

Lowell native serves aboard Navy warship in Japan



Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Bryan Niegel YOKOSUKA, Japan- Ensign Max Halloran, a native of Lowell, Massachusetts, serves in Japan aboard a forward-deployed U.S. Navy warship. Pg. 2

Community InRoads Awarded Multi-Year Cummings Foundation



Marko Duffy (Andover), Cultural Inclusion nonprofit participant representing Groundwork Lawrence Joan Kulash (North Andover), Community InRoads Executive Director Lorie Mondoza (Lawrence), Community InRoads Board member. Pg. 5

Massachusetts House Passes Landmark Veterans Legislation Ahead of Memorial Day

El representante Frank Morán me envió este anuncio de un proyecto de ley reciente aprobado por la Legislatura llamado Ley HERO, justo a tiempo para el Día de los Caídos.

“La Ley HERO no sólo ampliará los beneficios para los veteranos en todo Massachusetts, sino que también protegerá a otros de perder la elegibilidad debido a circunstancias fuera de su control”, dijo el Representante Estatal Frank Moran (D - Lawrence).

Como fue demasiado largo y no tuve tiempo de traducirlo, incluyo algunos extractos de los beneficios que cubre pero lo publicaré en inglés y español en Facebook en mi página y en la de Rumbo.

Representative Frank Morán sent me this announcement of a recent bill approved by the Legislature called the HERO Act, just in time for Memorial Day.

“The HERO Act will not only expand benefits for veterans across Massachusetts, but also protect others from losing eligibility due to circumstances out of their control,” said State Representative Frank Moran (D – Lawrence).

Because it was too long and I had no time to translate it, I’m including a few excerpts of the benefits it covers but it will be posted in English and Spanish on Facebook on my page and that of Rumbo.

The HERO Act includes the following tax initiatives:

- Veterans’ property tax abatement and exemptions: creates two local options, a) municipalities may annually increase local property tax abatements for veterans in an amount equal to the increase in cost of living

determined by the Consumer Price Index for the year and b) municipalities may offer an additional exemption to veterans that qualify for local property tax exemptions up to 100 percent of the amount of the exemption for which veteran qualifies.

- Employer tax credit for hiring veterans:

increases from \$2,000 to \$2,500 the amount of a tax credit for each qualified veteran hired by an employer and for subsequent years of continued employment of each veteran. This applies for taxable year 2024.

- Motor Vehicle Sales Tax exemption: adds veterans with disabilities with a Purple Heart recipient plate to those allowed a sales tax exemption for the purchase of a motor vehicle for personal use.

Beyond tax and care benefits, the HERO Act also includes the following reforms:

- Flag requirements: requires flags to be flown at half-staff at public buildings and military installations when a military member is killed in active duty, or when the remains of a prisoner of war or a military member that went missing in action return home to Massachusetts, and annually on national POW/MIA day.
- Veterans’ license plates: maintains authorization for the Registrar of Motor Vehicles (RMV) to furnish veterans, including prisoners of war and recipients of certain medals, with distinctive license plates and emblems indicating the branch

of service, award received, or disability status. The distinctive plates and emblems must be issued without a fee other than the established registration fee for private passenger motor vehicles and motorcycles.

- Alternative therapies for mental health treatments: requires EOVS, in coordination with the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), to convene a working group to study and make recommendations on the use of psychedelics as an alternative therapy for mental health treatments for veterans.
- EMT training waiver for veterans: authorizes the Department of Public Health (DPH) to issue a waiver for veterans applying for an emergency medical technician (EMT) certification in Massachusetts if DPH determines that the education and training requirements for veterans and military medics of the US Armed Forces are sufficiently comparable to the requirements for EMTs in Massachusetts.

Having passed the House of Representatives 156-0, the bill now goes to the Senate for its consideration.

Nativo de Lowell sirve a bordo de un buque de guerra de la Armada desplegado en Japón

Por Andrew Hanchar, especialista en comunicación de masas de segunda clase, Oficina de Alcance Comunitario de la Marina

Halloran se graduó de Lowell High en 2019.

Las habilidades y valores necesarios para tener éxito en la Marina son similares a los que se encuentran en Lowell.

"Se enseñó a crecer y comprender la importancia de las habilidades de comunicación adecuadas y aprender a hablar con la gente", dijo Halloran. "Tener esas habilidades me ha ayudado a tener éxito al principio de mi carrera".

Halloran se unió a la Marina hace un año. Hoy, Halloran se desempeña como oficial de guerra de superficie.

"Me uní a la Marina para seguir los pasos de mi familia, servir a mi país y comenzar una vida más productiva", dijo Halloran. "La Marina te permite servir a tu país mientras viajas por el mundo".

El USS John Finn, un destructor de misiles guiados clase Arleigh Burke, ofrece una amplia gama de capacidades de combate en entornos aéreos, de superficie y subterráneos con amenazas múltiples.

Un destructor de la Armada es un barco multimisión que puede operar de forma independiente o como parte de un grupo más grande de barcos en el mar. El barco está equipado con misiles Tomahawk, torpedos, cañones y un sistema de armas de corto alcance Phalanx.

Más de 300 marineros sirven a bordo del USS John Finn. Sus trabajos son altamente especializados y requieren dedicación y habilidad. Los trabajos van desde el mantenimiento de motores hasta el manejo de armamento junto con una multitud de otras tareas que mantienen el barco listo para la misión en todo momento,

según funcionarios de la Marina.

Dado que el 90% del comercio mundial viaja por mar y el acceso a Internet depende de la seguridad de los cables submarinos de fibra óptica, los funcionarios de la Marina continúan enfatizando que la prosperidad de los Estados Unidos está directamente relacionada con el reclutamiento y la retención de personas talentosas de todo el tejido rico de América.

Halloran sirve en Japón como parte de las fuerzas navales desplegadas en el futuro. Estas fuerzas navales operan con aliados y socios para preservar una región del Indo-Pacífico libre y abierta. Los miembros del servicio en esta región son parte de la Flota del Pacífico de los EE. UU., que tiene el área de responsabilidad más grande del mundo.

"Nos ganaremos y reforzaremos la confianza del pueblo estadounidense todos los días", dijo la almirante Lisa Franchetti, jefa de operaciones navales. "Juntos entregaremos la Armada que la nación necesita".

Halloran tiene muchas oportunidades de lograr logros durante el servicio militar.

"Estoy muy orgulloso de completar el proceso de puesta en servicio y ahora de estar en la flota que sirve a mi país", dijo Halloran.

Halloran puede enorgullecerse de servir a Estados Unidos a través del servicio militar.

"Servir en la Marina significa retribuir a los menos afortunados", dijo Halloran. "Mantenemos las vías fluviales del mundo limpias, libres y seguras".

Halloran está agradecido con los demás por ayudar a hacer posible una carrera en la Marina.

"Me gustaría agradecer a mi familia por criarme y convertirme en el hombre que soy hoy", añadió Halloran.

Lowell native serves aboard forward-deployed Navy warship in Japan

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Andrew Hanchar, Navy Office of Community Outreach

Halloran graduated from Lowell High in 2019.

The skills and values needed to succeed in the Navy are similar to those found in Lowell.

"Growing up and understanding the importance of proper communication skills and learning how to talk to people was taught," said Halloran. "Having those skills has helped me be successful early in my career."

Halloran joined the Navy one year ago. Today, Halloran serves as a surface warfare officer.

"I joined the Navy to follow in my family's footsteps, serve my country and start a more productive life," said Halloran. "The Navy allows you to serve your country while traveling the globe."

USS John Finn, an Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer, provides a wide range of warfighting capabilities in multi-threat air, surface and subsurface environments.

A Navy destroyer is a multi-mission ship that can operate independently or as part of a larger group of ships at sea. The ship is equipped with tomahawk missiles, torpedoes, guns and a phalanx close-in weapons system.

More than 300 sailors serve aboard USS John Finn. Their jobs are highly specialized, requiring both dedication and skill. The jobs range from maintaining engines to handling weaponry along with a multitude of other assignments that keep the ship mission-ready

at all times, according to Navy officials.

With 90% of global commerce traveling by sea and access to the internet relying on the security of undersea fiber optic cables, Navy officials continue to emphasize that the prosperity of the United States is directly linked to recruiting and retaining talented people from across the rich fabric of America.

Halloran serves in Japan as part of the forward-deployed naval forces. These naval forces operate with allies and partners to preserve a free and open Indo-Pacific region. Service members in this region are part of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, which has the largest area of responsibility in the world.

"We will earn and reinforce the trust and confidence of the American people every day," said Adm. Lisa Franchetti, chief of naval operations. "Together we will deliver the Navy the nation needs."

Halloran has many opportunities to achieve accomplishments during military service.

"I am most proud of completing the commissioning process and now being out in the fleet serving my country," said Halloran.

Halloran can take pride in serving America through military service.

"Serving in the Navy means giving back to those less fortunate," said Halloran. "We keep the world's waterways clear, free and safe."

Halloran is grateful to others for helping make a Navy career possible.

"I would like to thank my family for raising me and making me the man I am today," added Halloran.

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POR DALIA DÍAZ
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READ IT IN ENGLISH ON PAGE 16

Desde Mi Esquina



CARTAS AL EDITOR RUMBO

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

Reunión de la Autoridad de Reurbanización de Lawrence (LRA)

Aunque no pude estar presente en la reunión del miércoles, 22 de mayo porque era la fecha límite de Rumbo, la vi por Zoom. Hay algunas cosas que necesitan confirmación, como dos facturas de Town Livery, Inc. de la siguiente manera:

Town Livery, Inc.: \$594 para traslados al aeropuerto el 14 de mayo y recogida el 17 de mayo

Town Livery, Inc.: \$796 por dos (2) recorridos por la ciudad de 3 horas el 8 de mayo

Estaban dirigidas a Andrea McCann sin explicación del motivo del gasto.

Hablando de Andrea, Pat Ruiz, el nuevo director de Servicios de Inspección publicó una foto con miembros de su personal y ella estaba entre ellos. Si ella trabaja para el LRA (todavía no sé qué hace allí), ¿por qué estaba en esa foto?

Desde hace muchos meses hablan de publicar una Solicitud de Propuestas (RFP) y para un puesto que pensaban contratar a Jacqueline Mercedes (sí, Lawrence lo hace al revés), la esposa de José Javier, Gerente del Plan de Mejoramiento de Capital ganando \$125,000 al año.

Finalmente apareció en esta reunión y se anunció que ahora trabajará a una tarifa por hora de \$225.00 por hora. ¿Conoce a alguien que gane tanto por hora? No está claro cuáles serán sus funciones además de asumir la responsabilidad del presupuesto que ahora maneja Laiza St. Onge (¡Ay!).

Quizás recuerde que escribí hace unas semanas sobre un contrato que Octavien Spanner tenía desde el verano pasado con una empresa que cobraba \$72,000 por diseñar un sitio web para ellos. ¿Adivine qué? En esa reunión, Kelmy Rosado de Left Eye Creations hizo una presentación y su estimado fue inferior a \$10,000. Todos en los negocios saben lo talentoso que es y el trabajo excepcional que realiza, además, es bilingüe.

De nada.

¿Qué es lo que más me preocupa?

Nada me asusta, pero hay muchas cosas que me preocupan. Quizás recuerde que en las últimas semanas me quejé de los cambios sociales en el comportamiento y el decoro. He mencionado varias veces que algunos miembros de nuestro concejo municipal se están comportando como si estuvieran en un jardín de infancia sin disciplina, hablando entre sí, interrumpiendo y no respetando las Reglas de Orden de Roberts que permiten que alguien tenga la palabra.

El peor ejemplo es Wendy Luzón. Observe que ella interrumpe con un comentario sobre otro orador y cree que está bien si dice: "A través de usted, señor presidente..." Por eso, culpo al presidente del concejo, Jeovanny Rodríguez, por no capacitarla adecuadamente. Al menos esa noche la detuvo dos veces. ¡Eso es progreso!

Se nota que algunos van a las reuniones sin hacer su tarea y se nota por

los comentarios ridículos que hacen.

Esto no sólo está sucediendo en nuestros círculos sino también en Washington, D.C. La semana pasada, durante una reunión de un comité, hubo un desagradable intercambio entre tres representantes, que probablemente pensaron que estaban en un bar en un barrio de clase baja de la ciudad, insultándose mutuamente.

Se insultaban mutuamente por el cuerpo masculino, rubia blanqueada y mal formada, en referencia a Marjorie Taylor-Greene (D-GA).

En un momento, Greene le dijo a Alexandra Ocasio-Cortes (D-NY): "No creo que sepas para qué estás aquí. Creo que tus pestañas postizas están interfiriendo con tu lectura". El resultado fue que AOC dijo algo como "Oye, niña..." (Hey baby girl...) con los gestos del elemento barato de la sociedad actual. Realmente desagradable de ver.

Estos son los modales y comportamientos de esta generación y están en todo el país.

Oh, Wendy, debemos esforzarnos mucho para sacarte del concejo. ¡Te parecen mucho a AOC!

Ahora que lo pienso, ahora tengo miedo de lo que personas como ellos puedan convertir a este país.

La cosa está más seria de lo que la gente piensa con el Concejo Municipal. Empezando por la vicepresidenta Stephany Infante; en cada reunión, uno pensaría que ella dirige el espectáculo. Ella y el presidente Jeovanny Rodríguez parecen jugar a intercambiar el mazo cada vez que él quiere opinar sobre un tema, y ella se comporta como una copresidenta.

Lo que realmente me molestó fue cuando le entregaron una carta del abogado Tim Houten dirigida a Jeovanny Rodríguez, pidiéndole al concejo que retirara el artículo 76-24 y lo enviara de regreso a la oficina del alcalde. El abogado Houten explicó: "Estas subvenciones se anunciaron como reembolsables. Ahora se está intentando eliminar esa condición, que afecta a cualquiera que hubiera solicitado la subvención pero no hubiera podido pagar el dinero por adelantado. De hecho, estás cambiando las reglas para un grupo selecto de personas. Puedo ver que esto podría causar un problema con cualquier revisión del programa de subvenciones".

Lo curioso es que esta carta fue enviada únicamente al presidente Rodríguez. El resto de los concejales no lo habían visto y la señorita Infante soltó una diatriba diciendo que no iba a cumplir con esa solicitud de retiro y entonces, el concejo aprobó los fondos.

Por favor que alguien repase los deberes, responsabilidades y comportamiento de los concejales para que entiendan cuándo deben abrir la boca porque deben mantenerla cerrada más seguido. Esas reuniones no deben durar más de dos horas.

¿Dónde comienza el respeto?

El respeto comienza con la familia y los medios de comunicación. Sí, los medios de comunicación son un recurso valioso para educar a los niños y sus familias para que aprendan sobre su nueva comunidad y respeten los lugares y las personas importantes.

Por ejemplo, el hermoso parque frente al Ayuntamiento fue donado a los residentes de Lawrence y la escritura dice que debe seguir siendo un parque y que nunca se debe construir nada allí. Si eso no estuviera estipulado así, ¿se imagina cuántos apartamentos para personas de bajos ingresos se habrían construido a estas alturas?

Su nombre es Campagnone Common, un parque histórico. El parque es el principal de la ciudad y lleva el nombre de los tres hermanos Campagnone que dieron su vida durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial.

Cinco hermanos de la familia Campagnone fueron a la guerra y tres de ellos murieron. Algunos miembros de su familia todavía viven por aquí y resulta que conozco a Joyce Campagnone, que vive en Methuen. Ha sido miembro del comité

escolar y concejal de la ciudad; toda la familia ha estado orientada a la comunidad durante toda su vida.

Durante una conversación con ella hace unos años, dijo que era desgarradora la falta de respeto hacia esos niños que murieron durante la guerra llamándolo "el parque de las ardillas". Sé que eso comenzó cuando personas sin educación llegaron a Lawrence y comenzaron a referirse al Campagnone de esa manera.

Bueno, tomo mi trabajo en serio y me gusta pensar que mi contribución a esta comunidad la está haciendo un poco más inteligente. Vivimos en una era en la que en casa no se enseñan modales y las escuelas dejan mucho que desear, por eso los niños aprenden de la televisión, las redes sociales y de padres que nunca han sido corregidos en esas áreas mientras crecían.

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— George Orwell
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Community InRoads Awarded Multi-Year Cummings Foundation



About Cummings Foundation

Woburn-based Cummings Foundation, Inc. was established in 1986 by Joyce and Bill Cummings of Winchester, MA and has grown to be one of the largest private foundations in New England. The Foundation directly operates its own charitable subsidiaries, including New Horizons retirement communities, in Marlborough and Woburn, and Cummings Health Sciences, LLC. Additional information is available at www.CummingsFoundation.org.

Photo at left: Cultural Inclusion class – breakout session putting information into practice .

Lawrence – The nonprofit Community InRoads is one of 150 local nonprofits that will share in \$30 million through Cummings Foundation’s major annual grants program. The Lawrence and Haverhill-based organization was selected from a total of 715 applicants during a competitive review process. It will receive \$105,000 over three years.

Community InRoads is dedicated to fostering an effective network of nonprofits so that the men, women and youth in the Lawrence and Haverhill area have access to the resources they need to reach their fullest potential. They provide consulting, training and board development opportunities at no cost to nonprofit leaders and boards of directors, so that they in turn can better serve community residents.

“This much needed funding will help us sustain and grow our work strengthening the nonprofits in two magical Gateway Cities so that they are in a strong position to enrich the

lives of the good people living in Lawrence and Haverhill.”

In particular, the grant will be predominately dedicated to their Cultural Inclusion Program for Nonprofit Boards in Lawrence and Haverhill in order to have fair, equitable representation of the cultures being served on nonprofit boards. To learn more about the program, visit <https://www.communityinroads.org/cultural-inclusion.html>

The Cummings \$30 Million Grant Program primarily supports Massachusetts nonprofits that are based in and serve Middlesex, Essex, and Suffolk counties, plus six communities in Norfolk County: Brookline, Dedham, Milton, Needham, Quincy, and Wellesley.

Through this place-based initiative, Cummings Foundation aims to give back in the areas where it owns commercial property. Its buildings are all managed, at no cost to the Foundation, by its affiliate, Cummings Properties. This Woburn-based commercial real estate firm leases and manages 11 million square feet of debt-free space, the majority of which exclusively benefits the Foundation.

“Greater Boston is fortunate to have a robust, dedicated, and highly capable nonprofit sector that supports and enhances the community in myriad ways,” said Cummings Foundation executive director and trustee Joyce Vyriotes. “The entire Cummings organization is thankful for their daily work to help all our neighbors thrive.”

The majority of the grant decisions were made by nearly 100 community volunteers. They worked across a variety of committees to review and discuss the proposals and then, together, determine which requests would be funded. Among these community volunteers were business and nonprofit leaders, mayors, college presidents, and experts in areas such as finance and DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion).

“We believe strongly that grant decisions will be more equitable when made by a diverse group of community members,” said Vyriotes. “We’re incredibly grateful to the dozens of individuals who participated in our democratized philanthropic process.”

The Foundation and volunteers first identified 150 organizations to receive three-year grants of up to \$300,000 each. The winners included first-time recipients as well as nonprofits that had previously received Cummings grants. Twenty-five of this latter group of repeat recipients were then selected by a panel of community volunteers to have their grants elevated to 10-year awards ranging from \$300,000 to \$1 million each.

This year’s grant recipients represent a wide variety of causes, including housing and food insecurity, workforce development, immigrant services, social justice, education, and mental health services. The nonprofits are spread across 49 different cities and towns.

Cummings Foundation has now awarded \$500 million to greater Boston nonprofits. The complete list of this year’s 150 grant winners, plus nearly 2,000 previous recipients, is available at www.CummingsFoundation.org.



Proyecto de recambio del puente PFC Ralph T. Basiliere

¿Qué ocurre?

MassDOT realizará una reunión informativa pública en persona para que los miembros de la comunidad tengan la oportunidad de conocer en detalle el proyecto propuesto para reemplazar el puente Private First Class Ralph T. Basiliere sobre el que se encuentra la calle Bridge Street (carretera State Route 125) que cruza el río Merrimack en Haverhill, Massachusetts. Si bien el puente existente es seguro para sus usuarios, la estructura llegó al final de su vida útil y debe reemplazarse.

¿Cómo repercutirá esto en usted?

El proyecto propuesto incluye el reemplazo total del puente Basiliere. El nuevo puente incluiría cuatro carriles para vehículos, dos hacia el norte y dos hacia el sur, así como también mejores instalaciones para ciclistas y peatones. La estructura que se propone tiene una apariencia única que se desarrolló en conjunto con la comunidad de Haverhill para reflejar el puente Basiliere existente. También se propone reutilizar los techos de las torres del puente existente en el sendero Bradford Rail Trail.

Mientras dure la construcción, habrá un carril para cada dirección y también una acera sobre el río Merrimack entre Haverhill y Bradford en todo momento. MassDOT espera que los miembros de la comunidad que estén interesados asistan y obtengan más información sobre este proyecto

Cuándo

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Dónde

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Derechos Civiles, por teléfono, llamando al 857-368-8580, o por correo electrónico, escribiendo a MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us. Se requiere tiempo suficiente para procesar dichas solicitudes, por lo que recomendamos que las haga lo antes posible, idealmente entre 10 y 15 días antes del evento.

Las consultas acerca del proyecto también pueden enviarse por correo electrónico a massdotmajorprojects@dot.state.ma.us. Por favor, envíe cualquier declaración escrita sobre el proyecto propuesto a: Carrie A. Lavalley, P.E., Chief Engineer, MassDOT, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: BRIDGE SECTION PROJECT FILE NO. 605304

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Preocupaciones planteadas en el proceso de búsqueda de superintendente de las escuelas públicas de Lawrence

El proceso de búsqueda del superintendente de las Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence ha sido cuestionado recientemente debido a inquietudes planteadas por miembros de la comunidad que participaron en el Comité de Entrevistas de la Ronda 2. Estas preocupaciones se centran en supuestas estrategias políticas y desviaciones de las recomendaciones de la comunidad. Ahora, los miembros que participaron en la segunda ronda están instando al comisionado interino Russell Johnston, quien toma la decisión final en el proceso de contratación del superintendente, a intervenir por los mejores intereses de las familias y estudiantes de las Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence.

“Se nos ha llamado la atención que, durante la actual búsqueda de superintendente en Lawrence, hubo motivos para que aquellos que estaban en el comité de selección perdieran la fe en el proceso. Durante la Ronda 2, aunque la tarea del comité (compuesto por un maestro, un administrador, 3 miembros de LAE y miembros de la comunidad) era calificar a los candidatos basándose en medidas de desempeño y competencias”, dijo la presidenta del Lawrence Teachers Union, Kim Barry, en una reunión abierta en abril 30 de la Junta de Educación Primaria y Secundaria (BESE).

Se han utilizado maniobras políticas para eliminar e antiguos miembros de la Alianza para la Educación de Lawrence (LAE) y colocar estratégicamente a otros nuevos. El objetivo parece haber sido siempre elegir a un candidato que se alinee con agendas políticas específicas para administrar las escuelas y, en detrimento del proceso, no elegir un candidato que aporte las competencias necesarias para servir a los estudiantes de Lawrence.

“El alcalde tenía su propio candidato. Hubo 10 en la primera vuelta y no se recomendó al candidato a la alcaldía pasar a la segunda vuelta. Fue entonces cuando las cosas empezaron a cambiar. Fue entonces cuando algunos miembros de LAE quisieron cambiar el proceso. Querían traer cuatro nombres a la tercera ronda, en lugar de los tres nombres esperados”, dijo la Sra. Barry. A ella se unió la presidenta de la Federación Estadounidense de Maestros en Massachusetts, Beth Kontos, para compartir sus preocupaciones sobre la búsqueda de

superintendente en una reunión abierta el 30 de abril de BESE.

El Subcomité LAE, responsable de la búsqueda del superintendente, incluye a los miembros designados Patricia Mariano, Juana Matías y María Moller. Estas personas desempeñan un papel crucial en la evaluación y elección de los mejores candidatos para superintendente durante la Ronda 2. Los miembros restantes sin derecho a voto de la Ronda 2 fueron una madre, Johanna Mata; una maestra, Mindy Richardson; un administrador, Edward Reynoso; y Jonathan Guzmán, miembro del comité escolar.

Al comité en su conjunto se le encomendó, entre otras responsabilidades, clasificar la competencia de cada candidato en función de sus antecedentes, historial profesional y antecedentes comprobados de trabajo y recuperación de escuelas de bajo rendimiento. La Ronda 2 terminó generando comentarios para el Subcomité LAE de los tres principales candidatos. A pesar de los comentarios claros, la lista final anunciada por el Subcomité LAE reflejó cuatro nombres, uno además de los que los miembros sin derecho a voto consideran los candidatos con mejor desempeño que se proporcionaron como comentarios al subcomité LAE: Dr. Timothy Sippel, Dra. Alma González de Castillo y Ligia Noriega-Murthy. Los miembros sin derecho a voto han brindado colectivamente su opinión de no incluir a Ralph Carrero como candidato o agregar un cuarto candidato. Prefirieron seguir recomendando tres candidatos basándose en la puntuación colectiva de competencias, la discusión y los datos del Grupo Asesor de Alma durante la primera ronda de entrevistas. Antes del Sr. Carrero, otros cuatro candidatos tuvieron un desempeño excepcionalmente bueno. Pese a todo, la decisión del Subcomité LAE, que se tomó por 2 votos a 1, avanzó a cuatro personas.

La inclusión del Sr. Carrero entre los candidatos con desempeño superior ha generado inquietudes sobre si se tuvieron en cuenta los comentarios de los miembros de la comunidad en las entrevistas de la Ronda 2 y si las competencias eran importantes para el subcomité LAE, como miembros sin derecho a voto en la Ronda 2 ellos no creyeron que el Sr. Carrero demostrara lo que la LAE ha adoptado para las competencias y, sin embargo, terminó como finalista entre los candidatos con desempeño superior entendido.

El comité de entrevistas de la Ronda 2 utilizó las siguientes competencias para evaluar a los candidatos, basándose en las recomendaciones del Grupo Asesor de Alma y adoptadas por la Alianza de Educación en Lawrence:

- Alguien que sea un constructor de relaciones eficaz y un comunicador bidireccional.
- Tiene un historial de éxito en la mejora y recuperación de la escuela.
- Competencia y fluidez cultural, liderazgo y visión estratégicos y centrados en el estudiante.
- Liderazgo y gestión de equipos.

“Si bien los vínculos locales son importantes, no deberían eclipsar las competencias críticas que el LAE adoptó a partir de las recomendaciones del Grupo Asesor de Alma. Nuestro enfoque debería haber sido encontrar al mejor candidato para dirigir nuestras escuelas, independientemente de su ciudad natal”, dijo Jonathan Guzmán, vicepresidente del Comité Escolar de Lawrence. “Ser de Lawrence no es una competencia ni un requisito establecido explícitamente en la descripción del puesto o las competencias utilizadas durante el proceso”.

Durante la segunda ronda de entrevistas, los miembros sin derecho a voto que participaron entendieron que el Subcomité LAE tenía el voto final. Para consternación de esos miembros, el Subcomité LAE abogó por un candidato que no demostró un desempeño excepcional, a pesar de que otros candidatos se habían ganado legítimamente su lugar en la lista finalista. Lo que es más preocupante es que estos mismos miembros filtraron la conversación ejecutiva y apuntaron a los miembros

sin derecho a voto que proporcionaron sus comentarios y luego fueron atacados por el público. Estos mismos miembros recurrieron a la utilización de tácticas de intimidación política para manipular los comentarios proporcionada en el proceso. Los miembros sin derecho a voto expresaron su preocupación sobre si el subcomité realmente comprendió los procedimientos del 11 de abril. En lugar de absorber los comentarios, el subcomité empezó debates con miembros sin derecho al voto, quienes en última instancia no tenían autoridad para seleccionar candidatos para ser presentados a la Alianza de Educación en Lawrence y consideración del Comisionado.

“La participación de la comunidad y el cumplimiento de las normas establecidas son vitales para preservar la confianza y la integridad dentro de las Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence”, dijo Johanna Mata, madre de las Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence, “Como padre en el Comité de la Ronda 2, es fundamental reconocer que el LAE rompió el valor de fomentar la transparencia en la toma de decisiones, demostrando que era únicamente una táctica política”.

Durante este proceso, los miembros sin derecho a voto solicitaron votos de consenso para avanzar en el proceso, ya que algunos miembros del subcomité LAE no estaban preparados o no cumplieron con las instrucciones. En consecuencia, los miembros sin derecho a voto solicitaron una votación por consenso para evitar discutir sobre un cuarto candidato.

Al final, los miembros sin derecho a voto votaron sobre un grupo de candidatos recomendados, dejando la decisión final a discreción del subcomité LAE. Esta situación ha puesto en pregunta la importancia de la transparencia, la equidad y la conducta ética en los procesos de toma de decisiones.

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Concerns Raised in Lawrence Public Schools Superintendent Search Process

The Lawrence Public Schools' superintendent search process has recently been questioned due to concerns raised by community members who participated on the Round 2 Interview Committee. These concerns center around alleged political strategy and deviations from community recommendations. Now, members who participated in the second round are urging Acting Commissioner Russell Johnston, the final decision maker in the hiring process for the superintendent, to intervene and safeguard the best interests of Lawrence Public Schools' families and students.

"It has been brought to our attention that during the current superintendent search in Lawrence, there has been reason for those that were on the selection committee to lose faith in the process. During Round 2, although the task of the committee – made up of one teacher, one administrator, 3 LAE members, and community members – was to rate the candidates based on performance measures and competencies," said Lawrence Teachers Union President Kim Barry in an open meeting on 4/30 of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE).

Political maneuvers have been used to remove former Lawrence Alliance for Education (LAE) members and strategically place new ones. The goal appears to have always been to hand-pick a candidate who aligns with specific political agendas for running the schools and, to the detriment of the process, not to choose a candidate who will bring the needed competencies to serve Lawrence's students.

"The Mayor had his own candidate. There were 10 in the 1st round and the mayor's candidate was not recommended to proceed to the second round. That's when things started to turn. That's when some of the LAE members wanted to change the process. They wanted to bring four names to the 3rd round, rather than the three expected names," said Ms. Barry. She was joined by the President of the American Federation of Teachers in Massachusetts, Beth Kontos, to share concerns about the superintendent search in an open meeting on 4/30 of BESE.

The LAE Sub-Committee, responsible for the superintendent search, includes appointed

members Patricia Mariano, Juana Matias, and Maria Moller. These individuals play a crucial role in evaluating and picking the top candidates for the superintendent during Round 2. The remaining non-voting

members of Round 2 comprised a parent, Johanna Mata; a teacher, Mindy Richardson; an administrator, Edward Reynoso; and Jonathan Guzman, a school committee member.

The committee as a whole was tasked with, among other responsibilities, ranking the competency of each candidate based on background, professional history, and proven record of working and turning around underperforming schools. Round 2 ended in generating feedback for the LAE Sub-Committee of the three top candidates. Despite the clear feedback, the final list announced by the LAE Sub-Committee reflected four names, one in addition to what the non-voting members consider the top over-performing candidates that were provided as feedback to the LAE sub-committee: Dr. Timothy Sippel, Dr. Alma Gonzalez de Castillo, and Ligia Noriega-Murthy. The non-voting members have collectively provided the feedback of not including Ralph Carrero as a candidate or adding a fourth candidate. They preferred to stick with recommending three candidates based on the collective scoring of competencies, discussion, and feedback from the Alma Advisory Group during the first round of interviews. Prior to Mr. Carrero, four other candidates were performing exceptionally well. Despite everything, the LAE Sub-committee's decision, which was made by a 2 to 1 vote, advanced four individuals.

Mr. Carrero's inclusion with the over-performing candidates has raised concerns as to whether the community members' feedback in the Round 2 interviews was taken into account and whether the competencies were important for the LAE sub-committee, as non-voting members on Round 2 did not believe Mr. Carrero demonstrated what the LAE has adopted for competencies, and yet, he ended up as a finalist among the understood over-performing candidates.

The Round 2 interview committee utilized the following competencies to evaluate candidates, drawing from recommendations by the Alma Advisory Group and adopted by the Lawrence Alliance for Education:

- Someone who is an effective relationship builder and two-way communicator
- Has a track record of success in school improvement and turnaround
- Cultural competence and fluency,

strategic and student-centered leadership and vision

- Team leadership and management.

"While local ties are important, they should not overshadow the critical competencies the LAE adopted from the Alma Advisory Group's recommendations. Our focus should have been on finding the best candidate to lead our schools, regardless of their hometown," said Jonathan Guzman, Vice-Chair of the Lawrence School Committee, "Being from Lawrence is not a competency or a requirement explicitly stated in the job description or the competencies used during the process."

During the second round of interviews, non-voting members who participated understood that the LAE Sub-Committee had the finalizing vote. To the dismay of those members, the LAE Sub-Committee advocated for a candidate who did not demonstrate exceptional performance, despite other candidates having rightfully earned their place on the finalist list. What's more concerning is that these same members leaked the executive conversation and placed a target on non-voting members who provided their feedback and were then attacked by the public. These same members resorted to utilizing political intimidation tactics to manipulate the feedback provided in the process. Non-voting members raised

concerns about whether the sub-committee truly comprehended the proceedings of April 11. Instead of absorbing the feedback, the sub-committee engaged in debates with non-voting members, who ultimately had no authority in selecting candidates for the Lawrence Alliance for Education and Commissioner's consideration.

"Community participation and adherence to established norms are vital for preserving confidence and integrity within the Lawrence Public Schools," said Johanna Mata, Lawrence Public Schools Parent, "As a parent in the Round 2 Committee, it is critical to acknowledge that the LAE has broken the value of fostering transparency in decision-making, demonstrating that it was solely a political tactic."

During this process, non-voting members requested consensus votes to progress with the process, as some LAE sub-committee members were either unprepared or failed to adhere to instructions. Consequently, non-voting members requested a consensus vote to avoid discussing a fourth candidate. In the end, the non-voting members cast a vote on a group of recommended candidates, leaving the final decision to the discretion of the LAE sub-committee. This situation has highlighted the importance of transparency, fairness, and ethical conduct in decision-making processes.

"Keep your face always toward the sunshine - and shadows will fall behind you."

Walt Whitman

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Dirigiendo el campus: Grad Grips y iShakes

Por Lane Glenn, Presidente
Colegio Comunitario del Norte de
Essex

Como presidente de Northern Essex Community College, con campus en Haverhill y Lawrence, Massachusetts, una de las mejores partes de mi trabajo es entregar títulos y estrechar la mano de los estudiantes que se gradúan en nuestra ceremonia anual de graduación el tercer sábado de mayo de cada año.

Entre los varios cientos de estudiantes que se graduaron hoy en la 62ª ceremonia anual de graduación de NECC, noté algunos estilos distintos de apretones de manos:

The Grad Grip: el apretón de manos más común al comienzo. El estudiante espera pacientemente al costado del escenario a que digan su nombre, sonríe ampliamente mientras cruza los dos metros y medio de espacio entre nosotros, nota mi mano derecha extendida, la agarra para sacudirla unos cuantos veces, ve el grado en que estoy. Ofreciéndolos, lo toma de mi mano izquierda, hace una breve pausa para tomar una foto y luego corre hacia el otro lado del escenario.

El casi accidente: Es un momento importante: la culminación de años de arduo trabajo y sacrificio, y ahora todos están mirando. Y luego están todas esas personas vestidas de forma extraña en el escenario. ¿Y la música de gaita? Es suficiente para poner a cualquiera un poco nervioso y casi perder un apretón de manos en la prisa por tomar ese diploma y llegar sano y salvo al otro lado. Sin embargo, medio paso atrás para agarrar la mano ofrecida y todo estará bien.

The Paparazzi Pump: Incluso con la falange de fotógrafos contratados al borde del escenario, a algunos estudiantes les gusta tener un familiar o amigo que los respalde y capture el momento para la posteridad. El Paparazzi Pump ocurre cuando doy la mano y el estudiante no me suelta, continúa estrechando vigorosamente y sonriendo a un lado hasta que recibe el "pulgarr arriba" de su compañero que porta una cámara entre la multitud.

The Rockstar: Este no es lo que crees que es. Sí, muchos estudiantes usan gafas de sol atractivas e incluso birretes con

diamantes de imitación para celebrar el gran día; pero este apretón de manos, que implica mover rápidamente mi mano hacia arriba y hacia abajo como el batir de las alas de un colibrí, proviene de la emoción y la energía naturales del momento, o de la enorme cantidad de cafeína en el gran café Dunkies o en la bebida energética "Rockstar" que Tomé justo después del desayuno.

The Mad Men Mash: Favorecido por los ejecutivos de publicidad de la década de 1960 (y algunos especialistas en contabilidad y negocios del siglo XXI), Mad Men Mash generalmente lo practican graduados que visten trajes y corbatas bien planchados, e implica caminar con orgullo por el escenario, extendiendo un brazo hacia arriba, agarrando mi mano como si fuera un tornillo de banco, mirándome directamente a los ojos y diciendo un claro y confiado: "Gracias", ante el aplauso de una claqué de admiradores que lo vitoreaba.

The Proud Lefty: Para que la fotografía funcione bien, es importante que agite con mi mano derecha y distribuya grados con mi izquierda, así que tengo cuidado de extender mi mano derecha justo cuando cada estudiante comienza a cruzar el escenario para que saber qué esperar. Sin embargo, invariablemente hay algunos zurdos que insisten en un apretón con la mano izquierda, lo que requiere que yo cambie rápidamente de mano con el diploma y cambie mi posición en la caja pegada al escenario. (¡Estad orgullosos, zurdos! Sólo espero que esas fotos salgan bien...)

El iShake: Este apareció por primera vez en la ceremonia de graduación hace aproximadamente una década y se vuelve más popular cada año. Esas batas no vienen con bolsillos, ya sabes, entonces, ¿qué puede hacer una recién graduada universitaria con las llaves de su auto, su cartera, su programa de graduación y, por supuesto, su teléfono celular? Bueno, las llaves, el bolso y el programa estarán bien si los dejamos en la silla plegable, pero ¿el teléfono? Al menos la mitad de los graduados de hoy lo trajeron e hicieron el iShake.

Mmm... Quizás el año que viene alguien desarrolle una aplicación para eso.

¡Felicitaciones, Clase NECC de 2024!



Running the Campus: Grad Grips & iShakes

By Lane Glenn, President
Northern Essex Community College

As the President of Northern Essex Community College, with campuses in Haverhill and Lawrence, Massachusetts, one of the best parts of my job is handing out degrees and shaking the hands of graduating students at our annual Commencement ceremony on the third Saturday of May each year.

Among the several hundred students who graduated at NECC's 62nd Annual Commencement ceremony today, I noticed a few distinct styles of handshakes:

The Grad Grip: The most commonly seen handshake at commencement. The student waits patiently at the side of the stage for his name to be called, smiles broadly while crossing the eight feet or so of space between us, notices my outstretched right hand, grabs it for a few shakes, sees the degree I'm offering them, plucks it from my left hand, pauses briefly for a picture, then dashes for the other side of the stage.

The Near-Miss: It's an important moment — the culmination of years of hard work and sacrifice, and now everyone is watching. And then there are all those strangely dressed people on the stage. And bagpipe music? It's enough to make anyone a little nervous, and nearly miss a handshake in the rush to grab that diploma and make it safely to the other side. A half step back to grab that offered hand, though, and all is well.

The Paparazzi Pump: Even with the hired phalanx of photographers at the edge of the stage, some students like to have a family member or friend backing them up and snapping the moment for posterity. The Paparazzi Pump happens when I shake hands and the student doesn't let go — vigorously continuing the shake and grinning off to the side until they get the "thumbs up" from their camera-toting buddy in the crowd.

The Rockstar: This one's not what you think it is. Yes, many students wear cool-

looking sunglasses and even rhinestone-studded mortarboards to celebrate the Big Day; but this handshake — which involves rapidly pumping my hand up and down like the beating of a hummingbird's wings — comes from the natural excitement and energy of the moment — or the enormous amount of caffeine in the large Dunkies coffee or "Rockstar" energy drink they had just after breakfast.

The Mad Men Mash: Favored by 1960s advertising executives (and some 21st-century business and accounting majors), the Mad Men Mash is usually practiced by graduates wearing nicely pressed suits and ties, and involves striding proudly across the stage, extending an arm straightforward, gripping my hand like a vise, looking me directly in the eye, and saying a clear and confident, "Thank you," to the applause of a cheering claqué of admirers.

The Proud Lefty: For the photograph to work just right, it's important that I shake with my right hand, and distribute degrees with my left, so I am careful to hold my right hand out just as each student begins to cross the stage so they know what to expect. Invariably, though, there are some southpaws who insist on a left-handed shake, requiring that I quickly change hands with the diploma and shift my position in the box taped to the stage. (Be proud, lefties! I just hope those pictures are turning out O.K....)

The iShake: This one first appeared at Commencement about a decade ago, and it grows more popular every year. Those robes don't come with pockets, you know, so what's a newly minted college graduate to do with her car keys, pocket book, commencement program, and, of course, cell phone? Well, the keys, purse and program will be just fine left behind on the folding chair, but the phone? At least half of today's grads brought it along and did the iShake.

Hmmm Maybe by next year, someone will develop an app for that.

Congratulations, NECC Class of 2024!




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"Las grandes mentes discuten ideas; las mentes promedio discuten eventos; las mentes pequeñas discuten sobre personas".

"Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people."

Eleanor Roosevelt

Massachusetts House Passes Major Health Care Legislation

Legislation is largest update to health care laws since 2012

BOSTON – Thursday, May 16, 2024 – The Massachusetts House of Representatives today passed comprehensive legislation that aims to restore stability to the health care system, bolster accountability within the industry, and control health care spending to ensure that everyone in Massachusetts has access to quality, affordable health care. The bill also includes important updates to how the Commonwealth regulates and monitors the health care market, informed by the Steward Health Care crisis.

“This bill is the most significant health care market oversight and cost containment legislation in more than a decade, and is a continuation of the Commonwealth’s long-standing effort to ensure that everyone in Massachusetts has access to quality, affordable health care,” said House Speaker Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy). “I want to thank Chairs Michlewitz and Lawn for working diligently to help craft this legislation, a process that included the incorporation of input from dozens of stakeholders and outside experts, and I want to thank all my colleagues in the House for recognizing the need for this legislation amid a number of daunting challenges facing the Commonwealth’s health care system.”

“I applaud House leadership and its members for passing this timely legislation, which includes many proposals from my office such as strengthening our consumer protection enforcement tools and making it easier to use our authority to hold private equity owners accountable. Importantly, this legislation addresses systemic vulnerabilities brought to light by the Steward Health Care crisis to help ensure that such a crisis does not happen again,” said Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell.

“This legislation will help stabilize our health care system, and ensure accountability from all stakeholders, as we continue to recover from the aftereffects of the pandemic. By strengthening oversight and making much needed reforms, this legislation will not only steady the industry, but will also help control costs for consumers,” said Representative Aaron Michlewitz (D-Boston), Chair of the House Committee on Ways & Means. “I want to thank Speaker Mariano for his commitment and dedication to this issue, as well as Chairman John Lawn, and all my House colleagues for their work and dedication to creating a more affordable health care system.”

“This legislation looks to the past, present, and future of health care in the Commonwealth. It closes loopholes and shines a light on blind spots that allowed Steward to exploit Massachusetts patients for profit,” said Representative John J. Lawn, Jr. (D-Watertown), House Chair of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing. “It protects and preserves underpaid community hospitals that are the lifeblood of medicine in the Commonwealth. And it plans for stable and affordable health care growth moving forward. This bill delivers on the House’s commitment, under the visionary leadership of Speaker Mariano, to high-quality, affordable health care for all Massachusetts residents.”

The legislation passed today continues the House’s commitment to bettering the Commonwealth’s health care system, as was demonstrated during the passage of Massachusetts’ landmark health care reform laws of 2006 and 2012.

Strengthening oversight

To prevent hospitals and other providers from exploiting the same gaps in the state’s regulatory structure that Steward Health Care exposed, the bill passed today makes important updates to the Commonwealth’s laws that govern the oversight of hospital systems and other provider organizations.

The House legislation:

- Increases transparency related to the corporate structure of hospitals and other provider organizations by requiring disclosure of significant for-profit investment, including any private equity investments, and empowers the state’s Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA) to gather more financial data on hospitals and other provider organizations

- Enhances penalties for failure to comply with data reporting requirements, including increased financial penalties, adverse consequences for licensure, and withholding approvals of future projects

- Empowers the Health Policy Commission (HPC) to scrutinize certain transactions more closely for anticompetitive impacts, such as significant equity investments that result in a change of ownership or control of a hospital, conversion of a hospital from a non-profit to a for-profit entity, and a significant transfer of a hospital’s assets

- Expands the Attorney General’s authority to seek information from significant equity investors, real estate investment trusts (REITs), and management service organizations as part of that office’s statutory authority to monitor and investigate health care trends, and exposes entities with an ownership or controlling interest in a provider organization to potential liability under the state’s False Claims Act if the entity knew, but did not report, that a provider organization was defrauding MassHealth, for example

The bill also makes important reforms to prevent acute care hospitals from selling their most valuable asset, their land, to REITs. When Steward sold their hospital properties to Medical Properties Trust (MPT) in 2016 for \$1.25 billion, Steward agreed to lease back their former properties from MPT for exorbitant rents, syphoning away important resources and depriving the hospital operations and patients from needed investments. The House bill prohibits the future leasing of land from REITs for the operation of a hospital’s in-patient facilities and requires increased disclosure of other lease arrangements as part of the licensure process with the Department of Public Health (DPH).

In response to the tragic death of a patient at one of Steward’s hospitals, the bill also improves patient safety by ensuring that DPH is notified if a hospital’s medical or surgical supplies are at risk of repossession because of a hospital’s financial condition. The bill requires a secured creditor or vendor of medical equipment to notify the hospital and DPH of a possible repossession of equipment 60 days before the intended repossession.

Addressing the rising cost of health care To address the rising cost of health care in Massachusetts, the bill passed today

reforms the HPC and the health care cost growth benchmark by establishing a benchmark-setting process that is more responsive to market pressures, while also raising expectations on providers to meet the Commonwealth’s cost containment goals:

- Reconstitutes the HPC board from 11 to nine members who have more current, relevant experience and insight into the trajectory of the health care market

- Establishes a Technical Advisory Committee within the HPC to adjust the benchmark based on market conditions, such as inflation, labor and workforce development costs, and the introduction of new pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and other health technologies

- Changes the current annual benchmark to a three-year benchmark beginning 2026-2029 which will allow health care entities greater flexibility to address unexpected expenses, and give the HPC greater insight into longer-term trends

- Gives the HPC increased enforcement authority when a health care entity exceeds the benchmark, and when a first performance improvement plan (PIP) is not successful, by allowing the HPC to suggest elements of a new PIP and to conduct Cost and Market Impact Review (CMIR), which may result in a referral to the Attorney General

The bill also establishes a dedicated Division of Health Insurance (DOHI) to review health insurance rates for affordability for consumers and purchasers of health insurance products. Currently, the same state agency that reviews auto insurance policies reviews health insurance, an insurance product that is essential to the well-being of residents and an important aspect of one of the Commonwealth’s largest economic sectors. This bill raises the assessments on insurance companies to pay for increased staff to give health insurance products the scrutiny they deserve.

Protecting independent community hospitals and slowing further market consolidation

This legislation includes several policies to advance the House’s long-standing policy goal of protecting low-cost, high-value health care providers and of avoiding further market consolidation by larger hospital systems.

The bill establishes and integrates a Rate Equity Target within the benchmark enforcement process for insurance companies, with the goal of raising the reimbursement rate for historically poorly reimbursed acute care hospitals. The bill incentivizes insurance companies to pay these hospitals no less than 15 percent below the average reimbursement rate for hospitals in the insurance company’s network during the first three-year benchmark cycle from 2026 to 2029. Thereafter, the bill guarantees a minimum percentage increase in a hospital’s reimbursement rate as a

percentage of the health care cost growth benchmark.

This up-front investment by commercial insurers will provide needed resources for low-cost providers for the long-term benefit to the health care market given that, if such hospitals were to close or merge with a larger hospital system, total health care costs in the Commonwealth would inevitably increase.

The bill, via an amendment from Representative Frank A. Moran, also provides a Medicaid rate enhancement for a similar group of hospitals, based on a hospital’s percentage of patients that are public payers and their relative commercial reimbursement rate as compared to other hospitals.

“Today, the House of Representatives took swift action to shape the future of Massachusetts health care in a post-Steward landscape and to better protect patient care,” said Representative Frank A. Moran (D-Lawrence), Second Assistant Majority Leader. “As someone who has a safety net hospital in my hometown, I am grateful to my colleagues for their support in adopting my amendment to help provide relief to our financially strained safety net hospitals who are reimbursed at lower rates than their private, commercial peers. I would also like to thank Speaker Mariano for his steadfast leadership in bringing this generational piece of legislation a priority this session.”

The House bill also revisits House legislation passed last session which requires applicants for new ambulatory surgery centers to partner with independent community hospitals if the facility’s primary service area would overlap with that of the independent community hospital. This measure would protect these crucial hospitals from having their most important services syphoned off by surgery facilities that do not provide the same level of community benefit as 24-hour hospitals that offer a more complete range of health care services.

Stability and planning

The bill establishes a Health Resource Planning Council to produce a five-year plan on how to address regional and state capacity issues, which will be housed within a reformed HPC.

The bill passed today recommits to comprehensive state and regional health resource planning, and requires consideration of the state plan in the Determination of Need (DoN) process.

It also creates new license categories for urgent care centers and office-based surgery centers, as well as a new registration requirement for physician practices with more than 10 physicians. The bill also requires physicians to notify patients 90 days prior to terminating a patient-physician relationship, which was partly informed by Compass Medical’s abrupt closure of its physician group practice locations in May 2023. The bill passed the House of Representatives with a 152-1 vote. It now goes to the Senate for consideration.

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Teología Políticas y dimensión de la fe del alcalde de la Ciudad de Lawrence, Brian DePeña

Por Tomás Núñez. ThD.

La teología de lo político que proponemos tiene como materia prima los enunciados de las ciencias de lo social a modo de insumo teórico para una inserción científica de la teología en el ámbito de las transformaciones sociales que realiza el alcalde Brian DePeña en Lawrence.

Creo que la fe que profesa el alcalde DePeña y su amor por Lawrence se combina con su deber para que continúe el desarrollo de importantes valores, que no están en el mercado, pero que no tienen precio, como el amor, la amistad, la compasión y la solidaridad, que permitirán la sustentabilidad de un pueblo al que se ha entregado por completo.

La teología política es un término que se ha utilizado en la discusión de las formas en que los conceptos teológicos o las formas de pensar se relacionan con la política. El término se utiliza a menudo para denotar el pensamiento de creyentes que tratan de vivir los valores del evangelio sobre cuestiones de principios políticos.

Finalmente pienso que: la teología y fe pública es un compromiso entre el alcalde DePeña y la ciudad, de diálogo, fe y esperanza y especialmente con la sociedad en general. Brian DePeña hombre de fe es un alcalde que busca el bienestar de Lawrence y una sociedad justa para todos abordando



cuestiones de interés común para construir el bien común.

Esta es la teología política cristiana que pone en práctica el alcalde DePeña, habla con la sociedad, se hace uno con la gente de su ciudad manteniendo la fe y esperanza de trabajar por el progreso y desarrollo de su gente, muy especialmente de los más necesitados.

Theology Policies and dimension of faith of the mayor of the City of Lawrence, Brian DePeña

By Tomás Núñez. ThD.

The theology of the political that we propose has as raw material the statements of the social sciences as a theoretical input for a scientific insertion of theology in the field of social transformations carried out by Mayor Brian DePeña in Lawrence.

I believe that Mayor DePeña's faith and love for Lawrence is combined with his duty to continue the development of important, non-marketable, but priceless values such as love, friendship, compassion, and solidarity, which will allow the sustainability of a people to whom they have given themselves completely.

Political theology is a term that has been used in the discussion of the ways in which theological concepts or ways of thinking

relate to politics. The term is often used to denote the thinking of believers seeking to live out gospel values over matters of political principle.

Finally, I think that: theology and public faith is a commitment between Mayor DePeña and the city, of dialogue, faith, and hope and especially with society in general. Brian DePeña, a man of faith, is a mayor who seeks the well-being of Lawrence and a just society for all by addressing issues of common interest to build the common good.

This is the Christian political theology that Mayor DePeña puts into practice, he speaks with society, he becomes one with the people of his city, maintaining the faith and hope of working for the progress and development of his people, especially those most in need.



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Massachusetts lanza masseducate: Un paso audaz hacia un colegio comunitario gratuito universal

Líderes del Senado de Massachusetts, incluida la presidenta del Senado, Karen Spilka (D-Ashland), el presidente de Medios y Arbitrios del Senado, Michael Rodrigues (D-Westport), y el presidente del Comité de Educación Superior del Senado, Senador Jo Comerford (D-Northampton), junto con defensores de la comunidad y líderes empresariales, dieron a conocer el programa MassEducate como parte del presupuesto del Senado para el año fiscal 25. Esta propuesta proporcionaría un colegio comunitario gratuito para todos los residentes de Massachusetts y tiene como objetivo impulsar la fuerza laboral del estado y ampliar las oportunidades educativas para todos.

El senador Pavel Payano (D-Lawrence), un defensor de la comunidad latina y la equidad educativa, apoya esta iniciativa, reconociendo su potencial para transformar el panorama de la educación superior para las familias en todo Massachusetts. "Al ofrecer acceso gratuito al colegio comunitario, estamos haciendo una fuerte inversión en nuestro talento local y brindando oportunidades a los empleadores que necesitan graduados capacitados", dijo el Senador Payano. "Esta iniciativa es esencial para mantener la ventaja competitiva de Massachusetts y representa un importante paso adelante para hacer que la educación sea accesible para todos".

MassEducate cubrirá la matrícula y las tarifas de todos los residentes y ofrecerá hasta \$1,200 en estipendios para libros y útiles. El apoyo adicional para los estudiantes elegibles para Pell aumentará el apoyo total a \$2,400

al año. La iniciativa también sostiene los programas educativos existentes e introduce nuevas inversiones, incluidos \$18 millones para programas de enfermería gratuitos y \$24 millones para colegios comunitarios para residentes mayores de 25 años.

Un aspecto notable de la iniciativa es el Fondo de Persistencia Estudiantil, una inversión de \$10 millones destinada a ayudar a los estudiantes que enfrentan desafíos inesperados en la vida que podrían impedir su progreso educativo. Además, el Senado ha comprometido \$18,3 millones para el Programa SUCCESS, que refuerza las redes de apoyo para estudiantes de colegios comunitarios que enfrentan barreras sistémicas.

José Cervantes, beneficiario del programa MassReconnect y actual estudiante de informática en Northern Essex Community College, comentó sobre el impacto más amplio de la iniciativa: "Este programa no sólo es importante porque ayudará a aliviar las preocupaciones financieras de padres como yo. Es importante porque es una inversión en el futuro de la juventud y del estado de Massachusetts. No hay ninguna razón por la cual los empleos que requieren una educación universitaria bien remunerada no puedan ser ocupados por personas de nuestras propias comunidades".

El senador Payano está interesado en garantizar que la comunidad latina y todos los residentes de Massachusetts conozcan y puedan utilizar plenamente las oportunidades que brinda MassEducate.

Massachusetts launches masseducate: A bold step towards universal free community college

Massachusetts Senate leaders, including Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland), Senate Ways & Means Chair Michael Rodrigues (D-Westport), and the Senate Chair of the Committee on Higher Education Senator Jo Comerford (D-Northampton), along with community advocates and business leaders, unveiled the MassEducate program as a part of the Senate's FY25 budget. This proposal would provide tuition-free community college for all Massachusetts residents and aims to boost the state's workforce and expand educational opportunities for everyone.

Senator Pavel Payano (D-Lawrence), an advocate for the Latino community and educational equity, supports this initiative, recognizing its potential to transform the higher education landscape for families throughout Massachusetts. "By offering free access to community college, we are making a strong investment in our local talent and providing opportunities for employers in need of skilled graduates," said Senator Payano. "This initiative is essential for maintaining Massachusetts' competitive edge and embodies a significant step forward in making education accessible to everyone."

MassEducate will cover tuition and fees for all residents and offer up to \$1,200 in stipends for books and supplies. Additional support for Pell-eligible students

will increase the total support to \$2,400 annually. The initiative also sustains existing educational programs and introduces new investments, including \$18 million for free nursing programs and \$24 million for community college for residents over 25.

A notable aspect of the initiative is the Student Persistence Fund, a \$10 million investment aimed at aiding students facing unexpected life challenges that could impede their educational progress. Moreover, the Senate has committed \$18.3 million to the SUCCESS Program, which bolsters support networks for community college students facing systemic barriers.

Jose Cervantes, a beneficiary of the MassReconnect program and a current computer science student at Northern Essex Community College, commented on the initiative's broader impact: "This program is not only important because it will help alleviate financial worry for parents like me. It is important because it is an investment in the future of youth and the state of Massachusetts. There is no reason why jobs that require a high-paying college education can't be filled by people from our own communities."

Senator Payano is keen on ensuring the Latino community and all Massachusetts residents are aware of and can fully utilize the opportunities provided by MassEducate.

Mayo es el Mes de Concienciación sobre el Cuidado de Crianza

Apoyemos a los Niños en Cuidado de Crianza: Un Llamado a la Comunidad

Cada año, miles de adolescentes salen del sistema de cuidado de crianza sin el apoyo de una familia. Se enfrentan a desafíos cotidianos sin tener a quién recurrir: desde situaciones tan simples como un neumático desinflado hasta tener a alguien con quien compartir sus alegrías y logros.

En Massachusetts, esta realidad se acentúa aún más. A pesar de que los latinos representan solo el 20 por ciento de todos los niños de 17 años o menos, alarmantemente constituyen el 34 por ciento de los niños en cuidado de crianza, según datos del Censo de los Estados Unidos y el Departamento de Niños y Familias. Esta disparidad es un llamado de atención urgente que nos insta a tomar medidas concretas para brindar un apoyo sólido a estos niños y adolescentes que enfrentan la realidad del cuidado de crianza.

Una opción para ayudar es considerar la adopción desde el cuidado de crianza. Para muchos niños y adolescentes, la adopción ofrece la oportunidad de encontrar un hogar permanente y amoroso después de haber pasado por períodos de incertidumbre y transición.

Sin embargo, no es necesario adoptar a un niño para marcar la diferencia en su vida. Hay múltiples formas de contribuir y ofrecer un impacto positivo: desde ser voluntario en la Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange para ayudar a niños y familias de adopción, hasta convertirse en un CASA (Defensor Especial Designado por el Tribunal) y brindar apoyo a los niños en el sistema. Además, considerar la posibilidad de abrir tu hogar como padre de crianza o abogar por cambios sistémicos que mejoren el sistema de cuidado de crianza son acciones que pueden generar un impacto significativo y duradero.

En este mes de Concienciación sobre el Cuidado de Crianza, es fundamental que cada miembro de nuestra comunidad considere cómo puede apoyar a estos niños y adolescentes en cuidado de crianza. Cada uno de nosotros tiene el poder de crear un entorno de apoyo y crianza donde estos jóvenes puedan crecer y prosperar. Juntos, podemos construir una comunidad más fuerte y compasiva para todos los niños.

May is Foster Care Awareness Month

Let's Support Children in Foster Care: A Call to the Community

Every year, thousands of teens leave the foster care system without the support of a family. They face everyday challenges with no one to turn to: from situations as simple as a flat tire to having someone to share their joys and achievements with.

In Massachusetts, this reality is even more accentuated. Although Latinos make up only 20 percent of all children ages 17 and younger, they make up an alarming 34 percent of children in foster care, according to data from the U.S. Census and the Department of Children and Adolescents. Families. This disparity is an urgent wake-up call urging us to take concrete steps to provide strong support to these children and teens facing the reality of foster care.

One option to help is to consider adoption from foster care. For many children and adolescents, adoption offers the opportunity to find a permanent, loving home after experiencing periods of uncertainty and transition.

However, you don't have to adopt a child to make a difference in her life. There are multiple ways to contribute and make a positive impact: from volunteering at the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange to help foster children and families, to becoming a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) and providing support to children in the system. Additionally, considering opening your home as a foster parent or advocating for systemic changes that improve the foster care system are actions that can make a significant and lasting impact.

This Foster Care Awareness month, it is critical that every member of our community considers how they can support these children and teens in foster care. Each of us has the power to create a supportive and nurturing environment where these young people can grow and thrive. Together, we can build a stronger, more compassionate community for all children.

Ceremonia de Corte de Cinta para el Nuevo Parque Donovan

El Alcalde Brian A. DePeña tiene el honor de extenderle una invitación a la ceremonia de apertura del nuevo Parque Donovan.

Donovan Park recibió su nombre del ayudante médico de tercera clase del hospital Thomas Stephen Donovan de la Armada de los Estados Unidos. El médico Donovan murió en combate el 3 de junio de 1967 en Vietnam. El parque está ubicado en la calle Andover entre la Beacon y Amherst.

Acompañenos para celebrar esta ocasión trascendental y sea testigo de la inauguración de un espacio con

hermosos jardines que cuenta con áreas de juegos infantiles y áreas de pícnic de última generación diseñadas para fomentar un sentido de comunidad, brindar oportunidades de recreación y promover el bienestar general.

- Fecha: Miércoles 29 de mayo, 2024
- Hora: 10:00 a.m.
- Lugar: Parque Donovan, entre la calle Beacon y la Amherst Lawrence, MA 01840

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the New Donovan Park

Mayor Brian A. DePeña is honored to extend an invitation to the Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony of the new Donovan Park.

Donovan Park was named for Hospital Corpsman Third Class Thomas Stephen Donovan of the United States Navy. Corpsman Donovan was killed in action June 3rd, 1967 in Vietnam. The park is located on Andover Street between Beacon St. and Amherst St.

Join us in celebrating this momentous occasion and witness the unveiling of a beautifully landscaped space featuring

state-of-the-art playgrounds and picnic areas designed to foster a sense of community, provide recreation opportunities, and promote overall well-being.

- Date: Wednesday, May 29, 2024
- Time: 10:00 a.m.
- Location: Donovan Park, Beacon Street and Amherst Street Lawrence, MA 01840

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Para programar una cita, llama al 1.800.483.5503 o visítanos en nuestra página web en internet: www.bbbsfoundation.org.

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

¡Gracias por tu apoyo!

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Zeigler Endorsed by AG Andrea Campbell



Endorsement

EUNICE ZEIGLER
For Governor's Council

"I'm incredibly proud to endorse Eunice Zeigler for the Governor's Council. Eunice personally knows hardship and loss, and has always dedicated herself professionally to ensuring others are seen, heard and provided opportunity. A champion for diversity and inclusion, I know Eunice will bring wise counsel and incredible judgment to the role of Governor's Councillor."

Andrea Campbell
Attorney General

Zeigler Endorsed by AG Andrea Campbell

Methuen, MA – Governor’s Council candidate Eunice Zeigler receives the endorsement of the Attorney General Andrea Campbell. The AG states:

"I'm incredibly proud to endorse Eunice Zeigler for the Governor's Council. Eunice personally knows hardship and loss, and has always dedicated herself professionally to ensuring others are seen, heard and provided opportunity. A champion for diversity and inclusion, I know Eunice will bring wise counsel and incredible judgment to the role of Governor's Councillor."

Zeigler expressed "We are grateful to receive support from the AG, our team is working hard to bring the community together and to ensure that the district continues to have strong

representation."

To learn more about the campaign visit www.eunicezeigler.com. The primary election is September 3, 2024.

About the Fifth District:

The Fifth District includes the Cities of Amesbury, Beverly, Gloucester, Haverhill, Lawrence, Lowell, Methuen, Newburyport, Peabody, and Salem and the Towns of Andover, Boxford, Danvers, Dracut, Dunstable, Essex, Georgetown, Groveland, Hamilton, Ipswich, Manchester-by-the-Sea, Merrimac, Middleton, Newbury, North Andover, North Reading, Pepperell, Rockport, Rowley, Salisbury, Tewksbury, Topsfield, Tyngsborough, Wenham, West Newbury, and Wilmington

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¡Visita el nuevo sitio web de la Ciudad de Lawrence! Obtén las últimas actualizaciones e información sobre nuestros servicios. Nos encantaría escuchar tus comentarios. ¡Visita [<https://www.cityoflawrence.com/>] y ve las novedades!

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Queridos amigos,

Los estudiantes de la clase de español 503 de Phillips Academy han trabajado duro esta primavera para capturar y conservar historias orales de lorencianos—**Delia Durán Clark, Jennifer Suriel, Kenia Báez, Escipión Báez, Giselle Peguero, Jonathan Guzmán, y Lou Bernieri**. ¡Y ha llegado el momento de compartirlos con el mundo!

Únanse a nosotros para el estreno de los videos de historia oral de 2024 de [Nosotros, el pueblo: Voces de la Ciudad de Inmigrantes / We, the People: Voices of the Immigrant City](http://www.nosotroselpueblo.com).

Cuándo: miércoles, 29 mayo, de 10:30am a 11:30am

Dónde: El Taller, 275 Essex St. Lawrence, MA

Por qué: Demostrar solidaridad con la comunidad de Lawrence

Se servirá café, té, tostones, y buñuelos para todos. Para vecinos de Phillips Academy: Un autobús saldrá del campus a las 10:00am y regresará para las 12:00pm—contáctense conmigo si desean viajar con nosotros.

Las historias orales se tratan generalmente de *la historia y la evolución de la educación en Lawrence* y pasarán a formar parte de los archivos del Centro de Historia de Lawrence después del estreno.

Sinceramente,

Mark Cutler y los estudiantes de español 503

PD Pueden ver todos nuestros videos anteriores de historia oral—¡más de 50 desde 2012!—en www.nosotroselpueblo.com.

Dear Friends,

The students of Phillips Academy’s Spanish 503 class have worked hard this spring to capture and conserve oral histories of Lawrencians—**Delia Durán Clark, Jennifer Suriel, Kenia Báez, Escipión Báez, Giselle Peguero, Jonathan Guzmán, and Lou Bernieri**—and the time has come to share them with the world!

Please join us for the premiere event of the 2024 [Nosotros, el pueblo: Voces de la Ciudad de Inmigrantes / We, the People: Voices of the Immigrant City](http://www.nosotroselpueblo.com) oral history videos.

When: Wednesday, May 29, 10:30-11:30am

Where: El Taller, 275 Essex St. Lawrence, MA

Why: To show solidarity with the community of Lawrence

Coffee, tea, tostones, and buñuelos will be served for all. For Phillips Academy friends: A bus will leave campus at 10:00am and return by 12:00pm—contact me if you’d like to ride with us.

The oral histories are generally about *the history and evolution of education in Lawrence* and will become part of the Lawrence History Center archives after the premier.

Sincerely,

Mark Cutler and the students of Spanish 503

P.S. You can see all of our previous oral history videos—more than 50 since 2012!—at www.nosotroselpueblo.com.

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 or junk the following vehicles on or after June 2, 2024 starting at 10:00 am by private or public sale to satisfy their garage keepers lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale:

1. 2010 Honda Accord VIN 5J6TF2H5XAL011153
2. 2005 Ford Taurus VIN 1FAFP56285A278213
3. 2003 Honda Pilot VIN 2HKYF18493H603986
4. 2009 Volvo S60 VIN YV1RH592392728165
5. 2005 Keystone Camper VIN 4YDT372275A115950
6. 2007 Toyota Prius VIN JTDKB20U577600323
7. 2013 Volkswagen Passat VIN 1VWBP7A35DC000292
8. 2005 Honda CRV VIN JHLRD78525C056552

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

Signed
Frank Coady
Coady's Towing Service
5/15, 5/22, 6/1

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>

LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given by Stuart's Automotive, Inc. 97 Tanner Street, Lowell, MA, pursuant to the provisions of Mass G.L c. 255, Section 39A, that they will sell the following vehicles on or after May 23, 2024 starting at 10:00 am by private or public sale to satisfy their garage keepers lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale:

1. 2015 Mazda 3 VIN 3MZBM1V74FM209138
2. 2017 Kia Sportage VIN KNDPM3AC1H7119210
3. 2007 Chevrolet Tahoe VIN 1GNFK13007R109657
4. 2013 Ford Focus VIN 1FADP3F24DL320312

Vehicles are being stored at Stuart's Automotive and may be viewed by appointment only.

Signed
Kevin Stuart
Stuart's Automotive
5/8, 5/15, 5/22

LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given by Duff's Garage, Inc., 92 Kendall Road, Tyngsboro, MA, pursuant to the provisions of MA G.L c. 255, Section 39A, that they will sell the following vehicles on or after May 23, 2024 beginning at 10:00 am by public or private sale to satisfy their garage keepers lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale. Vehicles are being stored at Duff's Garage, Inc.

1. 2018 Toyota Corolla VIN 2T1BURHEXJC101099
2. 2009 Jeep Liberty VIN 1J8GN28K99W538863
3. 2013 Ford Explorer VIN 1FM5K8D86DGA28733

Signed
Glen R. Allgrove, Owner
5/8, 5/15, 5/22

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*Alcalde Brian A. DePeña
te invita a la*

CEREMONIA DEL DÍA CONMEMORATIVO

*Lunes,
27 de mayo de 2024*



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Orador principal: Capitán Connor D. Flynn

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Jaime L. Meléndez Jr., Director de Servicios al Veteranos



*Mayor Brian A. DePeña
invites you*

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

*Monday,
May 27, 2024*



REMEMBER AND HONOR

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Keynote Speaker: Capt. Connor D. Flynn

9:00 AM
Bellevue Cemetery
100 Reservoir Street
Lawrence, MA 01841



Jaime L. Melendez Jr., Director Veterans' Services

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Guest Speakers: Mother and Daughter
Fashion Icons, Yolanda Cellucci and Sondra Celli!

Yolanda Cellucci made a name for herself as early as 1967 creating a fashion house and bridal center. She has since closed the store front, but continues with an online store. Sondra Celli has been featured in TLC's "My Big Fat American Gypsy Wedding" and its spinoff series "Gypsy Sisters". She designs designing uncommon crystal couture and accessories for infants, children, and women of all ages, shapes and sizes.

ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

Thursday, May 30th, 2024
12 Noon - 1:15 PM

New Location:

Michael's Function Hall
 12 Alpha St.
 Haverhill, MA 01832

INCLUDES HOT PLATED LUNCH

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We are thrilled to announce an exclusive opportunity for our valued members!

Here's the deal: Refer a new member to join the Merrimack Valley Chamber during the months of May and June, and not only will you be expanding our vibrant community, but you'll also score big rewards for yourself.

For each successful referral, you'll receive a fantastic \$50 gift card or Cash as our way of saying thank you for your continued support and for helping us grow stronger together.

Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to be part of the Merrimack Valley Chamber Referral Member Special! To refer a member, simply reply to this email with company name and contact name/info and we will do the rest! We will let them know you referred them to us and once they join, you score with rewards!

MerrimackValleyChamber.com

MERRIMACK VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
NEXT GENERATION LEADERS ANNUAL CONFERENCE!

>>> OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS <<<

Friday, June 7th, 2024
12 Noon - 1:30 PM

Location: China Blossom
 946 Osgood Street, North Andover, MA 01845

Includes Complete Hot Luncheon Buffet

FEATURED SPEAKER:
Joanna De Pena, President, Top Notch Scholars

Congratulations to our Annual Next Generation Leaders Award Recipients!

- Elaina Aliferis, Community and Customer Management, National Grid
- Adam & Courtney Carsoe, CEO and COO, Pest-End
- Robert Cerniglia, Associate Financial Advisor, Thrivent Financial
- Yahnira Garcia, Director of Operations, Home Instead
- Brandon Howes, President, Comfort Home Care

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 MVCC Members **ONLY \$35.00** NGL 6/7/2024 Future Members **\$45.00**

Fire victims / Víctimas de incendios

When a fire occurs in Lawrence, usually many families are left homeless and in need of everything. Please contact Heal Lawrence if you wish to make a contribution to the victims. The website has a list of items and things that are needed as well as victims' names, ages, sizes, etc. but they suggest giving them gift cards to grocery stores and department stores in any denomination.

Cuando un incendio ocurre en Lawrence, por lo regular muchas familias se quedan sin hogar y necesitados de todo. Favor de ponerse en contacto con Heal Lawrence si desea hacer una contribución a las víctimas. El sitio en la internet tiene una lista de artículos que necesitan así como nombres, edades, tallas, etc. de las víctimas pero ellos sugieren que les compren tarjetas de mercados o tiendas por departamentos de cualquier denominación.

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

THE MERRIMACK VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Business Networking Mixer at The Woods at Merrimack!

Wednesday, June 5th, 2024
5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

The Woods at Merrimack
 197 Howe Street
 Methuen, MA 01844

Members \$10.00
Future Members \$20.00

Attend a MVCC Mixer and Enjoy:

- ★ Business Connections and Networking!
- ★ Complimentary Appetizers and Wine!
- ★ Business Card Drawing for Door Prizes!
- ★ Bring a Prize for the Door Prize Raffle!

Pre-register and bring a Potential New Member for FREE!
 When they join, you get a Free \$50 Restaurant Card courtesy of the MVCC!
 Thank you to our Sponsor: Samaritan Home Care

AGO Community Info Session: Housing

The Attorney General's Office will be hosting a Community Info Session, which is a chance for attendees to connect with members from the office and learn what we do and how we can help you with housing issues, and more.

May 29th, 2024
Info Tabling: 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Landlord-Tenant Rights Training: 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Lawrence Public Library
 51 Lawrence St,
 Lawrence, MA 01841

Can't attend this one? We'll be back on...
 Saturday September 21st, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

For more information or accessibility requests, please contact the Community Engagement Division:
agocommunityengagement@mass.gov

Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell
www.mass.gov/community-engagement

La docuserie original de YouTube (TM) se enfoca en las inequidades de salud y los desafíos de las poblaciones rurales en Estados Unidos



La American Heart Association lanza una serie documental original de seis episodios que aprovecha la narración para centrarse en los desafíos y las barreras de salud únicos que enfrentan las comunidades rurales DALLAS, 2 de mayo de 2024 — Según un aviso presidencial de 2020 de la American Heart Association, existe actualmente una brecha de tres años en la expectativa de vida entre las poblaciones rurales y urbanas en Estados Unidos. Además, los datos de mortalidad de los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC) muestran que la tasa de mortalidad por enfermedades cardíacas en las zonas rurales es ahora un 21 % más alta que en las zonas urbanas[1]. Una nueva serie documental original en video del equipo de producción de contenidos de la American Heart Association, AHA Studios: “Health Wanted: Finding Care in Rural America”, ofrece una perspectiva más clara de las barreras únicas en la equidad en salud que enfrentan las comunidades rurales en todo Estados Unidos.

La serie utiliza una narración de estilo documental en primera persona, que abarca desde Alaska hasta los Apalaches, para destacar los obstáculos del mundo real para la prevención y el tratamiento exitosos de las enfermedades cardíacas, el tratamiento de los problemas de salud mental y la reducción de las tasas de mortalidad materna en las zonas rurales de Estados Unidos. Además,

se centra en los desafíos específicos que enfrentan los hospitales y las clínicas de salud rurales con escasez de personal, al tiempo que destaca los esfuerzos complejos, aunque innovadores, para promover mejores resultados de salud, principalmente a través de la participación de la comunidad local y mejores sistemas de atención locales.

“Los pacientes y los profesionales de la salud en áreas rurales enfrentan desafíos y oportunidades únicos. Al centrarse en eliminar las barreras, la American Heart Association tiene como objetivo mejorar la atención cardiovascular equitativa para todos en los Estados Unidos, independientemente de dónde vivan”, afirmó Karen E. Joynt Maddox, MD, MPH, voluntaria de la American Heart Association, coautora de Llamada a la acción: Salud rural: Un aviso presidencial de la American Heart Association y la American Stroke Association, y codirectora del Centro de Política y Economía de la Salud del Instituto de Salud Pública de la Washington University en St. Louis, Missouri.

Mediante el uso de impactantes narraciones gráficas, la Asociación espera ampliar la concientización sobre los desafíos únicos que enfrentan las poblaciones rurales y, al mismo tiempo, inspirar cambios positivos en los sistemas a través de la colaboración, la innovación y el apoyo. Cada episodio presenta relatos convincentes y auténticos de primera mano de individuos, sus familias y sus comunidades, cada uno de los cuales lucha contra la desigualdad en la salud, lo que subraya la necesidad urgente de actuar. “Con Health Wanted: Finding Care in Rural America, buscamos aprovechar el poder de la narración para iniciar una conversación nacional sobre las disparidades de la salud en las zonas rurales y crear un cambio

positivo y duradero”, afirma Katrina McGhee, Vicepresidenta Ejecutiva y Directora de Marketing de la American Heart Association. “La marca confiable de la American Heart Association y su trayectoria rica en historias la ubican en una posición única para ser un agente de cambio que impulse esta importante conversación nacional”.

Como defensora comprometida de la salud cardíaca y el bienestar general de todos, la American Heart Association históricamente se ha centrado en la equidad en la salud, incluidas tareas para cerrar la brecha entre la calidad de la atención hospitalaria rural y urbana. En 2020, la Asociación lanzó Llamada a la acción: Salud rural: Un aviso presidencial de la American Heart Association y la American Stroke Association, que enfatiza la necesidad de un mayor acceso a la atención, una mejor calidad de la atención de salud y un enfoque mejor orientado para reducir los factores de riesgo. En 2021, la Asociación anunció una iniciativa de tres años para ayudar a los hospitales y médicos rurales a brindar atención basada en evidencia de alta calidad, consistente, oportuna y adecuada, conocida como Rural Health Care Outcomes Accelerator. La organización lanzó HeartCorps en 2022 en respaldo a 100 miembros de Public Health AmeriCorps cada año en áreas rurales con el fin de desarrollar una cartera sostenible de trabajadores de salud pública, reducir los riesgos cardiovasculares entre los residentes rurales y acelerar la adopción e implementación de cambios en los sistemas para mejorar la salud cardiovascular. Este verano, la Asociación anunció una inversión de \$20 millones en la investigación científica de los desafíos de salud en las zonas rurales. Además, la American Heart Association aboga por que los estados y las comunidades aprueben políticas públicas que aumenten

el acceso a la atención médica, eviten el consumo de tabaco, fortalezcan los sistemas de atención, mejoren la disponibilidad de los alimentos saludables, creen oportunidades para la actividad física y garanticen que los gobiernos puedan abordar los problemas de salud de sus residentes. Además, con el apoyo de la Fundación Caritativa Leona M. y Harry B. Helmsley en los últimos 15 años, la American Heart Association ha implementado soluciones clave de salud rural, incluyendo sistemas estatales de atención del corazón y los accidentes cerebrovasculares en todo el Alto Medio Oeste; el desarrollo e implementación de nuevos estándares de calidad para guiar el cuidado de accidentes cerebrovasculares post-agudos; el desarrollo del programa HeartCorps; y ampliar las oportunidades de educación profesional y capacitación para que todos los proveedores de atención médica estén equipados para ofrecer la telemedicina de la más alta calidad a los pacientes a través del establecimiento del Centro de Telemedicina de la American Heart Association.

El público, los canales y las plataformas de medios, así como las partes interesadas de la salud pública y la comunidad están invitados a actuar ahora y apoyar a sus compatriotas estadounidenses que viven en zonas rurales, así como a ver la impactante serie documental, que estará disponible a partir de 1 de mayo de 2024. La serie está disponible en el canal de YouTube de la American Heart Association, una fuente de salud verificada, identificada y designada como una fuente de salud autorizada por YouTube, que proporciona contenidos en video fáciles de comprender con el fin de educar e inspirar. Para ofrecerse como voluntario o realizar donaciones destinadas a mejorar el acceso a la atención en comunidades y zonas rurales en todo el país, visite heart.org/ruralhealth.

LEA EDICIONES PREVIAS DE RUMBO EN LA INTERNET RUMBONEWS.COM

BY DALIA DÍAZ
daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

LÉALO EN ESPAÑOL EN LA PÁGINA 4

From My Corner



Meeting - Lawrence Redevelopment Authority (LRA)

Although I could not be present at the Wednesday, May 22 meeting because it was Rumbo's deadline, I watched it on Zoom. There are some things needing confirmation such as two invoices from Town Livery, Inc. as follows:

Town Livery, Inc. - \$594 for airport transfers on May 14 and pick up on May 17

Town Livery, Inc. - \$796 for two (2) 3-hour city tours on May 8

They were addressed to Andrea McCann with no explanation of the reason for the expenditure.

Speaking of Andrea, Pat Ruiz, the new Director of Inspectional Services posted a picture with members of his staff, and she was among them. If she works under the LRA (I still don't know what she does there), Why was she in that picture?

For many months they have been talking about posting a Request for Proposals (RPF) and for a position that they planned to hire Jacqueline Mercedes (yes, Lawrence does it backward), the wife of José Javier, Manager of Capital Improvement Plan earning \$125,000 yearly.

She finally appeared at this meeting, and it was announced that will now work at an hourly rate of \$225.00 per hour. Do you know anyone who earns that much per hour? It's not clear what her duties will be besides taking responsibility for the budget which is now handled by Laiza St. Onge (Ouch!)

You may remember that I wrote a few weeks ago about a contract that Octavien Spanner had since last summer from a company that was charging \$72,000 to design a website for them. Guess what? At that meeting, Kelmy Rosado from Left Eye Creations did a presentation, and his estimate was under \$10,000. Everyone in business knows how talented he is and the exceptional work he does, besides, he's bilingual.

You're welcome.

What concerns me most?

Nothing scares me, but there are lots of things that worry me. You might remember that in the past few weeks, I complained about social changes in behavior and decorum. I've mentioned several times that some members of our city council are behaving like kindergartens without discipline, talking over each other, interrupting, and not respecting the Roberts' Rules of Order allowing for someone to have the floor.

The worst example is Wendy Luzón. Notice that she breaks in with a comment over another speaker and she believes it's OK if she says, "Through you Mr. President..." For that, I blame the council president Jeovanny Rodriguez for not training her properly. At least last night, he stopped her twice. That's progress!

It's noticeable that some of them go to

meetings without doing any homework and it is obvious by the ridiculous comments they make.

It is not only happening in our circles but in Washington, D.C. Last week, during a committee meeting, there was a nasty exchange between three representatives, that probably thought they were in a bar in a low-class side of town, insulting each other.

They were insulting each other over bleach-blonde, bad-built, butch body referring to Marjorie Taylor-Greene (D-GA).

At one point, Greene said to Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) "I don't think you know what you're here for. I think your fake eyelashes are messing with your reading." The result was that AOC said something like "Hey, baby girl..." with the mannerisms of today's cheap element of society. Truly disgusting to watch.

These are the manners and behaviors of this generation, and they are all over the country.

Oh, Wendy, we must try hard to get you out of the council. You are so much like AOC!

Come to think about it, now I'm scared of what people like them may turn this country into.

Things are more serious than people think with the City Council. Beginning with Vice President Stephany Infante; at each meeting, you would think that she's running the show. She and President Jeovanny Rodriguez seem to have a game exchanging the gavel whenever he wants to opine on an issue, and she behaves like a co-president.

What really bothered me was when she was given a letter from Attorney Tim Houten addressed to Jeovanny Rodriguez, asking the council to withdraw item 76-24 and send it back to the mayor's office. Attorney Houten explained "These grants were advertised as reimbursable. You are now trying to remove that condition, which affects anyone who would have applied for the grant but could not pay the money upfront. You are in effect changing the rules for a select group of people. I can see that this might cause a problem with any review of the grant program."

What's curious about it is that this letter was sent to President Rodriguez only. The rest of the councilors had not seen it and Ms. Infante went on a tirade that she was not going to honor that request for a withdrawal and so, the council approved the funds.

Please someone go over the duties, responsibilities, and behavior of the council members so they understand when they should open their mouths because they should keep them closed more often. Those meetings should not be more than two hours long.

Where respect begins

Respect begins with the family – and the media. Yes, the media is a valuable resource to educate children and their families to learn about their new community and respect the places and people of importance.

For example, the beautiful park across from City Hall was donated to Lawrence residents and the deed says that it should remain a park and nothing should ever be

built there. If that was not stipulated that way, can you imagine how many low-income apartments would have been built by now?

Its name is Campagnone Common, a historic park. The park is the main park for the city and is named for the three Campagnone brothers who gave their lives during World War II.

There were five brothers in the Campagnone family who went to war and three of them died. Members of their family still live around here, and I happen to know Joyce Campagnone who lives in Methuen. She has been a member of the school committee and a city councilor – the entire family has been community-oriented

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR RUMBO

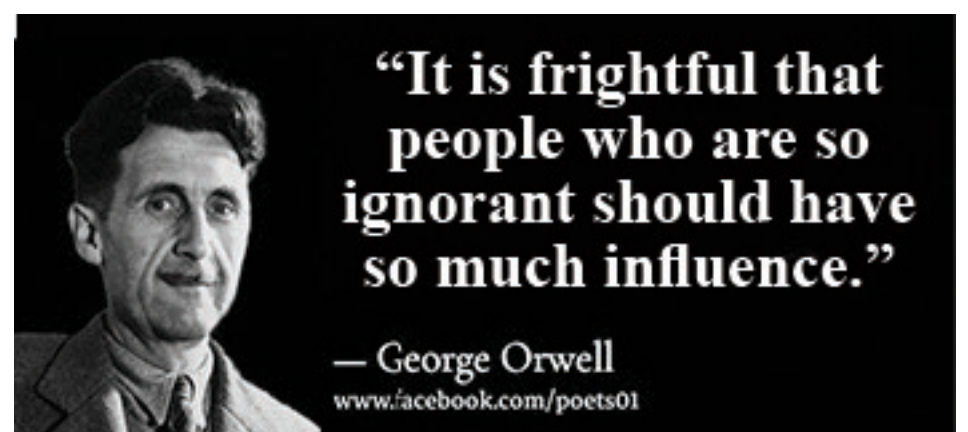
315 Mt. Vernon St.
Lawrence MA 01843
Email: Rumbo@rumbonews.com

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

throughout their lives.

During a conversation with her a few years ago, she said that it was heartbreaking the lack of respect for those boys who die during the war calling it "the squirrels park". I know that started when uneducated people came to Lawrence and started referring to the Campagnone that way.

Well, I take my job seriously and like to think that my contribution to this community is leaving it a little smarter. We are living in an era when manners are not taught at home and the schools leave a lot to be desired, so children learn from television, social media, and parents who have never been corrected in those areas while growing up.



"Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without being lost."

- Thomas Jefferson

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Un hogar estable y cariñoso es importante para todos los niños, especialmente los que podrían haber enfrentado la negligencia o el trauma. En cualquier momento, hay entre 6,000 y 9,000 niños en el cuidado de crianza en Massachusetts, que representan todas las edades, grupos étnicos y niveles económicos. Los padres de crianza en todo Massachusetts brindan hogares seguros y cariñosos en un momento crítico en la vida de los niños.

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Sports with Northern Essex Community College

By Dan Blair, Director of Athletics

Knights sweep Region 21 Major Awards as eight are named to All-Region Teams

Haverhill, MA (May 14, 2024) – The Northern Essex Community College baseball team had eight member selected to the Region 21 All Region Teams as announced today by the regional baseball committee, including five selections to the All-Region First Team. Along the way Chris Bear (Boston) was named the Regional Player of the Year, Jayden Voelker (Coventry, RI) Regional Pitcher of the Year and head coach Jeff Mejia was named Coach of the Year.

Joining Bear and Voelker as First Team selections were catcher Eric Wainwright (Falmouth), center fielder Max LaLime (Portsmouth, NH) and third baseman Manny Castro (Manchester, NH).

Heading into the Northeast District Championship this weekend, Bear was the Region 21 batting champion and ranks third nationally with a .492 batting average. He also led the region in stolen bases slugging percentage with 37 stolen bases and a .735 slugging percentage which rank 12th and 16th among national leaders.

Voelker, who was named the named the NJCAA National Pitcher of the Week on three occasions during the season, currently leads the nation in strikeouts per nine innings at 19.42, while leading the region and ranking second nationally in earned run average at 1.66. On the season he's pitched 48.2 innings with a 7-1 record, striking out 105 batters and allowing just 24 hits and nine earned runs.

LaLime, the teams leader in home runs with eight and runs scored with 51, batted .380 at the plate hitting primarily out of the leadoff position and ranked second on

the team with 44 RBIs. Wainwright, batted .347 while picking up 16 stolen bases and 23 RBI along the way. Castro heads into the weekend batting .336 with 31 RBIs and 37 runs scores.

Picking up second team honors were freshman Thomas Fratto (Reading) and sophomore pitcher Relfin Jimenez (Lawrence).

Fratto, the team leader in walks with 31, batted .301 on the season including ranking second on the team in extra base this with 16 recorded 34 hits on the season. Jimenez, led the team in innings pitched with 51.2 and went 5-1 on the mound this spring in seven starts and a 4.01 ERA while striking out 10.63 batters per nine innings.

Armani Paulino (Lawrence) rounded out the Knights selections as he picked up honorable mentions honors, taking over at second base during the seasons midpoints, he is hitting .404 in 23 games with seven extra base hits.

NECC will head into the weekend with a 25-13 overall record and will host Kingsborough Community College out of Brooklyn, New York in the best of three NJCAA Northeast District Championship Tournament. The district champion with advance to the NJCAA World Series set to begin May 25th at Falcon park in Auburn, NY. The Knights will be looking for their third straight and tenth all-time World Series appearance.

The weekend series will be played at Haverhill Stadium with game one set for 11:00am on Friday, followed by game two at 1:30pm on Saturday and if necessary game three at 3:00pm on Sunday

Voelker, Offense send Knights to third straight World Series

Haverhill, MA (May 18, 2024) – A fourteen hit offensive onslaught and 12 strikeouts over six innings from ace Jayden Voelker (Coventry, RI) propelled the Northern Essex Community College baseball to a 12-1 victory over Kingsborough Community College and their 27th win of the season, while punching their ticket to the programs third straight and tenth overall appearance in the NJCAA World Series.

The NJCAA will release the official tournament bracket and seeding on Tuesday morning at 10:00am live on the NJCAA Network, where the Knights will learn their opening round opponent. World Series action is set to begin Saturday May 25th at Falcon Park in Auburn, NY.

Following a scoreless first inning, the Knights plated nine runs over the next three innings, to put the game out of reach as the bats got going and the Wave had no answer for Knights pitching.

Following a pair of base hits from Eric Wainwright (Falmouth) and Manny Castro (Manchester, NH) to open the second inning, both would score on a one out line drive to right field by designated hitter Jacob

Carter (Reading). Carter would score the final run of the frame on a fielder's choice from Ryan Brown (Haverhill)

NECC would score a quartet of runs in the third frame, when Max LaLime (Portsmouth, NH) led off with a triple and scored one batter later on a sacrifice fly from Chris Bear (Boston). With two outs in the inning, Wainwright and Castro drew back to back walks before Michael Fabiano (Reading) recorded a home run to left field to put the Knights up 7-0.

LaLime crushed an inside the park home run in the fourth inning to the right field gap with Bear on base after a one out walk.

Bear and Thomas Frato (Reading) would both drive in runs in the sixth inning, while Fratto would add another RBI in the eighth inning to round out the Knights 14 hit attack.

On the mound, Voelker, went six innings striking out the aforementioned 12 batters, while issuing three walks, two hits and one unearned run. Michael Giessler (Peabody) tossed three inning of no hit relief striking out seven batters while allowing just one walk.

Knights named eight seed as World Series play opens on Saturday

Haverhill, MA (May 21, 2024) – The Northern Essex Community College baseball team, the Region 21 and Northeast District champions have been named the eight seed for the upcoming NJCAA World Series and will open up play on Saturday at 4:00pm against top seeded and defending national champion RCSJ-Gloucester at Falcon Park in Auburn, NY.

The 2024 World Series marks the Knights third straight trip to the series and 10th overall appearance. NECC took home third place in 2023. The Knights are 2-1 all-time in World Series play against the Roadrunners.

An opening round win, would move the Knights to a winners bracket game on Sunday against the winner of fourth seeded Camp (VA) and fifth seeded Herkimer (NY) at 7:15pm on Sunday. A loss and the Knights would face elimination on Sunday at

12:45pm against the loser of the previously mentioned matchup.

Entering the World Series the Knights are winners of nine of their last 10 games and closed the season winning 21 of their final 24 games heading into the World Series.

The Knights are likely to send Jayden Voelker (Coventry, RI) to the mound for game one as he currently leads the nation in strikeouts per nine innings at 19.26 and ranking second in both earned run average at 1.48 and total strikeouts with 117 in 54.2 inning pitched on the season.

Offensively, Chris Bear (Boston), carries the nation's third highest batting average into the World Series at .489. He's recorded 68 hits on the season including 23 extra base hits and leads the team with 48 RBIs and 37 stolen bases.

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Youth Writing Workshop

Registrations are now being taken for a Youth Writing Workshop for students in grades 6 through 10. Workshop classes will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings 6 PM to 8 PM starting July 10 through August 18 at the Merrimack Valley Immigrant & Education Center (the former Asian Center), 439 S. Union Street, Building 2, Level B, Lawrence, MA 01843. The workshops are free for Lawrence residents or \$10 for other towns' residents for each monthly workshop.

By popular demand MVIEC has engaged writing instructor Robert Largess to once again teach this workshop. Fee is \$10 registration for the 6 week course, free for Lawrence residents.

Students interested in improving their writing skills should call MVIEC, The Merrimack Valley Immigrant & Education Center at 978-683-7316. Check out the MVIEC's website at www.mviec.org for directions and more details.