

NEWS AND PROFILES CONNECTING THE LATINO AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN MINNESOTA

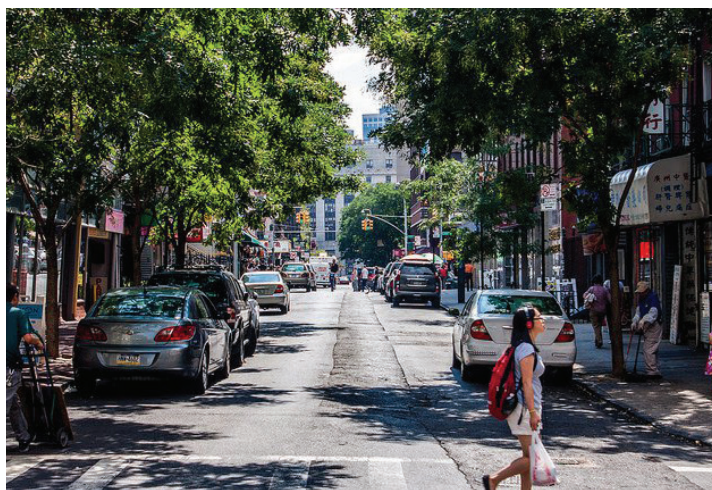
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Latino
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HAPPY
New Year!

2019

¡PRÓSPERO AÑO NUEVO!

These Are The 10 Minnesota Cities With The Largest Latino Population For 2019



The Latino and Hispanic community is one of the fastest growing communities in America this decade. According to the most recent American Community Survey, there are now some 6.3 million more Hispanics living in America than in 2010.

These are the towns and cities in Minnesota that have the largest Hispanic/Latino population in 2019.

WORTINGTON

Population: 13,142
% Hispanic/Latino: 41.23%
Of Hispanic/Latino Residents: 5,418
Percent Change Since 2010: 40.62%

WEST ST. PAUL

Population: 19,750
% Hispanic/Latino: 22.0%
Of Hispanic/Latino Residents: 4,345
Percent Change Since 2010: 19.53%

WILLMAR

Population: 19,608
% Hispanic/Latino: 22.0%
Of Hispanic/Latino Residents: 4,313
Percent Change Since 2010: 7.26%

AUSTIN

Population: 24,882
% Hispanic/Latino: 15.83%
Of Hispanic/Latino Residents: 3,939
Percent Change Since 2010: 26.41%

RICHFIELD

Population: 35,993
% Hispanic/Latino: 15.77%
Of Hispanic/Latino Residents: 5,677
Percent Change Since 2010: -2.29%

SOUTH ST. PAUL

Population: 20,280
% Hispanic/Latino: 14.62%
Of Hispanic/Latino Residents: 2,964
Percent Change Since 2010: 7.31%

CROOKSTON

Population: 7,780
% Hispanic/Latino: 14.07%
Of Hispanic/Latino Residents: 1,095
Percent Change Since 2010: 33.86%

ALBERT LEA

Population: 17,716
% Hispanic/Latino: 13.45%
Of Hispanic/Latino Residents: 2,383
Percent Change Since 2010: 13.31%

GLENCOE

Population: 5,511
% Hispanic/Latino: 11.47%
Of Hispanic/Latino Residents: 632
Percent Change Since 2010: -40.93%

FARIBAULT

Population: 23,577
% Hispanic/Latino: 11.44%
Of Hispanic/Latino Residents: 2,698
Percent Change Since 2010: -22.16%



On The Cover
Happy New Year!
¡Prospero año nuevo!

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¿Feliz año nuevo?



Por Saúl Carranza

¿Cómo celebras el año nuevo? Las tradiciones familiares, culturales y nacionales son muy alegres y variadas. Y cada persona ve el año nuevo de una manera diferente. Según nos haya ido en 2018 despediremos el año con nostalgia, con tristeza o con esperanza. Un nuevo año es la oportunidad de enmendar lo torcido, desechar lo malo, mejorar lo bueno. En fin. Es tiempo de repensar la vida y proponerse nuevas metas.

El punto es que según veamos la vida podemos hablar de un año más, o de un año menos. Porque si lo pensamos de otra forma veremos que 2018 es un año que hemos gastado de nuestra vida. En una reflexión muy cruda un motivador preguntó a sus oyentes: ¿Cuántos de aquí tienen 20 años? Y les dijo “ustedes ya gastaron la cuarta parte de su vida”. Luego preguntó ¿cuántos tienen cuarenta años? A los que levantaron la mano les dijo “ya gastaron la mitad de su vida”. Luego preguntó ¿cuántos tienen 60 años? “Han agotado el 75% de su vida les dijo”. No siguió preguntando, pero en el ambiente quedó la sensación de “mi vida se está gastando más rápido de lo que yo quisiera”.

La Biblia dice que la vida del ser humano son 70 años y en los más robustos 80 años. La experiencia nos muestra a unos pocos que llegan a los noventa y muy, muy pocos, que llegan a los cien años de vida. Con todo esto dice la Biblia, esos años pasan pronto y volamos. Por eso el mensaje del salmo 90 es “Enséñanos a pensar cómo vivir para que nuestra mente se llene de sabiduría”.

Lo bueno o malo que hayamos hecho ha quedado atrás y no podemos cambiarlo, podemos usarlo como base para el futuro y aprovechar lo aprendido para mejorar. La Biblia nos habla de un hombre que en momento importante de su vida decidió cambiar su destino de dolor y sufrimiento y se encomendó a Dios pidiéndole: “Te ruego que me des tu bendición y un territorio muy grande, que me ayudes y me libres de males, para que yo no sufra.” y la historia termina con la afirmación: “Dios le concedió lo que le había pedido”.

Este hombre se llamó Jabez. Y es testimonio de que la sabiduría en la vida es comprender que yo solo puedo controlar algunas cosas. Que hay asuntos que yo puedo cambiar y otros que solo Dios puede cambiarlos, porque no tengo nada que hacer en ellos. Como el tiempo y la vida. No los manejo, son inexorables, solo los vivo y por lo tanto debo hacerlo con sabiduría. Y el principio de la sabiduría es el temor a Dios. Si te encomiendas a Él y pides por ti. Por tu trabajo y familia, sin duda, descubrirás grandes bendiciones. Como Jabez. Feliz año 2019. Dios te bendiga.

El Rev. Saúl Carranza es el Pastor de la Iglesia Cristo Para Todas las Naciones en Crystal MN. Por favor contáctelo por email a pastorcarranza@gmail.com o llámelo al 763-245-2378.

Happy New Year?

By Saúl Carranza

How do you celebrate the new year? The family, cultural and national traditions are very happy and varied. And each person sees the new year in a different way. As we have gone in 2018, we will say goodbye to the year with nostalgia, sadness or hope. A new year is the opportunity to amend the crooked, discard the bad, improve the good. Anyway. It is time to rethink life and set new goals. The point is that as we see life we can talk about one more year, or one year less. Because if we think otherwise we will see that 2018 is a year that we have spent of our lives.

In a very crude reflection a motivator asked his listeners: How many here are 20 years old? And he told them “you have already spent a quarter of your life”. Then he asked how many are forty years old? To those who raised their hands he told them “you have already spent half of your lives.” Then he asked how many are 60 years old? “you have exhausted 75% of your lives told them.” He did not keep asking, but in the atmosphere was the feeling of “my life is being spent faster than I wanted.”

The Bible says that the life of the human being is 70 years and in the most robust 80 years. Experience shows us a few who reach the nineties and very, very few, who reach the hundred years of life. With all this the Bible says, those years pass quickly and we fly. That is why the message of Psalm

90 is “Teach us how to live so that our minds may be filled with wisdom.” The good or bad that we have done has been left behind and we can not change it, we can use it as a basis for the future and take advantage of what we have learned to improve. The Bible tells us about a man who at an important moment in his life decided to change his destiny of pain and suffering and entrusted himself to God asking him: “I beg you to give me your blessing and a very large territory, help me and free me from evils, so that I do not suffer.” and the story ends with the affirmation: “God granted him what he had asked for.”

This man was called Jabez. And it is testimony that the wisdom in life is to understand that I can only control some things. That there are issues that I can change and others that only God can change them, because I have nothing to do with them. Like time and life. I do not manage them, they are inexorable, I only live them and therefore I must do it with wisdom. And the principle of wisdom is the fear of God. If you entrust yourself to Him and ask for yourself. For your work and family, undoubtedly, you will discover great blessings. Like Jabez. Happy New Year 2019. God bless you.

The Rev. Saúl Carranza is the Pastor of the Church “Cristo Para Todas las Naciones” in Crystal MN. Please contact him by email at pastorcarranza@gmail.com or call him at 7632452378

Achievement Gap More Pressing with Lawsuit

Why it matters: Minnesota's achievement gap hasn't improved in four years

Published by *Mankato Free Press*, July 2018

A segregation lawsuit against the state education department may create urgency among the state's school leaders to address an achievement gap that is not only a disservice to the state's children and families but a national embarrassment.

Minnesota has always been known for its good schools and high achieving students as measured by college entrance exam scores. But the state government is being rightly challenged over its constitutional directive to provide an adequate education to all students.

Last Wednesday the Minnesota Supreme Court green-lighted a lawsuit by a group of families against the state that says schools are segregated and therefore not providing minority students with an adequate education.

The Court decided on a 4-2 vote that the lawsuit by a group of families could move forward because the courts were well-equipped to determine if the state was meeting its obligation for an "adequate education." The state argued the Legislature was the more appropriate place to determine the adequacy of education question.

The plaintiffs argue that such policies as setting of school boundaries, the use of federal desegregation funds for other purposes and exemptions for charter schools on segregation rules contribute to creating a segregated and unequal education.

Should the plaintiffs win the lawsuit, the state may be required to take steps to desegregate all of its schools.

That prospect should have education officials and members of the Legislature taking more seriously the effectiveness of their efforts to impact the achievement gap.

That gap was a whopping 36 percentage points between black students and white students in reading proficiency in the latest report available (2016), according to a report in the Star Tribune. While 69 percent of the state's white students pass the MCA reading proficiency test, only 33 percent of the state's black students pass. The gap is 40 percentage points in math.

Gaps between white students and Hispanic and Native American students are slightly better, but still in the 30 to 40 percent range. The achievement gap overall for Minnesota had not improved in four years, even though the state set a goal to reduce it by 50 percent by 2017.

Overall proficiency test scores were also flat or slightly down in many local school districts, according to a Free Press report in 2017.

The Legislature and next governor must not only give this issue urgent attention, they should identify and replicate plans that are working to reduce the achievement gap at various schools around the state.

If the Legislature and governor can't come up with a solution, the courts may do it for them.

Consejos para ayudar a los hijos con la tarea

By *Suri Suarez*

Los padres no tienen que ser expertos en todo pero sí deben estar dispuestos a ayudar

Hay muchas cosas que los padres pueden hacer para ayudar a sus hijos en su regreso a la escuela, como reemplazar la mochila vieja o comprarles los útiles que necesitan. Pero hay algo que pueden hacer que es más importante y no siempre cuesta dinero: ayudarlos con la tarea.

Hay muchas cosas que los padres pueden hacer para ayudar a sus hijos en su regreso a la escuela, como reemplazar la mochila vieja o comprarles los útiles que necesitan. Pero hay algo que pueden hacer que es más importante y no siempre cuesta dinero: ayudarlos con la tarea.

- Hablar con los hijos sobre la tarea. Es importante que los niños entiendan la importancia de hacer la tarea y el impacto positivo que puede tener en sus calificaciones. Además de repasar y practicar lo que aprendieron en clase, la tarea los ayuda a prepararse para las lecciones del día siguiente y desarrollar la disciplina que necesitan para su éxito académico.

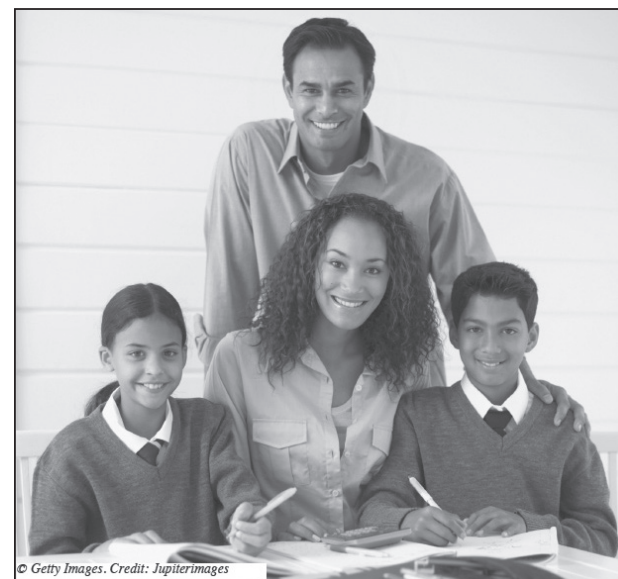
- Reunirse con los maestros. Cuando se trata de la tarea, los maestros pueden tener exigencias distintas. Por lo tanto es importante hablar con ellos para conocer sus expectativas. Por ejemplo, algunos maestros quieren que los padres revisen cuidadosamente la tarea de sus hijos, mientras que otros prefieren que

sólo controlen que la hicieron. Además, el maestro puede contestar preguntas como cuánto tiempo debe pasar el estudiante haciendo la tarea y qué hacer si tiene dificultades o si le resulta demasiado fácil.

- Fijar un horario para hacer la tarea. El mejor momento para hacer la tarea es el que mejor funciona con las actividades del estudiante y la disponibilidad de sus papás. Puede ser antes o después de jugar, ver televisión, cenar o de hacer alguna actividad extracurricular. Lo importante es que la hora sea constante y que no sea la última actividad del día, cuando el niño esté cansado y con sueño.

- Escoger un lugar cómodo y eliminar las distracciones. Para fomentar la concentración es importante encontrar un lugar en la casa que tenga buena iluminación donde el niño pueda sentarse y hacer la tarea sin distracciones. Puede ser la mesa de la cocina, un escritorio o su propia habitación, siempre y cuando no haya distracciones como televisores prendidos o aparatos electrónicos a mano, a menos de que sean esenciales para hacer la tarea.

- Proveer los recursos necesarios. Los padres no tienen que ser expertos en todas las materias para ayudar a sus hijos con la tarea. Sin embargo, pueden proveerles los recursos que necesitan, incluyendo lápices, plumas, borradores y papel para escribir. También pueden llevar a sus hijos a la biblioteca o navegar



el Internet con ellos para encontrar recursos que ayuden con la tarea. GobiernoUSA.gov, por ejemplo, tiene una sección de niños con información práctica sobre varios temas. Por su parte, el Departamento de Educación cuenta con una serie de folletos para ayudar a los hijos con la tarea de matemáticas, ciencias, lectura y comprensión. Para aprender más sobre temas relacionados a la educación se recomienda consultar GobiernoUSA.gov, el portal oficial del Gobierno de los Estados Unidos en español, que forma parte de la Administración de Servicios Generales (GSA) de EE. UU. Fuente: GobiernoUSA.gov

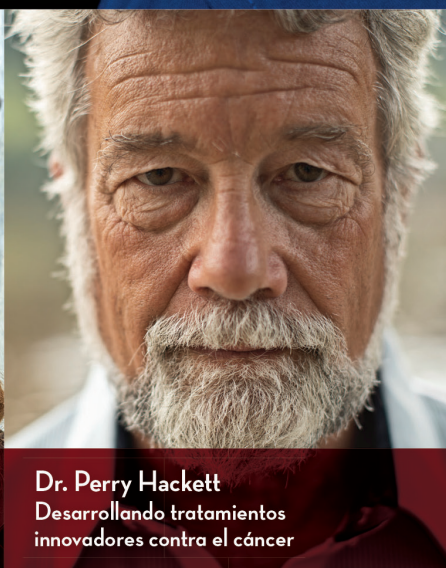
¿Sabes lo que la hace por ti?

Conoces la U de M. ¿Pero realmente sabes lo que la U hace por ti? Desde la lucha contra la crisis de los opioides hasta la detección temprana del autismo, compartiremos historias que impulsan a descubrir el hogar a las puertas de Minnesota. Lleve el descubrimiento a otro nivel en discover.umn.edu.

Dr. Lucien Gonzalez
Luchando contra la crisis de los opioides



Dr. Kathy Draeger
Suministro de desiertos alimentarios a Minnesota



Dr. Perry Hackett
Desarrollando tratamientos innovadores contra el cáncer



Jake Overgaard
Educar a los agricultores con nuevas herramientas



Dr. Maria Gini
Detectando el autismo con anticipación

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**¿QUÉ ES
IMPORTANTE PARA USTED?**

**¿AMIGOS? ¿FAMILIA?
¿EDUCACIÓN?**

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HAPPY *New Year!*

To all our readers, contributors and advertisers. May the coming year be filled with happiness from my family to yours!

—Rick Aguilar, Publisher
Gisela Aguilar, Design / Online
Latino American Today



*Gisela and Rick Aguilar
hiking in the hills of Los Angeles*



Gisela, Rick, and Karina Aguilar

No College Degree? No Problem. Consider a Trade Job.



Marci Malzahn

By Marci Malzahn

Remember when you were seventeen or eighteen years old and the “old people” were asking you the same questions wherever you went? The questions were, “Where are you going to college? What will you major on? Some of you were sure of what to do and had already decided on a major and a college. And some of you had absolutely no idea! Well, guess what? Now you’re the “old people” and you’re doing the same thing to your kids and your kids’ friends. The pressure is on and for some kids these questions can be extremely stressful.

I have mentored several teenagers and young adults and I have found that the ones who have several interests and also have the talent to do many things well, have the hardest time deciding what to major on. I also have encountered other teens who are simply not interested in going to college. And that should be okay too. There is another option that we may be forgetting about—the trade careers.

I had a great conversation with an electrician at a gathering and he shared that they’re desperately looking for younger workers to replace the Baby Boomers who are retiring quickly. Another time I needed to have the repair person come to my home to look at the furnace and I asked the question of succession in his field and he expressed the same concern—there are no young people taking over these types of jobs. So, I did a little research to find out what these jobs are and where kids can obtain an education or certification that doesn’t require a four-year commitment of time and money.

When I was on the board of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities, I had a meeting with the leadership of the Minneapolis Technical College and the same subject came up. They want to train kids but there are not many students in the pipeline. We were there to partner with them and provide an alternative to the “Littles” to gain education and a life skill so they could become self-sustainable individuals even when they don’t attain a four-year degree. The message was, “It is okay. There are other alternatives where you can make an honest and good living without a college degree.” If you have a son or daughter or are mentoring a youth, I encourage you to keep these options in mind if he or she is not interested in attending a formal four-year degree college.

Below are some trade jobs that are great careers and the country needs desperately as the older generation retires:

- Carpenters
- Electricians
- Plumbers
- Computer Hardware Technician
- HVAC Technician
- Sound Technicians
- Low Voltage Technicians
- Construction Managers
- Aircraft mechanic
- Brick Mason
- Industrial Machinery Mechanic
- Automotive Mechanic
- Auto Body Repairer

In addition, there are other trade jobs the younger generation can have that are not physical labor as the ones listed above, such as:

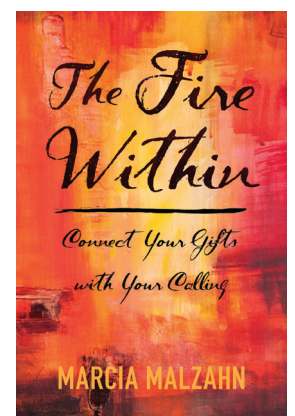
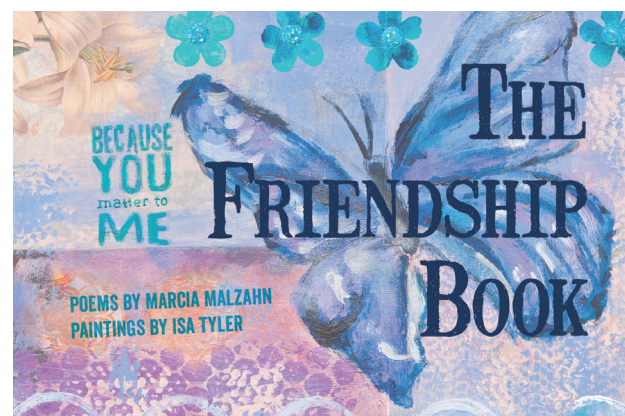
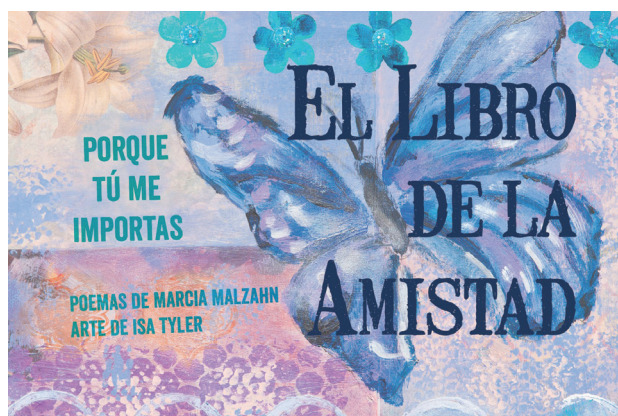
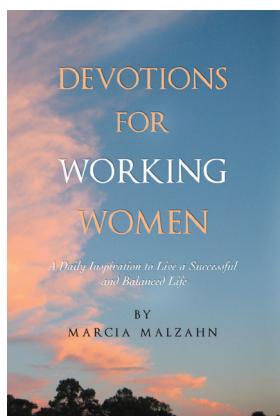
- Dental Hygienist
- Web Developer
- Fashion Designer
- Film or Video Editor
- Engineering Technician
- Diagnostic Medical Sonographer

As I did some research on these jobs, I found this great resource that may help young adults get some guidance regarding these types of careers: <https://www.trade-schools.net/articles/trade-school-jobs.asp>

America needs tradesmen and women to take over the generation leaving these jobs. As you start the New Year, I encourage you to provide these options to the youth you are mentoring or that come in contact with so they get excited about these opportunities. We need these jobs filled!

Happy New Year!

Marci Malzahn is president and founder of Malzahn Strategic (www.malzahnstrategic.com), a community financial institution consultancy focused on strategic planning, enterprise risk management, cash management, and talent management. Marci is also a professional speaker and published author of three books. You can contact Marci for speaking engagements through her website at www.marciamalzahn.com or email her at marcia@marciamalzahn.com. You can purchase Marci’s books at www.Amazon.com.



Winter Light from Above and Below State Parks and Trails Offer More Than 30 Candlelit Events This Winter



Afton State Park Candlelight Walk

*By Deborah Locke,
Information Officer,
Minnesota DNR*

At night not too many decades into the past, Minnesotans lit the farmland and countryside only with the use of lanterns. The image of a soft light when it falls on new snow, combined with lights from the moon and stars, is a sight to behold.

Move ahead to the winter of 2019 and you can witness the same image in a natural setting. Each year many of Minnesota's state park staff line the perimeters of short trails with lanterns, candles and other luminaries, and invite the public in for a candlelit walk. Depending on snow depth, visitors may choose to snowshoe or cross-country ski, depending on the park, trail location and snow amount. Following an evening walk, hot cocoa or hot cider will be available near a bonfire where your insides and outside will warm up simultaneously.

"Few things transform a winter evening like soft light on snow," said Erika Rivers, director of Minnesota State Parks and Trails. "Lit candles and lanterns help to create an unforgettable experience, especially beneath the light from a starry sky and full moon."

More than 30 candlelight events are scheduled at Minnesota state parks and trails this winter. They started on Dec. 31 and will continue through early March, according to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). A complete listing of events can be found at mndnr.gov/candlelight. A few events include these:

4-8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 31 at Fort Snelling State Park, St. Paul
5:30-8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 2 at Lake Maria State Park, Monticello
6-8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 16 Whitewater State Park, Altura

Some parks rent snowshoes and skis; fees are usually \$6 per day. Call the park in advance to see if the equipment is available and reserve what you will need. Many parks offer programs on how to snowshoe. For information on those programs and many others, get a copy of the winter Programs and Events brochure at the nearest state park, or you can get one through the DNR Information Center (651-296-6157). The full park and trail events calendar may be found at mndnr.gov/ptcalendar.

Most programs including the candlelight events are free, but you will need a vehicle permit to enter the park (\$7 for a one-day permit or \$35 for a year-round permit). You can buy a permit at the park the day of the event, but you can save time by getting one online ahead of time, so you don't have to wait in line.

Events may be postponed or canceled because of severe weather. For information on the program you plan to attend, look for the "visitor alert" section on the park's website, or send an email to info.dnr@state.mn.us.

You could also call the Info Center at the phone number (listed above).

Doing It Yourself: How to Make An Ice Luminary

By Deborah Locke

You ventured out on a candlelight walk in a state park and now want to make your own luminary. Linda Radimecky, Afton State Park naturalist, has created and displayed dozens and dozens of luminaries over the years, and offers two words to live by when it comes to creating ice candle holders.

Timing. Temperature.

Timing, because the ideal luminary freezes nearly all the way through, with just enough water poured off the center to hold a light. Temperature because freeze times vary. Usually Minnesotans can count on extreme cold in January. But not always.

The Afton State Park staff uses five-gallon buckets to make the luminaries used on candlelight walks. Check online and you will see many methods of creating these seasonal beauties, from balloons filled with water and frozen, to the use of a bundt cake pan (Martha Stewart's invention.) It takes a certain finesse to make these, but when they are mastered, luminaries bring a lovely flicker to a winter evening.

The Afton State Park luminaries usually take 24 hours to freeze, and often an additional eight hours, Radimecky said. Here is how they are made: Fill the bucket until it is an inch from the top of the bucket.

Set the bucket outside on a flat, preferably insulated surface; the water freezes from the

top down and the outside to the inside. It will take at least 24 hours to freeze. Ideally, anything below 15 degrees should do it.

Bring the bucket inside, tip it over in a large sink and run warm water on the outside. It will pop out with the top of the luminary facing up. Use a screwdriver and hammer to tap a hole into what was the bottom of the ice mass and pour out any water that didn't freeze solid. That will create a cavern for a candle or tea light. The ice may have frozen solid and it will take longer to create the light cavern.

Above is the old-fashioned and probably least expensive way to make a luminary. Online you'll see instructions for placing a smaller one-gallon bucket on the inside of the five-gallon bucket, which creates a space for adding the candle or light. The smaller container is weighted with rocks and is duct-taped into place before water is added to the larger container. Sometimes greenery and berries are stuffed down the wall of the larger container which freeze into place and make a really beautiful luminary.

Keep an eye on your luminary in the event a raccoon or larger animal decide to knock it over. Your best and safest light source is a LED tea light, which can be found inexpensively at any dollar store. Don't use a glass container which will break when it is frozen. Also, wear warm gloves under rubber gloves when you are working with the ice.

Again, trial and error will lead to what could be your neighborhood's most beautifully lit yard. Meanwhile, if you've never seen a luminary, check out your Minnesota state parks. They are all over the place.

Quick and Feisty Holiday Bites



Chef Amalia in the kitchen

Every time I need to come up with a delicious yet quick appetizer menu, I resort to the flavors that I truly enjoy. Then I decide on balance, proteins versus vegetables and fruits. But most importantly, I take into consideration the needs of my guests.

When planning a festive menu, there are no rules, but planning is key. It may take a couple of revisions of the original menu to get you to the point where you are comfortable with what you will be serving during your event. To be successful, include foods that appeal to a variety of tastes, including vegan, vegetarian, gluten free, plus other fare that

targets the special requirements of some guests.

When deciding on flavors, think of sauces, herbs and chiles, and other key elements that will add pizzazz to every item on the table. Also, consider proteins that take little time to cook, or that are purchased already cooked and can be easily combined with other ingredients to elevate them to a higher status. Sweets, such as fruits and chocolate desserts, are classics during the holidays.

Shrimp with Attitude

By Chef Amalia Moreno-Damgaard

Serves 4

12 medium shrimp, cooked, deveined, tails on

Lime juice + Tabasco + Kosher salt and pepper

Toothpicks or tiny skewers

Roasted jarred pimientos, cut into 1-1/2-inch-long strips

Parsley sprigs

½ cup chipotle mayonnaise + lemon juice + chopped cilantro



Brush the shrimp with lime juice, add tabasco to taste, and finish with a light sprinkling of salt and freshly ground black pepper. Skewer the shrimp. Roll the pimiento strips and secure them with the toothpick and the shrimp.

Arrange the shrimp attractively on a platter. Put one sprig of parsley in the center of each pimiento roll.

In a small bowl, combine the mayonnaise with the lemon juice and cilantro to taste. Add more heat with tabasco, if desired. Pipe the sauce on top of the shrimp.

Five or six heavy appetizers might be enough for a reception held during business hours. To make a heavier meal out of small bites, then either modify your existing menu to include more proteins, or extend it by adding heavier bites, such as mini sandwiches or miniature tacos filled with animal and vegetable proteins.

For tighter budget menus, choose chicken and cheese as your base animal proteins, and complement them with vegetable proteins such as garbanzo beans, lentils, black beans and others that can be easily puréed and made into a dip, or used a base as a spread to build a heartier appetizer. Garnishes are the cherry on top of the cake. While they are not a requirement, they add eye appeal and style to the final product.

Below is a quick yet delicious appetizer made in a matter of minutes. It wasn't a last minute decision item, but rather one key piece of the planned menu for a party that I hosted recently. Use it as is, or modify it according to your taste and make yours!

I wish you the very best holiday season in harmony with your family, close friends, and relatives. May the New Year bring you peace, happiness and prosperity.



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Nachito Herrera: Afro-Latin Renaissance at the Ordway

By Claud Santiago

Acclaimed world-class musician Nachito Herrera's Afro-Latin Renaissance combines classical Afro-Latin Cuban jazz, dance and painting, drawing on the roots of Afro-American and Latin American communities and visiting the heart of our cultural identities. Using colors, flavors, and authenticity, Afro-Latin Renaissance proved once again the power of music as the universal language of unity and peace. This wonderful concert that was held on December 1, 2018 drew an audience who were treated to an amazing array of music, singing and dancing.

As a Minnesota favorite, Nachito never fails to electrify Twin Cities stages, and rightfully owns his legendary status as a distinguished pianist across the world. Making his debut as a 12-year old with the Havana Symphony Orchestra in Cuba, he has continued to leave his mark on music, and our hearts, ever since.

"Nachito brings his heart and soul to all his performances and never fails to leave you wanting to hear more of his music. It was so special to be in the audience for this beautiful night, again proving the music brings us all together" —Rick Aguilar



Cuban pianist Nachito Herrera

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Musical Director, piano player, and conductor: Ignacio Nachito Herrera

Nachito Herrera's Havana Jazz Social Club

First Violin: Karen Briggs

Soprano Sax, Alto Sax, Flute, and Ewe: Hammadi Bayard

Alto Sax, Ewe: Mike Phillips

Tenor Sax: David J. Wright III

First Trumpet: Leider Chapotin

Second Trumpet: Larry Sims

Bass: Daymar Calvario

Keyboard: Victor Johnson

Drums: Raul Pineda

Percussion: Edgar Martinez Ochoa

Bongos: Carlos Caro

Singers: Mirdalys Herrera, Fred Steele, Maurice Jacox, and Norah Long

Minnesota Youth Symphonies

Conductor: Manny Laureano

St. Peter African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church Choir

Director: Byron Roberson

Grupo De Danzas Colombianas

Choreographer: Martha Ordonez Daniels

Rene Dennis Thompson and Dancers

Choreographer: Rene Dennis Thompson



Nachito with his fans



Rick, Christy, Eddie, Jade, Rose and Rachel



Rick, Christy, Rose and Julie

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