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Spanglish Lazo Cultural Edition

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SO YOU'RE AGAINST IMMIGRATION? SPLENDID! WHEN DO YOU LEAVE?

Todo Suma, Todo cuenta: María Fernanda Gómez Rodríguez

Siempre existe alguna otra manera de lograr las cosas

María Fernanda Gómez Rodríguez, agente de bienes raíces certificada y miembro destacado del Departamento de Relocalizaciones de *Real Estate One* en Michigan, comparte su conmovedora historia de lucha y éxito en el libro *"Mujeres in Business / Michigan Edition"*. Su viaje desde Saltillo, Coahuila, hasta convertirse en una figura influyente en el mercado inmobiliario de Michigan es un testimonio de resiliencia y determinación.

Nacida en 1976 en la pintoresca ciudad de Saltillo, María Fernanda creció en un entorno que combinaba tradición y modernidad. Estudió Derecho en el ITESM Monterrey y posteriormente obtuvo una Maestría en Derecho Laboral en la UANL (Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León). Su carrera comenzó en la Junta de Conciliación y Arbitraje de Nuevo León, donde se destacó como Profesora de Cátedra de Derecho.

El rumbo de su vida cambió cuando su esposo recibió la oportunidad de trasladarse a Michigan debido a la reubicación de su empresa. Aunque la decisión implicaba dejar atrás una carrera en México, María Fernanda abrazó la idea de una nueva aventura en suelo estadounidense.

El comienzo en Michigan no fue fácil. A pesar de su formación académica y experiencia laboral en México, enfrentó desafíos al intentar integrarse al mercado laboral en Estados Unidos. La barrera del idioma y la falta de reconocimiento de sus estudios fueron obstáculos que superó con determinación.

Su viaje en bienes raíces comenzó en 2012, cuando decidió probar suerte en este campo. A pesar de las dificultades iniciales, María Fernanda perseveró y se convirtió oficialmente en agente de bienes raíces el 1 de mayo de 2012. Aunque las primeras ventas fueron lentas, su pasión por el sector inmobiliario la impulsó a seguir adelante.

La falta de reconocimiento de su experiencia previa y la adaptación a un nuevo entorno fueron retos que enfrentó con valentía. En un mercado donde no era común ver agentes de bienes raíces latinas, se propuso destacarse por su bilingüismo y su enfoque bicultural.

A lo largo de los años, María Fernanda no solo ha logrado el éxito en su carrera, sino que también ha contribuido significativamente al fortalecimiento de la comunidad latina en Michigan. Como miembro fundador del grupo "Mexicanas en Michigan" y de la "Friends On Board Foundation", ha participado en numerosos eventos y actividades que han beneficiado a la comunidad.

En 2016, se unió al equipo de relocalización de su compañía, ampliando sus servicios para ayudar a inmigrantes de diversos países. En 2021, cofundó la compañía *Trust Title*, ofreciendo servicios más completos y eficaces a sus clientes.

María Fernanda no solo ha alcanzado reconocimientos por sus altas ventas como agente de bienes raíces, sino que también ha

compartido sus conocimientos y experiencias con colegas mexicanas y latinas. Su participación como conductora invitada en el programa de radio quincenal de *Radio Centro Multicultural La Familia* desde 2022 refleja su compromiso con la educación y el apoyo a la comunidad.

A lo largo de su trayectoria, ha demostrado que el camino hacia el éxito implica superar desafíos, convertir debilidades en fortalezas y contribuir al bienestar de la comunidad. Su historia es un testimonio inspirador de cómo, con determinación y pasión, es posible



alcanzar metas profesionales y personales en un nuevo país.

Descubre la historia completa de María Fernanda y otras mujeres inspiradoras en *"Mujeres in Business / Michigan Edition"*, un libro que celebra la fuerza, la resiliencia y los logros de mujeres que han dejado una huella significativa en el estado de Michigan.

Visita www.mujeresinbiz.com para mayor información y adquiere tu libro hoy mismo. Todas las regalías de las ventas en Amazon serán destinadas a una beca para apoyo de la juventud latina.



DIA hosts African-American film exhibit beginning Feb. 4

DETROIT, January 19, 2024: 'Regeneration: Black Cinema 1898-1971' salutes the legacy of African-American films, stars, and the role of film in the Civil Rights movement. It includes photographs, posters, art, memorabilia, and more than 70 film clips showcasing cinematic history.

Regeneration: Black Cinema 1898-1971 will open at the DIA on February 4, 2024 and continue through June 23, 2024. The exhibit spans nine gallery spaces spotlighting the evolution of Black depictions from nuanced secondary roles to mainstream show-cases.

Regeneration: Black Cinema 1898-1971 was originally organized by the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures and this activation will include a film series in partnership with the Detroit Film Theatre.

The Detroit Film Theatre series included films like Within Our Gates (1920), The Flying Ace (1926), Harlem on the Prairie (1937), and Eleven P.M..

For more info, see dia.org.

MICHIGAN: Todo tiene un fin y ese fin es el principio de algo nuevo: Nohemí J. Herrera

"Mi vida mejoró cuando dejé de desear que todo lo que pasó hubiera sido diferente."

En el fascinante viaje de la vida, hay quienes se destacan no solo por sus logros, sino por la resiliencia y la determinación que demuestran en cada paso. Una de esas personas inspiradoras es Nohemí J. Herrera, una mujer latina que ha transformado desafíos en oportunidades y ha convertido sus sueños en realidad. Conoce su historia completa en el libro "Mujeres in Business/Michigan Edition".

Desde su nacimiento el 25 de abril de 1992, en Acapulco, Guerrero, México, Nohemí ha enfrentado una serie de desafíos que han dado forma a su carácter y determinación. Su historia es un testimonio de superación, desde el divorcio de sus padres hasta momentos difíciles de maltrato físico y emocional.

En el 2006, a la edad de 14 años, Nohemí y su familia tomaron la decisión audaz de cruzar la frontera en busca de un futuro mejor en Estados Unidos. Este cambio marcó un giro de 180 grados en su vida, enfrentándose a la adaptación a un nuevo país, idioma y circun-stancias desafiantes.

La vida no siempre fue fácil para Nohemí. Experimentó episodios de alcoholismo y relaciones destructivas, pero cada obstáculo se convirtió en una lección valiosa. Convertirse en madre a una edad temprana la desafió a criar a dos hijos pequeños sin las

condiciones ideales, pero su determinación y responsabilidad la llevaron a destacarse en una compañía de paquetería donde comenzó a trabajar en 2014.

En el 2022, enfrentó el cierre de la sucursal en la que laboraba. En un acto audaz, propuso comprar la sucursal a pesar de no tener experiencia ni recursos financieros. Con el apoyo de su familia y amigos, se convirtió en dueña de la franquicia, enfrentando cada desafío con valentía.

La historia de Nohemí no se detiene ahí. Además de dirigir la sucursal de paquetería, abrió R&J MULTISERVICIOS, una agencia de servicios múltiples que ofrece ayuda a la comunidad hispana en diferentes aspectos. Su emprendimiento y dedicación reflejan el espíritu de las mujeres latinas fuertes y emprendedoras.

En cada capítulo de su vida, Nohemí agradece a Dios por las oportunidades y a las personas que han creído en ella. Como su hijo le recordó, "solo tú lo puedes hacer posible", y con esa convicción, Nohemí avanza, lista para enfrentar los desafíos que el futuro le depara.



Conoce la inspiradora historia de Nohemí J. Herrera y otras mujeres destacadas en el libro *Mujeres in Business / Michigan Edition*. Descubre cómo estas mujeres han convertido desafíos en triunfos y cómo sus historias pueden motivarte a alcanzar tus propias metas. ¡Obtén tu copia y deja que sus experiencias te inspiren en tu propio viaje hacia el éxito!

Visita www.mujeres-inbiz.com para mayor información y adquiere tu libro hoy mismo. Todas las regalías de las ventas en Amazon serán destinadas a una beca para apoyo de la juventud latina.

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Gov. Whitmer announces winner of 2024 State of the State Art Contest

LANSING, Mich.: Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced the winner of the 2024 State of the State art contest is Vivian Kern of Bay City Central High School. The student's artwork will be displayed in the 2024 State of the State program and they will receive a gift box from Cherry Republic.

"Vivan's piece exemplifies what Michigan is all about and showcases the talent that can be seen in every region of our state," said Governor Whitmer. "I am so excited that her art will be a part of our State of the State address. Together, we will keep telling Michigan's story and getting things done that make a real difference in people's lives. Thank you, Vivian! I hope you enjoy the Cherry Republic treats."



The art contest challenged K-12 students across Michigan to come up with a creative design for the 2024 State of the State program cover following the theme, "A Classic Michigan Story." Students were encouraged to be as creative as possible and were welcome to use crayon, marker, paint, or any other material.

GRPS and Grand Rapids Promise Zone FAFSA Workshops for Scholars / Families

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is a crucial step for high school seniors embarking on their journey to higher education.

FAFSA serves as the gateway to federal grants, loans, and work-study programs, providing financial assistance to students and making college more accessible. By completing the FAFSA, students may also qualify for state and institutional aid, expanding their financial support options.

FAFSA is an essential tool in alleviating the financial burden of college education.

Grand Rapids Public Schools and Grand Rapids Promise Zone teams are hosting FAFSA Workshops where experienced advisors will be available to guide scholars and their families through the application, ensuring they maximize their eligibility for financial aid.



Attending a FAFSA Workshop is a proactive step toward securing the necessary resources for a successful college experience.

January 23 | 6:00-7:00 PM
Wellspring Preparatory High School

February 13 | 5:30-7:30 PM
Hispanic Center of West Michigan
**Translation services in Spanish available *Dinner provided (while supplies last)*


February 20 | 5:00-7:00 PM
Paul I. Philips Boys and Girls Club of Grand Rapids
**Translation services in Spanish available *Dinner provided (while supplies last)*Childcare available*

February 22 | 5:00-8:00 PM
CA Frost Middle High School

March 6 | 6:00-7:30 PM
Ottawa Hills High School

March 25 | 5:30-7:30 PM
Grand Rapids Catholic Central

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MICHIGAN


As we continue to grow throughout the state of Michigan, it is our privilege to serve low-income seniors, families, and disabled individuals daily, providing a welcoming, comfortable home that they can afford. Most of our communities have programs that offer rental assistance and have income restrictions. Please call us today for more details or an appointment.

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<p>Coventry Place Apartments I & II 24200 Cathedral, Redford, MI 48239 313-531-5335</p>	<p>Oak Village Square Apartments 4241 Burlingame St., Detroit, MI 48204 313-934-0010</p>
<p>Delta River Senior Village 6090 W. Michigan, Lansing, MI 48917 517-489-2559</p>	<p>Oak Village Independence House 4401 Burlingame St., Detroit, MI 48204 313-934-0010</p>
<p>Heritage Park Senior Village 22431 Superior Rd., Taylor, MI 48180 734-486-7000</p>	<p>Partridge Creek Senior Village 17200 Dove St., Clinton Twp., MI 48038 586-329-2114</p>
<p>Liberty Commons Apartments & Townhomes 180 Carl Ave., Battle Creek, MI 49037 269-962-6209</p>	<p>Sumby Senior Housing 240 Visger Rd., River Rouge, MI 48218 313-357-2891</p>

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New FAFSA will unlock scholarship opportunities for more Michigan students, lowering tuition costs

Applicants who complete the FAFSA are eligible for up to \$27,500 for college through the Michigan Achievement Scholarship

LANSING, Jan. 19, 2024: A new version of the federal financial aid application known as the FAFSA will open scholarship and grant opportunities for more Michigan students and make it easier to apply.

Some of the changes made by the Biden administration include expanding eligibility for financial aid for low- and middle-income students, cuts the number of questions on the FAFSA form and makes it easier to import financial information.

In Michigan, nearly 20,000 more students are expected to gain eligibility for a Pell Grant and over 38,000 more students are expected to receive the maximum grant award, according to data released by the U.S. Department of Education.

"National research indicates that one of the most common barriers to filling out the FAFSA is that many people assume they're not eligible for financial aid, and that's simply not the case," said Michelle Richard, acting director of MiLEAP. "The Michigan Achievement Scholarship is a real game changer. Everyone should complete the FAFSA to learn if they are eligible for it or other scholarships, grants or assistance."

With the new changes, it takes most applicants less than an hour to complete the FAFSA and learn if they're eligible for scholarships such as the Michigan Achievement Scholarship, which provides eligible students up to \$27,500 for college.

The Michigan Achievement Scholarship provides scholarships for undergraduate students who graduate from high school in Michigan with a diploma, certificate of completion, or achieve a high school equivalency certificate in 2023 or after. Students must be attending an eligible Michigan postsecondary institution and dem-

onstrate financial need when they complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

To help lower the cost of college and get the state closer to achieving its Sixty by 30 goal, Governor Whitmer created the Michigan Achievement Scholarship, which is available to graduating high school seniors and this year's incoming freshman class.

This scholarship builds on Whitmer's leadership to lower the cost of college through scholarships like Michigan Reconnect, Futures for Frontliners, and Mi Future Educator Fellowship. These investments get Michigan closer to reaching the state's Sixty by 30 goal of 60% of adults with a skill certificate or college degree by 2030.

Students may be awarded up to:

\$2,750 if they attend a Michigan community college, per year, up to three years.

\$4,000 if they attend a Michigan private college or university, per year, up to five years.

\$5,500 if they attend a Michigan public university or are enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program at a Michigan community college, per year, up to five years.

"Applying for financial aid can be an extremely complicated and overwhelming process," said Ryan Fewins-Bliss, executive director of the Michigan College Access Network. "The new and better FAFSA, the Michigan Achievement Scholarship and the Michigan Reconnect program are all laudable initiatives that have combined to create an easier pathway to an affordable college education."

Students and families can complete the FAFSA by visiting studentaid.gov.



AARP Michigan now accepting 2024 Community Challenge Grant applications

The annual program aims to make communities in Michigan more livable for people of all ages

LANSING, Jan. 12, 2024: AARP Michigan invites local eligible non-profit organizations and governments across the country to apply for the 2024 AARP Community Challenge grant program, now through March 6 at 5:00 p.m. Eastern.

AARP Community Challenge grants fund quick-action projects that help communities become more livable by improving public places, transportation, housing, digital connections, and more. Now in its eighth year, the program is part of AARP's nationwide Livable Communities initiative, which supports the efforts of cities, towns, neighborhoods and rural areas to become great places to live for all residents, especially those age 50 and older.

"AARP Michigan is committed to working with local residents, advocates, and policymakers to make our communities better places to live for people of all ages," said Paula D. Cunningham, State Director. "The Community Challenge has proven that quick-action projects can lead to long-term change, especially for residents 50 & over."

The AARP Community Challenge accepts applications across three different grant opportunities. All projects must be consistent with AARP's mission to serve the needs of people 50 and older along with other eligibility criteria.

~ Capacity-building microgrants are paired with additional resources, such as one-on-one coaching, webinars, cohort learning opportunities and more for improving walkability, bikeability and implementing safe, accessible home modifications.

~ Demonstration grants focus on improving digital connections to prepare and respond to disasters; reconnecting communities divided by infrastructure; and housing choice design competitions.

~ Flagship grants support projects

that improve public places; transportation; housing; diversity, equity and inclusion; civic engagement; community health and economic empowerment; and new this year community resilience; and digital connections.

"AARP is committed to meeting the needs of a rapidly aging population in communities across the country," said Nancy LeMond, AARP Executive Vice President and Chief Advocacy & Engagement Officer. "The Community Challenge aims to be a catalyst for action in cities, towns, and rural areas through quick-action community improvements that benefit people of all ages and abilities."

Since 2017, AARP has invested \$16.4 million toward 1,370 projects - including 24 in Michigan - non-profit organizations, and government entities across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands through the Community Challenge. The program provides direct support to all community types, including rural, suburban and urban communities with a special focus on the needs of those 50 and older.

AARP Michigan works in collaboration with communities across the state, bringing people together, and providing resources and expertise to help make Michigan's counties, towns and cities great places to live for people of all ages.

The Community Challenge is open to eligible nonprofit organizations and government entities. Other types of organizations are considered on a case-by-case basis. Grants can range from several hundred dollars to tens of thousands for larger projects.

The application deadline is 5:00 p.m. Eastern, March 6, 2024. All projects must be completed by December 15, 2024. To submit an application, visit www.AARP.org/CommunityChallenge.