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Bilingual Magazine

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# MOVE US FORWARD OR BUST! ¡HACIA ADELANTE O TRONAMOS!



Celebrating the defeat of President Trump has consumed the vast majority of Americans who cast our votes for a change in direction and

By Dr. José A. Flores the restoration of our Union. Now, our nation must look forward and advance the "will of the people" for a return to professional administration of a government that requires knowledgeable, highly qualified, and skilled diplomatic leaders in all offices of responsibility. We must eradicate the tradition of "to

the victor go the spoils," and the placement of unqualified family members in positions of power in our administration simply because they are family. "Nepotism" in public service is the most egregious violation of public trust! The second is "cronyism" or placing one's friends and political contributors into positions simply because of the size of their contributions to one's campaign.

Under a new administration comes the hope that things will be different. A breath of fresh air requires a deeper sense of responsibility and transparency in the administration of "the people's government!" The Biden administration and the Democratic Party must act responsibly or raise the ire of a distrustful electorate which swings left and right, like a pendulum on a Grandfather's clock. History must be our reminder of what can go wrong! I have confidence that we are going to move forward!

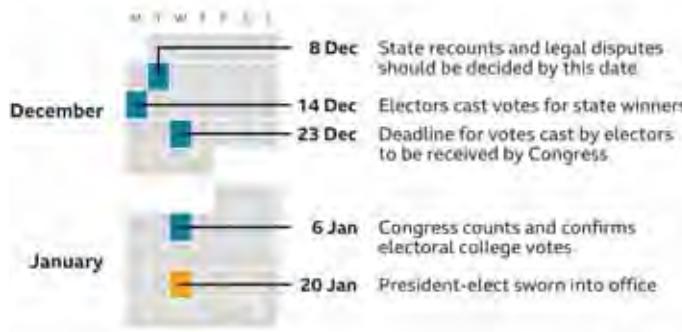
What does it mean to move forward? In my opinion, Americans want an economy that works for everyone! Moving forward requires an intentional reform to the distribution of wealth in America. We cannot continue to be the richest nation on earth and witness the highest rates of incarceration and poverty.

According to World Atlas, "The United States is the world leader in incarceration, despite the nationwide incarceration rate being at its lowest in 20 years, with about 25% of the world's prison population being in the US. The United States currently has over 2.1 million total prisoners. The prison population in 1972 was 200,000, almost 2 million less than it is today. The disparity in prisoner population also demonstrates that Black and Latinos lead in numbers of the incarcerated. The problems with the prison system only continue when one looks at the obvious racial and gender disparities. For example, while black inmates make up nearly 40% of the prison population, they only make up 13.40% of the total US population. Native Americans represent 2.30% of the incarcerated population and only 1.30% of the population. 58.70% of the prison population is white, which includes Hispanic Americans. We must begin a serious campaign to reduce incarceration rates and rehabilitate our prison population. Prison reform is needed now! Salvage the salvageable and create a "just system of justice." Is it too much to ask that we live the creed, Justice for All?

According to Poverty USA, In 2018, 38.1 million people lived in poverty in the USA. That means the poverty rate for 2018 was 11.8%. Poverty does not strike all demographics equally. For example, in 2018, 10.6% of men, and 12.9% of women lived in poverty. Along the same lines, the poverty rate for married couples in 2018 was only 4.7% - but the poverty rate for single-parent families with no wife present was 12.7%, and for single-parent families with no husband present was 24.9%.

## Key dates ahead of Joe Biden's inauguration

There are several important deadlines in the coming weeks



In 2018, the poverty rate for people living with a disability was 25.7%. That's nearly 4 million people living with a disability—in poverty." There is also a deep disparity among races and ethnic groups in America when it comes to poverty "According to 2018 US Census Data, the highest poverty rate by race is found among Native Americans (25.4%), with Blacks (20.8%) having the second highest poverty rate, and Hispanics (of any race) having the third highest poverty rate (17.6%). Whites had a poverty rate of 10.1%, while Asians had a poverty rate at 10.1%."

America must pay our working-class a decent wage for labor performed and the wages must provide adequately for a family to sustain itself and forge a pathway

toward greater income and wealth. This must include education, healthcare affordable housing and the level of prosperity that includes the ability for a family to enjoy annual vacations.

Job creation in a futuristic economy focused on clean energy, new infrastructure and efficient transportation systems must be initiated by our new administration! Put people first! Jobs! Jobs! Jobs! We must put Americans to work in higher paying jobs that lead to improving our standard of living and bring down our carbon footprint that threatens our planet. Clean energy, solar energy, clean, carbonless transportation systems, and redesigned housing with energy efficient systems must bring down the cost of living for America's working class while creating wealth for all. Is this notion idealistic! Absolutely, but necessary! We must move Forward or Bust!

*Celebrar la derrota del presidente Trump ha consumido a la gran mayoría de los estadounidenses que votaron por un cambio de dirección y la restauración de nuestra Unión. Ahora, nuestra nación debe mirar hacia adelante y promover la "voluntad del pueblo" de regresar a la administración profesional de un gobierno que requiere líderes diplomáticos con conocimientos, altamente calificados y capacitados en todas las oficinas de responsabilidad.*

*Debemos erradicar la tradición de "Al vencedor van los despojos" incluso la colocación de familiares no calificados en posiciones de poder en nuestra administración simplemente porque son familia. ¡El "nepotismo" en el servicio público es la más flagrante violación de la confianza pública! El segundo es el "amiguismo" o colocar a los amigos y contribuyentes políticos en puestos simplemente por la cantidad de sus contribuciones a la campaña. Bajo una nueva administración surge la esperanza de que las cosas sean diferentes. Un respiro de aire fresco requiere un sentido más profundo de responsabilidad y transparencia en la administración del "gobierno del pueblo". La administración Biden y el Partido Demócrata deben actuar con responsabilidad o provocar la ira de un electorado desconfiado que se balancea de izquierda a derecha, como un péndulo en el reloj de un abuelo. ¡La historia debe ser nuestro recordatorio de lo que puede salir mal!*

*Tengo confianza en que vamos a seguir adelante! ¿Qué significa seguir adelante? En mi opinión, ¡los estadounidenses quieren una economía que funcione para todos! Avanzar requiere una reforma intencional de la distribución de la riqueza en Estados Unidos. No podemos seguir siendo la nación más rica del mundo y presenciar las tasas más altas de encarcelamiento y pobreza. Según World Atlas, "Estados Unidos es el líder mundial en encarcelamiento, a pesar de que la tasa de encarcelamiento a nivel nacional está en su nivel más bajo en 20 años, con aproximadamente el 25% de la población carcelaria del mundo en los Estados Unidos.*

....Versión en español continúa en la pag. 10

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## Cecilia Muñoz: Why this pick for President-elect Biden's transition is causing such a controversy

For many historically marginalized groups, such as Latinxs and other immigrant communities, the 2020 elections cycle involved thought out decisions. Along with considering the COVID19 pandemic and its economic fallout, voters also made their choice by thinking about the climate, future immigration policy, and criminal justice reform.

But for immigration activists, the appointment of Cecilia Muñoz to the Biden-Harris transition team is also a bittersweet note.

### Who is Cecilia Muñoz?

Muñoz began her career as a policy analyst and political strategist. She studied at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, where she graduated in 1984, and studied the University of California, Berkeley, where she graduated in 1986. She had her humble beginnings with the Catholic Charities in Chicago, where she helped the organization assist immigrants who qualified for amnesty.

Muñoz first came into national prominence as an immigrants' rights advocate through her work with the National Council of La Raza, now renamed UnidosUS. She also won a MacArthur genius grant in the year 2000 for her work in immigrants' rights advocacy.

She became an immigration advisor to President Barack Obama in 2008, where she oversaw the deportation of almost 2 million people as the director of the White House Policy Council. At the time, she justified this with stating that the strategy was to show "strong enforcement" while also attempting to gain bipartisan support for a future immigration reform bill that could lead to a path to citizenship.

In 2011, journalist Maria Hinojosa interviewed Muñoz for her Frontline documentary Lost in Detention. When asked about Obama's immigration policies, Muñoz said:

"Even broken laws have to be enforced. The president has said many times that this is a broken law and it needs to be fixed, but he cannot say to the Congress, which passes laws, 'I don't like this one so I'm not going to enforce it.' We have an obligation to enforce the law, the federal government."

Muñoz's quotes inspired a petition from Presente.org. Their organizer at the time, Felipe Matos, communicated this through a press release:

"Cecilia Muñoz knows very well that most undocumented immigrants are not criminals—we are students, workers, and parents who are part of communities all over the country and who have done nothing wrong. We challenge Ms. Muñoz to show us, to show Latino voters, and to show the world why and how the majority of those the Obama Administration is persecuting, jailing and deporting are 'criminals'—a fact that records from the Department of Home-

land Security cannot even back up."

### The Biden-Harris Transition Team

On September, it was announced that Muñoz would join the Biden-Harris transition team. Activists around the country spoke out against this decision on social media, and the group Familia: Trans Queer Liberation Movement even created a petition requesting that Muñoz be left off the Biden-Harris transition team.

In contrast, the Biden-Harris team defended choosing Muñoz, citing her experience in domestic and foreign policy. Though it's too early to tell what this will mean for immigration reform or other forms of relief such as programs similar to Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), it's clear that communities, organizations, and individuals will have to work together to make our voices heard when it comes to immigration policy.

### Cecilia Muñoz: por qué esta elección al equipo de transición de Biden-Harris está causando controversias

*Para muchos grupos de personas históricamente marginales, como los latines y otras comunidades inmigrantes, el ciclo electoral del 2020 involucró decisiones que se tomaron con cuidado. Además de considerar el impacto de la pandemia COVID19 y sus consecuencias económicas, los votantes también hicieron sus decisiones tomando al clima, pólizas migratorias, y reformas hacia el sistema de justicia criminal en cuenta.*

*Pero para activistas inmigrantes, el nombramiento de Cecilia Muñoz al equipo de transición de Biden-Harris también es agrio dulce.*

### ¿Quién es Cecilia Muñoz?

*Muñoz comenzó su carrera como analista de póliza y estratega política. Ella estudió en la Universidad de Michigan, Ann Arbor, donde se graduó en 1984, y después en la Universidad de California, Berkeley, donde se graduó en 1986. Tuvo comienzos humildes con las Iglesias Católicas en Chicago, donde ella ayudó a que la organización asista a inmigrantes que buscaban la amnistía.*

*Muñoz llegó a ser más prominente a nivel nacional como una defensora de derechos inmigrantes por su trabajo el Concejal Nacional de La Raza, ahora llamado UnidosUS. También se ganó una beca prestigiosa MacArthur en el año 2000 a causa de su trabajo en defensa de derechos de inmigrantes.*

*Ella fue nombrada consejera al Presidente Obama en el 2008, donde supervisó la deportación de casi 2 millones de personas como la directora del concejal de pólizas de la Casa Blanca. En ese tiempo, ella justificó esto diciendo que era necesario "tener mano dura" con la aplicación de leyes migratorias mientras se buscan al apoyo bipartito para un proyecto de ley migratorio que pueda resultar en ciudadanía para los inmigrantes en el futuro.*



*En el 2011, la periodista María Hinojosa entrevistó a Muñoz para su documental Frontline Lost in Detention (Perdidos en detención). Cuando le preguntó sobre las políticas migratorias de Obama, Muñoz dijo:*

*"Hasta las leyes descompuestas deben ser aplicadas. El presidente ha dicho muchas veces que esta es una ley descompuesta y que debe ser compuesta, pero no lo puede decir al Congreso, quien aprueba las leyes, 'No me gusta esta así que no la ejecutaré.' Tenemos una obligación de aplicar la ley, el gobierno federal."*

*Los comentarios de Muñoz inspiraron a una petición de la organización Presente. El organizador comunitario del grupo, Felipe Matos, dijo a través de un comunicado de prensa en ese entonces:*

*"Cecilia Muñoz sabe muy bien que la mayoría de inmigrantes indocumentados no son criminales—somos estudiantes, trabajadores, y padres que somos parte de las comunidades en todo el país que no hemos hecho nada malo. Retamos a la Sra. Muñoz a que nos muestre a nosotros, que le muestre a los votantes Latinos, y que le muestre al mundo por qué y cómo la mayoría de los que la administración de Obama está persiguiendo, arrestando y deportando son 'criminales'—un hecho que el Departamento de Seguridad Nacional no puede comprobar."*

### El equipo de transición Biden-Harris

*En septiembre fue anunciado que Muñoz sería parte del equipo de transición de Biden-Harris. Activistas a través del país se expresaron en contra de esta decisión en las redes sociales, y el grupo Familia: Trans Queer Liberation Movement creó una petición pidiendo que Muñoz no sea parte del equipo de transición de Biden-Harris.*

*En contraste, el equipo de Biden-Harris ha defendido la elección de Muñoz, citando su experiencia en política doméstica y foránea. Aunque es demasiado temprano para ver lo que esto significaría para la reforma migratoria u otros programas de auxilio, como programas similares a acción diferida (DACA), es obvio que las comunidades, organizaciones, e individuos tendrán que trabajar juntos para que sus voces sean tomadas en cuenta cuando de tratar de formular políticas migratorias.*

# Community News

## OBITUARIES

### Mary Cadena



Mary Salas Cadena, age 95, of Grand Rapids, was called to her heavenly home on Monday, November 16, 2020. She was a very dedicated and devoted Catholic woman who was continually praying for and blessing others. Mary loved cooking for the family. One of her favorite dishes to prepare was carne asada. She also enjoyed watching Mexican Western movies, novellas of Mexican stories, listening to Mexican music and dancing. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Thursday, November 19, 11 am at St. John Vianney

Church, 4101 Clyde Park SW, Wyoming, with Fr. John Vallier presiding. Burial at Resurrection Cemetery.

### Alejo Sepulveda-Morales



Alejo "Alex" Sepulveda-Morales, age 55, of Wyoming, was called to his heavenly home on Tuesday, November 10, 2020. He was preceded in death by his parents, Alejo and Inocencia Sepulveda. Alejo was born in Puerto Rico and moved to Chicago and then in 1978 moved to Grand Rapids. The Mass of Christian Burial was held on Saturday, 2 pm, at St. Joseph the Worker Church, 3138 Birchwood Ave., SW, Wyoming with Fr. Steven Cron officiating. Burial at Resurrection Cemetery.

Those who wish may make memorial contributions to the Wyoming Pride Boxing Gym, 232 Griggs SW, Grand Rapids, 49507.

### Fred "Angelo" Wals



Fred "Angelo" Wals, age 64, of Hudsonville, went home to be with his heavenly father on Thursday, November 12, 2020, due to complications of COVID-19. Fred fought so hard to overcome this, but God's will was different than ours and he chose to free him from his suffering. Fred is now the official greeter in heaven. He will be missed everyday by his faithful and loving wife, Susi, who has walked side by side with Fred for over 35 years. Funeral services were on Friday, November 20, 2020, at 11 a.m. at Trinity Christian Reformed Church, 60 Port took place will take place at Georgetown Township Cemetery.

Get Your Tickets While many things are different this year, the family tradition of driving through the Christmas Lite Show will be the same. To keep you and our staff safe, we are focusing on making the drive-through show the best it can be.

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# American Apartheid & Racial Cleansing 2.0



By Jorge Martinez

History reassures us that whether Trump stays in power or is booted out of office, there will be a reckoning. The conundrum is that a descendant of the Holocaust is amongst those who will live in infamy. Rod Rosenstein is the architect of Trump's border policy that weaponized children. His name has been added to an endless list of "political hit men" like those who helped give rise to Germany's ethnic cleansing campaign during WWII. The disenfranchised have always feared the gathering of those claiming ethnic superiority. Throughout history poor nations have only gained freedom born upon piles of corpses.

As the killing of Black and Latinos continues in the U.S. festering hate between the races, a ray of hope glimmers as Justice Department Michael E. Hurwitz completes the investigation of Trump's 2019 family separation policy. America has never in its history, ordered the internment of immigrant children as policy.

Similar to Nazi Germany in 1940's, these pre-verbal infants were literally torn from their mother's arms. The modern-day version of "ethnic cleansing" demanded premeditated cruelty designed like Germany's Final Solution. It included our nation's former Attorney General Jeff Sessions and Stephen Miller, Trump's senior policy adviser.

As the "Zero Tolerance Policy" began prosecuting pre-verbal, breast feeding infants, five U.S. Attorneys from border states, including three Trump appointees, expressed concern because it involved children



under five. Rod Rosenstein unmasked and dropped all pretense of decency and stepped into racist infamy pushing forward to implement the policy. The irony is that he changed from Holocaust survivor descendant to the new face of tyranny and ethnic Überman. Saying they were verboten to challenge the order, as there was no categorical exemption based on age. The ACLU successfully argued against family separation in Federal court and accused career staff of failing to push back against Trump's version of ethnic cleansing.

Just because you are done with the devil does not mean he is done with you. And while we cannot hide our scars no one wants the world to know

how we got them. There are few who would politically weaponize children as a strategy to keep a campaign promise. There are many who knew better that looked away as Trump treated children as pawns. Into his dreams of grandeur and dynasty he dragged other anti-American would be tyrants. His delusions of grandeur created unfathomable events. And yet, we know that after every tragedy there is an investigation. This has never changed; even today there is desire to know what drove Christian Germans to make war and massacre millions. New generations demand explanations from those who fought WWII. German veterans refuse to admit their role in neither horror nor knowledge of death camps and smoldering ovens that disappeared millions.

Israel knows the past never leaves us and can return; as such it has dedicated millions to hunting down these monsters. The adage that "no one forgets nothing" has become the slogan for Jews, who vow Never Again. As the world suffered white Americans looked away unaware of the day-to-day grind of hatred. This cannot be said for all of us today. Rosenstein's complicity reflected German thinking of 1940's and is not unique. As it was in Germany, he was willing to commit horrific crimes to appease his master. Much like men did in 1930-40's Germany, he will later claim to have only been following orders, but no one will believe him.

Thanks to Annie Jacobsen's, Project Paperclip 2014 we know most of those who aided in the Holocaust were set free, so are those unable to return these lost children. As always there will be unresolved mysteries, like why a Jew would willingly take part in American apartheid and ethnic cleansing effort. America can no longer claim a moral high ground, nor mythical superior values. America is lost, the president has betrayed us and most importantly we have lost trust in our fellow Americans. Israel and the world do not believe the past will not repeat itself. Thanks to Trump's henchmen, boot lickers, cronies and hit men like Mitch McConnell, William Barr, Lindsey Graham, Brent Kavanagh and Amy Coney Barrett we are no longer united but separate people struggling to survive the societal consequences of racial hatred in America!

Jorge Martinez, Disabled Veteran, Newman CA 95360, [thejorgemartinez@yahoo.com](mailto:thejorgemartinez@yahoo.com)

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*La historia nos asegura que, ya sea que Trump permanezca en el poder o sea expulsado de su cargo, habrá un ajuste de cuentas. El enigma es que un descendiente del Holocausto se encuentra entre los que vivirán en la infamia. Rod Rosenstein es el arquitecto de la política fronteriza de Trump que convirtió a los niños en armas. Su nombre se ha agregado a una lista interminable de "sicarios políticos" como los que ayudaron a dar lugar a la campaña de limpieza étnica de Alemania durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial. Los privados de sus derechos siempre han temido la reunión de quienes afirman ser superiores étnicamente. A lo largo de la historia, las naciones pobres solo han ganado la libertad naciendo sobre montones de cadáveres.*

*Mientras continúa el asesinato de negros y latinos en los Estados Unidos, un odio enconado entre razas, un rayo de esperanza brilla cuando el Departamento de Justicia Michael E. Hurwitz completa la investigación de la política de separación familiar de Trump en 2019. Estados Unidos nunca en su historia ordenó el internamiento de niños inmigrantes como política.*

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# ¡HACIA ADELANTE O TRONAMOS!

Por Dr. Jose A. Flores .... Continuación de la versión de el artículo en español pag. 03

Estados Unidos tiene actualmente más de 2,1 millones de prisioneros en total. La población carcelaria en 1972 era de 200.000, casi 2 millones menos que en la actualidad. La disparidad en la población de prisioneros también demuestra que los negros y los latinos lideran el número de encarcelados. Los problemas con el sistema penitenciario solo continúan cuando se observan las obvias disparidades raciales y de género. Por ejemplo, mientras que los reclusos negros constituyen casi el 40% de la población carcelaria, solo representan el 13,40% de la población total de Estados Unidos. Los nativos americanos representan el 2.30% de la población encarcelada y solo el 1.30% de la población. El 58,70% de la población carcelaria es blanca, que incluye a los hispanoamericanos. Debemos comenzar una campaña seria para reducir las tasas de encarcelamiento y rehabilitar nuestra población carcelaria. ¡Se necesita una reforma carcelaria ahora! Rescatar lo rescatable y crear un "sistema de justicia justo". ¿Es demasiado pedir que vivamos el credo, Justicia para Todos?

Según Poverty USA, en 2018, 38,1 millones de personas vivían en la pobreza en los EE. UU. Eso significa que la tasa de pobreza para 2018 fue del 11,8%. La pobreza no afecta a todos los grupos demográficos por igual. Por ejemplo, en 2018, el 10,6% de los hombres y el 12,9% de las mujeres vivían en la pobreza. En la misma línea, la tasa de pobreza para las parejas casadas en 2018 fue solo del 4,7%, pero la tasa de pobreza para las familias monoparentales sin esposa presente fue del 12,7%, y para las familias monoparentales sin esposo presente fue del 24,9%. En 2018, la tasa de pobreza para las personas que viven con una discapacidad fue del 25,7%. Eso es casi 4 millones de personas que viven con una discapacidad, en la pobreza".

También hay una profunda disparidad entre razas y grupos étnicos en Estados Unidos en lo que respecta a la pobreza "Según los datos del censo de EE. UU. De 2018, la tasa de pobreza más alta por raza se encuentra entre los nativos americanos (25,4%), y los negros (20,8%) tienen la segunda tasa de pobreza más alta, y los hispanos (de cualquier raza) tienen la tercera tasa de pobreza más alta (17,6%). Los blancos tenían una tasa de pobreza del 10,1%, mientras que los asiáticos tenían una tasa de pobreza del 10,1%".

Las empresas de Los Estados Unidos deben pagar a nuestra clase trabajadora un salario decente por el trabajo realizado y los salarios deben proporcionar adecuadamente a una familia para mantenerse y forjar un camino hacia mayores ingresos y riqueza. Esto debe incluir educación, vivienda asequible para el cuidado de la salud y el nivel de prosperidad que incluye la capacidad de una familia para disfrutar de las vacaciones anuales.

¡La creación de empleo en una economía futurista centrada en energía limpia, nueva infraestructura y sistemas de transporte eficientes debe ser iniciada por nuestra nueva administración! ¡Pon a las personas primero! ¡Empleos! ¡Empleos! ¡Empleos! Debemos poner a los estadounidenses a trabajar en trabajos mejor pagados que conduzcan a mejorar nuestro nivel de vida y reducir nuestra huella de carbono que amenaza nuestro planeta.

La energía limpia, la energía solar, los sistemas de transporte limpios y sin carbón y las viviendas rediseñadas con sistemas energéticamente eficientes deben reducir el costo de vida de la clase trabajadora de Estados Unidos y, al mismo tiempo, crear riqueza para todos. ¿Es esta noción idealista? ¡Absolutamente, pero necesario! ¡Debemos avanzar o arruinarnos!



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**Each month, we will feature a Latin American representing our community in professional sports in the U.S.**



By Odille Parker

Marlen Esparza is an American boxer who made history when she became the first American woman to qualify for the Olympics in 2012, the first time women's boxing was an Olympic event.

As an amateur, Esparza brought home a bronze medal that year in the women's fly-weight division.

Esparza was born in Houston, Texas and grew up in a single-story white-brick house in Houston's Harris County with her parents and three siblings. Her love for boxing was first inspired by her father, an avid fan of the sport who immigrated from Ciudad Juarez as a teenager. The way some families watch football, the Esparzas would gather around the TV to watch VHS tapes of the Mexican professional boxer Julio Cesar Chavez.

Boxing came naturally to Esparza, becoming an outlet for her as she struggled in school and faced issues with her peers. She first stepped foot in the ring at 11, when she babysat her younger brother at a local pleading with her father and the gym's her a shot, it didn't take long to see her

Within a few years, Esparza won the Golden Gloves championship. She went on to win the crown for a consecutive seven years, and at the age of 16, became the youngest woman boxer to win the National Championship.

As her career thrived, so did her recognition by major brands. Esparza was endorsed by brands like Nike and Coca-Cola, also becoming the first American amateur boxer to sign an endorsement with Cover-Girl cosmetics.

"I look forward to continuing to be a role model to women across the country," Esparza said in an interview. "[I want to help] them have the confidence in all they do in the ring, on the court, or in the game of life!"

Esparza was the subject of Soledad O'Brien's 2011 CNN documentary *In Her Corner: Latino in America 2*, which chronicled her road to the 2012 Olympics.

In December 2016, Esparza signed a contract with Golden Boy Promotions, making her pro debut on ESPN's March 23, 2017 opening card of a multi-year deal with Golden Boy, and claiming victory over Rachel Sazoff. She also went on to be voted Houson Fighter of the Year, which encompasses both professional and amateur boxers, from 2010-2014.

She challenged Seniesa Estrada for the WBA interim female fly-weight title on November 2019. The bout was stopped at the end of the ninth round, handing Esparza her first defeat in her professional career by way of unanimous technical decision.

Her latest fight was October 2020, when she defeated Mexico's Sulem Urbina by unanimous decision in the eight round.

**Marlen Esparza es una boxeadora estadounidense que hizo historia cuando se convirtió en la primera mujer estadounidense en clasificar para los Juegos Olímpicos de 2012, la primera vez que**

# Latin Americans in Sports

## Marlen Esparza

de bronce ese año en la división de peso mosca femenino.

Esparza



En trato debut ESPN del 23 varios años toria sobre Ra- votada como la Lu- abarca tanto a box- teurs, de 2010 a

Houston Regional

went on to win the

crown for a consecutive seven years, and at the age of 16, became

the youngest woman boxer to win the National Championship.

el boxeo femenino fue un evento olímpico.

Como aficionado, Esparza se llevó a casa un metal

nació en Houston, Texas y creció en una casa de la drillo blanco de un solo piso en el condado de Harris de Houston con sus padres y tres hermanos. Su amor por el box se inspiró primero en su padre, un ávido fanático del deporte que emigró de Ciudad Juárez cuando era adolescente. De la misma forma en que algunas familias ven fútbol, los Esparza se reunían alrededor del televisor para ver cintas VHS del boxeador profesional mexicano Julio César Chávez.

Esparza fue el tema del documental de CNN de Soledad O'Brien en 2011 *In Her Corner: Latino in America 2*, que narra su camino hacia los Juegos Olímpicos de 2012.

diciembre de 2016, Esparza firmó un con- con Golden Boy Promotions, haciendo su profesional en la cartelera de apertura de de marzo de 2017 de un contrato de con Golden Boy y reclamando la vic- chel Sazoff. También pasó a ser chadora del Año de Houson, que eadores profesionales como ama- 2014.

## Pruebas Gratuitas de COVID-19

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# Latin American Christmas Traditions You Should Know About

It's that time of year again — you've surely noticed the deluge of Christmas decorations, music, and frenzied shopping all around you. Black Friday shopping, tree chopping, and pictures with Santa Claus are so ingrained in most of us that they're almost second nature. But not all of these same traditions exist in our home countries, each has its own unique and sometimes quite surprising customs — some of which we brought with us stateside. Here are Christmas traditions from all across Latin America that can help you feel a little bit closer to home.

## Colombia

In Colombia, the Christmas celebrations get started earlier than in most places with El Día de las Velitas (the Day of the Little Candles) on December 7. The tradition dates back to 1854 when Pope Pius IX declared the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary to be the official dogma of the Catholic Church. While the religious significance is strong, there is no shortage of celebration around this time to kick off the Christmas season with so many lights dotting Colombia's calles.

## Ecuador

Beginning nine days before Christmas, on December 16, the Novena de Navidad consists of nine days of singing around the Nativity scene. There's even a guide for the specific structure of song and prayer. It's popular in Colombia as well to round out the velitas celebrations.

## Guatemala

Traditional in Mexico as well, the Posadas in Guatemala are another festivity that begins nine days before Christmas. Commemorating Mary and Joseph's pilgrimage to find shelter before the birth of Baby Jesus, adults and children alike re-enact the biblical scenes. The celebration has something for both the very religious and the party-goers—with prayers, Christmastime punch, and piñatas!

## Mexico

While you might know about the longstanding tradition of the Posadas in Mexico, there are some other surprising celebrations you might not know about. Dating back to 1897, every December 23 the Night of the Radishes is celebrated in Oaxaca. Merchants compete to create the most elaborate radish carving as tourists flock from all over Mexico to join in the celebration. Yes, that's right—they actually make raddish sculptures! And did you know that the poinsettia actually traces its origins back to Mexico, where it's known as the flor de Nochebuena? It was only after Mexican Independence in 1821 where Joel Roberts Poinsett became the first US Ambassador to Mexico and brought the flower that has come to symbolize Christmas back stateside.

## El Salvador

In El Salvador and other countries in Central America, you could easily confuse the elaborate firework displays on Christmas Eve with a Fourth of July or New Year's Eve celebration. However, because of the high number of casualties caused by the fireworks, this practice has come under increased scrutiny by government officials in past years.

## Peru

Nacimientos (Nativity scenes) are taken seriously in Peru—the Instituto Cultural Teatral y Social in Peru holds an annual Nacimiento competition, where Peruvians from all over the country congregate to show off their craftsmanship in recreating Jesus' birth. Taking place yearly since 2005, the competition produces a variety of unique Nativity scenes incorporating elements from Peru's diverse regions.

## Puerto Rico & Cuba

Very well known on la isla, Parrandas are a sign that Christmas has arrived in Puerto Rico. You might call this a more expressive and intense version of the Posadas in Mexico or Guatemala. Friends will gather and "asaltar" another friend with intense singing and passionately playing different musical instruments. Cuba's version of the parrandas have a long history behind them — dating back to the 1800s in the town of Remedios. The festivities are at a much larger scale and celebrated across the island, though Remedios has the largest gathering.

## Venezuela

You might see him adorning storefronts and as a decoration on the mantelpiece, but in Venezuela, it's Baby Jesus rather than Santa Claus who delivers gifts to children. And while it's definitely too hot for ice skating, during the patinatas you will see plenty of roller-skating and bike riding in the fresh air to kick off the season.

## Brazil & Costa Rica

If you're worried about your Christmas shopping budget, perhaps you should think of a move far down south to either Brazil or Costa Rica. Both countries require a Christmas bonus by law! Known as the thirteenth salary in Brazil, and the "Aguinaldo" in Costa Rica (as well as in Mexico), workers can expect to be compensated handsomely before Christmas as the holiday shopping season arrives.

*Es esa época del año otra vez: seguramente ha notado el diluvio de adornos navideños, música y compras frenéticas a su alrededor. Las compras del Black Friday, la tala de árboles y las fotos con Papá Noel están tan arraigadas en la mayoría de nosotros que son casi una segunda naturaleza.*

*Pero no todas estas tradiciones existen en nuestros países de origen, cada una tiene sus propias costumbres únicas y, a veces, bastante sorprendentes, algunas de las cuales trajimos con nosotros en Estados Unidos.*

*En el Ecuador comienzan las celebraciones el 7 de Diciembre con el El Día de las Velitas En Ecuador comenzando nueve días antes de Navidad el 16 de Diciembre, la Novena de Navidad consta de nueve días de canto alrededor del belén, incluso hay una guía para la estructura específica del canto y la oración. También es popular en Colombia para completar las celebraciones de velitas.*

*Tradicional también en México, las Posadas en Guatemala son otra festividad que comienza nueve días antes de Navidad. En El Salvador y otros países de América Central, es fácil confundir los elaborados juegos de fuegos artificiales en la víspera de Navidad con la celebración del 4 de julio o la víspera de Año Nuevo.*

# December Events

## Eventos en Diciembre



### 12 Days of Christmas Sale

**December 1-12, 2020**

Get all of your Christmas shopping done while humming Christmas carols and strolling the beautifully decorated sidewalks in Frankenmuth River Place Shops! December 1st through December 12th, show someone how special they are with a gift from one of our many unique shops and save money at the same time. Each participating store will be offering in-store specials and promotions each day. Visit <http://bit.ly/FrankenmuthRiverPlaceShops> for more information and updates!

**¡Haga todas sus compras navideñas mientras tararea villancicos y pasea por las aceras bellamente decoradas en Franken. Visite <http://bit.ly/FrankenmuthRiverPlaceShops> para obtener más información y actualizaciones.**

### Window Wonderland

**December 4, 2020**

#### Saint Joseph

Getting into the holiday spirit is easy when you visit the Victorian-era downtown in St. Joseph during the month of December. Visitors can stroll downtown and enjoy Window Wonderland. Dozens of store fronts will participate in this holiday window decorating event. Gift hunters will appreciate the unique selections, special prices, and festive shopping that evening and throughout December. Event attendees can vote for their favorite window in the People's Choice vote. For more information, visit [stjoetoday.com](http://stjoetoday.com).

**Entrar en el espíritu navideño es fácil cuando visita el centro de la época victoriana en St. Joseph durante el mes**

**de diciembre. Los visitantes pueden pasear por el centro y disfrutar de Window Wonderland. Los asistentes al evento pueden votar por su ventana favorita en la votación de People's Choice. Para obtener más información, visite [stjoetoday.com](http://stjoetoday.com).**

### Nature Art Show & Sale

**December 5, 2020**

**Midland**

Artists at the Nature Art Show & Sale will offer some of the best photography, wood carvings, copper sculpture, pottery, books, baskets and more! Chippewa Nature Center members are invited to the on Friday from 6-9 pm for an evening of shopping, wine, cheese and light refreshments. A silent auction closes at 8:30 pm.

The Nature Art Show & Sale continues for the public on Saturday from 8 am-5 pm, with a silent auction closing at 3 pm. Come to the Nature Art Show & Sale to fill your holiday list or make your own wish list! Either way, we hope to inspire you to protect the natural world.

**Los miembros del Chippewa Nature Center están invitados al viernes de 6 a 9 pm para una noche de compras, vino, queso y refrigerios. Una subasta silenciosa cierra a las 8:30 pm.**

**La Exposición y Venta de Arte de la Naturaleza continúa para el público el sábado de 8 am a 5 pm, con una subasta silenciosa que cierra a las 3 pm. ¡Venga a Nature Art Show & Sale para completar su lista de vacaciones o hacer su propia lista de deseos! De cualquier manera, esperamos inspirarlo a proteger el mundo natural.**

**The Nutcracker Experience**

### December 18- 27, 2020 Grand Rapids

The beloved holiday classic, with choreography by Val Caniparoli, as you've never seen it before! Enjoy many of your favorite on-stage moments, behind-the-scenes interviews and rehearsals, and more. And the story wouldn't be complete without the musical accompaniment of Grand Rapids Symphony.

**¡El querido clásico navideño, con coreografía de Val Caniparoli, como nunca antes lo habías visto! Disfrute de muchos de sus momentos favoritos en el escenario, entrevistas y ensayos entre bastidores, y más. Y la historia no estaría completa sin el acompañamiento musical de Grand Rapids Symphony.**

### Sunrise Groomer Rides

**December 26 -27, 2020**

**Gaylord**

This may not be on your bucket list, but it should be! These impressive machines scale the side of the mountain while you groom perfect corduroy. For the ultimate Treetops Winter Experience, take a sunrise snow-cat ride. This 20 minute adventure will take you places you can only get to by skis, with breathtaking sunrise views. Your ride will either be thrilling or tranquil, depending on your adventure level.

Cost:\$40 per person  
Location: Check in for this adventure at Skier Services.

Sign-up: Advance sign-up required. You can book this adventure by calling reservations, or in person at the Front Desk or Skier Services.

**Puede que esto no esté en su lista de deseos, pero debería estarlo! Estas impresionantes máquinas escalan la la-**

**dera de la montaña mientras preparas la pana perfecta. Para disfrutar de la mejor experiencia invernal en las copas de los árboles, dé un paseo en un gato de nieve al amanecer. Esta aventura de 20 minutos lo llevará a lugares a los que solo puede llegar con esquíes, con impresionantes vistas del amanecer. Tu viaje será emocionante o tranquilo, dependiendo de tu nivel de aventura.**

**Costo: \$ 40 por persona**

**Ubicación: Regístrese para esta aventura en Skier Services.**

**Registro: Se requiere registro previo. Puede reservar esta aventura llamando a reservaciones, o en persona en la Recepción o Servicios de Esquiadores.**

### New Year's Eve in the Haven

**December 31, 2020**

**South Haven**

Bring in 2021 in the heart of downtown South Haven. We are clearing the streets, so you can mingle in the square and stay up late enjoying music, dancing, ice skating, special features from local restaurants, party favors and a special midnight ball drop! This is an event for all ages, and a special early kid's ball drop will be held in addition to the midnight ball drop. Full schedule will be released closer to the time of the event!

**Traiga el 2021 en el corazón del centro de South Haven. Estamos despejando las calles, para que puedas mezclarte en**

**la plaza y quedarte despierto hasta tarde disfrutando de la música, el baile, el patinaje sobre hielo, las características especiales de los restaurantes locales, los obsequios de fiesta y un lanzamiento especial de baile de medianoche. Este es un evento para todas las edades, y además del lanzamiento de bolas a medianoche se llevará a cabo un lanzamiento de pelota para niños temprano. ¡El calendario completo se publicará más cerca de la hora del evento!**

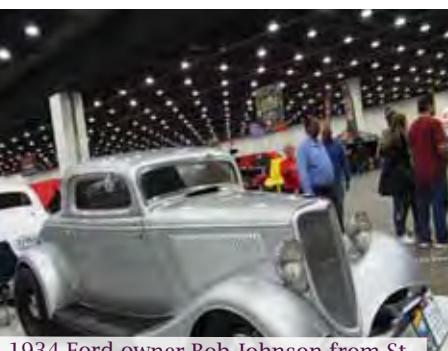
### Ludington's New Year's Eve Ball Drop

**December 31, 2020 January 1, 2021**

You don't want to miss Northern Michigan biggest ball drop in Pure Ludington! The holiday fun begins at 9 p.m. in James Street Plaza with live music and a beer garden. The famous countdown and ball drop happens right in the town square, followed by a fantastic fireworks display. Ring in 2021 with a bang!

**¡No querrá perderse la caída de pelota más grande del norte de Michigan en Pure Ludington! La diversión navideña comienza a las 9 p.m. en James Street Plaza con música en vivo y un jardín de cerveza. La famosa cuenta regresiva y la caída de la bola ocurre justo en la plaza del pueblo, seguida de un fantástico espectáculo de fuegos artificiales. ¡Llama al 2021 con una explosión!**

1975 AMC Gremlin owner Jacob Griffin from Valley Center, CA



1934 Ford owner Bob Johnson from St. Clair Shores, MI



1952 Chevy Gasser Sedan owner Ron Helsley from Middletown, IN



We will miss you Celestino Hernandez  
...RIP 11-15-2020



1956 Ford Thunderbird owner Rodorigo from Grosse ILE, MI

## Part III of Spotlight on 68th Annual Meguiar's Detroit Autorama Held February 28 – March 1, 2020

Here is another group of car show pictures for you to enjoy! It was hard to stop taking pictures at this memorable and huge car show as we looked at these amazing cars. The Detroit Autorama at TCF Center (Cobo Hall) had one of the best shows ever! We hope you are as impressed as we were with the art in motion!

On another note, we are saddened to learn that Celestino Hernandez passed away due to covid-19...RIP. He was at Pablo Lopez's Car Show last year showing off his convertible truck in Holland, MI. Hopefully, everyone will continue to use your masks, social distance, limit parties and gatherings and stay safe during the holidays.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Somos pocos pero locos en lowriding!  
Having a car event? Contact Homer (616)893-3906



1946 Chevrolet Pick-Up owner Art Noey from Saginaw, MI



1969 Dodge Van owner Jerry & Diane Donson from Owenboro, KY



1967 Ford GT owner James Donaldson from Essex, ON

# 4V3

Miriam Doblas Muñoz (born 1 April 1992), better known by her stage name Lola Índigo, is a Spanish singer and dancer from Granada. The singer first gained national recognition in 2017 as she placed as sixteenth in series nine of the Spanish reality television talent competition Operación Triunfo. After exiting the show, the singer signed with Universal Music and released her debut single "Ya No Quiero Ná" which turned into a smash-hit in her country, peaking at number three on the PROMUSICAE musical chart and selling more than a hundred thousand copies, certifying it as three times platinum. Her short but intense musical career has earned her multiple awards such as an MTV Europe Music Award for Best Spanish act in 2019. On March 27, 2020, Indigo released "4 Besos" featuring Rauw Alejandro and Lalo Ebratt, the lead single of her second album which is scheduled to be released in late 2020.

*Miriam Doblas Muñoz (nacida el 1 de abril de 1992), más conocida por su nombre artístico Lola Índigo, es una cantante y bailarina española de Granada. La cantante obtuvo reconocimiento nacional por primera vez en 2017 al quedar decimosexto en la novena temporada de la competencia de talentos de la televisión de telerrealidad española Operación Triunfo. Después de salir del programa, la cantante firmó con Universal Music y lanzó su sencillo debut "Ya No Quiero Ná" que se convirtió en un gran éxito en su país, alcanzando el número tres en la lista musical PROMUSICAE y vendiendo más de cien mil copias, certificándolo como tres veces platino. Su corta pero intensa carrera musical le ha valido múltiples premios, como un MTV Europe Music Award al Mejor acto español en 2019. El 27 de marzo de 2020, Índigo lanzó "4 Besos" con Rauw Alejandro y Lalo Ebratt, el sencillo principal de su segundo álbum que está programado para ser lanzado a fines de 2020.*



# Lola Índigo

# Vacation Destination -Maya Riviera

By Abraham Reyes

If it's not on your Bucket List then let me tell you why it should be, and if you have been here before let me tell you why it's the best place to invest your money.

Hi, my name is Abraham, I'm 24 years old from Grand Rapids, Michigan. I've been living in the Riviera Maya for 3½ years. I lived on Cozumel Island first, then moved to Puerto Aventuras and now reside in Playa del Carmen, but I have seen much of the area including Cancun!

The Riviera Maya has been one of the "Most Desired Destinations" to visit due its culture, food, history, sights to see including memorable sunsets! I particularly love the crystal clear carribean waters with ocean depth coral reefs that support a large species of sea life. I have visited cenotes, caves, supported diving, hung out on many beaches, and seen the sights of day and nightlife the area has to offer tourists.

I recently began promoting rental properties and real estate in Playa del Carmen. The coastal tourist attraction is known as the (2nd) fastest growing city in the world. It has had the most expansive growth in such a short time now witnessing up-scale hotels, residential living communities, oceanfront mansions, marinas, golf courses, and the like. I am excited to be helping tourists visit here and find affordable properties to rent. Several Michigan friends have come to visit and I have helped a few investors purchase properties here.

There are many cultural centers here too and an amazing amusement hotel-cultural park called Xcaret. Playa del Carmen is the #1 attraction Globally with the famous Calle Quinta 5 Nta. Add up all the new housing developments all over the Riviera Maya now expanding in areas like Tulum, Puerto Aventuras, Akumal, Cancun, Bacalar, and Cozumel, to your shopping list of potential vacation homes or retirement havens! You can't go wrong making an investment here.

My interest is to share with you this experience and announce that today we have officially signed and launched our own brand new Real-Estate company named (Mia's Realty) here in Playa del Carmen handling national & international commercial and residential real-estate. We are offering an exclusive service to anyone who'd be interested to visit and invest!

I will personally be your local contact and personal agent to answer all your questions. I will meet you upon your arrival and give you information on the area to best help you have a wonderful stay. Yes, our company will customize your stay from the airport pick-up to receiving you at the door-step of your temporary home, as well as making sure you have an agenda set at your preference of choice of booking on tours & excursions and budget. If you purchase a property through our company, we will consider covering your airfare and hospitality expenses as part of the deal. So, if your planning on it, now would be a good time to initiate contact. Please feel free to call me, text, message me or email.

You can see more about us coming soon to our web page and social media groups also our youtube channel and daily features on activities with Live Footage of what we do besides real-estate, making it a daily lifestyle content doing what we love doing best.

Give me a call at my telephone number (Mex) +52 987 112 1705 Realtor Ab. josefiguer-roa522@yahoo.com

*Si no está en su lista de deseos, déjeme decirle por qué debería estarlo, y si ha estado aquí antes, déjeme decirle por qué es el mejor lugar para invertir su dinero.*

*Recientemente comencé a promocionar propiedades de alquiler y bienes raíces en Playa del Carmen. La atracción turística costera es conocida como la (segunda) ciudad de más rápido crecimiento en el mundo. Ha tenido el crecimiento más expansivo en tan poco tiempo y ahora ha sido testigo de hoteles de lujo, comunidades residenciales, mansiones frente al mar, marinas, campos de golf y similares. Estoy emocionado de ayudar a los turistas a visitar aquí y encontrar propiedades asequibles para alquilar. Varios amigos de Michigan han venido de visita y he ayudado a algunos inversores a comprar propiedades aquí.*

*Llámame a mi número de teléfono (Mex) +52987 112 1705 Realtor Ab. josefiguer-roa522@yahoo.com*



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\* TRAVEL FEES MAY APPLY \*

# More Than Ever, Latin Representation Shined at the 2020 AMAs

This year, Latin representation at the awards show was stronger than ever, featuring many Latin winners and even a sultry performance by and with the TV debut of their collaboration "Pa Ti" and "Lonely."

For the first time, the AMAs, in partnership with Cheetos, expanded its Latin categories, including favorite male artist, favorite female artist, favorite album and favorite song.

"Latin music has been extremely popular for so long, and in recent years, we've seen more Latin artists and music not only dominate the mainstream, but really make an impact on overall culture," Marissa Solis, SVP of marketing, Frito-Lay North America, tells Billboard. "The popularity continues to grow within the United States and the impact is felt. It only made sense to expand the Latin categories to recognize the vast array of talent. It felt like a natural fit for the Cheetos brand to sponsor these new categories given our love for Latin culture, music and our fans."

"This year, Latin music saw over 38 billion streams, more than pop, country, hip-hop, or rock, and marks the genre's fourth consecutive year of double-digit growth whether dominating the Latin charts or crossing over the world of pop and hip-hop," the clip notes. For Solis, Latin music's success today is fueled by the connectedness both from a global perspective and the ability of an artist to reach their fans. "Latin music and culture aren't new, and in fact, it has greatly influenced popular culture for years. The passion we've seen globally from the fans and the impact these artists have beyond the music has also catapulted this takeover."

Becky G accepts the award for Favorite Latin Female Artist onstage for the 2020 American Music Awards at Microsoft Theater on Nov. 22,



2020 in Los Angeles.

*Este año, la representación latina en la entrega de premios fue más fuerte que nunca, con muchos ganadores latinos e incluso una actuación sensual de y con el debut televisivo de su colaboración "Pa Ti" y "Lonely".*

*Por primera vez, los AMA, en asociación con Cheetos, expandieron sus categorías latinas, incluyendo artista masculino favorito, artista femenina favorita, álbum favorito y canción favorita.*

*"La música latina ha sido extremadamente popular durante tanto tiempo y, en los últimos años, hemos visto a más artistas y música latinos que no solo dominan la corriente principal, sino que realmente tienen un impacto en la cultura general", dijo Marissa Solis, vicepresidenta senior de marketing de Frito- Lay North America, le dice a Billboard. "La popularidad continúa creciendo dentro de los Estados Unidos y el impacto se siente. Solo tenía sentido expandir las categorías latinas para reconocer la amplia gama de talentos. Se sintió como una opción natural para la marca Cheetos patrocinar estas nuevas categorías dado nuestro amor por la cultura latina, la música y nuestros fans".*

*"Este año, la música latina vio más de 38 mil millones de transmisiones, más que pop, country, hip-hop o rock, y marca el cuarto año consecutivo de crecimiento de dos dígitos del género, ya sea dominando las listas latinas o cruzando el mundo del pop y hip-hop ", señala el clip.*

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The logo for El Tigrón Authentic Mexican Food. It features the words 'TACOS' and 'LA FAMILIA' in a white sans-serif font. Below them is the word 'El Tigrón' in a large, stylized red font. Underneath 'El Tigrón' is the text 'AUTHENTIC MEXICAN FOOD' in a green font. To the right of the text is a small image of a plate of Mexican food.

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Tacos



# December Models

Michael Farage "Cool Mike"

For details contact Mike at :

CCCougar11@aol.com

with all your concerns,

comments & questions.

*Eres Latina y quieres comenzar tu carrera como modelo, siempre en busca de nuevas oportunidades, nuevas caras.*

*¡Comunicate con nosotros, nosotros te podemos ayudar!*

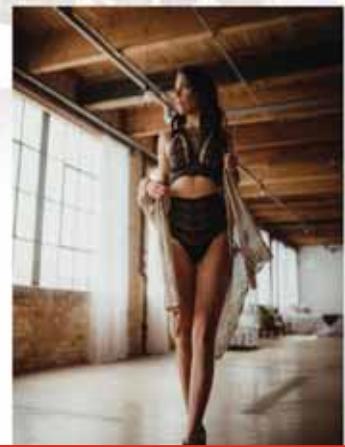
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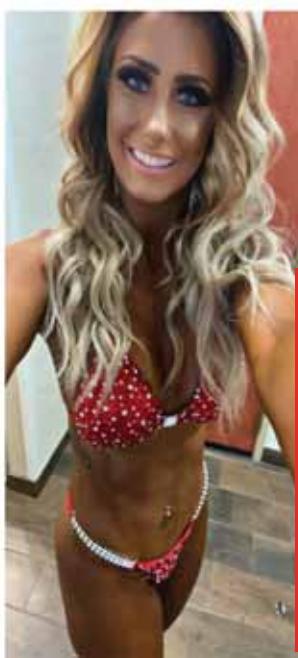
WOW it's Hannah and absolutely nobody has owned the east side of the state in fine style like this LaVoz feature model. She can do Halloween & own it, She does any and all an its always just a matter of time before she is back on top. She will be Miss. October in the LaVoz / Great Lakes Calendar

Emily of Jackson County in 2017. She also wore the crown as Queen in 2020. She is once again taking home the honors selected by this committee 15-0 to be Miss November. Emily is an outgoing individual who has the presence that brings people together with excitement. We are so happy to have her on board. Look for her at " COOL " Mike events statewide in 2021.

The Goddess of Motown is indeed Miss. Sydney from Detroit. She in every phase and in every way takes it to the next level and look for her stock to rise higher and higher as she took top honors in being awarded Miss. December as a Sexy Santa for December. Look for her at " COOL " Mike events in 2021 & if your a better person place your \$\$ on this blue collar star on the rise.



Nicole is her name and if I told you this LaVoz feature models was a Mother of three you would question my sanity. But she is a Wife, Mother & small business owner and community activists. She simply is stunning when you look at her you simply see the God given natural gift from heaven she is that stunning. She was awarded Miss. August featured in the 2021 Calendar.



LAVOZ

The 2021 Great Lakes Calendar Models

PATRIOTIC

JULY

SANTA'S EXOTIC

DECEMBER

OCTOBER

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

BIRTHDAY

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID RANDALL PHOTOGRAPHY IS. PHOTOGRAPHER: SCOTT LIPINS

Thanksgiving Flyer: The journey has been long and at times frustrating but in the end the Great Lakes Models 2021 Calendar Shoot Committee selected 14 very AMAZING aspiring models for 12 individual months ( July and December will have two models) to be published in full color print in mid December. These are the AWESOME ladies selected

Recently a competition was held in Metro Detroit. Their are those who work out and there are those who out work Hala is one who simply takes the extra mile and takes advantage of every opportunity. She is simply always every time taking it to the next level and look for her own this department. She is that passionate about everything she does and she is a hearing specialist in her real job. She was given one of the top prestigious Miss. July months for the 2021 Calendar.

# Michigan Closing the COVID-19 Racial Disparities Gap

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, it quickly became clear that communities of color were disproportionately being affected by case numbers and deaths.

Especially impacted were Black residents, who make up 15% of the state's population yet represented 29.4% of cases and 40.7% of deaths in the early months. Near the end of September, those rates had dropped, with Black residents accounting for 8.2% of cases and 9.9% of deaths.

Credit for reducing the disparity is attributed to efforts made by the state's Coronavirus Task Force on Racial Disparities. The task force was quickly able to distribute large quantities of masks and launch strategic educational communications and social media efforts targeting vulnerable populations. The group collaborated with regional racial disparity task forces to share data and recommendations for additional actions and increased access to testing in targeted neighborhoods and communities.

Bridget Hurd, vice president, Inclusion and Diversity at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, is a member of the task force.

"The results that we've accomplished in Michigan to reduce the effects of COVID-19 on communities of color are outstanding," Hurd said. "The outreach by the State into local communities was impactful and was also supported by efforts here at Blue Cross and numerous other

## Don't stop...Stopping coronavirus.

The coronavirus is still a concern in our communities. Let's protect ourselves and our loved ones. Don't forget to:



### Mask up!

Wear a face covering or mask when going outside and when in public.



### Keep your distance!

Stay at least six feet away from those that do not live with you.



### Wash your hands!

Wash your hands often, for at least 20 seconds.

Stay safe. Save lives.



This content is not intended to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. You should always consult with a physician or other health care professional for medical advice.

organizations across the state to engage community residents, bust myths and provide accurate information. There is still work to be done to ensure that all residents have access to information and testing that can help to save lives and stop the spread of this deadly virus."

The task force emphasizes that residents must continue to remain vigilant and continue to "mask up", maintain social distancing of at least six feet, practice frequent handwashing and stay home when they feel sick.

*Al comienzo de la pandemia de COVID-19, rápidamente quedó claro que las comunidades de color se veían afectadas de manera desproporcionada por el número de casos y las muertes.*

*Especialmente afectados fueron los residentes negros, que representan el 15% de la población del estado, pero representaron el 29.4% de los casos y el 40.7% de las muertes en los primeros meses. Cerca de finales de septiembre, esas tasas habían bajado, y los residentes negros representaban el 8.2% de los casos y el 9.9% de las muertes.*

*El crédito por reducir la disparidad se atribuye a los esfuerzos realizados por el Grupo de Trabajo sobre Disparidades Raciales sobre el Coronavirus del estado. El grupo de trabajo pudo distribuir rápidamente grandes cantidades de máscaras y lanzar comunicaciones educativas estratégicas y esfuerzos en las redes sociales dirigidos a poblaciones vulnerables. El grupo colaboró con los grupos de trabajo regionales sobre disparidad racial para compartir datos y recomendaciones para acciones adicionales y un mayor acceso a las pruebas en vecindarios y comunidades seleccionados.*

*"Los resultados que hemos logrado en Michigan para reducir los efectos de COVID-19 en las comunidades de color son excepcionales", dijo Hurd. "El acercamiento del estado a las comunidades locales fue impactante y también fue apoyado por los esfuerzos aquí en Blue Cross y muchas otras organizaciones en todo el estado para involucrar a los residentes de la comunidad, acabar con los mitos y proporcionar información precisa. Todavía queda trabajo por hacer para garantizar que todos los residentes tengan acceso a información y pruebas que puedan ayudar a salvar vidas y detener la propagación de este virus mortal".*

*El grupo de trabajo enfatiza que los residentes deben permanecer vigilantes y continuar "enmascarados", mantener un distanciamiento social de al menos seis pies, practicar el lavado de manos frecuente y quedarse en casa cuando se sientan enfermos.*

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Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network are nonprofit corporations and independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.



## Lisa Johnson

My name is *Lisa Johnson* graduated from Central Michigan University Majoring in *Biomedical Sciences*. I now work in the medical field as a X-Ray Technician. I played *Division 1 Volleyball* at CMU. I enjoy working out, playing beach volleyball, and traveling. *LOVE* spending time with family traveling every year to *MEXICO*. Love Modeling for FUN by capturing Elegance through Photos. I'm out going and a *Goof Ball* at the same time. I *LIVE LIFE* seeking for Adventure and New Experiences.... *LIVE LIFE!*



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# CLASSIFIEDS

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[www.jobs.cmich.edu](http://www.jobs.cmich.edu). CMU, an AA/EQ institution, strongly and actively strives to increase diversity and provide equal opportunity for all individuals, irrespective of gender identity or sexual orientation and including but not limited to minorities, females, veterans and individuals with disabilities.

## SKILLED ASSEMBLY

- Part Time, \$20-\$25/hr - We're a Grand Rapids based healthcare company looking for a part time (10-25 hours/week on average), skilled assembly professional to assemble medical carts & cabinets for our nationwide customer base. Successful applicants will have the following skills and attributes:

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