

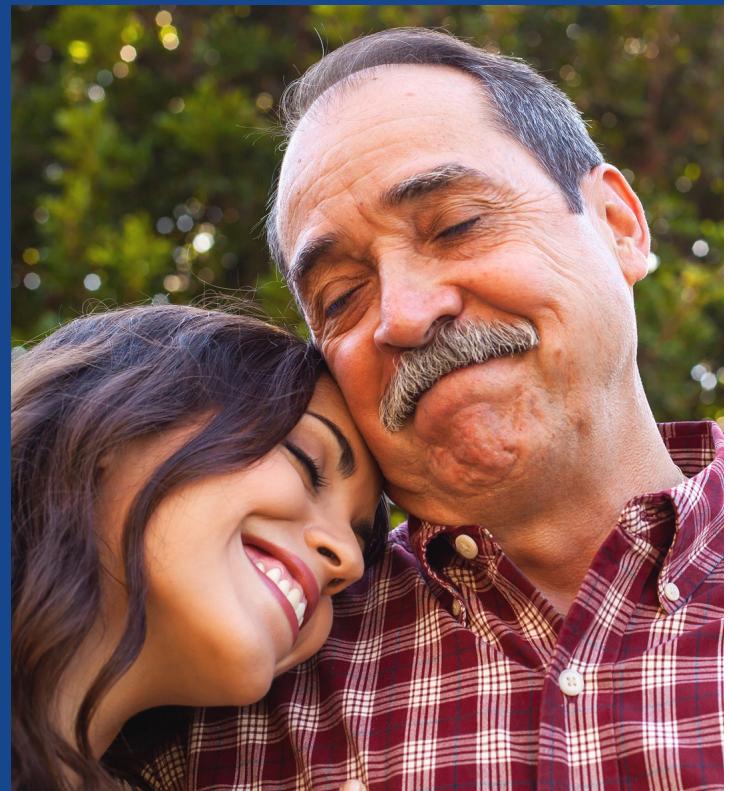
NEWS AND PROFILES CONNECTING THE LATINO AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN MINNESOTA

Latino American Today

June 2024 Issue 440
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***¡Feliz día
de los
Padres!***



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

FELIZ día DEL PADRE.

By: Rico Vallejos

El Día del Padre comenzó en Estados Unidos a principios del siglo XX. La primera celebración documentada se hizo en 1908 en Fairmont, West Virginia, impulsada por Grace Golden Clayton. En Monongah, una comunidad cercana, un desastre minero había causado la muerte de más de 250 padres de familia, dejando a casi mil niños sin padre. Fue debido a esta tragedia que Grace le pidió a su pastor que hiciera un servicio conmemorando a los padres. Fue una celebración local y se olvidó rápidamente.

La siguiente celebración del Día del Padre ocurrió el 19 de junio de 1910 en Spokane, Washington, promovida por Sonora Smart Dodd. Sonora era hija de un veterano de la guerra civil que había criado a sus seis hijos como padre soltero, y tras oír hablar de las recientes celebraciones del Día de la Madre, instó a pastores y organizaciones locales a que celebraran también a los padres. Sonora seguiría promoviendo la festividad, consiguiendo la ayuda de empresas que esperaban que se convirtiera en una oportunidad comercial. De hecho, incluso cuando la fiesta empezó a suscitar interés político, el público siguió desconfiando de su posible comercialización excesiva.

En 1938 un grupo de minoristas de ropa masculina de la ciudad de Nueva York fundó el Consejo del Día del Padre, buscando un reconocimiento formal de la festividad, pero recibieron fulminantes ataques en los periódicos. Finalmente, después de varios fallidos proyectos de ley, el presidente Lyndon B. Johnson estableció la festividad con una proclamación en 1966, y seis años después el presidente Richard Nixon la convirtió en una fiesta nacional permanente. Desde 1972, el Día del Padre se celebra a nivel nacional anualmente cada tercer domingo de junio.



On The Cover
¡Feliz dia de las Madres!
Happy Mother's Day!

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Ser Padre No Es Para Cobardes.



Por Dr. Saúl Carranza,
Pastor líder de la Iglesia Familia de Dios en Dayton MN

Sinceramente me molesta la forma en que en muchas películas y series de televisión se demerita el rol del padre en la familia y se le hace ver como el malo que castiga injustamente, el cavernícola que no acepta razones, el violento que golpea a la esposa y los hijos, el bobo que nunca entiende nada o el holgazán que se pasa el día viendo televisión, tomando cerveza y quitándole el dinero a la mujer. Seguramente hay algunos así. Pero gracias a Dios, la experiencia enseña que la mayoría de los padres son hombres respetables e inteligentes que se esfuerzan y sacrifican por amor a su familia.

Lo que si es una triste realidad, es que hay un creciente numero de hijos e hijas sin una figura paterna en el hogar. La irresponsabilidad de algunos, la vida sexual activa entre personas muy jóvenes y la falta de planificación aunados al fallo de un compromiso duradero entre parejas ha causado esta caótica situación. Con ello, se arrebata a los niños la oportunidad de ser criados seguros y en paz en un hogar bajo la protección de papá y mamá. Admiramos a los padres y madres solteros que hacen un esfuerzo por proveer solos lo que sus hijos necesitan. Pero reconocemos que el modelo funcional de la familia incluye un padre y una madre que juntos provean amor y seguridad.

Según la UNICEF, Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia, "La paternidad es una relación que los hombres establecen con sus hijos e hijas en el marco de una práctica compleja en la que intervienen factores sociales y culturales, que además se transforman

Being A Father Is Not For Cowards.

By Dr. Saúl Carranza,
Lead Pastor of Family of God Church in Dayton MN

Honestly, it bothers me how in many movies and television series the role of the father in the family is devalued and he is made to see him as the bad guy who punishes unjustly, the caveman who does not accept reasons, the violent one who beats his wife and the children, the fool who never understands anything or the lazy man who spends the day watching television, drinking beer and taking his wife's money. Surely there are some like that. But thank God, experience teaches that most fathers are respectable and intelligent men who make efforts and sacrifices for the love of their family.

What is a sad reality is that there is a growing number of sons and daughters without a father figure in the home. The irresponsibility of some, the active sexual life among very young people and the lack of planning combined with the failure of a lasting commitment between couples has caused this chaotic situation. This robs children of the opportunity to be raised safely and peacefully in a home under the protection of their mother and father. We admire single parents who try to provide for their children on their own. But we recognize that the functional model of the family includes a father and mother who together provide love and security.

The father figure according to the Bible is a leadership figure whose purpose is to raise sons and daughters in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. It includes providing for the needs of children but above all it demands that parents be role models. God Himself presents Himself as a loving Father who cares for His creation and fills it with loving provision, discipline, and blessing. Being a father is a great responsibility and no one is prepared for all that. That is where the merit lies. Knowing that you learn to be the father that the family needs on a daily basis. In search of daily bread. In living the experience, enjoying the achievements and learning from the failures. But above all, being there. Many of the ills of modern society are based on the lack of a father figure in the home.

For all this, the Bible invites us to honor parents. Give them the respect and appreciation that their effort deserves and understand that having a good father is a privilege that not all families have. That when many cowardly run away from their responsibilities, there are many more who every day enjoy the privilege of being a father in every sense of the word. He who leads, loves, cares, provides according to his possibilities, disciplines, gives his best and strives for his family. We wish all of them a "VERY HAPPY FATHER'S DAY".

IGLESIA CRISTIANA FAMILIA DE DIOS.



Honoring the Father by Praying for Our Children

By Marcia Malzahn



Marcia Malzahn

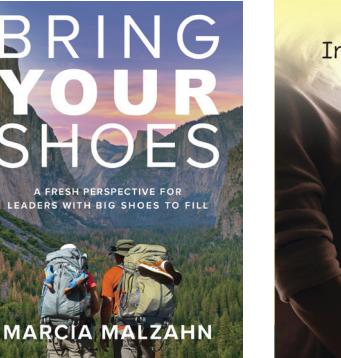
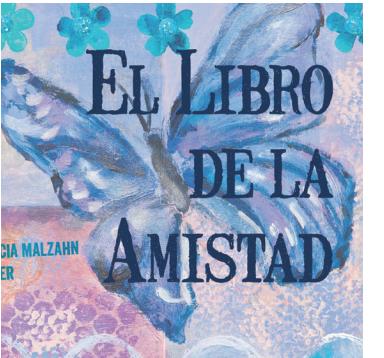
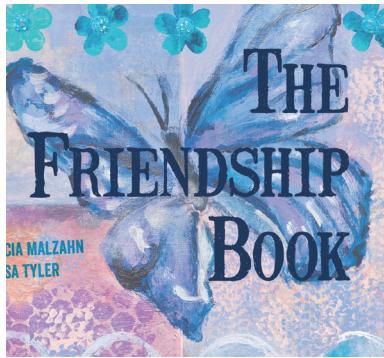
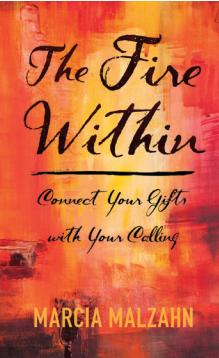
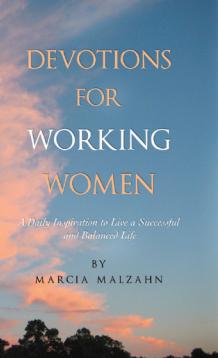
Honoring the Father by praying for our children is one of our biggest responsibilities as a parent. God our Father created each person in the entire world. Every child is God's unique creation, and He wants each human being to go to heaven and spend eternity with Him. Why? Because God is love and He loves us.

When a person becomes a parent, you experience a type of love that is the closest you will ever compare to God's love for you. Having children is a direct blessing from God. And it is a privilege to raise children

in the Christian faith. What does that mean? It means parents have the responsibility to teach the children about the things of God, starting with the truth that God created them and loves them. **Proverbs 22:6** (NLT) tells us to "Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they won't leave it."

Many parents are experiencing a falling away of their children leaving their faith. But we must stand firm on that promise and believe your children will return to God. What is happening? The attraction to the things of the world is stronger than the desire to follow Jesus. The younger generation is disappointed at how "Christians" behave towards other human beings. The hypocrisy amongst believers who judge everyone around them is just as damaging as when an unbeliever hurts another person.

Being a follower of Jesus Christ is hard. No one said it would be easy. Jesus told his disciples in **John 14: 6**, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me." Jesus continued telling them what was to come after He left this earth. Later Jesus said to His disciples in John 16:33, "I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."



Marcia is an inspirational keynote speaker and published author of five books: A daily devotional – *Devotions for Working Women*, *The Fire Within* – to help you find your purpose, friendship poems in *The Friendship Book*, also in Spanish *El Libro de la Amistad* (poemas de Amistad), and *Bring YOUR Shoes* to help emerging leaders with tools on how to lead. In her latest grandma baby book, *Inside Your Mama's Tummy*, Marcia inspires grandparents to form a bond with their grandchildren.

Marcia Malzahn is also president and founder of Malzahn Strategic, LLC a management consulting firm for community financial institutions. You can contact Marcia for speaking engagements through her website at [Crowning Achievements International](http://CrowningAchievementsInternational.com) or email her at mmalzahn@crowning-achievements.com.

COVID-19: No olvides las pruebas

Por Rico Paul Vallejos

Hace mucho que no hablamos de las pruebas de COVID-19. Pero como el coronavirus sigue aquí, veamos los datos actualizados sobre qué pruebas hay y qué hacer si te sale un resultado positivo.

LAS PRUEBAS

Hay dos tipos de pruebas, cada una con sus ventajas y desventajas.

Pruebas PCR

Ventajas: Las pruebas PCR son el "estándar de excelencia" de pruebas COVID-19. Son un tipo de prueba de amplificación de ácidos nucleicos (NAAT), y tienen más probabilidades de detectar el virus que las pruebas de antígenos. Generalmente un profesional de salud tomará tu muestra, que se transportará a un laboratorio para su análisis.

Desventajas: Los resultados pueden tardar hasta 3 días en llegar.

Pruebas de antígenos

Ventajas: Las pruebas de antígenos son pruebas rápidas que suelen dar resultados en 15-30 minutos. Los resultados positivos son precisos y fiables.

Desventajas: En general, las pruebas de antígenos tienen menos probabilidades de detectar el virus que las pruebas PCR, especialmente cuando no hay síntomas. Esto significa que una sola prueba de antígenos negativa no puede descartar la infección. Para confirmar que no tienes COVID-19, la FDA recomienda 2 pruebas de antígenos negativas para personas con síntomas y 3 pruebas de antígenos para quienes no presentan síntomas, hechas con 48 horas de diferencia.

RESULTADOS

Si la respuesta es SÍ

Qué hacer si tu prueba COVID-19 da un resultado **POSITIVO**

Una prueba COVID-19 positiva significa que se ha detectado el virus y que tienes o has tenido recientemente una infección.

- Toma medidas para evitar propagar COVID-19.
- Monitorea tus síntomas. Si tienes alguna señal de alarma de emergencia, busca atención médica de urgencia inmediatamente.
- Busca asistencia de salud inmediatamente para recibir tratamiento si tienes factores de riesgo de enfermedad grave. El tratamiento puede ser una opción para hacer que tus síntomas sean menos graves y acortar el tiempo que estés con

la enfermedad. El tratamiento debe iniciarse a los pocos días del comienzo de los síntomas.

Si la respuesta es NO

Qué hacer si tu prueba COVID-19 da un resultado **NEGATIVO**

Una prueba COVID-19 negativa significa que la prueba no detectó el virus, pero esto no descarta que puedas tener una infección. Si usaste una prueba de antígenos, sigue las recomendaciones de la FDA para repetir la prueba.

Si tienes síntomas

- Tal vez tienes COVID-19 pero te hiciste la prueba antes de que el virus fuera detectable.
- Podrías tener otra infección o enfermedad viral.
- Toma medidas para ayudar a protegerte a ti mismo/a y a los demás de los riesgos para la salud causados por los virus respiratorios.
- Comunícate con un profesional de salud si tienes alguna duda sobre el resultado de la prueba.

DÓNDE HACERSE LA PRUEBA

Usa este localizador de pruebas COVID-19 sin costo:



Hace mucho que no hablamos de las pruebas de COVID-19.

Pero COVID-19 sigue aquí.

Nos guste o no nos guste.

Mira los datos actualizados y qué hacer si te sale positivo:

tinyURL.com/2024pruebas

TRATAMIENTO

Las personas con factores de riesgo de enfermedad grave por COVID-19, como edad avanzada o enfermedades subyacentes, pueden beneficiarse con medicamentos antivirales para COVID-19. Estos tratamientos pueden ayudar a prevenir enfermedad grave, hospitalización y muerte por COVID-19.

Habla con tu proveedor de atención médica de inmediato si das positivo y tienes un riesgo elevado, porque los tratamientos deben iniciarse pronto para que funcionen mejor. Tu proveedor de servicios de salud te ayudará a determinar qué opción de medicación contra COVID-19 es la mejor para ti.

MÁS VALE PREVENIR QUE CURAR

Las medidas de prevención como las pruebas son especialmente útiles cuando:

- Los virus respiratorios están causando muchas enfermedades en tu comunidad.
- Tú o las personas a tu alrededor estuvieron expuestos recientemente a un virus respiratorio, están enfermos o se están recuperando.
- Tú o las personas a tu alrededor están en uno o más de estos grupos de factores de riesgo de enfermedad grave:
 - Adultos mayores
 - Niños pequeños
 - Personas con sistemas inmunitarios debilitados
 - Personas con discapacidades
 - Mujeres embarazadas



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CIELOS**

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Internet de alta velocidad económico para el hogar.

Obtén la velocidad que necesitas con Internet Essentials Plus.

Internet Essentials de Xfinity ofrece a hogares elegibles internet de alta velocidad para el hogar por un bajo precio mensual. Con Internet Essentials Plus, puedes obtener velocidades rápidas y confiables de hasta 100 Mbps sin revisión de crédito, sin contrato y sin cargos por cancelación.

Solicítalo hoy si participas en programas como SNAP/EBT, Medicaid o el Programa Nacional de Almuerzos Escolares. Para más información sobre elegibilidad, visita es.xfinity.com/getIE.

Solicítalo ahora

- Visita es.xfinity.com/getIE
- Llama al 1-855-846-8376
- Visita una tienda Xfinity
- Escanea el código con la cámara de tu teléfono

Se aplican cargos estándares por la transmisión de datos.

Internet Essentials Plus:
\$29.95
al mes

Empezar es fácil con equipo incluido sin costo extra.

Bueno para hasta 5 equipos a la vez
Haz streaming y descarga música y videos
Mantente conectado dondequieras que vayas con más de 20 millones de hotspots de WiFi en todo el país

internet essentials **xfinity**

Se aplican restricciones. No está disponible en todas las áreas. Limitado a clientes residenciales de Internet Essentials (IE) de al menos 18 años de edad que cumplan con ciertos requisitos de elegibilidad. Si se determina que un cliente ya no es elegible para el programa de IE, se aplicarán las tarifas regulares al servicio de internet seleccionado. Sujeto a los términos y condiciones del programa de Internet Essentials. Instalación profesional es extra. El precio anunciado se aplica a una sola conexión. Las velocidades reales varían y no están garantizadas. Para factores que afectan a la velocidad, visite es.xfinity.com/networkmanagement. ©2024 Comcast. Derechos Reservados.

Inténtelo: acampar

¡Pruebe acampar este verano!

¿Le gustaría acampar, pero no sabía cómo comenzar? Inténtelo: acampar es una gran opción para quienes se inicien en el mundo de la acampada. Le brindamos todo el equipo de acampada que necesitará.

Fechas para Inténtelo: acampar:

- Del 14 al 16 de junio • Del 2 al 4 de agosto
- Del 19 al 21 de julio • Del 16 al 18 de agosto

Campamento Baker

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ThreeRiversParks.link/Try-It-Camping
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mn
DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN SERVICES

Conozca cómo en
mn.gov/dhs/outstanding-refugees

Muchos ex refugiados están contribuyendo a que Minnesota sea un mejor lugar para todos.

Disponible NOW:

“Pago-por-uso” es la nuevas forma de pago de Internet y telefonía móvil confiables con precios todo incluido, sin contratos ni verificaciones de crédito



A partir de hoy, los estadounidenses tienen nuevas opciones para disfrutar de un servicio móvil y de Internet de pago confiable y de bajo costo: NOW Internet y NOW Mobile. Ambos productos – respaldados por la potente red

Xfinity y el 5G más confiable – están disponibles en todo el país donde Comcast ofrece servicio y los consumidores pueden contratar, pausar o cancelar fácilmente su suscripción en línea, a través de la app Xfinity o visitando una Tienda Xfinity.

Servicio móvil asequible

Dado que más del 90% del tráfico de datos de los smartphones se realiza a través de una conexión WiFi, no celular, la conexión WiFi es fundamental para la experiencia móvil. A diferencia de los proveedores de prepago existentes, NOW Mobile utiliza el WiFi en beneficio del cliente aprovechando más de 23 millones de puntos de acceso en todo el país, una nueva característica innovadora en el mercado de prepago que durante años se ha basado en precios bajos y capacidades limitadas. NOW Mobile está ofreciendo una gran experiencia junto con algunos de los mejores precios en prepago para los clientes de Xfinity Internet y NOW Internet.

La cartera NOW

- NOW Internet – Elija entre 100 Mbps por \$30/mes o 200 Mbps por \$45/mes. Datos ilimitados y una puerta de enlace Xfinity incluida.
- NOW Mobile – Combine su servicio NOW Mobile con Xfinity o NOW Internet y estará añadiendo uno de los planes ilimitados más asequibles del mercado. Desde \$55 al mes por el paquete NOW Internet y Mobile y \$25 al mes por cada línea móvil adicional.
- NOW TV: oferta de streaming de \$20 que incluye más de 40 canales en directo, más de dos docenas de canales FAST integrados y Peacock Premium. Fácilmente accesible a través de la aplicación Xfinity Stream.
- NOW WiFi Pass – Acceso ilimitado a más de 23 millones de puntos de acceso WiFi rápidos y fiables de Xfinity por menos de un dólar al día a \$20 por 30 días. Sin gastos de cancelación, sin equipos y con datos ilimitados.

Una nueva opción para los clientes del Programa de Descuentos para Internet (ACP, por sus siglas en inglés)

A medida que el Gobierno empieza a reducir el Programa de Descuentos para Internet y se espera que mayo sea el último mes con un crédito parcial de \$14, millones de personas buscarán otra opción de conectividad rentable. NOW Internet and Mobile proporcionará a los clientes, estén o no inscritos en el ACP, una conectividad confiable, complementando las opciones de adopción de banda ancha para personas de bajos ingresos que Comcast ofrece desde hace tiempo, Internet Essentials e Internet Essentials Plus y la gama actual de ofertas de Xfinity.

Más información sobre NOW Internet y NOW Mobile aquí.



Te invitamos a aprender nuevas habilidades de verano en los parques estatales de Minnesota.

Únete a nuestros programas y aprende a acampar, remar e incluso andar en bicicleta de montaña.

- Diseñado para que las familias pueban por primera vez, alguno o ¡todos los programas!
- El equipo está incluido.
- Instrucciones prácticas de la mano de nuestros equipos experimentados y amigables.
- Desde gratuito a increíblemente asequible.



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Sale I39605, Conveyance 2021-0080:

For Sale by bid - MnDOT owned property,
5,633 sf of vacant land located 2400 4th Ave.,
Minneapolis, Hennepin County.

To be sold by sealed bid on 7/9/2024 at 2:00 at Central Office,
395 John Ireland Blvd, St. Paul.

Bid Form, <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/row/propsales.html>
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Latinos Unidos Employee Resource Group

By Claud Santiago

Latino American Today met with the founders of Latinos Unidos ERG, Rebeca Sedarski, Victor Gonzalez and Alejandro Maldonado. They all work at the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS).

LAT: How long have you worked for DHS and in what capacity?

- **Rebeca:** For 10 years. I joined the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) leading the community engagement efforts for the Case Management Redesign project. Later in 2019, I continued with the community engagement practice in Community Relations. I am now supporting the Integrated Service Delivery (ISD) Product Line in the Business Solutions Office.
- **Alejandro:** The past 31 years. The first 12 years, I worked as an instructional designer to train public policy and statewide computer systems. In the last 19 years, I have led the initiatives of language access to individuals who do not speak, write, understand English well enough to communicate effectively with providers. Also, I've been involved with the employee engagement and antiracist policies and groups in the last 3 years.
- **Victor:** I joined DHS in 2022 as the agency's first communications specialist for the Office for Equity and Inclusion.

LAT: Why did you want to start the ERG?

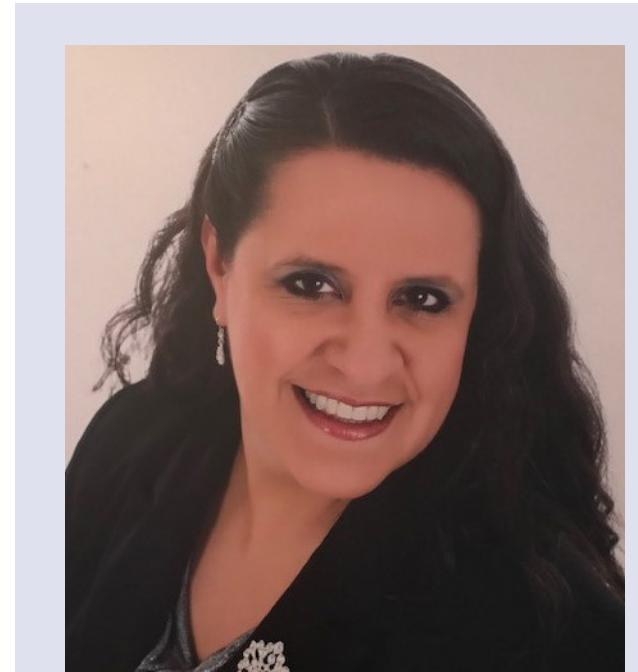
When Rebeca first started working at DHS, she observed that there were many Latin, Hispanic, Chicano heritage colleagues who were unnoticed and that looked like her. This was a huge motivator for her to begin asking other colleagues to join her in her efforts to finally become visible at DHS. This sentiment was echoed by Victor Gonzalez and Alejandro Maldonado. They wanted also to give the opportunity to other state agencies, counties, and the private sector to be part of this initiative and amplify the network of Minnesotans of Latin, Hispanic, Chicano heritage.

LAT: How did you go about to accomplish starting and recruiting members?

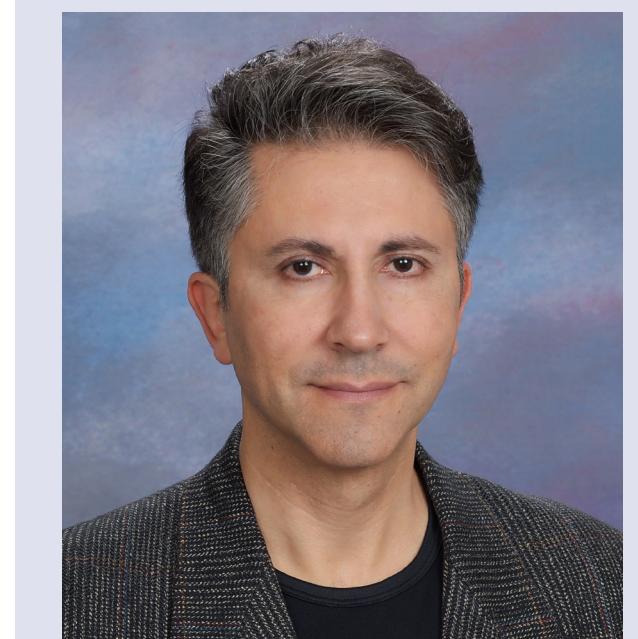
Rebeca, Victor, and Alejandro started to process the most effective way to create the Employee Resource Group (ERG) by engaging other colleagues who are of Latin, Hispanic, and Chicano heritage. The three of them found a lot of encouragement to create the group since there was nothing like it in any other state agency. The trio started to create the charter that included membership and very inclusive rules to become a welcome team of Latin, Hispanic, Chicano heritage and allied individuals and a sponsor. In January of 2023, the Latinos Unidos ERG was officially created and had its first meeting.

Goals and mission statement

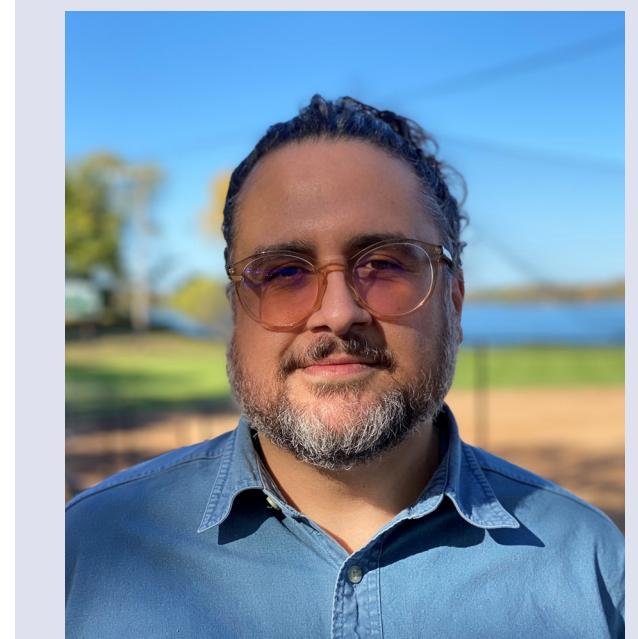
- **Goals:** The Latinos Unidos (LU) Employee Resource Group (ERG) is an opportunity for staff at DHS with Latin/Hispanic/Chicano heritage, family ties, and allies to come together to build relationships and friendships, learn from each other, support education, learning and development, and elevate the many contributions of our communities across the state of MN and to become visible. The Latinos Unidos ERG will achieve this by:
- **Mission statement:** Latinos Unidos ERG will continue to develop the infrastructure to support the professional and personal development of Minnesotans of Latin, Hispanic, and Chicano heritage.



Rebeca Sedarski



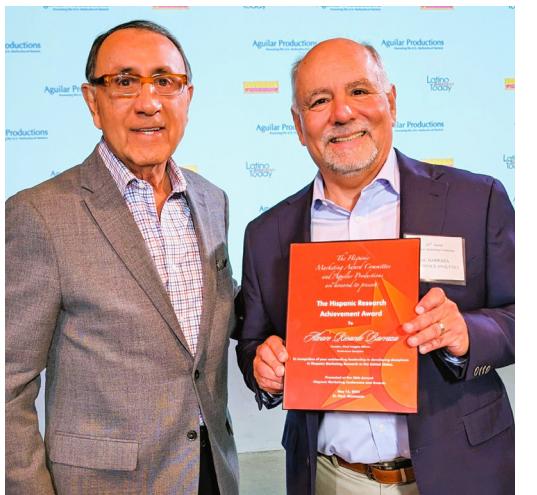
Alejandro Maldonado



Victor Gonzalez

Hispanic Marketing Conference At SPNN Studios

Conference Attracted a Sold Out Audience



Hispanic Marketing Achievement Awards to Lariza Lopez and Alvaro Barraza



Comcast Unidos ERG

Thank you, Rick... Your voice has helped prepare businesses for the changes in America's cultural mosaic, Hispanic and beyond... Thank you for your leadership...
— Ray Celaya,
President & Founder - Diverse Markets

It was an amazing event, thanks Richard Aguilar
— Veronica Soto,
Telemundo Minnesota

Your annual Hispanic Marketing Conferences bring a ton of valuable information to the business community. Please continue organizing these dialogues. It is super important that our community has a seat at the table to educate others on these types of conversations. Again, thank you for your dedication to bringing awareness to the business community in the United States.
— Roberto Fonts,
President & CEO - Dialog One, LLC



Jose Martinez, U.S. Bank



**Conference Panel,
Moderator Ray Celaya (L)**



**NAHREP Twin Cities
L to R Adriana, Guille, Melissa and Wendy.**

The 28th Annual Hispanic Marketing Conference & Awards, produced by St. Paul based Aguilar Productions, was held on May 16, 2024, at SPNN studios in St. Paul. *"We had a wonderful conference, great speakers, a sold-out turnout of marketing, civic and business leaders, a wonderful breakfast served by Abogados Café and our presentation of the Hispanic Marketing Achievement awards to Lariza Lopez, Founder and CEO, Purple Group, Chicago, IL and Alvaro Barraza, Preference Analytics, San Mateo, CA"* stated Rick Aguilar, President of Aguilar Productions!

The conference attendees were impressed with the presentations from Rico Vallejos, RicoLatino LLC, Alvaro Barraza, Preference Analytics and Col. Eduardo Suarez, Minnesota National Guard. Ray Celaya, Diverse Markets and his panel included Col. Suarez, Rachel Matzek, Comcast NBCUniversal and Isaac Contreras, CML Group – Keller Williams.

The conference was sponsored by Comcast, U.S. Bank, NAHREP Twin Cities and Latino American Today. "We were very pleased with our conference turnout. It's our 28th annual conference and we still get amazing numbers of attendees who are interested in reaching out to the Latino community. Looking forward to our 29th annual conference in 2025!"

Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park and the Historic District

The fate of an old bridge and a view of ancient cave formations

Preserving a Portal to Minnesota's Past in Fillmore County

By Deborah Locke, Communications Specialist, Minn. Dept. of Natural Resources

A 97-foot 1899 bridge in southeast Minnesota got the surprise of its long life last November when a crane lifted it from its shifting foundation to a nearby fenced-in area provided by Parks and Trails.

"They spent a week preparing to move it, and 15 minutes actually moving it," said Bob Storlie, park manager at Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park.

The former vehicular bridge crossed the Root River southern branch and once served horse-drawn wagons leading to today's historic Forestville district. While the bridge is repaired, it will be replaced by a temporary pedestrian fiberglass bridge purchased by the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS). Bob said the temporary bridge should be installed and in use by Memorial Day, 2024. It will be 100 feet upstream from the bridge's original location. When rehabilitation funding is secured, the original 1899 refurbished bridge will return to its original location to serve more generations of Fillmore County residents and visitors. Vehicle use will be prohibited; other uses haven't been determined yet.

As with so many state projects, numerous players are involved with the bridge's future. The state Department of Transportation closed the bridge to vehicle traffic in 2007 due to flood damage; faulty masonry abutments and other deficiencies persuaded Fillmore County officials to completely close the bridge in 2022. If left in place, the bridge would eventually fall into the river, said Kent Skaar, Parks and Trails senior project manager. Or the next flood could take it out, added Garret Owens, a bridge engineer with the state Operations Services Division.

"The three entities, Fillmore County, the Historical Society and Parks and Trails, all recognized that the bridge was a structure worth saving," Garret said. "Rehabbing the bridge on dry land was the best decision."

The three entities also create a hodgepodge of complexity. Fillmore County owns the bridge and the highway that the bridge is on. State land on the west side of the bridge is managed by the DNR; state land on the east side of the bridge is managed by MHS. For decades the county and agencies have discussed who manages what, who pays for what, and who is responsible for bridge upkeep after its facelift. When the work is completed, the U.S. Secretary of the Interior will review the structure to see if it meets federal standards. The State Historical Preservation Office also gets involved to ensure that the historic character of the bridge is preserved. The bridge leads to the Forestville historic district with buildings listed with the National Register of Historic Places.

Where the bridge leads captures Bob Storlie's attention. After the rehabilitation is completed, visitors will park on the south side of the river and walk across the bridge that doubles as a portal into the state's past, he said. Until a few years ago, Forestville visitors might note fast-moving SUVs throughout the area. The pedestrian bridge reintroduces slower movement, more aligned with the late 1890s.

The history buffs reading this story will take an interest in just about anything that's still standing from 1899. But there are numerous area attractions in this far southeast corner of Minnesota, and many have to do with Historic Forestville and the Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park. Like to fish? Plenty of trout streams scattered in and outside the park offer that opportunity.



Historic and geologic attractions for the whole family

Should you decide to check out Historic Forestville for a 45-minute tour of the 1850s general store, barn, homestead, and other features, consider a second tour of Mystery Cave at the Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park. The two are so close that they share borders.

A long weekend this summer would allow you to do both tours. Each requires tour reservations and an admission fee. You can make reservations from each location's website.

Mystery Cave is the state's longest cave at 13 miles and descends into a world of ancient granite and pools. You'll see massive rooms, stalactites, and a gorgeous turquoise pool tucked into a corner.

For those who prefer to move above ground, the park, made up of forest and prairie, offers lots of amenities. Anglers will enjoy the blue-ribbon trout streams scattered throughout the area. Hikers love the wildflower displays as they take in trail sights that could include a turkey, deer, coyote, or the sound of a ruffed grouse. Bird watchers may expect to see at least a few varieties from the 175 bird species that live in the park. For the equestrians among you, the park provides horse trails and 55 horse camp sites. For the family reunion campers among you, the park has two group camp sites that can accommodate up to 50 people each.

If you decide to go to either or both places after reviewing the websites, expect to use a map. Your GPS will not work in this corner of the world. Also, always check the park website for visitor alerts that might direct you to an alternate entrance. You will need a daily park permit to enter Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park, which is \$7. You can purchase the permit early online or buy one in the visitor center during business hours.

There's a lot of see and do in southeastern Minnesota if you know where to go. While you're in that neighborhood, play horseshoes and croquet at Historic Forestville, and check out the 1899 bridge that's safely stored on land, awaiting restoration. To your list of must-sees, add the cave's lovely turquoise pool to your list. The weekend will be unforgettable.

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