

The Community Voice

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*Bilingual Magazine*

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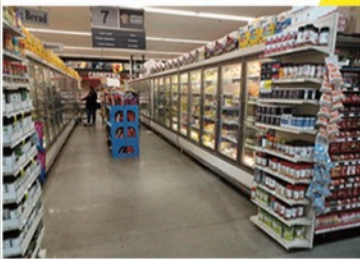
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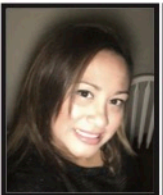
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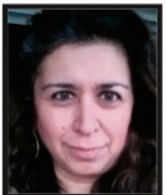
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# 2023 Brought notable change and challenges!

## ¡2023 trajo cambios y desafíos notables!



By Dr. José A. Flores

Our world may never be the same again! Climate change impacts have been the most impactful for our human species and should continue to shape our behavior for the next 50

years or we shall perish as a species. We should continue to sound the alarms until every neanderthal brained person in the world realizes that our final days are upon us unless we fight back the depletion of the ozone, the rise in global temperatures due to human influences on our planet. Wars, bombs, nuclear tests, nuclear waste, contamination of the oceans, rivers, lakes, and natural water springs leave us little hope for a reversal of conditions on earth without a major world coordinated effort to address the issues.

We have witnessed the depletion of our biosphere, plants and trees give way daily to deforestation led by greed of corporate giants across the world. Our farming and food production levels have been negatively impacted and now food security is jeopardized by growing conflicts in Europe and other parts of the world.

Our dependence on fossil fuels also continues to work against saving our planet. 2023 will be remembered for raging wildfires, a tempest of tornadoes, super hurricanes, typhoons, floods, volcanoes, and mass destruction caused by our appetite for and dependence on coal, oil, gas, and fossil fuels in general. Can anything stop us from self-destruction? We are our own worst enemies.

We have also witnessed the increase in the development and use of war armaments, missiles, super powerful munitions that track and destroy leaving residue and contaminating impact on the earth which will impact generations to come. Greatest among the impending doom, if not reversed, is the proliferation of new and powerful supersonic nuclear missiles in the hands of rogue nations who hate the U.S. and NATO countries. War may very well be imminent as Russia, China, North Korea, Iran, and others join forces to challenge our security and peace.

A nuclear holocaust is worth averting through whatever means necessary. 2023 saw a war in Ukraine deplete a Russian soldier population and tarnish a nation's ego that purported to have the most sophisticated weaponry in the world. 2024 will witness greater destruction or a peaceful reconciliation of powers at odds with one another. Russia continues to threaten the world with nuclear war and North Korea continue to threaten the U.S. with nuclear attacks. The time may be approaching for America to take preemptive action to eliminate nuclear threats from Iran and North Korea.

Shifting currencies in 2023 also sought to change the position of the dollar and foreign currencies currently in use around the globe. Cryptocurrency and bitcoins may be what changes the course of global finance and interchange, however adversarial nations are banding together to form their own currencies to challenge the dollar. Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, "The BRICS Collective" will attempt to lead the world to a de-dollarization to fend off the effects of sanctions. Things may change drastically in 2024 in the world's financial sphere.

Outer space too has become a new frontier for war and peace. China has advanced its spying and potential for War in Space technology to upset our satellite capabilities in a war scenario. We truly



will see 2024 become a race against time.

2023 also witnessed the advances of A-I, artificial intelligence. We will now have the impending accelerated advancement and challenges of uncontrolled AI to contend with in 2024 and beyond. I am of the view that like cloning and nuclear war technological development, it cannot and will not cease. Humankind has already demonstrated its' non-compliance with agreements to deter science in developing war advancements. Why would we do anything different in 2024?

*¿Es posible que nuestro mundo nunca vuelva a ser el mismo! Los impactos del cambio climático han sido los más impactantes para nuestra especie humana y deberían continuar moldeando nuestro comportamiento durante los próximos 50 años o pereceremos como especie. Deberíamos seguir haciendo sonar las alarmas hasta que todas las personas con cerebro de neandertal en el mundo se den cuenta de que nuestros últimos días están sobre nosotros a menos que luchemos contra el agotamiento del ozono y el aumento de las temperaturas globales debido a las influencias humanas en nuestro planeta.*

*Las guerras, las bombas, los ensayos nucleares, los desechos nucleares, la contaminación de los océanos, ríos, lagos y manantiales de agua natural nos dejan pocas esperanzas de que se reviertan las condiciones en la Tierra sin un gran esfuerzo mundial coordinado para abordar estos problemas. Hemos sido testigos del agotamiento de nuestra biosfera, las plantas y los árboles dan paso diariamente a la deforestación liderada por la codicia de los gigantes corporativos de todo el mundo. Nuestros niveles agrícolas y de producción de alimentos se han visto afectados negativamente y ahora la seguridad alimentaria está en peligro por los crecientes conflictos en Europa y otras partes del mundo.*

*Nuestra dependencia de los combustibles fósiles también sigue actuando en contra de la salvación de nuestro planeta. El año 2023 será recordado por devastadores incendios forestales, una tempestad de tornados, súper huracanes, tifones, inundaciones, volcanes y destrucción masiva causada por nuestro apetito y dependencia del carbón, el petróleo, el gas y los combustibles fósiles en general.*

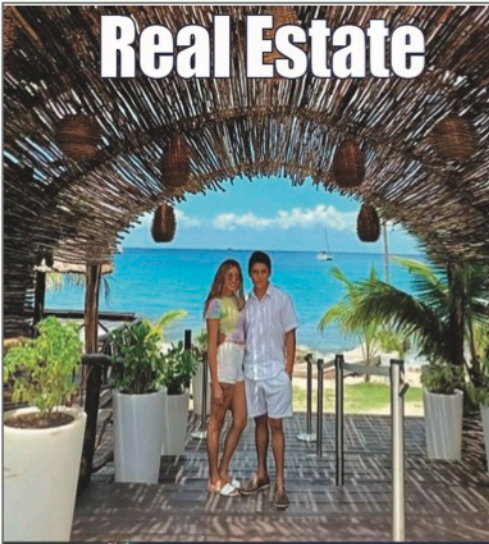
*¿Puede algo impedirnos la autodestrucción? Somos nuestros peores enemigos. También hemos sido testigos del aumento en el desarrollo y uso de armamentos de guerra, misiles, municiones superpoderosas que rastrear y destruyen dejando residuos e impactos contaminantes en la Tierra que impactarán a las generaciones venideras. La mayor de las fatalidades inminentes, si no revertida, es la proliferación de nuevos y poderosos misiles nucleares supersónicos en manos de naciones rebeldes que odian a Estados Unidos y a los países de la OTAN. Es muy posible que la guerra sea inminente a medida que Rusia, China, Corea del Norte, Irán y otros unan fuerzas para desafiar nuestra seguridad y paz. Vale la pena evitar un holocausto nuclear por todos los medios necesarios.*

*En 2023, una guerra en Ucrania agotó la población de soldados rusos y empañó el ego de una nación que pretendía tener el armamento más sofisticado del mundo. El año 2024 será testigo de una mayor destrucción o de una reconciliación pacífica de poderes en conflicto. Rusia continúa amenazando al mundo con una guerra nuclear y Corea del Norte continúa amenazando a Estados Unidos con ataques nucleares. Puede que se esté acercando el momento de que Estados Unidos adopte medidas preventivas para eliminar las amenazas nucleares de Irán y Corea del Norte.*

... Versión en español continúa en la pag. 6

# Community News

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## 2024 MICHIGAN INTERNATIONAL AUTO SHOW DeVos Place February 1-4, 2024

The Michigan International Auto Show will take place starting Thursday, February 1st through Sunday, February 4, 2024 at DeVos Place.

This is the greatest annual opportunity to view your "next new car!" Car manufacturers from around the world will bring their finest traveling displays with new vehicles - including sedans, vans, SUV's, trucks, hybrids and sports cars. Not only is the Auto Show the BEST place to shop and compare options for every day vehicles, it is also the first opportunity for West Michigan residents to see many of the most recently released or "soon to be released" models! Presented by the Grand Rapids New Car Dealers Association.

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For more information visit [ShowSpan.com](http://ShowSpan.com).

El Salón Internacional del Automóvil de Michigan se llevará a cabo del jueves 1 de febrero hasta el domingo 4 de febrero de 2024 en DeVos Place.

¡Esta es la mayor oportunidad anual para ver su "próximo auto nuevo!" Los fabricantes de automóviles de todo el mundo traerán sus mejores exhibiciones itinerantes con vehículos nuevos, incluidos sedanes, furgonetas, SUV, camiones, híbridos y coches deportivos. El Auto Show no solo es el MEJOR lugar para comprar y comparar opciones para vehículos de uso diario, sino que también es la primera oportunidad para que los residentes del oeste de Michigan vean muchos de los modelos lanzados más recientemente o "próximamente". Presentado por la Asociación de Concesionarios de Autos Nuevos de Grand Rapids.

¡Experimenta lo que te "impulsa" y explora nuevas innovaciones!

Para obtener más información, visite [ShowSpan.com](http://ShowSpan.com).

## ¡2023 trajo cambios y desafíos notables!

Por Dr. José A. Flores

Continuación de la versión de el artículo en español pag. 05

El cambio de monedas en 2023 también buscó cambiar la posición del dólar y las monedas extranjeras actualmente en uso en todo el mundo. Las criptomonedas y los bitcoins pueden ser lo que cambie el curso de las finanzas y el intercambio global, sin embargo, las naciones adversarias se están uniendo para formar sus propias monedas para desafiar al dólar. Brasil, Rusia, India, China y Sudáfrica, el "Colectivo BRICS", intentarán llevar al mundo a una desdolarización para defenderse de los efectos de las sanciones. Las cosas pueden cambiar drásticamente en 2024 en la esfera financiera mundial.

El espacio ultraterrestre también se ha convertido en una nueva frontera para la guerra y la paz. China ha avanzado en su espionaje y potencial de la tecnología de la Guerra en el Espacio para alterar nuestras capacidades satelitales en un escenario de guerra. Realmente veremos que 2024 se convierte en una carrera contra el tiempo.

2023 también fue testigo de los avances de la A-I, la inteligencia artificial. Ahora tendremos que afrontar el inminente avance acelerado y los desafíos de la IA descontrolada en 2024 y más allá. Soy de la opinión de que, al igual que la clonación y el desarrollo tecnológico de la guerra nuclear, no puede cesar ni desaparecerá. La humanidad ya ha demostrado su incumplimiento de los acuerdos para disuadir a la ciencia de desarrollar ventajas bélicas. ¿Por qué haríamos algo diferente en 2024?



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# THE END OF AN ERA

**A tribute to María Martin by Julio Cesar Guerrero, MSW, MA**

I met María Martin in the late 1970's when we were part of a handful of Chicano radio activists. In the early 1980's while in the Bay Area, we regularly collaborated on projects and news stories. Like many pioneers, she was a visionary who created a space for Raza and women through programming and mentorship in professional field that rarely accepted minorities. With her characteristic smile, good nature and professionalism, she graciously penetrated both, English and Spanish markets covering an ample array of issues and personalities that chronicled who we are as people in the United States.

She was a founder of KBBF in Santa Rosa, California the first bi-lingual radio station in America as well as the founder of NPR's Latino USA based in Austin Texas, and the GraciasVida Center for Media based in Antigua Guatemala, among others.

She was a founder and leader in both public and independent media, and media education in Spanish and English-- primarily covering issues related to LatinX people in the U.S. and Latin America as well as indigenous people.

For the last ten years, the Center has worked to improve the skills and working situation for rural and indigenous journalists in Guatemala, Bolivia, and Nicaragua, as well as to improve the coverage of Central America on U.S. public radio.

Martin was a tireless reporter and creative producer, dedicated to journalism at its highest level and its broadest reach. She taught journalism in university classrooms, and in small towns from West Virginia to Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, and in Bolivia, where she literally went village to village teaching people how to report and publish about their conditions, passions and concerns. "María" was a leader in both news coverage and culture, as well as religion. In her book, "Crossing Bridges: A Journalist's Heart in Latin America", Martin tells her story overcoming the many obstacles of racism and sexism, forging a path for the next generation of independent, and LatinX journalists, especially women. She will be terribly missed by her huge network of fans and friends, on both sides of the border and around the world. For the past 20 years she made her home in her beloved Antigua, Guatemala with regular trips to Austin and San Antonio, Texas where she recently became affiliated with "The Esperanza, Peace and Justice Center."

María Martin was the recipient of Fulbrights and several Knight Fellowships, including the John S. Knight Professional Journalism Fellowship at Stanford University, and the Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellowship awarded by the National Endowment for Democracy. Martin has won over two dozen awards for her work covering Latino issues and Latin America. She was especially proud of her recent documentary series, Después de las Guerras: Central America After the Wars. She holds a Master's degree in journalism from the Ohio State University. In September of 2015, Martin was inducted into the Hall of Fame of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists.

On Saturday December 2nd., Sister María Martin left this world after a series of medical complications. We are profoundly grateful to have crossed paths with such a media giant and most beautiful human being. Descansa en paz mi hermana.

## LA CALAVERA DE MARIA MARTIN

Mira que bonitas flores  
mira como brilla el sol  
tan coquetas de colores  
what a beautiful glow

En un día como hoy  
we lost a la Mariquita  
remember her, tan bonita  
era puro corazón

Simon, mis vatos locos  
por la ostia del Tejón  
La Calaca le hecho el ojo  
and took away her microphone.



Sana, sana colita de rana  
los ángeles le cantaban  
but la Muerte tan ingrata  
las cobijas le jalaba

No se aguiten, no es el fin  
now there's a new generation  
of young people asking questions  
gracias a María Martin

Fue en un thanksgiving season  
cuando a la vida dijo adiós  
but she left a thousand reasons  
for us to be thankful for

Como buena jornalera  
muchas semillas sembraba  
her truth now corre como agua  
sin importar las fronteras

She lit thousands of minds  
por los caminos de Aztlan  
from the streets of the bay area  
to las faldas del volcán

Blanca palomita stop flying  
párate en aquel nopal  
dinos donde María is watching  
con sus Bette Davis eyes

*Como muchos pioneros, María fue una visionaria que creó un espacio para Raza y las mujeres a través de programación y tutoría en un campo profesional que rara vez aceptaba minorías. Con su sonrisa característica, buen carácter y profesionalismo, penetró gentilmente en los mercados inglés y español cubriendo una amplia gama de temas y personalidades que narraron quiénes somos como personas en los Estados Unidos. Fundadora de KBBF en Santa Rosa, California, la primera estación de radio bilingüe en Estados Unidos, así como fundadora de Latino USA de NPR con sede en Austin, Texas, y del GraciasVida Center for Media con sede en Antigua Guatemala, entre otros. Fue fundadora y líder de medios públicos e independientes, y de educación mediática en español e inglés, cubriendo principalmente temas relacionados con los latinos en los EE. UU. y América Latina, así como con los pueblos indígenas.*

*María Martin recibió becas Fulbrights y varias becas Knight, incluida la beca de periodismo profesional John S. Knight en la Universidad de Stanford y la beca para la democracia Reagan-Fascell otorgada por el National Endowment for Democracy. Martin ha ganado más de dos docenas de premios por su trabajo que cubre temas latinos y América Latina. Estaba especialmente orgullosa de su reciente serie documental, Después de las Guerras: Centroamérica Después de las Guerras. Tiene una maestría en periodismo de la Universidad Estatal de Ohio. En septiembre de 2015, Martin fue incluida en el Salón de la Fama de la Asociación Nacional de Periodistas Hispanos.*

*El sábado 2 de diciembre, Sor María Martín dejó este mundo. Estamos profundamente agradecidos de habernos cruzado en nuestro camino con un gigante mediático y un ser humano tan hermoso.*

# La Corrupción en la Legislatura de Puerto Rico: El Caso de María Milagros "Tata" Charbonier y Orlando Montes Rivera

## Corruption in the Puerto Rico Legislature: The Case of María Milagros "Tata" Charbonier and Orlando Montes Rivera



Por: Edgar León

actualmente enfrentan un proceso judicial en el tribunal federal por cargos que van desde conspiración hasta lavado de dinero.

La acusación sostiene que Charbonier y Montes Rivera participaron en una serie de delitos, incluyendo conspiración, robo, soborno y comisiones ilegales relacionadas con programas que reciben fondos federales. Además, se les imputa fraude electrónico por servicios honestos, así como dos cargos de lavado de dinero. Un cargo adicional de obstrucción a la justicia pesa sobre Charbonier por la destrucción de datos en su teléfono celular.

Uno de los aspectos más reveladores de la investigación es la presunta inflación del salario de Frances Acevedo Ceballos, directora de la oficina legislativa de Tata Charbonier. Se alega que Charbonier infló el salario de Ceballos para que esta devolviera a la familia entre \$1,000 a \$1,500 mensuales. Bajo este esquema, la exlegisladora habría recibido aproximadamente \$100,000 desde septiembre de 2017 hasta el verano de 2020.

Este caso no solo destapa la corrupción individual, sino que arroja luz sobre posibles prácticas sistémicas dentro de la legislatura de Puerto Rico. En este contexto, es imperativo que las autoridades pertinentes, incluyendo la contralora de Puerto Rico, el secretario de Hacienda y otras agencias federales y estatales, realicen investigaciones exhaustivas que abarquen la última década.

Es crucial implementar medidas preventivas para salvaguardar la integridad del sistema. Proponemos la creación de un programa de inteligencia artificial que monitoree a diario y detecte de manera proactiva cualquier aumento inusual en los salarios de los empleados gubernamentales. Este enfoque tecnológico podría contribuir a prevenir prácticas corruptas y garantizar la transparencia en el manejo de los fondos públicos.

Además, se insta a una investigación integral de todos los legisladores y sus empleados para identificar posibles irregularidades y limpiar el nombre de aquellos que han actuado de manera ética. Es hora de restablecer la confianza en las instituciones gubernamentales mediante la aplicación rigurosa de la ley y la rendición de cuentas.

En última instancia, se propone aumentar las penas por corrupción, especialmente cuando se trata de robo contra el gobierno de Puerto Rico. Introducir agravantes por delito grave podría disuadir a aquellos tentados por la corrupción y enviar un mensaje claro de que la sociedad no tolerará la malversación de fondos públicos.

Puerto Rico merece un gobierno transparente, eficiente y libre de corrupción. La revelación de casos como el de la ex representante del PNP - María Milagros "Tata" Charbonier subraya la urgencia de implementar medidas que fortalezcan la integridad de nuestras instituciones

y restauren la confianza perdida en el servicio público.



*Puerto Rico, a land of charm and diversity, has been shaken by a scandal that exposes deep-rooted corruption within its legislature. At the epicenter of this crisis is former PNP representative María Milagros "Tata" Charbonier and her husband, Orlando Montes Rivera, who are currently facing legal proceedings in federal court on charges ranging from conspiracy to money laundering.*

*The accusation alleges that the ex-legislator Charbonier and Montes Rivera engaged in a series of crimes, including conspiracy, theft, bribery, and illegal commissions related to programs receiving federal funds. Additionally, they are charged with electronic fraud for honest services, as well as two counts of money laundering. An additional charge of obstruction of justice hangs over Charbonier for the destruction of data on her cell phone.*

*One of the most revealing aspects of the investigation is the alleged inflation of the salary of Frances Acevedo Ceballos, director of Tata Charbonier's legislative office. It is claimed that Charbonier inflated Ceballos's salary so that she would return between \$1,000 to \$1,500 monthly to the family. Under this scheme, the former legislator would have received approximately \$100,000 from September 2017 to the summer of 2020.*

*This case not only exposes individual corruption but also sheds light on possible systemic practices within the Puerto Rico Legislature. In this context, it is imperative that relevant authorities, including the Puerto Rico comptroller, the Secretary of Treasury, and other federal and state agencies, conduct thorough investigations spanning the past decade.*

*It is crucial to implement preventive measures to safeguard the integrity of the system. We propose the creation of an artificial intelligence program that monitors and proactively detects any unusual increase in government employee salaries on a daily basis. This technological approach could contribute to preventing corrupt practices and ensuring transparency in the handling of public funds.*

*Furthermore, a comprehensive investigation of all legislators and their staff is urged to identify possible irregularities and clear the names of those who have acted ethically. It is time to restore trust in government institutions through rigorous law enforcement and accountability.*

*Ultimately, there is a proposal to increase penalties for corruption, especially when it involves theft against the government of Puerto Rico. Introducing aggravating factors for serious offenses could deter those tempted by corruption and send a clear message that society will not tolerate the misappropriation of public funds.*

*Puerto Rico deserves a transparent, efficient, and corruption-free government. The revelation of cases like that of former PNP representative María Milagros "Tata" Charbonier underscores the urgency of implementing measures that strengthen the integrity of our institutions and restore lost trust in public service.*



# Michigan Reconnect Short-Term Training Program Launches to Provide Michiganders an Additional Path to In-Demand Careers



Michigan students 21 and older to receive up to \$1,500 to attend eligible career training program

The Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP) announced the launch of the Michigan Reconnect Short-Term Training Program, a new career training scholarship that saves students \$1,500 as they gain skills needed to prepare for in-demand jobs.

The Reconnect Short-Term Training Program scholarship is backed by a \$6 million investment through the state budget. Under the program, Michiganders age 21 and older who don't yet have a college degree are eligible to receive up to \$1,500 to attend an eligible career training program in Michigan.

"Every Michigander deserves the opportunity to pursue a degree or certificate to land a good-paying, in-demand job without breaking the bank," said Governor Gretchen Whitmer. "The Michigan Reconnect Short-Term Training Program will lower costs by offering students up to \$1,500 as they pursue a career in health care, technology, manufacturing, and so much more. Together, we will grow our economy by delivering on our promise to ensure every Michigander can 'make it' in Michigan."

## Eligibility

To be eligible for the Michigan Reconnect Short-Term Training Program, applicants must:

- Be at least 21 years of age prior to submitting the application.
- Be a Michigan resident for at least the immediately preceding year.
- Have graduated from high school with a diploma or a certificate of completion or achieved a high school equivalency certificate and provide a copy to their training provider.

- Have not yet earned an associate or bachelor's degree.

To apply, interested students must complete an online application at [Michigan.gov/Reconnect](https://Michigan.gov/Reconnect). To qualify, students must submit an application by Dec. 15, 2024, and begin their career training program prior to Dec. 31, 2024.

*El Departamento de Educación, Avance y Potencial Permanente de Michigan (MiLEAP) anunció el lanzamiento del Programa de Capacitación a Corto Plazo Michigan Reconnect, una nueva beca de capacitación profesional que ahorra a los estudiantes \$1,500 a medida que adquieren las habilidades necesarias para prepararse para trabajos en demanda.*

## Elegibilidad

*Para ser elegible para el Programa de capacitación a corto plazo Michigan Reconnect, los solicitantes deben:*

- *Tener al menos 21 años de edad antes de presentar la solicitud.*
- *Ser residente de Michigan durante al menos el año inmediatamente anterior.*
- *Haberse graduado de la escuela secundaria con un diploma o certificado de finalización o haber obtenido un certificado de equivalencia de escuela secundaria y proporcionar una copia a su proveedor de capacitación.*
- *Aún no haber obtenido un título de asociado o de licenciatura.*

*Para postularse, los estudiantes interesados deben completar una solicitud en línea en [Michigan.gov/Reconnect](https://Michigan.gov/Reconnect). Para calificar, los estudiantes deben enviar una solicitud antes del 15 de diciembre de 2024 y comenzar su programa de capacitación profesional antes del 31 de diciembre de 2024.*



## Grand Rapids Go Red for Women® Luncheon

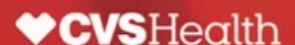
February 29, 2024 | 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Watermark Country Club

[heart.org/grandrapidsgored](https://heart.org/grandrapidsgored)



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Go Red for Women is nationally sponsored by



# Deliberate Deception, Never Trust a Gringo



By Jorge Martinez  
U.S. Veteran

Those who read and learn beyond enough to survive are not ordinary people. Tragically most Mexican Americans will never know their own language or history. Mostly, because the government deliberately lied, minimized and omitted relevant information during our developmental years. Those raised before computers were misled and often infected with a sense inferiority by their teachers. However, ignorance is not irreversible.

Today as an educated, traveled man, having attended multiple universities I am staggered at the malice these acts required. As a counselor and grass roots organizer who met Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta and Vicente Fox, president of Mexico, I am floored by the bigotry. Politicians and rich industrialists never meant for us to get an education. The Rockefellers, Carnegies, Fords, Guggenheims, Morgan's and Vanderbilts never valued our contributions. Outside of cheap labor and cannon fodder during war we were not seen as useful, nor of much value. Trump reminded us the majority populations sees as a burden. My journey through the halls of academia exposed horrible realities. Especially while at Tuloso-Midway high school in Corpus Christi Texas. As an example, I'll convey an experience with a Chicano school teacher I met while in the military. We became friends because we supported the Chicano movement of the 1970s during the Vietnam war. Rufino was a college graduate, native of Arizona and a teacher before being drafted. He could have become an officer but preferred to only serve two years as an enlisted man. I envied Rufino, assuming he was well educated. I've discovered he was not, as the American educational system is rigged to minimize or omit Mexican American contributions. I was disappointed Rufino, a college graduate did not know Mexico declared war on Germany after five Mexican oil tankers were sunk by German U-Boats in 1942. This information was omitted from our history books. Mexico sent the 201 Fighter Squadron to the Philippine Islands. Mexican President Manuel Avila Camacho declared war on Germany, Italy and Japan on May 28, 1942.

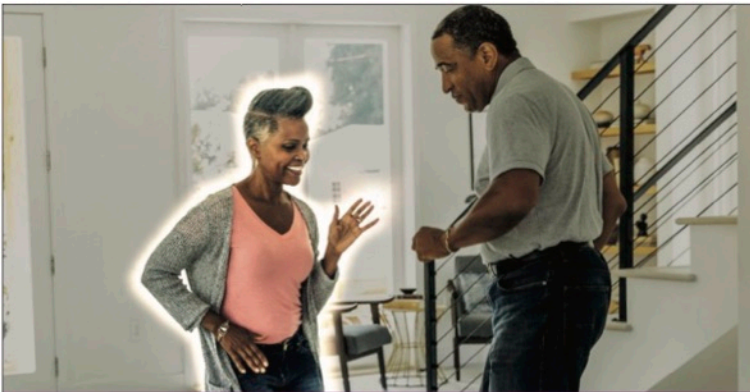
The fighter squadron known as the Aztec Eagles flew 96 missions fighting alongside expeditionary units in support of the allies. The Aztec Eagles were Mexico's only military unit to ever engage in combat outside the country's national borders. In the years after World War II, five of the pilots who began their flying careers in Escuadra 201 reached the rank of general in the Mexican Air Force. Aside from helping to fight the war, thousands of Mexican nationals crossed the border to work in agriculture as part of the Bracero Program, which gringo teachers emphasized. Not surprisingly, we also were repeatedly told all the defenders at the Alamo in 1836 were butchered by bloodthirsty, cowardly Mexicans who arrived to deny Americans their freedom. No one mentioned Anglo settlers swore an oath, vowed to adopt Catholicism and free their slaves, of which they did none.

We were also never told native Tejanos fought also alongside so-called Anglo heroes inside the Alamo against Santa Ana. Tejanos served with General Houston at the Battle of San Jacinto and Captain Juan Seguin who served in the Texas senate and reelected mayor in 1840. For such heroic men to be deliberately omitted brings shame upon all teachers who omitted their sacrifices because of xenophobia and bigotry. Yet, they are required to entrust our children to teachers and the Anglo view of history. There is tremendous cause for concern amongst XYZ Mexican-Americans who believe the myth of a post-racist's society. Mexican Americans who deny their ethnicity and identify as white like many of my relatives, because their ashamed of their Mexican roots, culture and heritage need only open a dozen books and become enlightened. Auto-hatred as displayed by Justice Clarence Thomas and ex-Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzalez based on racial identity is a common cause of suicide, dysphoria and social pathology.

*Aquellos que leen y aprenden lo suficiente para sobrevivir no son personas comunes y corrientes. Trágicamente, la mayoría de los mexicoamericanos nunca conocerán su propio idioma o historia. Principalmente porque el gobierno mintió, minimizó y omitió deliberadamente información relevante durante nuestros años de desarrollo. Aquellos que crecieron antes de las computadoras fueron engañados y a menudo infectados por un sentimiento de inferioridad por parte de sus maestros. Sin embargo, la ignorancia no es irreversible.*

*Hoy, como hombre educado y viajero, que ha asistido a varias universidades, estoy asombrado por la malicia que requirieron estos actos. Como consejero y organizador de base que conocí a César Chávez, Dolores Huerta y Vicente Fox, presidente de México, estoy anonadado por la intolerancia. Los políticos y los industriales ricos nunca quisieron que recibiéramos una educación. Los Rockefeller, Carnegie, Ford, Guggenheim, Morgan y Vanderbilt nunca valoraron nuestras contribuciones. Aparte de la mano de obra barata y la carne de cañón durante la guerra, no se nos consideraba útiles ni de mucho valor. Trump nos recordó que la mayoría de la población lo ve como una carga. Mi viaje por los pasillos del mundo académico expuso realidades horribles. Especialmente mientras estaba en la escuela secundaria Tuloso-Midway en Corpus Christi, Texas. Como ejemplo, transmitiré una experiencia con un maestro de escuela chicano que conocí mientras estaba en el ejército. Rufino era un graduado universitario, nativo de Arizona y profesor antes de ser reclutado. Envidiaba a Rufino, viendo que tuviera una buena educación. Descubrí que no lo era, ya que el sistema educativo estadounidense está manipulado para minimizar u omitir las contribuciones mexicano-estadounidenses. Rufino, un graduado universitario, no sabía que México declaró la guerra a Alemania después de que cinco petroleros mexicanos fueran hundidos por submarinos alemanes en 1942. Esta información se omitió en nuestros libros de historia. México envió el Escuadrón de Cazas 201 a las Islas Filipinas. El presidente mexicano Manuel Ávila Camacho declaró la guerra a Alemania, Italia y Japón el 28 de mayo de 1942.*

*Tampoco nos dijeron que los nativos tejanos también lucharon junto a los llamados héroes anglosajones dentro del Álamo contra Santa Ana. Hay tremendos motivos de preocupación entre los mexicano-estadounidenses de XYZ que creen en el mito de una sociedad posracista. Los mexicano-estadounidenses que niegan su origen étnico y se identifican como blancos como muchos de mis parientes, porque se avergüenzan de sus raíces, cultura y herencia mexicanas, sólo necesitan abrir una docena de libros e iluminarse.*



## Baile con confianza

En Trinity Health, su movimiento diario importa. Nuestros expertos en ortopedia quieren ayudarle a moverse con confianza y a no detenerse por el dolor articular. Ya sea que baila o sube las escaleras, juega pickleball, usted merece confiar en sus articulaciones y no sentir dolor. Los expertos en ortopedia de Trinity Health están aquí para volver a permitirle hacer lo que ama.



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ORTHOPEDICS

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We See All of You™

# COVID ON THE RISE - YOUR HEALTH MATTERS!

COVID is on the rise again and the CDC have devised a new way to track whether rates are on the rise - with 23 states currently suffering "very high" viral activity.

Since Thanksgiving, COVID numbers have risen, with a 3.1 percent increase in hospital admissions since December 9. And the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has used data to pinpoint the states which are currently worst affected by the latest COVID rise and categorize them into groups. Unfortunately, "very high" is the largest category with 23 states included.

According to CDC data, these states include: Arkansas, Delaware, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

*La COVID está aumentando nuevamente y los CDC han ideado una nueva forma de rastrear si las tasas están aumentando: actualmente 23 estados sufren una actividad viral "muy alta".*

*Desde el Día de Acción de Gracias, las cifras de COVID han*



*aumentado, con un aumento del 3,1 por ciento en las admisiones hospitalarias desde el 9 de diciembre. Y los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades han utilizado datos para identificar los estados que actualmente están más afectados por el último aumento de COVID y clasificarlos en grupos. .*

*Desafortunadamente, "muy alta" es la categoría más grande con 23 estados incluidos.*

*Según datos de los CDC, estos estados incluyen: Arkansas, Delaware, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Carolina del Norte, Ohio, Carolina del Sur, Dakota del Sur, Vermont, Virginia Occidental y Wisconsin.*

## START YOUR CAREER IN HEALTHCARE

Career training programs at Grand Rapids Community College prepare you for in-demand jobs.

- Certified Nurse Aide
- Community Health Worker
- Direct Support Professional - Lakeshore Campus
- Medical Assistant
- Pharmacy Technician
- Phlebotomy Technician

[grcc.edu/Healthcare](http://grcc.edu/Healthcare)

# GRCC



158751 12/23

# ¡Desconecta para conectarte! / Disconnect to connect!



By Dr. Dadsy Torres

Recientemente, una amiga me compartió que su hija, una preadolescente había pasado por un proceso similar a romper con una adicción. Cabe decir que la palabra adicción tiene una connotación pesada, y ante eso utilizaré su sinónimo necesidad. Al indagar más sobre su revelación, ella mencionó que, como parte de un proceso disciplinario, le quitó el celular a su hija durante un tiempo. Después de unos días, su maternal proceso de observación la llevó a identificar, en las acciones de la joven, las etapas de la desintoxicación tecnológica, también conocida como détox digital.



Al principio las actitudes de la adolescente se pasearon entre la negación, la ansiedad y el aislamiento por la ausencia de su dispositivo. Poco tiempo después, sus conductas se transformaron positivamente. Regresaron las actividades creativas, retomó sus antiguos pasatiempos, se reintegró a las reuniones familiares e incluso comenzó a planear proyectos de emprendimiento para el futuro. Ante tal historia, me di a la tarea de investigar sobre los efectos del apego de los adolescentes a los recursos tecnológicos.

¿Qué es la necesidad tecnológica? La urgencia o adicción tecnológica ocurre al no poder acceder a las redes sociales y a las plataformas de entretenimiento en línea. De acuerdo con la psicóloga Marta Thomen, los síntomas de la necesidad tecnológica son similares a otras conductas de dependencia y pueden incluir ansiedad, irritabilidad y depresión. También causan desesperación, agotamiento

visual y estrés físico y mental. Otro aspecto perjudicial para los adolescentes es que la exposición a la luz azul de las pantallas interfiere con el sueño y hace que sea más difícil conciliar un buen descanso.

Sin embargo, la idea no es censurar la tecnología, pues a causa de la pandemia más reciente fue una alternativa para dar continuidad a procesos necesarios como la telemedicina y la enseñanza, entre muchos otros. Lo ideal es encontrar el equilibrio entre la vida cotidiana sana y saludable, llena de experiencias y la utilización prudente de los recursos tecnológicos.

Una desintoxicación digital consistente puede comenzar con incluir la desconexión como rutina, proponiendo un día de la semana sin tecnología y estableciendo una hora para guardar los dispositivos. Planificando actividades al aire libre para conectarse mejor con el mundo real y con las personas que les rodean. Es importante dar un buen ejemplo, pues resulta difícil motivar a los adolescentes a que limiten el uso de la tecnología si en el hogar los adultos están constantemente en sus dispositivos. Por último, es necesario fomentar el diálogo familiar y reflexionar acerca de que el consumo desmedido de contenidos "entretenedos" realmente es un intercambio de tiempo y salud.

*Recently, a friend shared with me that her daughter, a preteen, had gone through a process like breaking an addiction. It should be said that the word addiction has a heavy connotation, and in view of that I will use its synonym need. When asked more about her revelation, she mentioned that, as part of a disciplinary process, she took her daughter's cell phone away for a while. After a few days, her maternal observation process led her to identify, in the young woman's actions, the stages of technological detoxification, also known as digital detox.*

*At first, the teenager's attitudes ranged from denial, anxiety, and isolation due to the absence of her device. A short time later, her behavior was positively transformed. Creative activities returned, he resumed his old hobbies, rejoined family gatherings, and even began planning entrepreneurship projects for the future. Faced with such a story, I took on the task of researching the effects of adolescents' attachment to technological resources.*

*What is technological need? Technological urgency or addiction occurs from not being able to access social media and online entertainment platforms. According to psychologist Marta Thomen, the symptoms of technological neediness are like other dependency behaviours and can include anxiety, irritability, and depression. They also cause despair, visual exhaustion, and physical and mental stress. Another detrimental aspect for teens is that exposure to blue light from screens interferes with sleep and makes it harder to get a good night's sleep.*

*However, the idea is not to censor technology, because due to the most recent pandemic it was an alternative to give continuity to necessary processes such as telemedicine and teaching, among many others. The ideal is to find the balance between a healthy and healthy daily life, full of experiences and the prudent use of technological resources.*

*A consistent digital detox can start with including unplugging as a routine, proposing a tech-free day of the week, and setting a time to put devices away. Planning outdoor activities to better connect with the real world and the people around them. It's important to set a good example, because it's hard to motivate teens to limit their use of technology if adults are constantly on their devices at home. Finally, it is necessary to encourage family dialogue and reflect on the fact that the excessive consumption of "entertaining" content is really an exchange of time and health.*

## Consultas de atención primaria disponibles

Una buena salud comienza con una relación adecuada. A la hora de planificar su chequeo físico anual, o al enfrentar un problema de salud inesperado, los proveedores de atención primaria de Trinity Health están aquí para brindarle atención conveniente cerca de casa.



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CITA EN LÍNEA



Trinity Health

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# Mario Vargas Llosa en Puerto Rico

## Mario Vargas Llosa in Puerto Rico



By Dadsy J. Torres Rivera Ph. D

El pasado 10 de noviembre, el ganador del Premio Nobel de Literatura en 2010, Mario Vargas Llosa dictó un mensaje acerca de la importancia de defender y valorar la libertad. Este evento fue un regalo a la comunidad como parte de la celebración del décimo aniversario del Centro de Renovación Económica, Crecimiento y Excelencia mejor conocido como CRECE, fundado por el exgobernador de Puerto Rico, Luis Fortuño. En su mensaje, el autor fue relatando su recorrido desde sus iniciales convicciones comunistas y cómo éstas, a causa de las experiencias de injusticia, se transformaron en liberalistas.

En el evento, explicó el laureado escritor peruano, que para él la palabra liberalismo se refiere a la defensa del individuo frente al poder del Estado y cómo debe elevarse la igualdad como persona ante la ley. Asimismo, el liberalismo incluye el conjunto de principios que protegen a las personas, así como su vida, libertad y propiedad frente a cualquier abuso.

La trayectoria literaria de Vargas Llosa ha recibido importantes reconocimientos. Entre estos, el Premio Leopoldo Alas dado en 1959, el Premio Biblioteca Breve otorgado en 1962, Premio Rómulo Gallego de 1967 y el Premio Príncipe de Asturias de las Letras en 1986. En 1993, Vargas Llosa también recibió el Premio Planeta. En 1994 ganó el Premio Cervantes, el reconocimiento literario más importante del mundo hispano, y en 2010 fue galardonado con el Premio Nobel de Literatura por su compromiso con la libertad y la democracia.

En la proximidad del año 2024, la literatura y experiencia de este extraordinario escritor ofrece un caudal de conocimiento en beneficio de las futuras generaciones. Así éstas podrán actuar como los defensores de la libertad y en favor del desarrollo equitativo de los países. Inspirados en la reflexión de que es indispensable seguir batallando en favor de las ideas de la libertad, convencidos de que ellas traerán el progreso a los pueblos.

**On November 10, the winner of the 2010 Nobel Prize in Literature, Mario Vargas Llosa, delivered an eloquent message in Puerto Rico about the importance of defending and valuing freedom. This event was a gift to the community as part of the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Center for Economic Renewal, Growth and Excellence better known as CRECE, founded by the former governor of Puerto Rico, Luis Fortuño. In his message, the author recounted his journey from his initial communist convictions and how, because of the experiences of injustice, they were transformed into liberalists.**

*At the event, the award-winning Peruvian writer explained that for him the word liberalism refers to the defense of the individual against the power of the State and how equality as a person before the law should be raised. Likewise, liberalism includes the set of principles that protect people, as well as their life, liberty, and property from abuse.*



*Vargas Llosa's literary career has received important recognitions. Among these, the Leopoldo Alas Prize awarded in 1959, the Biblioteca Breve Prize awarded in 1962, the Rómulo Gallego Prize in 1967 and the Prince of Asturias Award for Literature in 1986. In 1993, Vargas Llosa also received the Planeta Prize. In 1994 he won the Cervantes Prize, the most important literary award in the Hispanic world, and in 2010 he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature for his commitment to freedom and democracy.*

*As the year 2024 approaches, the literature and experience of this extraordinary writer offers a wealth of knowledge for the benefit of future generations. In this way, they will be able to act as defenders of freedom and in favor of the equitable development of countries. Inspired by the reflection that it is essential to continue fighting in favor of the ideas of freedom, convinced that they will bring progress to the peoples.*



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Radio D.J.'s are joining daily to empower our community through a real respect for diversity! We must tear down the walls that separate our community and advance racial and social equality. Friendship and respect are a good place to start the dialogue. Music is universal! Robert LaDew R.I.P. brother! Your legacy in Grand Rapids is alive and well!

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# 97.3 FM URBAN MIX • THE HEAT

# January Events / Eventos en Enero

## Christmas & Holiday Traditions

January 1 - 5, 2024

Grand Rapids, Mi.

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

*Esta exposición rinde homenaje a las culturas y las tradiciones navideñas de todo el mundo ha crecido hasta contar con 46 exhibiciones únicas que representan hechos y folklore, pasados y presentes. La Universidad de Michigan Health-West: Christmas & Holiday Traditions es un sello distintivo de la exposición Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park.*

## Harlem Globetrotters 2024

World Tour

January 4, 2024

Kalamazoo, Mi

Don't miss your chance to be a part of the world-famous Harlem Globetrotters global tour as they take the court with moments of extreme basketball innovation and unparalleled fan FUN! See the Globetrotter stars LIVE as they DRIBBLE, SPIN, SLAM, and DUNK their way past their relentless rivals, the Washington Generals! You'll be amazed by new levels of mind-blowing trick shots, expert ball-handling skills, and BIG LAUGHS with unrivaled opportunities for pre-game, post-game and in-game fan engagement!

[www.wingseventcenter.com/events/2024/harlem-globetrotters-2024-world-tour](http://www.wingseventcenter.com/events/2024/harlem-globetrotters-2024-world-tour)

*¡No pierdas la oportunidad de ser parte de la mundialmente famosa gira mundial de los Harlem Globetrotters mientras salen a la cancha con momentos de extrema innovación en el baloncesto y DIVERSIÓN sin igual para los fanáticos!*  
[www.wingseventcenter.com/events/2024/harlem-globetrotters-2024-world-tour](http://www.wingseventcenter.com/events/2024/harlem-globetrotters-2024-world-tour)

## Cirque du Soleil - Crystal

January 4, 2024

## Detroit, Mi

Cirque du Soleil's CRYSTAL – a one-of-a-kind production that brings the circus arts to the ice for the very first time, returns to Detroit's Little Caesars Arena from January 4 to January 7, 2024, just in time for the city's vibrant downtown winter scene. The show's return marks the 14th time Cirque du Soleil has toured to Detroit.

With seven jaw-dropping traditional circus acts all thrillingly adapted for Cirque du Soleil's first foray into a brand new creative territory – the ice – CRYSTAL takes audiences on an unforgettable journey into the vivid and whimsical world of imagination. *CRYSTAL del Cirque du Soleil, una producción única que lleva las artes circenses al hielo por primera vez, regresa al Little Caesars Arena de Detroit del 4 al 7 de enero de 2024, justo a tiempo para la vibrante ciudad. escena de invierno en el centro. El regreso del espectáculo marca la decimo cuarta vez que el Cirque du Soleil realiza una gira por Detroit.*

## Ultimate Fishing Show

January 11, 2024

Novi, Mi

Michigan's largest pure-fishing show. This show is all about fishing tackle, fishing trips, fishing boats and features: Lake Ultimate, Trout Pond, Hawg Trough, Seminar Stages, Fish Fry and more. The show appeals to anglers of all ages with all levels of experience. Detroit is the largest freshwater fishing market in the U.S. ...and now it has the Ultimate Fishing. Show in the best suburban expo center!

*El espectáculo de pesca pura más grande de Michigan. Este espectáculo trata sobre aparejos de pesca, viajes de pesca, barcos de pesca y características: Lake Ultimate, Trucha Estanque, Comedero Hawg, Etapas de seminarios, Freír pescado y más. El espectáculo atrae a Pescadores de todas las edades con todos los niveles de experiencia. ¡Espectáculo en el mejor centro de exposiciones suburbano!*

## World of Winter - Ice Park + Food

Truck Rally

January 20, 2024

Grand Rapids, Mi

Join us for frosty fun at the Ice Park! Chill out and enjoy cool games, delicious food from our lineup of food trucks and jam with the musical maestros at Frosty Boyz Entertainment.

Learn the ropes and test-drive groove instrument it's a frozen party you won't want to miss!

Explore winter in a new light. Learn more at <https://worldofwintergr.com/>  
*¡Únete a nosotros para divertírte heladamente en el Ice Park! Relájate y disfruta de juegos geniales, comida deliciosa de nuestra línea de camiones de comida y disfruta de los maestros musicales de Frosty Boyz Entertainment. Obtenga más información en <https://worldofwintergr.com/>*

## Winterfest 2024

January 25 - 28, 2024

Grand Haven, Mi

Winterfest is a full weekend of winter fun in Grand Haven, Michigan during the last week of January. The snow is upon us, and with Michigan's winters being long and cold, this is a perfect time to get out and be active. There are plenty of activities to keep everyone warm and having a great time. This is an interactive festival with many participants getting involved from the very young to the old. Activities are indoors as well as outdoors.

*Winterfest es un fin de semana completo de diversión invernal en Grand Haven, Michigan, durante la última semana de enero. La nieve está sobre nosotros y, dado que los inviernos de Michigan son largos y fríos, este es el momento perfecto para salir y estar activo. Hay muchas actividades para mantener a todos abrigados y pasar un buen rato. Este es un festival interactivo en el que participan muchos participantes, desde los más pequeños hasta los mayores. Las actividades son tanto en el interior como al aire libre.*

## Winter Bridal Show of West

Michigan

January 27, 2024

Grand Rapids, Mi

Let the Wedding Planning Begin! Engaged couples are invited to attend and meet a wide assortment of leading wedding professionals face-to-face to view, sample, and make their dream wedding a reality. Find the right fit for you and plan your wedding, all under one roof! A variety of wedding vendors offer-

ring show discounts, runway fashion show, and a chance to win over \$5000 in exciting door prizes are a few perks to attending this bridal show. Sign up now to be entered for door prizes at <https://www.kohlerexpo.com/winter-bridal-show>.

*¡Que comience la planificación de la boda! Las parejas comprometidas están invitadas a asistir y conocer cara a cara a una amplia variedad de destacados profesionales de bodas para ver, probar y hacer realidad la boda de sus sueños. Encuentre la opción adecuada para usted y planifique su boda, ¡todo bajo un mismo techo! Regístrese ahora para participar en los premios en [www.kohlerexpo.com/winter-bridal-show](http://www.kohlerexpo.com/winter-bridal-show).*

## I-500 Snowmobile Race

January 28 - February 3, 2024

Sault Sainte Marie, Mi

The International 500 Snowmobile Race is not just Michigan's most thrilling experience for riders and motorsport fans of all kinds, it's not just the United States either, or for that matter, North America's! It's the most grueling and prestigious snowmobile race in the World!

Witness the best snowmobile riders in the world taking to the banked turns that would make NASA queasy. The I-500 Snowmobile Race guarantees to rock every sense you have: the roar of the engine, the bite of the cold, the glory of the race, the sweet smell of victory. Fans get into it. The emotion is contagious. It just can't be stopped! And, the best part, these race-fueled snow monsters are only part of the excitement!

*La carrera internacional de motos de nieve 500 no es solo la experiencia más emocionante de Michigan para motociclistas y fanáticos de los deportes de motor de todo tipo, ¡tampoco es solo los Estados Unidos o, en realidad, los de América del Norte! La carrera de motos de nieve I-500 garantiza sacudir todos los sentidos que tengas: el rugido del motor, el frío, la gloria de la carrera, el dulce olor de la victoria. La emoción es contagiosa. ¡Simplemente no se puede detener!*





Zeeland Show & Shine Car Show on Main Street Zeeland!

# Zeeland's Show & Shine Car Show & Cruise

July 8, 2023

Zeeland, Michigan held their Annual 29th Show & Shine Car Show Downtown. This event closed downtown Main street, but businesses were open for people to do some shopping, access restaurants to eat out, enjoy deserts and visit local bars to have a beer! There were plenty of opportunities to check out some of the awesome vehicles such as Classics, Muscle cars, Hot Rods, Trucks, Custom cars, Vintage & Foreign cars.

If you stopped in to check under the hood, you would have seen stock engines re-modifieds and original engines. There were plenty of fine looking cars with new paint jobs, some were kept very much original. As for tires, white walls and black tires with new rims carried the day. Awards of Dash plaques were given out to car participants & People's Choice Award for the best car everyone voted for! It was a great time to enjoy!

Contact Homero  
(616)893-3906  
deeho123@comcast.net

## Updates for Car Shows:

Michigan International Auto Show  
February 1 - 4, 2024  
DeVos Place  
303 Monroe Ave NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
Adults: \$12.00 / Children(6 -14): \$5.00

Detroit AutoRama  
March 1 -3, 2024  
Huntington Place  
1 Washington Blvd  
Detroit, MI 48226  
Adults: \$27.00 / Children (6 - 12): \$10.00

Somos pocos pero locos en lowriding!  
Having a car event?



1973 Ford Pantera De Tomaso looking good according to Calvin! Back to the Future!

1964 Chevy Corvair owner Craig & Lila Meyer from Zeeland, MI

1950 Jeepster Convertible owner Bob Schuitema from Holland, MI

Pink Car is exciting with this little girl!

1964 Chevy Grand Sport Corvette owner Rick & Michele Kiel from West Olive, MI

1949 Chevy Pickup owner Ray de Longpre from Dorr, MI

1957 Ford Ranchero owner Ron & Helen Van Farowe from Hudsonville, MI

1958 DeSoto Fireflite owner Ron Van Zytveld from Hudsonville, MI

1939 Chevy Master Deluxe owner Ken Breuker from Zeeland, MI

1974 Ford Mustang II owner Alan & Sandi Hartman

1950's British Flag on car is outstanding!

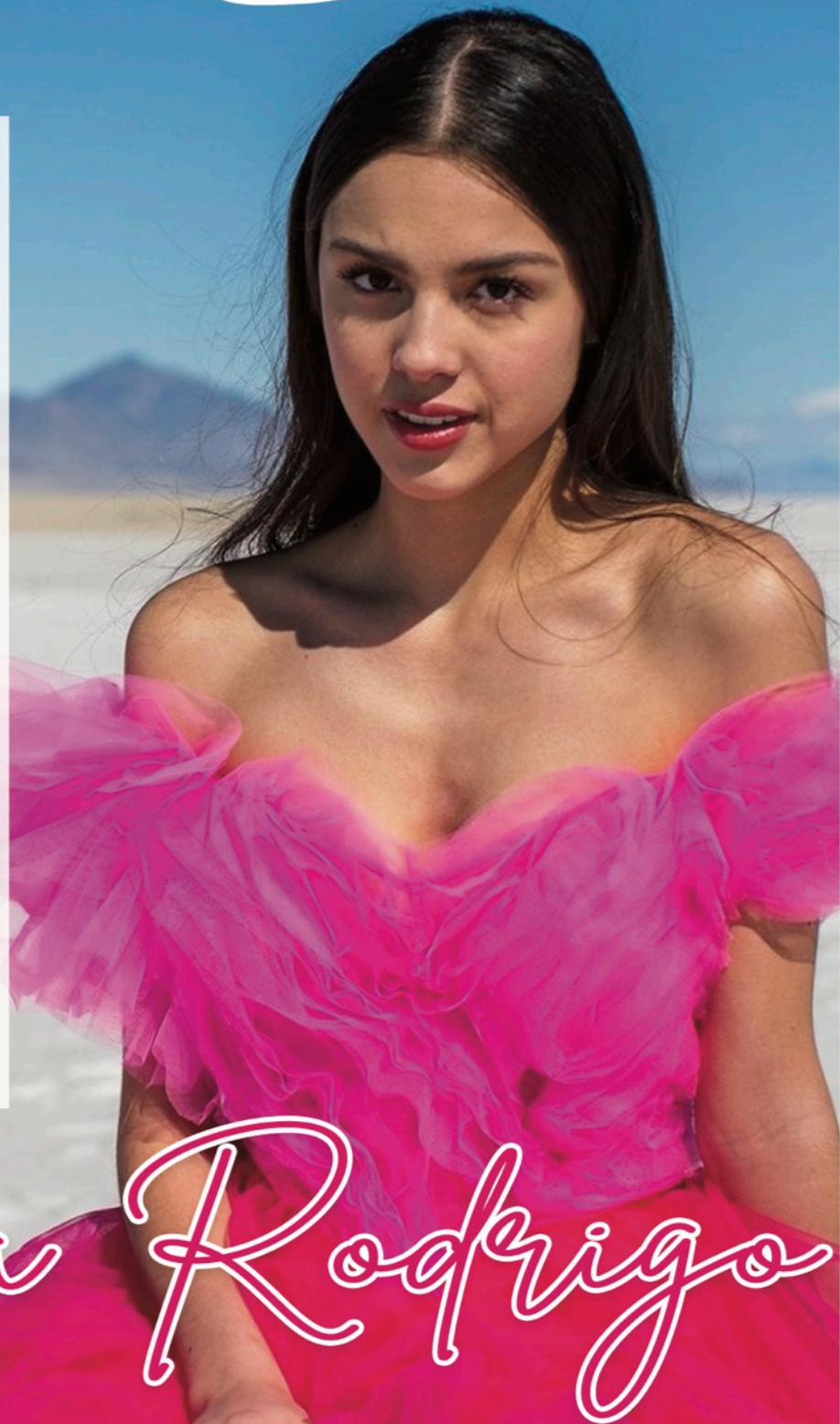
1931 Ford Coupe owner Elroy Kusters from Coro, MI

# La Voz

Olivia Rodrigo is a sharp-penned singer-songwriter . After getting her start acting in roles on Disney's 'Bizaardvark' and 'High School Musical: The Musical: The Series,' the Cali native quickly leveraged her budding stardom into a Grammy-winning music career, flagshipped by the stunning performance of debut single "drivers license." The track topped the Billboard Hot 100 for eight weeks in 2021 and preceded the release of Rodrigo's first album Sour, which spawned four top 10 hits – including No. 1 followup single "Good 4 U" – and eventually set the record for longest-running debut album in the top 10 of the Billboard 200 in the 21st century. Rodrigo returned with her highly anticipated second album 'Guts' in 2023, achieving her third No. 1 on the Hot 100 that year with "Vampire."

*Olivia Rodrigo es una cantante y actriz estadounidense. Después de comenzar a actuar en papeles en 'Bizaardvark' de Disney y 'High School Musical: The Musical: The Series', la nativa de Cali rápidamente aprovechó su incipiente estrellato para lograr una carrera musical ganadora de un Grammy, destacada por la impresionante interpretación del sencillo debut "Licencia de conducir." La canción encabezó el Billboard Hot 100 durante ocho semanas en 2021 y precedió al lanzamiento del primer álbum de Rodrigo, Sour, que generó cuatro éxitos entre los 10 primeros, incluido el sencillo número uno, "Good 4 U", y finalmente estableció el récord de mayor duración. Álbum debut en el top 10 del Billboard 200 en el siglo XXI. Rodrigo regresó con su muy esperado segundo álbum 'Guts' en 2023, logrando su tercer No. 1 en el Hot 100 ese año con "Vampire".*

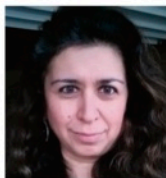
Olivia Rodrigo







## THE PBR PENDLETON WHISKY VELOCITY TOUR



The PBR Pendleton Whisky Velocity Tour is coming to the VanAndel Arena in January, and that's no bull! It is an adrenaline-charged two days of exciting, edge of your seat action that you do not want to miss. You may not realize you are holding your breath for those eight second rides.

**By Lisa Wiseman** PBR (Professional Bull Riders) was founded in 1992 in Pueblo, Colorado, by twenty bull riders who wanted to break away from the traditional rodeo scene and wanted to take the sport of bullriding mainstream. That vision has become reality, as today, bull riding is seen in more than 130 countries and territories around the world. It is the premier bull riding organization.

In 2021, PBR entered a new partnership with Pluto TV bringing the wild west into the streaming frontier. PBR RIDEPASS has streamed exclusively on Pluto TV, featuring hundreds of hours of live professional bull riding, rodeo, and other Western sporting events. This includes PBR's Unleash the Beast and the Pendleton Whisky Velocity Tour.

More than eight hundred bull riders from around the world, including the United States, Australia, Brazil, Canada, and Mexico hold PBR memberships.

The Whisky Velocity Tour is the primary and most important qualifying series for forty bull riders to earn valuable points needed to qualify for a spot in the coveted Unleash the Beast Tour, and ultimately the PBR World Finals. The finals will take place in Arlington, Texas May 18 & 19, with a preshow performance the night before with Kid Rock at Kid Rock's Rock N Rodeo.

Last year's World Champion, Rafael Jose de Brito, made PBR history when he became the first rider ever to win the world title and Rookie of the Year honors in the same season. The 31-year-old Brazilian came to America in 2022 and came from behind in the standings to win the World Finals event and 2023 PBR World Championship.

But the cowboys are not the only athletes on this tour competing for cash and a championship. There are also the animal athletes. With names like Bodacious, Bushwacker, Smooth Operator and Code Blue, the bulls are also vying for the title of Yeti PBR World Champion Bull. That title is currently held by Ridin' Solo, who also held the 2022 title. The average PBR bull weighs between 1,600 and 1,800 pounds

The PBR Pendleton Whisky Velocity Tour rolls into the VanAndel Arena with two shows. January 19 at 7:00 p.m. and January 20, at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are still available through Ticketmaster and the VanAndel Arena box office, or also on the PBR website ([www.pbr.com](http://www.pbr.com)).

**El PBR Pendleton Whisky Velocity Tour llegará al VanAndel Arena en enero.**

**El Whisky Velocity Tour es la serie de clasificación principal y más importante para que cuarenta jinetes de toros ganen los valiosos puntos necesarios para clasificarse para un lugar en el codiciado Unleash the Beast Tour y, en última instancia, en las Finales Mundiales de PBR. La final se llevará a cabo en**

**Arlington, Texas, el 18 y 19 de Mayo, con una presentación previa al espectáculo la noche anterior con Kid Rock en Kid Rock's Rock N Rodeo.**

**El Campeón Mundial del año pasado, Rafael José de Brito, hizo historia en PBR cuando se convirtió en el primer piloto en ganar el título mundial y los honores de Novato del Año en la misma temporada. El brasileño de 31 años llegó a Estados Unidos en 2022 y remontó en la clasificación para ganar la Final Mundial y el Campeonato Mundial PBR 2023.**

**El PBR Pendleton Whisky Velocity Tour llega al VanAndel Arena con dos espectáculos. 19 de enero a las 19:00 horas. y 20 de enero, a las 20.00 horas. Los boletos aún están disponibles a través de Ticketmaster y la taquilla del VanAndel Arena, o también en el sitio web de PBR ([www.pbr.com](http://www.pbr.com)).**



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# SCOOTER'S CARS PAGE



By Scooter

## LAVOZ JAN 2024- PURPLE 2002 LEXUS-OWNED BY BRIAN.

A while back I almost got blinded by this mega bright and cool, purple Lexus! I drove up to it as it was parked and met Brian the proud owner of his 2002 custom / tuner machine. He gave me the run down on it, like this, its running 18" performance radials and coil overs and an airbag system, racing control arms and a bunch more handling goodies. And this Lexus engine has already been totally performance built at the factory, so it's always ready to rip and get big time, to the max. A super thank you Brian for letting me put it



in LAVOZ, Scooter



## LAVOZ JANUARY , RED WITH FLAMES, CHEVY BLAZER LOW RIDER, SECRET OWNER=

Sadly Scooter stayed around it for hours but never found anyone near this fine Blazer. It is a lowrider with complete hydraulics, and I just gotta add to this. I tossed down a beach towel, that a lady was carrying with 3 or 4 more when she saw me trying to bend over far enough to see the under body from the front and the back as it was laying on its rocker panels. So I was able to see enough of the hydraulics to see that its running front back, side to side, and looks like 3 wheeling etc. Plus as I was a professional custom painter for e it feels like a 100 years I can truly say it had been painted by a experienced professional painter of both the red and the super perfect flame job done on it. The interior is like new, and it looked like it had a mega sound system in it also. An ultra fine low rider for sure!!!

## LAVOZ JANUARY- 50s black FORD SCHOOL BUS, Owner= Kevin Schmit and family. Kevin and his wife had a nice 60s

Chevy hardtop, but it got very crowded, to be able for the whole family to have fun at the cruise nights and car shows in their home area. So Kev sold it and grabbed up this 50s Ford what I call "half a bus" ! It was in pretty good shape, and all they did was put in a newer 351 V-8 with a 4 barrel and had it sandblasted and painted it like it shows today to the no rust body. They also got it to be in perfect mechanical shape and added a sweets set of dual glass packs, new brakes and radiator and all of the mechanics and heat system is new. It's also got power front disc brakes to be safer on the freeways. They also put in newly re-covered seats with seat belts, and a covered porta-potty area in the one back inside corner. This way there's generally one of the family around the bus that can tell the "story" behind it. Old Scooter's got to say on this one, as the BEACH BOYS sang, the Schmit's are having FUN FUN FUN!



## LAVOZ , JAN. 1940 CHEVROLET PICK-UP TRUCK, OWNERS ROSE & BRENT (BOTH MUST BE IN TEXT!!)

Rose and Brent are having a blast with their show quality 1940 Chevrolet pick-up truck they bought a while back at the 1997, STREET ROD NATIONALS show down south and drove it home to West Michigan. It's running a New factory crate 350 V-8 out to be a 383 cube engine with all kinds of speed goodies, hooked up to a stiffened up 400 Turbo transmission and a bullet proof Ford 9 inch rear axle. Plus it's got Mustang II power steering, power windows and fully customized interior, and oh yes, that two tone colored paint is to die for when you get up close to it! Scooter thanks, so much for allowing me to get it in LAVOZ magazine. Have fun to the max you two!!

## LAVOZ JANUARY = 1958 RED CHEVROLET 2 DOOR DEL-RAY, OWNER-DENNIS SPENCER

Back in 1974, Dennis Spencer bought this 1958 Chevy Del-Ray 2 door from the original owner in nice but stock condition. Now Dennis has got it running a built up 409 Chevy V-8 with three carbs on it, plus its got a T-10 4 speed transmission with A HURST shifter, a Mallory ignition system, Sanderson headers, plus, custom leather from LA trim, To finish this article, Dennis asked me to be sure to give a THANK YOU to his wife, Libby, plus, Gale Paul and everyone at Spencer Auto Body! Thanks to you Dennis from Scooter ride in style friend.



## CORRECTION:

## LAVOZ DECEMBER, YELLOW, 2018, LS CAMARO, OWNER= TONY COPELAND.

Twony Copeland has owned it long enough to have it lookin real sharp and then some. It's got a complete custom interior done up in Peanut Butter colored leather, and of course it's got every GM accessory they can put on a 18 Camaro. Plus he's upgraded to 22 inch performance tires, that are 7 inches wide on the front and 10 inches wide on the rear. It also has the 6.2 liter, LS 455 horsepower V-8 that runs ZERO to 60 in 4 seconds! Lets just say that it will really get with the program whenever Twony wants to. Thanks for sharing your fine ride with LAVOZ readers, Scooter.



# Destiny Craig

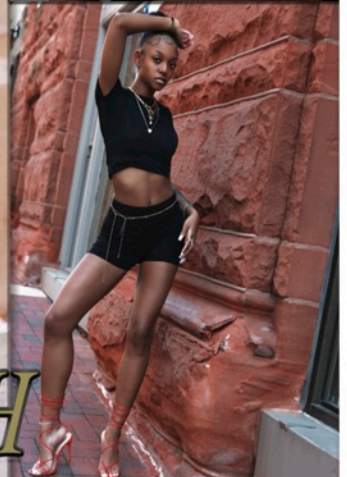
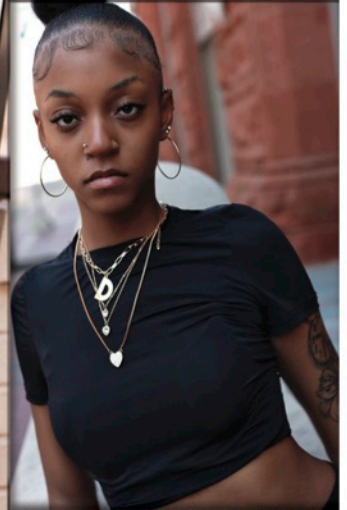
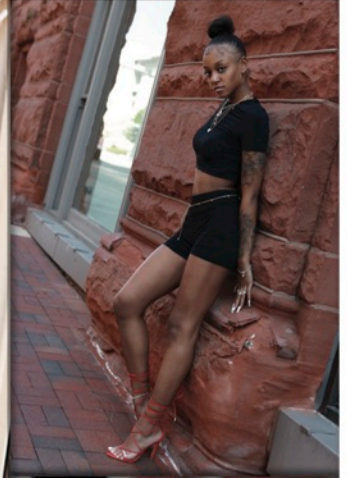
19 year old African American runway & print Model born and raised in Grand Rapids, MI. I've always had a passion for Modeling since I was 14 years of age & have decided to take Action in pursuing Modeling as of age 19. Currently working on signing with a Model Agency as I've had the opportunity of participating & being privileged of being displayed in multiple Magazines for Modeling. I'm consistently challenging myself in this field striving to improve as a well-rounded & Creative Model.

Currently working in the Health Care Industry as a CNA as well as working within the GR Post Office. Some of my favorite hobbies are in Health & Fitness, Playing Basketball, Reading on my leisure time and Traveling. Future goals are to merge myself in the Real Estate Field as well as utilizing my Creative Vision in Interior Designing & Decorating.

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\* multiple package deals \*



## 2024 JANUARY MODEL SEARCH





# What You Can Do to Help Prevent Chronic Conditions

Chronic conditions affect six in 10 adults in the United States – and account for the vast majority of the \$3.5 trillion Americans spend each year on their health care.

The definition of a chronic condition is broad: the term is applied to any condition that lasts one year or more and requires ongoing medical attention or limits daily activities. The primary chronic conditions affecting Americans are heart disease, cancer and diabetes.

MI Blues Perspectives compiled a series to help you understand the facts about some of the major chronic conditions affecting Americans today.

- ALS
- Alzheimer's Disease
- Arthritis
- Asthma
- Cancer
- Cavities
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
- Diabetes
- Epilepsy
- Heart disease
- HIV

## • Obesity

Some chronic conditions are caused by a mix of genetic and environmental factors, while other chronic conditions are more directly influenced by diet and lifestyle choices. While not all chronic conditions can be prevented, there are steps that everyone can take that will both lower the risk of being diagnosed with some of the most prominent chronic conditions, and to better manage the symptoms of existing conditions:

- **Check in with your doctor:** Ensure you're keeping regular checkups with your doctor on your schedule and are sticking to the recommended screening schedule for blood pressure, cholesterol and certain cancers.
- **Decrease alcohol use:** Excessive drinking can lead to the development of chronic diseases and other serious problems. Excessive drinking includes binge drinking – consuming four or more drinks on occasion for a woman or five or more drinks on occasion for a man – as well as heavy drinking, which means consuming eight or more drinks in a week for women or 15 or more drinks per week for men.

Improve your diet: Fewer than one in 10 adults and adolescents eat enough fruit and vegetables, while most Americans eat too much sodium and over-consume sugary drinks. By making small changes to your diet like adding more fruits and vegetables, cutting out processed foods and switching to non-sweetened beverages, you can make a significant difference in your long-term health. Visit [www.choosemyplate.gov/](http://www.choosemyplate.gov/) for help in building healthy eating habits.

• **Increase exercise:** Most adults and high school-aged students don't get enough physical activity – putting them at a higher risk for heart disease, type 2 diabetes and cancer. Moving just a little bit more can improve your heart health – and doesn't have to mean an intense workout. Moderate-intensity aerobic activities like brisk walking, gardening or biking boost your heart rate

without too much effort, and at least 150 minutes of this kind of activity are recommended per week. Before changing your exercise routine, talk with your doctor.

• **Prioritize sleep:** Rest is essential to supporting your body's systems as you navigate the challenges of everyday life. Insufficient sleep is linked to an increased risk of type 2 diabetes. Adults need at least seven hours of sleep every night. Find tips on how to improve your sleep here.

• **Stop using tobacco:** Tobacco use is linked to an increased risk of the major chronic conditions of cancer, heart disease and diabetes, as well as COPD. Within one year of quitting smoking, your risk of heart disease drops to half of that of someone who still smokes. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan has resources available to help you quit tobacco.

**Las enfermedades crónicas afectan a seis de cada 10 adultos en Estados Unidos y representan la gran mayoría de los 3.5 billones de dólares que los estadounidenses gastan cada año en atención médica.**

**La definición de condición crónica es amplia: el término se aplica a cualquier condición que dura un año o más y requiere atención médica continua o limita las actividades diarias.**

**Las principales enfermedades crónicas que afectan a los estadounidenses son las enfermedades cardíacas, el cáncer y la diabetes.**

- ELA
- Enfermedad de Alzheimer
- Artritis
- Asma
- Cáncer
- Caries
- Enfermedad Pulmonar Obstructiva Crónica (EPOC)

- Diabetes
- Epilepsia
- Cardiopatía
- VIH
- Obesidad

**Algunas enfermedades crónicas son causadas por una combinación de factores genéticos y ambientales, mientras que otras enfermedades crónicas están influenciadas más directamente por la dieta y el estilo de vida. Si bien no todas las afecciones crónicas se pueden prevenir.**

[www.mibluesperspectives.com](http://www.mibluesperspectives.com)



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*Cadillac, Michigan*

*Best Photogo of 2023*

*Lily Hlasenbank*



Photographer:

*Anthony Lytle*

*Most Improved of 2023*

*Eboni Miller*



Photographer:

*JJ Drayton-Kennedy*

*Most Inspirational Model*

*Emma Grace*



Photographer:

*Jon Lybeck*

*Best Photographer of 2023*



*Vince Bloom*

*Models of The year for 2023*



*Leandra Marie*

*&*



*Selena Baughman*

# CLASSIFIEDS

## ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT SENIOR-

Western Michigan University's College of Aviation, located in Battle Creek, seeks to fill an administrative assistant senior position. For complete description, minimum requirements and application procedures, visit our website at: [www.wmich.edu/hr/jobs](http://www.wmich.edu/hr/jobs). Posting # S579P. Only applications submitted through this site will be considered. <https://wmich.edu/>

## AVIATION MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN-

Western Michigan University's College of Aviation, located in Battle Creek, seeks to fill an aviation maintenance technician position. For complete description, minimum requirements and application procedures, visit our website at: [www.wmich.edu/hr/jobs](http://www.wmich.edu/hr/jobs). Posting # S591P. Only applications submitted through

this site will be considered. WMU is an AA/EO employer. Minorities, women, veterans, individuals with disabilities and all other qualified individuals are encouraged to apply <https://wmich.edu/>

## EXECUTIVE SECRETARY -

Responsible for the budgetary duties for the Health Administration programs in the School of Health Sciences, including credit card, grant management, payroll and overloads, monitors professional development spending and budget updates including working with SAP. Monitors and maintains Health Administration graduate program applications progress in conjunction with Graduate Admissions and CMUOnline, organizes and arranges weekend seminars, orientations, comprehensive examinations, and graduation functions. Manages waitlists, registration

exception requests, independent study courses, and incomplete and deferred grade records. Maintains official document files, scholarship awards and funds, committee membership and minutes of the division and program meetings. Maintains Health Administration websites, and the program directors' calendars as needed. Works with SAP and other databases related to program management. Creates and maintains files related to program management in Outlook and on the S-Drive. Acts as the coordinator for the University's participation with UMI/Proquest for submission of dissertations and theses. Also assists the other School of Health Sciences clerical staff with the coverage of the office professional duties. Apply to [www.jobs.cmich.edu/login](http://www.jobs.cmich.edu/login)

## Aspiring Journalist

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

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

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