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FAIRNESS CLAIMS FOR CESAR E. CHAVEZ LEGACY MUST BE RECOGNIZED

Es preciso reconocer las demandas de equidad respecto al legado de César E. Chávez



By Dr. José A. Flores

A responsible society must be able to hold two truths at once: allegations deserve to be heard, and documented achievements deserve to be weighed with equal seriousness. What cannot stand is a rush to erase a legacy before facts, evidence, or due process have even entered the room. That standard is not justice — it is volatility disguised as moral clarity.

The allegations raised against César E. Chávez are serious, and they warrant sober examination. But they remain **unadjudicated, uninvestigated, and unsupported by any legal record**. No criminal complaint was filed. No civil action was brought. No law enforcement inquiry was opened. No contemporaneous documentation exists. These are not opinions; they are verifiable facts. A society grounded in fairness cannot treat allegation as equivalent to evidence.

Meanwhile, Chávez's contributions are not speculative — they are measurable, archived, and nationally recognized. He helped secure the first enforceable agricultural labor contracts in U.S. history. He won wage floors, rest breaks, grievance procedures, and pesticide protections for some of the most exploited workers in the country. He lived on subsistence wages, fasted repeatedly, and endured political isolation to force the nation to confront the human cost of its food system. These gains are not abstractions; they reshaped the lives of hundreds of thousands of farmworkers.

If we are going to talk about erasure, then we must talk honestly about precedent. America has never applied a purity test to its heroes — not even close. The nation's currency, monuments, cities, and federal buildings honor men whose documented actions far exceed the severity of the allegations now being used to question Chávez's place in public memory.

Andrew Jackson ordered the forced removal of Native nations, resulting in mass death on the Trail of Tears. His actions defied a Supreme Court Order. His face remains on the twenty-dollar bill.

Thomas Jefferson enslaved more than 600 human beings, including children, potentially raped slave concubines and fathered illegitimate children, and is still honored with a national memorial, on U.S. currency, streets, buildings, schools and more.

Ulysses S. Grant, while a towering figure in preserving the Union, also issued General Order No. 11 expelling Jews from his military district — the only official act of antisemitic expulsion in U.S. history. His likeness stands in the U.S. Capitol. His hiring of prostitutes to accompany U.S. Union troops during the Civil War amounts to sex trafficking.

Richard Nixon resigned in the face of criminal exposure, yet his presidential library is federally supported.

Bill Clinton faced substantiated misconduct findings in federal court and remains a celebrated statesman with numerous buildings named in his honor.

These are just a few and not marginal figures. They are the literal face of American civic identity. If the standard for erasure is "allegation," then the nation would need to bulldoze half its monuments and redesign its currency from scratch including our current president who has yet to experience erasure. Allegations and legal procedures have begun to tie him to alleged victims and yes there are current legal complaints against him. (President Trump).

The point is not to excuse wrongdoing; it is to insist on **consistency**

and fair treatment. A society that overlooks documented abuses by its most powerful leaders cannot suddenly claim that unproven allegations against a labor organizer, Cesar E. Chavez, justify dismantling his legacy. That is not moral reasoning — it is selective outrage.



Chávez's defenders argue that history must be written with proportion. The scale on one side contains allegations without formal, legal complaint-based evidence, raised decades after the fact. The scale on the other contains contracts, protections, national recognition, and a movement that permanently altered the rights of farm workers. To pretend these are equivalent is to abandon judgment.

Balanced insight requires resisting the impulse to rewrite history based on accusation alone. Canceling Chavez recognition and celebrations aimed to honor his achievements is short-sighted and unfair. Erasing his name from streets, schools and other locations is equally unfitting since he has not been formally been charged nor convicted of any wrong-doing. Balanced judgement and due process requires acknowledging the gravity of claims while also recognizing the danger of erasing achievements that transformed lives and expanded justice. And it requires remembering that America has always judged its leaders by the totality of their record — not by allegation, but by evidence.

If we are to be fair, then fairness must apply to everyone.

Una sociedad responsable debe ser capaz de sostener dos verdades simultáneamente: las acusaciones merecen ser escuchadas y los logros documentados merecen ser sopesados con igual seriedad. Lo que resulta inaceptable es apresurarse a borrar un legado antes siquiera de que los hechos, las pruebas o el debido proceso entren en escena. Ese criterio no es justicia; es volatilidad disfrazada de claridad moral.

Las acusaciones formuladas contra César E. Chávez son graves y justifican un análisis sereno. Sin embargo, permanecen sin resolución judicial, sin investigación y sin respaldo en ningún registro legal. No se presentó ninguna denuncia penal. No se inició ninguna acción civil. No se abrió ninguna investigación policial. No existe documentación de la época. No se trata de opiniones, sino de hechos verificables. Una sociedad fundamentada en la equidad no puede equiparar una acusación con una prueba.

Por otro lado, las contribuciones de Chávez no son especulativas: son cuantificables, están documentadas y cuentan con reconocimiento nacional. Él ayudó a conseguir los primeros contratos laborales agrícolas de cumplimiento obligatorio en la historia de Estados Unidos. Logró establecer salarios mínimos, pausas de descanso, procedimientos para tramitar quejas y protecciones contra pesticidas para algunos de los trabajadores más explotados del país. Vivió con salarios de subsistencia, ayunó en repetidas ocasiones y soportó el aislamiento político para obligar a la nación a confrontar el costo humano de su sistema alimentario. Estos logros no son abstracciones; transformaron la vida de cientos de miles de trabajadores agrícolas.

Si vamos a hablar de borrar legados, debemos hablar con honestidad sobre los precedentes. Estados Unidos nunca ha sometido a sus héroes a una prueba de pureza; ni remotamente. La moneda, los monumentos, las ciudades y los edificios federales de la nación honran a hombres cuyas acciones documentadas superan con creces la gravedad de las acusaciones que ahora se utilizan para cuestionar el lugar de Chávez en la memoria pública.

.... Artículo en español continúa en la página 13

Diminishing Capacity



By Jorge A. Martinez

36 Leading medical health professionals joined late April of this year along with mental health experts and called for Trump's removal due to his steady declining medical condition. Questions about Trump's diminishing ability to do his job did not begin recently; they have existed since before he was first elected. Beyond his willingness to skirt the law and, at times, bend it, there are continuing concerns about his health and his day-to-day functioning. Those concerns are fueled by visible public behavior, the obvious need for further evaluation, and a lack of transparency regarding his medical condition.

Trump's pattern of rambling remarks, illogical statements, obsessive posting, and repeated insistence that the 2016 election was rigged continues to raise serious questions. These concerns are made worse by what many see as carefully managed reassurances from White House doctors who insist that he is in excellent health. Ongoing doubts about his condition, along with his constant demand for praise, loyalty, and recognition, suggest deeper problems that cannot simply be dismissed.

Of course, there is a counterargument. Mental health conditions and impaired judgment cannot be diagnosed solely from public appearances. The Goldwater Rule prevents doctors from publicly diagnosing public figures without a direct examination and consent. That is why many experts frame their comments not as formal diagnoses, but as observations that point to the need for independent review and honest public discussion.

Even so, the president must be able to remain focused, communicate clearly, control his behavior, absorb complex information under pressure, and make sound decisions. When a president consistently appears unable to do those things, public trust begins to collapse. Allies grow uneasy, adversaries are encouraged, and the nation is left wondering who is truly in control. That kind of uncertainty weakens govern-

ment and creates real stress for the American people.

While average Americans cannot make a formal diagnosis, they do have the right to demand honesty, accountability, and transparency from a president and his administration. If serious concerns about Trump's capacity continue, then calls for evaluation by independent medical professionals are justified. The American public has every right to insist that presidential medical examinations be truthful and fully transparent. Those who question Trump's ability to govern should continue pressing for constitutional means of oversight and evaluation when the evidence suggests a clear failure of judgment and capacity.



Treinta y seis profesionales de la medicina y la salud mental han expresado su preocupación por el deterioro de la salud del expresidente Trump y su capacidad para desempeñar sus funciones; de hecho, ya existían dudas sobre su aptitud desde antes de su elección. Su comportamiento errático, sus obstinadas afirmaciones sobre las elecciones de 2016 y la falta de evaluaciones médicas transparentes han hecho saltar las alarmas. Los expertos sostienen que, si bien no deben emitirse diagnósticos formales en público, las observaciones apuntan a la necesidad de una evaluación independiente. El presidente debe mantener la concentración, comunicarse con eficacia y tomar decisiones acertadas; no hacerlo socava la confianza pública y la gobernabilidad. Los estadounidenses merecen honestidad y transparencia respecto a la salud del presidente, y las peticiones de evaluaciones independientes están justificadas si persisten las preocupaciones.

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LATINO COMEDY IN WEST MICHIGAN



By Lisa Wiseman

Emmanuel Lechuga remembers how he first got into comedy. "I went to watch a friend perform and he was pretty bad. He said if I thought I could do better, then do it. So I got up there and made people laugh and I was hooked."

Lechuga, 32, from Holland, Michigan, is one of several up and coming Michigan Latino comedians, and he is putting together his second all Latino comedy show at the Burzurk Brewing Company at 1442 Washington Ave. in Grand Haven on July 25. "We originally were planning it at a venue in Grand Rapids, but I held our first one at Burzurk and we did very well." This is a non-ticked event, open to the public.

Headlining the show will be Ofeliza Torres, the only female comedian in the group. It will also include Armando Sanchez, Jae Gonzalez, David Lesnieski, Kevin Sanchez and Gonzalo Pagan. "I grew up watching The George Lopez show with my family. He was one of my comedy heroes. I would like to have my own career in standup."

Emmanuel is off to a good start. Along with Gonzalo Pagan, he will also be opening for well-known comedian, rapper, and producer Chingo Bling when he comes to perform at the Four Star Theatre at 1944 S. Division in Grand Rapids on July 11. Tickets for this show are \$20 and are on sale now at www.chingobling.com. There will be a Meet and Greet and after party.

Emmanuel Lechuga, un comediante de 32 años oriundo de Holland, Michigan, decidió dedicarse a la comedia tras actuar por primera vez animado por un amigo. El 25 de julio organizará su segundo espectáculo de comedia exclusivamente con artistas latinos en Burzurk Brewing Company, en Grand Haven, tras el éxito de su evento anterior en ese mismo lugar.

El espectáculo contará con la participación estelar de Ofeliza Torres, acompañada por Armando Sanchez, Jae Gonzalez, David Lesnieski, Kevin Sanchez y Gonzalo Pagan. Lechuga aspira a seguir los pasos de íconos de la comedia como George Lopez. Además, tiene previsto actuar como telonero de Chingo Bling en el Four Star Theatre de Grand Rapids el 11 de Julio; las entradas para dicho evento ya están a la venta.



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Por eso, el trabajo constante durante todo el año es fundamental. Una red más robusta e inteligente puede resistir mejor las tormentas, reducir la cantidad y duración de los apagones y restablecer el servicio más rápido cuando se producen interrupciones.

Entre bastidores, los ingenieros planifican el futuro diseñando una red que no solo satisface las necesidades actuales, sino que está preparada para las demandas del mañana. Sobre el terreno, las brig-

adas llevan a cabo el trabajo práctico para hacer realidad esa visión, desde la modernización de equipos hasta la inspección de miles de millas de líneas eléctricas cada año.

Esta labor es la que garantiza un servicio más predecible, temporada tras temporada; así es como mejora la fiabilidad con el paso del tiempo.

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El motor invisible de EE. UU.: El imparable crecimiento hispano frente a las barreras del silencio



By Edgar León

Con más de 63 millones de personas, la comunidad latina define el presente de la nación, pero sigue batallando contra la invisibilidad histórica, la desigualdad educativa y una brecha digital que frena su potencial.

La historia de los Estados Unidos está profundamente ligada a sus minorías, y hoy en día, la comunidad hispana ocupa un lugar tan masivo como paradójico. Con más de 63 millones de habitantes (según el Censo de EE. UU.), es la minoría más numerosa del país. Sin embargo, sus aportaciones fundamentales en el ejército, la ciencia, la educación y la economía siguen estando bajo la sombra de la invisibilidad en los libros de texto y los grandes medios de comunicación.

Este silencio responde a viejas narrativas que el peso de la demografía y la realidad actual están haciendo insostenibles. Los hispanos ya no son el futuro de los Estados Unidos: son su presente absoluto.

1. El sacrificio en el frente y el vacío en las aulas

La contradicción entre lo que la comunidad aporta y el reconocimiento que recibe se hace evidente al analizar dos pilares del país: las fuerzas armadas y el sistema educativo.

• **Héroes en el campo de batalla:** Desde la Guerra de Secesión hasta los conflictos en Irak y Afganistán, los latinos han servido en primera línea en proporciones desmedidas. Por ejemplo, durante la Guerra de Vietnam, representaron el **19% de las bajas** provenientes de estados clave como Texas y California, casi el doble de su porcentaje poblacional de la época. Aun así, su ascenso a rangos de liderazgo sigue frenado: representan el 17.6% del personal activo pero solo el 8.5% del cuerpo de oficiales.

• **Aulas sin referentes:** En las escuelas públicas (K-12), el 28% de los alumnos **son hispanos**, pero **solo el 9.3% de los maestros** comparte su origen cultural. En las universidades la cifra cae al 5.9%. Esta falta de representación priva a los jóvenes de mentores que entiendan y potencien sus realidades.

A pesar de estas barreras, nombres icónicos como la astronauta Ellen Ochoa, la jueza de la Corte Suprema **Sonia Sotomayor**, el líder laboral César Chávez o el astro humanitario **Roberto Clemente** demuestran la excelencia de una comunidad que históricamente ha remado contra la corriente.

2. Radiografía demográfica: Un crecimiento imposible de ignorar

La fuerza demográfica latina es el verdadero motor de cambio en el país. Mientras la tasa de fecundidad anglosajona se sitúa en 1.6 hijos por mujer —por debajo del nivel de reemplazo de 2.1—, la de las mujeres hispanas lidera las estadísticas nacionales.

Dato Clave: Las proyecciones oficiales del Census Bureau indican que para el año 2060, **uno de cada cuatro estadounidenses será de origen hispano**, elevando la población latina a unos 111 millones de personas.

Este fenómeno ya no se limita a los estados fronterizos tradicionales. En estados del norte como **Michigan**, la comunidad latina creció un 14% en la última década, consolidándose en los sectores agrícola y automotriz de ciudades como Detroit, Grand Rapids y Lansing.

3. La brecha digital: El muro invisible del siglo XXI

En la era de la información y la inteligencia artificial, el acceso a internet de banda ancha es un derecho humano y laboral, no un privilegio. Sin embargo, la desigualdad tecnológica sigue aislando a los barrios y comunidades latinas más vulnerables.

En ciudades como Detroit, Flint o Chicago, la falta de conectividad accesible genera un círculo vicioso: sin internet de alta velocidad, los jóvenes no pueden competir, buscar empleos modernos ni desarrollar



habilidades digitales demandadas por el mercado laboral.

El crítico escenario de Puerto Rico

La isla caribeña expone de forma dramática esta brecha. Tras el devastador impacto del huracán María en 2017, la infraestructura colapsó. Aunque ha habido mejoras, las operadoras comerciales priorizan las zonas de mayor poder adquisitivo, dejando a los municipios de la montaña y las zonas rurales en un abandono tecnológico que frena la educación en línea y el trabajo remoto.

4. De la vulnerabilidad al éxito: El ejemplo del Dr. Edgar León Ayala

La historia demuestra que cuando se abren las puertas de la oportunidad, el talento hispano florece sin límites. Un claro ejemplo de esto es la trayectoria del Dr. Edgar León Ayala.

Nacido en Nueva Jersey en el seno de una humilde familia puertorriqueña, el Dr. León transformó la escasez de recursos en un motor académico. A lo largo de su carrera, se ha desempeñado como:

- Consultor de Educación para el Estado de Michigan.
- Profesor en la Universidad del Estado de Michigan y en la Universidad de Puerto Rico en Mayagüez.
- Catedrático en *Caribbean University* de Puerto Rico.

Desde su rol como intelectual público, conferencista internacional y columnista en medios tradicionales y digitales, el Dr. León Ayala ha impulsado activamente el uso de la **inteligencia artificial aplicada** a la docencia, diseñando cursos innovadores y proponiendo políticas públicas para derribar, de una vez por todas, la brecha digital en la isla. Su vida es el reflejo vivo de que el origen humilde no define el destino si existen las herramientas de apoyo adecuadas.

5. El camino hacia la equidad: Propuestas de acción inmediata

Para convertir las historias de éxito excepcional en la norma general, es urgente pasar de la queja a la acción institucional mediante tres ejes estratégicos:

- 1. Fondo Federal de Becas "Primera Generación":** Crear financiamientos específicos para jóvenes que son los primeros de sus familias en ir a la universidad, enfocados en carreras STEM (Ciencia, Tecnología, Ingeniería y Matemáticas), salud e Inteligencia Artificial, que incluyan subsidios de cuidado infantil y tutorías.
- 2. Infraestructura Digital de Interés Público:** Expandir de forma permanente los subsidios de conectividad para familias de bajos recursos e invertir en telecomunicaciones en zonas rurales de Michigan y Puerto Rico bajo modelos auditados.
- 3. Justicia Curricular:** Actualizar los libros de texto escolares en todo EE. UU. para visibilizar las contribuciones hispanas. Si los niños no se ven reflejados en la historia de la nación, se limitan sus propias expectativas de liderazgo.

Conclusión

Estados Unidos no puede permitirse el lujo de desaprovechar el potencial de una cuarta parte de su población. Mantener a los hispanos en la invisibilidad digital o educativa es un freno para el propio crecimiento económico del país. El camino hacia una equidad real está trazado; solo hace falta la voluntad política y social para recorrerlo.



With over 63 million people, the Latino community defines the nation's present but continues to battle historical invisibility, educational inequality, and a digital divide that holds back its potential.

The history of the United States is deeply intertwined with its minorities, and today, the Hispanic community occupies a position that is as massive as it is paradoxical. Boasting more than **63 million residents** (according to the U.S. Census), it stands as the nation's largest minority group. Yet, its fundamental contributions to the military, science, education, and the economy remain overshadowed by invisibility in textbooks and mainstream media.

This silence stems from outdated narratives that the sheer weight of demographics and current reality are rendering unsustainable. Hispanics are no longer the future of the United States: **they are its absolute present.**

1. Sacrifice on the Front Lines, Empty Spaces in the Classrooms

The contradiction between what the community contributes and the recognition it receives becomes starkly evident when analyzing two pillars of the country: the armed forces and the educational system. **Heroes on the Battlefield:** From the Civil War to conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, Latinos have served on the front lines in disproportionate numbers. For example, during the Vietnam War, they accounted for 19% of casualties from key states like Texas and California—nearly twice their percentage of the total population at the time. Despite this, their advancement to leadership ranks remains stalled: they represent 17.6% of active-duty personnel but only 8.5% of the officer corps.

Classrooms Without Representation: In public schools (K-12), **28% of students are Hispanic**, but only **9.3% of teachers** share their cultural background. In higher education, that faculty figure drops to 5.9%. This lack of representation deprives youth of mentors who truly understand and can empower their lived realities.

Despite these systemic barriers, iconic figures like astronaut Ellen Ochoa, Supreme Court Justice **Sonia Sotomayor**, labor leader **César Chávez**, and humanitarian baseball star **Roberto Clemente** prove the excellence of a community that has historically rowed against the current.

2. Demographic Radiography: Growth Impossible to Ignore

Latino demographic strength is the true engine of change in the country. While the non-Hispanic white fertility rate sits at 1.6 births per woman—well below the generational replacement level of 2.1—the fertility rate of Hispanic women leads national statistics.

Key Fact: Official projections from the *Census Bureau* indicate that by the year 2060, **one in four Americans will be of Hispanic origin**, driving the Latino population to approximately 111 million people.

This phenomenon is no longer confined to traditional border states. In northern states like **Michigan**, the Latino community grew by 14% over the last decade, cementing its presence in the agricultural and automotive sectors of cities such as Detroit, Grand Rapids, and Lansing.

The Invisible Engine of the U.S.: Unstoppable Hispanic Growth Collides with the Barriers of Silence

3. The Digital Divide: The Invisible Wall of the 21st Century

In the age of information and artificial intelligence, access to broadband internet is a human and labor right, not a privilege. However, technological inequality continues to isolate the most vulnerable Latino neighborhoods and communities.

In cities like Detroit, Flint, or Chicago, the lack of affordable connectivity creates a vicious cycle: without high-speed internet, young people cannot compete, apply for modern jobs, or develop the digital skills demanded by today's labor market.

The Critical Scenario in Puerto Rico

The Caribbean Island exposes this divide in a dramatic way. Following the devastating impact of Hurricane Maria in 2017, the infrastructure collapsed. Although improvements have been made, commercial telecom providers prioritize areas with higher purchasing power, leaving mountainous municipalities and rural zones in a state of technological neglect that cripples online education and remote work.

4. From Vulnerability to Success: The Example of Dr. Edgar León Ayala

History proves that when the doors of opportunity open, Hispanic talent flourishes without limits. A clear example of this resilience is the trajectory of Dr. Edgar León Ayala.

Born in New Jersey to a humble Puerto Rican family, Dr. León transformed financial scarcity into academic drive. Throughout his distinguished career, he has served as:

- Education Consultant for the State of Michigan.
- Professor at Michigan State University and the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez.
- Professor at Caribbean University in Puerto Rico.

From his role as a public intellectual, international speaker, and columnist in both traditional and digital media, Dr. León Ayala has actively championed the use of artificial intelligence applied to teaching, designing innovative courses and proposing public policies to dismantle, once and for all, the digital divide on the island. His life reflects the fact that a humble background does not dictate destiny when the right support structures are in place.

5. The Path to Equity: Immediate Action Proposals

To transform exceptional success stories into the general norm, it is urgent to move from grievances to institutional action through three strategic axes:

- 1. "First-Generation" Federal Scholarship Fund:** Establish dedicated funding for youth who are the first in their families to attend college, focusing on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), healthcare, and Artificial Intelligence, complete with childcare subsidies and academic tutoring.
- 2. Public Interest Digital Infrastructure:** Permanently expand connectivity subsidies for low-income families and invest heavily in telecom infrastructure across rural Michigan and Puerto Rico under strictly audited models.
- 3. Curricular Justice:** Update school textbooks nationwide to explicitly reflect Hispanic contributions. If children do not see themselves reflected in the history of their nation, their own leadership expectations are constrained from an early age.

Conclusion

The United States cannot afford to squander the potential of a quarter of its population. Keeping Hispanics trapped behind digital walls or educational invisibility acts as a direct drag on the country's economic growth. The road to real equity is clear; all that is missing is the political and social will to walk it.

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



For fun.
For schools:

Parents, students, school staff members, and others are encouraged to nominate outstanding public-school educators for the Michigan Lottery's 2026-27 Excellence in Education awards.

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

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

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

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

The winner of the 2026 Educator of the Year award was Brandon Bailey, a fifth-grade math and science teacher at Forest View Elementary. The school is part of the Cadillac Area Public Schools.

Hundreds of educators were nominated during the 2025-26 school year, which was the 12th year of the Excellence in Education awards program. Thirty-four of these nominees, including Bailey, were selected to win a weekly award.

Padres, estudiantes y personal escolar pueden nominar a educadores excepcionales de escuelas públicas para los premios "Excellence in Education" (Excelencia en la Educación) de la Lotería de Michigan correspondientes al ciclo 2026-27. Este programa, creado en 2014, reconoce a los educadores que generan un impacto significativo en la vida de los estudiantes. Los ganadores semanales reciben un premio en efectivo de 2.000 dólares, y uno de ellos es seleccionado como Educador del Año, obteniendo 10.000 dólares adicionales. Los ganadores son presentados en diversas cadenas de televisión. El año pasado, Brandon Bailey, maestro de quinto grado, fue distinguido como Educador del Año entre cientos de candidatos.

Previous winners of the Educator of the Year award:
[Ganadoras anteriores del premio Educadora del Año:](#)

2025 – Kelly Herberholz, a science teacher and administrative team intern at Dakota High School.
2024 – Samantha TwoCrow, the director of the Indigenous Education Program for Suttons Bay Public Schools in Suttons Bay.
2023 – Kathryn Kluzak, a kindergarten teacher with Robert L. Green Elementary in East Lansing.
2022 – Spencer Vanderheide, a high school teacher with Kenowa Hills High School in Grand Rapids.
2021 – Janice Smith, a school social worker at Fisher Magnet Lower Academy in Detroit.
2020 – Megan Sidge, an Autism Spectrum Disorder teacher at Hick-

ory Woods Elementary in Walled Lake.

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

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

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

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

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

Excellence In Education award nominees should demonstrate the following qualities:

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

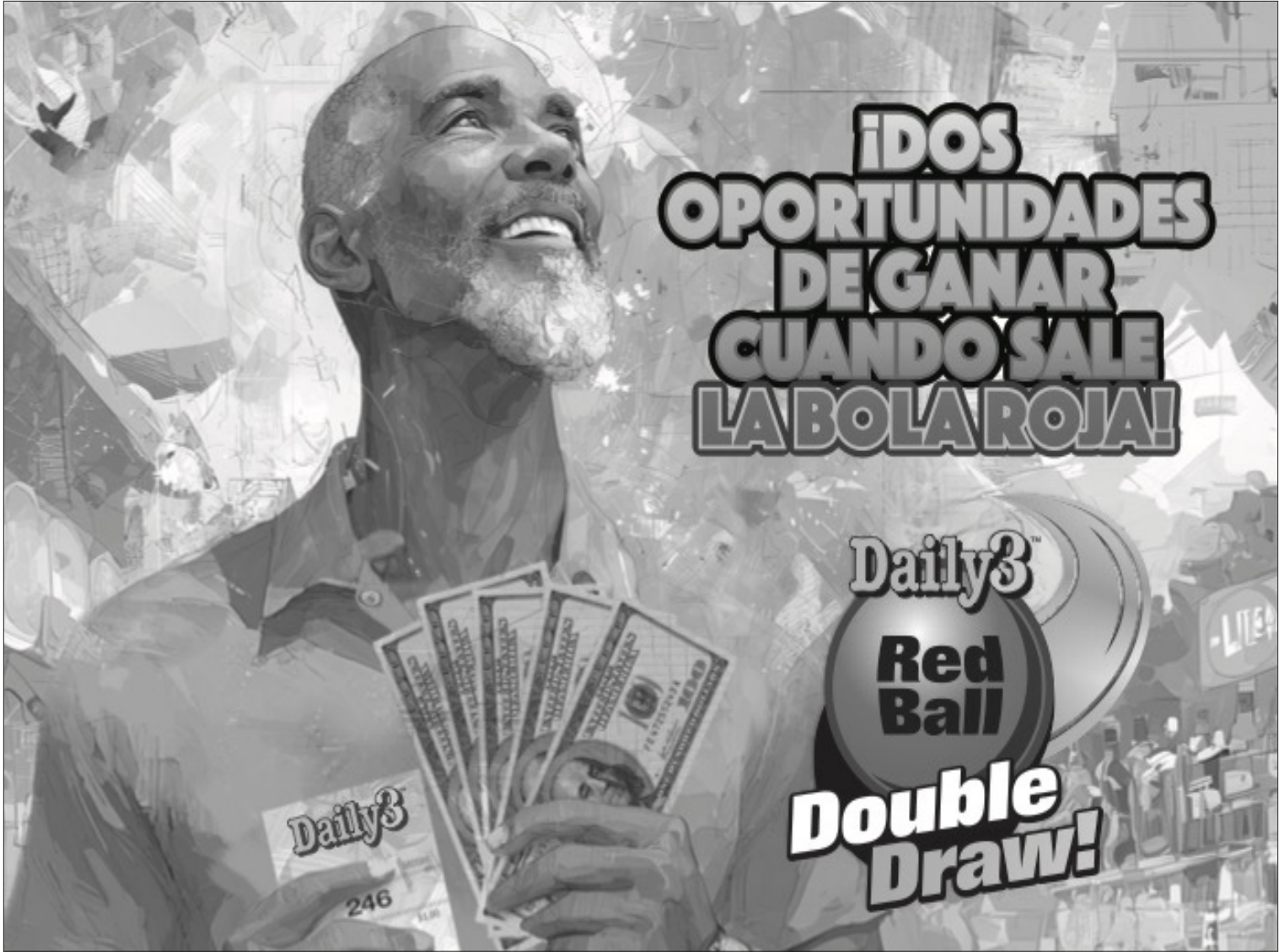
Los candidatos al premio a la Excelencia en la Educación deben demostrar las siguientes cualidades:

- Excelencia: Su labor contribuye de manera constante a que los estudiantes y/o sus escuelas o distritos escolares alcancen niveles superiores de rendimiento académico.
- Dedicación: Superan sistemáticamente las expectativas para ayudar a los estudiantes a alcanzar el éxito.
- Inspiración: Su trabajo inspira a quienes les rodean a superar las expectativas, ya sea en el ámbito académico o profesional.
- Liderazgo: Demuestran claras aptitudes de liderazgo en sus funciones dentro de la escuela o el distrito escolar.
- Eficacia: La labor del candidato genera resultados claros y positivos en el progreso educativo de los estudiantes de la escuela o el distrito escolar.

Scan the QR code to nominate an outstanding educator in your life today!

¡Escanea el código QR para nominar hoy mismo a un educador destacado en tu vida!





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Por tiempo limitado durante el mes de julio, cuando se seleccione la Bola Roja, la Lotería de Michigan realizará un segundo sorteo de números de Daily 3, brindándole una segunda oportunidad de ganar con el mismo boleto y creando muchos más ganadores.

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Hometown Boxer Retains Title in Dominant Victory



By Lisa Wiseman On June 14, Grand Rapids native Joshua "JJ" Pagan successfully defended his WBO NABO Lightweight Championship title, earning a unanimous decision victory over Rodolfo Bustamante Salazar at GLC Live at 20 Monroe.

The 135-pound champion delivered an impressive performance in front of a hometown crowd, improving his undefeated professional record to 16-0.

Pagan set the tone early, unleashing fast combinations to both the head and body while keeping Salazar pinned against the ropes for much of the opening rounds. Although Salazar showed resilience, Pagan regained control in the fourth round, landing a powerful right hand in the final minute that shifted momentum decisively in his favor.

From there, Pagan continued to dominate through the fifth and sixth rounds and maintained his advantage through the final rounds, securing a clear unanimous decision and energizing the Grand Rapids crowd. Family members and team officials praised Pagan's discipline and commitment to the sport. His uncle, Gonzalo Pagan, emphasized the fighter's dedication to growth and competition.

"One of the biggest things about JJ is that he only faces fighters with winning records to make sure he is challenged and continues to grow at his craft," his uncle said. "He's a very hard-working young man and very humble. He has a great team behind him, and along with his father and trainer, Tony Pagan, they come up with great strategies and fight plans that he executes well. He is always training, well-conditioned and ready for the next fight."

Pagan's journey into boxing began at a young age, inspired by watching elite fighters compete on the world stage. That early passion has translated into a disciplined career that now positions him as a rising contender in the lightweight division.

With another successful title defense behind him, the 26-year-old Pagan continues to build momentum and solidify his reputation as one of the sport's promising young talents.

As excitement grows around his future, many in Grand Rapids believe they may be witnessing the rise of a future world champion.



Grand Rapids Community Gathers for FIFA World Cup Watch Party at Studio Park

By Lisa Wiseman Studio Park in downtown Grand Rapids transformed into a vibrant hub of excitement as hundreds of soccer fans gathered to watch the opening match of the FIFA World Cup. Dressed in green jerseys and waving Mexican flags, supporters cheered on Mexico as they faced South Africa in the tournament's opening game.

The watch party, officially sanctioned by the Mexican Consulate of Detroit on behalf of the Mexican government, brought together people from all over Michigan to celebrate both sport and culture.

The star-studded opening ceremony was held at Estadio Azteca in Mexico City, where an estimated crowd of 80,000 fans filled the stadium. Colombian superstar Shakira headlined the event alongside Nigerian artist Burna Boy, performing the tournament's official anthem, "Dai Dai."

The ceremony showcased a diverse lineup of international and Mexican talent. Renowned Mexican singer Lila Downs welcomed viewers in both English and Spanish, while performances from Venezuelan artist Danny Ocean, Mexican pop stars Belinda and Los Ángeles Azules, and legendary rock band Maná highlighted the richness of Latin American music. The event featured colorful costumes and celebrated Aztec and Mexican cultural traditions.

Shakira, widely recognized for her multicultural influence and

global appeal, was a perfect choice to lead the ceremony, reflecting the international spirit of the World Cup.

Back in Grand Rapids, fans celebrated Mexico's 2-0 victory. For many attendees, the event was about more than just soccer—it was an opportunity to come together as a community, share in cultural pride, and enjoy the spirit of the game.

As the cheers echoed through downtown, one sentiment was clear: moments like these capture the true goal of the World Cup—unity, celebration, and joy.

Studio Park, en Grand Rapids, se convirtió en un animado punto de encuentro para los aficionados al fútbol que siguieron el partido inaugural de la Copa Mundial de la FIFA entre México y Sudáfrica. El evento, que contó con el respaldo oficial del Consulado de México en Detroit, reunió a seguidores de todo Michigan para celebrar tanto el deporte como la cultura. La ceremonia de apertura en el Estadio Azteca incluyó actuaciones de Shakira y otros artistas latinoamericanos, destacando las tradiciones culturales. Tras la victoria de México por 2-0, los asistentes expresaron que el evento fomentó el sentido de comunidad y el orgullo cultural, reflejando la esencia de unidad y alegría propia de la Copa Mundial.

Fourth of July: A Celebration Still in Progress



By Odille Parker

Every Fourth of July, the sky fills with fireworks, flags wave from front porches, and neighborhoods gather over grilled food and music. The holiday commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, marking the birth of the United States and its promise that "all men are created equal."

Of course, history reminds us that promise was incomplete from the very beginning. Independence did not extend equally to enslaved people, Indigenous communities, women, or many others. America has spent nearly 250 years wrestling with the gap between its ideals and its reality.

For many Latinos, that tension feels especially familiar.

The Latino experience in the United States is not one story but many. Some families have lived in what is now the U.S. for generations, long before borders shifted around them. Others arrived decades ago seeking opportunity, while many continue building new lives today. Together, these stories reflect resilience, sacrifice, and an enduring belief that tomorrow can be better than yesterday.

That doesn't mean celebrating the Fourth of July requires ignoring today's challenges. Conversations about immigration, belonging, representation, and equality remain deeply personal for many Latino communities. Patriotism and criticism are not opposites. In fact, believing a country can do better is often rooted in hope, not rejection.

Perhaps that's the quiet lesson of Independence Day.

The Fourth of July isn't simply a celebration of what America has been.



It can also be a reminder of what it still strives to become. The Declaration of Independence established an aspiration, not a finished product.

Each generation has expanded the meaning of freedom, often because ordinary people demanded that the nation's ideals include them, too.

Latinos have helped shape that ongoing story in every corner of American life, from military service and public leadership to entrepreneurship, education, agriculture, healthcare, arts, and culture. Their contributions are woven into the country's past and future alike. So while fireworks may light the sky for just one evening, perhaps the deeper celebration

lies elsewhere: in families gathered around the table, in traditions passed between generations, in bilingual conversations, shared recipes, and the belief that identity can hold more than one truth at a time.

For many Latinos, Independence Day is less about celebrating a perfect nation than embracing the possibility that the promise of freedom still belongs to everyone, and that the work of fulfilling it is far from over.

Cada 4 de julio, Estados Unidos celebra su independencia con fuegos artificiales y reuniones, conmemorando la adopción de la Declaración de Independencia en 1776. Sin embargo, la promesa histórica de igualdad no se hizo extensiva a las personas esclavizadas, a las comunidades indígenas ni a las mujeres, lo que pone de relieve una lucha constante por conciliar los ideales con la realidad. Para muchos latinos, cuyas experiencias son muy diversas, esta tensión resulta familiar. Sus contribuciones a la sociedad estadounidense reflejan resiliencia y esperanza, al tiempo que reconocen los desafíos persistentes en materia de inmigración, igualdad y representación. El Día de la Independencia sirve tanto de celebración como de recordatorio de las aspiraciones hacia un futuro más inclusivo, donde la promesa de libertad alcance a todos, subrayando que el camino para hacerla realidad continúa.

Es preciso reconocer las demandas de equidad respecto al legado de César E. Chávez

By Dr. Jose Ángel FloresContinuación del artículo de la página 03.

Andrew Jackson ordenó el desplazamiento forzoso de naciones nativas, lo que provocó muertes masivas en el llamado "Sendero de las Lágrimas". Sus acciones desafiaron una orden de la Corte Suprema. Su rostro sigue apareciendo en el billete de veinte dólares.

Thomas Jefferson esclavizó a más de 600 seres humanos —incluidos niños—, presuntamente violó a esclavas que tenía como concubinas y engendró hijos ilegítimos; no obstante, sigue siendo honrado con un monumento nacional y su imagen aparece en la moneda estadounidense, así como en calles, edificios, escuelas y más. Ulysses S. Grant, si bien fue una figura fundamental para preservar la Unión, también emitió la Orden General n.º 11, que expulsaba a los judíos de su distrito militar: el único acto oficial de expulsión antisemita en la historia de los Estados Unidos. Su efigie se encuentra en el Capitolio de los EE. UU. El hecho de que contratara prostitutas para acompañar a las tropas de la Unión durante la Guerra Civil equivale a trata de personas con fines sexuales.

Richard Nixon dimitió ante la amenaza de enfrentar cargos penales y, sin embargo, su biblioteca presidencial cuenta con apoyo federal.

Bill Clinton afrontó conclusiones judiciales federales que confirmaban conductas indebidas y sigue siendo un estadista célebre, con numerosos edificios que llevan su nombre.

Estos son solo algunos ejemplos, y no se trata de figuras marginales; representan la imagen misma de la identidad cívica estadounidense. Si el criterio para borrar a alguien de la historia fuera la mera «acusación», la nación tendría que derribar la mitad de sus monumentos y rediseñar su moneda desde cero, incluyendo al actual presidente, quien aún no ha sufrido tal borrado. Han comenzado a surgir acusaciones y procedimientos legales que lo vinculan con presuntas víctimas y, efectiva-

mente, existen denuncias legales vigentes en su contra (el presidente Trump).

El objetivo no es justificar las malas acciones, sino insistir en la coherencia y en un trato justo. Una sociedad que pasa por alto los abusos documentados de sus líderes más poderosos no puede pretender, de repente, que acusaciones no probadas contra un organizador laboral como César E. Chávez justifiquen dismantelar su legado. Eso no es razonamiento moral; es indignación selectiva.

Los defensores de Chávez sostienen que la historia debe escribirse con sentido de la proporción. En un platillo de la balanza se encuentran acusaciones planteadas décadas después de los hechos, carentes de pruebas basadas en denuncias legales formales. En el otro platillo figuran contratos, protecciones, reconocimiento nacional y un movimiento que transformó permanentemente los derechos de los trabajadores agrícolas. Pretender que ambos aspectos son equivalentes implica renunciar al buen juicio.

Una perspectiva equilibrada exige resistir el impulso de reescribir la historia basándose únicamente en acusaciones. Anular el reconocimiento a Chávez y las celebraciones destinadas a honrar sus logros es una medida injusta y de miras cortas. Borrar su nombre de calles, escuelas y otros lugares resulta igualmente inapropiado, dado que nunca ha sido acusado formalmente ni condenado por ninguna falta. Un juicio equilibrado y el respeto al debido proceso requieren reconocer la gravedad de las denuncias, pero también el peligro de borrar logros que transformaron vidas y ampliaron la justicia. Asimismo, exigen recordar que Estados Unidos siempre ha juzgado a sus líderes por la totalidad de su trayectoria: no por acusaciones, sino por pruebas. Si hemos de ser justos, la justicia debe aplicarse a todos.

July Events / Eventos en Julio

July 1-5, 2026

Field of Flight Air Show and Balloon Festival Battle Creek, MI

At Field of Flight, an annual event held over the 4th of July weekend, you can do just that! Watch the hot air balloons take off every morning and night, watch the air show, or enjoy the Skerbeck Carnival. It all ends with a bang with the 4th of July Fireworks show at 10:30 on the 4th! Come out for a great weekend of fun with friends and family!

¡En Field of Flight, un evento anual que se celebra durante el fin de semana del 4 de julio, puedes hacer precisamente eso! Observa el despegue de los globos aerostáticos cada mañana y cada noche, contempla el espectáculo aéreo o disfruta del carnaval Skerbeck.

July 3, 2026

Jubilee: America250 Allegan, MI

Join Downtown Allegan to celebrate America250 on the Riverfront Stage. A parade will kick off the evening followed by music from The Soul Syndicate! Food trucks as well as the social district will be in full effect with the night ending with the biggest fireworks show Allegan has ever seen! Mark your calendars to celebrate 250 years of the United States of America!

Acompaña al centro de Allegan a celebrar America250 en el escenario de la ribera (Riverfront Stage). La velada comenzará con un desfile, seguido de la música de The Soul Syndicate. Habrá camiones de comida y el distrito social estará en pleno funcionamiento; la noche culminará con el espectáculo de fuegos artificiales más grande que Allegan haya visto jamás.

July 3-5, 2026

4th of July Weekend Detroit River Cruise | Sailing & Private Charters Detroit, MI

4th of July Weekend Detroit River Cruise | Sailing & Private Charters Celebrate Independence Day with a Detroit River cruise, offering an alternative to crowded waterfronts and featuring skyline views and a vibrant summer atmosphere. Join a public sailing cruise for panoramic views and relaxation, or opt for a private yacht charter for tailored celebrations suitable for groups and special occasions, ensuring a memorable experience on the water.

Crucero por el río Detroit para el fin de semana del 4 de julio | Navegación y alquiler de barcos privados. Celebre el Día de la Independencia con un crucero por el río Detroit; una alternativa a las concurridas zonas costeras que ofrece vistas del horizonte urbano y un animado ambiente veraniego. Puede unirse a un crucero público para disfrutar de vistas panorámicas y relajarse, u optar por el alquiler de un yate privado para celebrar eventos a medida —ideales para grupos y ocasiones especiales— y garantizar así una experiencia inolvidable en el agua.

July 4, 2026

4th of July Fireworks Holland, MI

Kollen Park + Heinz Waterfront Fireworks are scheduled for July 4th over Lake Macatawa, hosted by the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council at Kollen Park. Attendees are encouraged to bring blankets or chairs for the celebration, which includes food trucks open throughout the day. There will also be discounts of 20% at participating businesses in Downtown Holland for customers wearing red, white, and blue.

Para el 4 de julio están programados fuegos artificiales sobre el lago Macatawa, organizados por el Macatawa Area Coordinating Council en Kollen Park. Se invita a los asistentes a llevar mantas o sillas para la celebración, que contará con camiones de comida en servicio durante todo el día. Asimismo, los comercios participantes en el centro de Holland ofrecerán un 20 % de descuento a los clientes que vistan de rojo, blanco y azul.

July 4, 2026

4th of July Fireworks Grand Haven, MI

The sky's the limit tonight, Grand Haven! Teaming up with the City of Grand Haven to deliver a red, white, and BOOM kind of evening! Start your night with the Musical Fountain show at 10:10 PM. Stay for the Grand Haven Fireworks, launching immediately after — right from the same stadium! Bring your chairs, your friends, your patriotic spirit, and get ready for one unforgettable Independence Day on the waterfront.

¡Esta noche el cielo es el límite, Grand Haven! Nos unimos a la ciudad de Grand Haven para ofrecer una velada espectacular y llena de emoción. Comienza la



noche con el espectáculo de la Fuente Musical a las 10:10 p. m. y quédate para disfrutar de los fuegos artificiales de Grand Haven, que se lanzarán inmediatamente después, ¡justo desde el mismo estadio!

July 4-5, 2026

South Haven Art Fair South Haven, MI

Join us on July 4 and 5 at Stanley Johnston Park in South Haven, Michigan, for the 68th South Haven Art Fair, a free, family-friendly juried event organized by the South Haven Center for the Arts. The fair features over 100 artists, including painters, jewelers, and sculptors, along with caricature and henna artists, hands-on art activities, and various food vendors offering pizza and BBQ.

Acompáñenos los días 4 y 5 de julio en el parque Stanley Johnston de South Haven, Michigan, para la 68.ª edición de la South Haven Art Fair; un evento gratuito y familiar, con selección de artistas por jurado, organizado por el South Haven Center for the Arts.

July 4, 2026

4th of July Fireworks Grand Rapids, MI

The Grand Rapids Fireworks celebration will take place on Saturday, July 4, 2026. This year's enhanced A250 show will launch from the Fulton Street Bridge instead of its traditional location. Festivities, including the Meijer Family Fun Zone and food vendors, will run from 6:00 PM to 10:30 PM.

El espectáculo A250 de este año, que contará con mejoras, se lanzará desde el puente de Fulton Street en lugar de su ubicación habitual. Las actividades festivas, que incluyen la zona de diversión familiar Meijer (Meijer Family Fun Zone) y puestos de comida, se desarrollarán de 6:00 p. m. a 10:30 p. m.

July 15-19, 2026

LAUP Fiesta Holland, MI

One of the longest-running events in West Michigan, the Latin American United for Progress (LAUP) Fiesta now draws over 20,000 attendees

each year. A community favorite, our annual Fiesta is fun for the whole family! With live music and performances, delicious food, dancing, and more, this gathering truly celebrates Latino culture in Holland.

La Fiesta de Latin American United for Progress (LAUP), uno de los eventos de mayor trayectoria en el oeste de Michigan, atrae actualmente a más de 20.000 asistentes cada año. ¡Nuestra Fiesta anual es una favorita de la comunidad y ofrece diversión para toda la familia! Con música y espectáculos en vivo, comida deliciosa, baile y mucho más, este encuentro celebra verdaderamente la cultura latina en Holland.

July 18, 2026

33rd Annual Car Capital Auto Show Lansing, MI

On July 18, 2026, the R.E. Olds Transportation Museum will host the Car Capital Auto Show in Downtown Lansing, expected to attract thousands of spectators and feature 225 registered vehicles. The show will highlight a special "Lansing's Auto Revolution" section with pre-1940 vehicles from Durant, Oldsmobile, and REO Motor Car Company. It is a free, family-friendly outdoor event.

El 18 de julio de 2026, el R.E. Olds Transportation Museum organizará el Car Capital Auto Show en el centro de Lansing; se espera que el evento atraiga a miles de espectadores y exhiba 225 vehículos inscritos. La muestra destacará una sección especial titulada "Lansing's Auto Revolution" (La revolución automotriz de Lansing), que incluirá vehículos fabricados antes de 1940 por Durant, Oldsmobile y REO Motor Car Company.

July 27-31, 2026

Ottawa County Fair Holland, MI

The Ottawa County Fair features a variety of carnival games, rides, attractions, grandstand events, and 4-H animals.

La Feria del Condado de Ottawa ofrece una variedad de juegos de feria, atracciones mecánicas, espectáculos en la tribuna principal y animales del programa 4-H.



1931 Ford Model A



1934 Ford Coupe



1940 Ford Deluxe



1941 Ford Pickup owner Rick Wiers



1957 Ford Thunderbird



1951 Chevrolet Styleline owner Anbrocio Ledesma hanging out with amigos



1963 Ford Galaxie 500 XL



1970 Checker Marathon A12 Wagon



1978 Volkswagen Beetle



1956 Chevrolet Bel Air

Wyoming Moose Lodge Dust Off Car Show

Saturday, May 16, 2026, The Wyoming Moose Lodge at 2630 Burlingame Ave. SW, Wyoming MI, held an event called the Dust-Off Car Show on their parking lot grounds. Wyoming Moose Lodge had volunteers helping and directing the cars inside the parking lot. From classic cars, customs, muscle, trucks, motorcycles & vans. Car Show started at 9:00am - 1:00pm. Spectators enjoyed checking out the types of vehicles.

Wyoming Moose Lodge had breakfast available & outdoor grilling of hot dogs, burgers, beer, or pop! Volunteers sold hats, T-shirts, and raffle tickets for door prizes & DJ spinning out music.

Exciting time there with car enthusiasts & their rides.

Somos pocos pero locos en lowriding!

Having a Car Event?

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deeho123@comcast.net

CAR SHOWS UPDATE

JULY 2026

10th Annual HeyKoop Veteran Memorial Car Show & Benefit

Saturday! July 4, 2026

Downtown! (by Hot Rod Harley-Davidson building)

Muskegon, MI 49440

10:00am - 2:00pm

6th Annual Pullman Pride Car Show Saturday! July 18th, 2026

925 56th St.

Pullman, MI 49450

9:00am - 2:00pm

LAUP Car Show

Sunday! July 19, 2026

Holland Civic Center Place

150 West 8th Street

Holland, MI 49423

11:00am - 4:00pm

5th Annual JRCCF Charity Car Show

Saturday! August 2, 2026

Holland Civic Center Place

150 West 8th Street

Holland, MI 49423

11:00am - 2:00pm



Wyoming Moose Lodge Dust Off Car Show

La Voz

Stella Standingbear, an emerging Lakota hip-hop artist, has gained significant recognition, winning two awards at the 2023 Indigenous Hip-Hop Awards and garnering a following of over 500,000. Known for her melodic blend of alt-rap, R&B, and pop, she has achieved viral success with her single "SKODEN" and gained media attention for "Pray 4 U." Her latest single, "Mmhmm," is gaining traction across North America, enhancing her reputation. Currently, she is headlining the "Off The Rez Tour," spotlighting her energetic performances and cultural authenticity. Notably, she made history at a Phoenix Suns halftime show and has been featured in major outlets, displaying her influence in both Indigenous and mainstream music.

Stella Standingbear, una artista emergente de hip-hop lakota, ha logrado un reconocimiento considerable al ganar dos galardones en los Indigenous Hip-Hop Awards de 2023 y acumular una audiencia de más de 500.000 seguidores. Conocida por su mezcla melódica de *alt-rap*, R&B y pop, alcanzó el éxito viral con su sencillo «SKODEN» y captó la atención de los medios con «Pray 4 U». Su tema más reciente, «Mmhmm», está ganando popularidad en toda Norteamérica, consolidando aún más su reputación. Actualmente encabeza la gira «Off The Rez Tour», donde destacan sus actuaciones enérgicas y su autenticidad cultural. Cabe destacar que hizo historia durante un espectáculo de medio tiempo de los Phoenix Suns y ha aparecido en importantes medios de comunicación, demostrando su influencia tanto en la música indígena como en la corriente principal.



Stella Standingbear





Santana and The Doobie Brothers Deliver a "One" drous Night of Classic Rock in Grand Rapids

By Lisa Wiseman Santana and The Doobie Brothers, two of classic rock's most beloved and celebrated acts, brought their Oneness tour to Grand Rapids for an exceptional night of music at the new Acrisure Amphitheater on June 15.

It was a beautiful evening for an outdoor concert as The Doobie Brothers kicked things off with "Rockin' Down the Highway." They continued their energetic 75-minute set with classics such as "Take Me in Your Arms (Rock Me a Little While)" and performed the new song "Walk This Road" from their most recent studio album. The song was co-written by Michael McDonald, who is also touring with the band. They concluded their set with the timeless hit "Listen to the Music," which perfectly captured the spirit and theme of the entire evening.

The legendary Carlos Santana, now 78 years old, proved he remains one of rock's greatest guitarists. Backed by his outstanding eight-piece band, which includes two vocalists and his wife, Cindy Blackman Santana, on drums, Santana delivered a captivating 110-minute performance.

His set featured a blend of fan favorites and newer material, including "Black Magic Woman," "Maria Maria," "Oye Como Va," "Foo Foo," and "Put Your Lights On," along with several cover songs. He closed the night with his Grammy Award-winning mega-hit, "Smooth."

Throughout the evening, Santana expressed his appreciation for once again sharing the stage with The Doobie Brothers, telling the audience it was both a joy and an honor to perform alongside them.

One of the night's most memorable moments came when Santana shared an uplifting message with the crowd about self-worth and positivity.

"It is important to understand you are significant, you are meaningful," Santana said. "Look in the mirror and say the things I say: God loves me, He believes in me, and is proud of me. You can be successful in all you do. Accept that you have light in you."

The message resonated deeply with the audience and served as a fitting conclusion to an evening that was about more than just great music. Santana and The Doobie Brothers delivered a celebration of classic rock, positivity, and the enduring power of live performance, creating a memorable night for fans at Grand Rapids' newest concert venue.

El 15 de Junio, Santana y The Doobie Brothers actuaron en el Acrisure Amphitheater de Grand Rapids, ofreciendo una velada excepcional de rock clásico. The Doobie Brothers abrieron el concierto con "Rockin' Down the Highway" e interpretaron un repertorio de 75 minutos que incluyó tanto temas clásicos como la nueva canción "Walk This Road", coescrita por Michael McDonald, quien se unió a ellos en la gira. Santana, respaldado por una banda de ocho músicos, exhibió su legendaria destreza con la guitarra durante una actuación de 110 minutos, interpretando temas favoritos como "Black Magic Woman" y cerrando con su éxito "Smooth". A lo largo de la noche, Santana compartió mensajes inspiradores sobre la autoestima y la positividad, conectando con el público y convirtiendo el evento en una celebración de la música y la inspiración.





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Avoid Swimmer's Itch This Summer in Michigan Lakes Evita la Dermatitis al nadar este Verano en los Lagos de Michigan

Jumping into a lake is a rite of passage during a Michigan summer. But have you ever felt itchy after swimming in a lake? If you've ever left the water with itchy skin, you may have a case of swimmer's itch.

You're more likely to develop this condition after visiting an inland lake versus one of the Great Lakes. Lake Michigan swimmer's itch is a possibility, albeit an unlikely one, because even though it is a Great Lake, it is often referred to as an "inland sea."

While swimmer's itch in Michigan is not contagious or dangerous – and is not caused by poor water quality – it can cause an annoying rash that sometimes lasts up to a week.

What causes a swimmer's itch rash in Michigan?

Swimmer's itch is a skin rash caused by an allergic reaction to parasites that burrow into the skin, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The parasites have a complex lifecycle that starts by infecting animals including ducks, geese, gulls and swans, as well as mammals including muskrats and raccoons.

The parasites make eggs, which can wash into rivers, lakes and oceans. In the water, the eggs hatch and swim as microscopic larvae in search of their next host. The larvae are searching for a specific type of snail. Once they find the snail and infect it, another type of very small larvae is released into the water. This form of the parasite is searching for a bird or animal to infect so it can begin its life cycle again.

However, if this form of the parasite finds a human, it attempts to infect it – burrowing into the skin and causing the rash known as swimmer's itch. The parasitic larvae cannot survive with a human host, and they soon die.

Signs and symptoms of swimmer's itch

Symptoms of swimmer's itch include:

- Small reddish pimples
- Small blisters
- Tingling, burning or itching of the skin

Symptoms can develop within minutes to days after swimming in contaminated water, beginning with tingling or itching. Within 12 hours, pimples may appear that can then develop into blisters.

Is swimmer's itch dangerous?

The CDC advises itching can last up to a week, but it will go away

on its own. Most cases can be managed at home. Cold compresses, corticosteroid creams or baths with Epsom salts, baking soda or colloidal oatmeal may help soothe the skin. Baking soda mixed with water into a paste may also help relieve the symptoms.

How can I prevent swimmer's itch?

When swimming in an outdoor lake, take the following precautions:

- Check with local public health officials to make sure there are no warnings in place.
- Apply waterproof sunscreen or baby oil to the skin before swimming to create a waterproof barrier on the skin.
- Dry off with a towel immediately after swimming.
- Don't encourage ducks or geese to gather at lakes or ponds by feeding them.
- Pay attention to the wind and water conditions: the snails that host the parasites tend to thrive in warmer waters. Don't swim or wade in marshy areas. Winds pushing the water towards the beach can concentrate the snails and their parasites near the shore. Warmer water along the shoreline coupled with winds coming into the beach could potentially push more parasites into swimming areas.

Does Lake Michigan cause swimmer's itch?

The parasites that cause swimmer's itch are typically found in smaller lakes; the Great Lakes including Lake Michigan, Lake Huron and Lake Superior are often too windy and wavy to sustain the snails and their parasites.

Bañarse en los lagos es una tradición veraniega en Michigan, pero puede provocar la llamada «picañón del nadador», una erupción causada por una reacción alérgica a parásitos que penetran en la piel. Esta afección es más frecuente en los lagos del interior que en los Grandes Lagos.

Los síntomas incluyen pequeñas pápulas rojas, ampollas y picañón, los cuales pueden manifestarse desde unos minutos hasta varios días después de nadar. Aunque no es peligrosa, la picañón puede persistir hasta una semana, si bien por lo general desaparece por sí sola. Entre las medidas preventivas se incluyen el uso de protector solar resistente al agua, secarse inmediatamente después de nadar y evitar alimentar a las aves acuáticas cerca de los lagos.

Los parásitos que causan esta afección suelen asociarse a lagos más pequeños, ya que los Grandes Lagos ofrecen condiciones menos favorables para su ciclo vital.



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Introducing *Miss. 4th of July* *Madisyn O'Neal* of Jackson County, Michigan



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Madisyn O'Neal of Jackson County, Michigan, is a rising star whose radiant smile and natural grace light up every room she enters. With confidence, poise, and a heart for inspiring others, she continues to leave a lasting impression wherever she goes.

At the recent Miss Michigan Teen competition, Madisyn truly shined in every aspect, capturing attention with her elegance, determination, and undeniable presence. As Miss 4th of July, this remarkable young woman is only beginning her journey. The future is bright for Madisyn O'Neal, because her greatest achievements are still ahead—the best is yet to come. Congratulations Madi!!



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