NEWS AND PROFILES CONNECTING THE LATINO AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN MINNESOTA







¡LATINO
AMERICANOS
CELEBRAN EL
DÍA DE LA
INDEPENDENCIA:





Latino Americans Celebrate Independence Day!

Latino Americans Celebrate Independence Day 2024!











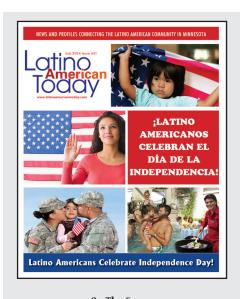


We wish all our readers, advertisers and supporters, a happy, safe and fun 4th of July.

Enjoy the Summer! God Bless America!



Rick Aguilar, Founder and Publisher Latino American Today



On The Cover ¡Latino Americanos Celebran el Día de la Independencia! Latino Americans Celebrate Independence Day!



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LATINO AMERICAN TODAY

FAMILY VALUES

Esa Vieja Campana De La Libertad.



Por Dr. Saúl Carranza

Liberty bell, la campana agrietada que se encuentra en Filadelfia es una de las imágenes que más se relacionan con la libertad en los Estados Unidos. Esa campana representa la independencia americana, la abolición de la esclavitud, los derechos civiles y las libertades en general.

La historia de la campana y la gran grieta que la identifica, son interesantes. La campana fue encargada a una compañía inglesa en 1751. Cuando la probaron

en 1752 la campana se rajó y debió ser reparada. Esa reparación sirvió por muchos años pero luego apareció una segunda grieta y tras varios esfuerzos por repararla quedó la conocida campana que se exhibe en el Liberty Bell Center.

La relación de la campana con la libertad viene de la cita bíblica grabada en la parte alta de la campana. Levítico 25:10 y dice: "Pregonaréis la libertad en toda la tierra y a todos sus moradores." El sonido de esta campana debía recordar a quienes la escucharan que somos libres.

Este mensaje se relaciona con el texto de la constitución estadounidense, con la primera enmienda que garantiza la libertad religiosa y de expresión, libertad de prensa y de reunión. Y con la decimotercera enmienda que abolió y prohíbe la esclavitud en los Estados Unidos.

Por todo esto ha sido tomada como símbolo por los abolicionistas en su lucha contra la esclavitud, Por los sufragistas en su lucha por el voto y por los defensores de los derechos civiles. La campana sonó siete veces el día 6 de junio de 1944. El día "D". Cuando los aliados desembarcaron en Francia para liberar a Europa.

Esa campana nos recuerda que vivimos en la "tierra de los bravos y los libres". La libertad es un derecho y una responsabilidad. Es el producto del esfuerzo de muchas personas a lo largo de la historia y el deseo de Dios para todas sus criaturas. "Conoceréis la verdad y la verdad os hará libres" Ese fue el mensaje de Jesucristo. Una libertad física, intelectual y espiritual que todos podemos disfrutar. Una libertad lograda por los padres de la patria, afirmada por las

luchas libertarias y concedida por nuestro Padre celestial es la que celebramos cada 4 de Julio.

Feliz día de la independencia.



That Old Liberty Bell.

By Dr. Saul Carranza

Liberty bell, the cracked bell found in Philadelphia is one of the images that is most related to freedom in the United States. That bell represents American independence, the abolition of slavery, civil rights and freedoms in general.

The history of the bell and the large crack that identifies it are interesting. The bell was commissioned from an English company in 1751. When it was tested in 1752, the bell cracked and had to be repaired. That repair served for many years but then a second crack appeared and after several efforts to repair it, the well-known bell that is exhibited in the Liberty Bell Center was left.

The relationship of the bell with freedom comes from the biblical quote engraved on the top of the bell. Leviticus 25:10 and says: "You shall preach freedom throughout the earth and to all its inhabitants." The sound of this bell was meant to remind those who heard it that we are

This message is related to the text of the US constitution, with the first amendment that guarantees freedom of religion and expression, freedom of the press and assembly. And with the thirteenth amendment that abolished and prohibited slavery in the United States.

For all this it has been taken as a symbol by abolitionists in their fight against slavery, by suffragettes in their fight for the vote and by civil rights defenders. The bell rang seven times on June 6, 1944. "D" day. When the allies landed in France to liberate Europe.

That bell reminds us that we live in the "land of the brave and the free." Freedom is a right and a responsibility. It is the product of the effort of many people throughout history and God's desire for all his creatures. "You will know the truth and the truth will set you free" That was the message of Jesus Christ. A physical, intellectual and spiritual freedom that we can all enjoy. A freedom achieved by the fathers of the country, affirmed by the libertarian struggles and granted by our heavenly Father is what we celebrate every July 4th.

Happy Independence Day.



Honoring Country and Freedom Is a Daily Journey of Gratefulness



Marcia Malzahn

By Marcia Malzahn

Honoring country and freedom is a daily journey of gratefulness. During the month of May, we honor mothers. In June, we honor fathers. July is the month we celebrate our country's independence. Therefore, it is appropriate to honor our country and the freedom we all hold so dear that comes at a cost.

In May we also remember all the men and women who gave their lives - the ultimate sacrifice of love - to ensure we all enjoy

freedom. In October, we give thanks to all the Veterans who risked their lives to fight for our freedom and to protect our country. We dedicate one day each year to celebrate, honor, and remember these special people. However, it's not enough to honor them only one day out of an entire 365-day year. We must honor our mother and father daily. Similarly, we must remember those who died and fought for our country all the time. Every time we experience the feeling of being free, when we can still make choices on our own, we must remember why.

The cost of freedom is blood...The blood shed by those who dare to step up and risk everything they've got, up to their own lives. Why? That is a question I often ponder on. What drives the men and women to fight for our freedom and to protect our country from all its enemies? I believe the main reason is a deep conviction for patriotism and love for Country.

When I became an American years ago, I received the most encouraging and inspiring letter from the President of the United States of America. While it may be a "form letter" sent to all the immigrants who chose to become an American that year, I appropriated it as if it was written personally to me. Since then, I have lived my life with the fire it ignited within me. Here is the letter!

"Dear Fellow American:

I want to congratulate you on reaching the impressive milestone of becoming a citizen of our great nation. As you enjoy the benefits of American citizenship and assume the responsibilities that accompany it, you follow the many brave men and women who have sacrificed to establish and preserve our democracy over the last two centuries.

You now share in a great experiment: a nation dedicated to the ideal that all of us are <u>created equal,</u> a nation with profound respect for individual rights. The United States is a land of unparalleled natural beauty, vast opportunity, and freedom. It is home to people who have been drawn to our shores from all over the world and who share a common love for life and liberty.

Please join me in devoting your hopes, your prayers, your energies, and your labor to our common good and to the future of this wonderful country. Together we must strive to safeguard the freedoms we hold so dear, not only for ourselves but for future generations."

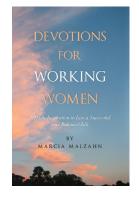
Below are five things you can do in your daily journey of gratefulness:

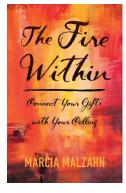
- I) When you experience the feeling of freedom, simply remember the men and women who made it possible for you. You honor them by remembering them and their legacy.
- 2) As you walk by a member of the military anywhere, stop to say, "thank you." This includes police officers that risk their lives daily to keep your own city
- 3) Pray for the members who are on active duty right now. Ask God to give them strength and grace as they are away from their families. Pray for protection and for them to return home safely.
- 4) Keep their families in your prayers. They too sacrifice by staying home, sometimes all alone, waiting to hear from their loved one. And, often wondering if they will even return home.
- 5) Thank God that there are men and women who are called to serve in the military. Because, more than anything, it is their calling. And we reap the benefits. Let's hold them in highest esteem and respect for their sacrifice.

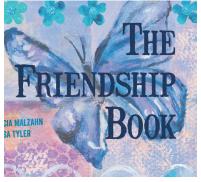
I hope this letter inspires you to love this beautiful country of America and to remind you of the cost of our daily freedom.

May God continue to bless America, even though many Americans no longer want God involved.

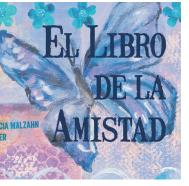
Happy Independence Day!



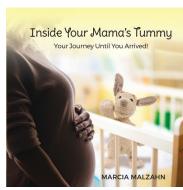












Marcia is an inspirational keynote speaker and published author of five books: A daily devotional - Devotions for Working Women, The Fire Within - to help you find your purpose, friendship poems in The Friendship Book, also in Spanish El Libro de la Amistad (poemas de Amistad), and Bring YOUR Shoes to 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 or email her at mmalzahn@crowning-achievements.com.

COMMUNITY





Saint Paul Public Housing Agency and Comcast Announce Technology Partnership



Partnership will connect more than 2,500 housing units to Xfinity's reliable WiFi network



The Saint Paul Public Housing Agency (PHA) and Comcast today announced they have partnered to provide a WiFi connection to Xfinity's advanced network in all 16 of PHA's buildings in Saint Paul. The partnership is Comcast's first collaboration with a Minnesota-based housing agency to provide pre-installed, already on connectivity to the Xfinity network for their residents.

More than 2,500 units will be equipped with Xfinity's fast and reliable network and wall-to-wall WiFi coverage. With Xfinity's network readily available, residents will not need to schedule a technician to set up services, wait for their modem to arrive or go to an Xfinity Store to collect their equipment. To activate service, residents will only need to call or use the Xfinity App.

"Internet access provides connectivity to 21st century infrastructure, equipping our residents with the tools vital to enhancing opportunities for education, employment, and quality of life," said Saint Paul Mayor Melvin Carter. "The collaboration between Saint Paul Public Housing Agency and Comcast empowers our neighbors to realize a brighter future."

Current residents and new residents moving into WiFi ready units can connect to the Internet within five minutes of collecting their keys – making it that much easier to get all their devices up and running.

"Access to WiFi isn't just about connecting devices; for us it's about connecting PHA residents to opportunity," said PHA Board Chair Missy Staples Thompson. "Making PHA-owned high-rises WiFi-ready can help residents cross the digital divide and open doors to education, employment, and empowerment. We appreciate this partnership with Comcast that will benefit residents and their communities."

The Xfinity network will be installed in phases. Completion of the first two buildings just occurred, and I4 additional buildings will have WiFi ready units residents can connect to by the end of 2024.



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6 JULY 2024

LATINO AMERICAN TODAY

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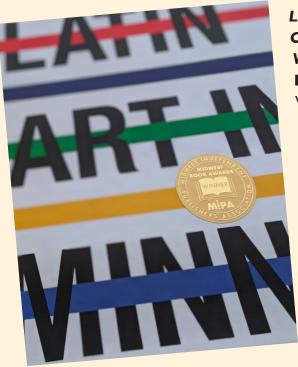


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COMMUNITY

Latin Art in Minnesota Wins Midwest Book Award



Latin Art in Minnesota-Conversations and What's Next, an Afton Press title edited by William G. Franklin, has received the prestigious 2024 Midwest Book Award.

The book features intimate I:I conversations between Minnesota-based Latin artists and leaders in the arts, as well as dramatic photography depicting their art.

photography depicting their art.

Latin Art in Minnesota team members presented at the 27th Annual Multicultural Marketing Conference and Awards

THE INTERVIEWERS: Ta-coumba T. Aiken, Nancy Ariza, Roma Calatayud-Stocks, Carlos Carrasco, Sara Cluggish, Gloria Echevarría Portal, Juan Escobedo, Evonne Gallardo, William Hernández Luege, María Isa, Paola Nuñez-Obetz, Heather Rutledge.

THE ARTISTS: Cecilia Cornejo Sotelo, Guillermo Cuellar, Martha Gabriela Driessen, Selma Fernández Richter, Luis Fitch, Alondra Marisol Garza, Carmen Gutiérrez-Bolger, Gustavo Lira García, Dougie Padilla, Alonso Sierralta, Maria Cristina Tavera, Xavier Tavera.







Bush Foundation selects committed leaders for 2024 Bush Fellowship



Roberto de la Riva



Monica Hurtado

The Bush Foundation just announced its 2024 class of Bush Fellows. The cohort includes 24 individuals chosen for their leadership and ability to create change for their communities in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and the Native Nations that share the same geography.

This year's class includes four Fellows with ties to the Latino community in the Twin Cities area - Irma Márquez Trapero (St. James), Monica Hurtado (Minneapolis), Mari Avaloz (Saint Paul) and Roberto de la Riva (Minneapolis). Each of their leadership efforts are leaving lasting impacts on the Latino community.

"The Bush Foundation believes in investing in people who power great ideas and big change," said Anita Patel, vice president, grantmaking for the Bush Foundation. "We are excited to be with these Fellows on their leadership journey and eagerly look forward to what they will do next."

"Congratulations to these talented, active, Latino community members" Rick Aguilar Publisher, Latino American Today.

Irma Marquez Trapero



Mari Tototzintle Avaloz

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Nature Steps In: A State Trail and a Nest

By Deborah Locke, Information Officer, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Sometimes eagles call the shots on the Blazing Star State Trail in south central Minnesota.

In February, tree cutting was slated to begin as part of trail construction which included a 100-foot trail bridge across Albert Lea Lake from Myre-Big Island State Park to Hayward, Minn. The entire construction project, consisting of an expanded trail, a bridge and fishing access, was is expected to be finished in late 2025 or early 2026.

Before we get into the part about why the construction halted, consider this. Usually, I write about Minnesota state parks and reasons for visiting them. We are blessed with lots of parks and state recreation areas. In addition, Minnesota has 1,300 miles of state trails. That is right, whether they're your standard ten-foot wide paved trail, or a railroad-grade bike trail, or a natural terrain horseback riding trail, or a mountain bike trail: all exist for your use and enjoyment. For a list of Minnesota state trails, go to **mndnr.gov/trails**.

One choice of trail is the Blazing Star, that is currently comprised of two separate segments, a five-mile trail connecting Albert Lea Lake in Albert Lea to Myre-Big Island State Park, and a second 1.5 mile trail that extends from the community of Hayward east toward the state park. When the current trail segment including the 100-foot bridge are completed, a single, continuous trail will extend between Albert Lea and Hayward, passing over Albert Lea Lake and through Myre Big Island State Park.

When completed, the Blazing Star will grow to 20 miles in length, from Albert Lea to Austin, Minn. Construction on the new trail segment should have started in February.

Then mother nature stepped in with an alternative timeframe. Parks and Trails staff spotted a new eagle nest in a tree within 50 feet of the project clearing limits. After years of planning between municipalities, a railroad company, power company and state agencies, after years of hard work on legislative funding and approvals, years of land acquisition, and environmental and archeological testing – after all of that – two nesting eagles lowered the boom.

"It's not unusual for construction to start and then to have an issue arise," said Joel Wagar, PAT Area Supervisor. "But this is a bit unusual." Since bald eagles and occupied nests are federally protected, PAT staff worked with the U.S. Fish &Wildlife Service to obtain necessary permits so that clearing work could proceed with some level of mitigation for project-related impacts.

Like most trail projects, the Blazing Star State Trail evolution moved forward in fits and starts, Joel said, starting in 2003. Land acquisition is a big challenge; sometimes owners decide not to sell. The railroad and powerline presence added complexities to the project. The first segment connecting to the park was finished in 2003; the second segment, from Hayward to the lake, was finished in 2016.

More immediately, near Albert Lea Lake, contractors needed to build a temporary worksite access. Its full completion has been delayed until July, well past eagle nesting season. Some trees were cleared but only until March 8 to minimize disturbance to the nesting eagles. Staff members at Myre-Big Island State Park have monitored the nest for any sign of eaglets; so far they have not been seen. Eagles usually start to fly when they are very young and leave the nest permanently the summer following birth. The adult birds, in addition to their young, have protection under federal law.

After the trees are cleared, work starts on the trail grade and bridge abutments. After allowing the newly constructed grade to settle over the winter, paving begins in 2025.

The \$4 million segment funded mostly through the state Department of Transportation is eagerly anticipated by Albert Lea and Hayward residents. At a February community meeting in Albert Lea, the resident's frustration over the wait period was replaced with excitement for the new trail connecting the two communities and the park.

They'll need a little more patience. One or two eaglets and their parents received the right of way.



Myre-Big Island State Park Trail



Fresh tar on Blazing Star State Trail



Black line shows the proposed bridge location

Red line shows the current trail



Parks and Trails staff spotted a new eagle nest in a tree within 50 feet of the project clearing limits.





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