

The Community Voice

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Los Lobos - Native Songs



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Politics and Education / Política y Educación



By Dr. Rubén Martínez

The current political crisis in this country has shaken the foundations of our major institutions. Indeed, so grave is the situation that Democracy itself is at stake. Republican leaders have decided that retaining political power at all costs is more important than governing for the Common Good by promoting the general welfare and upholding the Constitution. The crisis is multi-

dimensional. Republicans are now openly politicizing education by trying to limit what can and cannot be taught in schools about the nation's history of racism and about capitalism. They are peddling the myth of meritocracy in a nation of "isms"; that is, institutional processes that perpetuate social inequalities in society, and there are many in America.

The principal focus of those wanting to censor education is called Critical Race Theory, which is a framework for examining systemic racism and other forms of oppression in society. This effort to control the socialization of our young has been going on for some years, but recently it has expanded and intensified as a multitude of regressive legislative bills have been introduced across the country, including Michigan. It is an organized and coordinated attack on democratic schooling which threatens to impose "mind control" by those already seemingly committed to a cult.

The education of our young should be left to teachers and educators, not to conservative politicians in state legislatures. Their political passions overwhelm their ability to understand the importance of education systems based on teaching truths about the world in which we live. Do these elected officials really think they can bury this country's racist history with policies and lies? Even if their regressive policies were to be upheld in the courts, which I do not believe they will, they will not be able to cover up history, as people's lives are what constitute history. And while the former President of the U.S. told us to not believe what our eyes see; the daily lives of people are what tell us the truths about this country's processes of social inequality.

Further, today there are many media outlets and suppression of racial oppression will simply attract the attention of the young who are inquisitive and critical. Still, we should not have to defend the rights of student to learn about changing forms of group domination as they shape the future of their society. But given today's highly charged political environment, we must stand up for a free and open education for our youth.

As a nation, there is only one way to pursue a higher social order and that is by confronting the mistakes of the past and envisioning an equitable and just America. This means defending and promoting freedom of speech as well as academic freedom. Politicians should not dictate the contents of our education systems. To reduce the education of our young to a series of regressive content policies is to undermine the purpose of education and the well-being of our communities and the nation as a whole. This is not the way to a better America, rather it is a giant step backward.

La actual crisis política en este país ha sacudido los cimientos de nuestras principales instituciones. De hecho, la situación es tan grave que está en juego la propia democracia. Los líderes republicanos han decidido que retener el poder político a toda costa es más importante que gobernar por el bien común promoviendo el bienestar general y defendiendo la Constitución. La

crisis es multidimensional. Los republicanos ahora están politicizando abiertamente la educación al tratar de limitar lo que se puede y no se puede enseñar en las escuelas sobre la historia del racismo de la nación y sobre el capitalismo. Están vendiendo el mito de la meritocracia en una nación de "ismos"; es decir, procesos institucionales que perpetúan las desigualdades sociales en la sociedad, y son muchos en América.



El enfoque principal de quienes quieren censurar la educación se llama Teoría Crítica de la Raza, que es un marco para examinar el racismo sistémico y otras formas de opresión en la sociedad. Este esfuerzo por controlar la socialización de nuestros jóvenes ha estado sucediendo durante algunos años, pero recientemente se ha expandido e intensificado a medida que se han presentado una multitud de proyectos de leyes regresivos en todo el país, incluido Michigan. Es un ataque organizado y coordi-

nado a la escolarización democrática que amenaza con imponer un "control mental" por parte de quienes aparentemente ya están comprometidos con una secta.

La educación de nuestros jóvenes debe dejarse a los maestros y educadores, no a los políticos conservadores en las legislaturas estatales. Sus pasiones políticas abruma su capacidad para comprender la importancia de los sistemas educativos basados en enseñar verdades sobre el mundo en el que vivimos. ¿Realmente creen estos funcionarios electos que pueden enterar la historia racista de este país con políticas y mentiras? Incluso si sus políticas regresivas se mantuvieran en los tribunales, lo que no creo que lo hagan, no podrán encubrir la historia, ya que la vida de las personas es lo que constituye la historia. Y mientras el ex presidente de los Estados Unidos nos dijo que no creamos lo que ven nuestros ojos; la vida cotidiana de las personas es lo que nos dice la verdad sobre los procesos de desigualdad social de este país.

Además, hoy en día existen muchos medios de comunicación y la supresión de la opresión racial simplemente atraerá la atención de los jóvenes que son inquisitivos y críticos. Aun así, no deberíamos tener que defender los derechos de los estudiantes a aprender sobre las formas cambiantes de dominación de grupo a medida que dan forma al futuro de su sociedad. Pero dado el entorno político altamente cargado de hoy, debemos defender una educación gratuita y abierta para nuestra juventud.

Como nación, solo hay una manera de perseguir un orden social superior y es confrontando los errores del pasado e imaginando un Estados Unidos equitativo y justo. Esto significa defender y promover la libertad de expresión y la libertad académica. Los políticos no deberían dictar los contenidos de nuestros sistemas educativos. Reducir la educación de nuestros jóvenes a una serie de políticas de contenido regresivas es socavar el propósito de la educación y el bienestar de nuestras comunidades y de la nación en su conjunto. Este no es el camino hacia una mejor América, más bien es un gran paso hacia atrás.

Dr. Rubén Martínez

MI ALMA



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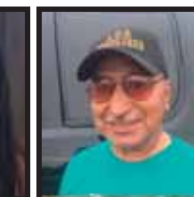
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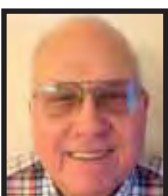
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Historical Repetition of Black Valedictorian and Salutatorian Students Forced to Share Honors With White Students



By Kindra A. Peterson

Since the paramount ruling of the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of Brown v The Board of Education in 1954, it was determined that segregation within the school system was unconstitutional and unfair, as the assurance of separate, but equal among the races, has never existed. White privilege was always awarded to the white school systems. Though it's obvious that racism still exists all over the world, white privilege wants to win even over the Supreme Court's ruling. At

West Point Consolidated School District of Mississippi, the 2021 valedictorian and salutatorian, Ikeria Washington and Layla Temple, were forced to share their honors with white students due to their parents claiming that there was a calculation error. White students complained to their parents and their parents encouraged the school to make the decision just hours before the ceremony. The purpose of a valedictorian and a salutatorian are to be honored according to ranking and should not be shared unless they share identical GPAs, which would then warrant a co-valedictorian and co-salutatorian. The hasty decision from the school district brings so many questions into the minds of the public; these concerns made the story go viral, and of course, the district issued a damage control statement. The statement is widely deemed disingenuous due to the honors being divided so quickly and how they attempted to assure everyone that the decision had nothing to do with race. The fact that race was immediately mentioned in the statement, illustrates the origin of the decision.

To further drive the point of white privilege, in 2016, a similar injustice happened to a previous black graduate, Jasmine Shepard, at Cleveland High School, which is located in the Mississippi Delta

school district. Ms. Shepard had to share her honors with a white student, Heather Bouse. It was discovered that

Bouse was allowed to receive credit for courses that weren't a part of the approved courses in the manual of the Mississippi department of Education; she was also given educational opportunities that weren't offered to Ms. Shepard. Superintendent Jacquelyn Thigpen stated in a deposition that the students had the same GPA, even though Thigpen it was noted previously that Bouse had a lower GPA than Ms. Shepard. Thigpen stated that she didn't know the race of each student before the order to divide the honor of valedictorian was solidified. Again, the mentioning of race is a deflection from the actuality, even with Thigpen is of the same race as Ms. Shepard. In 2017, Ms. Shepard filed a law suit for the injustice that she endured, but the fight for black students continue, as there are many discriminatory cases in the state of Mississippi, which is noted for still practicing Jim Crow laws.

There is a learning opportunity in these unfortunate events. Though all students' accomplishments during their high school career is great and recognizable, there is still one student who academically excels more than the other students according to their GPA. Winning and losing are necessary life lessons for young adults approaching the world beyond the classroom, which should be made clear during their academic careers.



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Community News



Passing of Chicano movement folksinger 'Chuy' Negrete

It was with regret that we learned Jesus "Chuy" Negrete, 72, the Chicago-based folksinger and lecturer who rose to prominence during the 1970s Chicano movement, passed away from natural causes on May 27. Negrete was hailed by Studs Terkel as "the Chicano Woodie Guthrie." In later life, he was closely aligned with the farm worker movement, performing for Cesar Chavez's United Farm Workers and Baldemar Velas-

quez's Farm Labor Organizing Committee.

For decades, Negrete entertained and inspired generations of Latino and other youth as he performed and taught at colleges and universities across the nation. He performed in public schools and libraries, at union rallies, civic festivals,

prisons and senior centers. He wove together songs, poetry and oral histories in English and Spanish, retelling Mexican and Mexican American history. His specialty was the creation, interpretation and study of folk music, especially the corrido.

Negrete met and was inspired by playwright and director Luis Valdez and began his performance career leading a "street theater" troupe, Teatro del Barrio, which traveled the country.

With degrees from the University of Illinois at Chicago and Chicago State University, Negrete was an expert in multicultural education and taught in public schools and universities.

Lamentamos saber que Jesús "Chuy" Negrete, de 72 años, el cantante folclórico y conferencista con sede en Chicago que saltó a la fama durante el movimiento chicano de la década de 1970, falleció por causas naturales el 27 de mayo. Negrete fue aclamado por Studs Terkel como "el Chicano Woodie Guthrie". En su vida posterior, estuvo estrechamente alineado con el movimiento de trabajadores agrícolas, actuando para el United Farm Workers de César Chávez y el Comité Organizador de Trabajadores Agrícolas de Baldemar Velásquez.

¡FELICIDADES!

Tomas Armando Williams from Naguabo Puerto Rico. He loves playing bingo, going to the casino. He was a carpenter that loved to build beautiful kitchen cabinets. He is celebrating his 104th birthday June 22nd.



Tomas Armando Williams de Naguabo Puerto Rico. Le encanta jugar al bingo, e ir al casino. Era un carpintero al que le encantaba construir hermosos gabinetes de cocina. Celebró su 104 cumpleaños el pasado 22 de junio.

Salvador Lopez, an advocate for equity in education and housing, selected to fill GRCC board vacancy

Grand Rapids Community College trustees selected Salvador Lopez, a GRCC grad who heads a non-profit aimed at helping children, to fill a board vacancy.

Lopez will replace Kathy Crosby, who resigned last month to spend more time with her family as she faces health challenges.

Board Chairperson David Koetje noted Lopez's extensive involvement in education and community support, and how attending GRCC helped him as a young man.

Lopez is leader of KConnect, and Grand Rapids organization focusing on collaborating and ensuring all children have an equitable path to economic prosperity. He also is serving as the interim president of the Housing Stability Alliance, a local organization working to develop an equitable housing system.

Lopez previously served as associate director for Diversity Recruitment and Inclusion at Grand Valley State University's Admissions Office, and was assistant director of GVSU's Office of Multicultural Affairs.

Lopez will be invited to attend the board's August work session, and will be formally sworn in at the September meeting.



His current term runs through the next board election in 2022.

Free Baseball Clinic

The Grand Rapids Bandits Baseball Club in partnership with the Eta Nu Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated Esquires, will host a free baseball clinic for children between the ages of 9-12 years old. The free clinic will run from 9am-1pm on Saturday, August 7 2021, at Mackay Jaycee Park.

Our goal is to help young players develop solid fundamentals and learn proper techniques at a young age. The clinic will cover the skills of pitching, hitting, catching, fielding, and baserunning. Athletes regardless of skill level will learn new baseball skills along with vital life lessons such as respect, teamwork and responsibility. Please bring your bat, glove, and be prepared to have fun! For further updates find us on our Facebook page.

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GRCC | grcc.edu/Appointment

House Democrats Propose Comprehensive Solution to Michigan Teacher Shortage



Citing the need for decisive action to remedy Michigan's ongoing teacher shortage crisis, state Rep. Darrin Camilleri (D-Trenton) and thirteen other Democratic representatives in the House today introduced a comprehensive package of bills to improve teacher benefits, training and more. The legislation, dubbed the Respecting Educators package, includes nearly 20 bills that range from improving teacher health benefits to creating new pipelines for public school teachers.

The following is a list of the bills and their sponsors:

- **House Bill 4574: Changes to the third-grade reading law.** Allows teachers to use discretion when deciding whether to retain a student not reading at grade level by third grade, sponsored by state Rep. Nate Shannon (D-Sterling Heights).
- **House Bill 5101: Changes to early literacy screening.** Amends requirements for early literacy screening to allow for teachers' professional judgment, sponsored by state Rep. Cara A. Clemente (D-Lincoln Park).
- **House Bills 5104 and 5105: Removing student growth component from teacher evaluations.** Modifies teacher evaluations to a 2-tiered non-punitive system not based on student growth, sponsored by state Rep. Lori Stone (D-Warren) and an accompanying bill that makes technical changes, sponsored by state Rep. Laurie Pohutsky (D-Livonia).
- **House Bill 5102: Local Teacher Supply Reimbursement Act.** Allows funds designated to specific schools from taxes to be allocated to reimburse state-certified teachers for out-of-pocket expenses, sponsored by state Rep. Abraham Aiyash (D-Hamtramck).
- **House Bill 5103: Making teacher supply reimbursements tax-free.** Amends the Income Tax Act to allow for above the line deduction from adjusted gross income for contributions to the Local Teacher Supply Reimbursement Program Act, sponsored by state Rep. Angela Witwer (D-Delta Township).
- **House Bill 5106: Improving teacher health care benefits.** Amends the Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act to require schools to offer 90/10 split, and require schools to be in hard cap until cost is 10% greater than cap, sponsored by state Rep. Mari Manoogian (D-Birmingham).
- **House Bill 5107: Statewide model teacher-cadet program.** Creates a career technical program in teacher preparation that allows high school students to work toward meeting teacher certification requirements through courses and experiential learning, sponsored by Anthony.
- **House Bills 4368 and 4369: Paraprofessional-to-teacher pipeline.**

Creates a tuition-free pathway for paraprofessionals to earn their teacher certification and associated fund for that program, sponsored by state Reps. Kevin Hertel (D-St. Clair Shores) and Matt Koleszar (D-Plymouth), respectively.

- **House Bill 5108: Individualized professional development plans.** Requires school improvement plans to include individualized professional development plans for teachers, sponsored by state Rep. Kara Hope (D-Holt).
 - **House Bill 5111: Incentivizing decreases in teacher-to-student ratio.** Creates a \$25 per pupil categorical for districts that lower their teacher pupil ratio from the prior year, prioritized for districts with the highest ratios first, sponsored by state Rep. Helena Scott (D-Detroit).
 - **House Bill 5110: Subsidizing teacher certification fees.** Requires the state to pay for teacher certification and recertification fees, sponsored by Morse.
 - **House Bill 5109: Fair pay for educators.** Creates a three-tiered best practice bonus system (\$20, \$30 and \$35 per pupil) based on whether teachers receive 95%, 100% or 110% of the average salary of like-educated individuals in their area, sponsored by state Rep. Kelly Breen (D-Novi).
 - **House Bill 5099: Teacher student loan forgiveness program.** Creates a student loan forgiveness program for eligible public school teachers that covers up to \$300 per month in student loan payments as long as the recipient remains actively teaching in the field, sponsored by Camilleri.
 - **House Bill 5100: Tax exemption for teacher student loan forgiveness.** Amends the tax code to make the student loan payment tax free, sponsored by state Rep. Brenda Carter (D-Pontiac).
 - **House Bill 5112: Classroom management training for teachers.** Requires teacher preparation programs to include a course on classroom management, sponsored by Stone.
 - **House Bill 5113: Classroom management training for substitutes.** Requires substitute teachers to have six hours or one day of professional development that includes classroom management skills training if they do not hold a teaching certificate, sponsored by state Rep. Regina Weiss (D-Oak Park).
- The bills will be referred to committee at today's House session.

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grcc.edu/CNC



MDCR Interim Director John E. Johnson Jr., Issues Statement in Response to the Sentencing of Derek Chauvin

John E. Johnson, Jr., Interim Executive Director of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, has issued the following statement in response to the sentencing of Derek Chauvin to 22 and half years in prison for the murder of George Floyd.

"The 22 and a half year sentence handed down to Derek Chauvin was not only justified, we hope it will help the country heal from the deep wound of George Floyd's murder. Of course, much remains to be done to ensure what happened to George Floyd is not repeated in this country again. This horrible event is only one in a long list of unwarranted killings of people of color at the hands of the police sworn to protect them. A guilty verdict and a long prison sentence alone cannot undo generations of systemic and structural bias and racism. We must recommit to actively working to reform the system that allows for these unconscionable acts to continue. Consequently, we urge our state and federal legislatures to enact laws that will help to abate future atrocities. But we also realize that true criminal justice reform will only occur when our three branches of state and federal government collectively participate to effect change."

John E. Johnson, Jr., director ejecutivo interino del Departamento de Derechos Civiles de Michigan, emitió la siguiente declaración en respuesta a la sentencia de Derek Chauvin a 22 años y medio de prisión por el asesinato de George Floyd.

"La sentencia de 22 años y medio dictada a Derek Chauvin no solo fue justificada, esperamos que ayude al país a sanar de la profunda herida del asesinato de George Floyd. Por supuesto, queda mucho por hacer para garantizar que lo que le sucedió a George Floyd no se repita en este país nuevamente. Este horrible evento es solo uno de una larga lista de asesinatos injustificados de personas de color a manos de la policía que juró protegerlos."

Three Powerhouse Latinas Named to Friends of The National Museum of The American Latino Board of Directors

Friends of the National Museum of the American Latino (FRIENDS), an advocacy campaign fighting for the creation of a Smithsonian museum on the National Mall dedicated to the 500 year history of American Latinos in the U.S., announced three new additions to its Board of Directors: former Obama White House official and women's health advocate Alejandra Campoverdi, businesswoman and impact investor Angélica Fuentes, and activist and founder of Justice for Migrant Women, Mónica Ramírez.

"This dynamic trio of change makers and influential leaders will add greatly to our efforts to realize the dream of so many Americans—that is, to have the history of Latinos in the United States told on the grandest stage our nation has to offer, the National Mall," said Estuardo Rodriguez, President and CEO of FRIENDS.



The additions come during a pivotal season for the FRIENDS campaign. Most recently, FRIENDS sent a letter signed by more than 100 influential Latino leaders to Smithsonian Secretary Lonnie Bunch. The letter urges him to ensure that the museum is built on the National Mall. It was sent in response to news that space issues on the National Mall may affect the location of the future Latino Museum. In addition, FRIENDS succeeded in helping to get the National Museum of the American Latino Act passed in Congress in December of 2020, officially inaugurating the museum as part of the Smithsonian Institution.

Friends of the National Museum of the American Latino (FRIENDS), una campaña de defensa que lucha por la creación de un museo Smithsonian en el National Mall dedicado a los 500 años de historia de los latinos estadounidenses en los EE. UU., anunció tres nuevas incorporaciones a su Junta Directiva: la ex funcionaria de Obama en la Casa Blanca y defensora de la salud de la mujer Alejandra Campoverdi, la empresaria e inversora de impacto Angélica Fuentes, y la activista y fundadora de Justicia para Mujeres Migrantes, Mónica Ramírez.

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Meet the 2021 NALAC Leadership Institute Fellows



The National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures (NALAC) announces the 38 artists, cultural workers, and arts administrators participating in the 21st edition of the NALAC Leadership Institute (NLI). The NLI is an intensive weeklong professional development program taking place July 12-16, 2021. This year's cohort is the largest in the program's history.

Typically hosted in San Antonio, Texas, this year's institute will once again be virtual. Sessions will be led by longtime core faculty members Rosalba Rolón (Pregones/PRTT), Maribel Alvarez (University of Arizona & Tucson Meet Yourself), and Abel López (GALA Hispanic Theatre) with additional sessions by adjunct faculty members Charles Rice-Gonzalez (BAAD! The Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance) & Evonne Gallardo (independent arts consultant).

Fellows represent 13 states and Puerto Rico and 13 different artistic disciplines and join a community of more than 500 alumni. This fall there will be an opportunity for alumni to connect at the NALAC National Latinx Summit on September 30 – October 2, 2021. Artists and cultural workers are eligible to submit session and workshop proposals for the gathering through July 9, 2021.

The 2021 edition of the NALAC Leadership Institute is supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Ford Foundation, Southwest Airlines, National Endowment for the Arts, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and Texas Commission on the Arts.

To see the 2021 fellows www.nalac.org/meet-the-2021-nalac-leadership-institute-fellows/?mc_cid=2cab7a6646&mc_eid=e8d136172e

Chair of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission Calls for Weighted Funding Formula for K-12 Schools

Stacie Clayton, Chair of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission, has issued the following statement in response to the state House budget proposal that would increase per-pupil funding for K-12 schools in Michigan.

"The 2022 budget plan, approved by the state House, includes an unprecedented boost in funding for K-12 schools and represents an optimal opportunity for closing the funding gap between districts statewide. It has the potential to improve the quality of education in districts that have been historically underfunded, many of which have a significant percentage of students of color. While the funding increase is a welcome and needed change, closing the achievement gap will require more than an across-the-board increase for every school – the currently well-financed and those that have been neglected for decades. As we outlined in our report, Education Equity in Michigan, Michigan has long failed to provide adequate funding for educationally at-risk children. Making sure every child has the opportunity to succeed requires an intentional focus on building equity into the funding formula. We must factor in an additional percentage to address the needs of students living in poverty, those who require special education, or are English language learners. By instituting a weighted funding system, where poverty is a factor in a school's special education and English learning status, we can help level the playing field for schools that for too long have been asked to do much more than their wealthier counterparts, with much less."

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4th of July Festivities 2021

Festividades del 4 de Julio 2021

Alpha celebrates the 4th of July - 118th consecutive year July 4, 2021 - Alpha Michigan

Home to the first traffic circle in Michigan is celebrating Independence Day, the 4th of July, for the 118th consecutive year. Flag raising at 9AM by the East Side Veterans, National Anthem by the Forest Park High School Marching band, and a parade to follow! Floats, children costumes, decorated bike, fire trucks, and more. Prizes: Alpha Mastodon Fire Department give everyone Cracker Jacks and Ice Cream following the parade. Food available and the brewery sponsoring 3 bands starting at 1PM with Gary Friestrom, Fatwood, and Sons of Legend! Fireworks sponsored by the Village of Alpha, Mastodon Township and the brewery at dusk! Join us in celebrating Independence Day!

Independence Day Celebration July 4, 2021 - Flint

Join us for our annual Ice Cream social as we celebrate our Nation's 243rd year of Independence. Ice Cream Social and Lemonade for the whole family, beginning at 1pm. Crossroads Village & Huckleberry Railroad is an authentic Great Lakes town from the turn of the last century, with over 34 historic structures and a thriving community.

Frankenmuth Fireworks 2021 – Fireworks in Fun Town Saturday, July 3, 2021 “around” 9:30p

Heritage Park (Heritage Park, 601 Weiss Street, Frankenmuth MI 48734). Enjoy a beautiful fireworks display over Frankenmuth to celebrate Independence Day Fireworks last 20 minutes.. For more info, visit www.frankenmuth.org.

Grand Rapids Fireworks presented by Soaring Eagle 2021 July 3, 2021 - Grand Rapids

Join us on July 3rd, 2021 for the annual Grand Rapids Fireworks presented by Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort. The event kicks off at 6pm at Ah-Nab-Awen Park, near the Ford Presidential Museum. The event will include family-fun activities, food, vendors and live entertainment! The fun continues through the start of the fireworks display, which will start at 10:30 p.m.

4th of July Celebration Presented by Spectrum Health July 4, 08:30 AM TO 10:30 PM UTC-04:00 City of East Grand Rapids | Grand Rapids

The City's 2021 Fourth of July Celebration will include three main events for all to enjoy. During this transitional period, these events will allow the community to celebrate America's birthday while staying safe. A special thank you to our title sponsor, Spectrum Health, for making this celebration possible.

brate America's birthday while staying safe. A special thank you to our title sponsor, Spectrum Health, for making this celebration possible.

Kick-off Independence Day at the 11th Annual Reeds Lake Trail Blazer 5K Run/Walk, then watch the City-wide parade as it passes through your neighborhood and finally join us for a fireworks show over Reeds Lake after sunset.

Ludington's Jaycees Freedom Festival Grand Parade & Fireworks- July 4, 2021 - Ludington

The Freedom Festival Grand Parade gets underway July 4th, at 2pm and features floats, bands, politicians, local residents, and of course, the Scottville Clown. Thousands line Ludington Avenue to watch this hometown parade as they march downtown from Madison Street to Lakeshore Drive, all sharing the warmth and excitement of our nation's birthday. On the evening of July 4th, starting around dusk (approximately 10:30pm), pick your favorite "viewing" site, such as Stearns Beach or Waterfront Park, and enjoy the show. Basically, anywhere you see water, you'll see the fireworks.

A Star Spangled Fourth of July July 4, 2021 - Mackinac Island

The historic island fort is decked out in patriotic finery with banners, flags and bunting. It is an 1880's Independence Day, with 38-gun salutes honoring the states of the period, performances of patriotic music, and Victorian children's games. Guests join the party and participate in games on the fort parade ground. Included with regular admission to Fort Mackinac. #thisismackinac

July 4th Fireworks - Saint Ignace

Come enjoy a spectacular fireworks display to celebrate Independence Day in beautiful downtown Saint Ignace. Watch fireworks explode over Moran Bay and their light reflects off the water of Lake Huron with Mackinac Island in the background.

Traverse City Cherry Festival & 4th of July Fireworks

This year, the 2021 Cherry Festival will be hosted from July 3–10 in Traverse City after being canceled in 2020. The festival will kick off Saturday, July 3 with a wide variety of events and annual fireworks show on Sunday, July 4. From the Very Cherry Flying Pancake Breakfast to Zumba by the Bay, there is an activity or event for the entire family.



The Importance of Extended Family, La Familia



By Jorge Martinez

Current trends in families show that siblings with children navigate them away from uncles and aunts. Aside from the pressure to assimilate, this is allegedly done to protect privacy and end cycles of interfamily dysfunction. Although it may appear to be a solution for erasing unhappy memories, it leaves children vulnerable and without an essential ingredient of success from a trusted adviser. Without a trusted adult to confide in, teenagers inevitably gravitate towards same age peers with less or equal life experience. This may explain the endless tragedies of youthful overdoses, deaths, and criminal behavior. It may also explain the increase in underage pregnancies, as well as drug abuse and suicides. Little or no cross-cultural research is conducted to study differences in Latino families from the dominant culture in these areas.



proper mentoring. One learns some situations will remain unresolved. While this true, would not you prefer your child were mentored by a brother or sister instead of a stranger or a kid of the same age? It is not difficult to imagine why a teenager would not want to discuss common problems facing them with a parent. There are many themes they do not understand or are prepared to discuss. While it is essential parents reaffirm unconditional love, it does not mean an absence of consequences. The ultimate power a parent has is withholding affection, the second is voicing disappointment. There are endless variations of problems which arise. Attempting to name and discuss these would be futile. While tools are limited, the most useful are intuition and observation. There is also the idea of time out, space, supervision, and seizure of prohibited items. Of course, an endless effort to maintain on-going communication about current issues is highly recommended.

Another is the ever-increasing number of Latino parents abandoning their cultural heritage, customs, and traditions. A rush by successful bilingual, bi-cultural Latinos to have their child fit in throws their development into a disastrous downward spiral. Generally, these children have no ethnic tie or cultural identity and do not speak nor understand Spanish. This is a major loss as it severs their only hope for a bilingual understanding of their environment. After years of working as a counselor with troubled children I came across many alarming discoveries. The most troubling was that parents across cultural boundaries do not know their children very well. This was a startling realization because parents believe they know their child. This is not true. The horrible realization comes when evidence provided proof of sexual, deviant and often criminal behavior. Realization sets in when 99% of parents cannot believe the child they raised, nurtured, and loved could do such things. This is especially true when it came to inappropriate sexual behavior for boys and deviant behavior by girls. Another rarely discussed topic is the moment Latino parents realize their child does not identify with their natural sexual identity. Many parents are left unbalanced when they learn their child prefers same sex partners. While the children are praised for coming out and being proud of their identities, parents are left unhinged, stunned into silence, and unanchored. This rarely has a happy ending.

In every case of criminal behavior, the parents went into debt, mortgaged their homes, and/or spent their retirement to defend their child. These situations never ended well and may have been avoided via

To reenforce these a parent must physically demonstrate affection, via pats on the back and age-appropriate demonstrations of affection. Parents and children will face a variation of the following problems. The most common is peer pressure which most parents assume their children do not have. Wrong! The second most common is pressure to smoke, drink and take drugs, which usually starts with cigarettes. The third is stealing, which some kids see it as a sign of "coolness" to steal which eventually ends with an arrest. The fourth is bullying which feels shameful and destroys self-esteem. Everyone is subject to bullying including adults. Those who intimidate and use violence to manipulate must be confronted, how you choose to do so will depend on circumstance. The fifth most common is pressure to have sex. This may be the most difficult to defeat as most TV shows and movies have sex scenes. There is also the fact that porno is available on cell phones and internet. Today's kids are being sexualized at alarming rates with unpredictable outcomes. Each of these issues must be dealt with depending on the situation and circumstances. Of course, there will be times when relatives are the problem and not the solution. The disintegration of the Latino family continues as we supposedly continue to progress. New generations confuse inexperience with the unknown while others maintain life experience makes them infallible. I know that if a country collects data via a long racist history, you get a racist system that sees racism as truth!

Jorge Martinez, 1635 Crevison Ct. Newman, CA 95360, Tel; 209-479-9936

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By Odille Parker

Devin Booker

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

As the Phoenix Suns face the Los Angeles Clippers in the NBA Western Conference Finals, Grand Rapids native Devin Booker continues to play a

pivotal role on the court.

The 24 year-old guard was named an All-Star for the second year in a row this year, replacing Anthony Davis after an injury. He and Chris Paul became the first Suns duo since 2010 to be named All-Stars, and the two have played a key role in leading Phoenix to their first playoff berth since 2010. Booker made his NBA playoff debut on May 23, posting 34 points, seven rebounds, and eight assists in the Suns' 99-90 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers.

Booker has continued a strong playoff appearance, recording a play-off career-high 47 points in the series-clinching win against the Lakers on Game 6. In Game 4 of the Conference Semifinals against the Denver Nuggets, Booker dropped 34 points and 11 rebounds, leading the Suns to a 4-0 sweep for their first Western Conference Finals appearance since 2010.

For Game 1 of the Conference Finals, Booker recorded his first career triple-double with 40 points, 13 rebounds, and 11 assists in the Suns' 120-144 win over the LA Clippers.

Booker played one season for the University of Kentucky before being drafted 13th overall in the 2015 NBA draft by the Suns. He became the youngest player to score over 60 points in a game, finishing with 70 points against the Boston Celtics in March 2017. He continued to break records, becoming the youngest player in NBA history with consecutive 50-point games in March 2019.

"We thought he had a lot of potential," said Suns GM Rayn McDough on drafting Booker. "We loved his character and work ethic, his size and his shooting ability stood out."

Booker is the son of Veronica Gutierrez and Melvin Booker, who played for three teams in the NBA and was named the 1994 Big Eight Player of the Year while a point guard at Missouri State. He was born and raised in Grand Rapids, living with his Mexican-American and Puerto Rican mother, while his father pursued a career overseas.

In 2016, Booker finished fourth in the 2016 NBA Rookie of the Year Award voting, and he earned NBA All-Rookie First Team honors. He became the first Suns player to be named as a member of the All-Rookie Team since 2003.

Battling various injuries, Booker has continued to be a standout for the Suns' continued success. In January 2019, he became the fourth-youngest player to reach 7,000 career points, behind only LeBron James, Kevin Durant, and Carmelo Anthony. He was named to

his first All-Star appearance that season as well as an injury replacement for Damian Lillard.

Booker also played on the 2016 USA Select team that trained against the 2016 U.S. Olympic team. He was also named a finalist to play on the 2020 U.S. men's Olympic team prior to the postponement due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For now, his focus is on leading the Suns to their first NBA finals appearance since 1993.

Mientras los Phoenix Suns se enfrentan a Los Angeles Clippers en las Finales de la Conferencia Oeste de la NBA, el nativo de Grand Rapids, Devin Booker, continúa desempeñando un papel fundamental en la cancha.

El base de 24 años fue nombrado All-Star por segundo año consecutivo este año, reemplazando a Anthony Davis después de una lesión. Él y Chris Paul se convirtieron en el primer dúo de los Suns desde 2010 en ser nombrados All-Stars, y los dos han jugado un papel clave en llevar a Phoenix a su primer lugar en los playoffs desde 2010. Booker hizo su debut en los playoffs de la NBA el 23 de mayo, anotando 34 puntos, siete rebotes y ocho asistencias en la victoria de los Suns por 99-90 sobre Los Angeles Lakers.

Booker ha continuado con una sólida aparición en los playoffs, registrando un récord personal de playoffs de 47 puntos en la victoria de la serie contra los Lakers en el Juego 6. En el Juego 4 de las Semifinales de Conferencia contra los Denver Nuggets, Booker perdió 34 puntos y 11 rebotes, liderando los Suns barrieron 4-0 en su primera aparición en las Finales de la Conferencia Oeste desde 2010.

Por ahora, su enfoque está en llevar a los Suns a su primera aparición en una final de la NBA desde 1993.

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CALENDARIO DE JUEGOS 2021

DOM LUN MAR MIE JUE VIER SAB

MAYO

JUNIO

JULIO

AGOSTO

SEPTIEMBRE

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REL: Detroit Tigers (Mariners)
 CH: Cedar Rapids (Twins)
 DAY: Dayton Dragons (Reds)
 FW: Fort Wayne (Pirates)
 GL: Grand Rapids (Guardians)
 LAN: Lansing Lugnuts (Tigers)
 LC: Lake County (Indians)
 PEO: Peoria (Cubs)
 QC: Quad Cities (Royals)
 SB: South Bend (Cubs)
 WIS: Wisconsin (Brewers)

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July Events Eventos en Julio

Fifth Third Bank Summer Concerts at Meijer Gardens

July 1-September 1, 2021
The 2021 Fifth Third Bank Summer Concerts at Meijer Gardens concert series is scheduled to take place in July, August and September if regulations allow. Featuring an eclectic mix of alternative, indie, blues and rock, the lineup will include The Verve Pipe, O.A.R., Kansas, St. Paul & The Broken Bones and Black Violin + Blind Boys of Alabama. The complete lineup of 30 shows and ticket on sale dates will be announced as soon as possible. Food, drinks and merchandise are available at the Eileen DeVries Concessions Building.

La serie de conciertos 2021 Fifth Third Bank Summer Concerts en Meijer Gardens está programada para julio, agosto y septiembre si las regulaciones lo permiten. Con una mezcla ecléctica de alternativa, indie, blues y rock, la alineación incluirá a The Verve Pipe, O.A.R., Kansas, St. Paul & The Broken Bones y Black Violin + Blind Boys of Alabama.

WeDiscover Festival July 2-4, 2021 Muskegon

The WeDiscover Festival will encompass multiple city blocks of Downtown Muskegon and the Beachfront of Lake Michigan over the Fourth of July weekend.

The main event will be held Saturday, July 3 with a three-day modified and exotic car show, electronic dance music festival, food vendors, the new social drinking district, food truck alley, urban art installations and a massive fireworks festival by Melrose Pyrotechnics. Cars will be parked along Western Avenue.

El Festival WeDiscover abarcará varias cuerdas de la ciudad del centro de Muskegon y la playa del lago Michigan durante el fin de semana del 4 de julio. El evento principal se llevará a cabo el sábado 3 de julio con una exhibición de autos exóticos y modificados de tres días, un festival de música electrónica de baile, vendedores de comida, el nuevo distrito social de bebidas, un callejón de camiones de comida, instalaciones de arte urbano y un festival masivo de fuegos artificiales de Melrose Pyrotechnics.

Waterfront Fine Art Fine Craft Fair

July 3, 2021- Saugatuck
Free admission
Lots of shopping and restaurants in this resort town and on July 4th a parade and fireworks after dark
For more information see www.saugatuckdouglassartclub.org

Muchas tiendas y restaurantes en esta ciudad turística y el 4 de julio un desfile y fuegos artificiales

después del anochecer. Para obtener más información, visite www.saugatuckdouglassartclub.org

2021 National Cherry Festival - July 3-10, 2021

The National Cherry Festival, steeped in tradition, resonates Pure Michigan through and through. From bringing 'pure' local agriculture to the one of Pure Michigan's premier destinations; to hosting guests in one of Pure Michigan's most beautiful beach towns, the Cherry Capital of the World Traverse City, the National Cherry Festival is proud to be one of Pure Michigan's brightest gems.

El Festival Nacional de la Cereza, impregnado de tradición, resuena en Pure Michigan de principio a fin. Desde llevar la agricultura local 'pura' a uno de los principales destinos de Pure Michigan; Para recibir a los huéspedes en una de las ciudades costeras más hermosas de Pure Michigan, la Capital de la Cereza de la World Traverse City, el Festival Nacional de la Cereza se enorgullece de ser una de las gemas más brillantes de Pure Michigan.

Holland American Legion Band Concerts

June 22-July 15, 2021 Holland

As a community band, the mission of the Holland American Legion Band is to offer an opportunity for life-long musical expression and enjoyment by providing quality and challenging musical experiences for its musicians and audiences. It is our goal to educate and entertain our audiences, and to excel at what we do. Following the goal of the American Legion Post that founded the band, we also continue to provide musical support for local community and veterans organizations' events and activities.



Join us on Tuesdays at 7:30, in Kollen Park.

Como banda comunitaria, la misión de Holland American Legion Band es ofrecer una oportunidad para la expresión musical y el disfrute de por vida al brindar experiencias musicales desafiantes y de calidad para sus músicos y audiencias. 7:30, en Kollen Park. Unase a nosotros los martes en 7:30, en Kollen Park.

Muskegon Bike Time July 15-July 18, 2021 Muskegon

Muskegon Bike Time promotes Muskegon and the lakeshore as a great place for motorcyclists and the general public to gather and enjoy the spectacle, attractions, entertainment and food offered during this four day event. Please visit our website for the complete schedule of Muskegon.

Muskegon Bike Time promueve Muskegon y la orilla del lago como un gran lugar para que los motociclistas y el público en general se reúnan y disfruten del espectáculo, las atracciones, el entretenimiento y la comida que se ofrecen durante este evento de cuatro días.

Native American Festival July 24, 2021 Saint Ignace

The Annual Native American Festival will be held on July 24, 2021, at the Museum of Ojibwa Culture in St. Ignace, Michigan.

Hear the sounds of drums, see the expressive dances, and taste the traditions that were literally hundreds of years in the making – all at this one incredible event. The smell of sacred medicines and the feel of birch

bark, porcupine quills and other materials used for both function and artistry are also part of the experience. The event is held on the grounds of the Museum of Ojibwa Culture and festival activities are free to all visitors.

El Festival Anual de Nativos Americanos se llevará a cabo el 24 de julio de 2021, en el Museo de Cultura Ojibwa en St. Ignace, Michigan. Escuche los sonidos de los tambores, vea los bailes expresivos y pruebe las tradiciones que se desarrollaron literalmente durante cientos de años, todo en este evento increíble.

Grand Haven Coast Guard Festival 2021 July 30-August 8, 2021 Grand Haven

The Grand Haven Coast Guard Festival is committed to honoring men and women of the United States Coast Guard by hosting a nationally recognized festival that honors and respects these men and women who serve. Hosting a festival that provides family friendly activities. Focusing year round on the men and women of the United States Coast Guard serving in the West Michigan area. Building relationships with Coast Guard leadership that fosters the theme of Grand Haven – "Coast Guard City, USA." Celebrating the history of the United States Coast Guard.

El Festival de la Guardia Costera de Grand Haven se compromete a honrar a los hombres y mujeres de los Estados Unidos organizando un festival reconocido a nivel nacional que honra y respeta a estos hombres y mujeres que sirven.

FACTS TO REMEMBER WHEN CELEBRATING OUR FREEDOM

Lest We Forget: Latino/Chicano Veterans

Latinos and(or) Chicanos are the most highly decorated ethnic group in America. 63 Latinos have been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest award for valor in action which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Services of the United States. Check out the following site for a list of all Chicano/Latino Medal of Honor Recipients:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Hispanic_Medal_of_Honor_recipients

<http://lared-latina.com/veteranos.htm>

Star Customs & Restorations



3 Wheel Reliant Robin owners Walter & Toni Klimek



1948 Chevy 3100 Pickup



Buick Riviera owner Ron Martin



Nice 1965 Ford Galaxie convertible



1966 Chevy C-10 Air Ride LT owner Mike Modzeleski



Dad...how do I get in this truck



Cruisin with a cool car!



Sweet Dub! (Nice Wheel Rims)



Mechanical aliens like the Fire Chief Pedal Car



The Sprit of 1924



Julio & Teresa Carcini were there to support thier son Francisco

Car Show Held on May 16, 2021 · Part II

We are showing more pictures from this car show for you to see. Hopefully you will enjoy them.

As we try to get back to normal without the mask and social distance mandates, we look forward to upcoming car shows, festivals & cruisin' events.

What we went through with this Coronavirus last year was devastating...it killed people we loved... family & friends. Please... everyone get your vaccine shot, not only to save your life but for those who love you.

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Car / Bike: \$10.00 Donation
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Saginaw, MI 48601

LaVoz

Rosario Isabel Dawson is an American actress, producer, and activist. She made her feature-film debut in the 1995 independent drama *Kids*. Her subsequent film roles include *He Got Game*, *Josie and the Pussycats*, *Men in Black II*, *Rent*, *Sin City*, *Clerks II*, *Death Proof*, *Seven Pounds*, *Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief*, *Unstoppable*, *Zookeeper*, *Trance*, *Top Five* and *Zombieland: Double Tap*. Dawson has also provided voice-over work for Disney/Marvel, Warner Bros./DC Comics, and ViacomCBS's Nickelodeon unit.

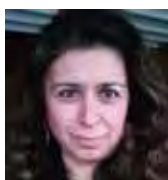
Rosario Isabel Dawson es una actriz, productora y activista estadounidense. Hizo su debut cinematográfico en el drama independiente Kids de 1995. Sus papeles cinematográficos posteriores incluyen He Got Game, Josie and the Pussycats, Men in Black II, Rent, Sin City, Clerks II, Death Proof, Seven Pounds, Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief, Unstoppable, Zookeeper, Trance, Top Five y Zombieland: doble toque. Dawson también ha realizado trabajos de doblaje para Disney / Marvel, Warner Bros./DC Comics y la unidad de Nickelodeon de ViacomCBS.



Rosario Dawson



Photo by Piero F. Giunti



By Lisa Wiseman

It looks like the music scene is back in full force with venues opening back up to full capacity and bands going on the road again to entertain throngs of people hungry for live entertainment. And if there is one band that knows how to tour, it is Los Lobos. After all, the boys from East L.A. have been doing it for nearly five decades! After being on hiatus during the pandemic, the boys are ready to go with a slew of tour dates and a new covers album titled "Native Sons" to be released via New West records on July 30th.

Described as a "love letter to Los Angeles", this 13 track set pays tribute to some of the best L.A. artists and songwriters such as The Beach Boys (Sail On, Sailor), Thee Midnitters (Love Special Delivery), WAR (The World is a Ghetto), Jackson Browne (Jamaica Say You Will) and the Blasters (Flat Top Joint), just to name a few. The title track, "Native Sons" is the only track that is an original composition by the band themselves, a homage to their own hometown.

Los Lobos has been known to take all kinds of musical genres from cumbia to country, from ranchero to rock and R&B, from banda to blues and everything in between, and come up with an original and boldly distinct sound that is second to none. And anyone who has been fortunate to see them perform can attest to the fact that they are one of the top bands to see live. They have only gotten better through the years and have such staying power that they still sell out crowds. These boys were destined to be legendary icons in the music industry since they first appeared on the scene back in 1973 and are still going strong!

Los Lobos returns to Meijer Gardens on August 8, performing with the lovely and talented Emmylou Harris, so pre-order your copy of Native Sons so you will have it in time for the show. Tickets go on sale July 10, 2021 (Members Pre-Sale started on June 26) and are \$78.00 for members and \$80.00 for non-members. For more detailed information, and a full lineup of concerts scheduled, go to <https://www.meijergardens.org/calendar/summer-concerts-at-meijer-gardens/>. You won't want to miss this show!

Parece que la escena musical está de vuelta con toda su fuerza con los lugares que se abren de nuevo a plena capacidad y las bandas vuelven a la carretera para entretener a multitudes de personas hambrientas de entretenimiento en vivo. Y si hay una banda que sabe hacer giras, es Los Lobos. Después de todo, ¡los chicos de East L.A. lo han estado haciendo durante casi cinco décadas! Después de una pausa durante la pandemia, los chicos están listos para ir con una gran cantidad de fechas de gira y un nuevo álbum de versiones titulado "Native Sons" que se lanzará a través de New West Records el 30 de julio.

Descrito como una "carta de amor a Los Ángeles", este conjunto de 13 pistas rinde homenaje a algunos de los mejores artistas y compositores de Los Ángeles, como The Beach Boys (Sail On,

Sailor), Thee Midnitters (Love Special Delivery), WAR (The World es un ghetto), Jackson Browne (Jamaica Say You Will) y los Blasters (Flat Top Joint), solo por nombrar algunos. La canción principal, "Native Sons" es la única canción que es una composición original de la propia banda, un homenaje a su propia ciudad natal.

Los Lobos regresa a Meijer Gardens el 8 de agosto, actuando con la encantadora y talentosa Emmylou Harris, así que reserve su copia de Native Sons para que la tenga a tiempo para el espectáculo. Los boletos salen a la venta el 10 de julio de 2021 (la pre-venta para miembros comenzó el 26 de junio) y cuestan \$ 78.00 para miembros y \$ 80.00 para no miembros. Para obtener información más detallada y una lista completa de los conciertos programados, visite <https://www.meijergardens.org/calendar/summer-concerts-at-meijer-gardens/>. ¡No querrás perderte este espectáculo!

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Quinceañeras / Bodas

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THE ICONIC DUO ZION & LENNOX NOMINEES IN PREMIOS JUVENTUD 2021

Legendary Puerto Rican urban duo, Zion & Lennox, receive a nomination for Premios Juventud 2021 as Favorite Group or Duo of the Year.

Zion & Lennox, pioneers of the reggaeton genre and with more than 20 years of experience, have managed to captivate millions around the world, creating hits like Te Mueves Ft. Natti Natasha, Mujer Satisfecha, Sistema, Gota Gota and their latest No Me Llama alongside Myke Towers among many others.

Zion & Lennox, continue their successful career firmly, being one of the most acclaimed and important duos in the history of the urban genre, taking their songs to the top of the popularity charts and turning them into anthems for countless fans.

The 2021 Premios Juventud ceremony will be broadcast live from the city of Miami, Florida, next Thursday, July 22, 7P / 6C, on Univision.

El legendario dúo urbano puertorriqueño, Zion & Lennox, reciben una nominación en Premios Juventud 2021, en la categoría Grupo o Dúo Favorito del Año.



Zion & Lennox pioneros del género del reggaetón y con más de 20 años de trayectoria han logrado cautivar a millones alrededor del mundo dejado plasmados éxitos como Te Mueves junto a Natti Natasha, Mujer Satisfecha, Sistema, Gota Gota y más reciente No Me Llama Ft. Myke Towers entre muchos otros más.

Zion & Lennox, continúan su exitosa carrera con firmeza y solidez, siendo uno de los dúos más aclamados e importantes en la historia del género urbano; llevando sus canciones al tope de las listas de popularidad y convirtiéndolas en himnos para su fanática.

La ceremonia de Premios Juventud 2021, se transmitirá en vivo desde la ciudad de Miami, Florida, el próximo jueves 22 de julio 7P/6C, por Univision.

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ISABEL LÓPEZ SLATTERY

My name is Isabel and I am owner of Isabel Media Studios. My camera is my time machine. It allows me to visually time travel by capturing moments in the present, when transformed into photographs that are a ticket to the past to relive Special Memories, and those memories are a window to Dreams in the Future. One of many reasons why I am so Passionate about Photography. I love how my camera gives me the opportunity to Capture Stories in Time. Our ancestors used different mediums to tell Stories, I am Blessed that my camera is mine.



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616-334-1581 office
avphotos.video@yahoo.com



2021 JULY MODEL SEARCH

Rheumatoid Arthritis and the COVID-19 Vaccine

If you have an autoimmune disease like rheumatoid arthritis, you may be wondering if the COVID-19 vaccine is right for you.

The American College of Rheumatology supports the vaccination of individuals with autoimmune diseases against COVID-19. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advise individuals with autoimmune conditions may receive a COVID-19 vaccine, but there is no data currently available about the safety of COVID-19 vaccines for people with autoimmune conditions.

Often, individuals with rheumatoid arthritis may take medication that suppresses their immune system to treat their symptoms. People with weakened immune systems due to their illness or medication may be at an increased risk for severe disease if they get COVID-19.

The best course of action if you have rheumatoid arthritis – and especially if you take medication for it – is to talk to your health care provider before pursuing the vaccine. Your doctor may recommend pausing or adjusting certain medications before receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. Additionally, certain medications may make the COVID-19 vaccines less effective – though research is still underway on this subject. Some drugs, like steroids, suppress the immune system and are useful in treating conditions in which your immune system is overactive like rheumatoid arthritis. But these same medications can also reduce your immune system's response to the COVID vaccine.

It's critical to consult with your health care provider if you take immunosuppressant drugs or therapies prior to receiving a COVID-19 vaccine, as they



may have specific advice and recommendations for how to manage your medication and treatments around the timing of your vaccine shots.

There is a theoretical risk that a COVID-19 vaccination could cause a flare or worsening of an autoimmune or inflammatory rheumatic disease – but at this time, medical experts believe the benefit of a COVID-19 vaccine outweighs any potential risk of a flareup.

El Colegio Americano de Reumatología apoya la vacunación de personas con enfermedades autoinmunes contra COVID-19. Los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades de EE. UU. Advierten que las personas con afecciones autoinmunes pueden recibir una vacuna COVID-19, pero actualmente no hay datos disponibles sobre la seguridad de las vacunas COVID-19 para personas con afecciones autoinmunes.

A menudo, las personas con artritis reumatoide pueden tomar medicamentos que inhiben su sistema inmunológico para tratar sus síntomas. Las personas con sistemas inmunitarios debilitados debido a su enfermedad o medicación pueden tener un mayor riesgo de enfermedad grave si contraen COVID-19.

El mejor curso de acción si tiene artritis reumatoide, y especialmente si toma medicamentos para ella, es hablar con su proveedor de atención médica antes de vacunarse. Su médico puede recomendar pausar o ajustar ciertos medicamentos antes de recibir la vacuna COVID-19.

www.mibluesperspectives.com

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Obtenga más información en *Here* **ForItAll.com**

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

Maria Erazo-Luna



Maria Erazo Favorite:
Band: Enrique Iglesias
Two favorite Colors: Blue and Purple
Drink: Mojito
Non alcoholic drink: Green Tea
Movie of all time: The man show
TV Show: The Good Doctor
Season in Michigan: Fall

Maria Erazo-Luna is Mrs. Amazing she is a Body builder, Financial Strategist/Business Coach/Bestseller Author of #shapeupbook & was recently selected as one of the 12 Grand Haven Beach Photo Shoot Models for this years 2021 Event from over 600 applicants.

Maria Erazo-Luna es la Sra. Increible, es fisicoculturista, estratega financiera / coach de negocios / autora de bestseller de #shapeupbook y recientemente fue seleccionada como una de las 12 modelos de sesión fotográfica de Grand Haven Beach para el evento de este año 2021 entre más de 600 solicitantes.

Remember that the only goals that are met are those that are planned. If you still have not achieved the goals you have set for yourself, do not be discouraged, it is never too late to start or resume your plans.- Maria

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! CCCougar11@aol.com

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CLASSIFIEDS

PAYROLL CLERK - CITY OF KENTWOOD

- The City of Kentwood Finance Department is seeking qualified applicants for a full-time Payroll Clerk position. The Payroll Clerk is responsible for processing payroll and performing general finance duties.

Qualified applicants will possess all the following:

- High School Diploma or GED; AND
- at least two (2) years of payroll management experience; OR
- an equivalent combination of education, training, and experience.

This is a full-time position with excellent

benefits. This position requires 40 hours per week, working Monday through Friday. The pay range for this position is \$19.26 to \$26.96.

To see the full job description and apply for this position, please visit our website: www.kentwood.us/employment

ASSISTANT CONTRACT MANAGER-

Business Operations. Salary Range: \$57,682 - \$77,065 annually plus benefits. Application Deadline: until filled. General Statement of Duties: under the direction of the Contract Manager; responsible for assisting in the financial management of all services related to contracts for Genesee Health System (GHS), including local inpatient services, residential services and fee-for-service contracts; performs related work as required. For additional details on job duties and requirements, please log on to www.genhs.org. You can apply directly online or fax resume and transcripts to (810) 257-3755.

Records Clerk. The Records Clerk is responsible for responding to public requests and inquiries in regard to police reports, records, and audio and video recordings; performs a wide variety of office support duties related to the review, preparation and input of various police reports. Reports to the Police Staff Services Sergeant.

CITY OF KENTWOOD - POLICE AUDIO & VIDEO RECORDS CLERK-

The City of Kentwood Police Department is seeking qualified applicants for a full-time Audio and Video

Records Clerk. The Records Clerk is responsible for responding to public requests and inquiries in regard to police reports, records, and audio and video recordings; performs a wide variety of office support duties related to the review, preparation and input of various police reports. Reports to the Police Staff Services Sergeant.

Qualified applicants will possess all the following:

- High school diploma/GED; AND
- two (2) years of police records support experience; OR
- an equivalent combination of education, training, and experience.

Ability to obtain State of Michigan Notary Public and LEIN certification within six months of date of employment.

This is a full-time position with excellent benefits. The hours are 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. The pay range for this position is \$19.35 to \$24.68.

Questions regarding this position can be directed to Captain VanderVeen at VanderVeenR@Kentwood.us or by calling (616) 656-6503.

To see the full job description and apply for this position, please visit our website: www.kentwood.us/employment.

DPW LABORER -

Thomas Township is seeking applicants for a full time Laborer position in the Department of Public Works. Duties include work in the areas of sewer,

water, parks, and building/grounds maintenance. A high school diploma or G.E.D. and one year of related experience are required. An S-4 water license will be required within six months of hire. A Michigan CDL may be required. Applicant must be capable of performing hard labor and walking significant distances in adverse weather conditions. Pay range for the position is from \$15.35 to \$19.94 per hour. Additional increases are possible for attaining higher water license levels. Benefits include medical insurance, HSA, life insurance, dental and vision coverage, disability insurance and generous 401/457 retirement plan. This is an S.E.I.U. position. Application forms are available online at www.thomastwp.org or at the Township Offices, 249 N. Miller Road, Saginaw MI 48609 and are due by July 16, 2021. Thomas Township is an E.E.O.

HVACR & CONTROLS TECHNICIAN-

The HVACR & Controls Technician performs skilled work in the installation, operation, maintenance and repair of heating, ventilating, air conditioning, and refrigeration systems in addition to HVACR controls and energy management systems. Required: Education equivalent to completion of an associate's degree in HVAC and two years of HVACR experience or five years of progressively more responsible work in HVACR. For a complete list of requirements and to apply on-line, please visit www.jobs.cmich.edu.

CMU, an AA/E.O 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.

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TORCH PERSON -

401k and health benefits available. Apply within at Kalamazoo Metal Recyclers, 1525 King Highway, Kalamazoo MI or apply online at www.kzoometalrecyclers.com/employment-opportunities. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

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