



Juramentan a nuevos bomberos Firefighters' swearing in ceremony



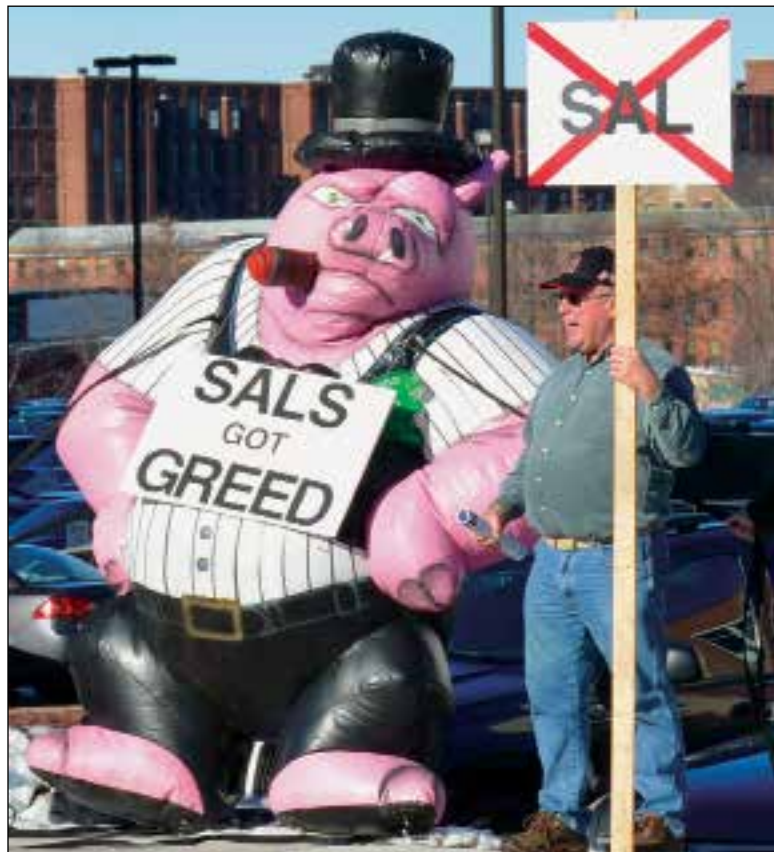
Left to right, Jean Jimenez, Felix Hernandez, Lt. Johnny Jimenez, Chief Moriarty, Lt. Darren Cassista and Giovanni Bonet. |7

Richard Rodríguez fue juramentado



El abogado Richard Rodríguez fue nombrado miembro de la Junta Asesora de la Comisión Contra Discriminación de Massachusetts por el Gobernador Charlie Baker. |6

Unión de Carpinteros protege beneficios de empleados



Steve Falvey, organizador de la Unión de Carpinteros, con un cartel junto a un muñeco inflado, hizo una demostración de protesta la Calle Merrimack frente una de las propiedades de Sal Lupoli. |5

Carpenters' Union protects employee benefits

Steve Falvey, Carpenters Union organizer, with a sign next to an inflatable puppet staging a demonstration on Merrimack Street in front of one of Sal Lupoli's properties. |5

Aguinaldo Navideño de Noche y Desfile Dominicano

Pg. 9

Richard Rodriguez sworn in

Attorney Richard Rodriguez was appointed to the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination's Advisory Board by Governor Charlie Baker. |6

American Training's Christmas in Oz



Personajes de Oz, de izquierda a derecha, Stephanie Feliz, Ratha Teng, Ariella Roberts, Michelle Forti, Ashley Duhamel y Paul y Fran Kuchar como el Sr. y la Sra. Claus. |12

American Training Colleagues and Oz characters, from left to right, Stephanie Feliz, Ratha Teng, Ariella Roberts, Michelle Forti, Ashley Duhamel, and Paul and Fran Kuchar as Mr. and Mrs. Claus. |12

Esta historia encaja con cada cubano...

**Historia por Marta Darby
Receta de mi prima Hilda**

En los primeros años del exilio de mi familia, todavía teníamos grandes esperanzas de que todo ese disparate de la revolución pasara rápidamente. Todos los años, en torno a las fiestas, haríamos nuestro ponche de huevo y leche, que llamamos Crème de Vie (crema de vida).

Cada año levantamos nuestras copas en la celebración de nuestra Nochebuena y brindamos:

"El próximo año estaremos de vuelta en Cuba".

Mi familia continuó esperando y brindando, esperando y brindando, año tras año.

Y el tiempo avanzó.

Crecimos.

Nos asimilamos.

Nos casamos.

Tuvimos hijos.

Mis padres se hicieron viejos.

Mi papá falleció.

Cada año durante las Navidades hacemos la Crème de Vie.

Tantos años han pasado, tantos años y esperanzas han llegado y se han ido y todavía brindamos: "El próximo año estaremos en Cuba".

El brindis ha adquirido una vida propia, aunque ha perdido mucho de su significado original. Pero seguimos haciendo la Crème de Vie, y seguimos brindando. Es una de mis tradiciones cubanas preferidas.

Acabo de hacer el primer lote de Crème de Vie para esta temporada navideña. Mis hijas ayudaron a hacerla y embotellarla y, por supuesto, tuvimos que probarla. Estaba a punto de recitar el brindis habitual, cuando una esperanza nueva e inesperada se aferró a mi corazón y me trajo lágrimas a los ojos.

Levanto mi vaso a todos con este brindis: "Cambio".

This story fits every Cuban...

**Story by Marta Darby
Recipe by my cousin Hilda**

In the first few years of my family's exile, we still had high hopes that that whole pesky revolution nonsense would quickly blow over. Every year around the holidays we would make our Cuban egg nog, which we call Crème de Vie (or Crema de Vie – "the cream of life").

Every year we would raise our glasses at our Nochebuena (Christmas Eve) celebration and toast:

"El año que viene estamos en Cuba." (Next year we will be back in Cuba)

My family continued hoping and toasting, hoping and toasting, year after year.

And time marched forward.

We grew up.

We assimilated.

We married.

We had children.

My parents grew old.

My dad passed away.

Every year during the holidays we make the Crème de Vie.

So much life has happened, and so many years and hopes have come and gone and still we toast: "Next year we'll be in Cuba."

The toast has taken on a life of its own even though it has lost much of its original meaning. But we continue to make the Crème de Vie, and we continue to toast. It's one of my very favorite Cuban Christmas traditions.

I just made the first batch of Crème de Vie for this holiday season. My daughters helped make and bottle it and, of course, we had to try it. I was about to recite the usual toast, when a new and unexpected hope clutched at my heart and brought tears to my eyes.

I raise my glass to you all with this toast: "Cambio."

Cream de Vie by Hilda, my cousin

Ingredients:

3 cups sugar

1 cup water

1 can of condensed milk

1 can of evaporated milk,

6 egg yolks

5 ounces of rum or whiskey

1 spoon of vanilla

with the condensed milk.

3) Slowly add the evaporated milk and mix completely.

4) Flavor with the vanilla.

5) Pour the mixture into the sugar-water and mix together.

THE WAY TO MAKE IT:

1) Make Syrup with the 3 cups of sugar and water together over very low heat, stirring constantly until the sugar dissolves – about 3 minutes. It has to be just low enough so that the sugar doesn't caramelize, but makes a thick sugary water. Let it cool.

2) Put the egg yolks in a blender and mix

6) Finally stir in the rum (as a preservative). Makes about 5 cups, or two and a half bottles.

Refrigerate for a couple of days before drink it. Salud!

WARNING: IT'S VERY SWEET!

EDITORIAL | EDITORIAL

¡Feliz Navidad!

La época más alegre del año ha llegado. Parece que todo el mundo tiene buenas intenciones en el corazón y lo mejor de nosotros sale a relucir durante el mes de diciembre. Sí, celebramos la Navidad, Hanukah y Kwanzaa, pero en años recientes, la política correcta saca su feo rostro donde no tiene lugar para existir.

Desde que los peregrinos llegaron a este país en busca de libertad de religión, el público ha podido escoger a qué religión organizada o secta se quiere unir sin persecución. Ningún otro país en el mundo ha dado la bienvenida a tantas creencias religiosas con el respeto que los Estados Unidos lo ha hecho.

Si alguien nos pregunta qué es la cultura americana, realmente no podremos contestarle ya que depende de la crianza en particular de cada uno de nosotros y la herencia nacional de sus antecesores.

En el caso de nacionalidades mixtas en una misma familia, tenemos una formidable mezcla de creencias culturales y religiosas que no se pueden encontrar en ningún otro lugar. Nuestra identidad real es ser una nación de inmigrantes que abraza a todos.

El 80% de la población de los Estados Unidos cree en el Cristianismo pero tenemos familias que celebran Hanukah y entonces van a la Misa del Gallo antes de que Santa Claus traiga los regalos a los niños. Hay parejas que han aprendido a criar a sus hijos dentro de dos religiones, perfectamente seguros de quiénes son, orgullosos de su herencia – de ambos lados. ¡Esa es la verdadera asimilación!

Sí, estamos celebrando la Navidad y no hay nada ofensivo en desearle a alguien "¡Feliz Navidad!" La política correcta debe ser reservada para aquellos momentos en que alguien va a sufrir algún daño ya sea en la vivienda, la escuela o el empleo, pero esta es la Navidad, la mejor época del año... o Hanukah... o Kwanzaa. ¡Qué maravilla!

Vivimos en el mejor de los países. ¡Vamos a celebrar!

Merry Christmas!

The happiest time of the year is here. Seems that everyone has good will at heart and the best of people comes out during the month of December. Yes, we celebrate Christmas, Hanukah and Kwanzaa, but in recent years, political correctness is showing its ugly face in an area where it has no place to be.

From the time when the Pilgrims landed in this country in search of religious freedom, people have been able to join any organized religion or sect they choose without persecution. No other country in the world has welcomed as many religious beliefs with the respect that we have in the United States.

If anyone asks us what American culture is, we really do not have an answer for it depends upon the particular upbringing of each one of us and the national heritage of our ancestry. In the case of mixed nationalities within one family, we have a wonderful blend of cultural and religious beliefs that cannot be found anywhere else. Our real identity is being a nation of immigrants that embraces everyone.

Eighty percent of the population of the United States believes in Christianity but we have families that celebrate Hanukah and then go to Midnight Mass before Santa brings presents to the children. Couples have learned to bring up their children within two religions, perfectly aware of where they belong and who they are, feeling proud of their heritage – from both sides. That's the real melting pot!

Yes, we celebrate Christmas and there is nothing offensive in wishing anyone "Merry Christmas." Political correctness should be reserved for those times when harm could be done to someone, whether in housing, school or employment, but this is Christmas, the best time of the year... or think of it as Hanukah... or Kwanzaa. Isn't it great?

We live in the greatest country – let's celebrate!

Pensar es el trabajo más difícil que existe. Quizá esa sea la razón por la que haya tan pocas personas que lo practiquen.

Thinking is the hardest work there is. Perhaps that is why there are so few people who practice it.

- Henry Ford

Rumbo

The BILINGUAL Newspaper of the Merrimack Valley

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POR DALIA DÍAZ
daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

READ IT IN ENGLISH ON PAGE 16

Desde Mi Esquina



Decisión de la bibliotecaria

El resultado de los nombramientos políticos en puestos de trabajo de la ciudad sin tener en cuenta las calificaciones o la experiencia es palpable de nuevo en una reciente decisión de Jessica Valentin, la incompetente bibliotecaria.

El Concejal Modesto Maldonado había solicitado el uso de una sala de reuniones para anunciar su candidatura para alcalde y fue negada por la Srta. Valentin. Su razón para su respuesta fue: "Mi preocupación es que el evento que tenga lugar sea relacionado con la campaña política, ya que no es el tipo de evento que nuestro edificio público del gobierno va a acomodar". Ella dijo: "Usted es más que bienvenido a usar el espacio para programas y eventos que están abiertos al público y presentan temas educativos en un tema que es imparcial. Sin embargo, quiero estar segura de que el espacio disponible es prioritario para los programas educativos que son para el beneficio de nuestros clientes y miembros de la comunidad".

Al parecer, la Srta. Valentin no leyó la Declaración de la Misión de la Biblioteca, que dice lo siguiente:

La libertad de buscar conocimiento es el fundamento de nuestra democracia. La Biblioteca Pública Libre de Lawrence, una institución pública esencial, se esfuerza por servir como un centro literario y de información accesible y sensible para todos los residentes de la comunidad de Lawrence. A través de su creciente colección de materiales y una constante preocupación por sus clientes, la Biblioteca existe para preservar el libre desarrollo y expresión de ideas imprescindibles para una ciudadanía informada.

La Política continúa afirmando que "se anima a los grupos comunitarios cuyos propósitos sean sin fines de lucro, cívicos, culturales o educativos a usar las salas de reuniones de la Biblioteca para las reuniones de grupo cuando las habitaciones no se usen para su propósito principal.

El problema de colocar a personas en puestos de trabajo sin saber lo que están haciendo es que abre la ciudad para potenciales demandas. Debido a que la Srta. Valentin no ha estado allí por mucho tiempo y no sabe nada de las operaciones de la biblioteca, no sabía que la ciudad fue demandada por Liberty Counsel, un grupo de Florida por la misma razón.

Liberty Counsel realiza conferencias en todo el país en las que sus empleados, voluntarios o afiliados enseñan sobre diversos temas, incluyendo pero no limitado a: temas culturales, asuntos actuales relacionados con asuntos de familia y libertad religiosa, asuntos eclesiásticos, sistema judicial, historia americana, cuestiones constitucionales y de derechos civiles, y el papel de la religión y el cristianismo en el gobierno

estadounidense. En particular, Liberty Counsel promueve una visión cristiana de la fundación de los Estados Unidos de América.

Se acordó que la ciudad estaba equivocada y el litigio terminaría siendo más caro si hubieran comparecido ante los tribunales, por lo que se transaron por \$10,000. Eso no es mucho dinero, pero es una declaración clara de haber perdido el caso.

Ahora, tenemos a esta novata sin ningún conocimiento previo de antecedentes históricos representando nuestros valores. No creo que la intención del Concejal Maldonado sea demandar a la ciudad, pero imagínese lo que su inexperiencia nos traerá.

Noticias falsas

Hemos estado leyendo y escuchando en televisión sobre la proliferación de "noticias falsas" y sobre cómo afectan a la sociedad en todo el mundo. El domingo por la mañana, un programa en CBS, había un segmento sobre por qué la gente lo hace y cómo se convirtió en una herramienta en el arsenal de los políticos de estas elecciones pasadas.

Esto ha creado una industria rentable donde producen noticias que parecen lo suficientemente creíbles como para cambiar el resultado de la votación. He aquí algunos ejemplos:

La carrera de Dan Rather llegó a su fin en 2004 cuando se descubrió que él presentó una historia falsa sobre el servicio de la Guardia Nacional Aérea de George W. Bush, con documentos falsificados de los años sesenta.

Con el fin de proteger al Sr. Rather después de su reporte sobre Bush, CBS creó más noticias falsas y el encubrimiento fue más grande que el crimen original. La investigación interna en la CBS no comprobar las fuentes y los documentos no pudieron ser autenticados.

Uno de los ejemplos más memorables fue la advertencia de MSNBC sobre "las personas blancas que aparecieron con armas" en los comicios de la reforma de la atención de la salud de 2009 que eran precursores del Tea Party. El segmento sobre esta noticia se refería a la supuesta rabia de los blancos sobre "una persona negra que ahora era presidente", y el aumento proporcional de "los grupos de odio", sin embargo, las imágenes fueron editadas para ocultar que el hombre era, de hecho, un negro.

Los medios estaban muy interesados en mantener la historia de George Zimmerman - Trayvon Martin caliente, agitando la paranoia racial por razones políticas y de ratings. Circularon fotos de Trayvon como un niño pequeño en lugar de las más recientes que podrían ser clasificadas como "noticias falsas". Entonces la historia tomó un giro siniestro cuando NBC News editó una grabación de la llamada que Zimmerman hizo a 911 en la noche del tiroteo de febrero 2012, para hacerlo sonar como si Zimmerman estaba obsesionado con la raza de Martin.

La carrera de Brian Williams como animador de NBC News llegó a su fin en el 2015 después de que él fue acusado de

La desinformación

Por Lluís Esquena Romaguera
lluisesquena11@gmail.com

En una entrevista concedida a la revista belga Tertio, Francisco, el Papa, se ha referido a la responsabilidad que tienen los medios de comunicación respecto a la verdad. Ha alertado de algunas tentaciones en el trabajo de los medios, como la desinformación, "el daño más grande que puede hacer un medio, quitando una parte de la verdad y no la otra", ha recalado el Papa.

mentir acerca del día que viajaba en un helicóptero en Irak en el 2003 y recibieron disparos del enemigo. La acusación vino de soldados que estaban a bordo del helicóptero. Williams contó la historia repetidamente, durante un lapso de años, antes de que lo revelaran.

La más reciente noticia falsa es la espantosa broma de una violación sexual que la revista Rolling Stone publicó, la cual terminó en un exitoso caso de difamación por la Universidad de Virginia. Una joven afirmó que fue violada por un grupo de estudiantes. Los estudiantes fueron cancelados y sus vidas fueron afectadas por esta mentira. La historia se publicó a pesar de que tenía numerosas inconsistencias y ninguno de los detalles cruciales se pudo corroborar.

El hecho de que las noticias importantes que mencioné anteriormente sucedieron en la NBC no significa que estén libres de culpa (ABC, CBS, Fox, etc. incluyendo sus noticieros locales en menor grado), pero es una epidemia en todos los medios porque los periódicos no deben ser excluidos.

El peor culpable dentro del espectro de los medios sociales es Facebook, pero la Internet está cargada de historias falsas que parecen tan reales que muchos creen que tuvieron un impacto en las elecciones presidenciales. Una historia horrible fue recientemente acerca de los Clintons por estar involucrados en el tráfico sexual con niños. Ellos llegaron a identificar una pizzería en Washington, DC, que supuestamente tenía un túnel en el sótano donde los niños fueron llevados a un lugar diferente para su explotación.

De más está decir cómo ese restaurante se vio afectado por esa publicidad y el propietario tenía miedo por la seguridad de sus empleados. Ha habido asaltos a la establecimiento y amenazas a los empleados y hace unos días alguien fue arrestado después de entrar en el edificio con un rifle de asalto tratando de "salvar" a los niños en el sótano.

Incluso el Dr. Oz, la personalidad de la televisión, ha sido víctima de falsas noticias con cientos de productos anunciados como "aprobados por el Dr. Oz".

Tenga en cuenta que no me estoy refiriendo a las opiniones emitidas por los comentaristas. Ese tema se refiere sólo a las mentiras creadas para demostrar una noticia diferente de la forma en que ocurrió.

Siempre he sido respetuosa con las opiniones de otras personas y nunca he criticado lo que creen. Tienen derecho a su opinión igual que yo a la mía. Durante el último proceso electoral fui ampliamente castigada por mis opiniones a pesar de que estaban basadas en la verdad y ofrecí evidencias. Puedo tener opiniones fuertes

CARTAS AL EDITOR RUMBO

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Las cartas deben tener menos de 300 palabras de largo. Favor de incluir un número de teléfono o dirección electrónica para confirmar quién la envía.

pero nunca a través de mentiras. Ese es el significado de "noticias falsas".

Eso me trae a Lawrence. El periódico local y Rumbo han informado sobre las grandes empresas que están cerrando sus puertas lanzando a cientos de trabajadores hacia el desempleo. Estos son: Polartec/ Malden Mills (400 puestos de trabajo), Flowserve/Lawrence Pumps (85 puestos de trabajo), Sekisui Voltec, LLC, Showcase Cinema, junto con varias pequeñas empresas como 3 Dunkin Donuts y sin embargo, algunas personas están diciendo que un montón de nuevos negocios se están trasladando a Lawrence. Me gustaría ver nombres... una lista de ellos... cualquier cosa.

En cuanto a la tasa de desempleo, se dice que ha mejorado tanto en Lawrence que es casi cero. ¿Cero? No hay una ciudad en todo el país con una tasa de desempleo en cero! En realidad, en abril de 2016, estaba en 7.5 y en noviembre bajó a 4.9, que sigue siendo superior a la tasa nacional de 4.6 y la tasa de desempleo de Massachusetts de 2.9. ¿Cómo sé esto? Le pregunté al Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board.

Hace sólo dos años, la tasa era del 11.0% e históricamente Lawrence tiene usualmente dos veces el promedio estatal. Esta es la tasa de desempleo más baja desde aproximadamente 2006, pero no 0.

Por cierto, la tasa de Lowell es de 3.3 y Haverhill es de 2.7.

Información pública del departamento de policía

Muy a menudo, reviso www.lawpd.com con la página web del Departamento de Policía de Lawrence donde el público puede ver el registro diario de actividad. Doy por sentado que no dicen la verdad de los acontecimientos a los que responden porque muchos de los crímenes o infracciones son degradados u omitidos. Sobre la base de esas estadísticas, reportan que la delincuencia ha disminuido.

La realidad es que no han publicado ninguna información en el registro diario desde el 25 de octubre. El secreto no es la manera de mantener a la comunidad informada e involucrada.

Persona desaparecida

Hay un hombre de 29 años que salió de casa y fue visto por última vez en Lowell. Su imagen e información básica aparecieron en las estaciones de televisión y radio de Boston apenas dos días después de desaparecer.

Esa es la diferencia cuando sucede en Methuen.

Unión de Carpinteros protege beneficios de empleados

Por Alberto Surís

Steve Falvey, organizador de la Unión de Carpinteros y un grupo de sus miembros, se manifestaron en la calle Merrimack, frente a una de las propiedades de Sal Lupoli, el martes, 13 de diciembre de 2016 y pasaron folletos a espectadores.

De acuerdo con el folleto del sindicato, "Sal se embolsa millones de dólares en fondos de los contribuyentes provenientes de los contratos de arrendamiento de oficinas del gobierno estatal y del condado en Lawrence. Sin embargo, para su nueva expansión en Andover, Sal elige ignorar evidencia de violaciones de salarios y horas y fraude fiscal y de seguros por parte de subcontratistas en sus proyectos anteriores en Andover, Lawrence y Hampton, NH y continúa usando subcontratistas subterráneos.

Sal tiene una larga historia de la utilización de otros aplicadores de paneles de yeso clandestinos que han fracasado por hacer trampa. Algunos de ellos han recibido citaciones de la Procuraduría General de Justicia por prácticas consistentes con fraude fiscal y de seguros. Utilizando repetidamente estos subcontratistas de la economía ilegal subterránea, Sal está perpetuando y apoyando sus prácticas comerciales deshonestas que engañan a todos los contribuyentes y contratistas de

carpintería local honestos (tanto sindical como no sindical)", dijo Falvey.

Falvey agrega en su folleto: "Usted puede ayudar a apoyar empleos decentes con beneficios. Llame y envíe un correo electrónico a Pentucket Health Associates. Pregunte a John Sarro si sabe que su nueva instalación en Andover fue construida y se está expandiendo con subcontratistas de carpintería contratados por Sal Lupoli que tienen una historia bien documentada de robo de salarios, fraude fiscal y fraude de seguros", dijo Falvey.

"Traemos este mensaje de la Unión de Carpinteros. Prestamos atención a contratistas en nuestra industria y luchamos por buenos empleos en nuestras comunidades. Ayúdenos a detener el fraude fiscal y de seguros en la construcción. Este folleto no es un intento de hacer que alguien deje de trabajar o se niegue a entregar ninguna mercancía", finaliza el folleto de la Unión de Carpinteros.

El Sr. Falvey añadió que "No es justo contratar a estas personas, pagarles en efectivo y que no tengan seguro médico o derecho al retiro el día que quieran jubilarse."

Rumbo dejó varios mensajes telefónicos en las oficinas corporativas de Sal Lupoli, pero no recibió ninguna respuesta con respecto a esta historia.

Carpenters' Union protecting employee benefits

By Alberto Surís

Steve Falvey, Carpenters Union organizer, and a group of their members, demonstrated on Merrimack Street in front of one of Sal Lupoli's properties, on Tuesday, December 13, 2016, while passing out flyers to onlookers.

According to the union's flyer, "Sal pockets millions in taxpayer funding from state and county government office leases in Lawrence. For his new expansion in Andover, however, Sal chooses to ignore hard evidence of wage and hour violations and tax and insurance fraud by subcontractors on his previous projects in Andover, Lawrence and Hampton, NH, and he continues to use notorious underground drywall sub contractors.

Sal has a long history of using other notorious drywall subs that have been busted for cheating. Some of them have received citations from the MA Attorney General for practices consistent with tax and insurance fraud. By repeatedly using these subcontractors from the illegal underground economy, Sal is perpetuating and supporting their dishonest business practices that cheat all taxpayers and

honest local carpentry contractors (both union and non-union)" said Falvey.

Falvey added in his flyer, "You can help support decent jobs with benefits. call and e-mail Pentucket Health Associates. Ask John Sarro if he knows that his new Andover facility was built and is expanding with carpentry subcontractors hired by Sal Lupoli that have a well-documented history of wage theft, tax fraud and insurance fraud", said Falvey.

"We bring this message from the Carpenters Union. We pay attention to contractors in our industry and fight for good jobs in our communities. Help us stop tax and insurance fraud in construction. This flyer is not an attempt to cause anyone to cease work or refuse to deliver any goods", ends the Carpenters Union flyer.

Mr. Falvey added that, "It is not fair giving jobs to these workers, paying them in cash with no health insurance or the aspiration of retiring some day."

Rumbo left several telephone messages on Sal Lupoli's corporate offices but received no answer in regard of this story.

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Richard Rodriguez sworn in to MCAD Advisory Board

By Alberto Surís

Richard Rodriguez was appointed to the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination Advisory Board by Governor Charlie Baker. He was sworn-in with about 40 people who attended the ceremony sponsored by The Massachusetts School of Law.

City Councilor at-Large Modesto Maldonado, on behalf of the Lawrence City Council, presented Richard with a proclamation that states, "This Resolution is presented in honor and recognition to Attorney Richard Rodriguez for his diligence and achievement providing his abilities, expertise and experience for the benefit of the Lawrence Community.

Among those attending the ceremony were Methuen Police Chief Joseph Solomon, Essex County Deputy Sheriff Sargeant William Castro, Massachusetts Association of Hispanic Attorneys' President Sherley Rodriguez, Lawrence Zoning Board of Appeals Frank Campos, Former Lawrence Redevelopment Authority member James P. O'Donoghue, City Attorney Charles Boddy, and Veterans Services Director Jaime Melendez.

Other individuals representing various disability organizations that Richard works with were also in attendance: Paula Santagati, Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission; Richard McCarthy, Lawrence Commission on Disability; Maura Mazzocco, Burlington Disability Commission; and the Rajczyk Family, Asperger Works, Inc.

Michael L. Coyne, Dean of Massachusetts School of Law, offered the welcoming remarks. He stated one goal of MSL is that when students graduate they remain committed to give back to the community. And Richard has fulfilled that commitment of community service.

Attorney Richard L. Wise, a senior member of the Governor's Advisory Board to the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination also offered a few comments. He first explained the function of the advisory board is to review programs, determine policy of the commission and make recommendations to the governor. He also commented that the advisory board is lucky to have Richard as a member.



Richard Rodriguez, right, receiving a Resolution from Modesto Maldonado, signed by all the members of the City Council.

"Success is not final, failing is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts."

"El éxito no es el fin, el fracaso no es mortal. Es el valor de continuar lo que cuenta."

- Winston Churchill

Richard Rodriguez's swearing in speech

I want to thank a few people today. First, I want to thank Gov. Baker for appointing me to the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination's advisory board. It would be my honor and pleasure to serve under Gov. Baker's administration.

When I received an invitation to become part of his administration to serve in a board or commission I had some hesitations. The hesitations included why a republican administration wants to choose me a democrat, from Lawrence and Hispanic.

What motivated me to apply is that the administration recognized my work as a member of the Lawrence Commission on Disability and recognized my work in the community. Also what motivated me is that I was asked to pick the commission or board; so I selected the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination.

Why I selected this commission? As a youngster I faced discrimination when other children teased or refused to play with me because I talked funny.

When I went to a job interview, it is my opinion, I faced discrimination when instead of asking me if I suffer from a speech impairment I was asked if English was my second language.

My appointment demonstrates Gov. Baker wants to work with every one across Massachusetts.

Second, I want to thank my family. My wife, with whom I have been married for close to 25 years and my children Mark and Krist with a "K".

I want to thank my wife because she supported my dream of becoming an attorney. When I was accepted to MSL my wife resigned from a higher paying job

in NYC and moved to Massachusetts so I could attend law school. My children also supported me by encouraging me to accept admission to MSL, particularly Mark who was in a gifted class in NYC.

Third, I want to thank MSL, particularly Dean Michael Coyne, for hosting this swearing in ceremony. When I received a letter that I was accepted to MSL, I was scared to say yes. The reason for that is that I was born in New York, raised in NYC and had my family and friends in NYC. Today I am here to say accepting admission to MSL was one of the best decisions of my life, with the exception of my marriage.

As with other students I received a great law education. MSLAW alumni work in a wide variety of fields and practice areas. We are everywhere in the public and private sectors. Many of our alumni have received professional recognitions, such examples include, Richard D'Agostino, recently appointed as a City Attorney in Methuen. Donna D. Holaday, Newburyport Mayor. Barry Finegold, former State Representative, former State Senator and partner to Dalton & Finegold, LLP. Elizabeth Trask, Election Coordinator in the Town Clerk's Office, Town of Saugus, MA. Ed Starr, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and the list continues.

I could say a lot of great things about MSL but that would take days. I would suggest you read its website for more information.

And fourth, I want to thank the people attending today's gathering, particularly in this cold day. I hope everyone enjoyed today's event.

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Juramentan a nuevos bomberos / Firefighters' swearing in ceremony



Johnny Jimenez, el primer bombero latino en ser ascendido a teniente muestra la proclama de la Cámara de Representantes otorgada por la Representante Estatal Diana DiZoglio.

Johnny Jimenez, the first Latino firefighters to achieve the rank of lieutenant shows the proclamation from the House of Representantes given by State Representative Diana DiZoglio.



El Teniente Johnny Jimenez es felicitado por el bombero Manny Gonzalez tras de la ceremonia.

Lt. Johnny Jimenez is congratulated by Firefighters Manny Gonzalez upon the swearing in ceremony.

On Sunday, December 18, 2016, the City of Lawrence promoted two firefighters and three others were sworn in to serve the city. They were Darren Cassista and Johnny Jimenez who were promoted to lieutenants. Also, Giovanni Bonet, Jean Jimenez and Felix Fernandez.

The presentation took place at Lawrence Firefighters Relief's In.



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Complaints About Toxins, Shoddy Construction Trail New England Developer

By JACK RODOLICO
NOV 30, 2016
New Hampshire Public Radio

<http://nhpr.org/post/complaints-about-toxins-shoddy-construction-trail-new-england-developer>

New Hampshire Public Radio has been following the Brady Sullivan saga and in this recent article they touched upon their misdeeds in four states. There is a section about Pacific Mills in Lawrence, MA and the contamination in that building to which apparently no one else is paying attention.

Here are some excerpts of that article: Dan and Dawn Crim bought their home in Paugus Woods, a Laconia subdivision, in 2010 from Brady Sullivan Properties, a Manchester-based developer. They paid \$175,000 for the home, according to property records. Within weeks of moving in, they say they noticed drastic temperature shifts from room to room. Rainwater poured through cracks in the foundation.

Over time mold and yeast grew so extensively in the house that spores traveled through the HVAC system, according to a report from a mold expert. The Crims say the mold made them sick with chronic colds and memory loss. They sued Brady Sullivan, moved out and never returned.

The Crims and five other homeowners

also complained to the Consumer Protection Bureau of the N.H. Department of Justice. The state hired a civil engineer to inspect 40 brand new homes. The engineer found 450 building code violations, including walls that were not properly attached to floors and houses that had not been securely fastened to their foundations.

The Attorney General's Office sued Brady Sullivan for shoddy construction at Paugus Woods in 2011. The safety problems were so pervasive, according to the state's complaint, they "may indicate a pattern or practice by the Subdivider to ignore applicable building and house codes, in violation of the law."

"This pattern or practice puts buyers and homeowners at needless risk," the state said.

The state and Brady Sullivan ultimately agreed to a settlement. But the case is just one in a list of complaints and regulatory actions in recent years against one of New Hampshire's largest developers.

Homeowners and tenants have accused the company of poor construction that created structural and safety hazards that put them at risk. Court records describe allegations of breach of contract, intentional misrepresentation and violation of consumer protection laws.

In 2012 – less than a year after the State filed its lawsuit against the developer – the Evergreen Condominium Association in

Laconia sued on behalf of approximately 70 homeowners, claiming Brady Sullivan left them with \$1.2 million in fire, safety and structural defects.

Later that same year, more than 80 plaintiffs from Brindlewood Preserve Condominium Association in Rochester alleged Brady Sullivan sold them homes without disclosing the existence of asbestos, leaving them with \$2.7 million in abatement and moving expenses.

When they spoke out about the problems, some homeowners allege Brady Sullivan's lawyers bullied them by filing counter lawsuits.

In 2015, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the EPA were considering a criminal investigation – according to emails – after regulators fielded a tip that a Brady Sullivan contractor had moved ten truckloads of asbestos and lead from New Hampshire and buried it in the basement of a Lawrence, Mass. mill owned by Brady Sullivan.

MassDEP and EPA both acknowledge an ongoing investigation regarding Brady Sullivan, but both say they are not at liberty to discuss the nature of those investigations.

Whether or not Brady Sullivan's public record suggests "a pattern or practice," as the state suggested five years ago, Attorney General Joe Foster says his office has never initiated a more thorough investigation of the company since the 2011 case in Laconia. Foster says his office has received no further complaints about the developer, adding that oversight of developers like Brady Sullivan is largely the responsibility of local building inspectors, planning boards and code enforcers.

Today, Shane Brady and Arthur Sullivan (Brady Sullivan Properties) are busy across New England, converting abandoned industrial mills into offices and apartments, including three mills in Massachusetts and eight in Rhode Island. In New Hampshire, the developer has proposed 90 apartments in a mill in Keene, and, in Concord, the company recently

purchased two historic office buildings just steps away from the State House.

Lacking the proper permits and training to sandblast lead paint, ECSI sent toxic lead dust into Mill West apartments, according to the EPA, while simultaneously exposing its own workers to arsenic and cadmium, according to OSHA.

A few months later, according to a tip received by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, ECSI allegedly drove ten truckloads of the toxic debris to Massachusetts and buried it in basement cement at Pacific Mills in Lawrence.

While public health regulators have been trying to track down ECSI, laborers have filed complaints against contractors who worked on Brady Sullivan sites, alleging they were not paid for work they did there. The complaints have reached labor regulators in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Connecticut.

One of those contractors, Connecticut-based Interior Partition Specialists, has repeatedly been accused of wage theft on Brady Sullivan job sites.

One family of undocumented immigrants from El Salvador recently told the N.H. Department of Labor that IPS and another drywall contractor hired to work at Brady Sullivan's Mill West site in Manchester refused to pay the family \$20,000 in wages.

Brady Sullivan's attorney says the wage theft claims "do not relate in any way to the conduct or actions of Brady Sullivan." An attorney with the N.H. Department of Labor says if the contractor does not pay the family from El Salvador, then the state will seek the money from Brady Sullivan.

Why is it that New Hampshire has taken severe action against this company and the silence in Lawrence is scary?

I recommend that you look up this article. There are many documents and letters showing the lack of humanity in the way this company cares for families.



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Productor José Ayala

Alegría y confraternidad en aguinaldo navideño de Noche y Desfile Dominicano

Por Bethania Apolinar

A ritmo de merengue, bachata y villancicos, el comité organizador del Desfile Dominicano de Lawrence y Noche Dominicana celebró un aguinaldo navideño en el que la alegría y la confraternidad se hicieron sentir entre los presentes.

El encuentro navideño fue celebrado en el Lawrence Senior Center con el propósito de recaudar fondos para el Desfile Dominicano 2017. La presencia de los latinos fue tímida, pero reunió a muchos comerciantes dominicanos que han prosperado en el Valle de Merrimack.

Allí el ambiente se resumía en música navideña, baile y comida típica, lo que sumado a la alegría de los invitados era la combinación perfecta. La presencia de Santa Claus alegró la noche a todos los niños.

La actividad festiva fue encabezada por la presidenta del Desfile Dominicano, Yokasta Batista, quien pronunció las palabras de bienvenida, en las que expresó que la finalidad principal del aguinaldo era la recaudación de fondos para la actividad cultural programada para agosto próximo, ya que este año decidieron empezar a trabajar temprano.

Dijo que aparte del aguinaldo se tienen pautadas otras actividades en procura de apoyo para los eventos que buscan promover la cultura y las tradiciones dominicanas.

El compartir contó con la presencia del presidente del Concilio de la Ciudad de Lawrence, Kendrys Vásquez, y del vicepresidente Marc Laplante, así como los concejales Brian de Peña, Jeovanny Rodríguez y Estela Reyes, además de otras personalidades que celebraron y compartieron este período pascual.

Además de la espiritualidad que brinda la época navideña, en el aguinaldo



Yokasta Batista pronuncia palabras de bienvenida, junto a Ana Levy.

se disfrutó de las actuaciones de la cantante juvenil Shakira Asunción, las Batutas Internacionales y bailes del grupo del Boys and Girl Club.

La actividad sirvió para rescatar los aguinaldos, una práctica tradicional dominicana, motivo de reunión y fiestas en las madrugadas navideñas. Los asistentes participaron en rifas de regalos donados por los comerciantes dominicanos.

Al encuentro benéfico acudieron los vicecónsules dominicanos Claudio Pérez y Domingo Mejía, quienes recibieron un reconocimiento por su colaboración con la organización de las actividades culturales este año.

Reconocimiento a Rafael (Danielito) Guzmán

Durante el aguinaldo, el comité organizador de Noche y Desfile Dominicano entregó un reconocimiento al empresario Rafael (Danielito) Guzmán, por la iniciativa de recaudar alimentos, ropas y ayuda para los damnificados de la región Norte de la República Dominicana, afectados por las

lluvias de noviembre pasado.

Tras recibir la medalla, Guzmán dijo que el reconocimiento es para la diáspora Latinoamericana que respondió al grito de ayuda y aportó para una comunidad necesitada. Dijo que vivió una experiencia como damnificado en 1978, lo que sirvió de estímulo para la bonita experiencia que se dio en Lawrence.

No obstante, denunció las vicisitudes que atravesaron para sacar el primer

contenedor en las aduanas dominicanas. "Tuvimos problemas con el contenedor en la República Dominicana por el hecho de que allá se perdió la humanidad", expresó visiblemente molesto.

Dijo que tiene que agradecer "por cortesía" a muchos funcionarios dominicanos que contribuyeron para poder sacar el contenedor, pero aseguró que a algunos de ellos se les olvida que trabajan por y para el pueblo.



Entregan reconocimiento al empresario Rafael (Danielito) Guzmán.



Santa Claus presente en el aguinaldo, alegró la noche a los niños.



Bailes de las Batutas Internacionales



Modesto Maldonado's announcement of candidacy for mayor

A group of city residents and leaders joined City Councilor Modesto Maldonado on December 8th at Heritage State Park to welcome his decision to run for mayor of the City of Lawrence.

All this year local stakeholders have been gathering in the search of a solid candidate that will bring positive change to this city and replace the current administration.

"We came to a conclusion that I would be the most qualified candidate. We could not afford to make the mistakes of the past and we could not afford to continue supporting for another four years the mistakes of the present administration," said Mr. Maldonado for his opening.

On many occasions I met with the current Mayor to advise in order to assist, but it fell on deaf ears. Many others have tried to advise the administration as well, but with no success. After soul searching I could not walk away from my community. I could not ignore the cry of the people looking for a change. I could not continue to ignore the many close friends that persistently asked me to announce my candidacy.

I am confident that with my experience, education and the genuine concern of protecting the interest of the taxpayer - I can bring about change.

The Reasons Why We Need Change

This government cannot continue to violate the city charter and ordinances of our city, at will. This must change.

This government cannot continue disrespecting city employees and violating their rights under the city charter.

This government cannot continue ruling (governing) through fear tactics rather than by working in collaboration and motivating other city officials, employees and local residents.

This government cannot continue wasting tax dollars on illegal decision such as the waste of \$9 Million dollars from lawsuits such as decisions to move the offices of the school department without their involvement.

This government cannot continue to hire unqualified employees in violation of city charter requirements.

This government (city) cannot afford to continue playing favoritism by giving certain employees stipends while denying other employees a fair wage.

This government cannot continue ruling in the interest of one sector of the city and being selective in how and who will benefit from the resources of the government.

This government cannot continue believing that the taxpayers are a bank with unlimited resources.

How The Change Will Happen

In order to have a functioning government we must set the example so other city employees and citizens will have respect for our city charter and our laws. This must be done in order for our city to move forward.

This government must respect the rights of the employees and offer them fair wages. We must encourage individuals and help cultivate their interest to better serve the citizens of Lawrence. And this can only be accomplished by integrating employees in the decision making process. This way, employees can become partners with the administration and the citizens to offer

better services to move our city forward.

Employees that work by fear, not only will not perform well, will not meet their expectations and will not work harder to increase the standard and quality of services provided to this great city. Therefore, we must motivate, encourage, solicit input and support employees to feel like they are truly part of positive changes rather than a tool use by the administration for future political aspirations. This is the way forward.

In the past year of this administration the wrongful dismissal of employees and egotistical decisions of removing school department from the original location has cost the city approximately \$9 Million. This money could have been used to offer incentives; clean up our city, to pay for more police officers, to provide better fire protection, to reduce the tax burden on the taxpayer. Moving forward we must make decisions that are legally correct, in collaboration, and decisions that will show compassion for those that work for us and the residents we serve.

The administration made a commitment that it would hire the most qualified individuals and it has failed to do so. Moving forward we need to hire people based on the requirements of the city charter. Moving forward we must work to attract and to search the individuals we need within our city.

We need equality. Moving forward we need a government that is willing to govern for all not just a few. Moving forward we need to a government that will provide equally the services and resources to all parts of the city.

We must improve our efficiency and effectiveness. Moving forward we must eliminate the practice of abusive expenditures and generate a budget affordable to the taxpayer.

Where do we go from here?

Change can only happen if the citizens of our city truly get involved in making the right choice.

Change can only happens if the outcry of injustice is turned into action through citizens involvement in the political process and exercising their right to vote. A vote for a change and consequently a better and brighter future for our city.

Closing Remarks:

I am here to serve as your instrument to make these changes happen.

"We have a mayor who was elected by 80 votes in this city just four years ago. In that election, we had a choice - to continue to support a politician who had let us down or to try someone new. By just 80 votes - a slim majority - you, the voters, decided to unite behind a mayor who made big promises but does not have the ability to turn those promises into the true promise of Lawrence. We must expect more from our leaders. And we must learn from our mistakes and change the direction of our great city."

I want to remind you that without your support, change will not take place and we will not move forward.

This will be a long campaign and an important campaign and I will be talking about my vision over the coming months.

PLEASE SEE **MALDONADO**
 ■ CONTINUES ON PAGE 13

Propietarios del mes Felicidades Jorge y Virginia

Por Jim Wilde

Después de tomar el entrenamiento del comprador de casa y las clases de entrenamiento del propietario, Jorge y Virginia fueron capaces de comprar la casa en la que habían estado alquilando. Ya cerraron la compra en mayo.

Poseer su propia casa siempre había sido su sueño. Sin embargo, el ahorro para un pago inicial y la creación de un historial de crédito fuerte eran desafíos en curso. "Toda mi vida, he luchado para ahorrar dinero, incluso mientras trabajaba 2-3 puestos de trabajo. Gracias a lo que aprendí en la clase, ahora soy capaz de presupuestar y estoy ahorrando por primera vez", dijo Jorge.

Una amiga de Virginia había comprado recientemente una casa y le recomendó que tomara el curso de compra de la casa. Se inscribieron y aprendieron rápidamente que su historial de crédito determina en gran medida los préstamos para los cuales calificarán, junto con la tasa de interés que pagarán. En la sesión presupuestaria, calcularon que estaban gastando \$888.16 por año comprando café.

"Vimos que era imposible comprar una casa hasta que tomáramos estas clases. Estábamos desanimados con la deuda y la falta de un pago inicial, pero esta clase nos enseñó cómo realizar un seguimiento de nuestros gastos y preparar un presupuesto que nos ayudaría a alcanzar nuestro objetivo", dijo Virginia.

Ed Alcantara, nuestro consejero de compradores de vivienda, proporcionó asesoramiento individual y los ayudó a ponerse en camino para reparar su crédito



y ahorrar. Cuando estuvieron listos para comprar, fueron capaces de recibir ayuda para el pago inicial de la Lowell Development & Financial Corporation.

Después de meses de búsqueda, su propietario ofreció venderles la casa en la que vivían. Tomaron su oferta, convirtiéndolos en terratenientes por primera vez. "Desde que conocí a mi marido, él siempre tenía sueños de ser dueño de una casa. Ahora a la edad de 50 años, sus sueños finalmente se hicieron realidad", dijo Virginia.

Home Buyers of the Month Congratulations Jorge & Virginia

By Jim Wilde

After taking both the home buyer training and landlord training classes, Jorge & Virginia were able to purchase the home they had been renting. They closed in May.

Owning their own home had always been their dream. However, saving for a down payment and building a strong credit history were ongoing challenges. "My whole life, I have struggled to save money even while working 2-3 jobs. Thanks to what I learned in the class, I am now able to budget myself and am currently saving for the first time," said Jorge.

A friend of Virginia had recently purchased a house and recommended that she take the home buying course. They enrolled and quickly learned that their credit history largely determines which loans they will qualify for, along with the interest rate they will pay. In the budgeting session, they calculated that they were spending \$888.16 per year buying coffee.

"We saw it impossible to buy a home until we took these classes. We were discouraged with debt and lack of a down payment, but this class taught us how to track our spending and prepare a budget which would help us to achieve our goal," said Virginia.

Ed Alcantara, our home buyer counselor, provided individual counseling and helped them to get on track to build credit and save. When they were ready to buy, they were able to receive down payment assistance from the Lowell Development & Financial Corporation.

After months of searching, their landlord offered to sell them the house they were living in. They took his offer, making them landlords for the very first time. "Ever since I met my husband, he would always have dreams of being a home owner. Now at the age of 50, his dreams finally came true," said Virginia.

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Cena Navideña de Sueños Basketball

El pasado sábado, 17 de diciembre, por segundo año Sueños Basketball celebró su cena navideña para los padres y niños del programa de baloncesto educativo.

El pastor Luciano Taveras de la Iglesia Metodista Libre Hispana de Lawrence recibió un reconocimiento por su colaboración con el programa.

Al final los estudiantes sorprendieron al coach Diloné con un reconocimiento por el trabajo realizado durante el año.

El Sargento William Castro, Deputy Sheriff del departamento de Sheriff se dirigió a los padres exhortándolos a dedicar tiempo para hablar con sus hijos y a vigilar con quienes comparten.

Sueños Basketball reconoció el trabajo comunitario y formativo del Coach Raymond Nuñez.

Frank Torrez habló de la trayectoria de Raymond mientras se proyectaban fotos y recuerdos del mismo para que los niños y sus padres vieran un ejemplo vivo de superación de que sí se puede ser atleta y estudiante meritorio.



New Murals Adorn NECC Walls

The subjects featured in the two, new, wall murals hanging in the Franklin Street Dimitry Building on the Northern Essex Community College (NECC) Lawrence campus are a true study in diversity as seen through the eyes of the NECC students who photographed them.

An elderly woman reading in a wingback chair, the spines of a stack of books, a subway rider, an auto mechanic at work, two children on a swing set, a portrait of a baby, a police officer, and a pair of aged hands, are just a few of the subjects featured in the murals "Diversity" and "The Library" created by Northern Essex students as a service learning project.

Last spring, students in the introductory to digital photography classes taught by NECC professors Bryan "Biff" Ward and Lance Hidy, were tasked with photographing people or objects that represented the themes of diversity and/or library patronage.

A total of 229 black and white photos were submitted by 20 students. The photos were selected democratically by votes of the campus community, organized by NECC webmaster Cesar Gonzales Tellez. Former NECC Student Success Center advisor Joshua Abreu, now a post-grad at UConn, organized the project and Paula Richards, service-learning coordinator provided guidance. The murals were

designed by Hidy.

At 12 x 6 feet, "The Library" adorns a wall outside the information literacy lab. It features eight photos and the Jorge Luis Borges quote, "I have always imagined that paradise will be a kind of library." The printing and installation were funded by a \$1,000 NECC Fund grant. On the other side of the building, in another hallway leading to the main classrooms, a 25 x 6 foot the mural "Diversity" offers 59 photographs complimented by a Carlos Fuentes quote, "Recognize yourself in he or she who are not like you or me." A gift from the NECC Class of 2015 provided essential funding for this mural.

Noemi Custodia-Lora, executive director of the Lawrence Campus and Community Relations, is impressed with the scope of the project. "What do we see in the mural? There are so many different faces representing the one true essence of Northern Essex," she said.

Both murals were printed and installed by Northeast Digital Imaging, a large format printer located in Methuen.

"These photography students did a lot of really great work," said Jennifer Fielding, Coordinator of Library Services Lawrence Campus Library. "They had some really creative ideas. We wish we could have incorporated more photos, but we didn't want to overwhelm the mural and I think we achieved that."

It is a teaching and learning strategy, which incorporates meaningful service with NECC's community partners, enhances the learning of course objectives, offers ongoing opportunities for reflection, and is reciprocal in nature.

NECC students can become engaged in their communities through service via various student clubs, Student Leadership opportunities, the Student Outreach Squad, and Service Learning, which connects

service directly to their classroom experience.

Northern Essex students who participated include: Amanda Burnett, April Campano, Luis Chavez, Emily Clark, Danielle Derderian, Susan Earnshaw, Noah Greenstein, Jordan Gustave, David Langan, Pamela Larcome, Yelimar Maisonet, Autumn Markey, George Medelinskas, Erin Murray, Tyler Peck, Justin Rolon, Ren Santiago, Taylor Treadwell, Harrison Wall, and Austin Wells.



La Navidad en Oz

La alegría de la Navidad en American Training

Por **Mikaela Reynolds**
Directora de Mercadeo

El espíritu navideño estuvo vivo en la Navidad de American Training en Oz Open House el jueves, 8 de diciembre. El evento festivo se llevó a cabo en las oficinas de la organización en Andover.

Con la esperanza de difundir alegría Navideña a través de su lema WOW! Magic, los colegas de American Training trabajaron hacer la tierra de Oz una realidad a través de personajes disfrazados y hermosas decoraciones y escenas del Mago de Oz, con un toque de Navidad.

Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tinman, y el León Cobarde, entre otros de Oz, asistieron. Santa y la señora Claus se detuvieron con sus elfos.

Más de 300 asistentes disfrutaron de los personajes, increíbles decoraciones, deliciosa comida de Simply Elegant Catering, visitas interactivas a los

programas de American Training, música en vivo, asar marshmallows junto al fuego mientras tomaban chocolate y cidra calientes, buena compañía y una noche de WOW! Magic.

"Desde las decoraciones hasta el chocolate caliente junto al fuego hasta el árbol de Navidad lleno de amapolas y adornos de Oz, todo era extraordinario. Toda la atmósfera estaba llena de espíritu navideño", dijo la colega de ATI Danielle LaPointe, quien interpretó a Glinda. "Me emocionó mucho para la Navidad."

El acontecimiento escandalosamente memorable incluso ofreció el duende cantante, la decoración de galletitas, y más.

Para ver fotos de la noche festiva, visite americantraininginc.com/event/ozmas2016.



Marshall, Director del Área de Lowell del Departamento de Desarrollo de Servicios a la izquierda, y el Presidente y CEO de American Training Tom Connors posan con colegas y personajes como Jessica Cousins como un elfo, Robin Gazelian como el León Cobarde, y Danielle LaPointe como Glinda.

Department of Developmental Services, Lowell Area Director Tom Marshall, left, and American Training President & CEO Tom Connors pose with ATI Colleagues and characters Jessica Cousins as an elf, Robin Gazelian as the Cowardly Lion, and Danielle LaPointe as Glinda.



Colegas de American Training Ivette Colón como la Guardia de la Ciudad Esmeralda, Alexis Gonzalez como Dorothy, Danielle LaPointe como Glinda, y Stephanie Feliz como un elfo.

Colegas de American Training Ivette Colón como la Guardia de la Ciudad Esmeralda, Alexis Gonzalez como Dorothy, Danielle LaPointe como Glinda, y Stephanie Feliz como un elfo.

Christmas Cheer in Full Force at American Training's Christmas in Oz

By **Mikaela Reynolds**
Director of Marketing

The holiday spirit was alive and well at American Training's Christmas in Oz Open House event on Thursday, December 8. The festive event was held at the organization's Andover location.

With the hope of spreading holiday cheer through their signature WOW! Magic, American Training Colleagues worked to bring Oz to life through costumed characters and beautiful Wizard of Oz decorations and scenes, with a Christmas twist.

Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tinman, and the Cowardly Lion, among others from Oz, attended. Santa and Mrs. Claus stopped by with their elves.

More than 300 attendees enjoyed the characters, amazing decorations, delicious food by Simply Elegant Catering, interactive

tours of American Training's programs, live music, roasting marshmallows by the fire while sipping hot cocoa and cider, great company, and an evening of WOW! Magic.

"From the decorations to the hot chocolate by the fire to the Christmas tree filled with poppies and Oz ornaments, everything was extraordinary. The whole atmosphere was filled with Christmas spirit," said ATI Colleague Danielle LaPointe, who played Glinda. "It got me really excited for Christmas."

The outrageously memorable event even featured singing elves, cookie decorating, and more.

To see pictures from the festive evening, visit americantraininginc.com/event/ozmas2016.



George Howshan, miembro de la Junta Directiva de American Training, y ganador del premio 2016 Life Matters, y James Hajjar, presidente.

American Training Board members George Howshan, Treasurer and the organization's 2016 Life Matters Award winner, and James Hajjar, Chair.



Colegas de American Training Donny Hernández, Lany Chareunsouk, Sue Landry, y Phil Giordano.

American Training Colleagues Donny Hernandez, Lany Chareunsouk, Sue Landry, and Phil Giordano.



Colegas de American Training Monack Mombayard, Dalynet Santiago, y Ricot Mombayard.

American Training Colleagues Monack Mombayard, Dalynet Santiago, and Ricot Mombayard.

Lawrence Family Development se beneficia de contribuciones de empleados de Cummings

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 de 2016 complementa varios otros regalos de la Fundación Cummings que comenzaron con un premio de subvención de \$100,000 a través de la Fundación Cummings \$100K por 100 becas al Fondo de Desarrollo y Educación de la Familia Lawrence.

Este regalo financia parte de los esfuerzos de la escuela Lawrence Family Development Charter School de Abrir Puertas. Las actividades de la apertura de puertas apoyan la toma de decisiones de la escuela secundaria para los estudiantes de los grados 7 y 8 de la escuela charter que participan en academias de la escuela después del horario escolar y de verano para mejorar los niveles de logro de artes y matemáticas en inglés. Treinta estudiantes de Opening Doors también participan en el enriquecimiento de verano, en las visitas privadas al plantel de la escuela secundaria, y durante todo el año se enfocan en ayudarles a ellos y a sus padres con la aceptación en escuelas de preparatoria privadas y recursos financieros.

Lawrence Family Development planea usar esta más reciente donación de \$1,000 del Programa de Contribuciones

Directas de Empleados de la Fundación Cummings en apoyo de Chromebooks de LFDCS en la Escuela de Desarrollo Familiar de Lawrence (LFDCS). El empleado de Cummings y padre de Beilis Soto de Lawrence Family Development, fue significativo al nombrar a Lawrence Family Development para este premio. La hija de Soto, Lisibel, es una alumna de cuarto grado en la Escuela Charter de Desarrollo Familiar de Lawrence y su esposa, Luisa Soto, originalmente sugirió que la escuela fuera la benefactora del premio Direct Employee Giving Program."

Los Chromebooks, así como el sistema de gestión de aprendizaje de la escuela en Lawrence Family Development, desarrollan la capacidad de pensamiento crítico, lenguaje y habilidades tecnológicas con los estudiantes. Estas habilidades son clave para el éxito de los estudiantes cuando pasan 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 profesores.

La Fundación Cummings de Woburn, MA, se une a otros donantes para llevar recursos tecnológicos a las aulas de Lawrence Family Development Charter School. Lawrence Family Development considera la tecnología como otro aspecto



Miss Lisibel Soto, daughter of Cummings Properties employee, Beilis Soto and his wife, Luisa, demonstrates the use of a Chromebook. Mr. Soto, through the Cummings Employee Direct Giving Program, presented a \$1,000 check to Lawrence Family Development Charter School to fund three new Chromebooks. The Chromebooks, as well as the school's learning management system, develop capacity for critical thinking, language and technology skills with students.

Lawrence Family Development benefits from Cummings Direct Employee Giving Program

Lawrence Family Development and Education Fund, Inc. has received another gift of \$1,000 from Cummings Foundation of Woburn, MA. This December 2016 gift complements several other Cummings Foundation gifts which commenced with 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 the Cummings Foundation's Direct Employee Giving Program in support of LFDCS Chromebooks at Lawrence Family Development Charter School (LFDCS). Cummings employee and Lawrence Family Development parent, Beilis Soto, was significant in nominating Lawrence Family Development for this award. Mr. Soto's daughter, Lisibel, is a fourth grader

at Lawrence Family Development Charter School and his wife, Luisa Soto, originally suggested the school as the benefactor of the Direct Employee Giving Program award.

Chromebooks, as well as the school's learning management system 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 instructional excellence. Because of the charter school's extraordinary level of student performance in grades kindergarten through grade eight, the 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".

clave de la excelencia educativa. Debido al nivel extraordinario de desempeño estudiantil de la escuela autónoma en los grados desde kindergarten hasta el octavo grado, los graduados de la escuela alcanzan una alta tasa de aceptación en prestigiosas escuelas privadas o parroquiales. Muchos ven la educación como un "boleto" para el éxito, por lo que

la Fundación Cummings es apreciada por compartir regalos con los hijos de la ola más reciente de recién llegados de Lawrence. La contribución de la Fundación Cummings ayuda a remediar los desafíos de las familias urbanas y permite a los estudiantes de Lawrence Family Development "Alcanzar las Estrellas".

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 10

STATE OF THE CITY

I want to thank the many that came to me pledging their support and asking me to run for office.

The mayor is weak. His press conference in response to the recent tragedy was a state-wide embarrassment. I will be a leader who speaks for the community who doesn't hold press conferences with no information, and who does not disrespect every day Lawrencians by denying that we have a crime problem in front of TV cameras. I will be the mayor who is here to solve our crime problem.

"The mayor has strayed from our values. He has turned his back against

our unions in favor of his own political future. When he led efforts to harm our undocumented brothers and sisters, he turned his back on Lawrence.

"The mayor has been disrespectful to you. He has been disrespectful to me. He has refused to meet with people and hear outside opinions. He has appointed unqualified people to office, and even had top advisors who were accused of grotesque crimes working for him for months without his knowledge. I am running to respect the voters. To respect you and to bring respect back to the City of Lawrence."



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La Nicotina Líquida para Cigarrillos Electrónicos es Tóxica para los Niños

Un niño de 6 años que tragó accidentalmente nicotina líquida destinada a los cigarrillos electrónicos de sus padres requirió tratamiento médico de emergencia inmediato que incluyó intubación y una noche de estadía en una unidad de cuidados intensivos pediátricos. El informe del caso único se reportó en internet en los Anales de Medicina de Emergencia el día miércoles ("Ingestión Pediátrica Involuntaria de Nicotina de Relleno para Cigarrillos Electrónicos Necesitando Intubación ") sólo un par de semanas después de que el Cirujano General divulgó un informe advirtiendo de los peligros de los cigarrillos electrónicos como Un "gran problema de salud pública".

"La nicotina líquida está altamente concentrada, lo que la hace especialmente peligrosa en los hogares con niños", dijo el autor del estudio principal Matthew Noble, MD, del Departamento de Medicina de Emergencia de la Universidad de Salud y Ciencias de Oregón, Portland, Estado de Oregón. " En esta instancia, la niña perdió la conciencia casi inmediatamente después de beber la nicotina líquida y a pesar de la pronta acción de sus padres y de los servicios médicos de emergencia, aun precisó ventilación mecánica y admisión en la unidad de cuidados intensivos. Afortunadamente, fue finalmente dada de alta del hospital en condiciones estables, pero bajo circunstancias ligeramente diferentes podría haber sufrido un resultado trágico".

La madre del paciente había llenado una botella vacía de ibuprofeno con nicotina líquida que ella mezcló, usando una combinación de nicotina sin sabor que compró en línea y glicerina vegetal. El padre del niño, sin darse cuenta de que la botella de ibuprofeno contenía la nicotina de su esposa, le administró una dosis a su hija por dolor asociado con un esguince en el tobillo. Los efectos fueron inmediatos y el padre entró en contacto con el control de envenenamiento y 9-1-1 en 5 minutos. Incluso después de recuperar la conciencia, ella había alterado

su estado mental, su ritmo cardíaco cayó y desarrolló vómitos, sudoración profusa, contracciones musculares e incapacidad para controlar sus copiosas secreciones.

Las concentraciones máximas de nicotina líquida comercial no están actualmente bien establecidas ni bien reguladas. Algunos consumidores de cigarrillos electrónicos han defendido el aumento de las concentraciones de nicotina en los cigarrillos electrónicos para acercarse más a la entrega de nicotina de los cigarrillos de tabaco convencionales. Con los productos de nicotina que se comercializan en internet y disponibles para la compra directa por los consumidores, los usuarios de cigarrillos electrónicos ahora tienen acceso a una gama de productos de recarga de nicotina, incluyendo líquido altamente concentrado.

"A medida que el uso de cigarrillos electrónicos proliferan, los niños están ahora cada vez más en riesgo de toxicidad por ingestión de cantidades mucho mayores de nicotina de líquido de repuesto altamente concentrado, como en nuestro caso estudiado", dijo el Dr. Noble. "Esperamos que los médicos de emergencia y los centros de intoxicación continúen encontrando casos clínicos significativos de toxicidad de la nicotina, especialmente en pacientes pediátricos".

Anales de Medicina de Emergencia es la revista científica revisada por pares para el Colegio Americano de Médicos de Emergencia, la sociedad médica nacional que representa la medicina de emergencia. ACEP se compromete a promover la atención de emergencia a través de la educación continua, la investigación y la educación pública. Con sede en Dallas, Texas, ACEP tiene 53 capítulos que representan a cada estado, así como Puerto Rico y el Distrito de Columbia. Un Capítulo de Servicios Gubernamentales representa a los médicos de emergencia empleados por las ramas militares y otras agencias gubernamentales. Para obtener más información, visite www.acep.org.

Liquid Nicotine for Electronic Cigarettes Toxic for Kids

A 6-year-old child who accidentally swallowed liquid nicotine intended for her parents' electronic cigarettes required immediate emergency medical treatment that included intubation and an overnight stay in a pediatric intensive care unit. The unique case report was reported online in Annals of Emergency Medicine on Wednesday ("Unintentional Pediatric Ingestion of Electronic Cigarette Nicotine Refill Liquid Necessitating Intubation") just a couple of weeks after the U.S. Surgeon General released a report warning of the dangers of electronic cigarettes as a "major public health concern."

"Liquid nicotine is highly concentrated, which makes it especially dangerous in households with children," said lead study author Matthew Noble, MD, of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Oregon Health and Science University, Portland, Ore. "In this instance, the girl lost consciousness nearly immediately after drinking the liquid nicotine and despite prompt action by her parents and emergency medical services, she still required mechanical ventilation and admission to the intensive care unit. Fortunately, she was ultimately discharged from the hospital in stable condition, but under slightly different circumstances could have suffered a tragic outcome."

The patient's mother had filled an empty ibuprofen bottle with liquid nicotine she mixed herself, using a combination of unflavored nicotine she purchased online and vegetable glycerin. The child's father, not realizing the ibuprofen bottle contained his wife's nicotine, administered a dose to his daughter for pain associated with a sprained ankle. The effects were immediate and the father contacted poison control and 9-1-1 within 5 minutes. Even after she regained consciousness, she had altered mental status, her heart rate dropped, and she developed vomiting, profuse sweating, muscle twitching, and inability to control her copious secretions.

Maximum commercial liquid



nicotine concentrations are currently neither well established nor well regulated. Some electronic cigarette consumers have advocated increasing nicotine concentrations in electronic cigarettes to more closely approximate nicotine delivery from conventional tobacco cigarettes. With nicotine products being marketed online and available for direct purchase by consumers, electronic cigarette users now have access to a range of nicotine refill products, including highly concentrated liquid.

"As electronic cigarette use proliferates, children are now increasingly at risk of toxicity from ingestions of much larger quantities of nicotine from highly concentrated refill liquid, as in our case study," said Dr. Noble. "We expect that emergency physicians and poison centers will continue to encounter clinical significant cases of nicotine toxicity, especially in pediatric patients."

Annals of Emergency Medicine is the peer-reviewed scientific journal for the American College of Emergency Physicians, the national medical society representing emergency medicine. ACEP is committed to advancing emergency care through continuing education, research, and public education. Headquartered in Dallas, Texas, ACEP has 53 chapters representing each state, as well as Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. A Government Services Chapter represents emergency physicians employed by military branches and other government agencies. For more information, visit www.acep.org.

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Janin Duran ascendida a Directora Ejecutiva de EparaTodos

En la Fiesta de Gala de EparaTodos en el Mes de la Herencia Hispana, David Parker (CEO, EforAll) anunció que Janin Duran sería ascendida a Directora Ejecutiva del programa EparaTodos. Janin ha sido parte de la familia EforAll por más de 5 años.

Durán, nació en la República Dominicana y fue criada en la Ciudad de los Inmigrantes, Lawrence MA. Ella ha dedicado más de 10 años a fortalecer a los latinos a través de la educación y el emprendimiento. Janin lidera el programa de aceleración de empresarios de habla española que es el primero en la nación. EparaTodos está desatando la creatividad y trayendo esperanza, entrenamiento y recursos a



empresarios de habla española que siempre han soñado tener su propio negocio o una empresa sin fines de lucro.

Janin Duran Promoted to Executive Director of EparaTodos

At the EparaTodos Hispanic Heritage Month Gala, David Parker (CEO, EforAll) announced that Janin Duran would be promoted to Executive Director of the EparaTodos program. Janin has been a part of the EforAll family for more than 5 years.

Duran, is a native of the Dominican Republic and was raised in the City of the Immigrants, Lawrence MA. She has devoted over 10 years working towards

empowering Latinos through education and entrepreneurship. Janin leads the first-in-the-nation Spanish language entrepreneur accelerator program. EparaTodos is unleashing creativity and bringing hope, training, and resources to Spanish-speaking entrepreneurs that have always dreamed of having their own business or non-profit venture.

13 companies selected for the winter accelerator

EforAll Lowell-Lawrence selected 10 companies and three nonprofits to participate in the semi-annual business accelerator competition. The 13 Finalists include:

Angel Bella Bakery, founded by Vicky Theng an Asian inspired bakery/on-the-go breakfast place that focuses on health conscious ingredients.

Countryside Cupcakes, founded by Sarah Abrahamsen is committed to bringing the tastiest cupcakes, candies and desserts.

Greater NOW, founded by Lindsay Little is a career coaching firm for professional and entrepreneurial women.

invisaWear, co-founded by Rajia Abdelaziz, Erin Graceffa, and Ray Hamilton a small component that can be easily interchanged within a variety of custom designed jewelry, watches, and accessories. With the push of a button, users can send emergency contacts their location and a message saying they need help.

Kids in Tech, Inc. founded by Olu Ibrahim dedicated to creating the next generation of tech leaders through after school programming for kids and youth in mid-sized cities.

Made In Lowell run by Gabby Davis is an innovative approach to economic growth and creating community with an effective mix of events, marketing, sales, and service programs.

Make Me Over founded by Barbara Rodriguez is a hands on make up class that empowers different types of women to learn how to do makeup the proper way give them confidence to do it on their own.

Maryelle Artistry, founded by Maryelle O'Rourke is an agency that provides professional makeup, hair and grooming services for advertising, commercial and editorial shoots, as well as red carpet events, corporate events, press junkets and weddings.

Phoenix Rising Pizza co-founded by Al and Andrea Machado offers classic Neapolitan style pizza with a mobile wood fired oven.

The Welcome Immigrant Network founded by Elsabel Rincon creates social change and empowers immigrant communities by validating impact of immigrant experience while providing orientation, advocacy, and support.

Vibra Tours USA founded by Daniela Valdivia-Terres offers tours throughout New England in Spanish to famous destinations such as Salem, MA and the White Mountains in NH.

Viera Admin Solutions (VAS) founded Andreina Viera is a full service administrative support company to help entrepreneurs and small companies run their business.

ZwiftPay co-founded by Melvin Torres, Michael Mammoser, and Son Nguyen is an electronic payment system that enables drivers to pay for gas wirelessly using radio frequency identification technology.

A community of Judges and Mentors reviewed nearly 40 applications, interviewed 25 and then selected 13 to participate in this free competition that include intensive mentorship, technical assistance, free co-working space, and a chance to win a piece of \$30,000.

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BY DALIA DÍAZ
daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

■ LÉALO EN ESPAÑOL EN LA PÁGINA 4

From My Corner



Librarian's decision

The result of political appointments in city jobs without taking into consideration qualifications or experience is palpable again in a recent decision by Jessica Valentin, the unqualified librarian.

City Councilor Modesto Maldonado had requested the use of a meeting room to announce his candidacy for mayor and it was denied by Ms. Valentin. Her reason for this response was, "My concern is that the event to take place will be political campaign related which is not the type of event our public government building will accommodate." She further said, "You are more than welcome to use the space for programs and events that are open to the public and present educational topics in a matter that is unbiased. However, I want to be sure that the space available is prioritized for educational programs that are for the benefit of our patrons and community members."

Apparently, Ms. Valentin did not read the Library's Mission Statement which says the following:

The freedom to pursue knowledge is a foundation of our democracy. The Lawrence Free Public Library, an essential public institution, strives to serve as an accessible and responsive information and literary center for all residents of the Lawrence community. Through its evolving collection of materials and an abiding concern for its customers, the Library exists to preserve the free development and expression of ideas essential for an informed citizenry.

The Policy continues by stating that "Community groups whose purposes are non-profit, civic, cultural or educational are encouraged to use the Library's meeting rooms for group meetings when the rooms are not being used for their primary purpose.

The problem of placing people on jobs without knowing what they are doing is that it opens the city up for potential lawsuits. Since Ms. Valentin has not been around long enough and knows nothing of the library operations, she did not know that the city was sued by Liberty Counsel, a group from Florida for the same reason.

Liberty Counsel conducts lectures throughout the country in which its employees, volunteers, or affiliates teach on various topics, including but not limited to: cultural issues, current issues regarding family matters and religious freedom, church-state matters, the judicial system, American history, constitutional and civil rights issues, and the role of religion and Christianity in American government. In particular, Liberty Counsel promotes a Christian view of the founding of the United States of America.

It was agreed that the city was wrong and litigation would end up being more expensive had they gone to court, so they settled for \$10,000. That's not a lot of money but it is a clear statement of having lost the case.

Now, we have this novice with no previous knowledge of historical

background representing our values. I don't think Councilor Maldonado's intention is to sue but just imagine of what her inexperience will bring.

Fake news

We have been reading and hearing on television about the proliferation of "fake news" and the how they affect society all over the world. On Sunday Morning, a program on CBS, there was a segment on why people do it and how it became a tool in the arsenal of politicians these past elections.

This has become a profitable industry where they produce news report that look credible enough to change the voting outcome. Here are some examples:

Dan Rather's career came to an end in 2004 when it was discovered that he presented a phony story about George W. Bush's Air National Guard service, complete with falsified documents from the 1960s.

In order to protect Rather after his report on Bush, CBS came up with more fake news and the cover-up was bigger than the original crime. The internal investigation at CBS failed to substantiate the sources and the documents could not be authenticated.

One of the most memorable examples was MSNBC warning about "white people showing up with guns" at the 2009 health care reform rallies that were precursors to the Tea Party. The news segment was about the alleged anger of white people over "a black person being president," and the commensurate rise of "hate groups" yet, the footage was edited to conceal that the man was, in fact, black.

The media was very interested in keeping the George Zimmerman – Trayvon Martin story hot, stirring racial paranoia for political and ratings reasons. They circulated pictures of Trayvon as a young child instead of more recent ones which could be classified as "fake news." Then the story took a sinister turn when NBC News edited a recording of the call Zimmerman placed to 911 on the night of the February 2012 shooting, to make it sound as if Zimmerman was obsessed with Martin's race.

Brian Williams' anchorman career at NBC News came to an end in 2015 after he was accused of lying about taking enemy fire while helicoptering into Iraq in 2003. The accusation came from soldiers who were aboard the helicopter. Williams told the story repeatedly, over a span of years, before he was called out.

The biggest recent fake news story is the appalling Rolling Stone rape hoax, which led to a successful defamation suit by the University of Virginia. A young woman claimed she was gang-raped by a group of students. Students were terminated and lives were affected by this lie. The story was published even though it had numerous inconsistencies and none of the crucial details could be corroborated.

Just because the major news stories I mentioned above happened at NBC doesn't mean that they are free of fault – (ABC, CBS, Fox, including their local newscasts to a lesser degree) but it is an epidemic in

The misinformation

By Lluís Esquena Romaguera
lluisesquena11@gmail.com

In an interview with the Belgian magazine Tertio, Pope Francis referred to the responsibility of the media regarding the truth. He has alerted that some temptations in the work of the media, such as disinformation, "is the greatest harm which the media can do, removing part of the truth and not the other," the Pope stressed.

all media because newspapers should not be excluded.

The worst culprit within the social media spectrum is Facebook but the internet is loaded with fake stories looking so real that many believe they had an impact on the presidential elections. A horrible story recently was about the Clintons being involved in sex trafficking with children. They went as far as to identify a pizza restaurant in Washington, DC that supposedly had a tunnel in the basement where the children were led to a different location for exploitation.

Needless to say how that restaurant was affected by such publicity and the owner was afraid for the safety of his employees. There have been assaults on the building and threats to employees and a few days ago someone was arrested after entering the building with an assault rifle trying to "save" the children in the basement.

Even Dr. Oz, the television personality, has been a victim of fake news with hundreds of products advertised as "approved by Dr. Oz."

Keep in mind that I am not referring to opinions delivered by commentators. That subject refers only to lies created to demonstrate a news item different from the way it occurred.

I have always been respectful of other people's opinions and never criticized what they believe. They are entitled to their opinion just like I am to mine. During the last election process I was amply chastised for my opinions even though they were based on truth and provided evidence. I may have strong opinions but never through lies. That's the meaning of "fake news."

That brings me to Lawrence. The daily newspaper and Rumbo have reported on large companies that are closing their doors launching hundreds of workers into unemployment. These are: Polartec/Malden Mills (400 jobs), Flowserve/Lawrence Pumps (85 jobs), Sekisui Voltec, LLC, Showcase Cinema, along with several small enterprises like 3 Dunkin Donuts

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR RUMBO

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Email: Rumbo@rumbonews.com

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

and yet, some people are saying that lots of new businesses are moving into Lawrence. I would like to see names... a list of them... anything.

Regarding the unemployment rate, it is being said that it has improved so much in Lawrence that it is about zero. Zero? There is not one city in the entire country with zero unemployment rate! Actually, last April of 2016, it was 7.5 and in November it came down to 4.9 which is still higher than the national rate of 4.6 and the Massachusetts unemployment rate of 2.9. How do I know this? I asked the Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board.

Just two years ago, the rate was 11.0% and historically Lawrence is usually two times the state average. This is the lowest unemployment rate since approximately 2006 but not 0.

By the way, Lowell's is 3.3 and Haverhill's is 2.7.

Public information from the police department

Very often, I check www.lawpd.com the Lawrence Police Department's webpage where the public can view the Daily Log of activity. I take for granted that they don't enter the truth of events they respond to because many of the crimes or infractions are downgraded or omitted. Based on those statistics, crime is down.

The reality is that they have not posted any information on the daily log since October 25th. Secrecy is not the way to keep the community informed and involved.

Missing person

There's a 29-year-old man who left home and was last seen in Lowell. His picture and basic information appeared on Boston's television and radio stations barely two days after disappearing.

That's the difference when it happens in Methuen.

Fire victims / Víctimas de incendios

Please contact Heal Lawrence if you wish to make a contribution to the victims of the recent fires in Lawrence. The website has a list of donated items and things that are still needed.

Favor de ponerse en contacto con Heal Lawrence si desea hacer una contribución a las víctimas de los incendios recientes en Lawrence. El sitio en la internet tiene una lista de artículos que han sido donados y lo que todavía necesitan.

<http://heallawrence.org/>

heallawrence@aol.com

<https://www.facebook.com/heallawrence.mass>

Essex Art Center

56 Island St, Lawrence, MA
978-685-2343

Slow Lick/Heavy Cloud

Exhibition dates: January 13 – March 10, 2017

Opening reception: Friday, January 13, 5-7 pm

Artist talk: Friday, January 13, 5 pm

The Elizabeth A. Beland Gallery at Essex Art Center is pleased to present Slow Lick/Heavy Cloud, painting and animation by Çağil Harmandar.

This project aims to resemble and reflect a sketchbook page to be consistent and to preserve the rawness of an unpolished visual idea, such as a doodle. The works engage the visitor with a process of finding the narration of some kind of a story buried under absurdity. In the keyframe paintings, the artist's deep interest in the human body, its haptic quality, and passion for independent animation merge. Her paintings include distortion of the human figure, mostly females. She works to make the impulsive narration of a poem happen visually. The mundane and the conventional imagery hide the metaphors of poetry, and she works to unearthen them.

"My art work is about adaptation

and struggles of it. It is about not fitting and fitting in quirky ways. My distorted figures try to express this awkwardness in bodily ways. This show attempts to connect with everyone who is experiencing and is conscious of the subtle feeling of awkwardness of an adaptation."

Çağil Harmandar was born in Istanbul, Turkey. She studied at School of the Museum of Fine Arts in 2011, at Mimar Sinan Fine Arts Academy, Istanbul in 2012-13, and at Rhode Island School of Design in Providence. She received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from School of the Museum of Fine Arts/Tufts University in 2016. Her animations have been included in festivals in Mexico, Australia, and Hungary, among others. She spends her time filling a sketchbook every week, animating flipbooks, and writing poetry. This is her first solo exhibition.

NECC's CoOL Offers Winter Sessions for Older Learners

Three new winter sessions including one on Zen, will be offered by Northern Essex Community College's College of Older Learners (CoOL) Program beginning in January on the Haverhill campus, 100 Elliot St.

CoOL is a program for individuals who are over 50 and want to participate in challenging educational opportunities.

"Establishing a Personal Spiritual Practice," led by Liz Anderson, will be offered on Tuesdays from 2 to 4 p.m. from January 31 through February 28 in Room 103 of the B Building.

"Zen", an active exploration of Zen in regard to our everyday lives, led by George Medelinskas will be offered Wednesdays from 1 to 3 p.m., February 1 through March 1 in Room 107 of the B Building.

"Reading Robert Reich's 'Saving

Capitalism for the Many and Not the Few,'" will be led by Bonnie Pearlman on Thursdays from 2 to 4 p.m. February 2 through March 2 in Room 103 of the B Building.

Each seminar is \$30.

Seminar leaders will give a brief presentation of the courses being offered later this spring during a CoOL Seminar Showcase on Tuesday, March 14, 2017, from 2 to 4 in the Tech Center on the Haverhill campus, 100 Elliot St.

For more information and to see what sessions will be offered in the spring visit www.necc.mass.edu/cool/ or contact Christine DeRosa at cderosa@necc.mass.edu or call 978-659-1225. Register online at www.necc.mass.edu/noncredit or call 978-556-3700.

MassDOT Registry of Motor Vehicles Implements New Permit Test Solution Featuring 26 Additional Languages

New Equipment Improves Customer Testing Experience, Reduces Wait, and Possible Fraud

The MassDOT Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) today announced it has begun offering the automated learner's permit knowledge test in 26 additional languages. Customers can take their passenger vehicle (Class D) and motorcycle (Class M) learner's permit tests using a new, automated, and web-based system which randomly generates the test questions and answers.

Foreign language tests previously were offered in paper versions. In addition to English and Spanish, the test is now available in Arabic, Armenian, Burmese, Chinese simplified, Chinese traditional, Farsi, French, German, Greek, Gujarati, Haitian/Creole, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Laotian, Polish, Portuguese (Brazilian), Russian, Serbo-Croatian (Latin), Thai, Urdu, and Vietnamese. These languages align with the statewide Language Access plan, which identifies those languages most commonly spoken by Massachusetts residents. Somali and Tagalog/Filipino will be offered beginning the last week of December.

In addition, the RMV will be offering an automated American Sign Language (ASL) test to customers in early 2017.

Registrar Erin Deveney explained, "By updating our technology and expanding our language offerings, we're improving service delivery for all of our

customers. These improvements will minimize waits at service centers and shift the focus of our service staff from inefficient test administration processes to helping customers."

The user-friendly touch screen saves customers time, allows for fast and automated test scoring, prevents cheating and fraud through question randomization, and offers ample data capabilities to assist with identifying future business improvements.

This implementation is state-wide, with the exception of the Chicopee, Haverhill, Natick, and Roslindale Service Centers that do not offer permit tests. The RMV will continue to monitor customer requests and evaluate the need to add more languages to the automated testing system.

MassDOT RMV is pleased to partner with MorphoTrust USA, a Billerica MA, based-company to design and implement the new testing solution.

With a strong commitment to a personalized customer experience, the Registry of Motor Vehicles enables customer mobility and consumer safety across the Commonwealth. Customers are encouraged to visit www.MassRMV.com to process over 25 transactions, access checklists to "Get Ready to Go," and sign-up to receive RMV News. For the latest Registry updates and information, follow the RMV on Twitter @MassRMV.

NECESITAN CHOFERES PARA TRANSPORTAR ANCIANOS

Interfaith Caregivers of Greater Lawrence, una coalición de comunidades de fe, agencias de servicio social y organizaciones de salud, está buscando voluntarios para llevar a ancianos a citas al médico y otras citas de calidad de vida a través del Programa de Friends in Deed de Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley.

Si usted puede, aunque sea ocasionalmente, por favor, llame a Renee A. Baker, reclutador de voluntarios, al 978-946-1463 (y mencione Interfaith Caregivers.)

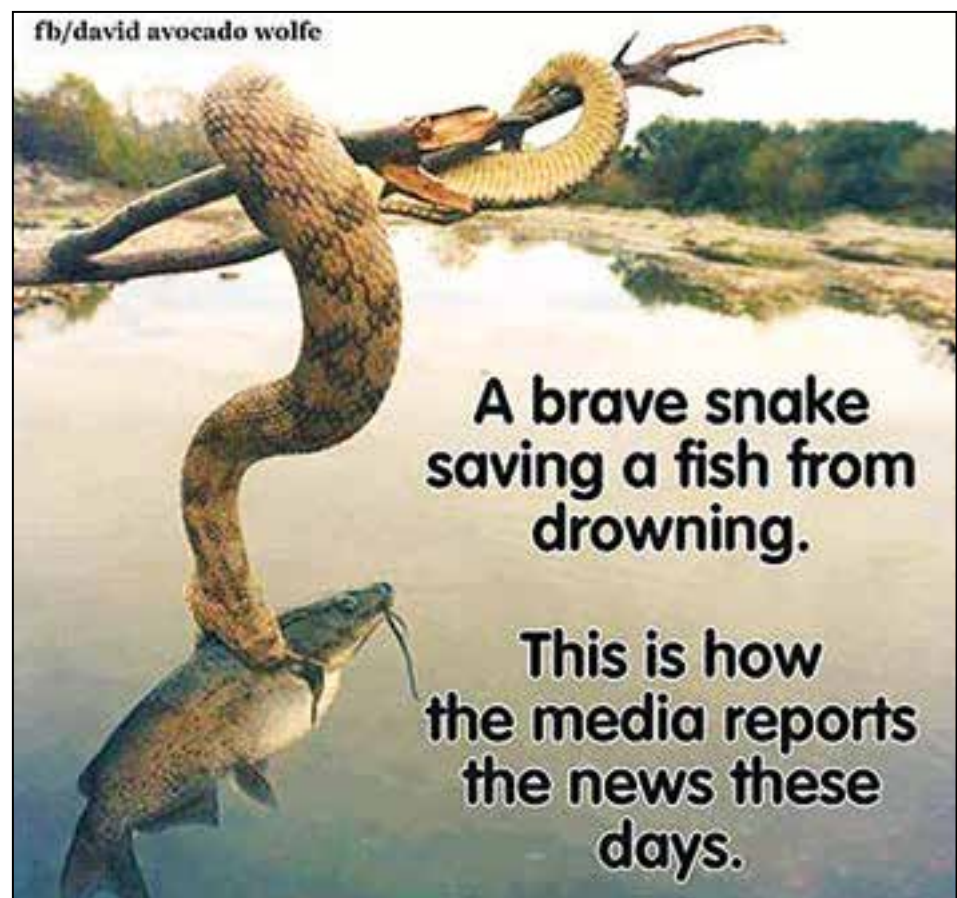
Gracias de parte de Interfaith Caregivers y los muchos ancianos que necesitan de los servicios de choferes voluntarios para poder permanecer independientes en su propio hogar.

New shipment!

Frank Benjamin's book "Mr. B's Sports Memories" is back!

This is a great keepsake for anyone growing up in the Merrimack Valley.

If interested in acquiring a copy, go to Lawrence Public Library and ask for Louise Sandberg. Also, Lawrence History Center at 6 Essex St., Lawrence.



fb/david avocado wolfe

A brave snake saving a fish from drowning.

This is how the media reports the news these days.

Two-Time Olympian Joins ANA Synchro as Assistant Head Coach



Andover/North Andover YMCA Executive Director Alex Turek (center) and Head Coach Leah Pinette (right) welcome Olympic athlete Reem Abdalazem (left) to the ANA Synchro coaching staff.

The Andover/North Andover YMCA is pleased to welcome Reem Abdalazem as its new full-time Assistant Head Coach for ANA Synchro. This position was added to support the team's growth, which has doubled in size in the last 3 years.

Abdalazem is an internationally decorated synchronized swimming athlete and coach. She represented her home country of Egypt at the 2008 Beijing and 2012 London Olympics. She was also Egypt's top soloist at the 2015 World Championships.

Abdalazem came to the US in 2010 to study journalism and join the synchronized swimming team at Lindenwood University in Missouri. She was inducted into their Hall of Fame in 2012 and received her bachelor's degree in 2014.

Most recently, Abdalazem was Head Coach of synchronized swimming at Lindenwood where she led the team to the 2016 US National Championship. She was named Coach Of The Year in 2016 by USA Synchro, the national governing body of

synchronized swimming.

"Reem is an extraordinary talent, and we are thrilled to have her join our team!" remarked Head Coach Leah Pinette. "She is a gifted choreographer, and she can use her own personal achievements to show our young athletes how synchro teaches life skills for success in college and beyond."

"We are the only Y in the country that has 2 Olympic class athletes in their full-time synchronized swimming coaching staff," said Gary Morelli, CEO of the Merrimack Valley YMCA. "Synchronized swimming is a fantastic youth development program for girls, and I am very happy that we offer it here in the Merrimack Valley."

ANA Synchro's 75+ athletes range in age from 6 to 19. Girls wishing to try the sport should contact Head Coach Leah Pinette at 978-685-3541, lpinette@mvyymca.org. The season starts in September, but new athletes can join anytime. And beginner classes are offered year-round.

La Casita Criolla en Nevins

El lunes, 5 de diciembre, el Club Latino La Casita Criolla se reunió en Nevins PACE en Methuen.

Esta actividad es donde participantes latinos como Ana, María y David disfrutaban del día escuchando música cultural (salsa, merengue y bachata), comida (arroz, habichuelas, pollo al horno y plátanos), manualidades de la temporada y jugando con miembros del personal y amistades.

Los visitantes son bienvenidos. Si desea asistir, favor de ponerse en contacto con Elaine al 978-722-0767.

On Monday, December 5th, the monthly Latino Club, La Casita Criolla was held at Nevins PACE in Methuen.

This event is where Spanish speaking participants like Ana, Maria and David enjoy the day while listening to cultural music (Salsa, Merengue and Bachata), food (rice and beans, baked chicken and plantains), holiday crafts and playing dominoes with staff and friends.

Guest are welcome, if you would like to attend, please contact Elaine at 978.722.0767.



María haciendo manualidades. Maria works on crafts.



Ana enjoys the music. / Ana disfrutando de la música.



David está disfrutando un reñido juego de dominó. / David enjoying a tight dominoes game.

Maureen Sturzo Joins Element Care as Center Manager for its State-of-the-Art PACE Center Serving Greater Lowell

Element Care, a non-profit health care organization, announced that Maureen Sturzo, BSW, LSW has been named Center Manager of its Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) serving Greater Lowell, Massachusetts.

Ms. Sturzo has over 15 years of experience working with elders in a variety of community settings. In her role as Center Manager, Ms. Sturzo will oversee the day to day operations of Central PACE at Element Care at 166 Central Street in Lowell.

"About eight years ago I learned about PACE at Element Care and really liked the model that allows older adults to receive all of their healthcare and social services under one roof," said Sturzo. "I am thankful to be part of this very skilled and talented inter-disciplinary care team that is committed to delivering highly coordinated care to improve outcomes for our participants in greater Lowell."

Ms. Sturzo's previous positions include working as a multi-site branch manager with Caregiver Homes for the Merrimack Valley with offices in Chelmsford Lawrence, as well as working at Minuteman Senior Services in Burlington and Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley in Lawrence.

Maureen is a licensed social worker who graduated from Salem State College with a bachelor's degree in social work. She was born and raised in Lowell and still resides there. "Maureen brings to Element Care her strong experience and skills in



the key components of center management including program operations, community resources, and case management systems," said Liz Agnes, Director of Center Operations at Element Care. "With her extensive background in caring for older adults and her deep roots in the greater Lowell community, Maureen will be a valuable resource to our participants and staff at our state-of-the-art PACE center serving greater Lowell. We are thrilled to have her on board." For more information about Element Care, please call 877-803-5564 or visit www.elementcare.org.



Men's Lacrosse 2017 Schedule

Headlined by matchups with both participants in last year's NCAA Tournament Final, as well as a season-opening NCAA Quarterfinal rematch and five home games, the Merrimack College men's lacrosse team and the Merrimack Athletic Department are excited to release the team's 2017 schedule.

"Once again, we feel great about the composition of our schedule," head coach Mike Morgan stated. "We have a veteran group that has demonstrated the ability to compete at the highest level on a consistent basis in order to reach the NCAA Tournament, and they'll be challenged again by one of the toughest schedules in the country that we put together. After three tough scrimmages in the preseason, we head to Long Island three different times in the span of a month to take on some of the top teams in the region, and we're really excited to renew our rivalry with Limestone in addition to our always-challenging NE10 slate. We're looking forward to once again face off with some of the best lacrosse programs in the country."

Following the program's ninth consecutive winning season that featured a school-record 15 victories and a second straight (and third overall) trip to the NCAA Tournament Semifinals, the Warriors will be looking to advance to the national championship game for the first time in school history this spring, and have positioned themselves with one of the toughest schedules around that should prepare them for a run at that goal.

The first opponent in 2017 should be a familiar one, as Merrimack will meet reigning East Coast Conference (ECC) champion LIU Post on Long Island to kick things off on Saturday, Feb. 18. The Warriors and Pioneers met in the quarterfinal round of last year's NCAA Tournament, one that Merrimack posted a 15-13 victory in to claim its fourth straight win in the all-time series between the two perennial contenders.

A week later, the Warriors will board the bus yet again for a weekend trip to Long Island, as Merrimack will meet Molloy College, a 10-win team from a year ago, for

another challenging matchup with another ECC contender. Merrimack emerged with a four-goal win in last year's matchup in North Andover.

The Warriors' first home and Northeast-10 Conference game falls on Saturday, March 4, to begin a stretch of three straight games at Martone-Mejail Field. Merrimack will host Southern New Hampshire on that date before a 14-day respite. Defending conference and national champion Le Moyne heads to town for a Saturday, March 18 matchup, before the Warriors welcome Pace University a week later (March 25) to conclude the three-game stretch of home games.

Merrimack concludes the month of March with a two-game week in two locations separated by nearly six hours and over 350 miles; the Warriors first meet Saint Michael's College for a midweek matchup on Tuesday, March 28, before traveling back to Long Island for the third time to battle rival Adelphi University on Saturday, April 1.

Following a home bout with Bentley on Wednesday, April 5, the Warriors hit the road for three straight games to face Saint Rose (April 8), Franklin Pierce (April 11) and American International College (April 15) before hosting Assumption on the final home game of the regular season on Wednesday, April 19.

Merrimack will renew its series with four-time national champion and annual power Limestone College on Saturday, April 22, at a neutral-site location yet to be determined. The Warriors and Saints last met in March of the 2014 season, as Merrimack will look for its second win in six tries against Limestone.

The regular season concludes with a Saturday (April 29) night road bout against Saint Anselm.

The 2017 NE10 Championship will once again feature the top-six teams, with the No. 1 seed and No. 2 seed earning first-round byes while the remaining four seeds battle in the league quarterfinals on Tuesday, May 2. The conference semifinals will be held on Friday, May 5, and the last two teams standing will square off in the 2017 NE10 Championship Final on Sunday, May 7, at the site of the highest remaining seed.

Rothman '15 Working in Rwanda with Shooting Touch



Former Merrimack College women's basketball student-athlete, 1,000-point scorer and professional player Chloe Rothman '15 is currently working with Shooting Touch, a non-profit organization dedicated to using the power of basketball to educate and empower at-risk youth.

Rothman has been based in Rwanda through the fellowship program offered by Shooting Touch. Along with one other fellow, local coaches and junior coaches, Rothman works with children ages 5-18 as well as adult women to teach them the sport of basketball as a way to emphasize and educate the Rwandan youth on the importance of health and fitness.

"I live in Rwinkwavu, a village in the east, and before shooting touch came to Rwinkwavu, these kids didn't have much to do. They have something to focus on now. Being physically active is important, of course, but we also do our best to keep them mentally active," said Rothman. "As I describe all these things, I feel like this job isn't even about basketball. We are out here, day in and day out, mentoring. We hope we can influence these kids to live healthier lives."

In addition to the basketball aspects of the program, the Shooting Touch staff develops and teaches health-education curriculum to all those involved with

the program. The curriculum is part of Shooting Touch's mission to help educate and empower at-risk individuals to live healthier and disease-free lives.

"We host tournaments where our 5 courts get a chance to compete against each other and this is the biggest event of their year, by far. It's exciting giving trophies and food and supplying music at these tournaments. And we give donated shoes and basketball gear to the kids as well. But the best part is the camaraderie that accompanies all of these things. It's a joy working out here and I'm so thankful for the opportunity."

Rothman graduated following the 2014-15 season and ended her four-year career with 1,329 points, the sixth most in program history. The combo guard dished out 484 assists, the third most of any student-athlete to suit up for the Navy and Gold. As a senior, Rothman broke the school record for career 3-pointers and graduated with 189 makes from distance.

About Shooting Touch

Shooting Touch is an international sport-for-development organization using the power of basketball to educate and empower at-risk youth and the communities in which they live. For more information, visit www.shootingtouch.com

Jason Malcolm Named Women's Golf Head Coach

Merrimack College Director of Athletics Jeremy Gibson is pleased to announce the hiring of Jason Malcolm as the new head coach of the women's golf team, the second in the history of the program.

"We are very excited to welcome Jason to Merrimack College and to hand him the reigns of the women's golf team," Gibson stated. "His passion for teaching the game and his Northeast-10 Conference ties should translate to continued success for a program that has demonstrated excellence since its inception."

"I would like to thank Jeremy Gibson and President [Dr. Christopher E.] Hopey, as well as the rest of the athletic department administration for giving me the opportunity to lead the Merrimack College women's golf program, Jason

stated. "I will continue to build on the immense success that has already been established and will maintain a terrific student-athlete experience. The upcoming spring season promises to be a bright one and I look forward to getting started."

A 15-year veteran offering professional instruction at various golf facilities over that span, Malcolm arrives in North Andover after serving as assistant coach at nearby NE10 institution Southern New Hampshire University over the past two years. His responsibilities involved in all aspects of coaching one of the top-ranked Division II men's programs in the country while helping establish the foundation for the women's team that was launched in 2014-15. He recruited student-athletes for both teams while helping to lead the men's program to a second-place

finish at the NCAA East/Atlantic Super Regional en route to a qualification in the NCAA National Championships in 2015-16.

Malcolm also recently accepted a position as a PGA Professional at Nashua Country Club, as well, after a successful nearly three-year stint at Dublin Lake Club. He supervised a six-member golf staff managing tournaments and organizing junior clinics, private lessons and more.

Additionally, Malcolm has worked as a PGA professional at four other clubs/institutions over the past decade, including Winchester Country Club (2011-13); Old Marsh Golf Club (2002-07); Whitinsville Golf Club (2003-07) and Franklin Country Club (2002).

A 2001 graduate from then-Bryant College with a Bachelor of Science in

Business Administration and major in Computer Information System, Malcolm served as team captain during his senior year while helping the Bulldogs qualify for the NCAA Division II National Championship. He earned NE10 All-Conference First Team and Division II All-New England First Team honors in 2000 and was the recipient of the Bryant College Bulldog Leadership Award.

Malcolm would coach Northbridge High School's golf team from 2003-07 and also has competed in several regional amateur and professional tournaments, qualifying for the Massachusetts Open Championship in 2014 over that span.

Malcolm resides in Hudson, New Hampshire, with his wife, Ingrid, and their daughter, Mackenzie.

Middlesex Pilots Food Pantry Program in Bedford and Lowell



Middlesex Community College's Bedford Food Pantry opened Wednesday, Dec. 7, with President James Mabry cutting the ribbon. Shown here (front row left to right): MCC Dean of Students Pamela Flaherty, Bedford Town Manager Rick Reed, MCC alum Gabrielle Davis; MCC President Mabry, and Bedford Selectwoman Margot Fleischman.

In collaboration with the Merrimack Valley Food Bank, Middlesex Community College is launching a pilot program to open food pantries on its Bedford and Lowell campuses.

The Bedford Food Pantry officially opened Wednesday, Dec. 7, offering nonperishable, supplemental food to enrolled Middlesex students, staff and faculty. Under the direction of MCC's Center for Leadership & Engagement, the Bedford and Lowell Food Pantries will be open fall and spring semesters while classes are in session.

MCC President James Mabry cut the ribbon to open the Bedford Food Pantry with State Rep. Ken Gordon, Bedford Town Manager Rick Reed, Bedford Police Chief Robert Bongiorno and Selectwoman Margot Fleischman, among others, looking on.

"Like growing numbers of college students across the country, many Middlesex students are struggling to make ends meet while working and taking classes," said Mabry. "For some, making a trade-off between food and other essential living expenses is a reality.

"Helping to alleviate the challenges associated with food insecurity and hunger will enable our students to remain in school, be successful, and become engaged community members," he added.

According to Sheri Denk, Civic Engagement Specialist in the Center for Leadership & Engagement, the MCC Food Pantry will offer enrolled students food

items packaged in cans, boxes and plastic. The pantries do not have refrigerators or freezers, Denk explained, so can only offer nonperishable, supplemental food to be prepared at home. If personal-care items, toiletries or paper goods are donated, they will also be offered, she added.

The Bedford Food Pantry is located in Bedford House (Building 5) in Room BH 001. Serving the college community, it will be open from noon to 4 p.m. on Wednesdays, fall and spring semesters while classes are in session.

The Lowell Food Pantry is located inside the Lowell Student Lounge, 45 Middle St. It will be open from noon to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays, fall and spring semesters, while classes are in session, to serve the college community.

For more information about the MCC Food Pantry, contact Sheri Denk, Civic Engagement Specialist in the Center for Leadership & Engagement, at denks@middlesexm.ass.edu or 978-656-3159.

Middlesex Community College is your pathway to success. As one of the largest, most comprehensive community colleges in the state, we educate, engage and empower a diverse community of learners. MCC offers more than 70 degree and certificate programs, plus hundreds of noncredit courses, on our campuses in Bedford and Lowell, as well as online. Middlesex Community College: Student success starts here!

MCC's Culinary Arts Program Ranked Among Top 5 in Massachusetts

Middlesex Community College's Hospitality Management – Culinary Arts Associate Degree Program has been recognized as one of the top culinary programs in Massachusetts by Best Choice Schools.

MCC's Culinary Arts program features intensive hands-on culinary instruction combined with managerial and business courses designed for the hospitality industry," said Kimberly Morrissey, Hospitality Program Coordinator. "MCC partners with local industry leaders to provide our students with high-quality internships and valuable work experience to help them meet their career and educational goals."

Through small class sizes and personalized instruction, students gain practical experience in a state-of-the-art culinary facility, added Morrissey. Industry-specific courses include "Culinary Theory," "Culinary Skills," "Bakery and

Pastry Skills," and "Sanitation/ServSafe Training."

To learn more about MCC's Hospitality and Culinary Arts Programs, visit <https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/hospitality/> or call 1-800-818-3434.

Best Choice Schools' mission is to provide high-quality, well-researched rankings and other resources for individuals looking for information about top quality higher education. To learn more, visit www.bestchoiceschools.com

Middlesex Community College is your pathway to success. As one of the largest, most comprehensive community colleges in the state, we educate, engage and empower a diverse community of learners. MCC offers more than 70 degree and certificate programs, plus hundreds of noncredit courses, on our campuses in Bedford and Lowell, as well as online. Middlesex Community College: Student success starts here!

Middlesex Community College Offers Education Programs

Middlesex Community College's Education Programs help prepare students interested in teaching as a career. Spring courses begin Monday, Jan. 23, 2017, and it's not too late to register.

Students may choose from the following degree or certificate programs:

The Early Childhood Education Associate Degree Program provides the educational background and supervised training for students interested in working with young children. The program emphasizes developmentally appropriate practice and has a child-centered focus. Students learn and apply theory with hands-on experience in a required practicum.

The Early Childhood Education Transfer Associate Degree Program is designed to prepare students to transfer into a bachelor's degree program leading to teacher licensure. Supervised student teaching seminar practicum and/or Service-Learning placements in area schools provide practical experience for future teachers, and support and enhance the teacher preparation curriculum. This program qualifies for MassTransfer.

The Elementary Education Transfer Concentration Degree Program is also designed to prepare students to transfer into a bachelor's degree program leading to teacher licensure. Careful planning with an academic advisor will ensure career goals and state requirements for licensure are met. Future teachers are encouraged to gain practical classroom experience through student teaching and/or Service-Learning opportunities. This program is eligible for MassTransfer.

MCC's Early Childhood Education Certificate Program is a one-year intensive program of study that provides the educational background and supervised training for students interested in working with young children. It emphasizes developmentally appropriate practice and has a child-centered focus. Students learn and apply theory with hands-on experience in a required practicum in early care and education programs for children.

To learn more about MCC's Education Degree Programs, visit <https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/education/> or call 1-800-818-3434.

Begin a Career in Biotechnology at Middlesex Community College

Interested in working in the growing field of biotechnology? Middlesex Community College's Biotechnology Technician degree and certificate programs provide the education and training required for entry-level employment in the industry. Classes begin Monday, Jan. 23, 2017, and it's not too late to register!

MCC's successful Biotechnology programs recently received a Platinum endorsement – the highest rating – from the Massachusetts Life Sciences Education Consortium. Programs emphasize hands-on practical lab work, and include on-site work experience at local biotechnology companies.

Students who complete MCC's Biotechnology Technician Associate Degree program can work as laboratory

technicians in various departments within the biotechnology industry. These departments can include, but are not limited to, manufacturing, research, media preparation, validation, quality control, documentation, and process operations.

Students who complete MCC's Biotechnology Technician Certificate program can work as laboratory technicians in various departments within the biotechnology industry. These departments can include, but are not limited to, production support, validation, manufacturing, process operation and quality control.

For more information about MCC's Biotechnology Program, visit <https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/biotechnology/>

"Accept responsibility for your life... It is you who will have to get you where you want to go, nobody else."

"Acepte la responsabilidad por su vida... Depende de usted llegar hasta donde aspira a llegar, nadie más."

- Les Brown

Beverly Native Takes Over NECC Track & Field



Nelson Desilvestre has been pretty much on the run since the third grade. Now he brings his 40 years of track and field experience as both a participant and a coach to Northern Essex Community College's co-ed track and field team.

"We are very excited to have Nelson on our staff here at NECC," said Northern Essex Athletic Director Sue MacAvoy. "Nelson has a great deal of experience behind him with coaching and officiating track and field. He knows the Merrimack Valley very well which will help in recruiting. We are very much looking forward to seeing this track program rebuilt and we think Nelson will be the one to do it."

Inspired by the athleticism exhibited by the 1976 Olympians during the games in Montreal, Canada, the then 10-year-old Beverly grade-schooler laced up his own running shoes. He started competing in Beverly YMCA's youth track meets and was taken by the way it made him feel.

"I found I like speed. I like running fast. I like the feeling of running fast," he says. "It came easily to me. It was a natural fit."

His running career continued in junior high school where he ran spring track for two years preparing him for a successful run at Beverly High School. He graduated in 1984, but not before making a name for himself as a standout athlete. In 2011 he was inducted into the Beverly High School Hall of Fame.

Following high school graduation, Desilvestre took his talents to the University of Maine where he continued to run indoor and outdoor track while earning his bachelor's in economics. By graduation, he was one of the top 10 performers in the

triple jump in the university's history.

Over the years, Desilvestre has continued to compete at the masters level - primarily in the Bay State Games. Married and the father of three grown children, when he is not competing he operates Topsfield based SI-TECH, INC., one of the oldest silicon brokerage firms in existence.

With all his experience, it seemed natural for Desilvestre to turn to coaching. He has been coaching high school track for more than 23 years. A total of 18 years as head boys' track coach at Beverly High School. For the last four years he has been the Co-head winter track coach at Manchester-Essex Regional High School.

As successful as he has been as a high school coach, Desilvestre always wondered about coaching at the college level. He no longer has to wonder. He accepted the position earlier this month and has already started recruiting.

"I'll be working with an adult population now," he said. "I anticipate the level of commitment will be higher."

In addition to a high level of commitment, he said, he looks for everyone's best effort and personal goal.

"It's all about finding out where you are at and improve on that while having fun," He said. "I want them to have a positive experience here and take it with them for the rest of their lives."

DeSilvestre will have open office hours for prospective spring track and field participants on Wednesdays beginning January 4 in the Sport and Fitness Center on the Haverhill campus.

He can be reached at ndesilvestre@nec.mass.edu or nelsondesil@aol.com

East Coast Camaro Club Continues Support of Merrimack Valley Hospice with 2016 Donation



Pictured from the left are, back row: John Albert, President and CEO, Home Health Foundation; ECCC members Rueben Cortez of Nashua, NH; Bill Douglas of Chelmsford, MA; Rick Brown of Chelmsford, MA; Laurie Montgomery-College of Chelmsford, MA; Dan Wolfe of Groton, MA; and Donna Deveau, Vice President of External Relations and Development, Home Health Foundation. Front: Carol Douglas of Chelmsford, MA.

Representatives from the Board of Directors of the East Coast Camaro Club (ECCC) presented a check in the amount of \$5,500 to Merrimack Valley Hospice. This generous donation represented proceeds from the ECCC's 35th Annual All-Vehicle Car Show hosted in August. The club's ongoing support of Merrimack Valley Hospice helps the non-profit provide care to patients and families as they confront the challenges of advanced illness and end of life at home or at Merrimack Valley Hospice House in Haverhill.

"We are honored to be able to make a contribution in support of Merrimack Valley Hospice and the dedicated staff who care for patients and families at such a crucial time," said Rueben Cortez, Treasurer of the East Coast Camaro Club.

"We are thankful for the generosity

of ECCC and to all who attended the East Coast Camaro Club's annual car show," said John Albert, President and CEO of Home Health Foundation which includes Merrimack Valley Hospice, Home Health VNA and HomeCare, Inc. "This is a longstanding event that benefits patients and families who rely on us for care and support."

Merrimack Valley Hospice, affiliated with Home Health VNA and HomeCare, Inc., is a not-for-profit agency dedicated to serving the needs of terminally ill patients and their families. Together, the agencies serve more than 110 communities throughout Northeastern Massachusetts, the Merrimack Valley, Southern New Hampshire and Southern Maine.

To learn more about Merrimack Valley Hospice, visit MerrimackValleyHospice.org

NECC Hosts 30th Annual Tax Forum January 21

The Sidney G. Kotzen Institute of Continuing Professional Education for Accountants at Northern Essex Community College will present a tax forum designed to meet mandatory Continuing Professional Education (CPE) requirements for Certified Public Accountants on Saturday, January 21, 2017, in the Tech Center on the Haverhill campus, 100 Elliot St.

The 30th Annual Federal & Massachusetts State Tax Forum in Preparation for the 2016 Tax Filing Season for Professionals, will be offered Saturday, January 21, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Participants can attend the all-day forum or elect to attend just the morning session-The Massachusetts Tax Update & Review, presented by George P. Barresi, from 8:30 a.m. to noon; or just the afternoon session

- Federal Tax Update & Review from 1 to 4:30 p.m. presented by Terry Anderson.

Pre-registration is required. Registration is available online at <http://www.nec.mass.edu/academics/courses-programs/non-credit/bus-skills/cpe-institute/> or by phone at 978-556-3700.

For additional information contact Dianne Lahaye at dlahaye@nec.mass.edu or 978-659-1222 or visit Northern Essex's CPE website.

The CPE Institute started in July 1987 and was renamed The Sidney G. Kotzen CPA Institute of Continuing Professional Education in 2012 after its founder, Sidney (Sid) Kotzen. Its mission is to provide affordably priced qualified CPE hours on leading edge subjects with the most authoritative speakers.

Lawrence High School Graduates of 2010 through 2012

The Library received a large amount of LHS yearbooks (2010 and 2012) from the high school. They are giving them away. If interested, please contact Louise Sandberg in the Main Library, at 51 Lawrence St.



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OPEN STORYTIMES AND PUPPET SHOWS

Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 10a.m. Thursdays at 7 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. Open Storytimes & Puppet Shows run continuously, and no registration is required.

BABIES AND BOOKS STORYTIME

Through stories and music, learn how to read aloud and develop your baby's language and pre-reading skills. Babies and their caregivers are welcome to join us. Thursdays: 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. ages: 13 to 24 months; 11 a. m. and 12 noon ages: birth to 12 months. No registration required. For more information call the Children's Room at (603) 589-4631.

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!

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).

the Nashua Public Library. The library has two Kala concert-size ukuleles that library cardholders ages 12 and up can borrow for 14 days. Each one comes with an instructional book and DVD, an electronic tuner, and a chord chart.

The ukuleles were donated by Michael Chung, founder of the Ukulele Festival at Greeley Park, through the Friends of the Nashua Public Library. "I truly believe the library is a great community resource," he said, so he made this donation to show his appreciation of it.

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.

To borrow a ukulele, bring your Nashua library card and a photo ID to the reference desk. You can reserve a ukulele by going to nashualibrary.org and searching the online catalog for "ukulele." If you have questions, call (603) 589-4611 or email reference@nashualibrary.org.

Family Board Game Night

Bring the family to the Nashua Public Library on Mondays and meet new friends at Family Board Game Nights. Play Scrabble, Mancala, Othello, Clue, chess, checkers or whatever games you want to bring. Snacks will be available.

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

On the second Monday of the month, we'll learn to play games from other countries.

Board game nights are free; registration is not required.

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.

Film Series return to the Public Library

After a break for the summer, the Nashua Public Library weekly film series have resumed.

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

Cinema Cabaret films for adults are shown on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Family Films are screened on Saturdays at 2 p.m.

For a schedule that lists the titles, ratings, and descriptions of the films, go to www.tinyurl.com/nplfilm.

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SATURDAY/SÁBADO, DECEMBER 24

4:00 PM (English)

12:00 Midnight (Bilingual)

CHRISTMAS DAY+ NAVIDAD

SUNDAY/DOMINGO, DECEMBER 25

Spanish: 8:30 AM

English: 10:30 AM

Spanish: 12:15 PM

We look forward to celebrating the great Feast of Christmas with you and your families. We hope you will invite your families and Christmas guests to join us at one of our Christmas Masses.

Esperamos celebrar esta gran Fiesta de Navidad con usted y su familia. Esperamos que invite a sus familiares y a sus invitados a que nos acompañen en una de las Misas de Navidad.

Lawrence High School Graduates of 2010 through 2012

The Library received a large amount of LHS yearbooks (2010 and 2012) from the high school. They are giving them away. If interested, please contact Louise Sandberg in the Main Library, at 51 Lawrence St.

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Classes forming at the Merrimack Valley Immigrant & Education Center

Registrations are now being taken for ESOL (English-for-Speakers-of-Other-Languages), English Classes for Jobs, Citizenship Preparation and Youth Writing Workshops at the Merrimack Valley Immigrant & Education Center (the former Asian Center), 439 S. Union Street, building 2, Level B, Lawrence, MA 01843.

Anyone interested in signing up for morning or evening classes 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.

Fire victims / Víctimas de incendios

Please contact Heal Lawrence if you wish to make a contribution to the victims of the recent fires in Lawrence. The website has a list of donated items and things that are still needed.

Favor de ponerse en contacto con Heal Lawrence si desea hacer una contribución a las víctimas de los incendios recientes en Lawrence. El sitio en la internet tiene una lista de artículos que han sido donados y lo que todavía necesitan.

<http://heallawrence.org/> heallawrence@aol.com
<https://www.facebook.com/heallawrence.mass>

Please contact Heal Lawrence if you want to help. A fire can happen at any time.

Si desea ofrecer sus servicios póngase en contacto con Heal Lawrence. Un incendio puede ocurrir en cualquier momento.

www.rumbonews.com

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Lo que nos entregues ayudará a los niños locales que participan en nuestro programa de tutoría. Debes saber que tu donación es deducible de impuestos.

¡Gracias por tu apoyo!



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