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EDICIÓN NO. 514

The BILINGUAL Newspaper of the Merrimack Valley

GLCAC Names New Early Learning Director

Pg. 13

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GRATIS

Año 1 • Edición No. 001

Lawrence, mayo 15, 1996

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Rumbo

a un mejor futuro

Aaron Feuerstein:

Lawrence tiene la mejor fuerza laboral de toda la industria textil



"El Hombre Internacional" Aaron M. Feuerstein, dueño de la Malden Mills, en los momentos en que aceptaba las 52 banderas representando los países nativos de sus empleados.

"The International Man" Aaron M. Feuerstein, owner of Malden Mills, accepting the 52 flags representing the countries of his employees.

Lawrence has the best workforce of the entire textile industry

On Friday, May 4, employees of Malden Mills, dignitaries and local politicians as well as leaders of other companies gathered in the Communications Center of Malden Mills in Methuen Mall. The purpose of this meeting was to thank all individuals and corporations that helped create that center following the devastating fire on December 11th.

The company owner, Aaron M. Feuerstein spoke briefly to confirm that he will continue fighting for the trust and loyalty shown by his employees during this tragedy, not to be broken. "We all have much to be grateful particularly me," said Mr. Feuerstein. "I am often asked why I want to stay in Lawrence and Methuen. I have here the best workforce in the entire textile industry."

"Moving someplace else and start training people less competent than my employees is not worth consideration. The key to success of Malden Mills is education and the same for the

PLEASE SEE LAWRENCE

CONTINUES ON PAGE 4

El viernes, 4 de mayo, empleados de la Malden Mills, dignatarios y políticos de la zona, así como dirigentes de otras empresas se dieron cita en el Centro de Comunicaciones de la Malden Mills en el Methuen Mall. El propósito de este reunión fue para dar las gracias a todas las personas y corporaciones que ayudaron a crear ese centro a raíz del devastador incendio del 11 de diciembre.

El dueño de la compañía, Aaron M. Feuerstein hizo uso de la palabra brevemente, para confirmar que seguirá luchando para que la confianza y lealtad demostrada por sus empleados durante esta tragedia, no se rompa. "Todos tenemos mucho de que estar agradecidos y yo particularmente," dijo el Sr. Feuerstein, "Con frecuencia me preguntan por qué quiero quedarme en Lawrence y Methuen. Tengo aquí la mejor fuerza laboral de toda la industria textil."

"Mudarnos a otro lugar y empezar a entrenar a personas menos competentes que mis empleados, no merece ni consideración. La clave del éxito de la Malden Mills es educación y lo mismo para el éxito personal de cada trabajador," añadió el Sr. Feuerstein.

El local estaba repleto de políticos, miembros sindicales y personas representando a los bancos y otras grandes corporaciones que colaboraron en la creación de este centro.

"Hace apenas unos meses, este espacio estaba completamente vacío," dijo Peter A. Vanier, director ejecutivo del Lower Merrimack Valley Regional Employment Board, quien ha dado empuje al centro. "David Johnson, gerente del Methuen Mall llamó en el período de dos horas y ya teníamos este lugar asegurado," dijo.

Una vez que el Centro de Comunicaciones abrió, los demás comenzaron a donar muebles y su trabajo para construir y pintar las aulas de clases y oficinas. En esta ocasión, placas de reconocimiento fueron otorgadas a todos ellos.

El futuro de la Malden Mills ahora se presenta como una compañía moderna con todo lo último en tecnología, para lo cual sus empleados deben estar bien entrenados y mucho de ese entrenamiento está siendo ofrecido a través de esta contribución también.

POR FAVOR VEA MALDEN MILLS

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Atleta Abbey D'Agostino en Esperanza Academy



Champion Abbey D'Agostino visits Esperanza Academy |19

Christmas celebration with ACT



¿Quién es este? Who is this?

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5th Annual Holly Ball



Wood Mill Center celebró las Navidades en el Senior Center. Aquí vemos a Maribel Zannini e Iris Peña con Santa. |12

Wood Mill Center celebrated Christmas at the Senior Center. Here are Maribel Zannini and Caterer Iris Peña with Santa.

Recall: Mayor's statement / Reacción del Alcalde

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Declaración del Alcalde Daniel Rivera sobre el fracaso del Recall

Me postulé para la Alcaldía para hacer que Lawrence mejore, porque las familias de esta comunidad trabajan duro todos los días para criar una familia, un negocio, y construir una comunidad para tratar de mejorar su calidad de vida. Durante muchos años, las luchas políticas internas, un gobierno que no responde o es irresponsable lo prevenía. Así, durante los últimos dos años hemos tomado decisiones difíciles de cambiar la forma de hacer las cosas en Lawrence con el fin de ser más sensibles y responsables, y para mejorar la calidad de vida de todos los residentes. Es lo que los votantes de Lawrence nos eligieron para hacer.

Hemos trabajado para combatir el crimen, hemos disciplinado a malos empleados, entre ellos policías malos, hemos obligado a evasores de impuestos a pagar sus impuestos, hemos tomado posiciones duras en asuntos del uso de terrenos, hemos defendido la ciudad contra los malos contratos y malos arrendamientos, y exigimos un cambio real en la forma en que nuestra ciudad opera. Cuando usted se centra en este tipo de cambio, aquellos cuyos intereses se ven afectados negativamente por estas acciones (malos empleados, malos policías, evasores de impuestos y terratenientes sin escrúpulos que buscan aprovecharse de la Ciudad) lucharán contra nosotros y recientemente lo hicieron con el lanzamiento de un esfuerzo de destitución para removerme como alcalde. Ellos no quieren que mejoremos a Lawrence.

Después de casi tres meses de un esfuerzo por poner a Lawrence y el progreso que hemos hecho en los últimos dos años

en pausa, ese grupo de malos empleados, malos policías, evasores de impuestos, terratenientes que buscan aprovecharse de la ciudad, acompañado por el concejal Maldonado y la concejala Almonte, e incluso el ex Alcalde Willy Lantigua todos en su esfuerzo por detener el progreso, han fracasado en ese esfuerzo. Las mentiras sobre mí personalmente y moralmente, las mentiras sobre nuestra administración, e incluso los rumores de pavos gratis o dinero en efectivo a cambio de sus firmas no les ayudaron en su agenda negativa.

Si bien la Junta de Registradores recibió un informe en el que se verificaron 4,990 firmas, estamos seguros de que la mayoría de estos no podrán pasar un escrutinio. Una vez tengamos las peticiones en mano, vamos a empezar a revisarlas por falsificación y fraude. Hemos tenido muchas personas que vienen a nuestra oficina con experiencias de que las personas involucradas con las peticiones mintieron y les forzaron a firmar los papeles. Vamos a investigar este asunto para asegurar que no se violaron los derechos de nadie. Animo al Secretario Municipal para agilizar las solicitudes de esos documentos que ya tienen una semana.

Por último, no hemos sido perfectos y tenemos mucho por hacer en nuestro esfuerzo por hacer que Lawrence mejore. Sin embargo, desde el comienzo de este esfuerzo quedó claro para nosotros que esto no fue por mi conducta personal o la forma

POR FAVOR VEA **RECALL**

CONTINÚA EN LA PÁGINA 4

Mayor Daniel Rivera statement on failed Recall

I ran for Mayor to make Lawrence better, because the families in this community work hard every day to raise a family, run a business, and build a community to try to improve their quality of life. For many years, political infighting, unresponsive and irresponsible government stood in the way. So, for the last two years we have made hard decisions to change the way things are done in Lawrence in order to be more responsive and responsible, and to improve the quality of life for all residents. It is what the voters of Lawrence elected us to do.

We have worked to fight crime, we have disciplined bad employees including bad police officers, we have forced tax cheats to pay their taxes, we have taken hard stances on land use matters, we defended the City against bad contracts and bad leases, and we demand real change in the way our City does business. When you focus on this type of change, those whose interests are negatively affected by these actions (bad employees, bad cops, tax cheats, and unscrupulous landowners looking to take advantage of the City) will fight back against us and they most recently did so by launching a recall effort to remove me as Mayor. They do not want us to make Lawrence better.

After almost three months of an effort to put Lawrence and the progress we have made in the last two years on pause, that group of bad employees, bad cops, tax cheats, landowners looking to take

advantage of the City, joined by Councilor Maldonado and Councilor Almonte, and even former Mayor Willy Lantigua all in their effort to stop the progress, have failed in that effort. The lies about myself personally and morally, the lies about our administration, and even the rumors of free turkeys or cash for signatures did not help them in their negative agenda.

While the Board of Registrars was given a report that 4,990 signatures were verified, we are certain that a majority of these will not stand up to close scrutiny. Once we have the petitions in hand, we will begin to review them for forgery and fraud. We have had many people come to our office with experiences where the people involved with the petitions lied and cajoled them into signing the recall. We will be looking into this matter to insure that no one's rights were violated. I encourage the City Clerk to expedite the already week old requests for those documents.

Lastly, we have not been perfect and we have much left to do in our effort to make Lawrence better. However, from the beginning of this effort it was clear to us that this recall was not about my conduct personally or the way we have run this government. This was an effort to stop, distract, and take the focus off the real reforms that we have put in place. The real

PLEASE SEE **MAYOR RIVERA**

CONTINUES ON PAGE 4

EDITORIAL | EDITORIAL

20 años después

Probablemente, usted se sorprendió luego de ver la primera página de esta edición. Es una réplica de nuestra primera publicación fechada 15 de mayo de 1996.

Hace 20 años, fuimos testigos y reportamos la reconstrucción de Malden Mills.

Después de un devastador incendio el 11 de diciembre 1995 que destruyó la mayor parte de la fábrica, su propietario Aaron M. Feuerstein, sorprendió a su fuerza de trabajo y al mundo, con su promesa de reconstruir y mantener a todos en la nómina durante 90 días.

En ese momento, el Sr. Feuerstein pudo haber cobrado el seguro, jubilarse, trasladarse al paraíso o a cualquier otro sitio y olvidarse de la empresa, pero el señor Feuerstein, en sus propias palabras dijo que seguirá luchando por la confianza y la lealtad mostrada por sus empleados durante esta tragedia, para que no se rompan.

"Todos tenemos mucho que agradecer, especialmente yo", dijo el Sr. Feuerstein. "A menudo me preguntan por qué quiero quedarme en Lawrence y Methuen. Aquí tengo la mejor fuerza laboral de toda la industria textil."

Manteniendo su promesa, Malden Mills fue reconstruida en una fábrica con los últimos adelantos, pero con una deuda por las nubes de \$140 millones. Después que el Sr. Feuerstein se declaró en quiebra, la fábrica pasó a manos de GE Capital y después a los propietarios actuales, Versa Capital.

El 10 de diciembre de este año, Versa Capital hizo el anuncio de que trasladará la producción a una planta recientemente adquirida en Tennessee y por esa razón, unos 200 empleados en Lawrence perderán sus puestos de trabajo.

Esta noticia molestó al Alcalde de Lawrence Daniel Rivera, quien dijo que, hace dos semanas, se le informó que la compra de la planta de Tennessee era solo una expansión y ahora se da cuenta de que se le ha mentido.

Mirando hacia atrás, tal vez la altruista decisión del Sr. Feuerstein de mantener a los empleados con sueldo durante tanto tiempo, mientras que la reconstrucción se llevaba a cabo, dictó el futuro de Malden Mills.

Él, como único propietario, pudo hacer lo que hizo por sus trabajadores.

Una empresa, en su lugar, piensa primero en sus inversionistas, los trabajadores son fungibles.

20 years later

Probably, you were surprised after seeing this edition's front page. It's a replica of our first publication, circa May 15th, 1996.

20 years ago, we witnessed and reported the rebuilding of Malden Mills.

After a devastating fire in December 11, 1995 that destroyed most of the factory, its owner Aaron M. Feuerstein, surprised his labor force and the world, with his promise to rebuild and keep everybody on payroll for 90 days.

At the time, Mr. Feuerstein could cash the insurance, retire, move to paradise or any other place and forget about the business, but Mr. Feuerstein, in his own words said that he will continue fighting for the trust and loyalty shown by his employees during this tragedy, not to be broken.

"We all have much to be grateful for, particularly me," said Mr. Feuerstein. "I am often asked why I want to stay in Lawrence and Methuen. I have here the best workforce in the entire textile industry."

Keeping his promise, Malden Mills was rebuilt into a state-of-the-art manufacturing marvel but with a skyrocketing debt of \$140 million. After filing for bankruptcy, Mr. Feuerstein lost the company to G.E Capital who later was taken over by the actual owners, Versa Capital.

On December 10 of this year, Versa Capital made the announcement that it will move the production to a recently acquired plant in Tennessee and for that reason; some 200 Lawrence employees will lose their jobs.

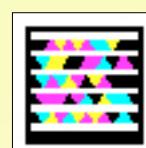
This news upset Lawrence Mayor Daniel Rivera who said that, two weeks ago, he was informed that the purchase of the Tennessee plant was an expansion and now he finds that he has been lied to.

Looking back, perhaps Mr. Feuerstein's altruistic decision to keep employees with salary for so long while rebuilding, dictated the future of Malden Mills. As a sole proprietor he could do what he did.

A company thinks of its investors first, the workers are expendable.

Rumbo

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POR DALIA DÍAZ
daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

■ READ IT IN ENGLISH ON PAGE 16



Desde Mi Esquina

Mientras más las cosas cambian, más se quedan igual

Los números finales del Recall nos sorprendieron a todos, se recogieron 8022 firmas. Al liderazgo se le dijo que las certificaciones se harán antes del 16 de diciembre; sin embargo, el Departamento de Elecciones certificó 4,990 de ellas en un tiempo récord el viernes 10. El liderazgo del revocatorio está desconcertado y entiendo por qué. Esta es la oficina que en el informe de Kopelman y Paige identificó numerosos errores, la mala administración y la desorganización. Estos consultores encontraron que el departamento electoral de Lawrence manejó mal el proceso de las elecciones de 2014.

La firma criticó a la Ciudad de la falta de organización y la educación adecuada de los trabajadores electorales de Lawrence. Hicieron recomendación de que Rivera despidiere a Rafael Tejeda. En el informe de Kopelman y Paige aparecen numerosas violaciones de las elecciones y los procedimientos que no fueron seguidos. Esta empresa presentó el Departamento

de Elecciones como un departamento en ruinas y en un caos total.

Este informe documenta la falta de custodia adecuada de los votos; la falta de seguridad de las urnas; el material que se almacena dentro de cajas abultadas; alegaron que el Departamento de Elecciones permitió el acceso público a la bóveda donde se guardaban los votos en la jornada electoral; boletas ausentes fueron enviadas a los lugares de votación equivocados; votos por correo no fueron contados en la noche electoral; y el manejo inadecuado de los votos por correo, boletas provisionales y numerosos otros desafíos. Eso fue en el año 2014.

Ahora es 2015, este departamento no ha cambiado mucho y puedo entender la preocupación de liderazgo con respecto al proceso de no ser imparcial y justo. No es ninguna sorpresa para mí que no pudieron encontrar más de tres mil electores; que han sido acusados de inadecuado y mal manejo de las boletas antes. Ellos no contaron las papeletas en la noche de las elecciones; ¿por qué nosotros, el público, hemos de creer que revisaron más de 8,000 firmas en menos de una semana. Si es cierto que "miraron" cada firma esto se hizo en menos de 30 segundos

por cada firma. ¡IMPOSIBLE!

Nosotros, los contribuyentes de Lawrence, merecemos un mejor servicio, sin importar si usted está a favor o en contra de la revocación. El momento más atroz para mí fue cuando leí en la página de Facebook del personal de Rivera dando a entender que ya habían ganado el esfuerzo de destitución. O cómo los números se sabían en la comunidad, cuando se suponía que este proceso sea un proceso muy confidencial.

¿Cómo podemos creer en este departamento con el tipo de filtraciones que se publicaron a la comunidad? ¿Dónde está la integridad en el proceso? Por el amor de Dios yo sabía los números antes de que se hicieran públicos. Aunque el alcalde despidió a Tejeda, contrató a dos de sus amigos, y afirmó tener re estructurado el departamento, nada ha cambiado realmente. Este departamento sigue siendo un desastre y el viernes lo confirmó.

La verdadera diversión comienza ahora que la Junta de Registradores se reunió el lunes, 14 de diciembre a certificar las 4,990 firmas que fueron verificadas por el Departamento de Elecciones. Para el miércoles a las cinco de la tarde, ambos grupos tienen la opción de presentar sus objeciones. El Alcalde Rivera ya dijo que quiere una investigación sobre la falsificación y el fraude a pesar de que, en este momento, está ganando.

CARTAS AL EDITOR

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■ CONTINUA DE LA PAGINA 2

RECALL

en que hemos ejecutado este gobierno. Este fue un esfuerzo por detener, distraer, y quitar el enfoque de las reformas reales que hemos puesto en marcha. Lo que realmente estas personas querían revocar era el progreso de la Ciudad; no quieren que Lawrence mejore. Cuanto más caos hay en Lawrence y cuanto más nos centramos en las luchas internas y las traiciones, más fácil es para los malos empleados, malos policías, evasores de impuestos, y los propietarios de tierras sin escrupulos que buscan aprovecharse de la Ciudad. Por cada día que tenemos el caos, las empresas de nuestra ciudad, los residentes en todos nuestros barrios, y los niños en nuestras escuelas pierden. El único beneficio que buscaban en esta agenda fea era en beneficio propio y fallaron.

Así que voy a reiterar que nunca hemos dejado de hacer las decisiones difíciles que hacen que la calidad de vida de todos mejore, hacer que el gobierno de la Ciudad de Lawrence más profesional, más responsable y sensible. Fuimos elegidos para hacer un trabajo, estamos enfocados en hacer ese trabajo, y planeamos ver ese trabajo llegar a su final.

■ CONTINUA DE LA PAGINA 2

MAYOR RIVERA

thing these people wanted to recall was the City's progress; they don't want Lawrence to get better. The more there is chaos in Lawrence and the more we are focused on infighting and back biting, the easier it is for bad employees, bad cops, tax cheats, and unscrupulous land owners looking to take advantage of the City. For every day that we have chaos, the businesses of our city, the residents in all our neighborhoods, and the kids in our schools lose. The only benefit they sought in this ugly agenda was to benefit themselves and they failed at it. So I will reiterate we have never stopped making the tough decisions that make everyone's quality of life better, making Lawrence City government more professional, more responsible, and responsive. We were elected to do a job, we are focused on doing that job, and we fully plan to see that job through.

■ CONTINUA DE LA PAGINA 1

MALDEN MILLS

El Congresista Marty T. Meehan, D-Lowell, entregó dos banderas americanas al Sr. Feuerstein que han sido izadas en el Congreso. También, alabó su acción pagándole su salario a los trabajadores por un período de 90 días diciendo que su liderazgo ha sido una inspiración no solo para el Valle de Merrimack, sino para el país entero.

El Sr. Feuerstein también recibió otros regalos, tales como las 52 banderas representando a todos los países nativos de todos sus empleados y un edredón firmado por los empleados que están haciendo uso del Centro.

El periodismo hoy

Por Xus D Madrid

Aún hay quien piensa que internet vino a revolucionar o más bien a amenazar al periodismo. Pero a la vista de lo que hay, hay que concluir que lo que el periodismo necesita para revitalizarse son contenidos de calidad, ya que si ya en su día se pensó que la radio iba a desbancar el periódico, y después lo mismo pasó con la televisión, nada de eso ocurrió.

Así que es de suponer que lo de internet, hoy, también sea una etapa más de transición que llevará a los auténticos periodistas a reconvertirse, ya que una información de calidad se impone, porque es la calidad la que permite competir, no el sensacionalismo.

El periodismo del bueno tiene que actuar como un contrapoder, expresar con libertad y no ser condescendientes con los poderosos, aunque sean esos poderes sus anunciantes y, por tanto, sus sostenedores.

El periodismo bueno tiene que hacer por dentro una revolución para tener fuerza, aunque no genere una gran rentabilidad, porque el beneficio no puede ser a corto plazo. Los periodistas hoy tienen que ser capaces de analizar en profundidad las cosas antes de comunicarlas, ya que no interesa una avalancha de información, sino la información veraz, bien analizada y explicada en su contexto.

■ CONTINUES FROM PAGE 1

LAWRENCE

personal success of each employee," added Mr. Feuerstein.

The place was packed with politicians, union members and people representing banks and other large corporations that collaborated in the creation of this center.

"Just few months ago, this space was completely empty," said Peter A. Vanier, executive director of the Lower Merrimack Valley Regional Employment Board, who has pushed for the center. "David Johnson, manager of the Methuen Mall called and in the period of two hours we had this place secured," he said.

Once the Communications Center opened, the others began to donate furniture and work to build and paint the classrooms and offices. This time, plaques of appreciation were given to all of them.

The future of Malden Mills is now presented to you as a modern company with all the latest technology, for which employees must be well trained and much of that training is being offered through this contribution as well.

Congressman Marty T. Meehan, D-Lowell, gave two American flags to Mr. Feuerstein that had been hoisted in Congress. Also, he praised his action paying workers their salary for a period of 90 days saying his leadership has been an inspiration not only for the Merrimack Valley, but for the whole country.

Mr. Feuerstein also received other gifts; such as the 52 flags representing all the native countries of all employees and a quilt signed by employees who are making use of the Center.

Impacto Noticias

LUNES A VIERNES | 12PM - 1PM

Noticias Locales, Nacionales e Internacionales incluyendo Puerto Rico, Centro y Suramérica. Además, un reporte diario con Danny García desde la República Dominicana

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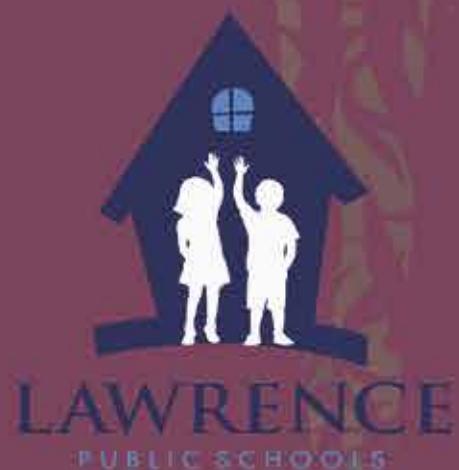
Happy Holidays

From Lawrence Public Schools

To all our families

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continued support

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- * Graduation rate up four straight years



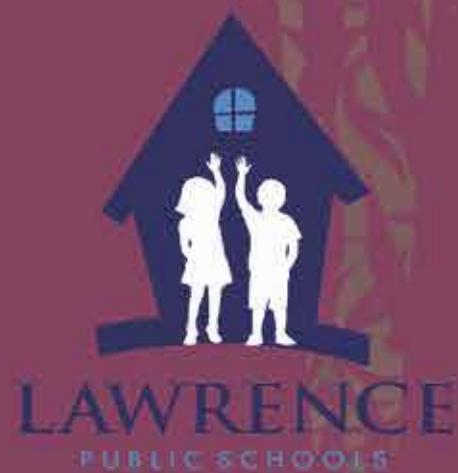
Felices Fiestas

De Las Escuelas Pùblicas de Lawrence

A Todas Nuestras Familias

Gracias por su apoyo

- * *Resultados de MCAS históricamente altos*
- * *Tres escuelas más de alta calidad "Nivel 1"*
- * *Niveles de graduación elevados en los últimos cuatro años*



ACT Lawrence Presentó Premios a la Comunidad

Por Alberto Surís

Arlington Community Trabajando (ACT) Lawrence anunció los ganadores de los Premios Campeón de la Comunidad, durante el evento llevado a cabo el sábado, 12 de diciembre, 2015 en el North Common Educational Complex, 233 Haverhill St. Lawrence, MA, durante la reunión anual de miembros y la Fiesta Navideña comunitaria.

La directora ejecutiva de ACT Lawrence presentó el premio de Campeón de la Comunidad a la Doctora Ana C. Silva de Merrimack College, por sus logros, liderazgo y compromiso a la misión de avanzar la inclusión financiera para personas de bajos recursos y comunidades marginadas. "También estamos orgullosos de reconocer al Representante Estatal Frank A. Morán por su apoyo a nuestra misión y programas de trabajo para jóvenes", dijo Ana Luna, Directora Ejecutiva de ACT Lawrence. El premio Campeón de la Comunidad se da a las personas y organizaciones que con los años han colaborado con ACT Lawrence y hecho una diferencia para la comunidad de Lawrence.

Otros premios incluyeron a Sabrina Boggio, que recibió el premio Miembro de la Junta del Año, por su contribución y apoyo para compartir el trabajo de ACT en toda la comunidad. Alenny Acevedo es el Líder Juvenil del Año, el premio Voluntario del Año se otorgó a Welyd Cabello y Martha Peguero.

La reunión anual de miembros y fiesta navideña comunitaria es una celebración para unir a las familias con cena, música, juegos y tomarse fotos con Santa Claus así como también para elegir la junta directiva. Se calcula que cerca de 1,200 personas asistieron.

ACT Lawrence es una organización sin fines de lucro 501 c (3) y corporación de desarrollo comunitario, fundada en 1996 y dedicada a la revitalización del vecindario de Arlington. Con los años, han ayudado a miles de familias a través de numerosos esfuerzos de justicia social y económica, incluyendo la capacidad financiera, talleres para compradores de vivienda, desarrollo de negocios y el empleo de jóvenes. Para obtener más información o para ser voluntario comuníquese con Ana Luna aluna@actinc.org.

El Alcalde Rivera se encontró allí con dos amiguitas.

Mayor Rivera found some friends there.



El Alcalde de Lawrence presentó una proclama a Ana Luna y ésta a su vez, le entregó una placa.

Lawrence Mayor presented a proclamation to Ana Luna and she in turn, gave him a plaque.



Ana Luna entregó una placa al Representante Estatal Frank Morán. Éste a su vez, le entregó a ella una proclama estatal.

Ana Luna presented a plaque to State Representative Frank Moran. He in turn, gave her a state proclamation.



ACT Lawrence Presented Community Awards

By Alberto Suris

Arlington Community Trabajando (ACT) Lawrence presented their Community Champions Award winners, during the event held at their annual meeting and community holiday party on Saturday, December 12th, 2015 at North Common Educational Complex, located at 233 Haverhill St. Lawrence, MA.

ACT Lawrence's executive director presented the Community Champion Award to Dr. Ana C. Silva of Merrimack College, for her outstanding accomplishments, leadership and commitment to their mission of advancing financial inclusion for low-income and other underserved communities. "We are also proud to recognize State Representative Frank A. Moran for his support to our mission and youth jobs program" said Ana Luna, ACT Lawrence Executive Director. The community champion award was given to people and organizations that over the years have collaborated with ACT Lawrence and made a difference for the Lawrence community.

Other awards included Sabrina Boggio, who received the Board Member of the Year Award for her contributions and support to share her work throughout the community. Alenny Acevedo is the Youth Leader of The Year and Volunteer of The Year awards was given to Welyd Cabello and Martha Peguero.

The annual meeting and community holiday party is also a community celebration bringing families together for dinner, music, games and take pictures with Santa Claus. Close to 1,200 people attended as well as elect new board of directors.

ACT Lawrence is a non-profit 501 c (3) community development corporation, founded in 1996 and dedicated to the revitalization of the Arlington neighborhood. Over the years, ACT has assisted thousands of families through numerous social and economic justice efforts including financial capability, homebuyer workshops, business development and youth jobs. For more information or to volunteer contact Ana

El grupo responsable de repartir las pizzas.

The group responsible for distributing the pizzas

Declaración del Alcalde Daniel Rivera sobre Polartec

"Como alcalde y residente de Lawrence estoy conmocionado y entristecido que Polartec ha hecho el anuncio que hicieron hoy. Casi 200 familias de Lawrence se verán afectadas por este cierre y es especialmente decepcionante escuchar de estos planes el día antes del 20 aniversario del histórico fuego en la fábrica. Es aún más preocupante que el CEO de Polartec, Gary Smith, no entregara este mensaje por sí mismo.

Siento que los trabajadores y yo fuimos engañados, porque hace apenas un mes después de comprar un negocio similar en Tennessee, Polartec nos aseguró (la Unión y yo) que no iban a hacer exactamente lo que están haciendo en la actualidad. Los gobiernos federales, estatales, y municipales hicieron un compromiso a largo plazo para los trabajos de fabricación en Polartec. Eso significaba que cada vez que Polartec tenía una necesidad o un problema nos traería a todos a la mesa para encontrar una forma de avanzar. Eso no ocurrió en esta ocasión.

Estoy llamando al CEO Gary Smith para asistir o auspiciar una reunión conmigo y el Alcalde Zanni, las delegaciones estatales y federales y representantes de la oficina del gobernador para discutir cómo llegaron a esta decisión y lo que pueden hacer para luchar por cada puesto de trabajo para quedarse en Lawrence. El cierre de 200 puestos de trabajo que se perderán en este proceso no es algo que Lawrence puede aceptar.



La marca de Polartec se ha convertido en sinónimo de la idea de que sus productos de alta calidad son realizados por una gran fuerza de trabajo, y que ellos tienen y harían cualquier cosa por esa fuerza laboral. Esta acción perjudica su marca.

Por último, es necesario que sepan que Lawrence no es ajena a situaciones como esta. Si este cierre ocurre, será un duro golpe para la ciudad, hemos sido derribados antes, pero la ciudad y su gente son resistentes y nos levantaremos y perseveraremos.

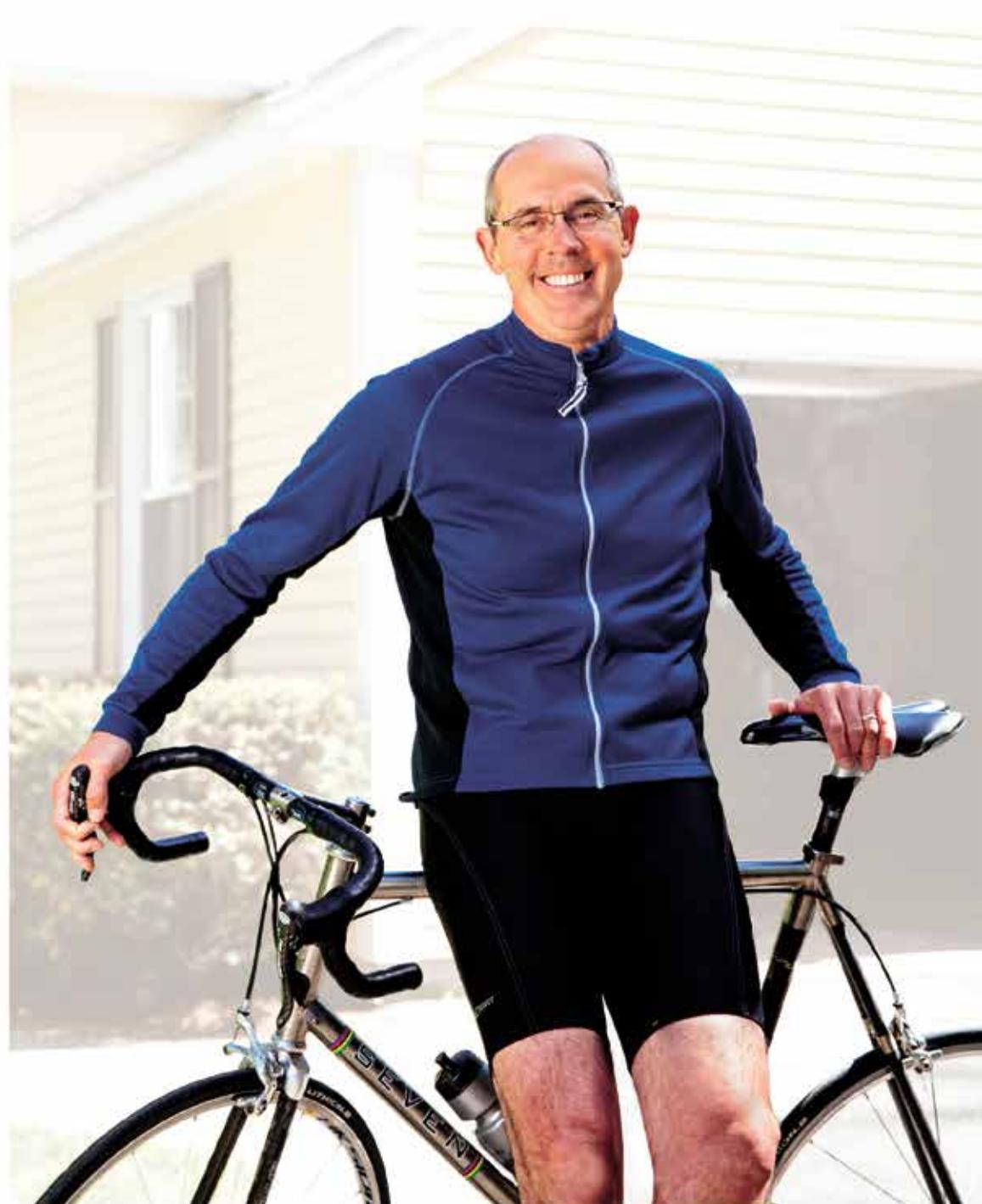
Mayor Daniel Rivera statement on Polartec

deceived, because just one month ago upon purchasing a similar business in Tennessee, Polartec reassured us (the Union and I) that they would not do exactly what they are doing today. The federal, state, and city governments made a long term commitment to the manufacturing jobs at Polartec. That meant that whenever Polartec had a need or an issue they would bring us all to the table together to figure out a way forward. That did not happen this time.

I am calling for CEO Gary Smith to attend or host a meeting with myself and Mayor Zanni, the State & Federal delegations and representatives of the Governor's office to discuss how they came to this decision and what we can do to fight for every job to stay in Lawrence. The close to 200 jobs that will be lost through this process is not something Lawrence can accept.

Polartec's brand has become synonymous with the concept that their high quality products are made by a great workforce, and that they have and would do anything for that workforce. This action cuts against their brand.

Lastly, it should be known that Lawrence is no stranger to times like these. If this closure happens, it will be a serious blow to the city, we have been knocked down before but the city and its people are resilient and we will get back up and persevere.



AHORA: CHARLIE ESTÁ DISFRUTANDO DEL RECORRIDO DE SU VIDA

Charlie Duerr, residente de Andover, tuvo la oportunidad de ver cada día de una manera diferente porque cerca de su casa se encuentra el Centro de Dolor Torácico (dolor de pecho). En cuestión de minutos, Charlie de 55 años de edad y padre de tres hijos, empezó a sentirse mal después de trabajar en su jardín hasta que perdió el conocimiento. Afortunadamente, el recorrido en ambulancia desde su casa hasta el centro de cuidado cardíaco especial estaba a sólo minutos de distancia. En Lawrence General, los pacientes como Charlie se benefician de vivir cerca del único centro prestigioso y autorizado para el tratamiento del Dolor Torácico en Merrimack Valley. Ahora, estamos cambiando la vida de nuestros pacientes en Lawrence General.



Para ver el video sobre la historia de Charlie y hacer una evaluación de su propio riesgo cardíaco, puede visitar el sitio web lawrencegeneral.org/heart

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ANA Synchro Kicks Off the Season with 6 First Place Ribbons

ANA Synchro athletes earned six first place ribbons, seven second place ribbons, and seven third place ribbons at its first meet of the season, the 2015 New England Figure Invitational held on November 22nd at Wheaton College. ANA Synchro's 10 & Under and 11-12 Intermediate athletes swept their events, capturing all 1st through 8th places. Over 200 athletes from 11 teams across Massachusetts and New Hampshire competed at the meet.

Unlike most competitions where athletes perform routines choreographed to music, the Figure Invitational featured only the technical elements of the sport, known as "figures." Athletes had to execute four different figures, each with their own strict positions and speed protocols. Figures get progressively more complex as the athletes advance into the older age groups.

"Perfecting figures to an exact protocol is very difficult," said ANA Synchro Head Coach Leah Pinette. "It takes a lot of practice, focus, and attention to details. We concentrate on strength conditioning, flexibility, and endurance in the early part of the season to help with figure training. With such a strong showing here, the athletes have a great foundation for the rest of the season."

ANA Synchro individual figure awards include:

- 8 & Under Novice: Sophia Venetiou (1st) of Andover, Genesis Nunez (2nd) of Lawrence, and Margie Gao (3rd) of Andover.
- 9-10 Novice: Sabrina He (2nd) and

Audrey Haskell (3rd) of Andover; Threya Devan (4th) of North Andover; Chloe Todisco (6th) and Marina Ten (8th) of Andover.

- 11-12 Novice: Ilinca Hirtopanv (2nd), Jill Shechter (3rd), Dia Arora (5th), and Caroline Bedard (7th), all of Andover.
- 13 & Over Novice: Gabriela Estrella (1st) of North Andover, and Jillian Alden (3rd) of Andover.
- 10 & Under Intermediate: Erika Wojcik (1st) of North Andover; Lily Brown (2nd), Hannah Chen (3rd), and Annabel Tu (4th) of Andover; Ashley Morin (5th) of Dracut; Julie Mahoney (6th) and Sophia Xu (7th) of Andover; and Eleanor Kahn (8th) of North Andover.
- 11-12 Intermediate: Anyé Kachulis-Moriarty (1st) of North Andover; Pia Lee (2nd), Aisling Stack (3rd), Sofia Sampedro (4th), and Rachel Cordio (5th) of Andover; Madeline Koenig (6th) of North Reading; Mariana Boullie (7th) and Mara Duran-Clark (8th) of Andover.
- 13 & Over Intermediate: Caitlin Robinson (1st) of North Andover; Mia Hayes (3rd), Ysabella Ouyang (4th), Maitri Naik (5th), and Addison Earle (7th) of Andover.
- 13-15 Age Group: Reverie Nedde (2nd) and Lakshita Motwani (8th) of Andover.
- 16-17 Age Group: Grace Alwan (1st) and Sophia Ju (2nd) of Andover.

Pinette is in her third year coaching ANA Synchro. Prior to joining ANA Synchro, Pinette was a 9 time US National Team member and the captain of the



ANA Synchro Novice and Intermediate athletes competed at the 2015 New England Figure Invitational held at Wheaton College. 1st Row, Sitting (l-r): Margaret Fry, Sydney Wood, Sabrina He, Genesis Nunez, Alicia Zhang, Threya Devan, Audrey Haskell, Chloe Todisco, Marina Ten, and Katherine Wang; 2nd Row, Kneeling (l-r): Isha Mehta, Margie Gao, Jingru Zhao, Jillian Alden, Julie Mahoney, Annabel Tu, Hannah Chen, Sophia Xu, Maura Krueger, Erika Wojcik, Caroline Bedard, and Sophia Venetiou; 3rd Row, Standing (l-r): Kate McCready, Isabella Falco, Pia Lee, Aisling Stack, Lucy Topping, Mercy Rule, Eleanor Kahn, Lily Brown, Sofia Sampedro, Mara Duran-Clark, Dia Arora, and Emma Pantazi; 4th Row-Back, Standing: Caitlin Robinson, Gabriela Estrella, Ysabella Ouyang, Mariana Boullie, Madeline Koenig, Isabella Hesselton, Ashely Morin, Mia Hayes, Ilinca Hirtopanv, Addison Earle, Rachel Cordio, Anyé Kachulis-Moriarty, Maitri Naik, and Jill Shechter.

2011-2012 U.S. Olympic Selection Team.

ANA Synchro is the competitive synchronized swimming team of the Andover/North Andover YMCA. Girls wishing to join the team or try the sport for the first time should contact Head Coach Leah Pinette at 978-685-3541, lpinette@mvymca.org. Introductory "Synchro Splash" sessions meet twice a week and are held regularly throughout the year.

Synchronized swimming combines

music, dance and swimming into "the ultimate team sport". Through the artistry and athletics of synchronized swimming and team competition, girls build lifelong friendships and skills while developing the confidence to dream big and pursue their goals. The team is open to girls ages 6 to 19.

For more information, contact Head Coach Leah Pinette at 978-685-3541, lpinette@mvymca.org.



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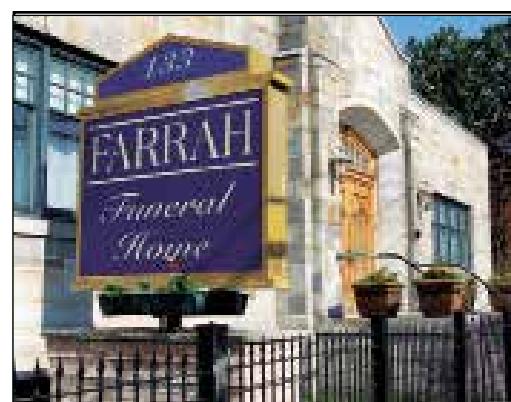
Las familias y personas deben solicitar asistencia de combustible para el hogar lo más pronto posible, porque las temperaturas moderadas pasarán y pronto llegará el frío, dice el Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, Inc.

Para no quedarse sin calefacción en el hogar cuando llegue de lleno el invierno, conviene solicitar asistencia de combustible lo antes posible, dice el GLCAC. Se insta a las personas a solicitar asistencia de combustible aunque piensen que no reúnen los requisitos, porque las reglas cambian cada año.

Las personas que soliciten por primera vez deben llamar al (978) 681-4950 para hablar con el servicio de asistencia de combustible de GLCAC. Las personas que hayan solicitado ayuda otros años deben completar y firmar la solicitud enviada por correo, con documentación de los ingresos del hogar en las cuatro semanas consecutivas más recientes. Pueden ser documentos de SSI, TAFDC, beneficios a veteranos, compensación laboral, autoempleo y pensión alimenticia o manutención de hijos. Además, los solicitantes deben presentar comprobantes del costo de la vivienda, identificación con foto de la persona que es jefe de familia, y cuentas de calefacción.

El personal de asistencia de combustible atenderá sin cita previa el sábado 9 de enero, de 9 a.m. a 12 p.m. en GLCAC Inc., 305 Essex St., 2.o piso, Lawrence.

Para obtener más información, llame al (978) 681-4950. La asistencia de combustible la provee el programa LIHEAP: Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.



**137 Lawrence Street
Lawrence, MA 01841
(978)682.4060**

Even in Warmer Weather, Apply for Fuel Assistance

Families and individuals should apply for home fuel assistance as soon as possible because cold weather will surely follow the current mild temperatures, says the Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, Inc.

Rather than find themselves unable to pay for home heating when freezing temperatures arrive, people should apply now for fuel assistance as soon as possible, says the GLCAC. People are urged to apply for fuel assistance, even if they think they may not qualify, because eligibility rules change annually.

First-time applicants should call

(978) 681-4950 to speak to a GLCAC Fuel Assistance staff member. Returning applicants should complete and sign the application sent in the mail, along with documentation of the household income for the most recent, four consecutive weeks. The documents may include Social Security income, TAFDC, veterans benefits, workers compensation, self-employment, and alimony/child support. In addition, applicants should provide documents showing the cost of housing, the photo ID of the head of household, and heating bills.

Fuel Assistance staff will be available for walk-in appointments on Saturday, Jan. 9, 2016, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at GLCAC Inc., 305 Essex St., 2nd floor, Lawrence.

For more information, call (978) 681-4950. Fuel assistance is provided by the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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5th Annual Holly Ball of Wood Mill Center

By Alberto Surís

Wood Mill Center is a multi-cultural facility providing skilled nursing care as well as long-term residential care held their Christmas party on December 10th. The Center is located at 800 Essex St, Lawrence and held their party at the Senior Center.

Here are some photos of the event.

Por Alberto Surís

Wood Mill Center es un centro multicultural que proporciona atención de enfermería especializada, así como la atención residencial a largo plazo celebró su fiesta de Navidad el 10 de diciembre. El Centro está ubicado en 800 Essex St, Lawrence y celebraron su fiesta en el Senior Center de Lawrence.

He aquí algunas fotos del evento.

Los invitados de esta mesa trajeron sus propios instrumentos para animar la fiesta.

The guests at this table brought their own instruments to energize the party.



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El grupo de danzas del Boys and Girls Club bailó para la audiencia.
The Boys & Girls Club's dance group performed for the audience.

Algunos de los residentes bailaron al ritmo de la música del DJ Fernando Mejía.

Some of the residents danced to the music played by DJ Fernando Mejia.



DJ Fernando Mejia (El Moderado) mostró su talento en la balanceada selección musical que presentó en inglés y el español para niños y mayores..



DJ Fernando Mejia (The Moderate) showed his talent in the balanced selection of music he played in English and Spanish for young and old.

GLCAC nombra nueva Directora de Aprendizaje Temprano

El Greater Lawrence Community Action Council Inc. ascendió a Rony Adams al cargo de Directora de la División de Aprendizaje Temprano, una nueva función creada mediante la unión de los tres programas de la agencia para la educación en la primera infancia.

Adams trabajaba de directora de operaciones de Head Start de GLCAC, un programa para la primera infancia que recibe fondos federales y presta servicios a más de 700 niños de la región de Lawrence. Además de dirigir a Head Start, Adams administrará el Centro de Cuidado Infantil de GLCAC, y la Lawrence Early Achievement Partnership, dos programas prejardín de infantes que reciben fondos estatales.

“Nuestra agencia tiene una orgullosa tradición de ofrecer una educación infantil de alta calidad a los niños de la región de Lawrence, y continuamos esa tradición encontrando formas de gestionar con más eficiencia y poner más recursos en las aulas”, dijo Evelyn Friedman, Directora Ejecutiva del GLCAC, una agencia de servicios sociales que brinda servicios a más de 29.000 personas por año mediante 16 programas diferentes. “Rony tiene la educación, la experiencia y la confianza de la comunidad para asumir este nuevo cargo y encontrar maneras de mejorar los servicios que ofrecemos a los niños y las familias.”

Adams, que es oriunda de Argentina, tiene una maestría en Educación del Merrimack College. Habla inglés y español y comenzó a trabajar en GLCAC hace 17 años como administradora de casos.

“Yo, como inmigrante que se mudó aquí hace 34 años, comprendo los desafíos

que enfrentan nuestros clientes, como aprender un idioma y una cultura nuevos. Puedo hablar por experiencia y entiendo cómo ayudan nuestros programas a las familias a educar a sus hijos y a adaptarse y tener éxito en éste, su nuevo país”, dijo Adams.

Adams planea mejorar las instalaciones existentes. Esto incluye una cocina centralizada y servicios de transporte para los programas de educación temprana de GLCAC. Otras mejoras de eficiencia:

- Un sistema central de admisión para las familias que buscan servicios de educación temprana para decidir cuál de los tres programas responde a las necesidades del niño y la familia, y si reúnen los requisitos.
- Posibilidad de mover a maestros suplentes y “flotantes” para cubrir brechas de cobertura en los tres programas.
- Gestión de la facturación y la documentación administrativa en una sola oficina
- Aumentar el acercamiento a familias de bajos ingresos para mejorar su acceso a la educación de la primera infancia.

GLCAC lleva 50 años ofreciendo una amplia gama de servicios: asistencia con la calefacción y ahorro de energía, WIC, prevención del envenenamiento con plomo, protección al consumidor, clases de inglés y más. La misión de GLCAC es ayudar a levantar a las familias de la pobreza y encaminarlas hacia la estabilidad y la prosperidad. Para obtener más información sobre GLCAC, visite www.glcac.org



Rony Adams has been named the new Director of the Early Learning Division at the Greater Lawrence Community Action Council with responsibility for the agency's three early childhood education programs.

GLCAC Names New Early Learning Director

The Greater Lawrence Community Action Council Inc. has promoted Rony Adams to the position of Director of the Early Learning Division, a new role created by consolidating management of the agency's three early childhood education programs.

Adams previously served as operations director in GLCAC's Head Start, a federally funded early childhood program serving more than 700 children from Greater Lawrence. In addition to overseeing Head Start, Adams will manage the GLCAC's Child Care Center and Lawrence Early Achievement Partnership, two largely state-funded pre-kindergarten programs.

“Our agency has a proud history of providing high-quality early childhood education to the children of Greater Lawrence, and we are continuing that tradition by finding efficient ways to improve management and put more resources into the classrooms,” said Evelyn Friedman, Executive Director of the GLCAC, a social services agency serving more than 29,000 individuals each year through 16 different programs. “Rony has the experience, education and trust of the community to take on this new role and find ways to improve our services to children and families.”

A native of Argentina, Adams holds a master's degree in education from Merrimack College. Bilingual in English and Spanish, she joined GLCAC 17 years ago as a case manager.

“As an immigrant who moved here 34 years ago, I can relate to our clients' challenges, such as learning a new

language and a new culture. I can speak from experience and understand how our programs help families both educate their children and assist the families in adapting and succeeding in their new home,” Adams said.

Adams plans to build on efficiencies already in place, including a centralized kitchen and transportation services for GLCAC early education programs. Other areas for greater efficiency include:

- A central intake for families seeking early education services to determine which of the three programs meets the children and parent's needs and eligibility.
- The ability to move substitute teachers and “floating” teachers to fill staffing gaps in the three programs.
- Managing billing and recordkeeping in a single office.
- Increasing outreach to low-income families to improve their access to early childhood education.

In its 50th year, GLCAC provides a wide range of services, including heating and energy-savings assistance, WIC, lead poisoning prevention, consumer protection, English-language classes and a variety of other services. The mission of the GLCAC is to help lift families out of poverty and set them on a pathway to stability and prosperity. For more information on GLCAC, visit www.glcac.org

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Lawrence Family Development and Education Fund, Inc. (LFDEF) recibe una dádiva de \$4,500 del ECCF's Merrimack Valley General Fund

Lawrence Family Development and Education Fund, Inc. (LFDEF) fue notificada de que pronto recibirá \$4,500 en fondos de la subvención del Fondo General del Valle de Merrimack, un fondo del Condado de Essex Community Foundation (ECCF). Lawrence Family Development and Education Fund, Inc. usarán los fondos de la subvención para dos propósitos: \$2,000 apoyará su Centro Familiar María del Pilar Quintana de Inglés como segundo idioma y clases de ciudadanía y \$1,500 serán utilizados para los gastos de transporte del programa de música de cuerdas realizados en asociación con la Academia Phillips y la Escuela Lawrence Family Development Charter School.

El Fondo General del Valle de Merrimack (MVG) es un fondo de ECCF sirviendo agencias en el Este del Valle de Merrimack. El fondo fue establecido cuando la Merrimack Valley Community Foundation se unió con ECCF en 2004. Los programas de los Fondos de MVGF sirven a las comunidades en las áreas de Arte y Cultura, Educación, Servicios Sociales y Comunitarios y a la Juventud. La misión de la Fundación Comunitaria del Condado de Essex es promover la filantropía local para fortalecer las organizaciones sin fines de lucro del Condado de Essex, Massachusetts. Obtenga más información en www.eccf.org

Fundado en 1995, el Fondo de Educación, María Quintana Family Center Inc. de Lawrence Family Development and Education Fund, Inc. y se encuentra en el 404 Haverhill St., Lawrence, MA y ofrece servicios de educación de adultos a lo largo del año natural y clases de instrucción en los semestres de otoño y primavera. Para obtener más información sobre Lawrence



Family Development and Education Fund, Inc. y el Centro Familiar María del Pilar Quintana, visite www.lfdef.org.

La Lawrence Family Development Charter School (LFDCS) con sede en el 34 West St. es una de las primeras escuelas públicas charter K-8 del estado. Se ha operado durante veinte años. En marzo de 2015, la escuela obtuvo su quinta aprobación para operar como Public Charter School del estado de Massachusetts. Como escuela pública chárter de "Nivel 1" por su rendimiento del MCAS en 2012, 2013, 2014, y 2015 el trabajo de Lawrence Family Development Charter School es conocido por sus buenas prácticas como una escuela urbana de Massachusetts. La escuela utiliza las prácticas basadas en la investigación para la instrucción académica y la intervención, y complementa esta instrucción con programas después de clases de la escuela y de verano. Para obtener información sobre la escuela autónoma, visite www.lfdc.org.

Lawrence Family Development and Education Fund, Inc. (LFDEF) is awarded a \$4,500 in grant funding from ECCF's Merrimack Valley General Fund

Lawrence Family Development and Education Fund, Inc. (LFDEF) was notified that it will soon receive \$4,500 in grant funds from the Merrimack Valley General Fund, a fund of the Essex County Community Foundation (ECCF). Lawrence Family Development and Education Fund, Inc. will use the grant funds for two purposes: \$2,000 will support its Maria del Pilar Quintana Family Center's English as a Second Language and citizenship classes and \$1,500 will be used for the strings music program's transportation costs done in partnership with Phillips Academy and the Lawrence Family Development Charter School.

The Merrimack Valley General Fund (MVG) is a field of interest fund at ECCF serving agencies in the Eastern Merrimack Valley. The fund was established when the Merrimack Valley Community Foundation merged with ECCF in 2004. The MVGF funds programs serving the community in the areas of Arts and Culture, Education, Social and Community Services, and Youth Service. The mission of the Essex County Community Foundation is to promote local philanthropy to strengthen the nonprofit organizations of Essex County, MA. Learn more at www.eccf.org

Founded in 1995, the Lawrence Family Development and Education Fund, Inc.'s Maria Quintana Family Center is located at 404 Haverhill St. Lawrence, MA and offers adult education services throughout



the calendar year and instructional classes in the fall and spring semesters. To learn more about Lawrence Family Development and Education Fund, Inc. Maria del Pilar Quintana Family Center, please visit www.lfdef.org.

The Lawrence Family Development Charter School (LFDCS) headquartered at 34 West St. is one of the first K-8 Commonwealth public charter schools. It has operated for twenty years. In March 2015 the school earned its fifth charter to operate as a Massachusetts Public Commonwealth Charter School. As a "Level 1" public school for MCAS performance in 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015 the work of the Lawrence Family Development Charter School is known for its best practices as a Massachusetts urban school. The school uses research-based practices for academic instruction and intervention, and supplements this instruction with after school and summer school programs. For information on the charter school, visit www.lfdc.org.

Youth and Government



Youth and Government™ is a national program of the YMCA that involves thousands of teens nationwide in state-organized, model-government programs. Students immerse themselves in experiential civic engagement and, quite literally, practice democracy. Our delegation is made up of 19 high school students (all young ladies!) from Austin Prep, North Andover High, Andover High, Central Catholic, and Notre Dame Cristo Rey, representing students from the communities of Lawrence, North Andover & Andover.

Our delegates meet throughout the year to discuss and debate issues that affect citizens of their state and to propose legislation. Our delegation recently traveled to Springfield College to be part of the first of three Pre-Legislative sessions. These sessions prepare the delegates for the final 3 day conference in March in Boston at which they will visit the Massachusetts State

House where they will have an opportunity to explore the entire building and debate bills on the actual floor of the House Chambers.

At this conference, students can participate as a member of the Legislative Branch, Judicial Branch or the Executive Branch. In addition, students can serve as part of the press corp or as a lobbyist. Our delegates have chosen to be part of a variety of branches and three of our students are going to be campaigning at the next sessions for positions in the Executive Branch! They will be elected into their positions by fellow students in the program and be the students leaders for the Statewide program for the 2016/2017 academic year.

Congratulations to all the Merrimack Valley YMCA Delegates! If you would like to learn more about the Youth And Government Program, please contact Jholmes@mvymca.org.

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Lawrence Family Development Charter School's Thanksgiving Feast

Lawrence Family Development Charter School celebrated its blessings with a Thanksgiving Feast at its Academy for Early Academic Readiness! Founded in 1995 and now 20 years old, the Lawrence Family Development Charter School (LFDSC) is one of the first K-8 Commonwealth public charter schools. As a "Level 1" public school for MCAS performance in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015, LFDSC is known for its best practices as a Massachusetts urban school.

The school uses research-based practices for academic instruction and intervention, and supplements this instruction with after school and summer school programs. Another key aspect of the school is its outreach to partners, including local businesses. Recently, Whole Foods - Andover contributed to a social studies lesson with a donation of corn bread, cream to make butter, apple ginger juice and cranberry sauce. As seen in these photos, the four-year old, full-day kindergarten students were delighted with the whole experience.



Sonando la campana por una causa

Típico de la temporada es una caldera roja del Ejército de Salvación colgando de un trípode custodiado por un voluntario que suena una campana mientras le desea Feliz Navidad.

Esta es una de las formas en que el Ejército de Salvación recauda fondos para ayudar al necesitado. El Ejército de Salvación es una organización sin fines de lucro totalmente financiada por donaciones privadas y públicas. Su regalo, de cualquier cantidad, se necesita para apoyar los programas importantes de la comunidad.

Este año, el Ejército de Salvación local recibió la ayuda de varios voluntarios que se turnaron para custodiar la caldera, entre ellos los Representante Marcos Devers, Diana DiZoglio y Frank Moran, que se situaron en el Market Basket localizado en el 350 de Winthrop Ave, North Andover, MA, el sábado, 12 de diciembre.

El Representante Estatal Frank Morán, de pie junto a la olla del Ejército de Salvación Colección Hervidor recibiendo una donación de Jayden Peña, vistiendo el cinturón amarillo de principiante de karate.



Ringing the bell for a cause

Typical of the season is a Salvation Army red kettle hanging from a tripod guarded by a fellow ringing a bell while wishing you Merry Christmas.

This is one of the ways the Salvation Army raises funds to help the needy. The Salvation Army is a non-profit organization wholly funded by private and public donations. Your gift, of any amount, is needed to support our important community programs.

This year, the local Salvation Army received the help of several volunteers taking turns guarding the kettle, amongst them, the Lawrence/ State Delegation, such as Marcos Devers, Diana DiZoglio and Frank Moran who stood at Market Basked located at 350 Winthrop Ave, North Andover MA on Saturday, December 12.

State Representative Frank Morán, standing by the Salvation Army Collection Kettle receiving a donation from Jayden Peña, who is wearing his karate beginners' yellow belt.

BY DALIA DÍAZ
daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

LÉALO EN ESPAÑOL EN LA PÁGINA 4



From My Corner

The more things change, the more they stay the same

The Recall final numbers surprised us all, 8022 signatures were collected. The leadership was told that the certifications will be done by December 16th; however, the Election Department certified 4990 of them in record time by Friday the 10th. The recall leadership is baffled and I understand why. This is the office that by Kopelman and Paige's report identified numerous mistakes, bad management and disorganization. This consultant found that the election department of Lawrence mishandled the process of the 2014 elections.

The firm criticized the City of Lawrence's lack of organization and adequate education of election workers. They made recommendation that Rivera fired Rafael Tejeda. The Kopelman and Paige report listed numerous election violations and procedures not being followed. This company portrayed the Election Department as a department in shambles and in total chaos.

This report documented the lack of adequate custody for ballots; lack of ballot box security; material being stored inside overstuffed boxes; they claimed that the Election Department allowed the public access to the vault where ballots were being held on Election Day; absentee ballots were sent to the wrong polling places; absentee ballots not counted on election night; and improper handling of absentee ballots, provisional ballots and numerous of other challenges. That was year 2014.

Now is 2015, not much has changed

in this department and I can understand the recall leadership preoccupation with the process being fair and just. It is no surprise to me that they couldn't find over three thousand voters; they have been accused of improper and mishandling of ballots before. They didn't count ballots on election night why would we, the public, believe that they checked over 8000 signatures in less than a week. If in fact they "looked" at each signature this was done in less than 30 seconds per signature! IMPOSSIBLE!

We, the taxpayers of Lawrence, deserve better service, regardless whether you are con or pro the recall. The most egregious moment for me was when I read in the Facebook page of Riveras's staff hinting that they have won over the recall effort. Or how the numbers were out in the community when this process was supposed to be a very confidential process.

How can we believe in this department with the kind of leaks that were released to the community? Where is the integrity in the process? For god's sake I knew the numbers before the numbers were made public. Although the mayor fired Tejeda, hired two of his friends, and claimed to have restructured the department, nothing has really changed. This department is still a mess and Friday confirmed it.

The real fun begins now that the Board of Registrars met on Monday, December 14 to certify the 4,990 signatures that were verified by the Election Department. By Wednesday at five o'clock, both groups have the option to file their objections. Mayor Rivera already said that he wants an investigation on forgery and fraud even though, at this point, he's winning.

By Xus of Madrid

There are those who think that the internet came to revolutionize or rather threaten journalism. But in view of what it is, one must conclude that what journalism needs is to revitalize itself are quality content, as if already at the time it was thought that radio would unseat the newspaper, and then so did the TV, nothing like that happened.

So presumably that Internet today also is a stage of transition that will lead to genuine journalists to retrain because quality information is imposed, it is the

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Letters must be less than 300 words in length. Please send a telephone number or email address by which we may confirm the sender.

Journalism today

quality that can compete, not sensationalism.

The good journalism has to act as a counter to express freely and not be complacent with the powerful, whether those powers are advertisers and therefore its supporters.

Good journalism has to do a revolution from inside for strength, even if it does not generate a profit, because the benefit cannot be short term. Journalists today have to be able to analyze things in depth before they are communicated, and not interested in a flood of information, but truthful, well analyzed and explained information.

Cartas al Editor / Letters to the Editor

Hello Heal Lawrence Partners

In my work with Heal Lawrence I have worked with the Red Cross for a couple of years. I have recently joined the Board of Directors of the Red Cross. I have also been donating blood since 2012.

I would like to ask you all to join me in donating blood with me at the Knights of Columbus at 462 Broadway, Rt 28, in Methuen on Wed, Dec 16. They are open from 2pm to 7pm. You can give many people a great Christmas gift by donating blood.

You can only donate Whole Blood every 56 days. I donate what they call Double Red Cells every 112 days. I would

like to form a Heal Lawrence Blood Team. A caring team that might donate with me on a regular basis.

You can make an appointment by calling 1-800-733-2767 or walk-ins are welcome. I will be going around 5pm.

Please email me if you want to join up.

Thank you to all who already give blood, or donate to the Red Cross to insure they can continue their good work.

Happy Christmas!
Wayne Hayes
Heal Lawrence

NECC Opens Registration for Winter Intersession

Looking to catch up on college credits over winter break or get ahead? Northern Essex Community College is now registering students for its second annual winter intersession, a series of accelerated credit courses offered online or on campus throughout the month of January.

The intersession is open to NECC students and students from other colleges or universities and it offers a range of credit general education courses.

In addition to online and on-campus options, there are hybrid courses which combine online and on-campus learning. The flexible mix allows students to attend courses on NECC's Lawrence Riverwalk Campus or from the comfort of their own home.

Most courses are suitable for a wide range of majors and fulfill core liberal arts requirements at two-year and four-year institutions. This year's intersession

courses will include cultural anthropology, basic algebra, human biology, and public speaking.

Online courses will run January 4 through January 29. On-campus courses will meet for 10 days, January 4 through 15, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to mid-afternoon on NECC's Lawrence Riverwalk campus. Please see the intersession schedule for more information.

Northern Essex offers over 70 associate degrees and certificates in fields such as liberal arts, health care, criminal justice, computer science, technology and engineering, arts & design, and much more. Classes and programs are offered days, evenings, weekends, and online. Campuses are in Haverhill and Lawrence.

To learn more, please visit www.necc.mass.edu or contact enrollment services at 978-556-3700 or at admissions@necc.mass.edu

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**MR. B'S SPORT STORIES**

BY FRANK BENJAMIN

Mr. B's Sports Stories are published on the 1st and the 15th of each month.

Wrestling takes the stage in 1951

North Andover showed the local High School mat teams they would again be a team to beat as they shutout Beverly by the large score of 60 to 0. N.A. won 3 matches by forfeit and all the other wins came on pins.

Winning by falls at 114 pounds were Al Belanger, Kevin Langlois 128, Tom Powers 134, Mark Dunn 147, Dave Camire 157, Mark Brucato 169 and heavyweight.

The Turkeytowners sub varsity made up of varsity and JV wrestlers beat Whittier Regional 32-14. Posting wins for the locals were Jack Walczak 121, Chris Burt 128, Joe Whitmore 134, Matt Rorke 147, Dan Zorn 157, Dan Rorke 169, and Barry Colella 187.

Winning for Whittier were Bruce Gaudreau 100, Pat Sciavone 107, and Kevin Mooney 140.

N.A. opens their regular season in the Cape Ann league at Triton.

Lawrence High wrestlers took on and won a thriller over Lynnfield by one point

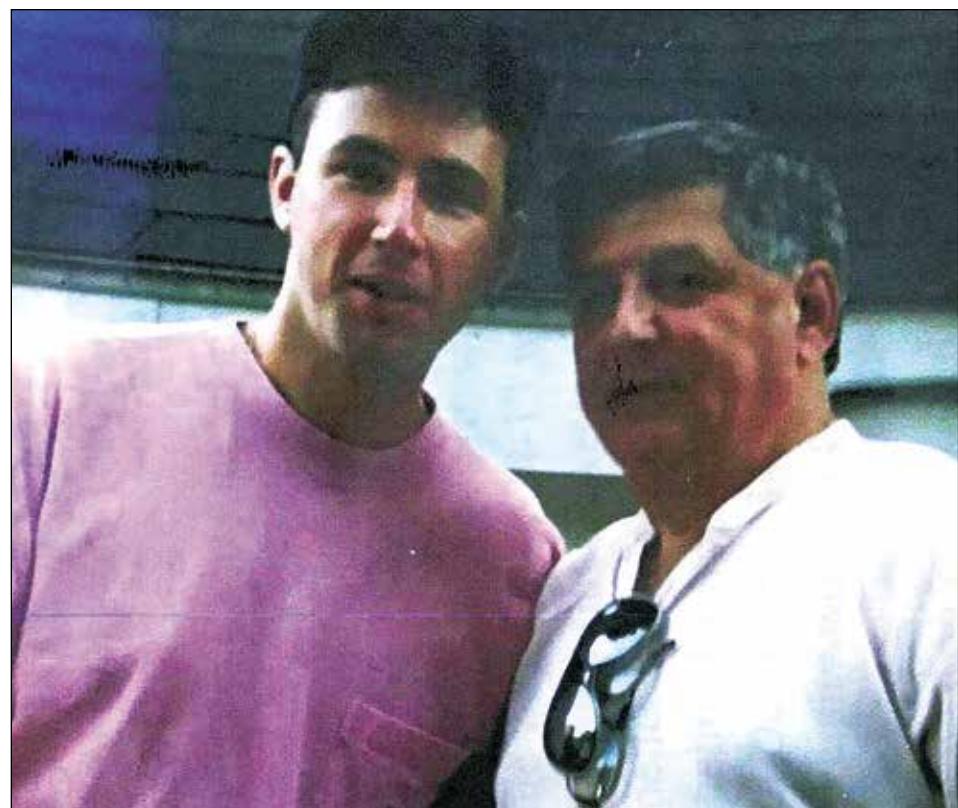
25 - 24.

The Lancers needed to win the last 2 matches to seal a victory. The blue and white were down 24-13 with 2 matches to go. That's when 187 pound Jim Clavette scored 6 points with a pin and Rick Speller won a forfeit to satchel the win for the Lancers. Ted Kaelin 107 won on a pin for LHS. Bill Mears 128 and Kevin DeNuncio 134 won by decision. The Lawrence Junior Varsity won its 4th straight 10-0.

The suburban grapplers have now won 78 consecutive matches and under coach Crozier and in the future the great new gym is named the Crozier field house. I never got to meet this great coach but his friends called him Tug and he set records that will stand for years. He and George Bosse of Lowell High School who is on the staff in the upriver city are coaches who will always be mentioned when people talk high school wrestling, Bruce Rich who just retired from some of his duties at Chelmsford must also join that group.

Listen to Mr. B and Joe Murphy with Michael Walsh on the controls on WCCM-

1110AM every Saturday from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m., talking sports. Like in the past, they will be receiving calls from coaches updating the latest results.



Dan Roche from WCCM and Channel 4 with Frank Benjamin.

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10-12
Italian/English

12-1
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Roll

1-2
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The Northeast Advanced Manufacturing Consortium is offering free Basic Machining and Electrical Manufacturing Technician training programs to eligible job seekers from the Merrimack Valley. If you have been laid off from your company, are collecting Unemployment Insurance, or have been out of work for more than six months, you may be eligible.

Participants can choose to enroll in the Basic Machine Training track offered at the Greater Lawrence Technical School (GLTS) or the Electronics Manufacturing Technician track offered at the Whittier Regional Technical High School (WRTHS). Both programs are coupled with Foundation Skills and certification training offered through Northern Essex Community College.

Both tracks of the training program begin on January 11, 2016 and ends on June 2, 2016. The classes will be held from 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm, four days a week. As noted, there is an initial Foundation

Skills component held at Northern Essex Community College, Riverwalk Campus, followed by the Machining training track held at GLTS and the Electronics training track held at Whittier. The program also will provide site visits to regional employers and placement assistance.

The participants who complete the training will be prepared for jobs as computer numerical control (CNC) machine operators, CNC machine technicians, electrical and electronic technicians and test technicians.

Wages for the machine training program range from \$28,800 to \$61,000. Wages for the electrical manufacturing technicians range from \$39,070 to \$77,360.

For additional information or to apply, contact Renee Deyermond, NECC Program Navigator at rdeyermond@necc.mass.edu or 978-659-1223 or Lisa Remington, Operations Manager at ValleyWorks Career Center, lremington@valleyworkscc.org or 978-722-7005.

La Fundación Cummings dona \$1,000 a LFDCS

Lawrence Family Development and Education Fund, Inc. ha recibido otro regalo de \$1,000 de la Fundación Cummings de Woburn, MA. Este regalo en diciembre 2015 complementa una concesión de una subvención en junio 2013 de \$100,000 a través del programa \$100K para 100 becas a través de la Fundación Cummings a Lawrence Family Development and Education Fund, Inc.

El regalo más grande financia parte de los esfuerzos de Abriendo Puertas de la escuela Lawrence Family Development Charter School. Las actividades de Opening Doors apoyan a los estudiantes de 7mo y 8vo grado en la toma decisiones en cuanto a qué escuela secundaria asistir para aquellos que participan en programas después de la escuela y programas académicos durante la escuela de verano para mejorar su inglés y niveles de logro de matemáticas.

Treinta estudiantes Abriendo Puertas también participan en el enriquecimiento de verano, visitas privadas al campus de escuelas secundarias, y asesoramiento durante todo el año centrado en ayudarlos a ellos y a sus padres con la aceptación en las escuelas secundarias privadas de preparatoria para la universidad y de los recursos de ayuda financiera.

Lawrence Family Development planea utilizar esta más reciente donación de \$1,000 de la Fundación Cummings como una contribución en apoyo de la campaña Proyectores Interactivos de LFDCS en Lawrence Family Development Charter School (LFDCS). Un empleado de Cummings y padre de una estudiante de Lawrence Family Development, Beilis Soto, fue fundamental en la nominación

de Lawrence Family Development para este premio. La hija del Sr. Soto es una estudiante de tercer grado en Lawrence Family Development Charter School y su esposa, Luisa Soto, sugirió la escuela como el beneficiario de la adjudicación.

Proyectores Interactivos en Lawrence Family Development desarrolla la capacidad para el pensamiento crítico, el lenguaje y las habilidades de tecnología con los estudiantes. Estas habilidades son la clave para el éxito de los estudiantes cuando hacen la transición de la escuela charter a la escuela secundaria y la universidad. El uso de la tecnología en la enseñanza también es clave para el desarrollo profesional de los docentes. La Fundación Cummings de Woburn, MA se une a otros donantes en traer recursos de tecnología a las aulas de Lawrence Family Development Charter School.

Lawrence Family Development ve la tecnología como otro aspecto clave de nuestra instrucción. Debido al extraordinario nivel de la organización del desempeño de los estudiantes en los grados de kindergarten hasta el octavo grado, los graduados de la escuela chárter alcanzar un alto índice de aceptación en las escuelas privadas o parroquiales de prestigio. Muchos ven la educación como un "boleto" para el éxito, por lo que la Fundación Cummings es apreciado por compartir regalos con los niños de más reciente ola de Lawrence de los recién llegados. La contribución de la Fundación Cummings ayuda a solucionar los problemas de las familias urbanas y permite a los estudiantes Lawrence Desarrollo Familiar para "Reach for the Stars".

Cummings Foundation donates \$1,000 to LFDCS

Lawrence Family Development and Education Fund, Inc. has received another gift of \$1,000 from Cummings Foundation of Woburn, MA. This December 2015 gift complements a June 2013 grant award of \$100,000 through the Cummings Foundation's \$100K for 100 grants program to the Lawrence Family Development and Education Fund, Inc.

The larger gift currently funds part of the Lawrence Family Development Charter School's Opening Doors efforts. The Opening Doors activities support high school decision-making for the charter school's 7th and 8th grade students who participate in after-school and summer school academics to improve English language arts and math achievement levels.

Thirty Opening Doors students also participate in summer enrichment, onsite private high school campus visits, and year round counseling focused on assisting them and their parents with acceptance at private college prep high schools and financial aid resources.

Lawrence Family Development plans to use this most recent donation of \$1,000 from Cummings Foundation as a contribution in support of an LFDCS Interactive Projectors campaign at Lawrence Family Development Charter School (LFDCS). Cummings employee and Lawrence Family Development parent,

Beilis Soto, was critical in nominating Lawrence Family Development for this award. Mr. Soto's daughter is a third grader at Lawrence Family Development Charter School and his wife, Luisa Soto, suggested the school as the benefactor of the award.

Interactive projectors at Lawrence Family Development develop capacity for critical thinking, language and technology skills with students. These skills are key to students' success when they transition from the charter school to high school and college. The use of technology in teaching is also key to the professional development of teachers. The Cummings Foundation of Woburn, MA joins other donors in bringing technology resources to Lawrence Family Development Charter School's classrooms.

Lawrence Family Development looks at technology as another key aspect of our instruction. Because of the organization's extraordinary level of student performance in grades kindergarten through grade eight, the charter school's graduates attain a high acceptance rate at prestigious private or parochial schools. Many view education as a "ticket" to success, so the Cummings Foundation is appreciated for sharing gifts with the children of Lawrence's most recent wave of newcomers. The Cummings Foundation contribution helps remedy the challenges of urban families and enables Lawrence Family Development students to "Reach for the Stars".



From left to right: Cummings Properties employee, Beilis Soto and his daughter, Lisibel Soto, presented a Cummings Employee Direct Giving check of \$1,000 to the Lawrence Family Development Charter School Board of Trustees President, Raquel Bauman, EdD.

Todos a vacunarse contra la influenza

Nadie está inmune a los peligros de la influenza o lo que comúnmente se conoce como la "gripa". El año pasado, en su reporte de febrero, el Centro Nacional de Inmunización y Enfermedades Respiratorias de los Centros para el Control y Prevención de Enfermedades (CDC) informó que el 61% de los más afectados fueron personas entre 18 y 64 años de edad.

Con el anterior reporte, el CDC deshizo el mito de que sólo los niños o las personas de la tercera edad son proclives a ser afectados por el virus de la influenza. Asimismo, en ese mismo año, en la ciudad de Santa Ana, una mujer en plenitud de su juventud, a los 28 años, falleció a causa de una gripe crónica.

El deceso de esta persona llama mucho la atención, pero no es un caso aislado. Lo cierto es que situaciones como ésta han ido incrementando con el correr del tiempo. Si tomamos en cuenta un periodo de 30 años – entre 1976 y 2006 –, los registros de muerte a causa de la influenza incrementaron desde 3,000 a 49,000 personas.

¿Qué es lo que quiere decir el dato anterior? Muy simple. La influenza es una mal que no discrimina el color de la gente, el sexo, ni mucho menos la edad de las personas. En un momento dado, todos podemos ser víctimas si es que no tomamos las medidas preventivas para contrarrestar este mal.

De todo el conjunto de personas que vivimos en los Estados Unidos, a menudo las personas con bajos recursos económicos son los más afectados y los más propensos a tener síntomas de influenza crónica. Lamentablemente, algunos sectores de la población latina han tenido que soportar los embates de la influenza año-tras-año debido a que en sus comunidades hay pocos programas de concientización e información sobre los peligros de la influenza. Algunos ni siquiera se enteran de que una vacuna puede ser el arma ideal para abatirla.

De acuerdo a los datos del Centro Nacional de Inmunización del año anterior, solo 44.3% de los niños latinos de seis meses o mayores fueron vacunados contra la influenza; mientras que en la población afroamericana es 43.8%. A pesar de que 48.5% de los niños anglosajones fueron vacunados, este dato todavía está por debajo de las metas establecidas por el gobierno nacional.

Las disparidades de vacunados entre uno y otro grupo étnico es más visible en las poblaciones adultas. 38.7% de los afroamericanos fue vacunado, en tanto que los latinos de 35.0% y los anglosajones 46.7%.

Estos indicadores estadísticos puedes revertirse si tomamos conciencia de nuestra salud. Lo más importante es reconocer que todos somos potenciales víctimas de la influenza. Cuanto más precauciones tomemos y más medidas aplicamos en nuestro diario vivir, menor es la probabilidad de enfermarnos con una gripe.

La Dra. Anne Schuchat, directora del Centro Nacional de Inmunización y Enfermedades Respiratorias del CDC y subdirectora general del Servicio de Salud Pública de los Estados Unidos, dice que la mayor actividad del virus de la influenza se manifiesta en las fiestas de Navidad y Año Nuevo, entre diciembre y febrero. De acuerdo a sus estudios, el problema puede incluso durar hasta mayo.

En este sentido, diversas organizaciones nacionales, como el CDC, están en plena campaña contra el virus de la influenza durante las fiestas de fin de año. Todos tenemos que vacunarnos. La Navidad y los festejos del Año Nuevo son mejores sin la influenza.

Humberto Caspa, Ph.D., es profesor e investigador de Economics On The Move. E-mail: hcletters@yahoo.com

Atleta Campeona Abbey D'Agostino visita a Esperanza Academy "Aprendan a ser felices consigo mismas, ganen o pierdan", les dijo.

Por Lilli Leggio

Corredora profesional Abbey D'Agostino, la más laureada corredora Ivy League en atletismo quien ganó siete títulos de la NCAA durante su tiempo en el Dartmouth College, visitó a Esperanza Academy para compartir lecciones de vida y conocimiento con las estudiantes.

D'Agostino, oriunda de Topsfield, habló a las estudiantes de Esperanza sobre su jornada de corredora ocasional a corredor profesional, la perseverancia y el aprender a ser feliz consigo misma, si gana o pierde. Según D'Agostino, aceptándose a si misma y siendo feliz con quien eres y no por lo que haces es una de las claves para la vida.

Una corredora de distancia media y distancia larga, ella recientemente alcanzó el tercer puesto en los 500 metros en los campeonatos de US Indoor Track and Field. D'Agostino tuvo una ilustre carrera colegial, convirtiéndose en la atleta más laureada del Ivy League en pista y campo y carreras campo a través, ganando en su carrera colegial siete títulos del NCAA, incluyendo un campo a través, cuatro de pista interior, y dos carreras de pista al aire libre. En 2014 se convirtió en una corredora profesional para el equipo New Balance.

Esperanza Academy es una escuela intermedia gratuita, independiente en la tradición Episcopal que acoge a niñas marginadas de Lawrence, MA, de culturas, razas y religiones diversas. La escuela, con su vigorizante y riguroso plan de estudios,



inspira a las alumnas a ser aprendices activas y ciudadanas globales responsables. Esperanza es 100% dependiente en la ayuda de personas generosas, las corporaciones y fundaciones cuyas contribuciones pagan para el presupuesto anual para el funcionamiento de la escuela.

Running Champion Abbey D'Agostino Tells Esperanza Academy Students: Learn to Be Happy With Yourself, Win or Lose

By Lilli Leggio

Professional runner Abbey D'Agostino, the most decorated Ivy League athlete in track and field and cross country running who won seven NCAA titles during her time at Dartmouth College, visited Esperanza Academy to share insight and life lessons with students.

D'Agostino, a Topsfield native, spoke to Esperanza students about her journey from casual runner to a professional runner, perseverance, and learning to be happy with yourself, whether you win or lose. According to D'Agostino, accepting yourself and being happy with who you are and not what you do is a key to life.

A middle and long-distance runner, she most recently placed third in the 500 meter at the US Indoor Track and Field Championships. D'Agostino had a

storied college career, becoming the most decorated Ivy League athlete in track and field and cross country running, earning seven NCAA titles, including one cross country, four indoor track, and two outdoor track in her career. In 2014 she became a professional runner for Team New Balance.

Esperanza Academy is a tuition-free, independent middle school in the Episcopal tradition that welcomes underserved girls from Lawrence, MA, of diverse faiths, races, and cultures. The school, with its nurturing, academically rigorous curriculum, inspires students to become active learners and responsible global citizens. Esperanza is 100% dependent on the support of generous individuals, corporations, and foundations whose contributions pay for the schools yearly operating budget.

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Austin Prep earns spot on 'High School Quiz Show'



The Austin Prep Academic Decathlon Team includes, from left, moderator and history teacher Ed MacKenzie of Littleton, sophomore Bryan Snow of Lowell, sophomore Thomas Burnham of Wilmington, junior Phillip Dragone of Stoneham, senior Emma Tilley of Billerica, senior Meghan Bodette of Andover and moderator and theology teacher Kayla Greenwood of Marshfield.

For the first time, Austin Preparatory School's Academic Decathlon Team has earned a spot on WGBH's "High School Quiz Show."

There were 131 schools vying for a spot on the televised academic tournament show, and only 16 were selected. WGBH saves only two spots for private schools. The highest score in the Super Sunday qualifying round was 1175; the Austin Prep team scored 1000.

The team includes sophomore Bryan Snow of Lowell, sophomore Thomas Burnham of Wilmington, junior Phillip Dragone of Stoneham, senior Emma Tilley of Billerica, and senior Meghan Bodette of Andover. It is moderated by theology teacher Kayla Greenwood of Marshfield.

teacher Kayla Greenwood of Marshfield and history teacher Ed MacKenzie of Littleton.

The students from Austin Prep in

Reading will tape their first round match on

Sun., Jan. 24 beginning at 8:30 am. Their

opponent has not yet been announced.

From the televised tournament, a state champion will be crowned. The season will end with a Governor's Cup Challenge, when WGBH's "High School Quiz Show" champion faces off against New Hampshire Public Television's "Granite State Challenge" winner.

The seventh season of "High School Quiz Show" premieres on Sat., Feb. 6 at 6:00 pm.

Mayor Calls on Council to Hold Special Meeting on Tax Classification

Three City Councilors Officially Request Meeting

Mayor James J. Fiorentini requested that the Haverhill City Council request a special meeting for next week to reconsider their vote on all of the documents under the tax classification. At the most recent city council meeting, there was a discussion regarding taxes, the Mayor asked the council to support a city payment of \$500,000 to help minimize the increase of taxes for residents, the council voted it down.

The Mayor also asked the council to increase the shift of the CIP (commercial, industrial, personal property) for businesses from 156% to 158%, the city council voted it down. These votes meant residents in the city would have to pay higher taxes for their properties as a result of the city council votes. The Mayor advocated at the meeting to decrease the taxes paid by residents.

Next week, on Monday, November 23rd at 7PM in the Haverhill City Council Chambers on the second floor of Haverhill

City Hall, the city council will hold a special meeting to reconsider their tax votes from the previous meeting. This special meeting will allow city councilors and the Mayor to continue their dialog on taxes and it will also give councilors an opportunity to look at this information again and potentially reconsider their vote.

Mayor Fiorentini stated: "Our job is to represent the residents and do what is in their best interest. I want to thank the three city councilors for supporting this special meeting. I believe that we should give the residents a tax break whenever possible, we are currently in the position to do just that."

Councilor Ryan stated: "The residents work hard for their money and the city needs to give it back to them whenever possible, I support the Mayor on this vote."

Councilor Sullivan stated: "I support the homeowners and I was outraged by the comments that night."

Empleado Merrimack Valley Credit Union Reconocido por su continua pasión

Merrimack Valley Credit Union se enorgullece en anunciar que Bob Donald, un oficial de préstamo en la Cooperativa de Crédito, es el receptor de su Premio Anual 2015 de la Pasión. Este honor se le da a un solo empleado que verdaderamente ejemplifica los valores de Uniones de Crédito de la calidad, el compromiso, la integridad, el respeto, la comunidad, el espíritu y mucho más.

Y Bob Donald es mucho más. Su actitud positiva perpetua, su forma de bromear, sonrisa contagiosa y su voluntad de ayudar a sus compañeros de trabajo en materia de negocios y personales lo hace un compañero de trabajo amado y valorado. Los miembros de la cooperativa de crédito lo adoran, también. Los miembros elogian regularmente su dedicación, sensibilidad y positividad. Él es el primero en trabajar horas extras para asegurar que los miembros reciban el mejor servicio posible. La dedicación y amabilidad de Bob también es evidente en la comunidad, ofreciéndose como voluntario al menos semanalmente y a veces más cuando surge la necesidad.

Michael Pliskaner, un Vicepresidente Asistente en la Cooperativa de Crédito, presentó a Bob el premio el 17 de noviembre en una cena de reconocimiento especial en el Chateau en Andover. "No podríamos pensar en una persona más merecedora de recibir este reconocimiento. Tenemos la suerte de trabajar con Bob. Él es un ejemplo y un recordatorio diario para aprovechar al máximo cada día y hacerlo con una sonrisa. Es algo difícil de encontrar, y somos muy afortunados de tenerlo aquí en la Cooperativa de Crédito".

Merrimack Valley Credit Union es una cooperativa de crédito comunitaria con un activo \$547 millones sin fines de lucro que sirve a cualquier persona que viva, trabaje o adore en la región de Merrimack Valley con sucursales en Haverhill, Lawrence, Methuen, y North Andover, MA y Plaistow, NH. Merrimack Valley Credit Union ofrece una amplia gama de servicios para satisfacer las necesidades financieras de sus miembros. Para obtener más información sobre Merrimack Valley Credit Union, por favor visite www.mvcu.com.



Merrimack Valley Credit Union employees from left to right: President and CEO Peter Matthews, award recipient Bob Donald, and AVP of MIS Michael Pliskaner.

Merrimack Valley Credit Union Employee Recognized for Continued Passion

Merrimack Valley Credit Union is proud to announce that Bob Donald, a loan officer at the Credit Union, is the recipient of their 2015 Annual Passion Award. This honor is given to only one employee who truly exemplifies the Credit Union's values of quality, commitment, integrity, respect, community, spirit and much more.

And Bob Donald is much more. His perpetual positive attitude, joking manner, infectious smile and willingness to assist his co-workers in business and personal matters make him a beloved and valued co-worker. The Credit Union's members adore him, too. Members regularly praise his dedication, sensitivity, and positivity. He is the first to work extra hours to ensure members receive the best service possible. Bob's dedication and kindness is also evident in the community, volunteering at least weekly and sometimes more when the need arises.

Michael Pliskaner, an Assistant Vice President at the Credit Union, presented Bob with the award on November 17th at a special recognition dinner at the Chateau in Andover. "We could not think of a more deserving person to receive this recognition. We are blessed to work with Bob. He is an example and a daily reminder to make the most of every day and to do it with a smile. He is a rare find, and we are very lucky to have him here at the Credit Union."

Merrimack Valley Credit Union is a \$547 million asset not-for-profit community credit union serving anyone who lives, works or worships in the Merrimack Valley region with branch locations in Haverhill, Lawrence, Methuen, and North Andover, MA and Plaistow, NH. Merrimack Valley Credit Union offers a wide range of services to meet the financial needs of its members. To learn more about Merrimack Valley Credit Union, please visit www.mvcu.com.



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Learn WordPress at Nashua Library

The Nashua Public Library now offers a class in how to use WordPress to create websites and blogs. This class is in addition to other one-time computer workshops offered at the library: Computer Basics; Internet; Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Access; Genealogy; and Online Job Searching. View the schedule at www.nashualibrary.org/computerclasses.htm. All are free and open to the public, although registration is required (call 589-4611).

Bring the Family to the Zoo for Peanuts

Now you can visit the Franklin Park Zoo in Boston or the Stone Zoo in Stoneham at greatly reduced admission prices, using your Nashua Public Library card. Simply go to nashualibrary.org and click Museum Passes. Then follow the instructions to reserve a pass for the date you want to go. The pass admits six people at just \$6 per adult and \$4 per child ages 2 to 12. Children under 2 are free. Regular admission is \$12-\$18. You can also book a pass at the reference desk in the library or by calling (603) 589-4611.

Memory Café at Nashua Public Library

Come to the Nashua Public Library on the third Friday of the month from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. for Memory Café, a gathering of people with early memory loss and their caregivers. Each month's program will have activities centered on a theme, along with plenty of time to enjoy free refreshments and socialize.

If you would like to attend, please register by calling 589-4610 or going to www.tinyurl.com/nplevents and scrolling down to the date of the event. Memory Cafe is sponsored by the library and Home Health and Hospice Care.

“Nashua Experience” on sale just in time for holiday shopping

“The Nashua Experience: A Three-Decade Upgrade, 1978-2008” is on sale at the Nashua Public Library through December 31. Normally priced at \$25, the book is available for holiday giving at just \$15, or two copies for \$25.

“The Nashua Experience,” written by three Nashua librarians, tells the story of the Best Place to Live in America awards, the growth of high-tech, the fight for a wetlands ordinance, the sesquicentennial celebration, and the high school project. You can even read about the unusual circumstances in which Jim Donchess became mayor the first time, in 1984, and see a picture of what he looked like at age 35.

The book is a perfect gift for anyone who lives—or has lived—in Nashua.

Need help finding a good book?

Are you looking for ideas on what to read next? Maybe you need suggestions for books to buy for your grandchildren or mother-in-law for the holidays. Let Nashua

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Activities for Teens at Nashua Public Library

In addition to books, movies, manga, graphic novels, and computers, the Nashua Public Library offers plenty of programs after school for teens in grades 6 through 12. Go to tinyurl.com/nplteen and start signing up!

Public Library staff zero in on the right ones for you, with Reading Radar.

Just go to nashualibrary.org/connect/reading-radar. That's where eight staff members tell you a bit about their own reading preferences. Choose the one whose interests match yours fill out a short form, and that person will reply with five suggested titles.

If you want suggestions for children's books, go to nashualibrary.org/explore/kids.

Dual art show at Nashua Library

“Branches: A Mixed Media Showcase,” featuring sculpture by Nancy A. French and paintings by Tamara Gonda, is on display in the Image Gallery at the Nashua Public Library in November and December.

Nancy A. French trained as a traditional furniture maker at North Bennet Street School in Boston's North End. She has built and repaired furniture and taught woodworking for many years. Recently she began sculpting with salvaged tree branches, bark, local hardwoods, felted wool, scrap fabric, and other found or recycled materials.

Tamara Gonda's work is uniquely American abstract, reflecting the white birches and pines of New England and the peaks of the Wyoming Rockies and Northwest Cascades. Among the artists who have influenced her are Mark Rothko and Robert Rauschenberg. Gonda has exhibited at numerous museums and several galleries throughout New England. She holds a B.F.A. from Virginia Commonwealth University and an M.F.A. from Cornell University.

The exhibit can be viewed during regular library hours.

NECC Holiday Concert

Northern Essex Community College's Chamber Ensemble, under the direction of NECC Professor Christina Dietrich and Ingrid Marsteller, assistant to the director, will perform a free concert on Saturday, Dec. 19, at 7 p.m. in the David Hartleb Technology Center on the Haverhill Campus, 100 Elliott St.

The performance will feature works by Bach, Bernstein, Handel, and Pachelbel.

Northern Essex offers an Associate in Arts Degree: Music Option and a certificate in music technology.

For further information contact Christina Dietrich at cdietrich@necc.mass.edu.

American Training's Annual Coat Drive

Spread the WOW! Magic in our community by donating coats and jackets to American Training's annual Coat Drive. Help us make life matter by keeping our community warm. Last year more than 100 coats were collected and thus, more than 100 community members were kept warm through the harsh winter.

This year, we're expecting another difficult winter and are hoping to collect even more coats and jackets. All donations will be distributed to those in our Community who are in need, through our own programs and Anton's Coat Drive.

Donations can be made now through February 1 at any of these three American Training locations (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday): 6 Campanelli Drive in Andover, 150 Industrial Avenue in Lowell, and 107 Audubon Road in Wakefield, or by contacting Robin Gazelian at 978-685-2151, ext. 6822.

Be a part of the WOW! Magic, donate today! Find out more at americantraininginc.com/coatdrive2015.

Thank you for helping us make life matter!

December Youth Writing Workshop

Registrations are now being taken for a Youth Writing Workshops for students entering grades 6 through 12. Workshops will be held on a monthly basis on Monday evenings 6 PM to 8 PM. The next workshop is Monday, December 14 at the Merrimack Valley Immigrant & Education Center (the former Asian Center), 439 S. Union Street, Building 2, Level B, Lawrence, MA 01843. Fee is \$10 for each workshop.

Robert Largess will conduct the workshop. He has more than 20 years experience teaching in Boston Public Schools and has taught our successful Summer Youth Writing Program.

Workshops will combine student writing—short stories, poems, essays, and reports—with reading classic stories and poems, and learning a bit about Asian Culture and history, the Ancient Greeks, and the myths and tales of other cultures. Students interested in improving their writing skills should call MVIEC, The Merrimack Valley Immigrant & Education Center at 978-683-7316. Check out the MVIEC's website at www.mviec.org for directions and more details.

180° Thrift Shop

All proceeds support local non-profit agency Blueskies wellness, Inc. which provides bullying prevention programs for the Merrimack Valley.



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CALENDARIO | CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Treble Chorus of New England Holiday Concert 2015



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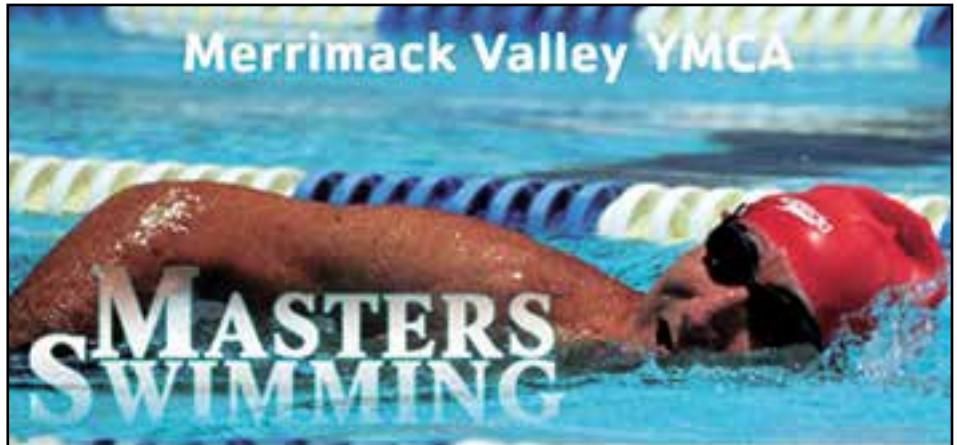
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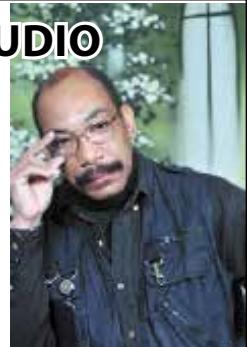


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