity Book Encouraging Imagination and Screen-Free Play

Award-winning children's author Irma L. Hersel is pleased to announce the release of her newest bilingual children's activity book, *Where Chocolate Grows: Pretend Chocolate Shop Activity Book*.

Created for children, families, educators, libraries, and homeschool programs, the English-Spanish activity book encourages imaginative play while introducing children to the fascinating journey of chocolate from cacao tree to chocolate bar.

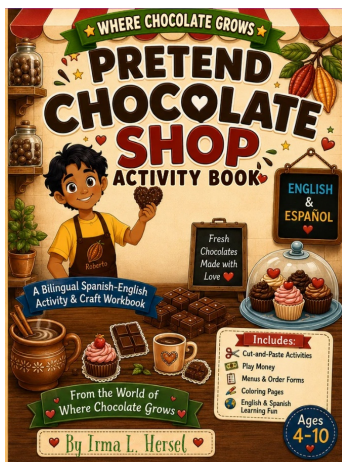
Young readers can create and operate their own pretend chocolate shop using play money, menus, receipts, signs, order forms, coloring pages, games, and creative activities designed to build communication, creativity, and confidence.

Hersel grew up in Holland, Michigan, and later attended Kendall College of Art and Design (KCAD) in Grand Rapids, where her passion for creativity and storytelling continued to grow. Today, as a Ventura County resident, she combines her love of art, culture, and education to create engaging bilingual books for children.

The activity book expands on Hersel's award-winning *Where Chocolate Grows* series, which introduces children to culture, geography, agriculture, and the origins of everyday foods through engaging stories and hands-on learning.

Her books have received national recognition, including First Place in the Purple Dragonfly Book Awards in the Cultural Diversity category and honors from the Arizona Authors Association.

She continues to work with schools, libraries, and educators to pro-



mote bilingual literacy, cultural appreciation, and life-long learning.

For more information, visit www.irmawrites.com.

La autora galardonada de libros infantiles Irma L. Hersel anuncia el lanzamiento de su nuevo libro bilingüe de actividades para niños, Where Chocolate Grows: Pretend Chocolate Shop Activity Book.

Creado para niños, familias, maestros, bibliotecas y programas de educación en casa, este libro en inglés y español fomenta el juego imaginativo mientras enseña el recorrido del chocolate desde el árbol de cacao hasta la barra de chocolate.

Los niños podrán crear su propia chocolatería con dinero de juguete, menús, recibos, letreros, formularios, páginas para colorear y actividades creativas.

Hersel creció en Holland, Michigan, y posteriormente estudió en Kendall College of Art and Design (KCAD) en Grand Rapids, donde fortaleció su pasión por el arte, la creatividad y la narración de historias. Actualmente reside en el condado de Ventura, California, y crea libros bilingües que fomentan la curiosidad, la creatividad y el aprendizaje.

Sus libros han recibido reconocimientos nacionales, incluyendo el Primer Lugar en los Purple Dragonfly Book Awards en la categoría de Diversidad Cultural y premios de la Arizona Authors Association.

Para más información visite www.irmawrites.com or <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0H9HG46F>

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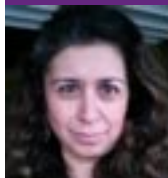
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616.581.6271

Asisted by Marte Smith
Dr. Edgar Leon

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"THE ODYSSEY IMAX FILM INCLUDES US ALL!"



By Lisa Wiseman

Christopher Nolan's *The Odyssey* has become one of the biggest cinematic events of the year, earning an astonishing \$264 million during its opening weekend at the global box office. Filmed entirely with IMAX cameras—the first feature film ever to do so—the epic reimagines Homer's 2,700-year-old poem for a modern audience, following Odysseus, the king of Ithaca, on his perilous ten-year journey home after the Trojan War.

Leading an all-star cast is Matt Damon as Odysseus, joined by Anne Hathaway, Tom Holland, Robert Pattinson, and Charlize Theron. Yet despite its impressive ensemble, the film has sparked widespread debate—not for its visual spectacle, but for its diverse casting choices.

Some critics have questioned the limited Greek representation among the principal cast, arguing that a story rooted in ancient Greek mythology should feature more Greek actors. Nolan, however, has defended his casting as an artistic interpretation rather than a historical reconstruction.

Among the film's most talked-about casting decisions is Colombian-American actor John Leguizamo as Eumaeus, Odysseus' blind, loyal swineherd and one of the most devoted figures in classical literature. Nolan said he wanted an experienced performer capable of bringing warmth and emotional depth to the role.

"Loyalty to me is such a huge virtue," Leguizamo explained. "It's also such a huge part of Latin culture—to be loyal to family, to friends, loyalty above everything else."

Leguizamo has long advocated for greater Latino representation in Hollywood. Speaking in 2026, he argued that the industry remains "not the most accepting place" and noted that although Latinos account for roughly 30 to 40 percent of the U.S. box office and about one-third of streaming audiences, they continue to be among the country's most underrepresented groups on screen.

I was grateful to have the opportunity to interview Leguizamo for LaVoz when he was touring with his show *Latin History for Morons*. He was so genuine and personable when I had a chance to meet him after the show. I have long admired him for both his acting and his fight for the Latino culture and to see him rise to a role in a blockbuster like this gives me a sense of pride at a time when our history and presence is under attack.

The production also features several actors from diverse Latino backgrounds, including Jimmy Gonzales and Jesse Garcia, who are of Mexican heritage, Maurice Compte, who is Cuban, and Brazilian actress Mia Goth.

Nolan's commitment to unconventional casting extends beyond ethnicity. Transgender actor Elliot Page portrays Sinon, the Greek soldier who persuades the Trojans to bring the infamous wooden horse inside the city's walls. While the role differs from traditional adaptations of Homer's story, Nolan described the decision as both a creative expansion of the mythology and a reflection of his broader vision for the film.

Another unexpected addition is rapper Travis Scott. Nolan explained that Scott's casting was intended to acknowledge the

poem's origins as oral storytelling. "I cast Travis because I wanted to nod towards the idea that this story has been handed down as oral poetry, which is analogous to rap," Nolan said. "This creative link between ancient oral poetry and contemporary hip-hop was a deliberate artistic choice."

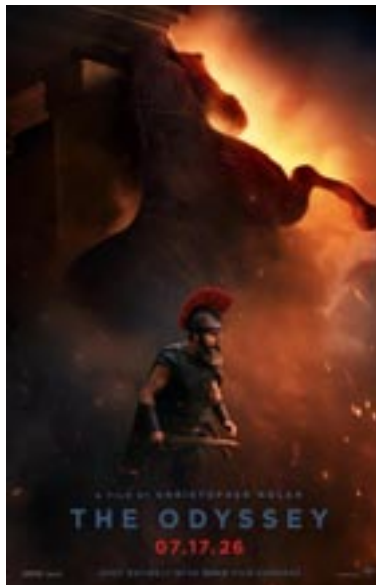
Perhaps no casting decision has generated more discussion than Lupita Nyong'o's portrayal of Helen of Troy—who also plays Helen's twin sister, Clytemnestra.

While some critics questioned the choice, Nyong'o, who is Kenyan and Mexican, responded simply: "Our cast is representative of the world." Author and classicist Daniel Mendelsohn defended Nolan's interpretation, arguing that the casting reflects the spirit of Greek mythology itself. "He is using his choice for Helen, just as the Greek authors did," Mendelsohn said, "to provoke, challenge and discomfit how we think about beauty and identity, about who we are and how we relate to our world."

For Nolan, the controversy ultimately underscores the purpose of adaptation. Fresh off his Academy Award-winning success with *Oppenheimer*, the director has maintained that mythology is meant to be reinterpreted by each generation.

Rather than striving for historical literalism, Nolan has emphasized that *The Odyssey* is a mythic tale, not a documentary. His goal, he said, was to create the strongest and most emotionally resonant version of Homer's epic for contemporary audiences.

Whether audiences embrace or reject its unconventional casting, *The Odyssey* has already accomplished one thing: it has reignited a global conversation about who gets to tell history's oldest stories—and who gets to appear in them.



Lisa Wiseman and Leguizamo Odysseus



****La Odisea*, dirigida por Christopher Nolan, ha recaudado 264 millones de dólares durante su fin de semana de estreno, convirtiéndose en uno de los principales acontecimientos cinematográficos del año. Esta película es singular por haber sido rodada íntegramente con cámaras IMAX y por reinterpretar el antiguo poema de Homero desde una perspectiva moderna, siguiendo a Odiseo en su viaje de regreso a casa, que duró diez años, tras la Guerra de Troya. A pesar de contar con un reparto estelar que incluye a Matt Damon y Anne Hathaway, la película ha suscitado debate por sus diversas decisiones de casting, recibiendo críticas debido a la escasa representación griega. Nolan defiende sus decisiones como interpretaciones artísticas más que como un intento de rigor histórico, subrayando la importancia de la lealtad y la profundidad emocional en personajes como Eumeo —interpretado por John Leguizamo, un firme defensor de la representación latina en Hollywood—.***

El filme también apuesta por un reparto no convencional, que incluye a Elliott Page y al rapero Travis Scott, con el fin de tender un puente entre la antigua tradición oral y la cultura contemporánea. La interpretación de Helena de Troya a cargo de Lupita Nyong'o ha generado aún más comentarios; sus defensores sostienen que desafía las nociones tradicionales de belleza e identidad en la mitología. En última instancia, *La Odisea* busca reinterpretar la mitología para el público actual, fomentando el diálogo sobre la representación en la narrativa.

August Events / Eventos en Agosto

July 24 - August 2, 2026

**Grand Haven Coast
Guard Festival
Grand Haven, Mi**

Hosting a nationally recognized festival that honors the U.S. Coast Guard, the event focuses on family-friendly activities and year-round recognition of Coast Guard personnel in West Michigan. It aims to build relationships with Coast Guard leadership under the theme "Grand Haven – Coast Guard City, USA," while celebrating the history of the U.S. Coast Guard.

www.coastguardfest.org

El evento, que alberga un festival de reconocimiento nacional en honor a la Guardia Costera de los EE. UU., se centra en actividades para toda la familia y en el reconocimiento continuo del personal de dicha institución en el oeste de Michigan. Su objetivo es fomentar vínculos con los líderes de la Guardia Costera bajo el lema «Grand Haven – Coast Guard City, USA», al tiempo que se celebra la historia de este cuerpo.

www.coastguardfest.org

August 1, 2026

**Art in the Park
Holland, Mi**

Art in the park is the first Saturday in August from 9a-4p in beautiful Centennial Park, Holland. Just one block South from the downtown shopping district. Holland Friends of Art has been hosting this event for over 50 years. Fine artists, food, and craftsmen gather to this well-established and loved venue.

El evento «Art in the Park» se celebra el primer Sábado de Agosto, de 9:00 a.m. a 4:00 p.m., en el parque Centennial de Holland, a solo una manzana al sur de la zona comercial del centro. La organización Holland Friends of Art lleva más de 50 años organizando este evento, que reúne a artistas de bellas artes, artesanos y puestos de comida en un entorno consolidado y muy apreciado.

August 5-8, 2026

**JazzFest Michigan
Lansing, Mi**

JazzFest Michigan is an annual music festival in Old Town Lansing, that has been going on for over 30 years. Four Venues & Five Days: We've added a kickoff concert on Wednesday night and a Sunday Gospel Fest. There are four venues: the MICA Stage, MessageMakers Stage, Tripp Stage, and UrbanBeat Stage.

JazzFest Michigan es un festival de música anual que se celebra en Old Town Lansing desde hace más de 30 años. Cuatro escenarios y cinco días: hemos añadido un concierto inaugural el miércoles por la noche y un festival de gospel el domingo. El evento cuenta con cuatro escenarios: MICA Stage, MessageMakers Stage, Tripp Stage y UrbanBeat Stage.

August 6, 2026

**PAWS in the Park 5k
Grand Rapids, Mi**

We are thrilled to invite athletes, families, and community members to the dog-friendly PAWS in the Park 5K and 1-mile event. Participants can enjoy the race and various activities, including food, music, and vendors, all supporting PAWS' mission of enhancing lives with custom-trained working dogs. Registration is open until June 22nd for preferred shirt sizes. Even if not racing, attendees can enjoy vendor booths, activities, and the beer garden, along with the traditional "Lab vs. Golden" race to crown the 2026 top retriever. ***Invitamos a atletas, familias y miembros de la comunidad al evento «PAWS in the Park» —que incluye una carrera de 5 km y una caminata de 1 milla aptas para perros—, donde habrá carreras, comida, música y puestos de vendedores, todo ello en apoyo a la misión de PAWS de entrenar perros de trabajo especializados.***

August 6-13, 2026

**2026 Street Performer Series
Holland, Mi**

Downtown Holland 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm Every Thursday, from June 11 through August 13, musicians, caricature artists, face painters, jugglers, magicians and even aerial acrobats will entertain visitors strolling along the 8th Street. Enjoy the sights and sounds of street performers every Thursday evening while you're out shopping and dining in Downtown Holland!

Centro de Holland, de 6:30 p.m. a 8:30 p.m. Todos los jueves, desde el 11 de Junio hasta el 13 de agosto, músicos, caricaturistas, artistas de pintura facial, malabaristas, magos e incluso acróbatas aéreos entretendrán a los visitantes que paseen por la calle 8. ¡Disfrute del ambiente y las actuaciones de los artistas callejeros cada jueves por la tarde mientras realiza sus compras y cena en el centro de Holland!



August 22, 2026

**Trio Los Panchos - Nostalgia Tour
Detroit, Mi**

The legendary Latin American bolero group Trio Los Panchos (also touring as Los Panchos) is scheduled to perform live in Detroit on Saturday, August 22, 2026. The concert is a stop on their highly anticipated nationwide "Nostalgia Tour". Tickets available @ <https://events-chaser.com/tickets/Trio-Los-Panchos-Fisher-Theatre---MI-Detroit-MI/8074970/>

El legendario grupo de boleros latinoamericano Trio Los Panchos (que también realiza giras bajo el nombre de Los Panchos) tiene programada una actuación en vivo en Detroit. El concierto forma parte de su muy esperada gira nacional «Nostalgia Tour».

Entradas disponibles en:

<https://eventschaser.com/tickets/Trio-Los-Panchos-Fisher-Theatre---MI-Detroit-MI/8074970/>

August 28-29, 2026

**Kalapalooza
Kalamazoo, Mi**

Taking place on August 28th and 29th at Honor Credit Union Stadium, this event combines two of the state's biggest festivals into one high-energy weekend of food, drinks, and iconic live music. Kalapalooza offers a "crazy match-up" that pairs world-class comfort food with legendary musical acts across two distinct days.

Visit www.kalapaloozafest.com.

Este evento se celebrará en el Honor Credit Union Stadium, fusión dos de los festivales más importantes del estado en un fin de semana lleno de energía, con comida, bebidas y música en vivo de artistas emblemáticos. Kalapalooza ofrece una combinación espectacular que une platos reconfortantes de primer nivel con actuaciones musicales legendarias a lo largo de dos jornadas únicas. Visite www.kalapaloozafest.com

August 28-30, 2026

**Dozynki Polish Festival 2026
Grand Rapids, Mi**

Experience vibrant Polish culture at the annual Polish Festival in Downtown Grand Rapids, held on the last

full weekend of August. This three-day celebration offers traditional food, Polish beer, live music, and activities for all ages, including a children's tent and cooking demonstrations. The free event draws thousands and showcases the rich history and culture of Poland through various cultural tents and local vendors.

Viva la vibrante cultura polaca en el Festival Polaco anual del centro de Grand Rapids, que se celebra el último fin de semana completo de agosto. Esta celebración de tres días ofrece comida tradicional, cerveza polaca, música en vivo y actividades para todas las edades, incluyendo una carpa infantil y demostraciones de cocina. El evento, de acceso gratuito.

August 30, 2026

**Heritage Harvest Pickins'
Muskegon County Fairgrounds
Muskegon, Mi**

The Ultimate Summer-to-Fall Celebration at Heritage Markets: Harvest Pickins' invites the community to Muskegon County Fairgrounds for a day of vibrant shopping, local flavors, and family fun. Attendees can explore over 150 vendors and crafters showcasing handmade jewelry, rustic decor, and autumn-inspired items. The event features a variety of food trucks offering sweet and savory treats, as well as a Kids' Fun Zone with a Bounce House and Face Painting, ensuring fun for the whole family.

La celebración definitiva de transición del verano al otoño en Heritage Markets: "Harvest Pickins'" invita a la comunidad al recinto ferial del condado de Muskegon (Muskegon County Fairgrounds) para disfrutar de una jornada llena de compras animadas, sabores locales y diversión en familia. Los asistentes podrán recorrer los puestos de más de 150 vendedores y artesanos que exhiben joyas hechas a mano, decoración rústica y artículos de temática otoñal. El evento contará con una variedad de camiones de comida, así como con una zona de diversión infantil que incluirá un castillo hinchable y pintura facial, garantizando así el entretenimiento para toda la familia.



1960 Chevrolet Impala Coupe



1968 Buick Wildcat Custom Convertible



1970 Chevrolet Impala Custom Coupe



1970 Chevy Chevelle SS revving its engine



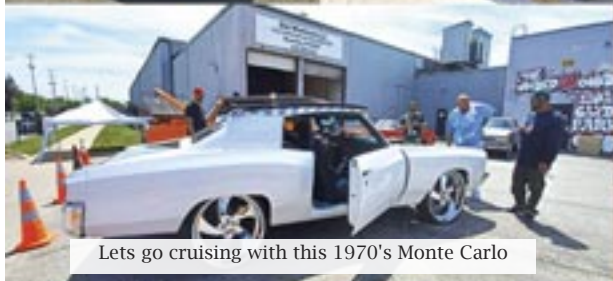
1970 Chevy Chevelle SS



1973 Oldsmobile Delta 88 Royale



Cold Life Car Club Members from Grand Rapids, MI



Lets go cruising with this 1970's Monte Carlo



Motor and body repairs at Executive Motorsports



Open House is a place to go to check out cars



This Chevy is Cruising into the Future



1968 Pontiac Gran Prix



Low 4 Life Car Club members from Grand Rapids, MI



Executive Motorsports is ready

Executive Motorsports Open House Car Show May 31, 2026

On Sunday! May 31, 2026, at Executive Motorsports (Old Kelvinator building) located at 1701 Clyde Park Ave., Wyoming, MI. We saw custom cars, classic, lowriders, trucks & motorcycles.

The DJs were outside spinning the music, food trucks, beer & alcohol, 50/50 raffle, giveaways, vendors, games for kids and so much more!

We met up with owner Steve Russo who appreciated everyone who came out to support his Open House & Car Show. BRAVO!

Somos pocos pero locos en lowriding! Having a Car Event?

Contact Homero
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deeho123@comcast.net

CAR SHOWS UPDATE

AUGUST 2026
Coopersville Car Show
Friday, August 7, 2026
Saturday, August 8, 2026
Downtown Main Street
Coopersville, MI 49404

28th Street Metro Cruise
Friday, August 21, 2026
Saturday, August 22, 2026
Main Event at Rogers Plaza
972 28th St SW
Wyoming, MI 49509

Low 4 Life Car Club
Car Meet!
Saturday! September 12, 2026
4809 Eastern Ave
Kentwood, MI 49508

Fiesta Mexicana Car Show /
MHAWM
Lowrider & Classic Car Show
Sunday! September 13, 2026
Downtown Calder Plaza

320 Ottawa Ave NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Plaza Mexico & Latin Styles presents
2nd Annual Lowrider Car & Bike Show
Sunday! September 13, 2026
Plaza Mexico Mall
3375 S. Division Ave
Grand Rapids, MI 49548



Executive Motorsports Open House Car Show

La Voz

Elena Rose, born Andrea Elena Mangiamarchi on March 23, 1995, is a Venezuelan-American singer and songwriter, nominated 14 times for Latin GRAMMYs. She gained fame as a songwriter for Latin artists before launching a solo career during the 2020 pandemic, debuting with "Sandunga" and signing with Warner Music Latina. Her hits include "Orion" and "Me Lo Merezco," and her debut album, *Bendito Verano*, features collaborations with artists like Young Miko.

Elena Rose, nacida como Andrea Elena Mangiamarchi el 23 de marzo de 1995, es una cantante y compositora venezolano-estadounidense que ha sido nominada 14 veces a los Latin GRAMMY. Ganó reconocimiento como compositora para artistas latinos antes de iniciar su carrera en solitario durante la pandemia de 2020, debutando con el tema "Sandunga" y firmando con Warner Music Latina. Entre sus éxitos figuran "Orion" y "Me Lo Merezco", y su álbum debut, *Bendito Verano*, incluye colaboraciones con artistas como Young Miko.



FEID, MARC ANTHONY, RICARDO MONTANER & MORE SET FOR 'UNIDOS POR VENEZUELA' BENEFIT CONCERT

The humanitarian initiative was created to support the country's recovery and reconstruction.

A wave of artists are joining in solidarity for "Unidos Por Venezuela," a forthcoming benefit concert in Miami set to raise funds for the families and communities affected by the recent earthquakes in Venezuela.

Joining the humanitarian initiative are Marc Anthony, Ricardo Montaner, Feid, Jay Wheeler, Elena Rose, Silvestre Dangond, Gente de Zona, Mau y Ricky, Olga Tañón, Lasso, San Luis, Piso 21, Alleh, Zhamira Zambrano, and Enrique Santos, with more to be announced soon.

The benefit concert as well as international telethon—led by CMN, Maestro Cares Foundation, TelevisaUnivision, and PIMIENTO Entertainment, with the support of iHeartRadio, Spotify, Creative Link, EB Public Relations, and Arco Entertainment—will take place at 6:00 p.m. ET on Aug. 16 at the Kaseya

Center in Miami. The event, created to support the South American country's recovery and reconstruction, will also broadcast live across the United States, Latin America, and digital platforms.

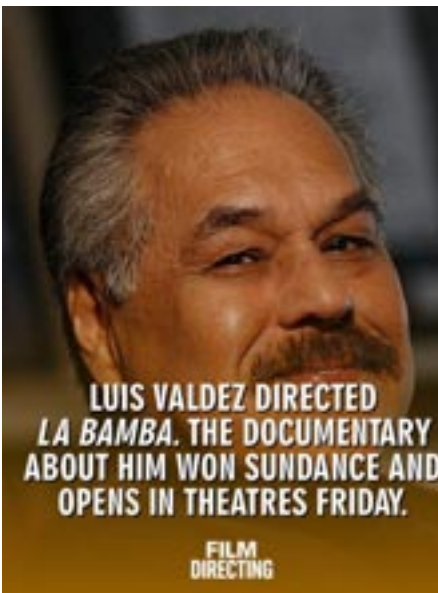
"Unidos por Venezuela" is in response to the devastating twin earthquakes—magnitude 7.2 and 7.5—that struck the country on June 24, causing the collapse of multiple buildings in La Guaira and Caracas, leaving nearly 5,000 dead, over 16,000 injured, and almost 18,000 homeless, at time of publishing, according to Reuters.

Tickets for "Unidos Por Venezuela" go on sale at 10 a.m. local time on July 17 through Ticketmaster.

La iniciativa humanitaria "Unidos Por Venezuela" tiene como objetivo ayudar a la recuperación del país tras los recientes



y devastadores terremotos. El 16 de agosto se celebrará un concierto benéfico en el Kaseya Center de Miami, que contará con la participación de artistas como Marc Anthony y Ricardo Montaner. El evento incluirá también un teletón internacional y se transmitirá en vivo a través de múltiples plataformas. Los terremotos del 24 de junio dejaron un saldo de casi 5.000 fallecidos y cuantiosos daños. Las entradas estarán disponibles a partir del 17 de Julio.



Luis Valdez founded El Teatro Campesino with Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers, wrote Zoot Suit, and directed La Bamba in 1987. David Alvarado's American Pachuco: The Legend of Luis Valdez premiered in the US Documentary Competition at Sundance in January and took both the US Documentary Audience Award and the Festival Favorite Award. It opens in limited release on 17 July.

Before it ever screened, the film won the Library of Congress Lavine/Ken Burns Prize in November 2025, which came with a \$200,000 finishing grant. The production worked with UC Santa Barbara to digitize more than 80,000 feet of El Teatro Campesino footage that was deteriorating and had never been seen. Edward James Olmos narrates. Eduardo Arenas of Chicano Batman scored it.

Luis Valdez fundó El Teatro Campesino junto a César Chávez y el sindicato United Farm Workers; escribió *Zoot Suit* y dirigió *La Bamba* en 1987. La película de David Alvarado, *American Pachuco: The Legend of Luis Valdez*, se estrenó en la sección de competición de documentales estadounidenses del festival de Sundance en enero, donde ganó tanto el

Premio del Público al Documental Estadounidense como el Premio del Favorito del Festival. Su estreno limitado en cines está programado para el 17 de Julio.

Antes incluso de su proyección, la película obtuvo el premio Lavine/Ken Burns de la Biblioteca del Congreso en noviembre de 2025, galardón que incluía una subvención de 200.000 dólares para la fase de finalización. La producción colaboró con la Universidad de California en Santa Bárbara (UCSB) para digitalizar más de 80.000 pies de material audiovisual de El Teatro Campesino que se estaba deteriorando y que nunca antes se había visto. La narración corre a cargo de Edward James Olmos, mientras que la música fue compuesta por Eduardo Arenas, del grupo Chicano Batman.

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Anna Muñoz a woman of many talents, balancing a successful career in banking with her Passion for Music and Modeling. As the co-owner, lead vocalist of Versa H, she brings energy, confidence and authenticity to every stage she steps on. Whether she's helping clients achieve their financial goals, performing for thousands or stepping in front of the camera, Anna embraces every opportunity with Determination & Creativity! Her Versatility, Ambition & Vibrant Personality make her a standout both Professionally & Artistically.

2026 AUGUST MODEL SEARCH





Can Hot Weather Make Depression Worse? Signs, Causes and Tips

¿Puede el clima cálido empeorar la depresión? Señales, causas y consejos

Hot weather can worsen depression symptoms in some individuals. Heat can affect sleep, increase irritability, trigger anxiety, and may increase heat sensitivity among people taking certain antidepressants. Summer seasonal affective disorder (SAD) can also contribute to depression symptoms during warmer months.

Think about the way you feel after working outside on a hot day: sweaty, tired and sluggish. The heat makes you feel physically uncomfortable. Physical discomfort can cause a shortened temper and higher level of irritability and aggression.

Can seasonal depression happen in the summer?

During the winter months, some individuals will feel increased symptoms of depression due to the lack of sunlight. SAD in the summer is less common, and has the opposite effect.

Too much sunlight, heat and allergens can cause hypomanic or agitated depressive episodes. Those affected by SAD are more likely to stay indoors and remove themselves from activities. SAD can feel extremely isolating, as many summer social activities are outdoors.

Symptoms of summer SAD can include:

- Insomnia
- Poor appetite and weight loss
- Agitation or anxiety
- Increased irritability
- Losing interest in activities you once enjoyed
- Feeling hopeless, worthless or guilty

Contact a behavioral health care provider if you feel any of these symptoms for two weeks or longer.

What is the connection between depression and sleep?

In the summer, days are longer with increased sunlight. Many individuals' circadian rhythm might be influenced by the change in sunlight. Our bodies release melatonin when the sun goes down, as our signal to go to sleep. When the sun rises earlier, and sets later, those who rise and fall with the sun might be at risk for insomnia and other sleeping issues.

Why is my anxiety worse when it's hot?

Climate change and global warming is causing anxiety in some individuals. The warming globe creates extreme weather, worsens pollen and common allergens and overall heightens anxiety around global climate events.

As summer and the hot temperatures, your anxiety might increase because you can feel the physical effects of climate change with heat waves, droughts and other extreme weather. The term "eco-anxiety" has been coined to name the anxiety related to climate change. Eco-anxiety can cause stress, fear of an uncertain future and a sense of hopelessness among many individuals.

Can antidepressants make you sensitive to heat?

Antidepressants change the way your brain sends chemical signals to affect your mood. This, however, can affect how your body regulates its temperature. Heat intolerance can cause an oversensitivity to the heat, making you more susceptible to heat exhaustion.

Symptoms of heat exhaustion include:

- Heavy sweating
- Dizziness and faintness
- Heavy sweating
- Weak, rapid pulse
- Headache and nausea

Talk to your primary care provider (PCP) or your behavioral health professional about your medication to understand if you are more susceptible to heat exhaustion. They can help you develop a plan to stay healthy and safe during the summer months.

Tips to manage summer depression

People with depression that is worsened by the heat can take the following measures to manage their symptoms throughout the summer months:

- Make an appointment with a PCP or behavioral healthcare provider.
- Be kind to yourself.
- Find activities you still enjoy doing, even in the heat or find a new activity indoors.
- Have a consistent sleep schedule and consider investing in black out curtains for sleep to regulate your sleeping cycle.
- Wear lightweight clothing and move activities indoors if it is too hot.
- Stay hydrated. Consider swapping one out of every four glasses of water you drink with a balanced electrolyte solution to replace any electrolytes lost through sweating.
- Read up on the side effects if you take antidepressants, and if you have any concerns, talk to your PCP.

El clima cálido puede agravar los síntomas depresivos en algunas personas, afectando el sueño, aumentando la irritabilidad y desencadenando ansiedad, especialmente en quienes toman ciertos antidepresivos. El trastorno afectivo estacional (TAE) de verano, aunque menos frecuente que el de invierno, puede manifestarse con síntomas como insomnio, falta de apetito, agitación y pérdida de interés en las actividades. El cambio climático contribuye a aumentar la ansiedad y el estrés debido a las condiciones meteorológicas extremas, dando lugar a lo que se denomina «ecoansiedad».

Asimismo, los antidepresivos pueden provocar intolerancia al calor, lo que conlleva un riesgo de agotamiento por calor. Para manejar la depresión estival, se recomienda programar citas con profesionales de la salud, mantener un horario de sueño regular, mantenerse hidratado y realizar actividades agradables en espacios interiores.

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Obtenga más información en
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Miss. August



Introducing Miss. Trang pronounced in spanish as **Página**. The Grand Rapids resident was selected from almost 300 applicants.

With her striking Asian features, natural elegance, and captivating presence, she has a unique ability to stand out both in front of the camera and at community events. Her confidence, professionalism, and genuine personality have already begun to earn her recognition from photographers, designers, and local supporters alike.

What truly sets Trang apart is that her beauty is matched by her determination and work ethic. She approaches every opportunity with grace, dedication, and a willingness to grow, making a lasting impression wherever she goes. Her combination of talent, charisma, and commitment positions her to become a standout figure and an inspiration for aspiring models.



Are you a model or do you aspire to? E-Mail: cccougar11@aol.com



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

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