



MCC Cuts the Ribbon on New Nursing Simulation and Skills Labs



L-R MCC Student Angelica Louis, State Representative Tara Hong, MCC Board of Trustees Chairman James Campbell, State Representative Rodney Elliott, MCC Director of Nurse Education Susan Lavalley, MCC President Phil Sisson, Mass. Secretary of Education Patrick Tutwiler, State Representative Vanna Howard, MCC Nursing Faculty Member Sharon Hamel, MCC Dean of Health Karen Townsend, MCC nursing student Jennifer Guerra.

Middlesex Community College celebrated the opening of the new simulation and skills labs with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday, November 20. Held at MCC's new Health Education and Laboratory Technology Hub (H.E.A.L.T.H.) Building in Lowell, the event honored the development and opening of the project that serves students in the college's nursing associate degree and licensed practical nursing (LPN) programs. Pg. 14

GLCAC Offers Fuel Assistance for Heating Season / GLCAC ofrece asistencia de combustible para la Temporada de Calefacción Pg. 8

Honoring a life of service President Jimmy Carter, 1924 - 2024



Join us in honoring President Carter

We invite you to join us in remembering President Carter's remarkable legacy. Share how you've been inspired by President Carter's life and service in our memory book at <https://www.habitat.org/>

December 29, 2024

The recent death of President Jimmy Carter is a loss being felt by millions around the globe. Deeply committed to social justice and basic human rights, President Carter dedicated himself to living out his faith by alleviating human suffering. In addition to promoting peace and human rights through the Carter Center, President and Mrs. Carter led the Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project for Habitat for Humanity International for more than 35 years. Through the Carters' own efforts and their example, the Carter Work Project has rallied 108,100 volunteers to build, renovate and repair 4,447 Habitat for Humanity homes in 14 countries, all while raising awareness of the critical need for affordable housing.

As we did at Mrs. Carter's passing, to collectively and publicly demonstrate the impact President Carter has had on our organization — and on families and communities worldwide — we are inviting everyone to add a message to our online memory book.

While we grieve the loss of both President and Mrs. Carter, our commitment to their memory is that Habitat for Humanity will continue to answer the call to build a more just world where everyone has a decent place to live.

In gratitude,

Jonathan T.M. Reckford
Chief Executive Officer
Habitat for Humanity International



SISU: Un lugar de esperanza y renovación

YouthBuild Lawrence de SISU es un programa de desarrollo juvenil establecido hace treinta años por el ex superintendente de la Lawrence Family Development Charter School Ralph Carrero, quien tuvo un sueño, y esto es en lo que se ha convertido.

El aprendizaje recibido me llenó de orgullo de que un lugar así exista en nuestros confines. Después de un breve relato, puede apreciar las fotos y entender mejor lo que crean allí. Pg. 6 & 7

Algunos de los miembros del personal: Kenny Rodriguez, Pedro, Rocio Diaz, Zeneida Peralta, Janell Gaddis, Luis Perez, Mala Canary, ONiel Gonzalez, Sungah Silver, Dan Halloran y Gregory Delrosario.

Debido a que el requisito federal entrará en vigencia el 7 de mayo de 2025, cualquier persona que viaje en avión dentro del país o desee ingresar a ciertas instalaciones federales necesitará una identificación REAL ID o un pasaporte



Debido a que el requisito federal entrará en vigencia el 7 de mayo de 2025, cualquier persona que viaje en avión dentro del país o desee ingresar a ciertas instalaciones federales necesitará una identificación REAL ID o un pasaporte.

Puede encontrar información adicional sobre los documentos requeridos, cómo hacer una cita o renovar una credencial en Mass.Gov/REALID.

Los clientes con una credencial que cumpla con la ley REAL ID y que venza en 2025 deben solicitar la renovación ahora si desean evitar la demanda máxima de servicio que se anticipa para el próximo año.

BOSTON – El Registro de Vehículos Motorizados de Massachusetts (RMV) recuerda a los residentes que, a partir del 7 de mayo de 2025, cualquier persona que viaje en avión dentro del país o ingrese a ciertas instalaciones federales necesitará una licencia de conducir o identificación que cumpla con la ley REAL ID emitida por el Registro, o un pasaporte válido. El Registro recomienda encarecidamente a todas las personas que buscan una licencia o tarjeta de identificación que cumpla con los requisitos de REAL ID que ingresen en línea ahora a Mass.Gov/REALID para conocer qué documentos se necesitan para una cita en persona obligatoria. Las citas para actualizar a REAL ID están disponibles ahora, y varios centros de servicio del RMV ofrecen citas los sábados. Los clientes que ya tienen una credencial que cumple con los requisitos pueden renovar en línea siempre que no hayan cambiado de nombre.

La tarifa para obtener o renovar una credencial que cumpla con los requisitos de REAL ID es la misma que la de obtener o renovar la credencial equivalente que no cumple con los requisitos:

- La tarifa para renovar una licencia de conducir estándar no comercial o una licencia de conducir REAL ID es de \$50.
- La tarifa para renovar una Mass ID es de \$25.
- La tarifa de modificación para actualizar a una credencial estándar o REAL ID antes del vencimiento de una credencial existente es de \$25.
- Los clientes con una estadía de menos de cinco años en los EE. UU. pagan una tarifa prorrateada.

“Instamos a todos los residentes de Massachusetts que deseen actualizar a una credencial que cumpla con REAL ID a que actúen lo antes posible”, dijo la Registradora de Vehículos Motorizados Colleen Ogilvie. “Visite Mass.Gov/REALID e infórmese sobre lo que necesitará. Es importante actuar ahora para que pueda reunir todos los documentos necesarios y solicitar cualquier documento de reemplazo que pueda necesitar, en particular si tuvo un cambio de nombre legal”.

Se pueden programar citas visitando el Centro de servicio en línea del RMV en Mass.Gov/myRMV o, si es miembro de AAA, en <https://northeast.aaa.com/automotive/registry-services/massachusetts.html>.

El RMV ha publicado información útil sobre los requisitos de REAL ID que los clientes pueden usar para prepararse para sus visitas en persona, incluidas listas de verificación de documentos convenientes para ayudar a preparar previamente las solicitudes de REAL ID, en Mass.Gov/REALID. Los documentos necesarios para esta transacción incluyen:

- prueba de presencia legal,
- dos (2) pruebas de residencia en Massachusetts y
- prueba de un Número de Seguro Social (SSN) completo.

Los clientes que hayan cambiado de nombre desde la emisión de un certificado de nacimiento, pasaporte u otro documento de presencia legal, deberán demostrar el motivo del cambio de nombre presentando documentación como un certificado de matrimonio, decreto de divorcio o documento judicial. Estos documentos requeridos deben ser versiones originales o certificadas. El RMV recomienda a los clientes que reúnan estos documentos con bastante anticipación a las citas para asegurarse de tener la información requerida por la ley federal.

Actualmente, Massachusetts tiene un 55 por ciento de adopción de REAL ID, con más de 3 millones de credenciales que cumplen con la normativa REAL ID. Los clientes pueden renovar hasta un año antes de la fecha de vencimiento impresa en su licencia o identificación.

Antes del 7 de mayo de 2025, los clientes no necesitarán una REAL ID que cumpla con las normas federales para abordar vuelos nacionales o ingresar a ciertas instalaciones federales.

Para obtener información adicional y detalles sobre estos y otros servicios que ofrece el RMV, visite Mass.Gov/RMV.

Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles Reminds Residents to Act Now and Plan Ahead for REAL ID Compliance

Due to federal requirement becoming effective on May 7, 2025, anyone traveling by plane domestically, or wishing to enter certain federal facilities, will need a REAL ID or Passport

Additional information on required documents, making an appointment, or renewing a credential can be found at Mass.Gov/REALID

Customers with a REAL ID-compliant credential expiring in 2025 should apply for renewal now if they want to avoid the peak demand for service that is anticipated next year

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) is reminding residents that beginning May 7, 2025, anyone traveling by plane domestically or entering certain federal facilities will need a Registry-issued REAL ID-compliant driver’s license or ID, or a valid passport. The Registry is strongly encouraging everyone seeking a REAL ID-compliant license or identification card to go online now at Mass.Gov/REALID to learn what documents are needed for a required in-person appointment. Appointments to upgrade to REAL ID are available now, and several RMV service centers offer Saturday appointments. Customers who already have a compliant credential may renew online as long as they have not had a name change.

The fee to obtain or renew a REAL ID compliant credential is the same as obtaining or renewing the equivalent non-compliant credential:

- The fee for renewing a non-commercial standard or a REAL ID driver’s license is \$50.
- The fee for renewing a Mass ID is \$25.
- The amendment fee for upgrading to a standard or REAL ID credential before an existing credential’s expiration is \$25.
- Customers with a less than five-year stay in the U.S. pay a pro-rated fee.

“We urge all Massachusetts residents

who wish to upgrade to a REAL ID-compliant credential to act as soon as possible,” said Registrar of Motor Vehicles Colleen Ogilvie. “Go to Mass.Gov/REALID and get informed on what you will need. It’s important to act now so you can gather all your required documents, and to order any replacement documents that may be needed, particularly if you had a legal name change.”

Appointments can be scheduled by visiting the RMV’s Online Service Center at Mass.Gov/myRMV or if you are a AAA member at <https://northeast.aaa.com/automotive/registry-services/massachusetts.html>.

The RMV has posted helpful information on REAL ID requirements that customers can use to prepare for their in-person visits, including convenient document checklists to help pre-stage REAL ID applications, at Mass.Gov/REALID. Documents required for this transaction include:

- proof of lawful presence,
- two (2) proofs of Massachusetts residency, and
- proof of a full Social Security Number (SSN).

Customers who have had a name change since the issuance of a birth certificate, passport, or other lawful presence document, will need to show the reason for the name change by presenting documentation like a marriage certificate, divorce decree, or court document. These required documents must be original or certified versions. The RMV recommends customers gather these documents well in advance of appointments to ensure they have the information required by federal law.

Currently, Massachusetts is at 55 percent REAL ID adoption, with over 3 million credentials being REAL ID-compliant. Customers are eligible to renew up to one year in advance of the expiration date printed on their license or ID.

Prior to May 7, 2025, customers will not need a federally compliant REAL ID for the purposes of boarding domestic flights or entering certain federal facilities.

For additional information and details on these and other RMV service offerings, please visit Mass.Gov/RMV.

Rumbo

The BILINGUAL Newspaper of the Merrimack Valley

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Published on the 1st 8th 15th and 22nd of Every Month

Foster Kids of the Merrimack Valley celebrated another wonderful Christmas for foster children

December 30, 2024

Dear Editor,

On behalf of the officers and board of directors of the Foster Kids of the Merrimack Valley, I say Thank You. With so many families experiencing financial difficulties themselves, it was evident we could once again count on our tremendous supporters to help provide for the foster children in the Merrimack Valley ensuring each of them has a memorable holiday season. From our supporters who donate to our annual appeal, to the participants in our Santa's Helpers program and the many volunteers who come and help wrap all the gifts, we couldn't do it without you.

To our partners at the Methuen Fire Department who donate their time helping us move the gifts for hundreds of children and the Methuen Police Department who help with traffic so that the gift pick up goes smoothly, we say thank you.

FKMV is so grateful to the pastor, priests and parishioners of St. Lucy Parish who graciously give up their hall for an entire week so that we have a place to store, wrap and eventually give out large bags of gifts to each child. Thank you to our new community partner, Launch of Methuen, who helped us host the foster children and their families for a party at their location that was memorable and magical for the children, families and the board of FKMV.

We are grateful to all our volunteers and those who donate to support our many events year-round. Truly, we are humbled by your ongoing generosity!

Finally, the officers and the board of directors of the Foster Kids of the

Merrimack Valley are an amazing group of giving individuals who for over 19 years have been volunteering their time organizing events for the kids and fundraisers to ensure our support to the children of the Greater Lawrence, Greater Haverhill area is steady. Their commitment to our mission is heartwarming to be sure. I am proud to say we have a generous and giving community and so blessed to be part of it.

Many thanks to all! Wishing you a very Happy Holiday Season and a Healthy New Year!

Sincerely yours,
Larry F. Giordano
Larry F Giordano
Founder and President
Foster Kids of the Merrimack Valley, Inc.



HAPPY NEW YEAR



POR DALIA DÍAZ
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READ IT IN ENGLISH ON PAGE 16

Desde Mi Esquina



¡Feliz Año Nuevo! (Tal vez)

Ahora que se han celebrado las elecciones presidenciales, muchas personas en este país tienen la esperanza de que 2025 traiga un nuevo comienzo con muchas buenas noticias. Bueno, lamento haber empañado el momento feliz, pero el gobierno entrante está planeando algo que afectará a muchas familias inmigrantes.

Durante años, el presidente electo Donald Trump ha estado jugando con la idea de eliminar la ciudadanía estadounidense por nacimiento a los niños nacidos de inmigrantes ilegales. Por lo general, no escribo sobre temas nacionales porque mi concentración es el área inmediata de Lawrence, donde no hay acceso a noticias locales, pero este es un asunto que afecta a demasiadas familias aquí y en todo el país. Mi propósito es educar a la comunidad, no hablar de política.

La 14ta Enmienda protege a cualquier persona nacida en suelo estadounidense al otorgarle la ciudadanía americana. La primera oración de la 14ta Enmienda dice: "Todas las personas nacidas o naturalizadas en los Estados Unidos, y sujetas a su jurisdicción, son ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos y del estado en el que residen". Una definición tan simple ha creado confusión y diferentes interpretaciones por parte del público.

Una de ellas es el requisito de que una persona esté "sujeta a la jurisdicción del país", pero excluye su aplicación a los hijos nacidos de representantes diplomáticos de un estado extranjero, hijos nacidos de enemigos extranjeros en ocupación hostil o hijos de miembros de tribus indias sujetas a leyes tribales. Además, los tribunales inferiores generalmente han considerado que la ciudadanía de los niños nacidos en embarcaciones en aguas territoriales de los Estados Unidos o en alta mar se determina según la ciudadanía de los padres. Esto fue publicado en Texas Law Review: Birthright Citizenship for Children of Illegal Aliens, an Irrational Public Policy, por Lino A. Graglia, 2009.

Esa declaración no es lo suficientemente clara, y el país ha estado esperando que la Corte Suprema emita una opinión desde 1898.

Trump dijo que está buscando poner fin a la ciudadanía por derecho de nacimiento, ya que complica sus planes de deportación para personas que inmigraron ilegalmente y luego tuvieron hijos aquí. En un video de campaña de 2023 publicado en su sitio web de campaña, Trump dijo que firmaría una orden ejecutiva para impedir que las agencias federales otorguen la ciudadanía estadounidense automática a los hijos de padres inmigrantes indocumentados.

El sitio web de Trump afirma que la orden también negaría la concesión de ciudadanía automática, pasaportes, números de Seguro Social o la elegibilidad para beneficios y prestaciones sociales específicos financiados por los contribuyentes a los hijos de padres inmigrantes indocumentados.

La orden también "ordenaría a las agencias federales que exijan que al menos uno de los padres sea ciudadano estadounidense o residente permanente

legal para que sus futuros hijos se conviertan automáticamente en ciudadanos estadounidenses".

Trump también dijo que la orden detendría el "turismo de parto", un término que a veces se usa para referirse a las mujeres embarazadas que cruzan la frontera hacia Estados Unidos para dar a luz.

Esa pregunta ha provocado un gran debate sobre la 14ta Enmienda últimamente, con la noticia de que varios estados, incluidos Pensilvania, Arizona, Oklahoma, Georgia y Carolina del Sur, pueden que comiencen a lanzar esfuerzos para negar la ciudadanía automática a esos niños.

Está hablando abiertamente de ello y ha tenido cuatro años para saber a qué se enfrenta. Los grupos que protegen a los inmigrantes argumentan que para lograrlo tendrán que cambiar la Constitución, pero una orden ejecutiva no será suficiente.

Una enmienda constitucional sería el medio más directo para redefinir la ciudadanía por derecho de nacimiento. Sin embargo, ese proceso es muy largo; la última enmienda constitucional fue ratificada en 1992.

En múltiples casos decididos a fines del siglo XIX y fines del XX, la Corte Suprema ha reconocido sólo tres excepciones limitadas a la ciudadanía por derecho de nacimiento: los hijos de diplomáticos, los indios tribales y los ejércitos invasores. El lenguaje y la lógica de estos casos sugieren que los hijos de "extranjeros ilegales" son de hecho ciudadanos por derecho de nacimiento, y el amplio contexto legislativo de la Enmienda y su aplicación prevista a todos los hijos de esclavos nacidos en Estados Unidos brindan un apoyo convincente a esta conclusión.

Mientras tanto, el "zar de la frontera" Tom Homan, a cargo de la política de seguridad fronteriza, en una entrevista con NewsNation, admitió que millones de hogares de estatus mixto crearon una "situación difícil".

El Centro de Estudios Migratorios estima que al menos 4,7 millones de hogares en los EE. UU. albergan tanto a miembros de la familia documentados como indocumentados y que 5,5 millones de niños nacidos en los EE. UU. viven en hogares con al menos una persona indocumentada.

"En lo que respecta a los niños estadounidenses, esa será una situación difícil porque no vamos a cambiar su ciudadanía estadounidense", le dijo a la presentadora de NewsNation, Ali Bradley. "Lo que significa que los van a poner en una casa de transición, o pueden quedarse en casa y esperar a que los oficiales hagan los arreglos de viaje y regresen y se lleven a la familia".

El "zar de la frontera" no ofreció detalles sobre qué "casas de transición" serían para millones de niños estadounidenses.

El contenido anterior fue extraído de los siguientes artículos:

Jefe fronterizo de Trump: los hijos de inmigrantes indocumentados nacidos en Estados Unidos "van a ser internados en un centro de reinserción social"

Artículo de Griffin Eckstein, MSN.com

Trump puede poner fin a la ciudadanía universal por nacimiento. La Constitución nunca lo exigió

Amy Swearer | 11 de diciembre de 2024

Amy Swearer es investigadora jurídica sénior en el Centro Edwin Meese III de Estudios Legales y Judiciales de la Heritage Foundation.

Y los perdedores son... el pueblo

¡Qué manera de empezar el año! Supongo que esta semana estoy cargada de malas noticias.

En la página 5, encontrará un artículo enviado por la Asociación de Comités Escolares de Massachusetts (MASC) que rechaza la idea del Proyecto de Ley de la Cámara de Representantes No. 5098, Ley que define una estructura de gobierno para la Junta Escolar de Lawrence tras la salida de la sindicatura estatal.

Esta petición fue presentada a la Legislatura por el Representante Frank A. Moran de Lawrence, el Senador Pavel Payano y la Representante Estela A. Reyes (con la aprobación del alcalde y el concejo municipal) con respecto a la definición de una estructura de gobierno para la Junta Escolar de Lawrence tras la salida de la sindicatura estatal.

No entiendo cómo sucedió esto y por qué sucedió tan rápido. El concejo municipal aprobó esta terrible propuesta, el alcalde la firmó y nuestra delegación estatal la envió a la Legislatura el 6 de noviembre. ¿Cómo van a justificar ante esta comunidad lo que han hecho? Violaron nuestro derecho a seleccionar a nuestros representantes locales en el comité escolar.

Para mi sorpresa, Jeovanny Rodríguez, presidente del concejo municipal, escribió en su página de Facebook lo siguiente:

Isaías 10:10: "¡Ay de los que dictan leyes injustas y emiten decretos opresivos! Con ellos evitan la defensa de los pobres, y les niegan la justicia a los afligidos de mi pueblo; despojan a las viudas y les roban a los huérfanos!"

Jeovanny votó a favor de la petición de autonomía y ahora se queja de la injusticia de quitarle a la gente el derecho a votar. ¡Qué hipócrita!

"El periodismo es publicar lo que otros no quieren que se publique: todo lo demás son relaciones públicas."

George Orwell



Si quiere saber
quien lo controla,
mire a quién no le
permite que lo critique.

— Voltaire

AZ QUOTES

CARTAS AL EDITOR

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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.

Con este nuevo plan, el comité tendrá siete miembros: tres miembros serán elegidos en general en toda la ciudad y tres de estos miembros serán designados por votación del Concejo Municipal. El alcalde será el séptimo miembro del comité escolar y, como su presidente, tendrá pleno poder de voto.

Los miembros designados deben tener experiencia o formación en finanzas, derecho o educación.

Esta medida, por supuesto, será un cambio permanente a la Carta Constitucional de la Ciudad de 1983.

Lo que me llamó la atención fue que la primera línea habla del cambio en la Junta Escolar de Lawrence tras la salida de la sindicatura estatal. Luego, al final, decía: "Esta ley entrará en vigor tras su aprobación".

Eso significa que el 23 de diciembre pasó al escritorio de la Gobernadora para su firma, que debe estar colocada antes del 31 de diciembre. De lo contrario, se retrasará otro año para que lo manejen los miembros entrantes de la Legislatura.

¿Qué sucede si la gobernadora no lo convierte en ley antes del 31 de diciembre?

Algunos residentes se preguntan por qué el Departamento Escolar de la Ciudad de Holyoke estaba bajo administración judicial, y están recuperando sus escuelas sin la necesidad de pasar por este proceso de reorganización de su comité escolar.

Investigué eso y era una situación diferente a la de Lawrence, por lo que no hay necesidad de explicarlo ahora. La única similitud entre las dos ciudades es que los comités escolares de ambas tendrán que recibir capacitación y orientación para prepararse para el regreso de las escuelas.

Copié lo siguiente hace mucho tiempo y no recuerdo de dónde salió. Lo encontré profundo y apropiado para este tema, pero no me atribuyo ningún mérito.

Las condiciones más peligrosas que enfrenta la humanidad son "la ignorancia y la necesidad". Charles Dickens advirtió que, de estos dos, la "ignorancia" está "escrita en la frente" de la humanidad. Hoy vivimos en un mundo de ignorancia generalizada. No hay nada más destructivo que la "pobreza de la mente". Esperemos y recemos para que superemos el empobrecimiento que nos "venden" como "progreso so

Declaración de la Asociación de Comités Escolares de Massachusetts sobre la ley H-5098

19 de diciembre de 2024

Los miembros de los comités escolares desempeñan un papel fundamental en el éxito de nuestras escuelas. Los miembros electos de los comités escolares dan voz a los niños del distrito y sirven como líneas de comunicación fundamentales entre la comunidad y el liderazgo de las escuelas públicas.

La Asociación de Comités Escolares de Massachusetts cree que cada comunidad tiene derecho a tomar sus propias decisiones sobre la supervisión de sus escuelas, pero tenemos serias preocupaciones sobre el Proyecto de Ley de la Cámara de Representantes 5098, Ley que define una estructura de gobierno para la Junta Escolar de Lawrence tras la salida de la sindicatura estatal.

Este proyecto de ley eliminaría los seis escaños de distrito elegidos democráticamente del Comité Escolar de Lawrence, reemplazándolos por una combinación de escaños designados y generales. La experiencia de las juntas escolares electas en comparación con las designadas es que las juntas electas tienen conexiones más fuertes con la comunidad y los electores. Una junta en la que la mayoría de los miembros serían designados o ex-officio no sólo podría debilitar la participación de la comunidad, sino que permitiría que quienes gobiernan las escuelas tengan menos responsabilidad ante aquellos a quienes se supone que deben servir.

El MASC trabaja con comités escolares en todo el estado para ayudar a establecer modelos de gobernanza escolar sólidos y exitosos que tengan en cuenta la visión y las necesidades únicas de su distrito y los estudiantes a los que sirven.

En colaboración con el estado, brindamos capacitación y gobernanza a los miembros del comité escolar en distritos bajo administración judicial. Los miembros del comité escolar en Lawrence participaron en cada sesión para obtener la información que necesitan para hacer su trabajo.

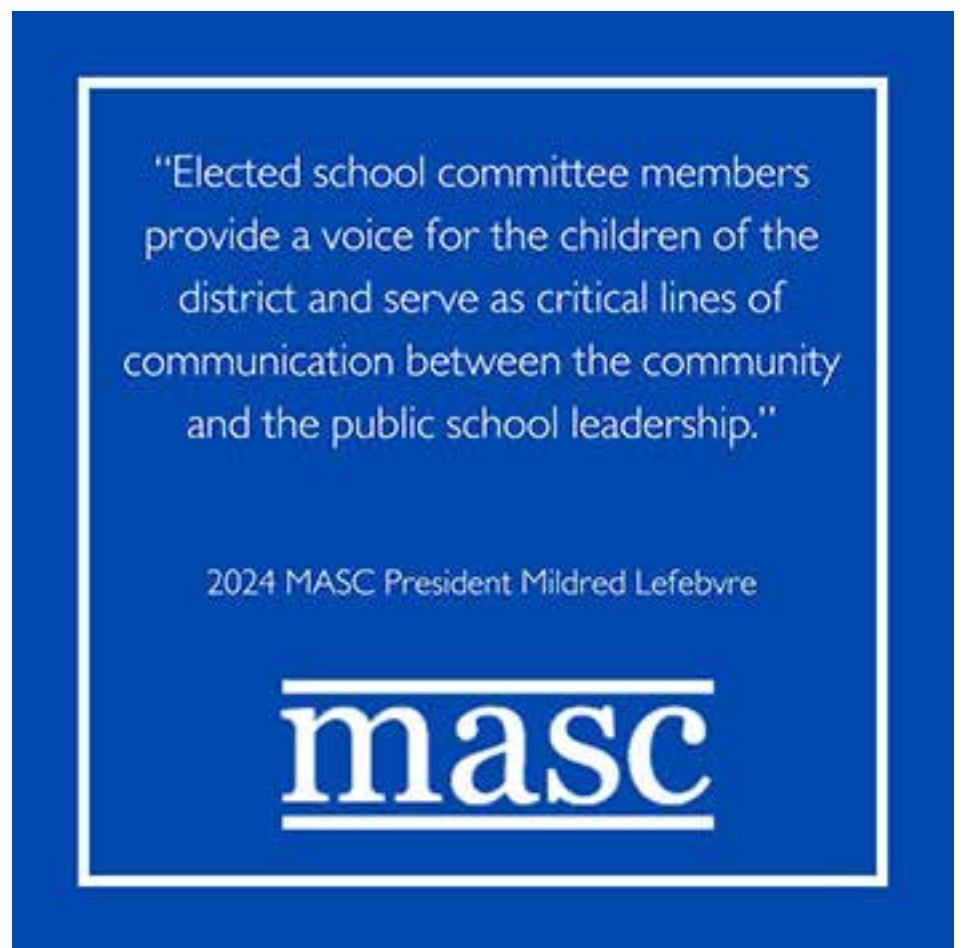
Los cambios que este proyecto de ley haría al Comité Escolar de Lawrence nunca han sido un requisito para salir de la administración judicial estatal. De hecho, mis colegas electos democráticamente y yo en el Comité Escolar de Holyoke trabajamos con funcionarios estatales para establecer un plan para la transición de las escuelas de nuestra ciudad fuera de la administración judicial, un plan que comenzaremos a implementar el próximo año y que seguirá teniendo a todos los miembros electos, incluido el alcalde electo como miembro de la junta.

Respetamos el hecho de que algunos otros tendrán diferencias de opinión, pero, en este caso, las implicaciones serán duraderas.

Permitir que esto suceda en Lawrence podría tener ramificaciones a nivel estatal, abriendo la puerta para que otras ciudades limiten las voces locales y la información que buscan los electores. Agradecemos al senador Ryan Fattman por hablar sobre la importancia de la gobernanza local de nuestras escuelas y los derechos democráticos de los residentes en todo el estado.

Mildred Lefebvre, presidenta de MASC 2024

[Esta declaración también se puede encontrar en nuestro sitio web]



“Los miembros de los comites escolares electos proveen una voz para los niños de su distrito y sirven como las líneas críticas de comunicación entre la comunidad y el liderazgo de las escuelas públicas.”

Statement of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees on H-5098

December 19, 2024

School Committee members play a critical role in the success of our schools. Elected school committee members provide a voice to the children of the district and serve as critical lines of communication between the community and the public school leadership.

The Massachusetts Association of School Committees believes each community has the right to make its own decisions about the oversight of their schools, but we have serious concerns about House Bill 5098, An Act defining a governing structure for the Lawrence School Board upon the exit of state receivership.

This bill would eliminate all six of the Lawrence School Committee’s democratically-elected district seats, replacing them with a mix of appointed and at-large seats. The experiences of elected school boards over appointed ones is that elected boards have stronger connections to the community and constituents. A board where a majority of members would be appointed or ex-officio could not only weaken community input but allow those governing the schools to have less accountability to those they’re supposed to serve.

The MASC works with school committees across the state to help establish strong and successful school governance models that take into account the vision and unique needs of their district and the

students they serve. In collaboration with the state, we provide training and governance to school committee members in districts under receivership. School committee members in Lawrence participated in each session to gain the information they need to do their jobs.

The changes this bill would make to the Lawrence School Committee have never been a requirement to exit state receivership. In fact, my democratically-elected colleagues and I on the Holyoke School Committee worked with state officials to establish a plan to transition our city’s schools out of receivership, one that we will begin implementing next year and which will continue to have all elected members, including the elected mayor as a member of the board.

We respect the fact that some others will have differences of opinion, but, in this case, the implications will be long lasting.

Allowing this to happen in Lawrence could have statewide ramifications, opening the door for other cities to limit local voices and information constituents and seek out. We thank Senator Ryan Fattman for speaking to the importance local governance of our schools and the democratic rights of residents across the state.

2024 MASC President Mildred Lefebvre

[This statement can also be found on our website]

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SISU: Un lugar de esperanza y renovación

Por Dalia Díaz

Lawrence es una ciudad pequeña llena de sorpresas agradables si mira a su alrededor. A veces, en los lugares menos esperados, encuentra talento, trabajo duro e historias de éxito que elevan su corazón a un sentimiento de esperanza y admiración.

Pasamos por el antiguo edificio Lawrence Plate and Glass en 417 Canal St. con un solo letrero, SISU, y apuesto a que la mayoría de la gente no tiene idea de qué ha sido de la antigua tienda y qué sucede adentro. YouthBuild Lawrence de SISU es un programa de desarrollo juvenil establecido hace treinta años por el ex superintendente de la Lawrence Family Development Charter School Ralph Carrero, quien tuvo un sueño, y esto es en lo que se ha convertido.

Ser invitada a una celebración navideña con el personal y los jóvenes miembros fue un privilegio. El aprendizaje recibido me llenó de orgullo de que un lugar así exista en nuestros confines. Después de un breve relato, puede apreciar las fotos y entender mejor lo que crean allí.

Puede parecer un centro de recreación o un club para jóvenes, pero deben adaptarse a muchas reglas para asistir. Dependiendo de su comportamiento, podrían ganar beneficios o incluso dinero. Uno de esos beneficios es que un barbero que viene una vez a la semana les corta el pelo para cuidar de su apariencia.

Pueden jugar con juegos de video, jugar al billar, crear y grabar su música, así como quedarse tanto tiempo como quieran. Son jóvenes que abandonaron la escuela a una edad muy temprana, algunos se involucraron en pandillas y otros pasaron un corto tiempo en la cárcel. SISU los mantiene alejados de los problemas y de esas influencias negativas de las calles.

Algunos de estos miembros obtuvieron su equivalente de la escuela secundaria, y conocí a un joven que asiste a la Universidad Estatal de Framingham, lo cual no es un caso aislado.

Aprenden habilidades de carpintería que son tan importantes para el futuro empleo. Muchos de ellos no conocían las herramientas o ni siquiera cómo sostener un martillo. Ahora, mire las sillas Adirondack en la imagen; todas hechas por ellos. El objetivo es capacitarlos para el futuro empleo.

El taller de serigrafía tiene una imprenta de cinco cabezas donde aprenden técnicas valiosas. Imprimen camisetas para grupos locales como Greater Lawrence Technical School y Lawrence Police Department. Además, la máquina de bordar de 8 cabezas también hace un trabajo profesional para los equipos locales.

En el estudio de grabación, aprenden a escribir y programar sus creaciones, teniendo la oportunidad de trabajar con la última tecnología de grabación, inculcándoles los sueños que muchos a esa edad tienen de ser famosos.

Me presentaron la realidad de los estudiantes que no tienen hogar y que tenían dificultades para lavar su ropa para estar presentables en SISU. Crearon un “laundry room” con varias lavadoras y secadoras para evitar faltar a la asistencia.

Durante la pandemia, hubo una emergencia para unas niñas que tenían bebés y no podían encontrar fórmula. El personal corrió la voz y recibió donaciones de fórmula para sus bebés, cunas, asientos de auto y todo lo demás. Creció hasta el punto de que continúa hasta el día de hoy, y tienen una sala llena de donaciones para cuando sea necesario.

El baloncesto de SISU atrae a muchos jugadores, con 250 registrados. Su práctica se lleva a cabo en los gimnasios de Lawrence Prospera en 400 Haverhill St. y 580 Haverhill St. Los entusiastas del baloncesto locales que dirigen el programa son: el director del programa de SISU, Dan Halloran, y el coordinador del programa, Luis Pérez.

El personal del programa de



Max Lighthall and Madison Preston in the recording studio.



Pedro Santos and ONiel Gonzalez.

baloncesto de SISU es más que entrenadores y árbitros. Son mentores, modelos a seguir, administradores de casos y trabajadores de extensión. Están capacitados en el estilo SISU, guiando a los jugadores en la toma de decisiones sólidas tanto dentro como fuera de la cancha. Enseñan comunicación, cómo manejar conflictos y gestión del tiempo. Si bien no son profesionales en esa materia, saben cuándo hacer preguntas y cuándo escuchar; y saben que no todos los problemas comienzan y terminan en la cancha.

Están capacitados para reconocer cuando un jugador está actuando o reaccionando en respuesta a un trauma en su entorno, y están preparados para ayudar a ese jugador a manejar sus emociones de una manera positiva y prosocial. Tienen un

terapeuta en el personal para manejar las necesidades psicológicas de los miembros.

Una visita a la cocina me deparó otra sorpresa cuando me dijeron que sirven más de 6,000 comidas diarias a escuelas charter y otros lugares.

Financiados principalmente por subvenciones, los instructores siguen un plan de estudios diseñado para enseñar a los jóvenes todas las facetas del negocio y las habilidades interpersonales que les ayudarán a tener éxito en cualquier trabajo que elijan.

Hay mucho que ver en SISU y recomiendo investigar en nuestros archivos para encontrar artículos que se han publicado sobre ellos. Pero no hay comparación con estar allí. Puede pedirles que le den un recorrido por el edificio. ¡Le sorprenderá!

HAPPY NEW YEAR



El estudio de grabación / The recording studio.



La máquina de bordar / The embroidery machine.



El personal de la cocina desde la izquierda Milena Santiago, Julian Paulino, Sixta (Alba) Villa and Vladimir Cruz



SISU: A place of hope and renewal



By Dalia Díaz

Lawrence is a small city full of pleasant surprises if you look around. Sometimes, in the least expected places, you find talent, hard work, and success stories lifting your heart to a sense of hope and admiration.

We walk by the old Lawrence Plate and Glass building at 417 Canal St. with a single sign, SISU, and I bet that most people have no idea what has become of the old store and what goes on inside. SISU's YouthBuild Lawrence is a youth development program established thirty years ago by former superintendent of the Lawrence Family Development Charter School Ralph Carrero, who had a dream, and this is what it has become.

Being invited to a Christmas celebration with staff and young members was a privilege. The learning received filled me with pride that such a place exists in our confines. After a brief rundown, you can appreciate the photos and better understand what they create there.

It may seem like a recreation center or club for young people, but they must adapt to many rules to attend. Depending on their behavior, they could earn benefits or even money. One of those benefits is getting a haircut from a barber who comes once a week to take care of their appearance.

They can play video games, play pool, create and record their music, and stay as long as they want. These are young people who dropped out of school at a very early age, some were involved in gangs, and others did a short stint in jail. SISU is keeping them out of trouble and away from those negative influences in the streets.

Some of these members acquired their high school equivalent, and I met a

young man who attends Framingham State University, which is not an isolated case.

They learn about carpentry skills that are so important for future employment. Many of them didn't know the tools or even how to hold a hammer. Now, look at the Adirondack chairs in the picture; all made by them. The goal is to train them for future employment.

The Screen Printing Shop has a five-head printing press where they learn valuable techniques. They print shirts for local groups like Greater Lawrence Technical School and Lawrence Police Department. Also, the 8-head embroidery machine does a professional job for local teams as well.

In the recording studio, they learn to write and program their creations, having an opportunity to work with the latest recording technology, instilling in them the dreams many at that age have of becoming famous.

They presented me with the reality of students who are homeless and were having difficulties washing their clothes to be presentable at SISU. They created a laundry room with several washers and dryers to avoid missing attendance.

During the pandemic, there was an emergency for some girls who had babies and could not find formula. The staff spread the word and received formula donations for their babies, cribs, car seats, and everything else. It grew to the point that it continues to this day, and they have a room full of donations

when needed.

SISU Basketball attracts many players, with 250 registered. Their practice occurs at Lawrence Prospera's gyms at 400 Haverhill St., and 580 Haverhill St. Local basketball enthusiasts run the program: SISU's Program Director, Dan Halloran, and Program Coordinator Luis Perez.

The SISU Basketball Program staff is more than just coaches and officials. They are mentors, role models, case managers, and outreach workers. They are trained in the SISU Way, guiding players in strong decision-making both on and off the court. They teach communication, conflict management, and time management. While they are not clinicians, they know when to ask questions and when to listen; and they know that not every issue begins and ends on the court.

They are trained to recognize when a player is acting or reacting in response

to trauma in their environment, and they are prepared to help that player manage their emotions in a positive and pro-social manner. They do have a clinician on staff to handle the psychological needs of the members.

A visit to the kitchen produced another surprise when they told me that they serve over 6,000 daily meals to charter schools and other places.

Funded primarily by grants, the instructors follow a curriculum designed to teach young people all facets of business and the soft skills that will help them succeed in whatever job they choose.

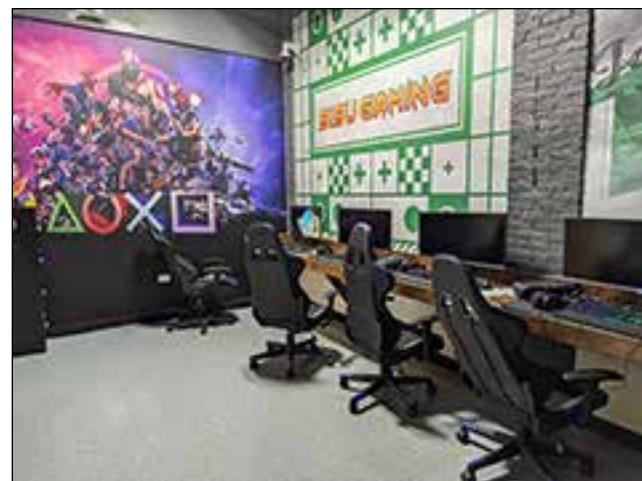
There's a lot to see at SISU, and I recommend researching our archives for articles that have been published about them. But there's no comparison with being there. You may ask them to give you a tour of the building. You'll be amazed!



Paul Heithaus and Justin Hodgkins.



Beronica Paulino and Rocio Diaz calling the students for their Christmas present.



GLCAC ofrece asistencia de combustible para la Temporada de Calefacción

El Greater Lawrence Community Action Council Inc. ahora está aceptando solicitudes de asistencia de combustible para la temporada de calefacción de invierno que comienza el 1 de Noviembre de 2024 y se extiende hasta el 30 de Abril de 2025.

Hay fondos disponibles a través del Programa de Asistencia de Energía para el Hogar para ayudar a pagar una parte de las facturas de calefacción de invierno para hogares con ingresos elegibles en todo Massachusetts. GLCAC administra el programa localmente en Lawrence, Methuen, Andover, North Andover, Reading y North Reading.

HEAP, anteriormente conocido como Programa de asistencia energética para hogares de bajos ingresos (LIHEAP), es un recurso estatal gratuito que ayuda a los inquilinos y propietarios de viviendas elegibles, pagando una parte de sus facturas de calefacción en invierno directamente a sus compañías de calefacción. A partir del 1 de Octubre, los propietarios e inquilinos pueden presentar su solicitud en línea a través de un portal estatal o GLCAC.

Este programa fundamental brinda ayuda financiera a los hogares elegibles para ayudarlos a pagar sus facturas de calefacción en invierno, garantizando que puedan mantener sus hogares seguros y cálidos durante los meses más fríos.

Se anima a los residentes a presentar su solicitud incluso si trabajan, viven en viviendas subsidiadas o si los servicios públicos están cubiertos mediante el alquiler.

“A medida que el clima se vuelve más frío, ahora es el momento de solicitar asistencia para combustible”, dijo la directora ejecutiva de GLCAC, Vilma Martínez-Domínguez. “Hay fondos disponibles a través de este programa para

ayudar a garantizar que las familias en Greater Lawrence se mantengan calientes durante nuestros duros meses de invierno”.

Hay ayuda disponible para pagar una parte de las facturas de calefacción en invierno de la fuente principal de calor. Los pagos se realizan directamente al proveedor de combustible y se aplican únicamente al petróleo, propano, carbón, madera, gas, queroseno y electricidad. Para los residentes que cumplen con las pautas, también podemos cubrir una parte de los costos cuando la calefacción está incluida en el alquiler.

La elegibilidad se basa en el tamaño del hogar y el ingreso anual bruto de cada miembro del hogar, mayor de 18 años. Las pautas de ingresos y una lista de la documentación requerida están disponibles en www.glcac.org bajo el programa de asistencia de combustible.

Para aplicar, visite <https://www.toapply.org/GLCAC>.

El personal de asistencia de combustible de GLCAC está disponible para realizar entrevistas telefónicas, procesar solicitudes, verificar el estado de las solicitudes de combustible o responder cualquier pregunta sobre HEAP. Puede comunicarse con el personal al 978-681-4950 o liheap@glcac.org.

GLCAC es una agencia de servicios sociales multifacética que ayuda a más de 36,000 personas a través de una variedad de programas que incluyen educación infantil temprana, asistencia de combustible, asistencia nutricional de WIC, servicios de inmigración, prevención de envenenamiento por plomo, prevención de abuso infantil, lecciones de Inglés y fuerza laboral. capacitación.



HEAP staff working at Senior Center.

GLCAC Offers Fuel Assistance for Heating Season

The Greater Lawrence Community Action Council Inc. is now accepting fuel assistance applications for the winter heating season that begins Nov. 1, 2024, and runs through April 30, 2025

Funding is available through the Home Energy Assistance Program to help pay a portion of winter heating bills for income-eligible households throughout Massachusetts. GLCAC administers the program locally in Lawrence, Methuen, Andover, North Andover, Reading and North Reading.

HEAP, formerly known as the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, (LIHEAP) is a free, statewide resource that assists eligible renters and homeowners by paying a portion of their winter heating bills directly to their heating companies. Starting Oct.1, homeowners and renters can apply online through a state portal or GLCAC.

This critical program provides financial relief to eligible households to help them pay their winter heating bills, ensuring they can keep their homes safe and warm during the colder months.

Residents are encouraged to apply even if they work, live in subsidized housing, or if utilities are covered through rent.

“As the weather turns colder, now is the time to apply for fuel assistance,” said GLCAC Executive Director Vilma Martínez-Domínguez. “Funding is available through this program to help make sure

families in Greater Lawrence stay warm during our harsh winter months.”

Aid is available to pay a portion of winter heating bills for the primary heat source. Payments are made directly to the fuel provider and apply only to oil, propane, coal, wood, gas, kerosene and electric. For residents who meet the guidelines we can also cover a portion of costs when heat is included in the rent.

Eligibility is based on household size and the gross annual income of every household member, 18 years of age or older. Income guidelines and a list of required documentation are available at www.glcac.org under the fuel assistance program.

To apply, visit <https://www.toapply.org/GLCAC>.

GLCAC’s fuel assistance staff is available to conduct phone interviews, process applications, check the status of fuel applications or answer any questions about HEAP. Staff can be reached at 978-681-4950 or liheap@glcac.org.

GLCAC is a multi-faceted social services agency that assists more than 36,000 individuals through a range of programs including early childhood education, fuel assistance, WIC nutrition assistance, immigration services, lead poisoning prevention, child abuse prevention, English-language lessons, and workforce training.

The Merrimack Valley Immigrant & Education Center

The former Asian Center at 439 South Union St., building 2, Level B, Lawrence, MA 01843 is enrolling students for an intensive ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes.

The classes will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays either from 9 AM to 11:30 AM or 6 M to 8:30 PM.

Class fee is \$50. Call 978-683-7316 for more information.

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Space Scientist Receives Top Honor for UMass Lowell Faculty

Distinguished University Professor Award Lauds Exemplary Teaching, Service

Physicist Supriya Chakrabarti, a world-renowned space scientist who has led NASA missions to image planets beyond the solar system and launch miniature satellites, has been named UMass Lowell's 2024 Distinguished University Professor.

"This is truly unexpected. It's humbling to be recognized," Chakrabarti said of the award, which is given annually to a tenured full professor for outstanding contributions to research, education and service to the university community.

It is the highest accolade bestowed on a UMass Lowell faculty member.

A Weston resident, Chakrabarti has been a faculty member of UMass Lowell's Physics and Applied Physics Department since 2012. Over his career, he has demonstrated a visionary approach to scientific discovery and education, inspiring students and colleagues alike with his groundbreaking work on space instrumentation, exoplanet research, and international collaboration in space science.

Since arriving at UMass Lowell, he has averaged more than \$1.5 million in annual research funding, authored more than 340 peer-reviewed publications and spoken at scores of prestigious forums around the world.

"Beyond these numbers is what he's built up here – entities that help raise the visibility of UMass Lowell as a leader in space science and technology," said UMass Lowell Chancellor Julie Chen.

Those entities include the Lowell Center for Space Science and Technology, which he founded and directs. Based on the UMass Lowell campus, the center has piloted several high-impact research initiatives, including a NASA-funded, student-driven project that successfully deployed a satellite to the International Space Station and several missions to identify and capture images of new planets.

His work in developing small space mission concepts has revolutionized the field, demonstrating that complex space research can be conducted with significantly smaller and more cost-effective platforms. Most recently, Chakrabarti helped create the Massachusetts Alliance for Space Technology and Sciences, a multi-

million dollar, state-funded consortium of universities, colleges and corporations pioneering advances in the emerging small satellite and spacecraft testing industries.

Above all else, he is dedicated to mentoring students through hands-on research experiences that prepare them for successful careers in space sciences.

Chakrabarti was nominated for the award by physics Associate Professor Ofer Cohen, one of his colleagues in LoCSST. The application letter was endorsed by 15 UMass Lowell faculty members spanning three colleges and seven departments.

"Professor Chakrabarti's exemplary nationally and internationally acclaimed research, his extraordinary leadership in undergraduate and graduate research and education, and outstanding service to the university community and his profession are well recognized." Cohen wrote. "It is my honor to nominate him for Distinguished University Professor."

Chakrabarti holds a doctoral degree from the University of California, Berkeley, and his career includes notable tenures at Boston University and the University of California, Berkeley's Space Sciences Laboratory.

He is the 17th professor to receive the UMass Lowell award since its inception in 2008. His three-year term as Distinguished University Professor will run through 2027. Other current honorees include UMass Lowell professors Sandra Lim (English, 2023-2026), Ramaswamy Nagarajan (plastics engineering, 2022-2025) and Katherine Tucker (biomedical and nutritional sciences, 2021-2024).

A top Massachusetts public university, UMass Lowell is a national research university in the heart of a Gateway city. The university offers its students bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in business, education, engineering, fine arts, health, humanities, sciences and social sciences. UMass Lowell delivers high-quality educational programs, vigorous hands-on learning and personal attention from leading faculty and staff, all of which prepares graduates to be leaders in their communities and around the globe. www.uml.edu



UMass Lowell Physics Professor Supriya Chakrabarti, center, accepts his 2024 Distinguished University Professor award from Chancellor Julie Chen and Provost Joe Hartman. / PHOTO EDWARD BRENNEN



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Concord Chorus announces open rehearsals

Concord Chorus is very excited to continue its 79th season and we want you to join us!

Interested singers are invited to our open rehearsals at 7:30 PM on Monday, January 6, and Monday, January 13, at Trinity Episcopal Church, 81 Elm Street, Concord. Director Kevin Leong will be happy to hear you that evening. The Concord Chorus is a wonderful group of welcoming people who enjoy singing and learning excellent choral repertoire and performing at the highest level.

For audition information, please see our website: www.concordchorus.org/join-us.

If you have questions, please contact our chairperson at chair@concordchorus.org.

In keeping with our two-year celebration of the 250th anniversary of the Battle between the British and Americans in Lexington and Concord, we will present our spring concert on Saturday May 10, 2025, at 8 PM, at the St. Camillus Church, 1185 Concord Turnpike, Arlington, MA.

Featured will be Ernest Bloch: Sacred Service, and works of Randall Thompson, with David Kravitz, baritone, and John Sullivan, piano. For more information, see www.concordchorus.org.

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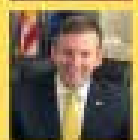



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Origen del desorden moral del siglo XXI



Por Tomás Núñez, ThD.

En este artículo tratamos de reconciliar la psicología con la fe cristiana. Trataremos de explicar soluciones para males como la ideología de género o la manipulación de las ciencias.

Estudiar el pensamiento de Santo Tomás de Aquino y acercarlo a la psicología. Nos sorprende su resultado.

La mentira existencial

Hay psicólogos que piensan que la "neurosis" tiene su causa en un trastorno del alma del ser humano. En otras palabras, se trata de una mentira existencial. ¿Qué significa esto? Sencillamente que la persona se engaña a sí misma y no quiere reconocer la realidad, no quiere reconocerse como una creatura.

Así, la neurosis es explicada como una rebelión del ser humano ante el hecho de que es una creatura con muchas limitaciones. El humano se niega a aceptar esta realidad. Y allí comienzan sus problemas.

Y claro, el origen de todo esto no es más que el pecado original. Nuestra

naturaleza caída -aunque reparada por el sacrificio de Jesucristo- nos impulsa a convertirnos en norma de nuestra propia conducta y medida de todas las cosas.

Por ello, todos somos potencialmente neuróticos, porque todos podemos rebelarnos contra lo que somos.

Esto se puede ver claramente en muchas tendencias del mundo presente, donde la negación de Dios lleva a la negación de todo cuanto testimonia su inteligencia ordenadora, Su Voluntad de que las cosas sean como son. Por ello vemos a personas que se rebelan contra lo que son, no se aceptan como criaturas finitas y limitadas.

Creo que "al margen de la neurosis no queda más que el santo"

Por lo tanto, la forma de hacer frente a esta tendencia que tenemos todos los seres humanos es aceptar que somos criaturas. La auténtica salud del alma se encuentra en la santidad.

Si el origen del pecado original es la soberbia y cierto egoísmo que nos impulsa a la rebeldía, la superación de esto viene por el amor. Es a través del amor que los santos combatieron sus propias limitaciones, se aceptaron como criaturas y asumieron su dependencia de Dios, su Creador.

El camino es el amor de Dios

Para hacer frente a este impulso de rebeldía del ser humano que termina siendo causa de su infelicidad, es necesario una revolución interior, un cambio de mente que sustituya el orgullo por humildad, el egocentrismo por el abandono. Pero esto no puede hacerse si el ser humano no está movido por el amor auténtico.

Como comenta Martín Echavarría, psicólogo y doctor en filosofía "sólo el amor de Dios puede colmar las aspiraciones del ser humano". Pero esa aspiración no puede ser alcanzada por nosotros mismos, sino por la gracia que viene desde lo alto.

El camino de la santidad, con la ayuda de la gracia, es lo que nos permite superar nuestra tendencia a la rebeldía, nuestra oposición a reconocernos como hijos de Dios. ¡Es lo que la Iglesia no enseña!

Origin of the moral disorder of the 21st century

By Tomás Núñez, ThD.

In this article we try to reconcile psychology with the Christian faith. We will try to explain solutions for evils such as gender ideology or the manipulation of science.

Studying the thought of Saint Thomas Aquinas and bringing it closer to psychology. We are surprised by the result.

The existential lie

There are psychologists who think that "neurosis" has its cause in a disorder of the soul of the human being. In other words, it is an existential lie. What does this mean? Simply that the person deceives himself and does not want to recognize reality, does not want to recognize himself as a creature.

Thus, neurosis is explained as a rebellion of the human being against the fact that he is a creature with many limitations. The human being refuses to accept this reality. And that is where his problems begin.

And of course, the origin of all this is nothing more than original sin. Our fallen nature - although repaired by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ - impels us to become the standard of our own conduct and the measure of all things.

For this reason, we are all potentially neurotic, because we can all rebel against what we are.

This can be clearly seen in many trends in the present world, where the denial of God leads to the denial of everything that testifies to His ordering intelligence, His Will that things be as they are. For this reason we see people who rebel against what they are,

they do not accept themselves as finite and limited creatures.

I believe that "apart from neurosis there is only the saint"

Therefore, the way to deal with this tendency that all human beings have is to accept that we are creatures. The true health of the soul is found in holiness.

If the origin of original sin is pride and a certain selfishness that drives us to rebellion, overcoming this comes through love. It is through love that the saints fought their own limitations, accepted themselves as creatures and assumed their dependence on God, their Creator.

The path is the love of God

To confront this impulse of rebellion of the human being that ends up being the cause of his unhappiness, an inner revolution is necessary, a change of mind that replaces pride with humility, egocentrism with abandonment. But this cannot be done if the human being is not moved by authentic love.

As Martín Echavarría, psychologist and doctor in philosophy, comments, "only the love of God can fulfill the aspirations of the human being." But this aspiration cannot be achieved by ourselves, but by the grace that comes from above.

The path of holiness, with the help of grace, is what allows us to overcome our tendency to rebellion, our opposition to recognizing ourselves as children of God. This is what the Church does not teach!

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Merrimack Valley Y's COO Honored by Y USA

Merrimack Valley YMCA Chief Operating Officer Claudia Soo Hoo was honored nationally by the YMCA of the USA for her leadership in global diversity, equity and inclusion.

The YMCA Global Diversity Equity and Inclusion Leadership Council named Soo Hoo as the distinguished recipient of the 2024 GDEI Leader Award. This award honors a YMCA staff or volunteer leader who has made significant contributions toward the advancement of Equity for All in the past year.

Soo Hoo, of North Andover, has been an influential leader locally and through her work with the national YMCA.

Universally respected and admired, Soo Hoo is a role model and mentor for staff and

volunteers of color. She is a champion of the promotion of female leadership and gender equity. As a woman who identifies as Asian American, she has dedicated herself to supporting AAPI leaders both locally and nationally.

“Claudia leads with empathy and integrity in all the work that she does,” said Merrimack Valley YMCA CEO Francis J. Kenneally III. “She has elevated our organization while also having an impact at a national level. Claudia is an innovative leader who not only develops intentionality in our DEI work, she has delivered on impactful new programs and initiatives.”

Soo Hoo is the chair of the National Asian Pacific Islander Leadership Network



(APILN) Employee Resource Group as well as the Co-Chair of the National GDEI Leadership Council.

In April of 2024, Soo Hoo represented the National APILN as part of the Philippines YMCA Coalition to mutually strengthen organizational capacity and self-reliance.

Locally, Soo Hoo has collaborated with other organizations to organize activities around PRIDE Month and the first ever Juneteenth Celebration in Lawrence, while also creating new programs for youth with disabilities and employment opportunities at the Y for individuals with disabilities. Soo Hoo has worked for the Y for 19 years in multiple leadership roles and in 2020 was named chief operating officer.

CLASIFICADOS | CLASSIFIEDS

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 or junk the following vehicle on or after January 8, 2025 starting at 10:00 am by private or public sale to satisfy their garage keepers lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale:

1. 2017 Hyundai Tucson VIN KM8J3CA46HU561284

Vehicle is being stored at Stuart's Automotive and may be viewed by appointment only.

Signed
Kevin Stuart
Stuart's Automotive
12/15, 12/22, 1/1

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 January 16, 2025 starting at 10:00 am by private or public sale to satisfy their garage keepers lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale:

1. 2006 Toyota Sienna VIN 5TDZA23C46S485853
2. 2021 ZHWEKI ZW50QT VIN LT4Z1NAA4MZ000257
3. 1985 Chevrolet G-Series Van VIN 2GBJG31M2F4154325
4. 2020 Nissan Kicks VIN 3N1CP5CV8LL514766
5. 2009 Ford F-150 VIN 1FTPX14V79FA47297
6. 2003 Chevrolet Express VIN 1GAHG39UX31144961
7. 2002 Dodge Grand Caravan VIN 2B4GP44312R784572

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

Signed
Frank Coady
Coady's Towing Service
12/22, 1/1, 1/8

Find us in / Búsquenos en Facebook/Rumbo

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>

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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.

Usted podría mejorar la vida de un niño. Solicite más información sobre ser un padre de crianza.

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1-800-415-5081 mass.gov/dcf

Message from Community Teamwork

People with disabilities are entitled to reasonable accommodations or modifications that allow them to fully enjoy their housing. Learn more and get help requesting accommodations or modifications from a housing provide by contacting the Community Teamwork Fair Housing program at 978-654-5637 or fairhousing@commteam.org. Any opinions or recommendations expressed in this message are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Mensaje de Community Teamwork

Las personas con discapacidades tienen derecho a adaptaciones o modificaciones razonables que les permitan disfrutar plenamente de su vivienda. Obtenga más información y ayuda para solicitar adaptaciones o modificaciones a un proveedor de vivienda comunicándose con el programa de Vivienda Justa de Community Teamwork al 978-654-5637 o fairhousing@commteam.org. Las opiniones o recomendaciones expresadas en este mensaje son las del autor y no necesariamente reflejan las opiniones del Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano.

Former U.S. Army Green Beret Speaks at MCC's Fall Fundraiser



On Thursday, December 5, Middlesex Community College held the Fall 2024 Fundraiser, featuring Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Scott Mann, a former U.S. Army Green Beret. Hosted by the Middlesex Community College Foundation, Mann spoke about his experience to raise funds for student scholarships.

On Thursday, December 5, Middlesex Community College held the Fall 2024 Fundraiser, featuring Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Scott Mann, a former U.S. Army Green Beret. Hosted by the Middlesex Community College Foundation, Mann spoke about his experience to raise funds for student scholarships.

"At Middlesex, we know that one of the largest barriers our students face while earning their education is financial," said Phil Sisson, MCC's President. "Our fundraisers present an opportunity to come together as a community, enjoy culture

and entertainment, and raise funds to ease our students' financial burdens. This critical support goes a long way in helping our students on their paths to reaching their academic and professional goals and pursuing their dreams. Thank you to the MCC Foundation for hosting another wonderful evening, as well as to Lieutenant Colonel Scott Mann for sharing his story with our community."

"Thank you to Lieutenant Colonel Scott Mann, our incredible donors, the MCC Foundation, and our college community for making our Fall 2024 Fundraiser a success," said Judy Burke, MCC's Vice President of Institutional Advancement & Workforce Development. "Led by our Advancement team and the MCC Foundation, our fundraisers celebrate the impact of Middlesex and the importance of supporting our students. We were grateful Lieutenant Colonel Scott Mann could join us at the UML Applied Research Corporation and discuss his life story, his best-selling book, and his amazing play during such an important event."

The event took place at the UMass Lowell Applied Research Corporation (UMLARC) in Lincoln. Following the discussion, Mann attended a book signing for audience members.

During his time as an Army Green Beret, Mann toured all over the world, including Colombia, Iraq, and Afghanistan. A warrior storyteller, he is the founder of Rooftop Leadership, sharing the rapport-building skills he learned in Special Forces to help leaders make better human connections in high-stakes, low-trust engagements.

Mann is the author of the New York



Scott Mann greets MCC President Phil Sisson.

Times best-seller "Operation Pineapple Express," a third-person narrative detailing the harrowing stories of the Veterans, volunteers, and Afghan Allies who navigated the U.S. abandonment of Afghanistan in August of 2021.

The Gary Sinise Foundation partnered with Mann to bring his play, "Last Out: Elegy of a Green Beret," to stages across the country in an effort provide healing to Veterans and Families of the Fallen, as well as insight to citizens on the personal cost of the longest war in the Nation's history.

"We were thrilled to host a fun and knowledgeable event with Lieutenant Colonel Scott Mann in a new venue for our fundraisers," said Sherri McCormack, MCC's Dean of Advancement. "While raising money in support of MCC students, the community celebrated with a networking reception, as well as an engaging discussion and book signing with Lieutenant Colonel Scott Mann. Thank you to all our donors and community members who made this event possible."

MCC Cuts the Ribbon on New Nursing Simulation and Skills Labs

Middlesex Community College celebrated the opening of the new simulation and skills labs with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday, November 20. Held at MCC's new Health Education and Laboratory Technology Hub (H.E.A.L.T.H.) Building in Lowell, the event honored the development and opening of the project that serves students in the college's nursing associate degree and licensed practical nursing (LPN) programs.

"This new lab presents opportunity, a space where curiosity meets resources, ideas come to life, and learning becomes a reality," said Jennifer Guerra, of Woburn, an MCC nursing student and speaker during the ribbon cutting. "It will enable us to go beyond the textbooks and lectures, allowing us to test, create and innovate in an interactive environment. This nursing lab is more than a physical space. It represents a promise. It signifies that our college believes in us, the students. It recognizes the challenges we face and the dreams that we hold onto tightly. This lab will provide us with the tools we need to succeed."

In addition to Guerra, the event featured guest speakers Massachusetts Secretary of Education Patrick Tutwiler and MCC President Phil Sisson, Director of Nurse Education Susan Lavalley, Dean of Health Karen Townsend and Nursing Faculty Member Sharon Hamel.

"Think about all the people who dreamed of a profession as a nurse or

something in that capacity," Secretary Tutwiler said in his remarks. "This is the space that creates the pathway to realizing that dream. We know there are significant shortages in the profession. This is the kind of facility that will address the issue. It's answering the call. This space doubles the capacity of the number of students who can be served here."

"As a public, open access institution, this project happened because of support from the state," President Sisson said in his remarks. "MCC's nursing program is one of the largest in the state with a 100 percent pass rate on the NCLEX [National Council Licensure Examination] for the past three years. Everything we do at Middlesex is for our students and our students make us proud every single day. The ones here with us today have the legacy of excellence in simulation."

The simulation and skills labs were funded in part by a Nursing Expansion Grant and Massachusetts Skills Capital Grant totaling \$975,000. The renovation will allow MCC's nursing programs to collaborate on curriculum, simulation and equipment use. Training opportunities will be available to students in MCC's other health programs and community employer partners, as well as both nursing programs.

"This renovation is a beautiful representation of both the college and the Commonwealth's commitment to many things," Townsend said in her remarks. "The



MCC nursing student Jennifer Guerra speaks during the ceremony.

labs address the healthcare worker shortage, provide our students with the highest quality education they could possibly get to keep them on par with any student in the state, and create learning spaces for students that is welcoming and free of any unnecessary burdens."

"We are here today on the heels of many dreams, including the dreams of students who wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity to be here," Lavalley said in her remarks. "It's my great honor to come full circle and lead this incredibly talented team of nurse educators. They are talented and dedicated and each one of them understands why they're here at MCC. Our intent is to

raise the workforce."

Through the renovation, the labs include manikins, high-fidelity simulators, Sim Pad Plus, hospital equipment for sim bays, complete nurses' command stations, and nursing skills laboratory stations.

"We now have a state-of-the-art nursing lab," Hamel said in her remarks. "Clinical simulation provides students with individual opportunities that may not be available in today's healthcare world. Simulation affords autonomy, confidence and self-recognition of learning moments in a safe and confidential environment for our students."

Tramitación más rápida de reclamos de discapacidad para personas con enfermedad de Alzheimer

Por / By Marilenin Vasquez
MPAS



Hoy en día, más de 5 millones de estadounidenses viven con la enfermedad de Alzheimer. Es una afección cerebral que causa problemas con la memoria, el pensamiento y el comportamiento. Dado que la enfermedad de Alzheimer puede aparecer en personas más jóvenes antes de jubilarse, puede afectar su capacidad para trabajar a medida que avanza la enfermedad.

Nuestros beneficios y servicios son especialmente vitales para las personas con Alzheimer de aparición temprana que no pueden trabajar y pueden no tener otra fuente de ingresos. Es posible que deseen solicitar el Seguro de Incapacidad del Seguro Social (SSDI) o el Ingreso de Seguridad Suplementario (SSI).

Nuestro programa de Subsidios Compasivos proporciona un procesamiento más rápido de las reclamaciones por discapacidad para las personas con enfermedad de Alzheimer de aparición temprana y varios otros trastornos neurodegenerativos (degenerativos del cerebro).

Hace más de una década, el Seguro Social agregó la enfermedad de Alzheimer de aparición temprana a nuestro programa de Subsidios Compasivos. Puede obtener más información sobre nuestro programa de Subsidios Compasivos en www.ssa.gov/compassionateallowances.

Comparta esta información con sus amigos y familiares.

Faster processing of disability claims for people with Alzheimer's disease

Today, more than 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease. It is a brain condition that causes problems with memory, thinking, and behavior. Since the onset of Alzheimer's can occur in younger people before they retire, it may affect their ability to work as the disease progresses.

Our benefits and services are especially vital to people with early-onset Alzheimer's who are unable to work and may have no other source of income. They may want to apply for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Our Compassionate Allowances

program provides faster processing of disability claims for people with early-onset Alzheimer's disease and several other neurodegenerative (brain degenerative) disorders.

More than a decade ago, Social Security added early-onset Alzheimer's disease to our Compassionate Allowances program. You can learn more about our Compassionate Allowances program at www.ssa.gov/compassionateallowances.

Please share this information with friends and family.

New Habitat Homeowners Alex and Maribel and their home dedication



Es el martes de donaciones, pero en lugar de pedirle que done, queremos celebrar cómo su apoyo ha ayudado a dos familias a lograr su sueño de tener una casa propia, un sueño que nunca creyeron posible hasta que se involucraron con Hábitat para la Humanidad.

Alex y Maribel recibieron recientemente las llaves de sus hogares definitivos durante la inauguración de su hogar.

Ambas mujeres son madres solteras de una hija y un hijo, y ambas vivían en un apartamento de dos habitaciones y compartían una habitación con uno de sus hijos porque, con los alquileres tan astronómicos de estos días, eso es todo lo que podían permitirse.

Alex ha estado trabajando en dos empleos mientras cría a su hijastra como si fuera suya y se esfuerza por superar los

primeros años de su bebé enfermo. Maribel era dentista antes de emigrar a los EE. UU. y ahora trabaja en atención médica domiciliaria para mantener a su familia.

Pero después de completar sus horas de trabajo voluntario ayudando a construir sus hogares junto con voluntarios, esperan con ansias el futuro más estable que les brinda ser propietarios de una vivienda. Esta cita de Maribel en la inauguración de la casa capta a la perfección lo felices que estaban: "¡Casi lloré! ¡Me siento como Miss Universo! ¡Gané! Gracias a todos".

¡Eso incluye a todos! Nosotros también les agradecemos su apoyo en el pasado.

Si desea participar más en Essex County Habitat for Humanity, puede obtener información sobre las muchas formas de hacerlo en nuestro sitio web aquí.

It's Giving Tuesday, but instead of asking you to give, we want to celebrate how your support has helped two families achieve their dream of owning a home, a dream they never thought possible until they got involved with Habitat for Humanity.

Alex and Maribel recently received the keys to their forever homes during their home dedication.

Both women are single moms to a daughter and a son, and both were living in a 2 bedroom apartment and sharing a bedroom with one of their children because, with such astronomical rents these days, that is all they could afford.

Alex has been working two jobs while raising her step-daughter as her own, and powering through her sick baby's first

several years. Maribel was a dentist before she immigrated to the US and now works in home health care to support her family.

But after completing their sweat equity hours helping to build their homes alongside volunteers, they are looking forward to the more stable future that homeownership provides.

This quote from Maribel at the home dedication perfectly captures just how happy they were: "I almost cried! I feel like Miss Universe! I won! Thank you everyone."

That everyone includes you! We too thank you for your past support.

If you should want to get more involved with Essex County Habitat for Humanity, you can learn about the many ways to do so on our website here.

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- Lesiones en la cabeza o los ojos
- Debilidad y/o entumecimiento en un lado del cuerpo

¡La Fundación Big Brother Big Sister necesita tu ayuda!

Si tienes ropa usada y pequeños artículos del hogar que ya no usas, dónalos para quienes si los necesitan. Llegaremos a tu puerta para recibir lo que puedas entregar.

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!



BY DALIA DÍAZ
daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

LÉALO EN ESPAÑOL EN LA PÁGINA 4

From My Corner



Happy New Year! (Maybe)

Now that the Presidential Elections have taken place, many people in this country are hopeful that 2025 will bring a new beginning with plenty of good news. Well, I'm sorry for putting a damper on the happy moment, but the incoming government is planning something that will affect many immigrant families.

For years, President-elect Donald Trump has been toying with the idea of removing the United States birthright citizenship from children born to illegal aliens. Usually, I don't write about national subjects because my concentration is the immediate Lawrence area, where there's no access to local news, but this is a matter touching too many families around here and all over the country. My purpose is educating the community, not talking about politics.

The 14th Amendment protects anyone born on American soil by granting them U.S. Citizenship. The first sentence of the 14th Amendment reads, "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside." Such a simple definition has created confusion and different interpretations from the public.

One of them is the requirement that a person be "subject to the jurisdiction thereof," however, excludes its application to children born of diplomatic representatives of a foreign state, children born of alien enemies in hostile occupation, or children of members of Indian tribes subject to tribal laws. In addition, the citizenship of children born on vessels in United States territorial waters or on the high seas has generally been held by the lower courts to be determined by the parents' citizenship. That appeared in the Texas Law Review: Birthright Citizenship for Children of Illegal Aliens, an Irrational Public Policy, by Lino A. Graglia, 2009.

That statement is not clear enough, and the country has been waiting for the Supreme Court to issue an opinion since 1898.

Trump said he's looking to end birthright citizenship, as it complicates his deportation schemes for people who immigrated illegally and then had children here.

In a 2023 campaign video posted to his campaign website, Trump said he would sign an executive order to stop federal agencies from granting automatic U.S. citizenship to children of undocumented immigrant parents.

Trump's website states the order would also deny granting the children of undocumented immigrant parents automatic citizenship, passports, Social Security numbers, or the eligibility for specific taxpayer-funded welfare and benefits.

The order would also "direct federal agencies to require that at least one parent be a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident for their future children to become automatic U.S. citizens."

Trump also said the order would

stop "birth tourism," a term sometimes used to refer to pregnant women who cross the border into the United States to give birth.

That question has spurred quite a debate over the 14th Amendment lately, with the news that several states—including Pennsylvania, Arizona, Oklahoma, Georgia, and South Carolina—may launch efforts to deny automatic citizenship to such children.

He is talking openly about it, and he's had four years to know what he's up against. Groups protecting immigrants argue that to accomplish that, they will have to change the Constitution, but an executive order will not be sufficient.

A constitutional amendment would be the most direct means of redefining birthright citizenship. However, that process is very lengthy; the last constitutional Amendment was ratified in 1992.

In multiple cases decided in the late 19th and the late 20th century, the Supreme Court has recognized only three narrow exceptions to birthright citizenship: diplomatic children, tribal Indians, and invading armies. The language and logic of these cases suggest that children of "illegal aliens" are indeed birthright citizens, and the broad legislative backdrop of the Amendment and its intended application to all American-born slave children provide compelling support for this conclusion.

Meanwhile, "border czar" Tom Homan in charge of border security policy, in an interview with NewsNation, admitted that millions of mixed-status households created a "difficult situation."

The Center for Migration Studies estimates that at least 4.7 million households in the U.S. are home to both documented and undocumented family members and that 5.5 million U.S.-born children live in homes with at least one undocumented person.

"As far as U.S. children, that's going to be a difficult situation because we're not going to change your U.S. citizenship," he told NewsNation host Ali Bradley. "Which means they're going to be put in a halfway house, or they can stay at home and wait for the officers to get the travel arrangements and come back and get the family."

The "border czar" offered no details into what "halfway houses" for millions of American children would look like but told Bradley that mass deportation has no "price tag."

The above content was taken from the following articles:

Trump border chief: US-born children of undocumented immigrants "going to be put in a halfway house"
Story by Griffin Eckstein, MSN.com

Trump Can End Universal Birthright Citizenship. The Constitution Never Required It.
Amy Swearer | December 11, 2024

Amy Swearer is a senior legal fellow in The Heritage Foundation's Edwin Meese III Center for Legal and Judicial Studies.

And the losers are... the People

What a way to begin the year! I guess I'm loaded with bad news this week.

On page 5, you'll find an article sent by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) rejecting the idea of House Bill No. 5098, An Act defining a governing structure for the Lawrence School Board upon the exit of state receivership.

This petition was presented to the Legislature by Representative Frank A. Moran of Lawrence, Senator Pavel Payano, and Representative Estela A. Reyes (with the approval of the mayor and city council) regarding defining a governing structure for the Lawrence School Board upon the exit of state receivership.

I don't understand how this happened and why it went so fast. The city council approved this awful proposal, the Mayor signed off on it and our state delegation sent it to the Legislature on November 6. How are they going to justify to this community what they have done? They violated our right to select our local representatives on the school committee.

To my surprise, Jeovanny Rodríguez, chair of the city council, wrote on his Facebook page the following:

Isaiah 10:10: "Woe to those who make unjust laws and issue oppressive decrees! They turn away from the poor and deny justice to the afflicted of my people. They rob widows and rob the fatherless."

Jeovanny voted in favor of the Home Rule Petition and now he complains about the injustice of taking away the people's right to vote. What a hypocrite!

With this new plan, the committee will have seven members: three members will be elected at-large throughout the city, and three of these members shall be appointed by the City Council's vote. The Mayor shall be the seventh school committee member and, as its chairman, will have full power

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.

to vote.

The appointed members should have a background or expertise in either finance, law, or education.

This measure, of course, will be a permanent change to the City Charter of 1983.

What caught my attention was that the first line speaks to the change in the Lawrence School Board upon the exit of state receivership. Then, at the end, it read, "This act shall take effect upon its passing."

That means that on December 23 it went to the Governor's desk for her signature, which must be affixed by December 31. Otherwise, it will be delayed another year to be handled by the incoming members of the Legislature.

What happens if the governor does not sign it into law by December 31?

Some residents are questioning why the School Department of the City of Holyoke was under receivership, and they are getting their schools back without the need to go through this process of reorganizing their school committee.

I looked into that, and it was a different situation than Lawrence's, so there's no need to explain it now. The only similarity between the two cities is that the school committees of both will have to undergo training and orientation to prepare for the return of the schools.

I copied the following a long time ago and don't remember where it came from. I found it profound and appropriate for this subject, but I'm not taking any credit for it.

The most dangerous conditions humanity faces are "ignorance and want." Charles Dickens warned that of these two, "Ignorance" is "written on the brow" of humanity. We now live in a world of pervasive ignorance. There is nothing more destructive than "poverty of the mind." Hope and pray we overcome the impoverishment being "sold" to us as "social progressiveness."

"Journalism is printing what someone else does not want printed: everything else is public relations."

George Orwell

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