

MVCC Congressional Forum Fiorentini retires



The Merrimack Valley Chamber brought Congresswoman Lori Trahan and Congressman Seth Moulton together with the business community for an independent discussion on the happenings in Washington and how they impact local business. L TO R - MVCC Chairman Michael Sullivan; MVCC President/CEO Bevilacqua; Congresswoman Trahan; Congressman Moulton; MVCC Govt. Affairs Chair Cal Williams.



Haverhill Mayor James J. Fiorentini's breakfast on February 11th turned to a big announcement. Pg. 6

Lawrence High's Abbott Lawrence Academy Theater



Read about their triumph on page 8 in Spanish and on page 9 in English.

Percusión Reciclada empodera a niño de 6 años para marcar la diferencia



Al tener la opción de quedarse con \$100 para sí mismo o usarlos para "hacer el bien", William, de 6 años, tomó una decisión inspiradora. Invitado a un escenario en un concierto de percusión reciclada, frente a una audiencia de cientos, la respuesta inmediata de William fue gastar este dinero para ayudar a alimentar a personas que tal vez nunca conozca. Pg. 7

Rev. James T. O'Reilly OSA Division Eight

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Recycled Percussion empowers 6-Year Old child to Make a Difference

Given a choice of keeping \$100 for himself, or using it to "do good", 6 year old William made an inspiring choice. Invited on a stage at a Recycled Percussion concert, facing an audience of hundreds, William's immediate reply was to spend this money to help feed people he may never meet. Pg. 7

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Mayor De Peña promotes police officers

Mayor Brian A. De Peña swore in the promotions of four active officers in the City of Lawrence Police Department.

This activity was held in the mayor's office, accompanied by Michael McCarthy, Captain and Acting Chief of this department, as well as relatives of the promoted officers.

Lieutenant Ariel Montas was promoted to Provisional Captain and is currently assigned to the Office of the Chief.

Sergeant Melix Bonilla was promoted to Provisional Lieutenant and will remain in the Administration Division.

Sergeant Shawn Quaglietta was promoted to Provisional Lieutenant and will be the Platoon 2 Shift Commander.

Sergeant Robert Michaud was promoted to Provisional Lieutenant and will be the Platoon 1 Shift Commander.



Sergeant Robert Michaud was not able to attend this event due to illness.

El Teniente Ariel Montás fue ascendido a Capitán Provisional, y actualmente se encuentra asignado al Despacho del Jefe de Policía.

El Sargento Melix Bonilla fue ascendido a Teniente Provisional y permanecerá en la División de Administración.

El Sargento Shawn Quaglietta fue ascendido a Teniente Provisional y será del Pelotón 2 comandante de turno.

El Sargento Robert Michaud fue ascendido a Teniente Provisional y será el Comandante de turno del pelotón 1.

El Alcalde Brian A. De Peña realizó en su despacho la juramentación de ascensos de cuatro oficiales activos en el Departamento de Policía de la Ciudad de Lawrence, MA.

En esta actividad el alcalde fue acompañado por Michael McCarthy Capitán y Jefe Interino de este departamento así como de familiares de los oficiales ascedidos.



"When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant, I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years."

Mark Twain

Welcome Lawrence Champions



Congratulations to our Lawrence High School Basketball Program! We are your 2022/23 Merrimack Valley Conference Champions!



Para su información: / For your information:



Parking Meters will begin operating in the City of Lawrence, starting March 1, 2023. \$1.00 per hour, Monday through Saturday from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Sundays and Holidays are free.

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Rumbo

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POR DALIA DÍAZ
daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

■ READ IT IN ENGLISH ON PAGE 16

Desde Mi Esquina



El desayuno de Fiorentini

El Alcalde de Haverhill, James F. Fiorentini, tuvo un desayuno el 11 de febrero de 2023 al que llamó Desayuno de Agradecimiento; realmente resultó ser un anuncio de jubilación. Vea algunas fotos en la página 6 de esta edición.

Después de 20 años al frente de la transformación de la ciudad, es hora de que se tome un tiempo para sí mismo y disfrute de los frutos de su esfuerzo.

El Alcalde Fiorentini fue una bendición para la ciudad y todos los que lo conocieron saben muy bien sus logros.

Le deseamos a él ya Martha una larga jubilación llena de salud y felicidad.

Trabajando en la oscuridad

Estuve feliz de asistir a la inauguración de Casabe en Lawrence General Hospital porque no salgo a menudo y puedo ver a personas que extrañé durante mucho tiempo. Entre ellos, Sarah Pérez, alguien con quien siempre disfruto compartir mi tiempo y es una persona encantadora.

Parte de nuestra conversación fue sobre la Federación de Empresarios de Lawrence, que ha estado en funcionamiento durante los últimos cinco años. Hubo un tiempo en que solo quedaban Sara y Sonia Terbullino en la organización y, ante la insistencia de Sonia, accedió a trabajar duro para recuperarla, ¡y lo hicieron!

Dije que han estado trabajando en la oscuridad porque no han recibido prensa local y nunca me han enviado ninguna información sobre su trabajo. Creo que el público quiere saber más.

Han tenido éxito en la obtención de fondos de diferentes fuentes y han ayudado a varias empresas. Sarah me prometió que me enviaría más información pero no la he recibido.

Drenando la sangre

En el pasado, he escrito sobre la situación que enfrenta el personal de

servicio que depende de las propinas como parte de sus ingresos. Esto es algo sobre lo que rara vez se escribe, pero su realidad es muy sombría.

Nos gustaría pensar que las camareras y los meseros ganan \$200 por día, pero la mayoría de la gente ignora el hecho de que ganan alrededor de \$3.00 por hora. Se supone que sus propinas compensan la diferencia para que superen el salario mínimo. Si la propina no equivale a eso, el empleador debe compensar la diferencia.

Hace muchos años trabajé como anfitriona en un restaurante y fui testigo, que después de atender a un grupo de 8 a 10 personas, que le dejaban solo \$5.00 de propina al trabajador. Peor que eso era cuando un cliente dejaba una tarjeta que decía: "No creo en las propinas; vea a su gerente. ¡Eso fue criminal!"

Eso significa que él o ella pagaron impuestos sobre una propina que no recibieron porque cuando el restaurante reporta al IRS la cantidad que vendió en el día, el gobierno asume que recibió una propina por ese total.

La propina promedio es el 15% del total, por lo que si gasta \$100, un mínimo de \$15 sería apropiado. Si está satisfecho con la atención recibida, entonces sea un poco más generoso.

Durante las últimas elecciones, votamos para aumentar los impuestos a los ricos y sonaba tan bien que la mayoría de la gente estuvo de acuerdo. Parte de la propaganda fue que el presidente Joe Biden dijo repetidamente entonces e incluso ahora que "Nadie que gane menos de \$400,000 pagaría un centavo más en impuestos."

Pero, los tiempos han cambiado. Ahora, Biden quiere que el IRS persiga a los empleados que reciben propinas porque pueden estar mintiendo sobre cuánto ganaron realmente y quiere que la empresa sea responsable de controlarlo.

El IRS contrató a 87,000 nuevos agentes armados que investigarán esto. Mi consejo para vaya a un restaurante es asegurarse de dar la propina en efectivo y dejar que estos trabajadores decidan si quieren pagar más impuestos.

Discriminación inversa

La semana pasada escribí sobre cómo la "Diversidad, Equidad e Inclusión" (DEI) está afectando nuestras escuelas y las asignaturas que enseñan. Ahora descubrí que La Asociación Nacional de Educación (NEA) eliminó sus recursos en el Día de los Presidentes de sus sitios web en el 2020, según una revisión de Daily Signal de Wayback Machine de Internet Archive. Tres años después, el sindicato de docentes aún no ha actualizado la página.

Los planes de lecciones del Día de los Presidentes incluyeron "George Washington: un tesoro nacional", que celebró a Washington como un héroe estadounidense, y "George Washington: pieza central de una nación", donde los estudiantes estudiaron las características que hicieron del primer presidente un gran líder.

Ahora, el sitio de recursos del Día de los Presidentes arroja un resultado de "Página no encontrada", en lugar de remitir a los usuarios a la biblioteca de recursos de NEA. La biblioteca incluye lecciones del Mes de la Historia Negra de Learning for Justice, la rama educativa del Southern Poverty Law Center; un informe sobre cómo los maestros pueden abogar por

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los servicios de aborto; recursos para la enseñanza sobre los pueblos indígenas; un artículo sobre prejuicios raciales implícitos; y afiches, marcadores y calcomanías para celebrar los libros "prohibidos".

Están cambiando la historia de este país y nosotros estamos dormidos. No está claro quién sugiere o exige estos cambios, pero aparentemente nadie se queja.

Un último ejemplo que le dejo; La Fundación Blue Cross Blue Shield de Carolina del Norte revisó la elegibilidad para su subvención de \$300,000 por tres años para promover la "equidad en alimentos saludables" después de que The Daily Signal informara sobre las estrictas limitaciones del programa basadas en la raza. ¡Ahora tenemos Cuotas Raciales!

Según las reglas originales, algunas organizaciones que emplean una mayoría de personal no blanco y tienen una junta directiva mayoritariamente no blanca fueron descalificadas automáticamente de la subvención porque los directores ejecutivos en cuestión son blancos.

Tal vez eso explique por qué se coloca a las minorías en esos puestos de CEO, aunque es posible que no sean quienes realmente toman las decisiones, pero es una forma de asegurarse y obtener dinero de esas fundaciones teniendo estos maniqués.

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Lawrence celebra la Independencia Dominicana

Después de estar cohibidos de salir por tanto tiempo, la comunidad dominicana se dio cita el 10 de febrero frente al Ayuntamiento de la ciudad



Seguido del izamiento de la bandera tuvieron una celebración en el Ayuntamiento con bailes y más diversión.



Fiorentini breakfast turned into retirement news

Text and photos by Carmen García

Haverhill Mayor James F. Fiorentini planned a Thank You Breakfast for the citizens of Haverhill on February 4th, but due to inclement weather decided to change it to February 11th.

Family, friends, residents of Haverhill, several City Councilors, State Senator Barry Finegold, city workers, and even Methuen leaders such as City Councilor Chair Eunice Zeigler, State Representative Ryan Hamilton, amongst many others, stop by and spend time with the Mayor.

Mayor Fiorentini spent most of the time speaking with everyone that attended and made them feel welcomed. When it was time to speak, he spoke about when he decided to run for Mayor, over 19 years ago, he remembered the many individuals that doubted him and his vision in turning the city around. The City of Haverhill was at the brinks of being turned over to the

State, being managed under receivership, and even the thought of being the first City in Massachusetts to ever file for bankruptcy was mentioned. Fast forward to 2023, not only is the City of Haverhill thriving with a revamped downtown area to new developments, a new school (Hunking), new boardwalk, minimum tax increases, but one of his many accomplishments was paying off the Hale Hospital debt.

There is so much more to be mentioned but after going over his many accomplishments he took the time to say with a heavy heart that he will not be seeking another mayoral term. However, he did point out that he still has 10 more months (which will add up to 20 years as a Mayor) and much work needs to be continued and will work tirelessly, as he always has, to see it through.

A well-deserved standing ovation arose from all that attended!



Desayuno de Fiorentini fue el anuncio de su retiro

El Alcalde de Haverhill James F. Fiorentini, planeó un desayuno de agradecimiento para los ciudadanos de Haverhill el 4 de febrero, pero debido a las inclemencias del tiempo decidió cambiarlo para el 11 de febrero.

Familiares, amigos, residentes de Haverhill, varios concejales de la ciudad, el Senador Estatal Barry Finegold, trabajadores de la ciudad e incluso líderes de Methuen como la presidenta del concejo municipal Eunice Zeigler, el

Representante Estatal Ryan Hamilton, entre muchos otros, pasaron un rato para estar con el alcalde.

El Alcalde Fiorentini pasó la mayor parte del tiempo hablando con todos los asistentes y los hizo sentir bienvenidos. Cuando llegó el momento de hablar, habló de cuando decidió postularse para alcalde, hace más de 19 años, recordó a las muchas personas que dudaron de él y de su visión para cambiar la ciudad. La Ciudad de Haverhill estuvo a punto de ser

entregada al Estado, siendo administrada bajo administración judicial, e incluso se mencionó la idea de ser la primera ciudad en Massachusetts en declararse en bancarrota. Avanzando rápido hasta 2023, la ciudad de Haverhill no solo está prosperando con un área del centro renovada con nuevos desarrollos, una nueva escuela (Hunking), un nuevo paseo marítimo, aumentos de impuestos mínimos, sino que uno de sus muchos logros fue pagar la deuda del Hospital Hale.

Hay mucho más que mencionar, pero después de repasar sus muchos logros, se tomó el tiempo para decir con gran pesar que no buscará otro período para la alcaldía. Sin embargo, señaló que todavía tiene 10 meses más (lo que sumará 20 años como alcalde) y queda mucho trabajo por hacer y trabajará incansablemente, como siempre lo ha hecho, para llevarlo a cabo.

Una merecida ovación de todos los asistentes irrumpió.



Percusión reciclada empodera a William de 6 años para marcar la diferencia

Por Lazarus House Ministries

Al tener la opción de quedarse con \$100 para sí mismo o usarlos para "hacer el bien", William, de 6 años, tomó una decisión inspiradora. Invitado a un escenario en un concierto de percusión reciclada, frente a una audiencia de cientos, la respuesta inmediata de William fue gastar este dinero para ayudar a alimentar a personas que tal vez nunca conozca.

Su familia lo apoyó con un viaje a la tienda de comestibles y orientación para cocinar y hornear. El resultado fue un desayuno de cazuela de huevo y panecillos de arándanos para alimentar a los invitados del desayuno en el comedor de beneficencia de Lazarus House en Lawrence, Massachusetts.

Con permiso para llegar tarde a la escuela, William entregó el desayuno él mismo y recorrió el comedor de beneficencia, aprendiendo cuántas personas bendecirá con este esfuerzo.

Sus fondos adicionales compraron suministros para la despensa de alimentos de Lazarus House, que atiende a más de 1,300 familias cada miércoles.

William estuvo acompañado por el pastor Carlos de la Primera Iglesia

Congregacional de Pelham, quien felicitó al joven por sus acciones inspiradoras.

Lazarus House Ministries está agradecido de recibir su donación.

Nuestros Servicios: Nuestro objetivo es proporcionar lo que más necesitan las familias y las personas que enfrentan pobreza material, falta de vivienda e inseguridad alimentaria en las áreas de Vivienda, Ropa, Alimentos, Defensa y Recursos Comunitarios. Estos ministerios centrales trabajan simultáneamente para brindar atención de emergencia, enriquecimiento familiar, programación holística, esperanza de un buen futuro y habilidades para la vida para ganar independencia y mantener la autosuficiencia. Las personas a las que servimos son nuestros Huéspedes - apreciados, amados y tratados con el máximo respeto, dignidad y cuidado. Creemos que cada Huésped merece la oportunidad de prosperar.

Nuestra Misión: Honrar a Dios en nuestro trabajo sirviendo a cada persona que encontramos con dignidad y respeto. Ofrecemos servicios comunitarios, de alimentación, vivienda, ropa y defensa con un corazón abierto y sin prejuicios.



Recycled Percussion empowers 6-Year Old William to Make a Difference

By Lazarus House Ministries

Given a choice of keeping \$100 for himself, or using it to "do good", 6 year old William made an inspiring choice. Invited on a stage at a Recycled Percussion concert, facing an audience of hundreds, William's immediate reply was to spend this money to help feed people he may never meet.

His family supported him with a trip to the grocery store and guidance in cooking and baking. The outcome was a

breakfast of egg casserole and blueberry muffins to feed breakfast Guests at the Lazarus House Soup Kitchen in Lawrence Massachusetts. Granted permission for late arrival to school, William delivered the breakfast himself and toured the Soup Kitchen, learning just how many people he would bless with this efforts. His additional funds purchased supplies for the Lazarus House Food Pantry, serving over 1,300 families each Wednesday. William was accompanied by Pastor Carlos of the First Congregational Church of Pelham,

who congratulated the young man on his inspirational actions.

Lazarus House Ministries is grateful to receive his donation.

Our Services: Our aim is to provide what is needed most by families and individuals facing material poverty, homelessness, and food insecurity in the areas of Shelter, Clothing, Food, Advocacy and Community Resources. These core Ministries work simultaneously to provide emergency care, family enrichment,

holistic programming, hope for a good future, and life skills to gain independence and sustain self-sufficiency. The people we serve are our Guests – cherished, beloved, and treated with the utmost in respect, dignity, and care. We believe that every Guest deserves the chance to thrive.

Our Mission: To honor God in our work by serving every person we encounter with dignity and respect. We offer community, food, shelter, clothing, and advocacy services with an open and non-judgmental heart.



¿Quién es Recycled Percussion?

Después de ganar fama nacional con sus innovadoras actuaciones en America's Got Talent, *Recycled Percussion* se convirtió en uno de los actos más exitosos en Las Vegas Strip durante diez años consecutivos. Han realizado más de 7,000 espectáculos en todo el mundo y han aparecido en 40 programas de televisión populares, incluidos los premios Grammy, el Super Bowl, America's Got Talent, China's Got Talent, Kris Jenner, MTV Reality Awards, "The Gong Show" de Comedy Central. seis récords mundiales y han realizado más espectáculos corporativos que cualquier otra banda en América del Norte.

En 2017 desarrollaron un programa de televisión en ABC llamado "Chaos and Kindness" que ha ganado 15 premios Emmy. Desde entonces, Chaos and Kindness ha desarrollado una exitosa marca minorista y de estilo de vida que promueve la bondad, la positividad y la conciencia de la salud mental.

Who is Recycled Percussion?

After gaining national fame with their ground breaking performances on America's Got Talent, *Recycled Percussion* became one of the most successful acts on the Las Vegas Strip for ten straight years. They have performed more than 7,000 shows worldwide and have appeared on 40 popular TV shows, including The Grammy Awards, the Super Bowl, America's Got Talent, China's Got Talent, Kris Jenner, MTV Reality Awards, Comedy Central's "The Gong Show," broken six world records, and have performed more corporate shows than any band in North America.

In 2017 they developed a television show on ABC called "Chaos and Kindness" which has won 15 Emmy Awards. Chaos and Kindness has since developed a successful retail and lifestyle brand which promotes kindness, positivity, and mental health awareness.

Teatro de la Academia Abbott Lawrence de Lawrence High

Por Tawnya Ouellette

Estoy asombrada de estos muchachos del centro de la ciudad y de este grupo de personal de teatro de la Academia Abbott Lawrence (Lawrence High School.) Muestran el verdadero significado del impulso, la integridad, el amor, el talento y la lista continúa.

Estoy muy orgullosa de lo que lograron en Universal estos últimos días, no solo regresaron a casa con múltiples premios, sino que también mostraron mucha gratitud por esta increíble oportunidad que se les brindó. Apoyaron a TODA su competencia con tanta pasión (la mayoría de las personas no aprenden eso hasta que son mayores y algunas nunca lo hacen).

Muchas personas en todos los lugares a los que fuimos nos detuvieron y nos felicitaron a ellos y a nosotros constantemente, no solo por su talento sino también por lo amables, respetuosos y comprensivos que son todos, fue muy gratificante ser parte de ellos.

Sé que mucha gente piensa que la única forma en que los niños tienen un EQUIPO es con los deportes, pero las artes unen a las personas de una manera que nadie puede entender si no estás involucrado en esta parte de la escuela. ¡Tengo la suerte de tener a mis hijos en el teatro en ABBOTT con este grupo particular de personas que crean el EQUIPO más increíble! No muchos niños tienen la oportunidad de trabajar con personas como:

Laurie Donlan - Directora, que ha ganado tantas competencias con sus alumnos mientras les brinda amor y respeto, muestra su talento y les da la confianza que necesitan para tener éxito, tiene un ojo increíble para hacer que todo funcione, creó este programa a partir desde su comienzo. La lista continúa en lo que ella ha logrado; sin embargo, tenemos

otros por nombrar;

Austin Davy - Director musical, bueno, comencemos diciendo que este ser humano es alguien que todos debemos conocer, él también tiene mucho corazón, respeto y les enseña a estos niños cómo creer en sus voces (literalmente) y usarlas en un nivel que está cerca de profesional. Oh, se me olvidó decir que también trabaja en Broadway... ¡Qué regalo han recibido estos querubines!

Cynthia McKeen - musicalmente talentosa (también trabajó en Broadway) tiene mucha experiencia y amabilidad para transmitirles;

John Scolastico Jr. - No estoy segura, pero también debería trabajar en Broadway. Ver lo fácil que hace que se vea el extremo tecnológico. Lo he visto cambiar de tema mientras charlaba en la mesa. ¡Asombroso! La pasión y la amabilidad son un eufemismo;

Stephanie Marie: a pesar de que enseña teatro para niños en la escuela primaria, es un activo detrás de escena para la escuela secundaria, mientras prepara a los estudiantes para el nivel de la escuela secundaria y les muestra cómo tener la confianza para lograrlo a medida que crecen. ¡Tiene tanta compasión y diversión en su corazón que hace reír a todos sin esfuerzo!

También tienen a DANIEL, su entrenador de música. Ha estado trabajando con todo el programa de teatro durante tanto tiempo, ayudándolos a descubrir la forma correcta de cantar para utilizar sus voces apropiadamente para sonar lo mejor posible y que no se lastimen vocalmente. Una vez más, es otra figura y entrenador de Broadway.



Y no podemos olvidar a Luis Salgado, con quien nuestro personal pudo conectarse sobre Covid y ayudar a capacitar a nuestro grupo. Es un actor, director, coreógrafo y educador internacional con sede en la ciudad de New York. Hemos nombrado nuestra caja negra de actuación en su honor. También les dio a todos nuestros niños tanta confianza y les transmitió muchas habilidades mientras creaba confianza y experiencia para ellos.

Se aseguran de que los niños conozcan el significado del respeto y la humildad, les brindan un lugar seguro para expresarse y muestran el significado del trabajo duro, la determinación y la dedicación, existe un vínculo tan fuerte que realmente se apoyan mutuamente y están bendecidos de que Lawrence tenga un programa así. Nosotros, como padres, tenemos la bendición de que tengan esta salida para ser ellos mismos y escapar del estrés académico.

Honestamente, sin esto, algunos de estos niños no sabrían qué hacer. No todo el mundo es deportista. Todos tienen una pasión, y la forma en que este equipo les muestra a estos niños su potencial es un talento increíble. Tenemos algo tan especial, ellos están en una liga propia, e irán a algún lugar especial en sus vidas, ¡este programa les da sus alas y no puedo esperar a verlos volar!

¡Felicidades ALA eres una inspiración! Gracias por bendecirme al permitirme ser parte de tu viaje.

Y gracias a todos por leer esto, sé que es largo, pero me apasiona todo este programa, desde el principio hasta la competencia, lo escucho todo, los días buenos, los días malos, el estrés que conlleva no saber si puedes hacerlo y luego el logro y el orgullo que tienen cuando completan el proceso.

Los grupos actúan son juzgados según una rúbrica. Dependiendo de sus puntajes, se les otorga una de las siguientes calificaciones: Participante, Justo, Bueno, Excelente, Superior.

Al finalizar el festival, el Festival Nacional de Artes Escénicas realiza una presentación para el público en el Lagoon Stage, un escenario al aire libre en City Walk, Universal Studios.

Los jueces eligen a los participantes Sobresalientes Generales en cada categoría de la Competencia de Solo/Dúo y de la Competencia

de Grupo para actuar ante el público. Arkida Saiwai interpretó su selección de "Waiting For Life" como la Mejor Solista Femenina y el elenco de "The Wiz" de Lawrence High School recibió el trofeo Judge's Award for Artistry que vino con el honor de actuar en el Lagoon Stage Showcase.

Los estudiantes de Lawrence ganaron: Clasificación Superior; Premio de los Jueces a la Excelencia en el Arte; Mejor Solista Femenina (Arkida Saiwai); Medallas a la Mejor Interpretación (Caroline Rodriguez, Jasslyn Rodriguez y Arkida Saiwai).

Workplace English Classes Forming at the Merrimack Valley Immigrant & Education Center

Registrations are now being taken for Workplace English classes at the Merrimack Valley Immigrant & Education Center (the former Asian Center), 439 S. Union Street, building 2, Level B, Lawrence, MA 01843. These classes are free to Lawrence residents but students must have a high beginner level of English.

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.

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Lawrence High's Abbott Lawrence Academy Theater

By Tawnya Ouellette

I am in awe of these inner-city children and this group of Abbott Lawrence Academy (Lawrence High School) theater staff! They show the true meaning of drive, integrity, love, talent, and the list goes on.

I am so proud of what they accomplished in Universal these past few days, not only did they come home with multiple awards they showed so much gratitude for this amazing opportunity that they were given. They supported ALL of their competition with so much passion, (most people don't learn that until they're older and some never do).

So many people everywhere we went stopped all of us and complimented them and us constantly, not only on their talent but also on how kind, respectful, and supportive they all are, it was so rewarding to be a part of.

I know so many people think the only way kids have a TEAM is with sports, but the arts bring people together in a way no one can quite understand if you aren't involved in this part of the school. I am blessed to have my children involved in theater at ABBOTT with this particular group of individuals who create the most amazing TEAM! Not too many kids have the opportunity to work with people like:

Laurie Donlan - Director, who has won so many competitions with her students while giving them love, and respect, showcasing their talent while giving them the confidence they require to succeed, she has an amazing eye to make this all work, built this program from the ground up! The list goes on in what she has accomplished; however, we have others to name;

Austin Davy - Music Director, well let's start by saying this human is someone we all need to know, he too has so much heart, and respect and teaches these kids how to believe in their voices (quite literally) and use them on a level that is close to professional. Oh did I forget to say he also works on Broadway... what a gift these cherubs have been given!

Cynthia McKeen - also so musically talented (worked on Broadway, too) has so much experience and kindness to pass on to them;

John Scolastico Jr. - I'm not sure but he should also work on Broadway. Seeing how effortless he makes the tech end look. I have watched him change tracks while chatting at the table. Amazing! Passion

and kindness are an understatement;

Stephanie Marie - Even though she teaches elementary kids' theater, she is an asset behind the scenes for the high school, while grooming the students for the high school level and showing them how to have the confidence to make it as they grow. She has so much compassion and fun in her heart, she makes everyone laugh effortlessly!

They also have DANIEL - their music coach. He has been working with the entire theater program for so long, helping them figure out the right way to sing to utilize their voices properly to sound their very best and that they don't hurt themselves vocally. Again, he's another Broadway figure and coach.

And we can't forget Luis Salgado who our staff was able to connect with over Covid and help in training our group. He is an international actor, director, choreographer, and educator based in NYC. We have named our performing black box after him. He also gave all of our children such confidence and passed on so many skills while creating confidence and experience for them.

They make sure the kids know the meaning of respect and humility, give them a safe place to express themselves, and show the meaning of hard work, determination, and dedication, there is a bond that is so strong that they truly support each other, they are blessed that Lawrence has such a program. We as parents are blessed that they have this outlet to be themselves and escape the stresses of academics.

Honestly, without this, some of these kids would not know what to do. Not everyone is sporty. Everyone has a passion, and the way this team shows these children their potential is an incredible talent. We have something so special, they are in a league of their own, and they will go somewhere special in their lives, this program gives them their wings and I can't wait to see them fly!

Congratulations ALA you are an inspiration! Thank you for blessing me by allowing me to be a part of your journey.

And thank you all for reading this I know it's long, but I am so passionate about this whole program, from the very beginning to the competition, I hear it all, the good days, the bad days, the stress that comes with not knowing if you can do it and then the accomplishment and pride they have when they complete the process.



Groups perform and get judged on a rubric. Depending on their scores they get awarded one of the following ratings: Participant, Fair, Good, Excellent, Superior.

At the completion of the festival the National Performing Arts Festival does a performance for the public on the Lagoon Stage, an outside stage in City Walk, Universal Studios.

The judges pick the Overall Outstanding participants in each category from the Solo/Duet Competition and from the Group Competition to perform

for the public. Arkida Saiwai performed her selection of "Waiting For Life" as the Best Female Soloist and the Lawrence High School cast of "The Wiz" received the Judge's Award for Artistry trophy which came with the honor of performing in the Lagoon Stage Showcase.

Lawrence students won: Superior Ranking; Judges Award for Excellence in Artistry; Best Female Soloist (Arkida Saiwai); Best Performance Medals (Caroline Rodriguez, Jasslyn Rodriguez, and Arkida Saiwai.)

Methuen Police K-9 Team Completes Multiple Training Courses



Methuen Police Officer Griffin Waller and his K-9 partner Bohdi. (Courtesy Nancy Reardon Photography via Methuen Police)

Chief Scott J. McNamara and the Methuen Police Department are pleased to announce that Officer Griffin Waller and his K-9 partner Bohdi have successfully completed the 14-week Boston Police K-9 Patrol Handlers Class.

The K-9 team's initial training consisted of 560 hours of patrol training, including obedience, tracking, area searches, evidence recovery, building searches, criminal apprehension and more.

Additionally, Officer Waller and Bohdi have been certified in narcotics detection after attending a 6-week training program at Boston Police K-9 Academy. The narcotics detection training included 240 hours of training on imprinting of illegal narcotics, room searches, vehicle

searches, open area and article searches.

Bohdi is a two-year-old Belgian Malinois who was acquired with a grant provided by the United State Police Canine Association and the American Kennel Club's Reunite grant program, with matching funds provided by a Methuen business.

Massachusetts Vest-a-Dog has provided a \$6,540 donation to purchase a K-9 kennel insert and heat alert system for a cruiser that will be used by Officer Waller and Bohdi.

Officer Waller and K-9 Bohdi will be assigned to the Patrol Division and be available to assist the Street Crimes Unit with the detection of illegal narcotics. The team is also assigned to NEMLEC K-9, which is a regional response team.

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
DEPARTAMENTO DE SERVICIOS PÚBLICOS

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**AVISO DE PRESENTACIÓN, SOLICITUD DE
COMENTARIOS Y AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA**

D.P.U. 23-04

Febrero 13, 2023

Petición de la Ciudad de Methuen para la aprobación por el Departamento de Servicios Públicos de un plan de agregación municipal de conformidad con G.L. c. 164, § 134.

El 6 de enero de 2023, la Ciudad de Methuen ("Ciudad") presentó una solicitud ante el Departamento de Servicios Públicos ("Departamento") para la aprobación de un plan de agregación municipal de conformidad con G.L. c. 164, § 134. La Ley General c. 164, § 134 autoriza a un municipio a adquirir suministro eléctrico en nombre de los consumidores dentro de sus fronteras municipales a través de un programa de agregación municipal ("Programa"). Los consumidores de electricidad elegibles que aún no estén inscritos con un proveedor de electricidad competitivo quedarán inscritos automáticamente en el Programa a menos que opten por no participar, en cuyo caso continuarían recibiendo el servicio básico proporcionado por su compañía de distribución eléctrica, Massachusetts Electric Company también conocida como National Grid. El Departamento registró esta petición como D.P.U. 23-04.

La Ciudad ha contratado a Colonial Power Group, Inc. para que actúe como su consultor en este procedimiento y para ayudar en la implementación del Programa. La Ciudad busca una exención, en su propio nombre y en nombre de los proveedores de electricidad competitivos elegidos para el Programa, de ciertos requisitos de divulgación de información contenidos en G.L. c. 164, § 1F(6) y 220 CMR 11.06(4)(c).

Debido a ciertas medidas de seguridad y precauciones persistentes relacionadas con eventos en persona como resultado de la pandemia de COVID-19, el Departamento llevará a cabo una audiencia pública virtual para recibir comentarios sobre la presentación de la Ciudad. El Departamento llevará a cabo las audiencias utilizando videoconferencia de Zoom el **martes, 7 de marzo de 2023**, a partir de las **2:00 p.m.** Los asistentes pueden unirse ingresando al enlace, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89314360743>, desde una computadora, teléfono inteligente o tableta. No se requiere una descarga previa de software. Para el acceso de solo audio a la audiencia, los asistentes pueden marcar al **(646) 558-8656 (no gratuito)** y luego ingresar el ID de **reunión # 893 1436 0743**. Si tiene previsto proporcionar comentarios a través de Zoom durante la audiencia pública, envíe un correo electrónico antes del **lunes, 6 de marzo de 2023** a Lauren.Morris@mass.gov con su nombre, dirección de correo electrónico y dirección postal.

Al utilizar la plataforma Zoom, podrá escuchar la audiencia y proporcionar comentarios en inglés o español. Para acceder a los servicios de interpretación a través de Zoom durante la audiencia, haga clic en el botón "Interpretación" en la barra de menú en la parte inferior de la pantalla de la aplicación Zoom y seleccione su idioma (es decir, inglés o español).

Alternativamente, cualquier persona que desee comentar sobre este asunto puede enviar comentarios por escrito al Departamento por correo electrónico a más tardar al cierre de operaciones (5:00 p.m.) el **martes, 7 de marzo de 2023**. En la medida en que una persona desee presentar comentarios de conformidad con este Aviso, la presentación electrónica, como se detalla a continuación, es suficiente.

Todos los comentarios escritos u otros documentos deben enviarse al Departamento en **formato PDF** por correo electrónico adjunto a dpu.efiling@mass.gov y Lauren.Morris@mass.gov. Adicionalmente, todos los comentarios por escrito deben enviarse por correo electrónico al abogado del Agente la Ciudad, James Avery, Esq., a javery@pierceatwood.com. El texto del correo electrónico debe especificar: (1) el número de expediente del procedimiento (D.P.U. 23-04); (2) el nombre de la persona o compañía que presenta el comentario; y (3) un breve título descriptivo del documento. Todos los documentos presentados en formato electrónico se publicarán en el sitio web del Departamento tan pronto como sea posible en <http://www.mass.gov/dpu>. El correo electrónico también debe incluir el nombre, el título y el número de teléfono de una persona a contactar en caso de preguntas sobre la presentación. Es importante destacar que todos los archivos grandes deben dividirse en archivos electrónicos que no excedan los 20 MB.

Para esta ocasión, todas las presentaciones se recibirán únicamente en formato electrónico, debido a la dificultad que las partes y el Departamento pueden tener para presentar y recibir copias originales. Normalmente, las partes seguirían las Secciones B.1 y B.4 de las Reglas Básicas Estándar del Departamento con respecto a la presentación de versiones originales en papel (D.P.U. 15-184-A, App. 1 (4 de marzo de 2020)). Aún así, hasta nuevo aviso, las partes deben conservar la versión original en papel y el Departamento determinará más adelante cuándo se deba presentar la versión impresa ante el Secretario del Departamento.

La presentación de la Ciudad y todos los documentos relacionados presentados o emitidos por el Departamento estarán disponibles en el sitio web del Departamento tan pronto como sea posible en <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber> (ingrese "23-04"). La copia impresa de la presentación no estará disponible para su visualización pública en el Departamento debido a ciertas medidas de seguridad y precauciones continuas relacionadas con eventos en persona como resultado de la pandemia de COVID-19. Para solicitar materiales en formatos accesibles (Braille, letra grande, archivos electrónicos, formato de audio) para personas discapacitadas, comuníquese con el coordinador de ADA del Departamento en gabriella.knight@mass.gov.

Cualquier persona que desee obtener más información sobre la presentación de la Ciudad o una copia impresa de la presentación debe comunicarse con James Avery, Esq., en javery@pierceatwood.com o (617) 488-8125. Para obtener más información sobre este Aviso, comuníquese con Lauren Morris, Oficial de Audiencias, Departamento de Servicios Públicos, en Lauren.Morris@mass.gov.

CLASIFICADOS | CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given by Coady's Towing Service 139 Marston Street, Lawrence, MA, pursuant to the provisions of Mass G.L. c. 255, Section 39A, that they will sell the following vehicles on or after March 9, 2023 starting at 10:00 am by private or public sale to satisfy their garage keepers lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale:

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3. 2020 Kia Forte VIN 3KPF24AD1LE161451
4. 2014 Infiniti Q50 VIN JN1BV7AR3EM687574

Vehicles are being stored at Coady's Towing Service and may be viewed by appointment only.

Signed

Frank Coady

Coady's Towing Service

2/22, 3/1, 3/8

LEGAL NOTICE

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Notice is Hereby given by Sheehan's Towing L.L.C. of 26 Lawrence St Methuen, MA, pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L.c. 255, Section 39A, that they will sell the following vehicles on or after March 9, 2023 beginning at 10:00 am by private or public sale to satisfy their garage keeper's lien for towing, storage, and lien fees. Vehicles are being stored at Sheehan's Towing and may be viewed by appointment only.

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2. 2015 Nissan Altima VIN 1N4AL3AP2FN377469
3. 2005 Acura TL VIN 19UUA66285A023619
4. 2012 Mini Cooper VIN WMWZC5C57CWL57709
5. 2006 Honda Ridgeline VIN 2HJYK164X6H564347
6. 2013 Hyundai Sonata VIN 5NPEB4AC2DH528549

Robert Sheehan

Owner, Sheehan's Towing L.L.C.

2/22, 3/1, 3/8

**LA COMUNIDAD DE MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTAMENTO DE TRANSPORTE DE
MASSACHUSETTS - DIVISIÓN DE CARRETERAS**

AVISO DE REUNIÓN PÚBLICA

Proyecto Archivo No. 605304

MassDOT organizará una reunión de información pública para presentar el proyecto de reemplazo del puente Private First Class (PFC) Ralph T. Basiliere Bridge, H-12-007 & H-12-025, Bridge Street (SR 125) sobre el río Merrimack. y el abandonado B&M RR (ciclovía propuesta), en Haverhill, MA.

CUANDO: 6:30 pm, jueves, 9 de marzo de 2023

DONDE: UMass Lowell Innovation Center
2 Merrimack Street, Haverhill, MA

PROPÓSITO: El propósito de esta reunión de información pública es brindarle al público la oportunidad de familiarizarse completamente con el reemplazo propuesto del puente PFC Ralph T. Basiliere H-12-007 y H-12-025, Bridge Street (SR 125) sobre el río Merrimack y el RR B&M abandonado (ciclovía propuesta). Todos los puntos de vista y comentarios enviados en respuesta a la reunión serán revisados y considerados en la mayor medida posible.

PROPUESTA: El proyecto propuesto consiste en reemplazar completamente el puente PFC Ralph T. Basiliere. Si bien la estructura sigue siendo segura para todos los usuarios, el puente ha llegado al final de su vida útil y debe ser reemplazado. Como parte del proyecto de reemplazo, MassDOT busca optimizar la cantidad de carriles en el puente y mejorar el espacio para ciclistas y peatones en la estructura.

Esta reunión es accesible para personas con discapacidad. MassDOT proporciona adaptaciones razonables y/o asistencia con el idioma de forma gratuita (por ejemplo, intérpretes en lenguaje de señas estadounidense e idiomas que no sean inglés, subtítulos en vivo, videos, dispositivos de asistencia auditiva y formatos de materiales alternativos), dependiendo la disponibilidad. Para asistencia con el idioma, comuníquese con el director de Diversidad y Derechos Civiles de MassDOT por teléfono (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY al (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 o por correo electrónico (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Las solicitudes se deben realizar lo más antes posible y antes de la reunión, y para los servicios más difíciles de coordinar, incluidos el lenguaje de señas, CART o traducción o interpretación de idiomas, las solicitudes se deben realizar al menos diez días hábiles antes de la reunión.

Esta reunión de información pública o un anuncio de cancelación se encuentra en Internet en www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-department-of-transportation/events.

JONATHAN GULLIVER
ADMINISTRADOR DE CARRETERAS

CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E.
INGENIERO PRINCIPAL



UN PUNTO DE VISTA © 1996
 Por Paul V. Montesino, PhD, MBA, CCP

El Dr. Montesino, totalmente responsable por este artículo, es el Editor de LatinoWorldOnline.com

Quando nadie se presenta a la pelea

Durante muchos años que no podemos o no queremos contar, los humanos fueron cuadrúpedos, lo que significaba que caminaron sobre ambas manos y piernas. El impacto en sus vidas fue enorme. No tener las manos libres significaba que no podían escribir o alcanzar las frutas de los árboles para comer en lugar de la hierba de abajo; tomar de la mano a un ser querido sin correr el riesgo de una caída; usar iPhones; no podían expresar libremente lo que pensaban con sus dedos medios y no podían golpear al otro compañero en la nariz.

En otras palabras, las guerras estaban fuera de discusión. No podíamos manejar armas. La paz era la regla. Pero entonces alguien se cansó de comportarse como una mesa de cuatro patas y decidió ponerse de pie y volverse bípedo. El mundo tomó nota. En un solo cambio de postura, la humanidad abrió muchas posibilidades que aún disfrutamos... o sufrimos, dependiendo de su punto de vista.

Alrededor de 1970, alguien escribió una película de comedia dramática dirigida por Hy Averbach utilizando gigantes del género como Brian Keith, Don Ameche, Tony Curtis, Ernest Borgnine, Suzanne Pleshette, Ivan Dixon y Pamela Britton. El título de la película era "Supongamos que dieron una guerra y nadie vino." La trama era una mezcla de elementos cómicos y dramáticos y se refería a las reacciones de varios veteranos de la Segunda Guerra Mundial al ejército estadounidense contemporáneo.

El título fue un desafío a nuestras prácticas belicosas. La mayoría de las guerras son iniciadas por ególatras o lunáticos que quieren estampar una huella en el mundo antes de dejarlo, pero no tienen problemas para arrastrar a muchos inocentes con ellos. Cuando alguien grita "¡Asesinos Sangrientos!" y nadie escucha o le importa, es muy difícil atacar a quien nunca ha conocido o que nunca ha tenido nada en tu contra.

Se han inventado todo tipo de armas para justificar nuestra agresividad, no al revés, cuanto más sangrientas mejor. Y no debería sorprender cuando alguien inventa un arma que no parece cumplir con nuestros

critérios. Introduzcamos a los globos.

Hace unas semanas, un globo metálico apareció sobre el continente de los Estados Unidos que no solo sorprendió, sino que también asustó a la gente de nuestra población. Los que deseaban derribarlo vinieron de todos los lados de la guerra política, los oponentes y los creyentes. Se volvió más controvertido cuando escuchamos que tal globo había venido de China de todos los lugares, el primer país que tuvo que lidiar con la pandemia de Covid-19. Y empeoró cuando nos dijeron que tres sucesos más habían tenido lugar durante los tres años anteriores y nadie nos lo había dicho. Eso añadió insulto a la herida. ¿Qué estaban haciendo nuestros expertos militares que nadie los había visto o reconocido, ni siquiera averiguar de dónde venían?

Un funcionario de inteligencia de Estados Unidos y otros creen que los objetos, que fueron destruidos una semana después de que el globo espía chino fuera derribado frente a la costa de Carolina del Sur, podrían estar "vinculados a algún propósito comercial o benigno", dijo. Eso llevó mi imaginación activa a una posibilidad que no había considerado.

¿Es posible, pensé, que estos globos no sean realmente un arma de guerra, sino un llamado a la paz? ¿Alguien ha considerado la posibilidad de que esos globos vengan del sur de la frontera para que podamos tener una piñata amigable con pastel, dulces y refrescos, una donde podamos tener nuestro pastel y comerlo también? De repente, la búsqueda de los globos comenzó a sonar divertida para mí. Tal vez algún bípedo había llegado a la conclusión de que era mejor clavar una aguja en los globos del otro que pincharse unos a otros en el trasero. ¿Vamos a volvernos cuadrúpedos de nuevo?

Quién sabe. El mundo está lleno de sorpresas. Es posible que pueda invitarlo a mi próxima fiesta. "TTPG: Trae Tu Propio Globo".

Y ese es mi punto de vista hoy. Abur.



A POINT OF VIEW © 1996
 By Paul V. Montesino, PhD, MBA, CCP

When no one shows up for the fight

For many years we are unable or unwilling to count, humans were quadruped, meaning that they walked on both hands and legs. The impact on their lives was enormous. Not having free hands meant that they could not write or reach above for fruits on trees to eat instead of grass below; hold hands with a loved one without risking a fall; use iPhones; were unable to express freely what they thought with their middle fingers and couldn't hit the other fellow on the nose.

In other words, wars were out of the question. We couldn't handle weapons. Peace was in. But then somebody got tired of behaving like a four-legged table and decided to stand up and become biped. The world took notice. In a single change of posture, humanity opened many possibilities we still enjoy... or suffer, depending on your point of view.

Around 1970, someone wrote a drama-comedy film directed by Hy Averbach starting giants of the genre like Brian Keith, Don Ameche, Tony Curtis, Ernest Borgnine, Suzanne Pleshette, Ivan Dixon, and Pamela Britton. The title of the film was "Suppose They Gave a War and Nobody Came." The plot was a mixture of comic and dramatic elements and concerns the reactions of several World War II veterans to the contemporary US Army.

The title was a challenge to our bellicose practices. Most wars are started by egomaniacs or lunatics who want to leave an imprint on the world before they leave it but have no problem dragging many innocents with them. When someone screams "Bloody Murder!" and no one listens or cares, it is very difficult to attack anyone you've never met or had anything against you.

All kinds of weapons have been invented to justify our aggressiveness, not the other way around, the bloodier the better. And it should come as no surprise when

someone invents a new weapon that doesn't seem to meet our criteria. Enter the balloons.

A few weeks ago, a metallic balloon appeared over the continental United States that not only surprised but also scared the bejesus out of our population. Calls to shoot it down came from all sides of the political war sides, the opponents, and the believers. It became more controversial when we heard that such a balloon had come from China of all places, the first country that had to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic. And it got worse when we were told that three more occurrences had taken place during the three previous years and no one had told us. That added insult to injury. What were our military experts doing that no one had seen or reported them or even figure out where they came from?

A US Intelligence official and others believe the objects, which were shot down a week after the Chinese spy balloon was downed off the coast of South Carolina, could be "tied to some commercial or benign purpose," he said. That brought my active imagination to a possibility I had not considered.

Is it possible, I thought, that these balloons are not really a weapon of war, but a call for peace? Has anybody considered the possibility that those balloons are coming from South of the Border so we can have a friendly Piñata with cake, candy, and soda, one where we can have our cake and eat it too? Suddenly the hunt for the balloons started to sound like fun to me. Perhaps some biped had concluded that it was better to stick a needle on each other's balloons than on each other's rear end. Are we going to become quadruped next?

Who knows. The world is full of surprises. I may be able to invite you to my next party. "BYOB: Bring Your Own Balloon."

And That is My Point of View Today. So Long.

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 • Accesorios de cocina (por ejemplo, cines, sartenes, platos, microondas y vasos).
 • Pequeños artículos de decoración (por ejemplo, jarrones, velas, tazas, platos, marcos de fotos y cuadros).
 • Pequeños instrumentos musicales.
 • Libros y DVD.
 • Bricolaje.
 * Todas las donaciones son deducibles de impuestos. No se aceptan monedas.

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

Rev. James T. O'Reilly OSA Division Eight

Ancient Order of Hibernians, Lawrence, Massachusetts
 "152 Years of Dedication to Religion, Heritage, Charity and Community"

Preserving and Fostering our Heritage and Culture

Irish Heritage Month March 2023

Wednesday, March 1, 2023 - IRISH FLAG RAISING Across from City Hall – Common St. @11 a.m.

Saturday, March 4, 2023 – 151st SAINT PATRICK'S DAY BANQUET AND DANCE at the Lawrence Lodge of Elks, 652 Andover Street, Lawrence, MA. Traditional Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner with dancing to the Silver Spears Irish Show Band from 6 pm – 11 pm – Awarding of the Richard Cardinal Cushing and Irishman & Irishwoman of the Year Awards. For more information contact Charles Breen at 508 328 0323. Sponsored by Division 8 AOH – Handicap Accessible

Sunday, March 5, 2023 - 30th ANNUAL CLADDAGH PUB 4 MILE Classic ROAD RACE - 11 am, 399 Canal Street, Lawrence, MA (rain or shine) - For more information contact 978 376 8289.

This race is part of the Wild Rover Series.

Sunday, March 5, 2023 - OPENING of the EXHIBIT "Dublin 1916: A Look Back in Time" – at Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson St, Lawrence, MA Sponsored by Division 8 AOH (FREE) – Handicap Accessible

Sunday, March 5, 2023 – LECTURE by local Author, JOHN DESMOND, on his book, "THE BLACK THORN" at Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson St, Lawrence, MA @ 1 pm Sponsored by Division 8 AOH (FREE) – Handicap Accessible

Wednesday, March 8, 2023 - AOH NATIONAL HUNGER MONTH FOOD DRIVE: Please consider donating canned goods and non-perishable food items. All food items received will be donated to a local food pantry. 6 pm – 7:00 pm Claddagh Pub, 399 Canal Street, Lawrence MA.

Friday, March 10, 2023 – 52nd ANNUAL SAINT PATRICK'S DAY LUNCHEON at the Lawrence Lodge of Elks, 652 Andover Street, Lawrence, MA Traditional Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner with entertainment by the Silver Spears Irish Show Band at NOON. Awarding of the Honorable John E. Fenton Citizenship Award - For more information contact Jack Lahey @ 603 560 8192

Sponsored by Division 8 AOH – Handicap Accessible

Sunday, March 12, 2023 – WHITE FUND LECTURE – with PETER F. STEVENS – Mr. Stevens will discuss

his book, "THE VOYAGE OF THE CATALPA" - at Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson St., Lawrence, MA @ 1 pm (FREE) - Handicap Accessible

Friday, March 17, 2022 – OPEN HOUSE – Music all day long at the Claddagh Pub and Restaurant, 399 Canal St, Lawrence, MA for further information call 978 688-8337

Sunday, March 19, 2023 – LECTURE by Author, JOHN CASHMAN. Mr. Cashman will discuss his book, "AN IRISH IMMIGRANTS STORY" at Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson St, Lawrence, MA @ 1 pm Sponsored by Division 8 AOH (FREE) – Handicap Accessible

Saturday, March 25, 2023 - IRISH FILM FESTIVAL at Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson St, Lawrence @ 10 am Sponsored by Division 8 AOH (FREE) – Handicap Accessible

Sunday, March 26, 2023 – DEDICATION OF THE IRISH COLLECTION - Lawrence Public Library @ 1 pm on the Second Floor of the Lawrence Public Library, 51 Lawrence Street, Lawrence, MA (FREE) – Handicap Accessible

Sunday, March 26, 2023 - JOIN PIANIST TERRI KELLEY AND VOCALIST BILL DONELAN FOR AN ALL-NEW PROGRAM OF CELTIC

MELODIES - FROM ANCIENT GAELIC AIRES TO CURRENT SONGS - at the Lawrence Public Library, Sargent Auditorium, 51 Lawrence St., Lawrence, MA @ 2 pm Presented by Division 8 (FREE) – Handicap Accessible

Tuesday, March 28, 2023: EXHIBIT CLOSING "Dublin 1916: A Look Back in Time" at Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson St, Lawrence (FREE) – Handicap Accessible

The Rev. James T. O'Reilly OSA Division Eight AOH was founded on November 5, 1871. The Division yearly hosts numerous social events and activities, and has scholarship opportunities for the children of members, and in some cases grandchildren of members on the high school and college level, including a scholarship for study in Ireland. Division 8 meets at the Claddagh Pub, 399 Canal St in Lawrence on the second Wednesday of the month. For information on AOH Membership please write to: Division 8 AOH Organizer, PO Box 1407, Lawrence, MA

IRISH HERITAGE MONTH IS SPONSORED BY THE ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS DIVISION 8

Irish Heritage Month 2023 is supported in part by a grant from the Lawrence Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency

Find us in / Búsquenos en Facebook/Rumbo

Save The Date: The BGCL Auction is Saturday, April 1st

Our BGCL swim team was the runner-up at the North East New England Division Two sectionals meet! The meet lasted over two days, with over four hundred and seventy swimmers from fourteen clubs.

One of our champions is teen member, Franklin T. Franklin has been a Club member and a part of the BGCL swim team for ten years. He is also the co-captain of the Central Catholic High School swim team. Like many of our Club kids, Franklin grew up in the Dominican Republic before moving to Lawrence.

Speaking very little English, Franklin had to stay back a couple of grades to catch up with his peers, but he persevered, citing thanks to the Club. Franklin says, "The Club provided a place for me to work on my education and health and make lifelong friendships."

Your support at our annual auction helps create children like Franklin. With your generous donations and participation, we can do more than be a haven for the youth of Lawrence. We can show them that



there is more out there for them, whether in art, music, sports, or STEM; there is a spot for them.

Under The Tuscan Sun - Saturday, April 1, 2023, at the Andover Country Club. [CLICK HERE](#)

So, come out and help change a kid's life! We cannot wait to see you. If you have any questions or would like to help in any way, please reach out to Sarah Hogue at shogue@lawrencebgc.com or 978-683-2747 x128.



Lawrence schools' cafeteria workers continue their struggle La lucha de los empleados de cafeterías escolares continúa



The Lawrence cafeteria workers held an action to deliver a petition to the School District. The petition is in regard to a stipend for maintaining ServeSafe certification that the Lunch Aids recently negotiated.

They asked the district to extend the same stipend to our members as they must maintain the same certification and do essentially the same work.

The District has, so far, refused so they marched into the Lawrence Public Schools' offices on February 21st in front of the Lawrence Public Schools District Office at 237 Essex St, Lawrence.



Los trabajadores de la cafetería de Lawrence realizaron una acción para entregar una petición al Distrito Escolar. La petición se refiere a un estipendio para mantener la certificación ServeSafe que recientemente negoció Lunch Aids.

Le pidieron al distrito que extienda el mismo estipendio a sus miembros, ya que deben mantener la misma certificación y hacer esencialmente el mismo trabajo.

El Distrito, hasta ahora, se ha negado, por lo que marcharon hacia las oficinas de las Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence el 21 de febrero frente a la Oficina del Distrito de las Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence en 237 Essex St, Lawrence.



Merrimack Valley Credit Union se asocia con Methuen High School para presentar la Feria Credit for Life

Más de 300 personas mayores asistieron al evento de educación financiera experiencial en Methuen High School

Merrimack Valley Credit Union (MVCU) y Methuen High School (MHS) se unieron por cuarto año para presentar la Feria Credit for Life a más de 300 estudiantes de último año que se graduaron el viernes, 17 de febrero.

“Una base financiera sólida es muy importante para las personas, sin importar la edad o la juventud”, dijo John J. Howard, presidente y director ejecutivo de MVCU. “Como cooperativa de ahorro y crédito comunitaria, buscamos oportunidades para brindar educación financiera a los miembros de la comunidad. Trabajar con Methuen High School en Credit for Life Fair nos brinda la oportunidad de hablar con los estudiantes en un momento crítico de sus vidas: justo antes de que estén a punto de comenzar a tomar decisiones financieras importantes por su cuenta”.

Credit for Life es un evento de dos horas que se lleva a cabo en Klimas Field House. Antes de la feria, los estudiantes seleccionaron la profesión que mejor se adapte a lo que planean hacer después de graduarse. Visitan 15 puestos diferentes para crear presupuestos que se ajusten al salario mensual de la carrera elegida. Cada mesa representa las decisiones financieras que enfrentarían como adultos, tomando decisiones tanto necesarias, como vivienda, transporte y educación, como discrecionales, como vacaciones,

membresías en gimnasios y comidas fuera de casa.

Para reflejar la realidad de los gastos inesperados, los estudiantes tienen que hacer girar "La rueda de la desgracia". La rueda incluye nueve elementos que podrían tener un impacto negativo en el presupuesto de un estudiante o proporcionar la ganancia inesperada que necesitan para mantener su presupuesto mensual positivo.

La asociación entre MVCU y MHS comenzó con la feria inaugural en 2018. El evento cuenta con más de 50 voluntarios de organizaciones comunitarias y profesionales locales, el distrito escolar de Methuen y MVCU. Los voluntarios tienen conversaciones cara a cara sobre el impacto que sus decisiones personales tienen en su presupuesto y brindan décadas de experiencia práctica a los estudiantes.

Fundada en 1955, Merrimack Valley Credit Union (MVCU) es una cooperativa de crédito comunitaria autorizada por el estado con más de \$1.2 billones en activos. La oficina corporativa está ubicada en Lawrence, Massachusetts, y MVCU actualmente atiende a más de 73,000 miembros en Massachusetts, New Hampshire y Rhode Island. MVCU ofrece una amplia gama de productos de ahorro y préstamo, servicios comerciales y banca digital para satisfacer las necesidades



Annette Yee, Vice President of Project Development & CRA Officer at MVCU, helps students decide what furniture they'll need when they're living on their own as part of the Methuen High School Credit for Life experiential budgeting event.

financieras de una base de miembros en crecimiento. Diez sucursales están ubicadas en Bridgewater, Fairhaven, Haverhill, Lawrence, Methuen, North Andover, Plymouth y Quincy, Massachusetts,

además de Plaistow y Seabrook, N.H. MVCU está asegurada federalmente por NCUA, Igualdad de oportunidades de vivienda.

Merrimack Valley Credit Union partners with Methuen High School to present Credit for Life Fair

More than 300 seniors attended the experiential financial literacy event at Methuen High School

Merrimack Valley Credit Union (MVCU) and Methuen High School (MHS) teamed up for the fourth year to present the Credit for Life Fair to more than 300 graduating seniors on Friday, Feb. 17.

“A solid financial foundation is so important for people, no matter how old or young,” said John J. Howard, president and CEO of MVCU. “As a community credit union, we seek out opportunities to provide financial education to community members. Working with Methuen High School on the Credit for Life Fair gives us the chance to talk to the students at a critical time in their lives: right before they're about to start making significant financial decisions on their own.”

Credit for Life is a two-hour event held in the Klimas Field House. Prior to the fair, students selected a profession that best fits what they plan to do upon graduation. They visit 15 different booths to build budgets that fit within the monthly salary of their chosen career. Each booth represents financial decisions that they would encounter as adults, making choices that are both required, such as housing, transportation and education, and discretionary, such as vacation, gym memberships and eating out.

To reflect the reality of unexpected expenses, students have to spin “The Wheel of Misfortune.” The wheel includes nine

items that could have a negative impact on a student's budget or provide the windfall they need to keep their monthly budget in the positive.

The partnership between MVCU and MHS began with the inaugural fair in 2018. The event is staffed by more than 50 volunteers from local professional and community organizations, the Methuen School district, and MVCU. The volunteers have face-to-face conversations about the impact their personal decisions have on their budget and lend decades of practical experience to the students.

Founded in 1955, Merrimack Valley Credit Union (MVCU) is a state-chartered community credit union with more than \$1.2 billion in assets. The corporate office is located in Lawrence, Massachusetts, and MVCU currently serves more than 73,000 members in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island. MVCU offers a wide range of savings and loan products, commercial services and digital banking to meet the financial needs of a growing member base. Ten branches are located in Bridgewater, Fairhaven, Haverhill, Lawrence, Methuen, North Andover, Plymouth, and Quincy, Mass., plus Plaistow and Seabrook, N.H. MVCU is Federally Insured by NCUA, Equal Housing Opportunity.

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Certificaciones nuevas en México destinadas a mejorar los cuidados de infarto cerebral

Certificaciones conjuntas en infarto cerebral emitidas por American Stroke Association y su equivalente mexicano



Los centros hospitalarios de México tendrán acceso a un conjunto único e integral de servicios de certificación en infarto cerebral a partir de una nueva colaboración entre la asociación mexicana de enfermedad vascular cerebral, Asociación Mexicana de Enfermedad Vascular Cerebral A.C. (AMEVASC) y American Stroke Association (ASA).

American Stroke Association, es una división del American Heart Association, la organización mundial líder en promoción de vidas más largas y saludables para todos, utiliza su modelo de certificación en infarto cerebral para asistir a hospitales con un marco, una estructura, una gestión y una prestación de cuidados de alta calidad mediante la estandarización y el aumento de la calidad de los cuidados intensivos, y el acceso a estos, para los pacientes que sufren un infarto cerebral.

“ASA y AMEVASC se encuentran en una posición excepcional para desarrollar un liderazgo conjunto en la traducción de guías de los programas y servicios que determinan el cuidado clínico y la mejora de los resultados de los pacientes, a fin de ofrecer un conjunto integral de servicios de certificación en infarto cerebral”, declaró Juan Calleja, M.D., neurólogo vascular y presidente de AMEVASC.

Los servicios de certificación principales e integrales del centro de infarto cerebral les ofrecerán a todos los hospitales regionales

un recurso único, con herramientas de mejora para integrar ciencia empírica, iniciativas de calidad, mejores prácticas clínicas y las guías más recientes en infarto cerebral a sus procesos de cuidado de infarto cerebral.

“Las dos organizaciones comparten las mismas prioridades e intereses en mejorar la calidad de los servicios prestados al público por parte del Centro Primario de Infarto Cerebral y del Centro Integral de Infarto Cerebral”, declaró Mitchell S. V. Elkind, M.D., M.S., FAHA, FAAN, director de investigación clínica de la American Heart Association y líder sénior del personal científico de todas las iniciativas de la asociación relativas al infarto cerebral. “ASA y AMEVASC consideran que los hospitales y los pacientes a los que atienden obtendrían beneficios de un programa de certificación coordinado que ofrezca una mejora del valor a través de la gobernanza compartida, la exigencia de cumplimiento de las guías correspondientes de práctica clínica en infarto cerebral y un enfoque organizado para el cálculo del desempeño y la mejora de las actividades”.

“La investigación respalda la mejora de los resultados en los pacientes cuando los médicos implementan las guías de tratamiento con fundamento científico más recientes”, declaró Salvador Cruz-Flores, M.D., M.P.H., HEC-C, profesor y titular de la cátedra de neurología de Texas Tech University HSC de El Paso, Texas, exmiembro del comité asesor y voluntario de ASA. “El trabajo con AMEVASC para expandir la certificación del centro de salud se alinea con el objetivo de contar con una evaluación, un diagnóstico y un tratamiento con fundamento científico para los infartos cerebrales, a los fines de salvar vidas y reducir la discapacidad.”

Este programa se basa en estándares desarrollados en forma independiente y supervisados por dos organizaciones impulsadas por una misión común, que reflejan décadas de experiencia científica y clínica.

MERRIMACK ATHLETICS

Derkack Earns Northeast Conference Co-Rookie of the Week



Merrimack College Men's basketball guard Jordan Derkack was named the Northeast Conference (NEC) Co-Rookie of the Week, as announced Monday after he continued his excellent play in the Warriors 56-43 victory over Stonehill College on Thursday night where he had six points and his play in the win against Saint Francis University on Saturday afternoon.

The Colonia, N.J. native scored 6 points in the Merrimack win on Thursday. The guard also had a team leading four assists and two steals to go along with one block in the victory. In the win on Saturday afternoon Derkack had 12 points that included some free throws towards the end

of the game, finished second on the team with six rebounds, a team-high of five steals, and tied for second on the team with four assists.

Derkack currently ranks fourth on the team in scoring, averaging 7.9 points per game. The freshman ranks fourth in the Northeast Conference for steals per game with 2.0 per contest. Derkack has 53 total swipes so far in the season.

The Warriors get back to action on Thursday night against University of Hartford. Game time is set for 7:30 p.m.

For continuing coverage of Merrimack College Athletics, visit MerrimackAthletics.com and follow the Warriors on Twitter and on Facebook.



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Aprende a pintar con tiza

Sábado 25 de febrero de 11-3pm

Únase al experto en pintura RECOLOR en ReStore para una demostración gratuita de consejos y técnicas para pintar con tiza. Aprende a dar un aspecto nuevo y fresco a piezas viejas y cansadas con una simple capa de pintura de tiza.



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Learn to chalk paint

Saturday, February 25 from 1-3pm

Join the RECOLOR paint expert at the ReStore for a free demonstration of chalk painting tips and techniques. Learn how to give a fresh new look to old tired pieces with a simple coat of chalk paint.



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Open Tues - Sat, 10am - 5pm

BY DALIA DÍAZ
daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

LÉALO EN ESPAÑOL EN LA PÁGINA 4

From My Corner



Fiorentini's breakfast

Haverhill Mayor James F. Fiorentini had a breakfast on February 11, 2023 that he called a Thank You Breakfast; it really turned out to be a retirement announcement. See some pictures on page 6 of this edition.

After 20 years at the helm transforming the city, it's time that he takes some time for himself and enjoys the fruits of his effort.

Mayor Fiorentini was a blessing for the city and anyone who knew him is well-aware of his accomplishments.

We wish him and Martha a long retirement full of health and happiness.

Working in the dark

I was happy to attend the opening of Casabe at Lawrence General Hospital because I don't get out often and get to see people that I missed for a long time. Among them, Sarah Perez, someone I always enjoy sharing my time with and she is a delightful person.

Part of our conversation was about the Federation of Businesspeople in Lawrence which has been in operation for the past five years. There was a time that only Sara and Sonia Terbullino were left in the organization and at Sonia's insistence, she agreed to work hard to bring it back – and they did!

I said they have been working in the dark because they have not received local press and they have never sent me any information about their work. I think the public wants to know more.

They have been successful getting funding from different sources and have helped several businesses. Sarah promised me that she would be sending me more information but I have not received it.

Draining the blood out

In the past, I've written about the situation faced by service personnel that depends on tips as part of their income. This is something seldom written about but their reality is very somber.

We'd like to think that waitresses and waiters earn \$200 a day but most people ignore the fact that they earn about \$3.00 per hour. Their tips are supposed to make up the difference to bring them over the minimum wage. If the tipping doesn't amount to that, the employer must make up the difference.

Many years ago I worked as a hostess in a restaurant and witnessed, after serving a big party of 8 to 10 people, that they left only \$5.00 for tip to the worker. Worse than that was when a customer would leave a card saying, "I don't believe in tipping;

see your manager." That was criminal!

That means he or she paid tax on a tip they didn't receive because when the restaurant reports to the IRS the amount they sold for the day, the government assumes they received a tip for that total.

The average tip is 15% of the total so if you spend \$100 a minimum of \$15 would be appropriate. If you are satisfied with the attention received, then be a little more generous.

During the last elections, we voted to increase taxes on the wealthy and it sounded so good that most people agreed. Part of the propaganda was that President Joe Biden said repeatedly then and even now, that "No one making less than \$400,000 would pay one cent more in taxes."

But, times have changed. Now, Biden wants the IRS to go after employees who receive tips because they may be lying about how much they really earned and wants to make the company responsible for controlling it.

The IRS hired 87,000 new armed agents that will be looking into this. My advice to restaurant goes is to make sure to give the tip in cash and let these hard workers decide if they want to pay more in taxes.

Reversed discrimination

Last week I wrote about how "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion" (DEI) is affecting our schools and the subjects they teach. Now I found out that The National Education Association (NEA) removed its resources on Presidents Day from its websites in 2020, according to a Daily Signal review of the Internet Archive's Wayback Machine. Three years later, the teachers union still has not updated the page.

Presidents Day lesson plans included "George Washington: A National Treasure," which celebrated Washington as an American hero, and "George Washington: Centerpiece of a Nation," where students studied the characteristics that made the first president a great leader.

Now, the Presidents Day resources site yields a "Page not found" result, instead referring users to NEA's resource library. The library includes Black History Month lessons from Learning for Justice, the education branch of the Southern Poverty Law Center; a report on how teachers can advocate for abortion services; resources for teaching about Indigenous people; an article about implicit racial bias; and posters, bookmarks, and stickers for celebrating "banned" books.

They are changing the history of this country and we are asleep. It's not

clear who is suggesting or demanding these changes but apparently, no one is complaining.

One last example I'll leave you with; Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation revised the eligibility for its three-year, \$300,000 grant to advance "healthy food equity" after The Daily Signal reported on the program's stringent race-based limitations. We now have Racial Quotas!

Under the original rules, some

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR RUMBO

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

organizations that employ a majority-nonwhite staff and have a majority-nonwhite board of directors were automatically disqualified from the grant because the CEOs in question are considered white.

Perhaps that explains why minorities are being placed in those positions while they may not be the real decision-makers but it's one way to make sure and get money from those foundations with these mannequins.

Knights wrap up 28-1 regular season with 84-73 win over CCRI

Haverhill, MA (February 18, 2023) – The #3 nationally ranked Northern Essex Community College men's basketball team wrapped a perfect conference slate at 23-0 on Saturday afternoon with a hard fought 84-73 victory over the Community College of Rhode Island. The Knights conclude the regular season with a record of 28-1 and will head into the NJCAA Region 21/East District tournament as the top seed.

NECC got off to slow start and trailed by as many as six points in the first half before a pair of buckets in the closing 40 seconds of the first half sent both teams to the locker room all squared at 38 points apiece.

On the offensive side of the of the court,

it was the Lawrence duo of Luis Reynoso and Jeremiah Melendez who carried the bulk of the offense as they tossed in 28 and 19 points respectively. They were joined in double figures by Mehmet Asik (Ankara, Turkey) who had 12 points.

Reynoso recorded his 24th double-double of the season as he grabbed 14 rebounds, Asik joined with 10 rebounds for a double-double of his own.

The Knights will stay at home for the quarterfinal round of the Region 21/East District Tournament next Saturday February 25th. Opening tip-off is set for 12:00pm from the Sport and Fitness Center on the Haverhill campus and the opponent will be announced on Monday evening.

TD Charitable Foundation Approves Contribution to CTI's Entrepreneurship Center

Lowell – The TD Charitable Foundation has approved a \$10,000.00 contribution to the Entrepreneurship Center which supports small businesses.

TD Bank believes that organizations such as Community Teamwork and the Entrepreneurship Center play a significant role in sustaining vibrant and thriving communities. TD Bank through its charitable giving arm, the TD Charitable Foundation, carries a legacy of supporting not-for-profit institutions and their important work throughout our region. Since its inception in 2002, the foundation has contributed over \$295 million in grant funding to not-for-profit organizations in the communities where we work, live, and do business.

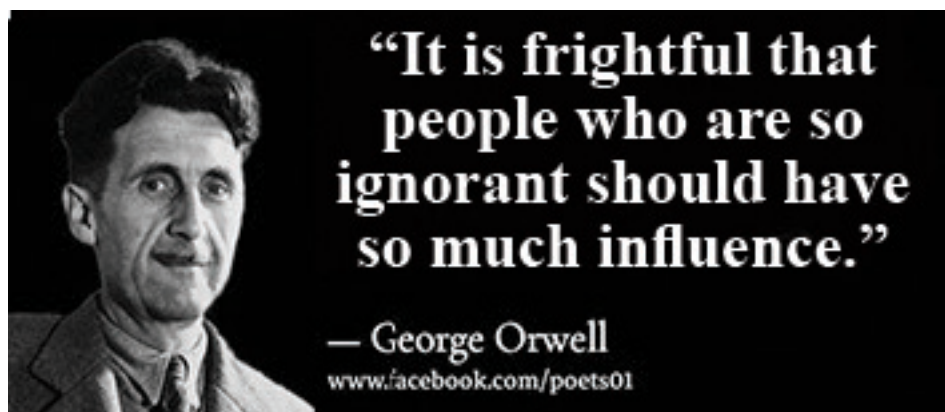
The Grant is to be used in support of approximately 25 businesses. The focus will be on the E-Center's strategic goal of supporting disadvantaged, minority-/women-owned businesses, with a specific target on Gateway Cities, and providing entrepreneurs training and access to financial software, namely QuickBooks.

"We are pleased to support your ongoing community-based efforts and

extend our very best wishes for continued success," shared Jennifer Gabriel, Senior Regional Giving Manager, TD Charitable Foundation, along with Marshall Sugarman, Commercial Market President, Eastern Massachusetts, TD Bank.

The Entrepreneurship Center at CTI was founded to provide entrepreneurs from ethnically and economically diverse groups with the education, tools and access to SBA micro loan products necessary to launch, expand and sustain small business.

Charles Smith, Director of the Entrepreneurship Center shared, "Financial reporting is a vital component for small business to obtain and measure their growth, inventory and other factors that are the essence of running a business. At the E-Center, being able to offer QuickBooks as an option for entrepreneurs and train them with a dedicated employee on installation and use is a game changer for small and micro businesses who often don't have access to these tools or it may be cost prohibitive. By the E-Center being able to help out entrepreneurs in 6 cohorts of 10 throughout 2023, we can further small business growth and prepare them for their next stage of business."



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Running the Campus: Six Degrees of Gun Violence



Six Degrees of Separation Theory is the notion that every person on the planet is connected to every other person with no more than six relationships between them.

**By Lane Glenn, President
Northern Essex Community College**

Five days ago, on Monday evening, 43-year-old Anthony Dwayne McRae shot and killed three students and critically injured five others in Berkey Hall and the Student Union on the campus of Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan.

As chronicled by the Gun Violence Archive, the horrific rampage at MSU was just the latest in what has literally become a daily occurrence of mass shootings in America: Already, less than ninety hours later, there have been five more with one person killed and twenty injured.

The murders at Michigan State University struck close to home for me, as a father, protective of his children; as a college president, who cares deeply about students; and as a proud alum of MSU.

The day after the killings, Atlantic magazine staff writer Tim Alberta, himself a graduate of Michigan State, wrote “Requiem for the Spartans,” in which he described the campus he had grown to love so much: “Every dream that came to my child’s mind when conceiving of college—the stately buildings and the sprawling green spaces, the roaring football stadium and the whispering river, the camaraderie and the conviviality and the bottomless school spirit—was a reality at Michigan State.”

Too true.

Like Alberta, I have incredibly fond memories of my time at Michigan State University, and still enjoy the community of fellow grads everywhere, so instantly recognizable and interconnected.

I travel a lot, and anywhere I have visited around the globe, from Australia to Qatar to Tanzania, I am bound to pass someone in the street wearing a green t-shirt or ball cap with that big, blocky, white Spartan letter “S” who shouts a peppy, “Go, Green!” to which I always reply with an equally cheerful, “Go, White!”

Even out in New England, where pro-sports are revered and college games an afterthought, I spend autumn Saturday afternoons listening to George Blaha, the “Voice of the Spartans” announcing Big Ten football games on WJR Radio out of Detroit.

I once had a dog named Sparty.

The sites of Monday’s killings at Michigan State University were just across Grand River Avenue from my off-campus house on Ann Street in East Lansing.

I taught a “United States and the World” history class in Berkey Hall, steps away from Room 114, where Assistant Professor Marco Díaz-Muñoz was teaching a seminar

on Cuban cultural identity when McRae stepped into the room and opened fire on his students.

My degree from MSU, my lifetime membership in “Spartan Nation,” my memories of that magnificent campus, my classroom in Berkey Hall, and the countless Saturdays I have spent singing the “Michigan State Fight Song” and cheering my team are still a few degrees distant from Monday’s horrific murders.

I was nearly a thousand miles and almost thirty years away.

But my heart aches for my fellow Spartans Arielle Anderson, Brian Fraser, and Alexandria Verner, for their families, for the injured students, and for all of the survivors at MSU whose lives are forever changed by one more act of senseless killing.

This is not the first time I have written about horrible mass shootings.

More than a decade ago, when my own daughters were still quite young, I held them closer and wept with parents everywhere after a gunman murdered twenty children and six teachers at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newton, Connecticut.

Back then, I somewhat naively wrote, “In the individual and collective soul-searching that is taking place in the wake of Sandy Hook, important questions are being asked, and some bold statements made, about individual rights and responsibilities, mental health treatment, and gun ownership in America. Whatever your position on any of these issues—and particularly if you are not sure of it—now is certainly the time for reflection and, perhaps this time, action.”

Just last May, ten years, 3,448 days, and more than 3,500 American mass shootings later, I found myself pleading after a gunman murdered 19 children and two adults at the Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas that, “We need a new generation of thinkers to solve this problem, because this generation has clearly failed.”

It took me five days to write this, in part, because I was just numb, and the words wouldn’t come to me.

The no more than six degrees of separation we all now have to gun violence in America seem to be getting closer, scarier and sadder.

Unless we throw out the tired, ineffective old playbook, move beyond today’s intensely polarized politics, discover the common ground in our common humanity and take real action to end mass shootings like the one at Michigan State on Monday, I wonder how long it will be before six degrees become only two or one, or none, for all of us?

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MCC's Success Scholars Program Brings Support Directly to Student

After moving from Bogotá, Colombia to Lowell, Sarah Alzate-Pérez faced challenges in navigating the U.S. higher education system. From figuring out how to get involved in the community to feeling more secure in speaking the English language, the Success Scholars Program at Middlesex Community College connected her with a mentor and network of support.

"Having access to a mentor through the program provided me with the ability to connect with the resources available to me, as well as provided me with opportunities for academic advancement," Alzate-Pérez said. "It gave me confidence in speaking a new language and it gave me enough support to be able to successfully adapt to my new life in the country."

On a summer 2022 New York City Pride trip with the Success Scholars Program, Alzate-Pérez was able to get involved with Middlesex before her classes started. Meeting classmates also in the program – in addition to having a mentor – helped her feel more comfortable attending activities and accessing opportunities throughout the college.

The support she received from being part of the Success Scholars Program has also led Alzate-Pérez to enhance her personal growth. At the start of the Spring 2023 semester, she decided to become a mentor for the program to help other students adjust to college life. She is also the president of the LatinX Force Club and part of the National Society for Leadership and Success at the college.

"I participate in as many on-campus activities as possible, especially those offered by the Success Scholars Program and other clubs," she said. "I was inspired by the network of connections and support they provided for me upon my arrival."

Alzate-Pérez is also grateful for faculty in the Fine and Performing Arts Theatre program for helping her develop her talent with experiences in and outside of the classroom. In MCC's Spring 2023 production of "RENT," she will play a role in the ensemble cast. With a passion for



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performing, she looks forward to pursuing musical theatre both in continuing her education at a four-year college and as a career.

"The incredible group of people that make up the arts faculty make my program amazing," Alzate-Pérez said. "Without a doubt, the opportunity that my program provides to transfer to a university is also very important to me."

After moving a year ago to the United States, she attended an MCC Open House to learn more about what the college had to offer. One of the first staff members at Middlesex to offer assistance was Karen Spengler, MCC's Links Coordinator. Spengler provided Alzate-Pérez with the confidence and support to start at MCC to "pursue my dreams." A year in, MCC has continued to guide her on the path to reach her academic and personal goals.

"MCC has been an incredibly enriching experience for my life and my personal development," she said. "I am immensely grateful to this institution for opening the doors to my success."

International Student Credits MCC for "Life-Changing" Experience

Vanessa Heinen first came to Middlesex Community College to take English classes. From Brazil, she now lives in Lexington and is enrolled in MCC's Biotechnology program. While she takes classes, she is also interning as a Teacher Assistant in MCC's biotech classes, giving her early exposure to experiences in the industry.

"My experience being an MCC student has been life-changing," Heinen said. "I always knew I loved science and lab-related work, but it was here that I found my passion. With MCC's biotech program, I hope to acquire the lab skills I am missing, be more confident, and embrace the numerous opportunities that biotech has. When I started looking for a place to do my associate, MCC was my first choice."

Heinen has been helped by a variety of sources at Middlesex, including through flexible course offerings, dedicated professors, and engaging support services. Being able to choose her classes and the times they are offered helps her better manage her schedule as an international student taking 12 credits over a semester.

In her classes, Heinen is impressed by the knowledge her professors have for the subject and the guidance they offer to their students in navigating careers. One of her professors suggested she enter the field after noticing her enjoyment of working in the lab. Heinen also appreciates how the professors encourage conversation and sharing of different perspectives between classmates. To Heinen, this leads to a clearer vision of the future.

"The professors' effort to bring the reality of the field of study into the class is impressive," she said. "They focus on preparing students to be ready to work, linking class theories with what the students will face in the market. That makes me feel better prepared for when I start working."

For the past year, Heinen has been an International Ambassador, helping organize events, workshops and field trips for students from other countries to get to know classmates, the college, and



Vanessa Heinen first came to Middlesex Community College to take English classes. From Brazil, she now lives in Lexington and is enrolled in MCC's Biotechnology Learn & Earn Experience. As part of the program, Heinen takes classes at Middlesex and works in a paid internship at NAME, giving her early exposure to experiences in the industry.

the community. Through MCC's Success Scholars Program – supporting Asian American, Black, African American, Latinx and LGBTQ+ students – she also connected with the International Student Office, Multicultural Center and Academics Centers for Enrichment (ACE).

"I could always find people with similar backgrounds and experiences," Heinen said. "We helped each other by sharing like-minded interests, passions and academic goals. It helped me navigate college time and face transitions, especially in my first year of college."

During a time that felt overwhelming and challenging having started college, Heinen's network of support at Middlesex – along with the diverse community – made her feel welcome and gave her the tools to succeed.

"Students get the education and skills that can help them find more than a profession," she said. "I found my passion and it is opening doors to a promising future."

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THE MERRIMACK VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

MVCC Business Networking Mixer at
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Tuesday, February 28th, 2023
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Roasted Coffee Bar
181 Groveland Street
Haverhill, MA 01830



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Merrimack Valley Chamber Night at the Boston Celtics VS New York Knicks!





Be there for when Jayson Tatum, Jaylen Brown and the Boston Celtics take on the New York Knicks!

Enjoy an exciting night with your family, friends and/or reward your business associates!

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Haverhill, MA

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Tuesday, March 7th, 2023
12 Noon - 1:15 PM
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THE MERRIMACK VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

A Report From The Massachusetts State Senate



Friday, March 3rd, 2023
7:30 AM to 9:00 AM
Haverhill Country Club
58 Brickett Ln, Haverhill, MA 01830

Includes a Full Hot Breakfast Buffet

Featuring Confirmed Special Guest Speakers:

	Senator Barry Finegold Confirmed		Senator Pavel Payano Confirmed
	Senator Bruce Tarr Confirmed	Breakfast: 7:30 AM Speaking Program: 8:00 AM	

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Senators Breakfast Forum
Friday, March 3rd, 2023

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THE MERRIMACK VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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- Marguerite Duras

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Q: My dad has always been a bit reserved, but lately I'm noticing a change. I don't know exactly what to call it because it doesn't seem like despair or anger, just melancholy. This is a bit out of character for him, and I'm concerned something might be wrong. Is this something you notice often in your residents?

A: Calling it melancholy is one of the best descriptors you could have used. In fact, according to Merriam-Webster, melancholy is a "depression of spirits" or "a pensive mood." It's also stated to be "suggestive or expressive of sadness or depression of mind or spirit." In other words, you're describing depression – and it occurs often for those with dementia.

What Causes Depression in Dementia

While we know that those with dementia have a high likelihood of experiencing major depression, just how likely is it? Studies show that up to 40% of those with Alzheimer's disease experience depression, and based on studies of those with other types of dementia, like Parkinson's and Huntington's diseases, the likelihood is up to 40%, as well.



Alicia Seaver is Vice President of Memory Care Operations for EPOCH Senior Living and a Certified Memory Impairment Specialist. Every month, she addresses a specific issue related to memory and memory care. If you're interested in hearing about a particular topic, please send a note to aseaver@epochsl.com.

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