

THE HARBINGER'S NEWSLETTER

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The opioid epidemic has devastated communities throughout the United States for decades, especially in Native American territories too. Now, lawsuits against opioid manufacturers are set bring much needed money to the affected states and counties.



NativeNewsOnline.net

The Opioid Epidemic and Native Americans

By Melanie Cabrera
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Though often overlooked, there are around five million Native Americans, and almost 600 officially recognized tribes. They live throughout North America, are officially recognized as citizens, and are subject to federal laws. Even so, Native Americans continue to face discrimination, killings, and countless other struggles.

A study by the CDC found that Native Americans have the highest rate of suicide out of any racial or ethnic group in the U.S., with a third occurring among a younger cohort between 10 to 24 years old. COVID has also become a leading cause of death amongst the minority, and many are uninsured. They have continually faced disparities in society as well as in their fight for land ownership and rights under the United States.

In recent years, they have faced yet another challenge: an opioid epidemic that has disproportionately affected these communities, leading to high rates of overdose and increased prices regarding health as a result. Another study by the CDC found that Native Americans had the highest rate

of opioid overdose in the country.

Opioids are a type of addictive drug. They can refer to certain types of prescribed medication that can provide pain relief, such as Vicodin. They can also, however, be dangerous and highly addictive drugs sold illegally, such as heroin. Even when prescribed legally, many patients are at risk of becoming addicted and misusing the drugs.

In the 1990's, pharmaceutical companies said that these drugs weren't addictive, leading to higher prescription rates. Once it became clear that they actually did lead to addiction, dependency, misuse, and overdosing had already taken root. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, over 70,000 people died of drug overdose in 2019. Countless controversies have surrounded top manufacturers of opioids including blame for lax policies or undermining the effects of the drugs. Due to the problems these Native American tribes have faced, over 400 tribes bound together and filed a lawsuit against a top drug manufacturer, Johnson & Johnson (J&J), and the 3 top opioid distributors, AmerisourceBergen, Cardinal Health and McKesson. "The Native American population

has suffered some of the worst consequences of the opioid epidemic of any population in the United States. Indeed, American Indians have suffered the highest per capita rate of opioid overdoses," the tribal leadership committee said in a filed court statement. In the end, they reached a \$590 million settlement, a historic case for Native Americans. This money will go to helping rebuild the Native American communities affected by opioids. Tribes involved in the settlement will use the money to pay for necessary services and treatment, some also planning to build healing centers. These same companies are also facing a lawsuit by various state and local governments throughout the country. The settlement for this lawsuit stands at \$26 billion, but is still in process until the end of February. The money will go towards measures to prevent and recover from opioid addiction.

Although the opioid crisis continues, steps are being taken to lessen the blow on communities, and to help those affected recover and heal. The settlements are a win for Native Americans, as well as the United States against the continued fight against these drugs.

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FEATURE

Black History in Motion

By Valentina Foglia
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From Martin Luther King Jr. in the 60s to George Floyd, 60 years have gone by and the evolution of Black's acknowledgment continues to grow. Since 1915, Black History Month has been one of the greatest times of acknowledgment of African Americans. This idea was started after the 13th amendment abolished slavery in the United States. Carter G. Woodson and Jesse E. Moorland founded the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), an organization dedicated to investigating and promoting the accomplishments of African origins. ASALH sponsored a national Negro History Week in 1926, during Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass's birthdays. Schools and communities across the country were inspired to hold local celebrations, form history clubs, and host lectures as a result of the event.

Negro History Week grew so profoundly that by the late 1960's, the period of commemoration was issued to extend as Black History Month in part to the civil rights movement. "Black History Month is vital to the education of all. Just as we learned the history and origination of the 'forefathers' of this country, it is time that the contributions of the silent workforce that built this country was brought to immediate and illuminating light," said Marc L. DeWitt, coordinator of the African American Male Initiative at Sinclair Community College. Shortly after, every president of the U.S endorsed themes for each Black History Month. Black History Month's theme this year is "Black Health and Wellness," honoring the contributions of Black intellectuals and medical practitioners, as well as other methods of learning in the African origins. The theme for 2022 looks at the actions, rituals, and projects that Black communities

have undertaken to achieve success. Black health and wellness encompass not only one's bodily well-being but also one's emotional and mental. Discussions about mental health have been normalized due to social media and podcasts like The Read, hosted by Crissle and Kid Fury, as well as initiatives like Therapy for Black Girls. "The theme for 2022's Black History Month is powerful. I believe it is important to shed light on those who have had a career in the medical [and] health field. For example, Charles R. Drew played a vital role in transporting blood and saving lives. Without his work, the United States would not have its first largest blood bank. His tragic death should be highlighted," said Emmanuel David, a junior in the Cambridge academy. Charles R. Drew was an avid researcher in the sector of blood transfusions. Following a fatal car accident that rendered him with a nearly severed leg, brain damage, chest injuries, a broken neck, and as well blood flow blockage, Drew was

rushed to a predominantly White hospital nearby where he shortly passed away in 1950. His research laid the foundation for modern blood banking today through improved collection and storage techniques. Following his passing, and as well the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmad Aubrey, and many others in 2020, the significance of Black History Month has increased. It has become more visible and well-known in the mainstream and among the general public. "Black History Month should be used to educate all races about not only the challenges African Americans faced but also their success. I feel that when most people discuss black history they focus on the hardships blacks have faced and continue to face, without really praising our triumphs and beauty," Emmanuel explains. "If one really wants to shed light on Black heroes, they must tell the whole truth, not only the misfortunes." ing more of her in the coming years.



Black Femicide: An Unspoken Epidemic Among Black Women

By Kymani Hughes
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Black femicide is a problem that transpires across various nations all over the world; and yet, here in the United States, it is a dire issue that goes unnoticed. Femicide, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), is the deliberate killing of women for the sole reason of their biological sex, but broader definitions include killings of women or girls. However, there is no universally accepted definition of femicide in the United States. Crimes against women, whether or not they meet the criteria, are classified as domestic violence or intimate partner violence. And, despite the fact that the number of women killed in the United States has steadily increased since 2014, it is not recognized as a problem in the same way that it is in other countries.

One of the most shocking findings is the increased risk of death for Black girls and women. The CDC has reported that Black women have had significantly higher rates as homicide victims compared to any other female demographic in the United States since at least 2017. At least four Black women and girls would be murdered every day, according to reports. That statistical prediction became a blunt reality two years ago. According to FBI statistics released last week, at least four Black women and girls were murdered in the United States each day in 2020, a significant increase from the previous year. Nine out of ten of the victims from that year knew their assailants; many of them were Black men from their neighborhoods or with whom they had relationships. The main risk factor is the ease with which perpetrators can obtain firearms,

both legally and illegally. The "Boyfriend Loop-hole" is a current federal law that allows domestic abusers to keep their guns, stating that if a person is convicted of domestic violence, current federal law does not prohibit abused or current former dating partners from possessing firearms. This law applies to boyfriends who have a child in common with the domestic violence victim, boyfriends who live or have lived with the victim, or are "similarly situated to a spouse," despite the fact that dating partners commit more than half of all intimate partner homicides. The systematic killing of Black women around the world is a unique situation because it is a result of how systematic racism and misogyny reinforce one another. Because Black womens' issues do not receive the same level of attention as White womens' issues, the majority ...



FEATURE

Overview of the World Cup Qualifiers of CONMEBOL

By Sofia Palomino
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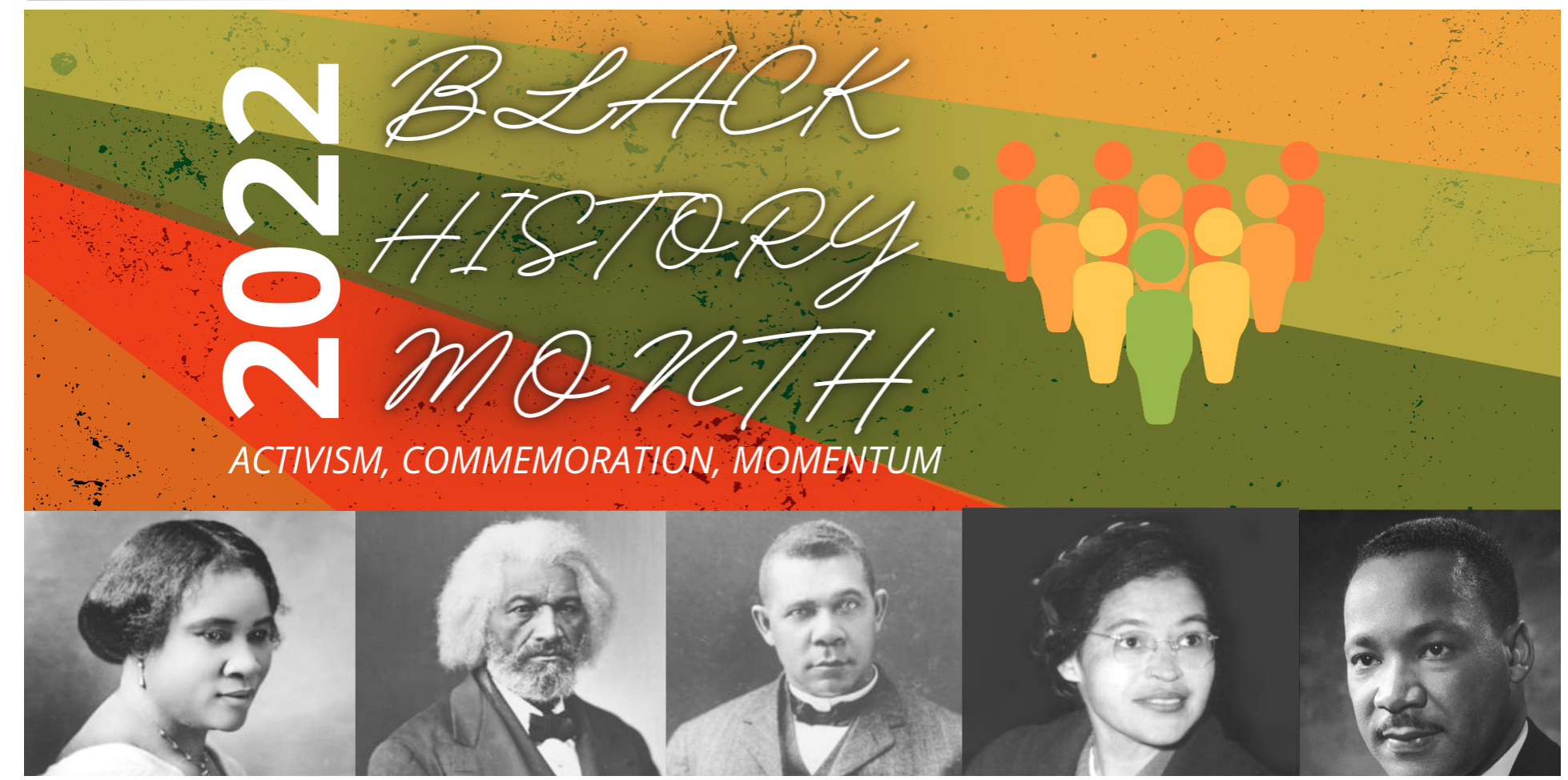
The road to the World Cup began about two years ago when the teams of their respective region began fighting for a spot in the qualifying rounds. There are six continental zones which have their own tournament to qualify their designated number of countries that varies from region to region. The South American Football Confederation (CONMEBOL) is one of the six FIFA confederations that hold the qualifying tournament for South America. It is the oldest continental confederation in the world which uses the staple round robin system and is considered to be one of the toughest

qualifiers in the world. The division of CONMEBOL has 10 teams: Brazil, Ecuador, Colombia, Uruguay, Peru, Venezuela, Bolivia, Paraguay, Argentina, and Chile. These teams participate in home-and-away round robin matches, in which each contestant faces the other participants, that determine the qualifiers as the ones with the most points. This division has four allocated spots that directly qualify for the World Cup as well as an additional spot, known as the inter-confederation slot. As the January to February window recently came to an end, there are only two games remaining for each team in March. There are two teams that always qualify with the highest points and take up the

first spots, this year it was Brazil and Argentina. They have some of the best players in the world and most of the soccer legends, such as Pelé, Maradona, and Messi have come from these two teams. This leaves only two definite spots for the remaining eight teams and there were very close games in the past few weeks. Brazil was the first to qualify with 39 points, shortly followed by Argentina with 35 points. The next contender that is closing in as the third spot is Ecuador that has 25 points. However, the last two spots depend on the last round of matches that are in a month. Currently, Uruguay has 22 points and is on track for the fourth spot, but Peru is stepping on its toes with 21 points. If Uruguay were to take the fourth spot then it

would leave Peru grasping for one last chance of qualifying with the intercontinental slot. However, this spot has its own battle since Chile and Colombia are close behind, one with 19 points and the latter with 17 points. In the case of a tie between teams and their points then the goal difference is considered and the team with the greater goal difference gets the spot. Additionally, if the points tally up and their goal difference is locked then the overall number of goals scored are looked at to determine the team that will advance. The stakes are high for the last two spots and even so the team that ends up in fifth place will then have to face off against a team from Asia. Peru, Chile, and Colombia have everything on the line and their

fate is in their own hands. While anything can happen between each game, the fans stay true to their teams and some already have an idea of what the lineup will look like for the World Cup. "I think that the South American countries that will end up qualifying will be Chile, Colombia, and Uruguay but I predict Argentina will make it to the finals because they are a highly motivated team and contain the best player in history, Lionel Messi," said Yonathon Rodriguez, a junior in the Applied Technology Academy. All of South America's eyes will be focused on these beloved teams to see which one makes it to the Qatar World Cup. Some important matches to look out for are Uruguay vs. Peru and Brazil vs. Chile that will take place on March 24th.



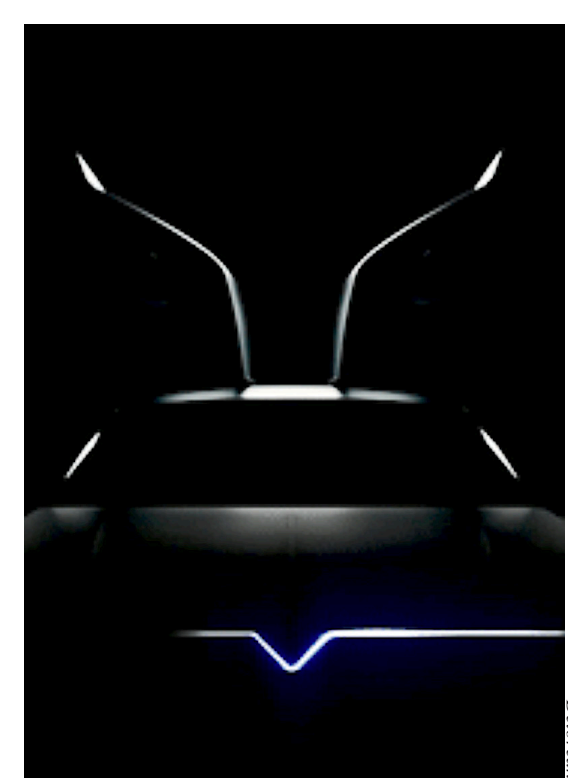
The New All-Electric Delorean

By Zahir Stevens
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While the LA Rams and Cincinnati Bengals battled it out during the Super Bowl, a new company under the name Delorean Motors Reimagined LLC introduced their new car prototype during a commercial break. The commercial featured a short video teasing the gullwing doors of the new all-electric Delorean. During the fifteen-second ad, the company revealed an electric Delorean in the works. The commercial outlines the front of the car and the iconic gullwing doors. Although this is just a teaser video from the company, there is much anticipation for the reveal of the final product. The background of this new car dates back to the Delo-

rean-DMC-12, which became famous for being the vehicle Marty McFly used in the Back To The Future movie series and for its concept of gullwing doors which was new at the time. The DMC-12 had a 2.8 liter V6 engine with a 0-60 mph of 9.5 seconds. The product sold for \$25,000 upon first release in 1981, equivalent to \$70,000 in contemporary monetary value. The history of this company however, dates back to 1975 when it was founded by John Delorean as a Detroit-based company. The company went into bankruptcy in 1982, the year after the release of their car DMC-12. The cause of the bankruptcy was due to poor financial management and lack of demand for the car, leading to \$17 million in debt. Worsening the situation, there was also an FBI investigation into the founder John Delorean for drug trafficking.

However, the car gained popularity after bankruptcy, which led to people wondering what happened to Delorean. In 1995 Stephen Wynne bought the rights to Delorean and the remaining inventory. In the past years they have done maintenance on the DMC-12 but are now looking to expand. The company is looking to establish a global headquarters in San Antonio, Texas. The new vision for the company is a new vehicle, an electric vehicle. The Delorean is coming back sooner than expected and is set to debut over the summer during Monterey Car Week. The brief Super Bowl commercial had not revealed what the improvised '80s dream car will look like although the teaser did imply that the design will be similar. The future was never promised, but a fantasy will soon become the reality.



EDITORIAL

Book Censorship in 2022

By Melanie Cabrera
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Censorship is not new. With “cancel culture” dominating the media and entertainment, book censorship is to be expected. This isn’t just the result of a recent trend though, pieces of literature have been banned and censored since the printing press was first used. That, however, doesn’t make book banning any less detrimental.

Even the most notable names in history haven’t been spared. Einstein and Aristotle, like many others that challenged the thoughts and values of their time period, were censored for questioning long-standing ideas.

“Banning” books in the U.S. doesn’t necessarily mean that the book is off-limits everywhere. Usually, these books will be banned in particular libraries or schools,

but not in all of them. Students at MLEC read various books throughout their high school years that are banned in other schools, for example.

Still, limited or blocked access to certain books can close doors to important conversations, exposure to new topics, and prevent students from finding stories and authors that share their experiences.

Most books are banned because of a variety of factors, including anything from sexual themes, religious blasphemy, or explicit gore and violence. Many have been banned for shedding light on taboo topics, including themes of race and sexuality, or even for questioning political actions.

Or, simply because a number of people didn’t agree with their content.

Many classical books, such as Fahrenheit 451, The

Great Gatsby, The Complete Maus, Uncle Tom’s Cabin, and The Hate U Give have been banned. Even children’s books like Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland have been banned in the past.

These books provide important, insightful knowledge that challenge, criticize, or bring to light the topics and controversies that impact the day-to-day lives of countless people. This is one of the reasons why they are banned, but also why they are necessary — even more so in schools.

Banning these books blocks students from having crucial classroom conversations on gender, sexuality, race, religion, and ethnicity.

The majority of these books are written by minorities; by banning them, these authors are silenced and their stories, as well as the stories of the many people that relate to them, including children,

are invalidated. As for those that don’t relate, they lose out on the lessons and empathy that these stories offer them.

Books on immigration, foreign cultures, and different religions are hit particularly hard, placing huge restrictions on the type of content and experiences that students are exposed to. After all, books are one of the most effective ways of getting these stories out there.

Banning and censoring content meant for the classroom seems to be increasing in 2022, with policies being passed that limit what teachers can talk about to their students. The main argument for this is that policymakers and parents don’t want students to feel “uncomfortable” in their classes.

However, many of the most important conversations that need to take place in school will come with a

certain level of discomfort.

Talking about the Holocaust should not make a student feel comfortable. Talking about slavery should not make a student feel comfortable.

Talking about colonialism, immigrant struggles, and religious persecutions shouldn’t make students comfortable.

Yet these are necessary conversations. Without them, how are students supposed to understand and sympathize with the struggles others have gone through in the past, and are still going through now? Simply put, they can’t.

A central role of school is to prepare students for the real world, a job that can’t be carried through if important books and difficult conversations are banned in order to keep students in a protective bubble.

Bad Bunny’s Rise to the Top

By Sofia Palomino
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The Puerto Rican rapper has made history time and time again. Benito Antonio Martínez Ocasio, otherwise known as Bad Bunny, has become the face of Latin Trap and Reggaeton while transcending cultural and language barriers and expanding his music throughout the world.

Bad Bunny had his breakthrough song “Diles” back in 2016. Since then, he has collaborated with over 30 artists and released three albums all of which have set various records.

His debut album X 100PRE was released on Christmas Eve of 2018, featuring a variety of genres from pop punk to dembow and trapchata. It rose to number one on Billboard’s Top Latin Albums chart, and the following year it received a Latin Grammy for Best Urban Music Album.

In the summer of 2019 Bad Bunny paired with J Balvin, Co-

ed the EP album Oasis, which has produced top hits and continued to show Bad Bunny’s creativity, impactful lyrics, and artful wordplay. The following album he made was a tribute to old school Reggaeton, Puerto Rico’s perreo roots, and the pioneer artists of the genre.

YHLQMDLG debuted at Number 2 on the Billboard 200 and it won a Grammy for Best Latin Urban/Pop Album. The title of the album translates to “I Do Whatever I Want” perfectly embodying Bad Bunny as he has always remained true to his Caribbean roots. While he quickly rose to fame and has become widely recognized by companies he has continued to freely express himself.

His latest album, El Último Tour Del Mundo, was released in late 2020 and broke the record charts becoming the first all-spanish album to launch in the Billboard’s as Number One. This album strayed away from Bad Bunny’s usual forte of rap and perreo and explored genres like rock en español and post punk.

With the inclusion of trap-rock fusion tracks like “Maldita Po-

his personal life making it relatable to his audience, keeping him on top. Bad Bunny has continuously been able to implement social topics that vary from hardships to relationship issues and this have been his driving force that has remained consistent from the beginning of his career

“Bad Bunny has gotten increasingly successful overtime because he stays true to who he is, he pushes the envelope, and he doesn’t let the current standards or his past define who he is, he makes his future,” said Adrain Oyola, a junior in the Health Academy.

He has become an icon in the hispanic community and thousands of his fans have been waiting for the opportunity to see him perform. Even though the pandemic halted the entertainment industry, especially concerts, Bad Bunny is coming back strong with two tours in a year.

Bad Bunny announced the tour for his most recent album last April and in a matter of days he sold out 35 arenas throughout the country. There were also several days added in different

mand from his fan base. However, these dates seemed to fall short for Bad Bunny’s extensive audience.

Recently, he announced an additional tour that will go on through the latter half of the year. The World’s Hottest Tour includes a beach theme as well as DJ Alesso and Diplo as opening acts. This marks Bad Bunny’s fourth tour and his first stadium tour, allowing more fans to see the Puerto Rican star.

“I feel like people just gravitate towards his music, they understand what he is saying because it is current with the time period and he is trying to do something that no other hispanic musician has ever done, that has shocked people and made them interested in him and his creativity,” continued Oyola.

Bad Bunny has grown through his music, from winning a Latin Grammy to an American Grammy, while having a free-spirited personality which he expresses by breaking the machismo mentality and expanding his culture to the rest of the world.

Bad Bunny has risen to be the most recognized Latin Artist and has continued to sweep the world through his music and concerts.

