

The Community Voice

FREE-GRATIS

LAVOZ

Bilingual Magazine

December 2025 • Vol 27 • Michigan's Largest Bilingual Magazine • www.lavozweb.com

CHICAGO ICE STANDOFF: COPS

'ATTACKED', FAITH LEADERS 'DRAGGED'



Mexico's Fátima Bosch crowned Miss Universe





¡ENTRANDO AL AÑO NUEVO!



¡Recibe el 2026 con una Celebración Espectacular!

¡Comienza el Año Nuevo con una Fiesta Bajo las Palmeras, un Luau Tropical en un Oasis, dos espectáculos con cena, la presentación de Brena en el 131 Sports Bar & Lounge, ofertas especiales en restaurantes, la oportunidad de ganar una Ford F-150 nueva, y mucho más!



¡CONSIGUE AQUÍ TUS BOLETOS!



**THE ALL-NEW
GUN LAKE™**
CASINO · RESORT

where you want to be

1123 129th Avenue | Wayland, MI

Consulte el Centro de recompensas para obtener más información. Ser mayores de 21 años para jugar o participar en promociones. Si cree que tiene problemas con apuestas, llamar al 800.270.7117. ©2025 Gun Lake Tribal Gaming Authority. La dirección se reserva todos los derechos. Pueden aplicarse otras restricciones.

America's War on Immigrants and U.S. Citizens Is Unjustified, Dangerous and Wrong!



By Dr. José A. Flores

Helicopters hovered over Chicago neighborhoods as militarized agents descended into residential blocks, smashing windows, zip-tying children, and assaulting families in the name of searching for “criminal immigrants.” In Los Angeles, clergy and demonstrators were swept up in raids that used chemical irritants and rubber bullets. In Portland, a protester’s skull was fractured by a federal munition. Across Washington D.C. and Charlotte, checkpoints, tactical gear, and mass arrests turned ordinary streets into theaters of intimidation. These are not isolated incidents. They are the visible signs of a government experimenting with force far beyond its lawful limits.

Los Angeles became a proving ground for these tactics. Ordinary citizens exercising their constitutional right to protest were treated as insurgents. The city still bears scars from those nights, when lawful demonstrations turned violent under the weight of federal force, and when immigrants and citizens alike were battered by agents who seemed more intent on domination than order.

Portland became the symbol of federal over-reach. Protester Donovan La-Bella was struck



in the head by a munition fired by a federal officer, fracturing his skull and leaving him permanently injured. His case is emblematic: a U.S. citizen exercising free speech, punished with life-altering trauma. Federal agents armed with long-barrel rifles patrolled rooftops, transforming civic dissent into a battlefield and reminding the nation that the tools of war can be turned inward against its own people.

Chicago’s story is even more harrowing. Marimar Martinez, a 30-year-old U.S. citizen, was shot five times by a Border Patrol agent during “Operation Midway Blitz.” Prosecutors accused her of ramming her car into agents, but her defense argued the opposite—that agents rammed her vehicle. Martinez survived, only to face federal charges that were later dismissed with prejudice, an admission that the government’s case could not stand. And Martinez was not alone. In one raid, helicopters delivered militarized agents into residential streets, where families were assaulted and children zip-tied as if they were combatants. The spectacle was less about law enforcement than intimidation, leaving entire communities traumatized by the sight of armed men storming homes from the sky.

Charlotte, North Carolina, woke to unmarked cars and men in tactical gear. Federal agents tackled residents and left naturalized citizens clutching passports just to buy pastries. In just 48 hours, 130 arrests were made. Businesses shuttered not because of crime, but because of the panic federal agents themselves created. DHS branded the operation “Charlotte’s Web,” spinning a narrative that danger lurked wherever immigrants lived—even as local statistics showed otherwise. For residents, it felt less like policy and more like punish-

ment.

Washington, D.C., offered its own grim theater. Federal checkpoints and troop patrols disrupted

daily life, with the symbolism unmistakable: democracy itself under siege, with military presence normalized in civilian spaces. Civic leaders warned that the line between governance and intimidation was vanishing, and that the capital was becoming a stage for authoritarian spectacle rather than a seat of representative government.

Civil rights advocates argue these actions represent a direct assault on the Constitution. Citizens have been shot, detained, and silenced. Judges who ruled against the administration saw their decisions fast-tracked to the Supreme Court, raising alarms about executive manipulation of the judiciary. New legislation has been introduced to close loopholes that shield federal agents from accountability, but the damage to public trust is already profound.

Behind every statistic lies a name, a life altered or ended: Donovan LaBella, skull fractured in Portland. Marimar Martinez, shot five times in Chicago, charges dismissed—Valeria Alvarado, killed by Border Patrol in San Diego. José Antonio Elena Rodríguez, a teenager, was shot through the border fence in Arizona. These names remind us that federal over-reach is not abstract. It is lived in bodies broken, families shattered, and communities terrorized.

Our experience has our country suspended between the government we have and the one it threatens to become. Federal agents roam cities like props in a political play. Courts block racially engineered maps even as executive power presses harder. Citizens are shot, detained, and silenced. The promise of democracy is eroded by the practice of intimidation. And yet, history teaches that the antidote to authoritarian force is not violence but strategic non-violent resistance. From sit-ins to marches, from court challenges to civic organizing, the path forward lies in disciplined defiance that refuses to mirror the brutality it confronts.

This is the moment to stand firm. This is the moment to resist without hate, to organize without fear, and to remind the nation that democracy is defended not by weapons but by people who refuse to surrender their rights. Strategic non-violent action is not weakness—it is the strongest possible defense of freedom.

Helicópteros sobrevolaron vecindarios de Chicago mientras agentes militarizados descendían en zonas residenciales, rompiendo ventanas, esposando con cinchos a niños y agrediendo familias en nombre de la búsqueda de “inmigrantes criminales.” En Los Ángeles, sacerdotes y manifestantes fueron arrastrados en redadas que usaron gases irritantes y balas de goma. En Portland, un manifestante sufrió fractura de cráneo por un proyectil federal. En Washington D.C. y Charlotte, retenes, arrestos masivos y tácticas de guerra convirtieron calles comunes en escenarios de intimidación. Estos no son incidentes aislados. Son señales visibles de un gobierno que experimenta con la fuerza más allá de sus límites legales.





03 Editorial by

Dr. José A. Flores

05 Mirrored Images of Racial Violence in America-

Joaquin Murrieta Story

06 Community News / Noticias de la Comunidad

08 Latinos Living in Cars: A Hidden Crisis Growing

Across the United States

10 Nominations Encouraged for Michigan Lottery's Excellence

in Education Awards to Honor Outstanding Educators

14 December Events / Eventos en Diciembre

15 3rd Annual Sueños Car Show

18 Puerto Rican Cultural Committee of West Michigan

19 2025 December Model Search - Rubi Cerda

23 Classifieds / Clasificados

©2002-12 by The Community Voice/
La Voz MI, LLC.
The Community Voice/La Voz
Magazine is published by
The Community Voice/La Voz MI, LLC
copyright ©2002-12.

Content contained in this publication
and on www.lavozweb.com internet
site are products of the publication
and are protected by the copyright
laws of the United States. The
copyright laws prohibit any copying,
redistributing, retransmitting, or
repurposing of any
copyright-protected material.

Reproduction, either in whole or in
part is forbidden without the pressed
written consent of the publisher.

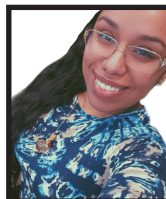
December 2025, Volume 27 - No. 12
Reaching over 40,000 readers
Circulation 17,000 copies
Printed at Printwell
To contact The Community Voice/
La Voz Magazine
please call or write our
administrative office:
Attention Dr. José A. Flores,
Editor-In-Chief,
1052 Grandville Ave. S.W.,
Grand Rapids, MI. 49503 or
email: drjflores1@gmail.com

Please visit us at our website:
<http://www.lavozweb.com>
All inquiries should be directed to
Phone: 616-581-6271

La Voz MEET THE STAFF

drjflores1@gmail.com

Find us on / Encuentranos en:



Reyna Hernández
Sales
Representative



Marte Smith
VP Marketing &
Public Relations



Dr. Edgar León
Writer



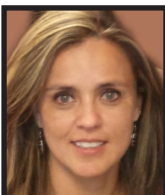
Jihyun Ko
Writer



Kindra A.
Peterson
Writer



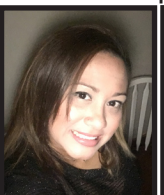
Dr. José A.
Flores,
Editor-In-Chief



Odille Parker
Graphic Design



Dr. Dadsy Torres
Writer



Primavera Flores
Sales Rep.
Detroit



Concepción
Flores,
Guardian
Angel



'El Chayo'
Cervantes
Guardian Angel



Alyssa Flores
Detroit
Distribution



Odille S. Parker
Writer



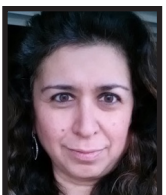
Andrés
DelaCruz
Circulation
Saginaw



Scooter
Writer



Tom Ozinga
Editor



Lisa Villarreal
Wiseman
Writer



Anthony T.
Valdez
Photographer



Jorge Martínez
Writer



Homero
Rodríguez,
Sales/ Circulation
Grand Rapids



Mike Farage
Writer



Dee Rodríguez
Circulation
Grand Rapids



Daniel Flores,
Reporter/
Sales Rep
Grand Rapids

Mirrored Images of Racial Violence In America- Joaquin Murrieta Story



By Jorge Martinez
U.S. Veteran

A recent lecture by Gary Gargani at the Stevinson Museum on Joaquin Murrieta left me unsettled. His presentation reflected a broader problem: the tendency of white Americans to believe they understand Mexican history while overlooking the lived reality of racism and violence. In Trump's America, many dismiss our fears as paranoia, yet history shows why we remain unsafe.

Joaquin Murrieta is often remembered as a bandit, but his story is far more complex. He endured the murder of loved ones, the theft of property, and relentless discrimination during the Gold Rush. Anglo miners—poor, armed, and often drunk—saw little consequence in killing Mexicans. Governor John Bigler's reward for Murrieta's death effectively sanctioned violence against anyone who looked Mexican. Rangers led by Harry Love slaughtered men at Cantua Creek in 1853, severing a head to claim the bounty.

This brutality was not isolated. The mid-1800s were marked by racist laws and policies: Manifest Destiny, the Mexican-American War, and the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which promised citizenship but delivered dispossession. Bigler's Foreign Miners Tax, the Greaser Act, and the Chinese Exclusion Act legalized discrimination against Mexicans, Native Americans, and Asians. These laws laid the foundation for modern profiling, where ethnicity, language, or identity can justify harassment.



America's imperial ambitions extended abroad. The war with Spain in 1898 and the occupation of the Philippines revealed a pattern of conquest and abuse, echoing the treatment of Mexicans at home. By 1870, California's Spanish-speaking population had plummeted, forced into low-wage labor as ranch hands, railroad workers, and migrants. Violence and dispossession turned some, like Murrieta, into outlaws—a response no more extreme than Anglo hatred of Native peoples.

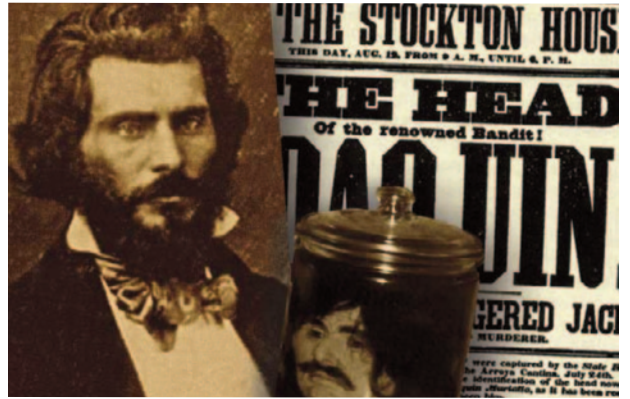
The lecturer ignored these realities, portraying conflict as a clash between Anglos and Mexicans rather than systemic racism. He omitted later atrocities: the La Matanza massacres of 1910-1920, the Porvenir killings of 1918, and abuses during the Punitive Expedition. Events like the Bath Riots of 1915 and suspicion fueled by the Zimmerman Telegram reinforced anti-Mexican sentiment.

The parallels to today are striking. In Newman, California—where Mexicans make up 70% of the population—our voices remain absent from city government and archives. Laws and policies continue to reflect an Anglo-American hierarchy that punishes difference in race, religion, or identity. Trump's rhetoric and actions mirror the disdain of past leaders, reminding us how little value is placed on Mexican American lives.

Murrieta's story is not simply about crime; it is about survival in the face of injustice. To reduce it to folklore or gossip, as Gargani did, is to erase the violence embedded in America's history. Recognizing these truths is essential if we are to confront racism today. The struggles of the past are not distant—they live on like mirrored images of history and the presence in the treatment of Mexicans and other marginalized communities across the nation.

Una reciente conferencia de Gary Gargani en el Museo Stevinson

sobre Joaquín Murrieta me dejó inquieto. Su presentación reflejó un problema más amplio: la tendencia de los



estadounidenses blancos a creer que comprenden la historia mexicana, mientras que pasan por alto la realidad del racismo y la violencia. En la América de Trump, muchos desestiman nuestros miedos como paranoia, pero la historia demuestra por qué seguimos estando inseguros.

A Joaquín Murrieta se le recuerda a menudo como un bandido, pero su historia es mucho más compleja. Sufrió el asesinato de seres queridos, el robo de propiedades y una discriminación implacable durante la Fiebre del Oro. Los mineros anglosajones — pobres, armados y a menudo ebrios — veían pocas consecuencias en matar mexicanos. La recompensa del gobernador John Bigler por la muerte de Murrieta sancionaba la violencia contra cualquiera que pareciera mexicano. Los rangers, liderados por Harry Love, masacraron a hombres en Cantua Creek en 1853, decapitando a alguien para reclamar la recompensa.

Esta brutalidad no fue un caso aislado. La mitad del siglo XIX estuvo marcada por leyes y políticas racistas: el Destino Manifiesto, la Guerra México-Estadounidense y el

Tratado de Guadalupe Hidalgo, que prometía ciudadanía pero conllevaba despojo. El Impuesto a los Mineros Extranjeros de Bigler, la Ley Greaser y la Ley de Exclusión China legalizaron la discriminación contra mexicanos, nativos americanos y asiáticos. Estas leyes sentaron las bases para la discriminación racial moderna, donde la etnia, el idioma o la identidad pueden justificar el acoso.

Las ambiciones imperialistas de Estados Unidos se extendieron al extranjero. La guerra con España en 1898 y la ocupación de Filipinas revelaron un patrón de conquista y abuso, similar al trato recibido por los mexicanos en su país. Para 1870, la población hispanohablante de California se había desplomado, obligada a realizar trabajos mal pagados como peones de rancho, trabajadores ferroviarios y migrantes. La violencia y el despojo convirtieron a algunos, como Murrieta, en forajidos, una respuesta tan extrema como el odio anglosajón hacia los pueblos indígenas.

El conferenciante ignoró estas realidades, presentando el conflicto como un enfrentamiento entre anglosajones y mexicanos en lugar de un racismo sistémico. Omitió atrocidades posteriores: las masacres de La Matanza de 1910-1920, la matanza de El Porvenir de 1918 y los abusos durante la Expedición Punitive. Eventos como los Disturbios de Bath de 1915 y la sospecha alimentada por el Telegrama Zimmerman reforzaron el sentimiento antimexicano.

La historia de Murrieta no se trata simplemente de crimen; se trata de sobrevivir ante la injusticia. Reducirla a folclore o chismes, como hizo Gargani, es borrar la violencia arraigada en la historia de Estados Unidos. Reconocer estas verdades es esencial para enfrentar el racismo hoy. Las luchas del pasado no son lejanas; perduran como reflejos de la historia y su presencia en el trato a los mexicanos y otras comunidades marginadas en todo el país.

Community News

Exploring the Roots of Chocolate: New Bilingual STEM Picture Book From a SoCal Author

Readers are invited to discover the sweet journey of chocolate with Roberto and his grandmother in *Where Chocolate Grows*, the newest bilingual picture book by Southern California author Irma Linda Hersel.

In this warm and engaging story, young Roberto learns how chocolate travels from colorful cacao pods to the delicious treats children recognize today. Along the way, readers are introduced to Spanish vocabulary, cultural traditions, and fun chocolate facts that spark curiosity and imagination.

Hersel notes that she never planned on creating a series after her first book, *Where Nopalitos Grow*. However, this new story developed naturally — becoming a meaningful continuation of her creative journey and a heartfelt way to keep honoring her cousin Bobby, whose memory inspired her writing from the beginning.

The book also includes interactive and educational elements such as:

- A simple cocoa nib recipe for making homemade chocolate
- A “Junior Chocolatier” certificate children can earn
- Build your own chocolate bar activity
- An introduction to Midgey, the tiny insect who helps cacao trees grow
- A Spanish–English glossary to support bilingual learning

Designed as a STEM-inspired picture book, *Where Chocolate Grows* blends early science learning with cultural storytelling — making

complex ideas simple, visual, and engaging for young readers. With vibrant illustrations and heartfelt narration, the book celebrates family connection, cultural heritage, and the magic of discovery.

Suitable for ages 4–10, it is ideal for family story time, classroom lessons, library collections, and bilingual education programs. More than a story, it offers children an adventure they can taste, create, and share.

Availability

Where Chocolate Grows (paperback) is available now on Amazon.

Preview here: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0G1GS7MW9>
The Kindle edition is currently available for pre-order.

About the Author

Irma Linda Hersel is a bilingual children's author based in Camarillo, California. Her work celebrates culture, family, and imagination through warm storytelling and visually rich picture books. *Where Chocolate Grows* is her second book in a naturally evolving series inspired by real family experiences and a desire to share cultural curiosity with young readers.



TEJANO 616 EN EL 97.3 FM

Sintoniza Tejano 616 en el 97.3 FM
con El Doc y el Valluco de DJ's
Martes/Tuesdays
Jueves/Thursdays
Domingos/Sundays
from 12:00 noon -2:00 p.m.

WWW.THEHEAT973.COM



The Whoville 5k - Time: 1:05PM EST
Kids Run - Grand Rapids (1/4 mile) • Time: 1:00PM EST
Grand Rapids • December 14, 2025
www.runsignup.com/Race/MI/GrandRapids/NVWhoville5k



After the Shutdown, Another Blow to SNAP

SNAP Recipients Confront Another Obstacle

The longest government shutdown in U.S. history left millions of families scrambling to put food on the table. For the 42 million Americans who rely on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the shutdown was more than a political standoff—it was a direct threat to survival. Now, just weeks after benefits resumed, SNAP recipients face yet another hurdle: a proposed mass reapplication process that risks cutting off aid under the banner of fraud prevention.

Fallout from the Shutdown

The shutdown halted payments, forcing families to ration food, lean on food banks, and endure weeks of uncertainty. When funding finally resumed, states struggled to restore benefits quickly, leaving households confused about timing and eligibility. Legal disputes over early payments added further instability, underscoring how fragile the safety net has become.

USDA's New Mandate

Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins has announced plans to require all SNAP recipients to reapply for benefits. She cites alleged fraud, pointing to "186,000 deceased individuals" receiving payments and hundreds of thousands of duplicate accounts. Yet independent reviews have consistently found fraud rates in SNAP to be minimal—typically under 1%. Critics argue that the proposal is less about rooting out fraud and more about shrinking the program through administrative hurdles.

Unlike routine recertification, which already verifies income and eligibility every 6–12 months, mass reapplication would overwhelm state agencies still recovering from shutdown chaos. For recipients, it means another round of paperwork, deadlines, and the risk of losing benefits if even minor errors occur.

The Bigger Picture

SNAP has become a political battleground. What began as a temporary disruption during the shutdown has evolved into a broader campaign to reduce benefits:

- **Work requirements tightening** despite temporary adjustments.
- **Funding cuts** embedded in new legislation.
- **Partisan framing** of fraud data, raising concerns that reforms are designed to restrict access rather than improve efficiency.

Together, these moves position SNAP not as a lifeline but as a target. For families living paycheck to paycheck, the stakes are not abstract—they are existential.

Kicker Quote ----

Obstacles add to Poverty in America

"Each new obstacle—whether a funding lapse or a mass reapplication mandate—pushes vulnerable households closer to hunger."

El proceso de solicitud masiva propuesto para los beneficiarios del SNAP (Programa de Asistencia Nutricional Suplementaria), presentado por la Secretaria de Agricultura, Brooke Rollins, representa un desafío significativo para los 42 millones de estadounidenses que dependen del programa. Esto se produce tras el cierre gubernamental más prolongado en la historia de Estados Unidos, que ya afectó a estas familias al suspender los pagos y obligarlas a buscar asistencia alimentaria en otros lugares. Si bien Rollins cita casos de presunto fraude, revisiones independientes sugieren que las tasas de fraude en el SNAP suelen ser inferiores al 1%. Los críticos argumentan que esta iniciativa busca reducir los beneficios mediante barreras burocráticas en lugar de mejorar la prevención del fraude. La solicitud masiva podría saturar a las agencias estatales que aún se recuperan de las interrupciones del cierre, lo que podría resultar en la pérdida de beneficios para los beneficiarios debido a errores menores. En general, el panorama político en torno al SNAP ha evolucionado de una interrupción temporal a un esfuerzo concertado para reducir el alcance y la eficacia del programa, lo que afecta la seguridad alimentaria de los hogares vulnerables.

SNAP in 2025: A Year of Uncertainty

September 23 2025	Government Shutdown Begins
	• Food banks report significant increase in demand
November 5 2025	Shutdown Ends
	• States scramble to restore benefits, delays persist
November 12 2025	Benefits Resume
	• State litigation emerges over early payments, deepening uncertainty
	• Bush Brody SNAP Mass Reapplication Proposes System Overhaul

"Each new obstacle—whether a funding lapse or a mass reapplication mandate—pushes vulnerable households closer to hunger."



Cirugía robótica diseñada para usted.

En Trinity Health, hacemos su cirugía más fácil. Nuestros médicos utilizan herramientas robóticas para realizar cirugías precisas. Esto implica incisiones más pequeñas, menos dolor y curación más rápida. Las cicatrices pequeñas pueden ayudarle a tener más confianza tras la cirugía. Desde la atención coronaria y el reemplazo de articulaciones hasta la atención del cáncer, la salud femenina y la cirugía general, marcamos el paso en Michigan.

¿La cirugía robótica es la opción para usted? Conozca más hoy.
TrinityHealthMi.org/Robotics

 Trinity Health We See All of You™

Grand Haven • Grand Rapids • Muskegon

Latinos Living in Cars: A Hidden Crisis Growing Across the United States



By Edgar León

LOS ANGELES — Under freeway overpasses, in big-box parking lots, and along quiet suburban streets, a silent humanitarian crisis is spreading. Thousands of Latino families across the United States are now living in their cars — for weeks, even months — as soaring rents and stagnant wages push more working people out of traditional housing and into survival mode. Many of those families still go to work each morning, send their children to school, and hold on to hope for something better. But for now, their vehicles have become bedrooms, kitchens, and shelters from the rain.



higher than official counts suggest. Families often avoid shelters out of fear of being separated or because they need to stay close to work and school. Others don't qualify for assistance because they are technically still "housed" if they own a vehicle.

"They're invisible because they're trying to keep their lives together," Morales added. "They go to work, their kids go to class, and at night they park somewhere quiet and pray no one knocks on the window."

Advocates are urging local governments to recognize the problem and respond with compassion rather than enforcement. Several

cities, including San Diego and Portland, have launched "safe parking" programs that provide secure overnight lots, bathrooms, and case management for people living in vehicles — but demand far exceeds supply.

"They tell you to work hard, but even with two jobs, you can't afford rent anymore," said María, a single mother originally from Puerto Rico who has been living in a minivan with her two children outside San Diego. "I clean offices at night and serve tables during the day, and still it's not enough. Rent is over \$2,000 — where can we go?"

A Life Measured by Parking Lots

For many, the daily routine revolves around survival. Families buy low-cost gym memberships just to shower before work. Meals come from gas stations or drive-thrus because cooking inside a car is impossible. The situation takes a severe toll on health and mental well-being.

"Planet Fitness became our bathroom," said Jorge, a construction worker in Texas who shares a sedan with his brother. "You pay \$25 a month, and you can stay clean. It's all about dignity."

Across the country, local nonprofits say they are seeing an unprecedented rise in what experts call "vehicular homelessness." Unlike traditional homelessness, these families remain largely invisible — working, mobile, and out of sight of most city programs.

A Crisis Backed by Numbers

The scope of the problem is now supported by national data.

- According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness (2024), Latinos represented 24.1 % of the U.S. homeless population in 2022, up from previous years, even though they made up only 18.8 % of the overall population.
- In Los Angeles County, the percentage of homeless residents who identify as Latino jumped from 36 % in 2020 to 44 % in 2022, according to the county's Homeless Summit Report.
- A 2024 study by the National Institutes of Health found that the number of Latinos sleeping in vehicles nearly doubled — from 14.5 % to 33 % — between 2020 and 2022.
- And data from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) show that 17 % of Hispanic renter households were behind on rent payments in mid-2024, compared with 13 % of non-Hispanic renters.

"These numbers confirm what we see on the ground every day," said Ana Morales, director of the nonprofit Casa Esperanza in Phoenix. "Latino workers are being priced out of housing faster than any other group. Many are afraid to ask for help, and end up sleeping in their cars near job sites."

Invisible Yet Everywhere

Experts say the actual number of people living in cars is likely much

A Test of Compassion

Housing experts say the crisis underscores the deepening inequality in the American economy.

"No one working full-time should be forced to live in a car," said David Márquez, policy analyst at the National Alliance to End Homelessness. "Latinos are overrepresented among essential workers, but under-protected when rents rise. This is a national emergency hiding in plain sight."

As winter approaches, families like María's face even harsher conditions — cold nights, insecurity, and the exhaustion of simply trying to survive another day.

"I tell my kids this is only temporary," María said quietly. "But every month, it feels less and less like that."

LOS ÁNGELES — En estacionamientos de supermercados, debajo de autopistas y en calles tranquilas, una crisis humana se está extendiendo por todo Estados Unidos. Miles de familias latinas viven hoy en sus autos durante semanas o incluso meses, mientras los alquileres suben y los salarios se estancan.

Son personas trabajadoras que cada mañana van a sus empleos, llevan a sus hijos a la escuela y tratan de mantener la esperanza. Pero sus vehículos se han convertido en dormitorios, cocinas y refugios improvisados.

"Dicen que si uno trabaja duro puede salir adelante, pero ni con dos trabajos puedo pagar la renta", cuenta María, madre soltera de Puerto Rico que vive en una minivan con sus dos hijos en San Diego. "Limpio oficinas de noche y sirvo mesas de día, pero el alquiler pasa de \$2,000. ¿A dónde vamos a ir?"

Una vida medida por estacionamientos

Para muchos, el día gira alrededor de sobrevivir. Algunas familias compran membresías de gimnasio solo para poder bañarse antes de ir a trabajar. Las comidas suelen venir de gasolineras o restaurantes de comida rápida. Esta vida afecta la salud, la alimentación y el ánimo de toda la familia.

"Planet Fitness se convirtió en nuestro baño", cuenta Jorge, trabajador de la construcción en Texas que comparte un carro con su hermano. "Pagas \$25 al mes y puedes bañarte. Es cuestión de dignidad."

Latinos viviendo en sus autos: una crisis silenciosa que crece en Estados Unidos

Las organizaciones comunitarias reportan un aumento sin precedentes en lo que ahora se llama "personas sin hogar que viven en vehículos". Es una forma de pobreza invisible: muchos tienen empleo, pagan impuestos y aún así duermen en sus carros.

Cifras que cuentan una historia triste

Los datos nacionales confirman la magnitud del problema:

- Según la National Alliance to End Homelessness (2024), los latinos representan 24.1 % de las personas sin hogar en Estados Unidos, aunque son solo 18.8 % de la población total.
- En el condado de Los Ángeles, los latinos aumentaron de 36 % en 2020 a 44 % en 2022 entre la población sin hogar, según el informe del Homeless Summit.
- Un estudio de los Institutos Nacionales de Salud (2024) reveló que el número de latinos que duermen en vehículos casi se duplicó — de 14.5 % a 33 % — entre 2020 y 2022.
- Datos del Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano (HUD) indican que 17 % de los hogares latinos que alquilan estaban atrasados en sus pagos durante el verano de 2024, frente a 13 % de los no latinos.

"Estas cifras muestran lo que vemos todos los días", explica Ana Morales, directora de la organización Casa Esperanza en Phoenix. "Los trabajadores latinos están siendo desplazados más rápido que nadie. Muchos sienten vergüenza o miedo de pedir ayuda, y terminan durmiendo en sus autos cerca de sus trabajos."

Invisibles pero presentes

Los expertos aseguran que las estadísticas oficiales no reflejan toda la realidad. Muchas familias evitan los refugios por miedo a perder la

custodia de sus hijos o porque necesitan permanecer cerca de las escuelas y sus empleos.

Al tener un vehículo, técnicamente no se consideran "sin hogar" según algunos programas de asistencia, lo que los deja fuera de la ayuda oficial.

"Son invisibles porque hacen todo lo posible por mantener su vida normal," dice Morales. "Trabajan, llevan a sus hijos a clases y por la noche buscan un lugar seguro para estacionarse y dormir."

Algunas ciudades como San Diego y Portland han comenzado programas de "estacionamientos seguros" donde las personas pueden dormir sin ser multadas, con acceso a baños y asistencia social. Pero los espacios son pocos y la demanda sigue aumentando.

Un llamado a la compasión

Los expertos en vivienda advierten que esta crisis refleja una desigualdad cada vez más profunda.

"Nadie que trabaje a tiempo completo debería vivir en un auto," dice David Márquez, analista de políticas de la National Alliance to End Homelessness. "Los latinos sostienen buena parte de la economía, pero siguen siendo los más afectados cuando suben los alquileres. Esto ya es una emergencia nacional."

A medida que se acercan los meses fríos, familias como la de María enfrentan noches más duras, incertidumbre y cansancio extremo.

"Les digo a mis hijos que esto es solo por un tiempo," dice María con voz baja. "Pero cada mes, parece menos cierto."

97.3 FM • URBAN MIX



¡Amigos, listen to 973FM Heat Radio!
¡Escuchen esta estación de Radio!

Radio D.J.'s are joining daily to empower our community through a real respect for diversity! We must tear down the walls that separate our community and advance racial and social equality. Friendship and respect are a good place to start the dialogue.

Music is universal! Robert LaDew R.I.P. brother! Your legacy in Grand Rapids is alive and well!

Dr. José A. Flores President, C.E.P.
616.581.6271

Asisted by Marte Smith
Dr. Edgar Leon

www.theheat973.com

97.3 FM URBAN MIX • THE HEAT

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

Parents, students, school staff members, and others are encouraged to nominate outstanding public-school educators for the Michigan Lottery's 2025-26 Excellence In Education awards.

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

"The Excellence in Education awards are our way of honoring the phenomenal work being done by educators in communities throughout Michigan," said Lottery Commissioner Suzanna Shkreli. "These dedicated professionals do so much more than teach; they are a constant, supportive presence who instill lifelong skills and inspire students to believe in themselves."

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

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

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

The winner of the 2025 Educator of the Year award was Kelly Herberholz, a science teacher and administrative intern with Dakota High School in Macomb.

Hundreds of educators were nominated during the 2024-25 school year, which was the 11th year of the Excellence in Education awards program. Thirty-four of these nominees, including Herberholz, were selected to win a weekly award.

Previous winners of the Educator of the Year award:

2024 – Samantha TwoCrow, the director of the Indigenous Education Program for Suttons Bay Public Schools in Suttons Bay.

2023 – Kathryn Kluzak, a kindergarten teacher with Robert L. Green Elementary in East Lansing. **2022** – Spencer Vanderheide, a high school teacher with Kenowa Hills High School in Grand Rapids.

2021 – Janice Smith, a school social worker at Fisher Magnet Lower Academy in Detroit.

2020 – Megan Sidge, an Autism Spectrum Disorder teacher at Hickory Woods Elementary in Walled Lake.

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

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

2017 – Linda Holzwarth, a social studies teacher at Portage West

Excellence in EducationSM



Middle School in Portage.

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

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

Excellence In Education award nominees should demonstrate the following qualities:

- Excellence – Their work consistently helps students and/or their schools or school districts advance to higher levels

of academic achievement.

- Dedication – They consistently go above and beyond expectations to help students succeed.
- Inspiration – Their work inspires others around them to exceed expectations either academically or professionally.

- Leadership – They demonstrate clear leadership skills in their positions with their school or school districts.

- Effectiveness – The nominee's work has clear and positive results on the educational advancement of students within the school or school district.

Se invita a padres, estudiantes y personal escolar a nominar a educadores de escuelas públicas para los premios a la Excelencia en la Educación 2025-26 de la Lotería de Michigan. Estos premios reconocen a los educadores que tienen un impacto significativo en la vida de los estudiantes. Cada semana, un educador recibirá un premio en efectivo de \$2,000, y al final del ciclo escolar se elegirá a uno como Educador del Año, quien recibirá un premio de \$10,000. El programa, creado en 2014, destaca a educadores excepcionales, incluyendo a ganadores anteriores como Kelly Herberholz. Los nominados deben demostrar excelencia, dedicación, inspiración, liderazgo y eficacia en sus funciones.

Ganadores anteriores del premio Educador del Año:

2024 – Samantha TwoCrow, directora del Programa de Educación Indígena de las Escuelas Públicas de Suttons Bay en Suttons Bay.

2023 – Kathryn Kluzak, maestra de kínder en la Escuela Primaria Robert L. Green en East Lansing. **2022** – Spencer Vanderheide, profesor de preparatoria en la Escuela Preparatoria Kenowa Hills en Grand Rapids. **2021** – Janice Smith, trabajadora social escolar en la Academia Fisher Magnet Lower en Detroit.

2020 – Megan Sidge, maestra de estudiantes con Trastorno del Espectro Autista en la Escuela Primaria Hickory Woods en Walled Lake.

2019 – Stewart Kieliszewski, profesor de ciencias de la Tierra, biología, mecatrónica y medios de comunicación para estudiantes de octavo a duodécimo grado en las Escuelas Comunitarias de Ubyly

2018 – Kerri Moccio, especialista en intervención de lectoescritura de primer grado en la Escuela Primaria Bedford en Dearborn Heights.

2017 – Linda Holzwarth, profesora de estudios sociales en la escuela secundaria Portage West de Portage.

2016 – Daniel Carr, profesor de español y marketing deportivo en la escuela preparatoria Waverly de Lansing.

2015 – Michael Craig, profesor de educación especial en el Centro de Transición Charles Drew de Detroit.

¡La Alegría De Las Fiestas Ya Llegó!



Divertidos para regalar y aún más divertidos para recibir. Los boletos instantáneos de las Fiestas de la Lotería de Michigan están llenos de alegría. A todos les encanta raspar y jugar por la oportunidad de ganar hasta \$500,000 al instante. Ya sea escondidos en las medias navideñas o entregados con una gran sonrisa, estos boletos festivos son la sorpresa perfecta para iluminar el espíritu de la temporada. Este año, regala algo verdaderamente especial con los boletos instantáneos de las Fiestas.



NATIONAL LAMPOON'S CHRISTMAS VACATION and all related characters and elements © & TM Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.
Overall odds of winning Holiday Colors: 1 in 4.66. Overall odds of winning Holiday Doubler: 1 in 4.46. Overall odds of winning NATIONAL LAMPOON'S CHRISTMAS VACATION: 1 in 3.76.
Overall odds of winning 25 Days of Winning: 1 in 3.60. Knowing your limits is always the best bet. Call 1-800-GAMBLER for confidential help.



Miss Universe 2025: Triumph Amid Turmoil

The 74th Miss Universe competition, held in Bangkok, Thailand, will be remembered as much for its controversies as for its crowning moment. With over 118 contestants vying for the crown under the theme “The Power of Love”, the event was marred by walkouts, resignations, and public clashes that shook the pageant’s credibility.

Tensions erupted when Miss Universe Thailand director Nawat Itsaragrisil insulted Miss Mexico, Fátima Bosch, calling her “stupid” during a livestream. Bosch, refusing to tolerate disrespect, walked out in protest—sparking a wave of solidarity as other contestants, including reigning Miss Universe Victoria Kjaer, joined her. The fallout deepened with judge resignations, a contestant injury on stage, and the abrupt departure of CEO Anne Jakrajutatip.

Despite the chaos, Bosch returned to the stage with unflinching resolve. In her final answer, she declared: “Women are not ornaments to be judged, but voices to be heard. Respect is not optional—it is the foundation of empowerment.” Her words resonated across the globe, positioning her as a no-nonsense role model who refused to be silenced.

Bosch’s victory, marking Mexico’s fourth Miss

Universe crown, was celebrated as a triumph of dignity over disorder. Runner-up honors went to Thailand’s Praveenar Singh and Venezuela’s Stephany Adriana Abasali Nasser, but it was Bosch’s defiance and clarity that defined the night.

As she accepted the crown, Bosch reaffirmed her stance: “I did not come here to please executives. I came here to prove that women lead with strength, intelligence, and love.”

Miss Universe 2025 will be remembered not only for its glamour but for Bosch’s fearless stand—transforming a fractured competition into a powerful statement on respect and resilience.

La 74.ª edición de Miss Universo, celebrada en Bangkok (Tailandia), enfrentó importantes controversias, incluyendo abandonos y enfrentamientos públicos que pusieron en duda su credibilidad. La tensión se intensificó después de que el director de Miss Universo Tailandia, Nawat Itsaragrisil, insultara a Miss México, Fátima Bosch, lo que la obligó a abandonar el certamen en señal de protesta. Esta acción contó con el apoyo de otras concursantes, incluida la actual Miss Universo, Victoria Kjaer. El caos continuó con la renuncia de los jueces y la lesión de una concursante. No obstante, Bosch regresó para transmitir un contundente mensaje de respeto y empoderamiento, afirmando: «Las mujeres no son adornos para ser juzgadas, sino voces para ser escuchadas». Su victoria marcó la cuarta corona de Miss Universo para México, celebrada como un triunfo de la dignidad. La postura de Bosch subrayó la transformación del evento en una declaración de respeto y resiliencia..



tima Bosch, lo que la obligó a abandonar el certamen en señal de protesta. Esta acción contó con el apoyo de otras concursantes, incluida la actual Miss Universo, Victoria Kjaer. El caos continuó con la renuncia de los jueces y la lesión de una concursante. No obstante, Bosch regresó para transmitir un contundente mensaje de respeto y empoderamiento, afirmando: «Las mujeres no son adornos para ser juzgadas, sino voces para ser escuchadas». Su victoria marcó la cuarta corona de Miss Universo para México, celebrada como un triunfo de la dignidad. La postura de Bosch subrayó la transformación del evento en una declaración de respeto y resiliencia..

La guerra de Estados Unidos contra inmigrantes y ciudadanos es injustificada, peligrosa y equivocada

Continuación de la versión del artículo en español pag. 03

Los Ángeles fue un campo de prueba. Ciudadanos comunes que ejercían su derecho constitucional a protestar fueron tratados como insurgentes. Portland se convirtió en símbolo del exceso federal: Donavan LaBella, un ciudadano estadounidense, quedó con el cráneo fracturado tras ser golpeado por una munición. Chicago vivió su propio horror: Marimar Martínez, ciudadana de 30 años, recibió cinco disparos de un agente de la Patrulla Fronteriza. Sobrevivió, fue acusada, y después exonerada cuando los cargos se desmoronaron. En otra redada, helicópteros desplegaron agentes que agredieron familias y amarraron niños como si fueran combatientes. Charlotte despertó con autos sin placas y hombres armados en uniforme táctico.

En 48 horas hubo 130 arrestos, negocios cerrados y miedo sembrado por el propio gobierno. Washington D.C. ofreció su propio teatro: retenes y patrullas militares normalizando la presencia bélica en espacios civiles.

Detrás de cada estadística hay un nombre, una vida alterada o terminada: Donavan LaBella en Portland. Marimar Martínez en Chicago. Valeria Alvarado en San Diego. José Antonio Elena Rodríguez en Arizona. Estos nombres nos recuerdan que el exceso federal no es abstracto: se vive en cuerpos rotos, familias destrozadas y comunidades aterrorizadas.

Nuestra experiencia tiene al país suspendido entre el gobierno que tenemos y el que amenaza con convertirse. Agentes federales recorren ciudades como utilería política. Los tribunales bloquean mapas racistas mientras el poder ejecutivo presiona más fuerte. Ciudadanos son baleados, detenidos y silenciados. La promesa de democracia se erosiona con la práctica de la intimidación. Y sin embargo, la historia enseña que el antídoto contra la fuerza autoritaria no es la violencia, sino la resistencia estratégica y no violenta. Sentadas, marchas, demandas judiciales, organización cívica. Desafío sin odio. Resistencia sin miedo. Porque la democracia no se defiende con armas, sino con personas que se niegan a entregar sus derechos.



New Year's Celebrations in Michigan Celebraciones de Año Nuevo en Michigan

New Year's Eve in the Haven | South Haven, MI

Get ready to ring in the New Year with South Haven's most electrifying celebration yet! This year's celebration will feature bigger LED screens lighting up the night sky, more laser lights cutting through the crisp air, and sound systems booming as you dance in the streets with your friends and neighbors. South Haven will come alive in ways you've never experienced before—come be part of it!

¡Prepárate para recibir el Año Nuevo con la celebración más vibrante de South Haven! Este año, la fiesta contará con pantallas LED gigantes que iluminarán el cielo nocturno, luces láser que surcarán el aire y un sonido potente que te hará bailar en las calles con tus amigos y vecinos. South Haven cobrará vida como nunca antes. ¡Ven y únete a la celebración!

New Year's Eve Ballroom Bashes | Grand Rapids

If you're looking for an epic New Year's Eve experience, Grand Rapids is where it's at. The Ballroom Bashes in downtown Grand Rapids stretch from the Amway Grand Plaza to the Courtyard by Marriott, which you can get to via a skywalk. Each bash has a different theme, good vibes, and plenty of food and drinks.

Si buscas una experiencia épica para la víspera de Año Nuevo, Grand Rapids es el lugar ideal. Las fiestas en salones de baile del centro de Grand Rapids se extienden desde el Amway Grand Plaza hasta el Courtyard by Marriott, al que se accede mediante una pasarela elevada. Cada fiesta tiene una temática diferente, un ambiente inmejorable y una gran variedad de comida y bebida.

New Year's Eve Party | Holland

Celebrate the New Year at the Tulyp Hotel's on New Year's Eve with all the ingredients you need for the perfect celebration. The night includes a live band, a DJ, dancing, a champagne toast, pizza, games and more.

Celebra la Nochevieja en el Hotel Tulyp con todo lo necesario para una celebración perfecta. La noche incluye música en vivo, DJ, baile, brindis con champán, pizza, juegos y mucho más.

New Year's Eve in South Haven | South Haven

Nestled on the Lake Michigan shoreline, South Haven may just have one of the most unique New Year's Eve traditions. The streets close and 1,000 colorful beach balls are dropped from the city center.

As if that wasn't enough, there's a

midnight fireworks display, and local restaurants have special menus for the occasion.

Ubicada a orillas del lago Michigan, South Haven podría tener una de las tradiciones de Nochevieja más singulares. Las calles se cierran y se lanzan 1000 pelotas de playa de colores desde el centro de la ciudad.

Por si fuera poco, hay fuegos artificiales a medianoche y los restaurantes locales ofrecen menús especiales para la ocasión.

December Events / Eventos en Diciembre

December 1, 2025

Magical Cirque Christmas Grand Rapids, Mi

A Magical Cirque Christmas will take place at DeVos Performance Hall on December 1, 2025, at 7:30 PM. This family-friendly variety show promises a night filled with nostalgia, charm, and awe-inspiring performances, featuring world-class entertainers and your favorite holiday music. Join in the holiday spirit for an enchanting experience suitable for all ages.

El espectáculo navideño mágico del Cirque du Soleil tendrá lugar en el DeVos Performance Hall el 1 de diciembre de 2025 a las 19:30 h. Este espectáculo familiar promete una noche llena de nostalgia, encanto y actuaciones asombrosas, con artistas de talla mundial y tu música navideña favorita. Sumérgete en el espíritu navideño y disfruta de una experiencia mágica para todas las edades.

Street and Columbia Avenue, moving west down 8th Street to the Holland Civic Center, where the Holiday Kerstmarkt is held. The parade is sponsored by Gentex Corporation and aims to be a joyful holiday tradition for families and the community.

Papá Noel llegará al centro de Holland para el Desfile de Luces el 3 de diciembre a las 18:30, acompañado de 75 carrozas, camiones, autos antiguos, personas a pie y bandas de música, todos adornados con miles de luces. Este evento festivo comienza en la esquina de la Calle 8 y la Avenida Columbia, y avanza hacia el oeste por la Calle 8 hasta el Centro Cívico de Holland, donde se celebra el Mercado Navideño (Holiday Kerstmarkt). El desfile es patrocinado por Gentex Corporation y busca convertirse en una alegre tradición navideña para las familias y la comunidad.

December 2, 2025

Parade of Lights Holland, Mi

Santa Claus will arrive in Downtown Holland for the Parade of Lights on December 3 at 6:30 pm, accompanied by 75 floats, trucks, antique cars, walkers, and marching bands, all adorned with thousands of lights. This festive event starts at the corner of 8th

December 4, 2025

Shop Hop Artisan Market Grand Rapids, Mi

The biggest day of the year for our neighborhood, Shop Hop is your chance to get some serious LOCAL shopping in. This year we are opening early, and bringing back a very fun nature artist market! Stop by and grab some stocking stuffers from: Eggy Opus,

Cloud KBD, Madison Meme-ring, One More Knot & Querkus Creative!

El día más importante del año para nuestro barrio, Shop Hop, es tu oportunidad para comprar en tiendas locales. Este año abrimos temprano y regresa nuestro divertido mercado de artistas de la naturaleza. ¡Ven y encuentra regalos navideños de Eggy Opus, Cloud KBD, Madison Meme-ring, One More Knot y

Querkus Creative!

December 6, 2025

LEGO Robotics Grand Rapids, Mi

Kids can build and code their own robots using LEGO's Spike Prime sets. Local robotics teams will be on hand to help participants and to answer questions about robotics. Laptops will be provided, but attendees are encouraged to bring their own devices and use LEGO's free app to code. This is a self-guided, drop-in event. Space is limited and first come, first served. For ages 8 and up.

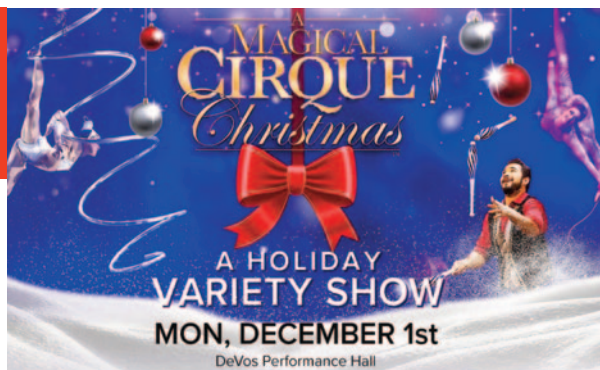
Los niños podrán construir y programar sus propios robots con los sets LEGO Spike Prime. Equipos locales de robótica estarán presentes para ayudar a los participantes y responder preguntas sobre robótica. Se proporcionarán computadoras portátiles, pero se recomienda a los asistentes traer sus propios dispositivos y usar la aplicación gratuita de LEGO para programar.

December 12-21, 2025

The Nutcracker 2025 Grand Rapids, Mi.

We are pleased to announce our production of The Nutcracker, scheduled for December 12-14 & 19-21, 2025, at DeVos Performance Hall. This festive event is a cherished holiday tradition in West Michigan, inviting families to experience the enchanting journey of Clara and her Nutcracker Prince. The production features choreography by Val Caniparoli, impressive sets by Chris Van Allsburg and Eugene Lee, and live performances of Tchaikovsky's score by the Grand Rapids Symphony, ensuring a magical experience. We look forward to this joyful celebration.

El Cascanueces, programada del 12 al 14 y del 19 al 21 de Diciembre de 2025 en el DeVos Performance Hall. Este evento festivo es una entrañable tradición navideña en el oeste de Michigan, que invita a las familias a vivir el mágico viaje de Clara y su Príncipe Cascanueces. La producción cuenta con coreografía de Val Caniparoli,



impresionantes escenografías de Chris Van Allsburg y Eugene Lee, e interpretaciones en vivo de la música de Chaikovsky a cargo de la Orquesta Sinfónica de Grand Rapids, lo que garantiza una experiencia inolvidable.

December 14, 2025

The Whoville 5k 2024 Grand Rapids, Mi

You'll meet all your favorite characters along the route- The Things and their Cat, Mr. and Mrs. Mayor, and meanest greenest one of them all- the Grinch!

All participants receive a festive hat and medal, and delicious sweet treats in the Who-village after the event. So dig out your best who-costumes and join us!

Te encontrarás con todos tus personajes favoritos a lo largo del recorrido: Los Monstruos y su Gato, el Alcalde y la Alcaldesa, ¡y el más malvado de todos: el Grinch!

December 22-31, 2025

Winter Break Family Fun Days Kalamazoo, Mi

Come and enjoy the Air Zoo experience with your family during our seasonal Family Fun Days and Summer STEAM Days. These events feature exciting, science-based activities that are both entertaining and educational for all ages. Join us for the Winter Family Fun Days, where you'll find themed crafts, games, and interactive programs to escape the chilly weather!

Ven a disfrutar de la experiencia Air Zoo con tu familia durante nuestros Días de Diversión Familiar de temporada y los Días STEAM de verano. Estos eventos ofrecen actividades emocionantes basadas en la ciencia, que son a la vez entretenidas y educativas para todas las edades. ¡Únete a nosotros en los Días de Diversión Familiar de invierno, donde encontrarás manualidades temáticas, juegos y programas interactivos para escapar del frío!

CANDELA DETROIT, COMPÁS, AND DETROIT
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PRESENT

HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD

**SATURDAY,
DECEMBER
6, 2025
2-7 P.M.**

Vendors, Food,
Music, and
Holiday Magic for
All!

Candela Detroit
3564 Vernor Hwy, Detroit, MI 48216





3rd Annual Sueño's Car Show at Fricano's Event Center parking lot



1953 Chevy Truck with a 3100 engine



1937 Ford Sedan 2 door



No Regrets!



1929 Mercedes Gazelle



1928 Ford Model A Fire Truck



Award for Best of Show given out to winner by Sueños Team



1932 Ford 5 Window Coupe



Jesse Arizola & daughter Alesa with friends



1966 Ford Galaxy Convertible - Money Gone



1966 Ford Thunderbird 2 door
Hard Top - all original from a barn!



1960 Lowrider Bike from Low 4 Life Car Club from Grand Rapids, MI



1974 Chevy Caprice

3rd Annual Sueño's Car Show

Hit the road on Saturday, September 6, 2025, to Fricano's Place 1050 W Western Ave Suite 200, Muskegon, MI for Sueños "Dreamers" Car Show.

Met up with Gregorio Garcia, President of the Sueños Club who show us his club members.

Classics, vintage, custom, muscle and even modified cars. Spinning music was from DJ's Greg Garcia & Sanders. There were vendors selling assorted items, Children's Bounce tents to play in, also great pizzas and ice cream from Fricano's Place!

Parking lot was full of all kinds of cars, door prizes for entries and awards at 4:00pm. Exciting time at Sueños Car Show!

Somos pocos pero locos en lowriding!

Having a car event?
Contact Homero
(616) 893-3906
deeho123@comcast.net



Gregorio Garcia hanging with fellow member De La Rosa

La Voz

Juliane Gamboa is a Brazilian singer-songwriter and music teacher based in Rio de Janeiro. Born in a musical family in Petrópolis, she pursued music professionally after moving to Rio in 2016. Gamboa emphasizes her journey as a black woman artist and reconnecting with her ancestry through various personal and communal practices. She holds a degree in Art History from UFRJ, which has led her to work in museums and engage in cultural projects. Recently, she participated in MARES – Women Artists in Residency, collaborating on an album with other artists. An advocate for gender equality and black women in the arts, she teaches music to children and produces events celebrating local black female artists.

Juliane Gamboa es una cantautora, y profesora de música brasileña radicada en Río de Janeiro. Nacida en una familia de músicos en Petrópolis, se dedicó profesionalmente a la música tras mudarse a Río en 2016. Gamboa destaca su trayectoria como artista negra y su reconexión con sus raíces a través de diversas prácticas personales y comunitarias. Es licenciada en Historia del Arte por la UFRJ, lo que la llevó a trabajar en museos y participar en proyectos culturales. Recientemente, participó en MARES (Women Artists in Residency), colaborando en un álbum con otras artistas. Defensora de la igualdad de género y de las mujeres negras en las artes, imparte clases de música a niños y organiza eventos para celebrar a las artistas negras locales.

Juliane Gamboa



Bad Bunny wins album of the year at 2025 Latin Grammys

The night of November 13th at the Latin Grammy awards, Bad Bunny won the prestigious album of the year for his work "DeBÍ TIRAR MÁS FOToS," marking a significant achievement in his career despite already having won numerous trophies. As he accepted the award, he thanked his family and dedicated it to the youth of Latin America and Puerto Rico, emphasizing the role of music as a form of patriotism. In addition to this award, he secured four more Grammys in urban and reggaeton categories and is nominated for six upcoming Grammys. Other major winners included Karol G, who won song of the year, and Alejandro Sanz, who received record of the year, humorously acknowledging Bad Bunny during his acceptance speech.

The Latin Grammys spanned 60 categories in all, which included a wide range of genres as well as behind-the-scenes awards for production, arranging, and visual media. The majority of those awards were given out earlier in the evening, before the main ceremony began in Las Vegas.

Another big winner of the night was the Argentine duo CA7RIEL & Paco Amoroso, who took home five awards across the pop, alternative, and music video categories for their exuberant yet satirical album Papota. (Around half of the album was recorded during their performance at NPR's Tiny Desk last year, and one NPR engineer is listed among the nominees for his contributions to the album.) The childhood best friends delivered one of the most energetic performances of the ceremony, a medley of their songs that featured prop sewing machines and bodybuilders as on-stage extras, culminating in CA7RIEL and Paco perched on top of office chairs.

The award for best new artist went to Mexican alt-pop singer Paloma Morphy. Legacy artists like Gloria Estefan, Fito Páez, and Rubén Blades also received awards in the traditional tropical, rock, and salsa categories, respectively.

Brazilian soul singer Liniker — who made history in 2022 as the first trans woman to ever win a Latin Grammy — was nominated for six awards, including album of the year, song of the year, and record of the year. She won for best Portuguese-language album, best Portuguese-language urban performance, and best Portuguese-language song for her project

Caju. But Liniker stole the show during a performance near the end of the ceremony, dancing her way through the funky "Negona Dos Olhos Terríveis" and getting celebrities like Karol G, Gloria Estefan, and Elena Rose moving along with her.

Winners and presenters largely avoided addressing heightened political tensions and anxieties faced by Latino communities in the United States, focusing instead on celebrating pan-Latin music and artistry. Legendary corrido band Los Tigres del Norte was an exception. During their performance of the socially conscious "La Lotería," the group played with instruments decked out in Latin American flags. Behind them, they projected images of immigrant rights protests across the country.

When power duo Gloria and Emilio Estefan accepted the Grammy for best traditional tropical album for Raíces, they ended their speech with a nod to the Latin diaspora. "Se lo dedico a todos los Latinos que seguimos triunfando en todas partes del mundo," Emilio Estefan said. "Viva la musica Latina." ("I dedicate this to all of us Latinos who keep succeeding all over the world. Long live Latin music.")

Latin Grammys 2025: Full Winners List:
www.billboard.com/music/awards/2025-latin-grammys-winners-list-1236112170/

La noche del 13 de Noviembre, en la ceremonia de los Latin Grammy, Bad Bunny ganó el prestigioso premio al Álbum del Año por su trabajo "DeBÍ TIRAR MÁS FOToS", un logro significativo en su carrera, a pesar de haber ganado ya numerosos trofeos. Al recibir el premio, agradeció a su familia y se lo dedicó a la juventud de Latinoamérica y Puerto Rico, enfatizando el papel de la música como una forma de patriotismo. Además de este premio, obtuvo cuatro Grammys más en las categorías de música urbana y reguetón, y está nominado a seis premios Grammy en las próximas ediciones. Otros grandes ganadores fueron Karol G, quien ganó el premio a la Canción del Año, y Alejandro Sanz, quien recibió el premio a la Grabación del Año, mencionando con humor a Bad Bunny durante su discurso de aceptación.

Para la lista completada de los ganadores de los Latin Grammys 2025: visita: www.billboard.com/music/awards/2025-latin-grammys-winners-list-1236112170/



APV STUDIOS

PRINCESS QUINCEAÑERA PACKAGES

PRINCESS 1	PRINCESS 2
* 3 HR PHOTOGRAPHY/ALL DAY VIDEO	* ALL DAY PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEO
1 16x20 LINEN PRINT/COPYRIGHTS/W-PRINTS (UP TO 300)	1 20x24 LUSTRE PRINT, 1 10x10 SOFT COVER SIGN-IN ALBUM,
HD VIDEO COVERAGE/2 EDITED DVD'S-HIGHLIGHTS/USB	COPYRIGHTS/W-PRINTS (UP TO 400), 1 VINYL BANNER (24x60)
CEREMONY/RECEPTION	2 PHOTOS/DESIGN, 25 FREE THANK YOU CARDS, HD VIDEO COVERAGE/
(VIDEO EXPECTED TO END @ 10PM)	2 EDITED DVD'S-HIGHLIGHTS/DRONE/CEREMONY/RECEPTION
	(VIDEO EXPECTED TO END @ 10PM)
*TRAVEL FEES MAY APPLY	BOOK YOUR SPECIAL EVENT FOR 2025-26 CUSTOMIZED PACKAGES AVAILABLE
	CONTACT INFO 616-635-0164 cell avphotos.video@yahoo.com IG: AVPHOTOSVIDEO59 FB: ANTHONY T. VALDEZ

Puerto Rican Cultural Committee of West Michigan

Encuentro de Dos Culturas



Homero Rodriguez, Edwin & Jose Ortiz

On Saturday, November 8, 2025, The Puerto Rican Cultural Committee of West Michigan (PRCC) held their annual Puerto Rican Celebration at the GRCC Leslie E. Tassell M-TEC building, in Grand Rapids, MI. The event featured music DJ, a band, Puerto Rican dinner, and a Folkloric children's dance troupe performance.

The PRCC provided this annual event to unite Puerto Ricans, promote educational opportunities and cultural heritage. Among awardees of recognition were Danielis S. Rivera - Student, Raymond Cummings - Business, Noemi Tobar Arellano - Legacy Gladys Picó-Gleason - Health and Musicians José A. Ortiz & Edwin Ortiz - El Pueblo Award. Puerto Ricans continue to make a difference in West Michigan.

El sábado 8 de Noviembre de 2025, el Comité

Cultural Puertorriqueño del Oeste de Michigan (CCPR) celebró su Celebración Puertorriqueña anual en el edificio Leslie E. Tassell M-TEC del GRCC, en Grand Rapids, Michigan. El evento contó con la presencia de un DJ, una banda, una cena puertorriqueña y una presentación de un grupo de danza folclórica infantil.

El CCPR organizó este evento anual para unir a los puertorriqueños, promover las oportunidades educativas y el patrimonio cultural. Entre los galardonados se encontraban Danielis S. Rivera (Estudiante), Raymond Cummings (Empresas), Noemi Tobar Arellano (Legado), Gladys Picó-Gleason (Salud) y los músicos José A. Ortiz y Edwin Ortiz (Premio El Pueblo). Los puertorriqueños siguen marcando la diferencia en el Oeste de Michigan.



Danza Boricua

Photos by Homer R.



Danza Boricua - Puerto Rican Folkloric children's dance troupe



Puerto Rican Band

Sister Lucia Zapata Celebrated her 60th Anniversary of Religious Life

Quality Pest Control

"Serving Residential and Commercial Properties in the West Michigan Area"

Manuel Arizola • Certified Tech

2948 Union AVE SE
Wyoming, MI 49548
616-243-2871
616-366-5968
Bugassassin8@yahoo.com
Se Habla Español

www.bug-assassin.com



Fr. Steve Dudek & Steve Cron with Our Lady of Sorrows parishioners

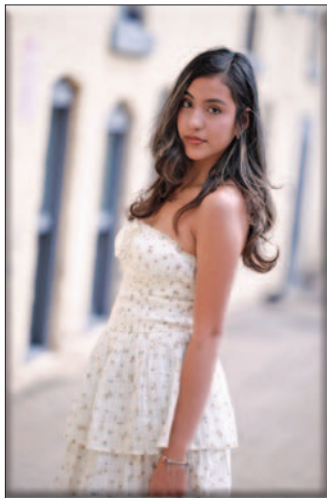


Fr. Steve Cron with Sister Lucia's 60th Anniversary Celebration

Sister Lucia Zapata celebrated her 60th Anniversary of Religious Life. Catholic Mass on Sunday, October 19, 2025, at Our Lady of Sorrows Church and then celebrated at St. Alphonsus Church. Everyone joined in with bringing food and desert! Retired Ted Kozlowski (the oldest retiree at 92 years old!) was there to help celebrate with her.



Sister Lucia Zapata celebrated her 60th Anniversary with her friends & family at St Alphonsus Church Cafeteria



Rubi Cerda

20 year old GR Resident who's very appreciative of being featured in "LA VOZ" Magazine as one of its local featured Models for 2025. Modeling started out as a hobby & blossomed into a more exciting opportunity that really inspired me to break out of my comfort zone to pursue creative ways of building a Professional Portfolio as I developed the skills needed to continue in my path in Modeling. My future career goals are attending college and pursuing a Nursing Degree to help out in our community. I am very passionate in being part of the Health Industry and look forward to aspire into the Health Professional Field. Modeling has always been in my thoughts and has grown since I was a kid. I look forward to future opportunities in the Modeling Industry and thank all the support received from my family & friends.

APV STUDIOS
616-635-0164 cell
* contact on how to get started *



2025 DECEMBER MODEL SEARCH



How Hydration Plays a Role in Getting Over Sickness

Cómo influye la hidratación en la recuperación de una enfermedad

Growing up, you probably heard the same advice over and over when you were sick: drink plenty of fluids.

Have you wondered why this is such common advice and why hydration plays such a huge role in battling a cold or the flu? Here is the science behind it.

How does hydration help with being sick?

We constantly need to replenish things we lose, and water consumption is no different. When you eat all your food, you have to get more groceries. When your car runs low on gas, you have to fill it back up. We get dehydrated when our body loses more fluid than it absorbs, so when your body loses water, which it does when you sweat, urinate, and even exhale, you need to replace what you lose because your body relies on water to function properly.

When we're sick, we lose more fluid than you might think. Fever-induced sweating, sweating while trying to sleep, coughing, vomiting, and diarrhea all expel water from your body. And even small fluid imbalances can cause you to feel dehydrated, which can increase body temperature and make you feel hot. Proper water intake regulates your internal body temperature.

Research shows proper hydration, through water and electrolyte replenishment, helps keep mucus thin and clear, allowing it to better protect you from germs, according to the Cleveland Clinic.

According to the Mayo Clinic, water also helps you get and stay healthy by:

- Carrying nutrients and oxygen to cells.
- Dissolving nutrients in the bloodstream to make them accessible to the body.
- Lessening the burden on the kidneys and liver by flushing out waste products.
- Lubricating joints.
- Moistening tissues in the eyes, nose, and mouth to loosen up stuffiness and congestion.
- Protecting organs and tissues.

Drinks to consider and drinks to avoid while sick

Water is the most effective hydration option. If you want to liven up your H₂O, add some lemon for a vitamin C boost.

Beyond that, electrolyte solutions like Pedialyte® can replenish your body with the water and electrolytes it loses when you vomit or have diarrhea. But these drinks should be consumed in small amounts as overdoing them could lead to an electrolyte imbalance, which could worsen your symptoms.

Electrolyte-heavy beverages aren't meant to be all-day drinks. It's best to drink mostly water as you recover from an illness and focus on replenishing electrolytes through diet. Fruits, vegetables, dairy products like milk and yogurt, beans, nuts, seeds, and other whole foods are all rich in electrolytes.

Additionally, juices and sports drinks might seem like solid choices to replenish electrolytes, but their high sugar content can exacerbate stomach problems like nausea and diarrhea.

You should also steer clear of alcohol, which, in addition to dehydrating you, can make cold and flu symptoms worse; when alcohol interacts with your immune system, it diminishes its ability to fight infections.

How do I know if I'm drinking enough water?

Daily water intake recommendations vary by age, sex, and activity level. According to the U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, the adequate daily water intake is:

- About 15.5 cups (3.7 liters) of fluids a day for men
- About 11.5 cups (2.7 liters) of fluids a day for women

Call your primary care provider or a medical professional immediately if you believe you are suffering from extreme dehydration, which can cause these severe symptoms:

- Irritability or disorientation
- Extreme lack of sleep
- A consistent inability to keep fluids down
- Diarrhea that lasts 24 hours or more
- Bloody or black stool

Una hidratación adecuada es fundamental para combatir enfermedades como resfriados o gripe, ya que se pierden líquidos a través del sudor, la tos, los vómitos y la diarrea. Una ingesta suficiente de agua ayuda a regular la temperatura corporal y a mantener la salud de las mucosas para proteger contra los gérmenes. El agua es la mejor opción para hidratarse, pero las soluciones electrolíticas como Pedialyte® pueden usarse con moderación para reponer líquidos. Los alimentos ricos en electrolitos, como las frutas y los lácteos, pueden favorecer la recuperación. Se deben evitar las bebidas azucaradas y el alcohol, ya que pueden empeorar los síntomas. La ingesta diaria recomendada de líquidos varía: aproximadamente 15.5 tazas para los hombres y 11.5 tazas para las mujeres. Consulte a un médico si presenta signos de deshidratación extrema, como irritabilidad o dificultad para retener líquidos.



¡ESCÚCHANOS EN VIVO!



20

Years Of Experience

www.mipoderosa.com
(616) 451-0551

lapoderosa@canosbroadcasting.com



Introducing...

MISS DECEMBER
SEXY SANTA

TALII

Photographer Credits: JJ Drayton-Kennedy -  drayton.kennedy  dray.k.photo



 @itsss.tali.



On Labor Day 2025, we at The Community Voice announced that our year ending selected published model layout would be a Sexy Santa theme.

In our very first public post a out right rising *STAR* named "Natallia" was the first to reply & be nominated. 100+ applications we're reviewed and without question the first was the "BEST" and

TALII Baby was selected !!!!

The Detroit resident has emerged as one of Motowns most prestigious rising *STARS* of 2025. Her social media has gone very viral  **heyitsnatalia.04**

Talii often is the "CENTER" of attention in the downtown club night club scenes. She never is shy when taking center stage with that very dynamic SMILE and personality.

Stay tuned in 2026 for this selected published model(s) career it maybe a breakout season.

Do you model or aspire ? No experience needed message @CCCougar11 on Instagram
<http://www.facebook.com/realcoolmike>



Michael Farage

CLASSIFIEDS

SOFTWARE DEVELOPER - Sena Info Technologies - Grand Rapids, MI Sena Info Technologies; Grand Rapids. May req reloc & travel to various US wk sites 1-2 times/year - Anlyz needs; dsgn, dvp & maint web soft aps C/C++, Python, Perl on various Linux and Window platforms. Develop web applications and Restful web services and APIs using Python Flask & Django. Use various Python libraries and Clients to speed up development, Robot, pyTest. Skills: Python3.10, TOSCA Service Templates, JWT encode/decode, GIT, Docker, GitHub, Gitlab, REST API, Visual studio code, POSTMAN, Flake8, Agile methodology Req: Bach deg in Comp Sci/IT/rel with 5 yrs rel exp. Foreign deg OK. For details &/or to apply, contact/mail resume to 1345 Monroe Ave, Ste 241, Grand Rapids, MI 49505. . Email: ravi@senainfotech.com

INFORMATION SYSTEM ANALYST - KLA Corpora-

tion - Ann Arbor, MI KLA Corporation seeks Information System Analyst in Ann Arbor, MI. Develop and deploy scalable, reliable, and secure cloud infrastructure using platforms AWS and Azure. Salary Range: \$133,900 - \$151,100 per year. Hybrid work schedule permitted. To apply, submit resume to candidatere-sume@kla.com w ref.no ISAHNMI

SAP DATA MANAGER -

Richard-Allan Scientific, LLC, Inc. - Kalamazoo, MI (Kalamazoo, MI) Maintain co's master data across various systems. Maintain/improve interface between SAP Hana & Datazen application from Chainsys. Reqs: Bach's deg or foreign equiv in IT, Comp Sci, S/ware Engg, or a rlted field of study followed by 5 yrs of progressive exp in the specialty field. 2 yrs of exp supporting & managing the delivery of the functional aspects of SAP projects for a life-sciences co. Confirmed exp w/ Chainsys platforms &

SAP Hana. SAP ABAP tech'l Expertise w/ Functional Master & transaction data handling on Sales Distribution, Material Mgmt, Warehouse Mgmt, Finance & Controlling, Production Planning & Plant Maintenance modules. LSMW/Data Migration Implmnt knowl on Basis, SAP (SD, WM, FI & CO), Salesforce, MS Dynamics CRM 365. This is a telecommute position. Mail resumes to Richard-Allan Scientific, LLC, Inc., Attn: A. Iczkovitz, 4481 Campus Dr, Kalamazoo, MI, 49008.

DATA SCIENTIST - KLA Corporation - Ann Arbor, MI KLA Corporation seeks Data Scientist in Ann Arbor, MI. Collect and analyze business and technical requirements, validate and solve data issues, and develop logic solutions to develop data solutions for the business. Salary Range: \$131,950-\$151,100 per year. To apply, submit resume to candidatere-sume@kla.com w ref. no. RKDSAA.

Aspiring Journalist

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

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

Email resume/CV to primaveratf@gmail.com



GRUPO "ESPERANZA" A.A.
 1953 28th Street SW
 Wyoming, MI 49519
Horario de Reuniones
 Lunes, Martes, Miércoles, Jueves, Viernes
 7:00pm - 9:00pm
 Sabado / Domingo
 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Grocery Shop / Abarrotes La Familia

Grocery Shop/ Abarrotes La Familia

Your go-to neighborhood grocery store
 Groceries • Fruits and Vegetables • Beer •
 Cigars • Sweets
 • Lottery • and more...
Abarrotes • Frutas y Verduras • Cerveza •

Ubicado en 1066
Calle César E. Chavez Ave S.W
. Grand Rapids, MI.
For more information /
Para más información
616•581•6271
Hours/Horario:
Monday - Thrusday / Lunes - Jueves
11:00am to 12:30am
Friday & Saturday / Viernes y Sábado
11:00am -2:00am
Sunday/ Domingo 11:00am -12:30am



Se Renta Restaurante con todo equipo para Taqueria



Restaurant with Equipment Ready for Business

Se Renta Carnicería Equipada Meat Market - Ready for Business





**EN EL NOMBRE LLEVA LA FAMA
Y EN EL PRODUCTO LA CALIDAD**

BÚSQUELAS EN SU TIENDA FAVORITA

FOUNDED BY RAUL LOPEZ, SR.



THE FAME IS IN THE NAME, AND THE QUALITY IN THE PRODUCT



PARA SERVIRLE A USTED

616-452-6625