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Spanglish Lazo Cultural Edition

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TU VOZ, TU VOTO! YOUR VOTE, YOUR VOICE!

Calavera: Día de Los Muertos Call For Art 2024 Lansing's 28th Día de **Los Muertos Celebration**

Call for Calaveras! Sept 8, 2024 Deadline For Art! Casa de Rosado Galeria & Cultural Center is hosting a call for Calaveras, 2d works of art featuring skulls in Día de Los Muertos fashion on paper or canvas. \$500 will be awarded from the Barb Morris Fund to the winning

WHEN DO YOU LEAVE?

Artists have a choice of exhibiting wall ready work at Lansing's 28th Día de Los Muertos Celebration at the Michigan History Mu-

seum November 1- November 3, 2024.

Artists must be from Michigan and identify as Hispanic/Latinx/ Chicanx or Indigenous from Mexico, the Caribbean or Central America and are 18 years or over. No spook or gore- this is Día de Muerto's, not Halloween. No text in work or silhouettes or outlines of the state of Michigan or Lansing. We are looking for work that celebrates the joyful and lively tradition of calaveras designed by Mexican lithographer Jose Guadalupe Posada.

Deadline for submissions is Sunday September 8, 2024 11:59pm **EST.** There is no entry fee for this call for art.

For more information or to submit your application: https://forms.gle/ Th4zWYtFTofbsmU7A

A Charlie Brown Christmas live on stage at Devos Performance Hall

Grand Rapids: Peanuts' timeless holiday television special comes to life on stage with the national tour of A Charlie Brown Christmas Live On Stage, skating into DeVos Performance Hall on November 23, 2024. The critically acclaimed holiday celebration that the whole family can enjoy brings Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Lucy, Linus, and the rest of the Peanuts gang together live on stage as they uncover the true meaning of Christmas and per-



form songs from the unforgettable musical score in a tribute to the legendary composer Vince Guaraldi. The Broadway-style production has sold more than 300,000 tickets over the prior holiday seasons. Tickets are available at DeVosPerformanceHall.com.

Gov. Whitmer, MiLEAP encourage families to enroll 4-Year-Olds now in Pre-K

LANSING, Mich., August 26, 2024: Governor Gretchen Whitmer and Dr. Beverly Walker-Griffea, director of the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP), reminded families that they can still enroll 4-year-olds in free, high-quality pre-K through their local school district. The recent historic investment in Pre-K for All included in the state's new budget will allow nearly 59,000 four-year-olds across the state to access free pre-K. As of August 15, enrollment has expanded to all families regardless of income level, while continuing to prioritize families who need it most.

"Free pre-K is here for Michigan families, and there is still time to enroll in a program in your area. This is a huge win for Michigan families that gives kids the educational foundation they need and saves parents thousands on child care costs," said Governor Whitmer. "I am proud that we got this done in the recent balanced. bipartisan budget, and will continue to work with anyone to deliver a brighter future for our children."

"MiLEAP is committed to ensuring Michigan families have access to a high-quality pre-K education that meets their needs and helps their child thrive," said Dr. Walker-Griffea. "Through our efforts, we are connecting Michigan kids, families, and adults with the lifelong education opportunities they need on their path to prosperity.'

The Pre-K for All initiative ensures that every Michigan 4-yearold has access to a free, highquality pre-K education, regardless of where they live. By invest-



ing in pre-K, Michigan is supporting families by:

- Helping Michigan's four-yearolds reach key developmental milestones and enter kindergarten with a strong educational foundation, setting them up for greater success in school and beyond.
- · Introducing children to essential skills like early math, reading, and writing from teachers who support their social and developmental needs.
- · Providing families with the flexibility to work and save an estimated \$10,000 per year on childcare costs, which contributes to the state's economic growth.

Under the FY 2025 budget, free pre-K enrollment was open to families up to 400% of the federal poverty limit, or about \$120,000 for a family of 4. As of August 15, school districts and other pre-K providers may open up enrollment to all families, depending on availability. It's not too late to enroll children who will be 4 years old by Dec. 1 in pre-K this fall! Availability varies by location, with priority given to those who need it most. Visit MiPreKforAll.org to find programs near you.

Michigan expands healthcare access for immigrant children and pregnant people

Certain immigrant populations to become newly eligible for healthcare

DETROIT, MI, August 15, 2024: The Michigan Immigrant Rights Center (MIRC) is spreading the word to eligible foreignborn individuals that significant changes have been made to healthcare access for pregnant people and children in the state of Michigan. Since 1996, lawfully residing immigrants could not access Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) until they had been in the United State for five years. As of August 1, 2024 Michigan will end the five-year waiting period for lawfully residing children and pregnant people.

"We are so excited about this new change to Michigan health care policy," said Elly Jordan, MIRC's Training and Impact Supervising Attorney. "We know how important health care access is to all children and families, especially in the early years. This will be a meaningful improvement in the quality of life for so many Michigan families."

Michigan joins 36 states plus D.C. in making this policy change for children, and 30 states plus D.C. in making the change for pregnant people. In general, lawfully present immigrants must have a "qualified" immigration status to be eligible for Medicaid or CHIP, and most lawful permanent residents or "green card" holders must wait five years after obtain-

ing qualified status before they may enroll, even if they meet other eligibility requirements. Since 2009, the Immigrant Children's Health Improvement Act (ICHIA) option has allowed states to waive the five-year waiting period for Medicaid and CHIP for lawfully present pregnant people and children, recognizing how critical access to healthcare is for young families. However, despite having the option for 14 years, Michigan did not adopt this policy until now.

The new policy will ensure more children and families have healthcare coverage, setting them up for success. Immigrant Michiganders are twice as likely to be uninsured than U.S.-born residents. The new policy will bring Michigan closer to covering all children and ensure families have access to affordable, quality care at a critical life stage. Children up to 19 years of age can now register for CHIP and young people up to age 21 can register for Medicaid. Pregnant people are also covered, including a 12-month postpartum

The new policy comes at a time when misinformation about recent changes to the federal public charge rule has led many immigrant families to disenroll or decline public benefits programs for which they are eligible due to fear and confusion about the impact on immigration status in the future. National survey

data found that one in five adults in immigrant families with children reported that they or a family member avoided a public benefit in 2019 for fear of risking future green card status. For those with lower incomes, the number increased to one-third of respondents. For most eligible individuals, these fears are misplaced and use of certain programs will not negatively impact their immigration status. Individuals with questions about how the use of public benefits may or may not impact their immigration status are encouraged to consult resources on public charge from the Protecting Immigrant Families (PIF) Michigan Campaign.

Individuals who are eligible for newly expanded healthcare access can find out more about the new policy and how it may affect their family by visiting MIRC's website: bit.ly/MIRC_ICHIA.

The following individuals are eligible for the new expanded healthcare access:

- Lawful Permanent Residents and applicants for adjustment of status with an approved visa and their family members granted status through the family unity program
- Refugees, asylees, and asylum applicants
- Applicants and people granted withholding of deportation or removal (under U.S. law or Convention Against Torture)
 - Cuban/Haitian entrants
- Iraqi & Afghan Special Immigrants
- Temporary Protected Status holders
- Deferred Enforced Departure holders
- People in deferred action status (including DACA recipients after Nov. 1, 2024)
- People who have or have applied to USCIS for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status
- Certain survivors of human trafficking
- People with eligibility letters from the Office on Trafficking in Persons
- Trafficking visa holders and derivative beneficiaries or those with approved prima facie case determination
 - People who have been granted



Continued Presence to support a prosecution

- Certain survivors of domestic violence (under VAWA)
- Approved VAWA self petition or prima facie case determination and their parents or children
- Approved application for VAWA cancellation of removal and their parents or children
 - Certain victims of serious crimes
- U visa holders or those with approved bona fide determination deferred action
- Most parolees (where parole valid for at least 1 year)
- Certain longtime residents who have employment authorization, such as NACARA Cancellation applicants, and applicants for 245 adjustment, applicants for registration based on residence since 1972, and people under orders of supervision
- Citizens of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau
- People lawfully present in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or the American Samoa
- People with nonimmigrant visas who have not violated the terms of their status (like students, tourists, and visitors on business) (note: it is especially important that people in nonimmigrant statuses work with an attorney to determine whether using benefits may impact their status)

Eligible parties hoping to enroll can start with Michigan's MIBRIDGES benefit-issuing website

Immigrant families in Michigan who have questions about their rights can call MIRC at (734) 239-6863.

Michigan Immigrant Rights Center (MIRC) is a statewide legal resource center for Michigan's immigrant communities that works to build a thriving Michigan where immigrant communities experience equity and belonging. MIRC's work is rooted in three pillars: direct legal services, systemic advocacy, and community engagement and education. michiganimmigrant.org

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GRCC and The Rapid team up to provide free rides for students and employees

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich, August 15, 2024: Grand Rapids Community College and The Rapid have partnered to provide an all-access transit pass for active students and employees at Grand Rapids Community College, beginning August 26, 2024. This partnership provides a sustainable option to reduce transportation costs and barriers to accessing a college education.

The one-year pilot program allows GRCC students who are enrolled and attending class in a given semester, as well as all employees, to ride The Rapid at no cost to the individual. The Rapid offers 28 fixed routes, 2 BRT lines, and serves 185 square miles.

"We recognize that many of our students face challenges in accessing essentials like food, housing and transportation. Providing cost free access to The Rapid is a meaningful step toward equity, removing barriers to education," said GRCC President Charles W. Lepper. "By supporting our students and staff, we contribute to a stronger, more successful community.

Students will request a new Wave card for each semester they are enrolled in and will be able to ride from the first day of their first class in the semester to the last day of the semester. Employee Wave cards are valid for up to 12 months. This partner Wave card allows both students and employees to ride the bus with the cost of the fare being paid for by the college.

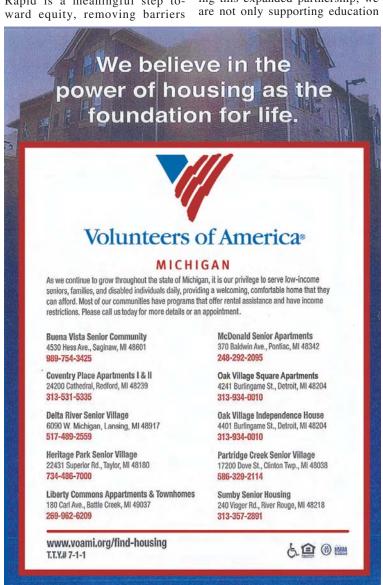
"We are proud to expand our partnership with Grand Rapids Community College - access to employment and education changes outcomes. This initiative aligns with our commitment to provide reliable, convenient, and sustainable transportation options across our community. By creating this expanded partnership, we are not only supporting education



but also contributing to the overall success of our community," said The Rapid CEO Deb Prato.

To access this benefit, students and employees will submit an online form requesting a Wave card to GRCC's Office of Student Life & Conduct. They then will be notified of when they can pick up

their Wave card to ride The Rapid. Students and employees will need to show identification such as a Raidercard, driver's license or passport to receive a Wave card. The GRCC's Office of Student Life & Conduct is located in the Student Center at 122 Lyon St. NE in Grand Rapids.





The Rock Orchestra by Candlelight coming to DeVos Performance Hall

Tickets on Sale Friday, August 30, 2024 at 10AM

Grand Rapids: The Rock Orchestra by Candlelight returns with an epic new 90-minute concert, breathing beautifully dark energy into legendary Rock & Metal. After mesmerizing audiences across Europe and the



UK, The Rock Orchestra by Candlelight is set to electrify the USA once again with a stop in Grand Rapids, MI at *DeVos Performance Hall* on February 25, 2025. Tickets go on sale Friday, August 30 at 10AM at www.DeVosPerformanceHall.com.

In ethereal candlelit settings, this band of 14 classical musicians unleash effortlessly enchanting melodies alongside powerful walls of distortion. Witness the unexpected union of Classical music and Metal.

Performing the music of iconic bands including: Metallica, AC/DC, Rolling Stones, Rage Against The Machine, My Chemical Romance, Linkin' Park, SOAD, Guns N Roses, Evanescence, Papa Roach, The Cranberries & MORE!





Con la red más grande de médicos y hospitales, cobertura para la salud mental, una aplicación móvil fácil de usar, una línea de enfermería las 24 horas y el asistente virtual MIBlue, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan y Blue Care Network están listas para ayudarlo a sentirse lo mejor posible, sin estrés.

> Obtenga más información en MIBluesPerspectives.com/ReadyToHelp