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For the Merrimack Valley Project, this is not a moment to step back—it is a call to action

As we mark Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, we are reminded of his tireless fight against what he called “the giant triplets of racism, militarism, and extreme materialism.” These challenges persist today, woven into the fabric of our systems and threatening the well-being of our communities. For the Merrimack Valley Project, this is not a moment to step back—it is a call to action.

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"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

Martin Luther King Jr.

Habitat for Humanity's ReStore



Jim Kapelson, director of ReStore and their staff.

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¡Celebrando un día precioso!



El Día del Natalicio de Martin Luther King resultó siendo maravilloso, aunque muy frío, y los vecinos de Mt. Vernon y Beacon se animaron para disfrutar la temporada.

Martin Luther King's Day was a wonderful day, although quite cold, the Mt. Vernon and Beacon neighbors were happy enjoy the season. Foto courtesy of Richard Russell



On January 20th, a group of about 50 volunteers took the plunge to benefit Special Olympics. See more pictures on page 3. (Photos courtesy of Richard Russell)

¿Qué sigue después del día de la inauguración?

Para el Proyecto Merrimack Valley, este no es un momento para dar un paso atrás, es un llamado a la acción

Al conmemorar el Día del Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., recordamos su incansable lucha contra lo que él llamó “los gigantescos tripletes del racismo, el militarismo y el materialismo extremo”. Estos desafíos persisten hoy, entrelazados en la estructura de nuestros sistemas y amenazando el bienestar de nuestras comunidades. Para el Proyecto Merrimack Valley, este no es un momento para dar un paso atrás, es un llamado a la acción.

En toda nuestra región, las familias inmigrantes enfrentan el miedo a la separación y la deportación. Los trabajadores luchan para llegar a fin de mes mientras las corporaciones priorizan las ganancias sobre las personas. Nuestras comunidades se preparan para los ataques a sus derechos, y la destrucción ambiental amenaza el futuro de nuestro planeta. Estas injusticias no son abstractas; Viven en las historias de nuestros vecinos, nuestros amigos y nuestras familias.

Pero aquí en el Valle de Merrimack, sabemos algo poderoso: la liberación de todas las personas es posible cuando nos mantenemos unidos. Desde las fábricas que construyeron esta región hasta las diversas comunidades que continúan dando forma a su identidad, los trabajadores de todos los orígenes siempre han sido la base de nuestra fuerza. Hemos enfrentado desafíos y los hemos superado, no porque fuera sencillo,

sino porque nos negamos a dejar que la injusticia nos defina.

Las fuerzas de la codicia y la división pueden pensar que son dueñas del futuro, pero tenemos un mensaje para ellas: nuestras comunidades nos pertenecen. Somos constructores de esperanza, luchadores por la justicia y soñadores de una sociedad donde cada persona pueda prosperar y ser libre.

El Dr. King nos enseñó que incluso en los momentos más oscuros, debemos seguir avanzando. Nos recordó que “el arco del universo moral es largo, pero se inclina hacia la justicia”, si estamos dispuestos a hacer el trabajo. Juntos, enfrentaremos los desafíos que tenemos por delante, nos organizaremos por lo que es correcto y construiremos un Valle Merrimack donde la justicia, la dignidad y las oportunidades sean realidades para todos.

Honremos el legado del Dr. King comprometiéndonos con el trabajo de liberación. Únase a nosotros para organizarnos, alzar la voz y solidarizarnos con los más vulnerables entre nosotros. Juntos, avanzaremos, no solo por hoy, sino por las generaciones venideras.

En solidaridad,

Proyecto del Valle de Merrimack

What's next after Inauguration Day?

For the Merrimack Valley Project, this is not a moment to step back—it is a call to action

As we mark Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, we are reminded of his tireless fight against what he called “the giant triplets of racism, militarism, and extreme materialism.” These challenges persist today, woven into the fabric of our systems and threatening the well-being of our communities. For the Merrimack Valley Project, this is not a moment to step back—it is a call to action.

Across our region, immigrant families face the fear of separation and deportation. Workers are struggling to make ends meet as corporations prioritize profit over people. Our communities brace for attacks on their rights, and environmental destruction threatens the future of our planet. These injustices are not abstract; they live in the stories of our neighbors, our friends, and our families.

But here in the Merrimack Valley, we know something powerful: the liberation of all people is possible when we stand together. From the mills that built this region to the diverse communities that continue to shape its identity, working people of all backgrounds have always been the foundation of our strength. We've faced challenges, and we've risen above them—

not because it was simple, but because we refused to let injustice define us.

The forces of greed and division may think they own the future, but we have a message for them: our communities belong to us. We are builders of hope, fighters for justice, and dreamers of a society where every person can thrive and be free.

Dr. King taught us that even in the darkest moments, we must keep moving forward. He reminded us that “the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice”—if we are willing to do the work. Together, we will confront the challenges ahead, organize for what is right, and build a Merrimack Valley where justice, dignity, and opportunity are realities for all.

Let's honor Dr. King's legacy by committing ourselves to the work of liberation. Join us in organizing, speaking out, and standing in solidarity with the most vulnerable among us. Together, we will move forward—not just for today, but for the generations to come.

In solidarity,

Merrimack Valley Project

La legislación anti-inmigrante solo beneficia a la industria de las prisiones privadas

Sulma Arias es directora ejecutiva de People's Action, una red de grupos de base que trabajan para la justicia económica y social, con más de un millón de miembros en 30 estados.

H.R. 29, conocida como el proyecto de ley Laken Riley, es un ataque a las protecciones legales que socava nuestros derechos para enriquecer a los empresarios e inversores.

Estás leyendo las palabras de una inmigrante quien vino a este país sin documentos.

Cuando huí de El Salvador hace cuatro décadas, tenía 12 años y estaba sola. Buscaba refugio de la guerra civil en mi país natal, donde los escuadrones de la muerte respaldados por Estados Unidos habían convertido los asesinatos y las violaciones en nuestra realidad cotidiana.

Me reuní con mis hermanas, mi única familia sobreviviente, en Wichita, Kansas. Una vez aquí, ayudé a abrir iglesias, puse en marcha empresas y crié a mis tres hijas. Hubo momentos en que no estaba segura de que llegaríamos a fin de mes, pero estaba agradecida por la sensación de paz y seguridad que logramos crear aquí.

Por eso me preocupa tanto que el nuevo Congreso, liderado por los republicanos, haya decidido iniciar su labor con un proyecto de ley, el H.R. 29, que infunde miedo en los corazones de las familias inmigrantes de todo el país. Este proyecto de ley privará a los jueces de su discreción y exigirá que los inmigrantes fueran detenidos y sujetos a deportación si son acusados (ni siquiera condenados) de delitos menores.

El H.R. 29 es un ataque masivo a nuestro debido proceso legal. No garantizará la seguridad de nadie, sino que aterroriza a todos los inmigrantes de este país, que, según los estudios, tienen muchas menos probabilidades de cometer delitos de cualquier tipo que los estadounidenses que nacen aquí.

Entonces, ¿quién se beneficiará con la ley H.R. 29? Empresas como CoreCivic y GEO Group, que hicieron un gran negocio durante la última administración Trump administrando prisiones privadas para el Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas (ICE).

CoreCivic y GEO mantuvieron a inmigrantes y solicitantes de asilo en condiciones inhumanas, malsanas y tóxicas, y expusieron a mujeres y niños a asaltos sexuales. Con esta nueva ley, los ejecutivos cínicos de estas empresas quieren desviar más dinero del tesoro público, para que los inversores ricos obtengan más beneficios por abusar y demonizar a las personas que buscan refugio de la violencia o la pobreza.

Cuando Trump ganó, las acciones de estas empresas se dispararon. ¿Por qué? Porque los inversores esperan ganar una fortuna deteniendo a inmigrantes. Más del 90 por ciento de los inmigrantes detenidos por el ICE terminan en instalaciones con fines de lucro.

GEO Group, que donó el máximo legal en contribuciones a la campaña de Trump, dijo a sus inversores que podrían ganar casi 400 millones de dólares al año si respaldan “las necesidades futuras del ICE y del gobierno federal” en un segundo mandato de Trump. El precio de sus acciones casi se duplicó en noviembre.

Independientemente de que los detenidos sean culpables o no, CoreCivic y GEO reciben sus ganancias. Para eso está la ley H.R. 29: para fomentar la codicia corporativa, no para proteger a las personas.

Todos tenemos interés en impedir que las empresas penitenciarias como CoreCivic y GEO adquieran más poder, independientemente de nuestro idioma, raza, género o comunidad. Además de encarcelar a inmigrantes, estas empresas privadas también buscan nuevas formas de encarcelar a los ciudadanos para poder ganar aún más dinero.

Si es que permitimos que nos quiten derechos fundamentales de esta forma, disminuimos nuestra humanidad, tanto como los derechos y libertades de todos.

Los que están detrás de la ley H.R. 29 quieren que tengamos miedo unos de otros para que no nos unamos. Quieren poder entrar a la fuerza en nuestros hogares, escuelas e iglesias para llevarse a nuestros vecinos y seres queridos. Quieren que los trabajadores tengan demasiado miedo como para hacer frente a los abusos de sus jefes. Todo para que sus donantes en la industria de las prisiones privadas puedan ganar más dinero.

Los demócratas tendrán que encontrar su camino en este nuevo Congreso. No es la manera correcta de hacerlo alinearse con los nativistas que reciben millones en contribuciones de campaña de la industria de prisiones privadas.

Exigimos algo mejor para nuestro país. Queremos un liderazgo auténtico con una visión afirmativa del futuro con dignidad con todas las personas, incluidos los inmigrantes.

La ley H.R. 29 ataca a comunidades enteras por el idioma que hablamos y el color de nuestra piel. En cambio, nuestros líderes electos, independientemente del partido, deben trabajar para abordar las necesidades de las personas mediante la construcción de una economía que funcione para todos nosotros, no solo para unos pocos ricos.

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Rumbo

The BILINGUAL Newspaper of the Merrimack Valley

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Publicación de SUDA, Inc.

315 Mt. Vernon Street Lawrence, MA 01843-3206

Tel: (978) 794-5360 | www.rumbonews.com



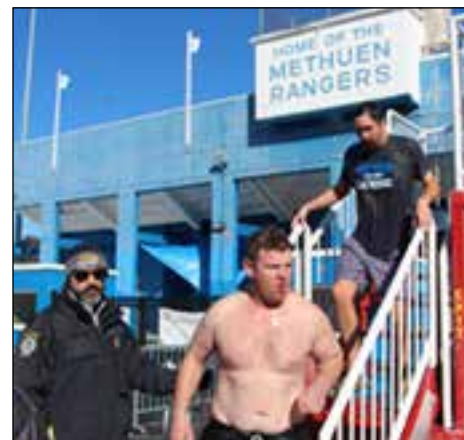
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Published on the 1st 8th 15th and 22nd of Every Month

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Nicholson Stadium - January 20, 2025

Photos courtesy of Richard Russell



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Special thanks to the Methuen Police

POR DALIA DÍAZ
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READ IT IN ENGLISH ON PAGE 16

Desde Mi Esquina



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.

El Informe de Bennett

Esta noche, 22 de enero, habrá una reunión para discutir la investigación sobre el jefe interino de policía William Castro, convocada a una Reunión Pública Especial del Concejo Municipal de Lawrence, que es todo menos pública.

Fue convocada por el presidente del Concejo Jeovanny Rodríguez y la vicepresidenta Stephany Infante para la "Revisión y Discusión del Informe Bennett de octubre de 2024 e Investigaciones Relacionadas". No habrá una sección de Participación Pública ni comunicaciones del alcalde.

La reunión será a puerta cerrada cuando regresen, y solo los medios de comunicación de su elección escucharán su versión.

Desde que se hizo público el "Informe Bennett", despertó muchas críticas en las redes sociales, el 99% negativas hacia el alcalde y el jefe Castro. Aun así, estoy dispuesta a apostar que el 90% de ellos, incluidos los miembros del Concejo Municipal, no lo han leído. Lo digo porque estoy en proceso de leerlo. La mayoría de la gente sabe leer, pero no tiene comprensión lectora. Este informe no es fácil de entender, tiene 83 páginas y está lleno de terminología legal que no estamos acostumbrados a leer. Ha sido difícil para mí y aún no lo he terminado. Pero he comprendido que la mayoría de las personas no saben leer. Sí, leen palabras y si alguien les pregunta qué aprendieron, solo pueden responder que Castro debería quedar fuera.

Para poder entender algunas de las afirmaciones, tuve que consultar el folleto policial del Departamento de Policía de Lawrence, en particular lo que dice sobre la "política de persecución".

En primer lugar, el informe está incompleto porque el objetivo principal era investigar a todos los involucrados en la persecución y las acciones del jefe Castro, y no fue entrevistado. Cuando Bennett envió un correo electrónico al abogado de Castro para programar una entrevista, el abogado de Castro tuvo un conflicto y pidió reprogramarla. Sin proporcionar otro día para realizar la entrevista, Bennett terminó su informe y lo envió al abogado de la ciudad, al teniente Rossi y al POST.

Espero que la ciudad demande a Comprehensive Investigations and Consulting (CIC) por un trabajo incompleto y reembolse los \$50,000 que recibió la

empresa. Lo que pone en duda cómo no se le permitió al alcalde la oportunidad de examinar el informe antes de que se enviara incompleto.

En otra nota, el alcalde DePeña no pidió recomendaciones. Solo quería los resultados de su investigación, al igual que se han hecho todas las demás investigaciones. Las recomendaciones se harán a nivel local.

Justo en la página 4, hay una cita de un correo electrónico de Octavien Spanner: "Detener la investigación", no terminar. Luego, en la página 7, hay una contradicción de lo anterior. Dice "cesar la investigación" cuando el correo electrónico no lo decía. Es justo decir que el informe de Bennett tiene más preguntas que respuestas.

El sargento Michael Simard le dijo al CIC que no está permitido que un oficial de policía conduzca por una acera para seguir a un automóvil. El investigador le pidió a Simard una copia de la Política de Persecución, pero nunca la recibió. La política no dice eso.

Según el informe, Simard dijo que la política del Departamento de Policía de Lawrence exige alertar al despacho y al OIC si se lleva a cabo una persecución, pero la política no dice eso.

También con aviso, el alcalde solicitó que se le enviara el informe una vez que estuviera terminado. En cambio, este informe inacabado, plagado de imprecisiones y sugerencias no solicitadas, se envió a varias personas, incluido el teniente Paul Rossi, la Comisión POST y el jefe del sindicato de policía, que son el sargento Michael Simard y el detective Paul MacMillan.

Seguiré leyendo para descubrir más discrepancias e informaré lo antes posible. Una recomendación que me gustaría hacer al público es que no se dejen llevar por los fanáticos o las personas que tienen un interés particular en este tema. Analicen lo que leen y saquen sus propias conclusiones porque seguir la opinión de personas mal inspiradas o simplemente ignorantes es muy peligroso.

Trump quiere eliminar la "ciudadanía por derecho de nacimiento"

Recientemente, escribí sobre los planes para eliminar la ciudadanía estadounidense a las personas nacidas en este país de padres que no están aquí como residentes permanentes o ciudadanos.

Durante décadas, un niño nacido en los Estados Unidos, incluso si la madre estaba aquí como turista, su recién nacido era considerado ciudadano o ciudadano por derecho de nacimiento. Cumpliendo su promesa, el lunes, después de su toma de posesión, el presidente Trump firmó una orden ejecutiva que inicia la larga lucha para analizar la 14ª Enmienda que protege a esos ciudadanos.

Al día siguiente, 18 estados planeaban emprender acciones legales contra ese mandato, incluido Massachusetts. La fiscal general de Massachusetts, Andrea Campbell, se presentó ante el Tribunal de Distrito de los Estados Unidos para el Distrito de Massachusetts pidiendo al tribunal que invalide la orden y bloquee cualquier acción para implementarla.

En una declaración, Campbell argumentó que la orden de Trump negaría la ciudadanía y todos los privilegios asociados a más de 150.000 niños nacidos cada año en los Estados Unidos. Además,

los estados argumentan que la orden les exigiría modificar el funcionamiento y la administración de los programas de beneficios. "El presidente Trump no tiene la autoridad para quitar derechos constitucionales, y lucharemos contra su intento de anular nuestra Constitución y castigar a los bebés inocentes nacidos en Massachusetts", dijo Campbell.

La ciudadanía por derecho de nacimiento significa que cualquier persona nacida en los EE. UU. es ciudadana, independientemente del estatus migratorio de sus padres. Por ejemplo, las personas que están en los Estados Unidos con una visa de turista o de otro tipo o que se encuentran en el país ilegalmente pueden convertirse en padres de un ciudadano si su hijo nace aquí.

La semana que viene, compartiré una historia de cómo comenzó y se convirtió en la norma. Trump y sus aliados cuestionan la interpretación de la 14ª Enmienda y dicen que deben existir normas más estrictas para convertirse en ciudadano.

Empleados de Lawrence en ausencia con pago durante las tres administraciones *

Employee	Date	Department
Gregory Arvinitis	1/30/15	City Clerk
Joseph Rosario	8/16/24	DPW
Santo Anziani Vizcaino	7/25/24	DPW
Michael Buzzel	11/30/22	Fire Department
Jesus Flores	3/2/22	Fire Department
Mark Verville	9/6/18	Fire Department
Julian Perez	8/9/24	Inspectional Services
Julian Perez	4/25/24	Inspectional Services
Alfonso Garcia	6/16/23	Inspectional Services
Johnny Paredes	6/16/23	Inspectional Services
Michael Hanson	3/16/21	Inspectional Services
Glen Fleming	12/8/20	Inspectional Services
Julian Perez	9/19/19	Inspectional Services
Horacio Rodriguez		Inspectional Services
Alondra Caceres	9/26/24	Library
Tomas Michel	8/15/23	Mayor's Office
Frank Bonnet	6/22/22	Mayor's Office
Mikel Beltran	9/4/24	Police Department
Ellen Bistany	8/5/24	Police Department
William /Castro	3/22/24	Police Department
Michael Mangan	5/8/23	Police Department
Roy Vasque	1/23/23	Police Department
Fabian Guerrero	11/18/22	Police Department
Paul MacMillan	9/9/22	Police Department
Maurice Aguiler	8/30/22	Police Department
Mike Simard		Police Department
Giovanni Monroy	5/14/24	Water Department
Paul Gadner	2/27/23	Water Department
Jennifer Jimenez	12/6/21	
Martha Dominguez	10/23/18	
Nola Harb		Personnel
Johanny De Soto		Personnel

* Some information is missing but I was told that there many names missing here.

** No hay distinción entre acción disciplinaria y accidentes como resultado de su trabajo.

Esta lista fue compilada por Dalia Díaz

"The press was to serve the governed, not the governors."

"La prensa debía servir a los gobernados, no a los gobernadores".

Katharine Graham



ReStore de Habitat for Humanity: **Apoya la vivienda asequible en el Condado de Essex** **(¡y es muy divertido para los buscadores de tesoros!)**

Por Elizabeth Covino

El ReStore de Habitat for Humanity en Lawrence es una triple victoria para la comunidad: los muebles se pueden reciclar y evitar que terminen en los vertederos, los consumidores tienen un recurso para artículos usados de calidad y financia el importante trabajo de construir viviendas asequibles en el condado de Essex.

Comprar en un ReStore de Habitat no es como una experiencia de compra en cualquier otro lugar. Mitad tienda de mejoras para el hogar, mitad tienda de artículos para el hogar, mitad tienda de reventa, cada ReStore tiene una amplia selección que cambia a menudo. La parte divertida es que a veces es como una búsqueda del tesoro: nunca se sabe lo que encontrará. “A muchas personas les gusta ir a la búsqueda del tesoro”, dijo Jim Kapelson, director del ReStore.



“Tenemos la suerte de estar rodeados por una comunidad muy generosa. Brindamos servicio en todo el condado de Essex, en las 34 ciudades y pueblos. Ofrecemos la recogida de muebles y materiales de construcción, si es necesario. “Tenemos un camión que sale cinco días a la semana y recoge de tres a cinco donaciones de donantes cada día”, dijo. ReStore también está abierto para donaciones durante el horario comercial. Son particulares en lo que aceptan. “Hacemos nuestra pequeña parte para hacer todo lo posible para aceptar cosas que sabemos que la gente disfrutará y que se pueden usar y comprar a un precio muy asequible. Es una sensación agradable que las cosas no se tiren a la basura. Estamos ayudando a aliviar parte de los desechos que son tan frecuentes en nuestra sociedad. Aceptamos artículos relacionados con los hogares. Podemos aceptar electrodomésticos, ventanas, puertas, hardware, herramientas, muebles (sofás, sillas, mesas de comedor). No aceptamos materiales de cama, colchones o somieres, muebles para niños (sillas altas, por ejemplo). Debemos preocuparnos por la seguridad. No aceptamos asientos de automóvil ni pintura ni productos químicos de ningún tipo”, dijo.

“Para mí, nuestra misión es integrarnos realmente en la comunidad, ser un recurso y, a su vez, brindar servicios y productos a quienes los necesitan. “Ofrecemos artículos de buena calidad que se pueden comprar a un precio excelente y apoyamos la vivienda asequible”, dijo Jim. “Somos la tienda que construye viviendas asequibles. Las ganancias de nuestra tienda ayudan a financiar la construcción de viviendas en nuestra área de servicio del condado de Essex. Nuestra función principal es recibir donaciones relacionadas con viviendas, incluidos materiales de construcción, muebles, electrodomésticos y artículos para el hogar, etc., y venderlos para apoyar nuestros esfuerzos de construcción y reparación de viviendas. Renovamos el inventario muy rápidamente. Si ve algo que le gusta, ¡cómprelo! No lo dude. Probablemente no esté allí cuando regrese”.

Además de vender artículos usados,

la tienda vende pintura nueva, incluida pintura para paredes y pintura para el hogar. También hay una línea completa de pisos laminados nuevos a prueba de agua. “También ofrecemos un programa de deconstrucción de gabinetes para quienes están remodelando. Iremos a su hogar o negocio y retiraremos con cuidado los gabinetes y los transportaremos a nuestra tienda para revenderlos”, dijo Jim.

La tienda cuenta con el apoyo de un equipo de ocho personas y aproximadamente tres docenas de voluntarios que ayudan a recibir el inventario, fijar el precio de la mercancía, responder las preguntas de los compradores en el piso de ventas y ayudar a mantener limpia la instalación. También se asocian con American Training y Opportunity Works, organizaciones sin fines de lucro locales cuya misión es empoderar a las personas con diversas capacidades para que adquieran experiencia en el lugar de trabajo.

Cuando se le preguntó de qué está más orgulloso en ReStore, Jim dijo: “Estoy muy orgulloso de nuestro equipo de personal aquí. Están aquí porque creen en lo que estamos haciendo. Me han ayudado y han ayudado a nuestra organización a hacerlo mejor. Estoy realmente satisfecho y feliz con nuestro personal”.

Ya sea que sea un aficionado al bricolaje, propietario de una vivienda, inquilino, propietario, contratista, diseñador de interiores, ambientalista o cazador de tesoros, haga de Habitat for Humanity ReStore en Lawrence su primera parada cuando compre su próximo proyecto de mejoras, renovación o bricolaje para el hogar. Vea parte de su inventario más reciente en Facebook en <https://www.facebook.com/habitatrestorelawrence> y su sitio web <https://www.ecrestore.org>. El horario de atención de la tienda es de martes a sábado, de 10 a. m. a 5 p. m. (cerrado los domingos y lunes). La tienda ReStore está ubicada en 647 Andover Street y es una filial de Essex County Habitat for Humanity, con su oficina administrativa en Danvers.

Te sentirás muy bien al saber que tu compra o donación está ayudando a

proporcionar viviendas asequibles a tus vecinos necesitados. Las ganancias de todas las ventas en ReStore financian la construcción y reparación de viviendas asequibles en el condado de Essex para cumplir con su misión de generar fortaleza, estabilidad y autosuficiencia a través de

refugios.

Las donaciones se procesan en la entrada trasera de la tienda. Consulta a un asociado para asegurarte de que todos los artículos sean aptos para la reventa en la tienda. Para obtener más información, visita <https://restoredonations.org>.

Habitat for Humanity's ReStore: **Supporting Affordable Housing in Essex County** **(and great fun for treasure hunters!)**

By Elizabeth Covino

The Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Lawrence is a triple win for the community: furniture can be recycled and kept out of landfills, consumers have a resource for quality pre-owned goods, and it funds the important work in building affordable housing in Essex County.

Shopping at a Habitat ReStore isn't like a shopping experience anywhere else. Part home improvement store, part home goods store, part resale store, each ReStore has a wide selection that changes often. The fun part is it's sometimes like a treasure hunt: you never know what you will find. “A lot of people like to go on the treasure hunt,” said Jim Kapelson, Director of the ReStore.

“We are fortunate to be surrounded by a very giving community. We service all of Essex County, all 34 cities and towns. We offer pick-up of furniture and building materials, if needed. We have a box truck that is out five days a week picking up three to five donations from donors every day,” he said. The ReStore is also open for donations during business hours. They are particular in what they accept. “We do our small part to do our level best to accept things that we know people will enjoy and can be used that can be purchased at a very affordable price. It's a feel good that things aren't just getting thrown away. We are helping to alleviate some of the waste that is so prevalent in our society. We take items related to homes. We can take appliances, windows, doors, hardware, tools, furniture (couches, chairs, dining tables). We do not take bedding materials, mattresses or box springs, children's furniture (highchairs, for example). We must be concerned with safety. We don't take car seats or paint or chemicals of any sort,” he said.

“For me, our mission is to really integrate ourselves into the community, to be a resource, and in turn provide services and products to those who need them. We provide good quality items that can be purchased for a great value and support affordable housing,” Jim said. “We're the store that builds affordable homes. Proceeds from our store help fund building houses in our Essex County service area. Our main function is to take donations related to homes, including building materials, furniture, appliances and housewares, etc., and sell them to support our home building and home repair efforts. We turn over inventory very quickly. If you see something

you like, buy it! Don't hesitate. It probably won't be there when you return.”

In addition to selling pre-owned items, the store sells new paint including wall paint and house paint. There is also a full line of new waterproof laminate flooring. “We also offer a cabinet deconstruction program for those remodeling. We will come to your home or business and carefully remove cabinets and transport them to our store for resale,” Jim said.

The store is supported by a staff team of eight people and approximately three dozen volunteers who help with receiving inventory, pricing merchandise, answering shoppers' questions on the sales floor, and helping to keep the facility clean. They also partner with American Training and Opportunity Works, local non-profits whose missions are to empower people with diverse abilities to gain experience in the workplace.

When asked what he is most proud of at the ReStore, Jim said, “I'm most proud of our staff team here. They are here because they believe in what we are doing. They have helped me and helped our organization do better. I'm really pleased and happy with our staff.”

Whether you are a do-it-yourselfer, homeowner, renter, landlord, contractor, interior designer, environmentalist or treasure hunter, make Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Lawrence your first stop when shopping for your next home improvement, renovation or DIY project. Check out some of their latest inventory on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/habitatrestorelawrence> and their website <https://www.ecrestore.org>. Store hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10am to 5pm (Closed Sunday and Monday). The ReStore is located at 647 Andover Street, is an affiliate of Essex County Habitat for Humanity, with its administrative office in Danvers.

You'll feel great knowing your purchase or donation is helping to provide affordable housing for your neighbors in need. Proceeds from all sales at the ReStore fund the building and repair of affordable homes in Essex County to deliver on their mission of building strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter.

Donations are processed at the back entrance to the store. Please see an associate to be sure all items are a good fit for resale at the store. For more information, visit <https://restoredonations.org>.

Josiane Martinez: 2025 Pinnacle Awards Honoree in Entrepreneurship



Congratulations to our Founder & CEO, Josiane Martinez on being the 2025 Pinnacle Awards honoree for Achievement in Entrepreneurship

The Pinnacle Awards is a premier event dedicated to celebrating and honoring the exceptional contributions of Greater Boston's dynamic female leaders. These women are driving progress in the workplace and demonstrating unwavering commitment to their communities. With their influence and impact, they are

shaping industries and strengthening the foundations of commerce both regionally and globally. Each year, the event brings together over 1,200 attendees, including elected officials, business pioneers, and emerging leaders, to acknowledge and celebrate the accomplishments of the honorees.

"Friendship... is not something you learn in school. But if you haven't learned the meaning of friendship, you really haven't learned anything."

MUHAMMAD ALI

MERRIMACK VALLEY CHAMBER NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION!

Monday, February 3rd, 2025
8:00 AM - 9:15 AM

Burton's Grill
145 Turnpike St, North Andover, MA 01845



Welcome to our **New** members! Join us for a great **Breakfast orientation** on Feb 3rd. **Network** with others and **Maximize** your Member benefits with the MV Chamber!

Meet fellow members and explore opportunities to grow your business through our resources, including a presentation on getting referrals and introductions by Jeff Morgenthaler of GNA Training, learn about member benefits and much more!



Free for all New Members!
\$20 - Future Members

TO REGISTER, PLEASE CONTACT: 978-686-0900

EMAIL: OFFICE@MERRIMACKVALLEYCHAMBER.COM

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Governor Healey Signs Laws Lowering Health Care Costs and Strengthening Oversight

New laws cap prescription drug copays at \$25, improve access to primary care and close regulatory gaps exploited by Steward Health Care

BOSTON – Governor Maura Healey today signed into law S.3012 An Act relative to pharmaceutical access, costs, and transparency and H.5159 An Act enhancing the market review process. The laws seek to lower health care costs, cap prescription drug costs at \$25, improve access to primary care and increase oversight of the health care industry to protect patients and providers.

"We know that one of the biggest strains on Massachusetts family's budgets is the high health care costs. These new laws will lower out-of-pocket costs by capping copays at \$25 for lifesaving prescription medications and increasing transparency in the industry," said Governor Maura Healey. "They also close loopholes in our regulatory processes so that for-profit providers like Steward Health Care are subject to the same transparency rules as non-profit providers. As Attorney General, I spent years in court trying to hold Steward to this standard, and I'm glad that our laws will no longer be exploited in this way. I'm grateful for the strong leadership of Speaker Ron Mariano, Senate President Karen Spilka, and the Legislature for advancing these bills that will strengthen our health care system, lower costs, and protect patients and providers."

"Massachusetts is proud to be a global leader in health care and life sciences innovation. Together, these laws further increase our ability to deliver world-class medical care that patients can afford and empower government to hold the health care industry accountable to the people," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "We appreciate the partnership of the Legislature, as well as all of the health care leaders, providers and patients who made their voices heard throughout this process."

"The bills signed by Governor Healey today represent the Legislature's enduring commitment to protecting patients, bringing down cost growth, and to fostering greater stability and accountability within the health care system," said House Speaker Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy). "Before Steward Health Care ultimately collapsed, executives spent years hiding their financial information from state regulators, putting patients and our health care system at risk. That's why ensuring that our institutions are equipped to monitor the health care landscape, and to guard against trends and transactions that drive up costs without improving patient outcomes, is so important. I would like to thank Chairman Lawn and our partners in the Senate for getting these bills across the finish line and marking the end of an incredibly productive legislative session."

"Because of our actions today, thousands of residents will pay less at the pharmacy counter, and communities across the state will be more protected from the high costs of private equity mismanagement," said Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). "With the Governor's signature on these two bills, we are doubling down on our global leadership in health care and making sure that in Massachusetts, patients are put before profits. I am grateful for Governor Healey's signature, the tireless and unwavering work of Senator Friedman, my colleagues in the Senate, and our partners in the House for getting these bills across the finish line."

An Act relative to pharmaceutical

access, costs and transparency includes comprehensive reforms to lower the cost of prescription drugs and improve oversight of the pharmaceutical industry. Notably, it requires insurers to eliminate cost-sharing requirements for one generic drug and to cap co-payments on one brand-name drug at \$25 per 30-day supply for diabetes, asthma, and certain heart conditions. It also ensures that consumers are not charged a co-pay if it would be cheaper for them to purchase a drug without using their insurance, and it requires insurers to provide continuity of coverage for new members' existing prescriptions when they switch to a new plan.

An Act enhancing the market review process seeks to close loopholes in the health care market regulatory process. It expands the scope of data collection and public review of health care and health care transactions by the Health Policy Commission (HPC) and the Center for Health Analysis and Information (CHIA), with the goal of increasing visibility and accountability for transactions involving private owners of health care resources. This will help to close gaps in oversight that were exploited for years by Steward Health Care and Ralph de la Torre. For example, it prohibits DPH from issuing hospital licenses to hospitals or systems where the main acute care campus is on Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT)-owned property. It also seeks to increase transparency around health care entities and their ownership, including more rigorous data sharing requirements and expanding participation in regulatory process to nontraditional healthcare entities.

The bill also includes a provision establishing a primary care task force, co-chaired by Health and Human Services Secretary Kate Walsh and the Executive Director of the HPC. The task force will study primary care access, delivery and payment, and develop recommendations to stabilize and strengthen the primary care system, increase recruitment, and increase financial investment and patient access.

"These laws are an important step toward transparency and accountability for our health care system, and making medications more affordable," said Health and Human Services Secretary Kate Walsh. "We know primary care access is a critical component of health equity, so I'm especially looking forward to the commitment of strengthening our primary care system to help more people in Massachusetts live healthy lives."

"As someone who represents communities within the Merrimack Valley that were impacted by Steward's closure, I am grateful that this historic legislation was passed by the Legislature. These two critical pieces of legislation will positively impact every resident in Massachusetts by making life-saving and essential prescription drugs more affordable for all residents, while also working to ensure that another Steward Health Care situation is never allowed to happen again in Massachusetts," said Second Assistant Majority Leader Frank A. Moran (D-Lawrence). "I would like to thank Governor Healey, Lieutenant Governor Driscoll, Speaker Mariano, Senate President Spilka, House Chair Lawn, and Senate Chair Friedman for their steadfast leadership in making this legislation a priority this session."



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¡Lotería de escuela pública
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¡Para el año escolar 2025-26!

Más de 100 plazas para estudiantes que cumplirán 4 años antes del 1 de septiembre de 2025.
**Seleccionar vacantes en otros grados.*

Community Day Charter Public School (CDCPS):

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Fecha límite de lotería: 7 de febrero de 2025 a las 5:00 p.m. Inscribese en nuestro sitio web.

- La admisión se realizará mediante sorteo público que se celebrará el 3 de marzo de 2025.
- Complete una solicitud para la ubicación de la lotería en todos los campus de CDCPS.

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Jornada de puertas abiertas virtual:
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Lotería:
 3 de marzo de 2025

¡Escanea el código QR para solicitar la lotería!



Visite nuestro sitio web para presentar una solicitud o para obtener más información: www.cdcps.org

El personal estará disponible durante nuestra jornada de puertas abiertas para ayudar con la presentación de la solicitud.



La escuela pública autónoma Community Day (CDCPS) está abierta a todos los estudiantes que viven en Lawrence y la admisión se realiza mediante sorteo; no se requiere ningún examen para la admisión.
 CDCPS no discrimina por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, credo o religión, sexo, identidad de género, etnia, orientación sexual, discapacidad mental o física, edad, ascendencia, rendimiento deportivo, necesidad especial, competencia en el idioma inglés o en un idioma extranjero o logros académicos previos al reclutar o admitir estudiantes.

Our walls are smiling! Join us next Saturday for the Opening Reception of Chalky Wrinkle Shape Shine

Essex Art Center is thrilled to open its 2025 exhibition program with Chalky Wrinkle Shape Shine, a dynamic two-person show of work by Jai Hart and Timothy Kadish.

ON VIEW
January 18 — March 15, 2025
OPENING RECEPTION
Saturday, January 25, 2025
12:00-2:00 PM

Guided by the desire to create a playful and joy-filled experience, Chalky Wrinkle Shape Shine brings together a diverse assortment of Harts' painted and stuffed canvases and Kadish's bold, geometric paintings. Hart and Kadish's works, installed in a creative and intuitive fashion, fill Essex Art Center's Sidell and Beland Galleries and spill into an adjacent studio and corridor.

On view on Essex Art Center's Community Art Wall is DUALITY an exhibition by Exposed Brick Literary Magazine, organized by founders Milly Joseph and Wangeci Gitau, that highlights their sixth edition. Featuring prose, mixed media, visual arts, and more to explore and challenge what DUALITY looks like to you. Opening reception of DUALITY and launch of Issue Six will be on January 25th, 2025, from 6:00-9:00 PM. There will be live performances, a zine-making workshop, light refreshments, and networking opportunities featuring our #Bricklitfam.

Chalky Wrinkle Shape Shine is curated by Essex Art Center's Executive Director, Monica Lynn Manoski, who said, "Working with Timothy and Jai has been so much fun. The artists have really responded to each other's work and are even working on a collaborative piece. There will also be an accompanying printed piece that viewers can take with them, which includes poems I wrote in response to Jai and Timothy's works. The show is an exuberant promise of spring. Please come see it!"

There are ample opportunities to engage with the artists during the exhibition's 8-week runtime. Hart and Kadish will share remarks during the Opening Reception on Saturday, January 25, at 12:30 PM, and they are hosting a collaborative artmaking experience together on Wednesday, February 12, at 6:00 PM. A Closing Celebration, with performances by Greater Lawrence Fellowship of the Arts, will take place at 7:00 PM on Thursday, March 13.

Find us in / Búsquenos en Facebook/Rumbo



25 Years
PATHWAYS FOR CHILDREN

<https://www.pw4c.org/youth-at-risk-conference>

25th Annual YAR Conference



Endicott College
 May 28, 2025
 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM

"25 years of Empowering Youth: Together, We Thrive"

Youth at Risk Conference
May 28, 2025
Endicott College, Beverly, MA

The region's only annual all-day conference for professionals working with at-risk youth with hands-on workshops, CEUs and Networking events.

ESSEX ART CENTER

Our mailing address is
 56 Island Street
 Lawrence, MA 01840

Follow us on social media
[@essexartcenter.org](https://www.essexartcenter.org)

Sign up for fall classes at
www.essexartcenter.org/enroll



New Year, New Knowledge! Schedule a Mental Health Awareness Training for your Team!

Happy New Year! As we step into 2025, consider investing in your team's ability to make a meaningful impact.

Youth mental health challenges are on the rise, and family-serving organizations are uniquely positioned to provide critical support. At Family Services of the Merrimack Valley, we offer two evidence-based training programs to empower your team - completely free of charge:

1. Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA):

Equips staff with the skills to recognize, respond to, and assist young people facing mental health or substance use challenges.

2. Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR):

A practical training that teaches staff to identify warning signs of suicide and connect youth to life-saving resources.

These trainings build confidence, enhance communication, and strengthen the support networks within your organization, enabling you to better serve the youth and families in your care.

If you're interested in learning more or scheduling a session, please reply to this email or contact me at kpfeiffer@fsmv.org. Wishing you a successful and impactful New Year!

¡Año nuevo, nuevos conocimientos! Programe una capacitación sobre concientización sobre salud mental para su equipo

¡Feliz año nuevo! A medida que avanzamos hacia el año 2025, considere invertir en la capacidad de su equipo para generar un impacto significativo.

Los desafíos de salud mental juvenil están en aumento y las organizaciones que brindan servicios a familias están en una posición única para brindar un apoyo fundamental. En Family Services of the Merrimack Valley, ofrecemos dos programas de capacitación basados en evidencia para empoderar a su equipo, completamente gratis:

1. Primeros auxilios en salud mental juvenil (YMHFA):

Equipa al personal con las habilidades para reconocer, responder y ayudar a los

jóvenes que enfrentan desafíos de salud mental o uso de sustancias.

2. Preguntar, persuadir, derivar (QPR):

Una capacitación práctica que enseña al personal a identificar señales de advertencia de suicidio y conectar a los jóvenes con recursos que les pueden salvar la vida.

Estas capacitaciones generan confianza, mejoran la comunicación y fortalecen las redes de apoyo dentro de su organización, lo que le permite brindar un mejor servicio a los jóvenes y las familias a su cargo.

Si está interesado en obtener más información o programar una sesión, responda a este correo electrónico o contácteme en kpfeiffer@fsmv.org. ¡Le deseo un Año Nuevo exitoso e impactante!

Apply for MVCU's 2025 Scholarship Program



We are giving away more than \$26,000 to 18 graduating seniors! Apply now for a chance to receive one of the following awards:

- Lisa Lewis Goodman Community Spirit Award: \$2,500 for a student who demonstrates exceptional commitment to community service, both in and outside of school.
- James A. Burley Jr. Scholarship Award: Three scholarships for students who excel academically, participate in extracurricular activities and submit outstanding essays. First place receives \$5,000, second place

\$3,000 and third place \$2,000.

- \$1,000 Scholarships: Fourteen scholarships based on academic performance, extracurricular involvement, community service and essay submissions.

Graduating seniors from high schools within communities the credit union serves who plan to attend a certificate program, two-year college or four-year college are eligible to apply. Credit union membership is not required. Let us help you achieve your career aspirations!

Deadline to apply is Friday, Feb. 28.

LEA EDICIONES PREVIAS DE RUMBO EN LA INTERNET
RUMBONEWS.COM

OUR TEENS NEED YOUR HELP!

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH TRAININGS FOR ADULTS (INCLD. ORGANIZATIONS!)

- Teachers and School Staff
- Parents, Foster Parents, Family Members
- Coaches, Youth Workers, Mentors, Scout Leaders
- Anyone 18+ who wants to understand youth mental health and learn how to be supportive and connect young people with the help they need!



Provided by Family Services of the Merrimack Valley



FREE

Book today!

✉ kpfeiffer@fsmv.org

or

☎ 978.327.6662



Chance to win \$100!*

*Upon completion of course work and all follow-up surveys

Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR)

QPR is a 1.5-hour training in which participants learn three simple steps to help prevent suicide and be a resource for someone who might be struggling.

Offered in English and Spanish.
Offered virtually or in-person.

Youth Mental Health First Aid

YMHFA is a 7-8 hour training in which participants learn about common mental health challenges youth face, crisis and non-crisis situations, and more!

Offered in English only.
Offered virtually or in-person.
Multiple session options available.





Sports with Northern Essex Community College

By Dan Blair, Director of Athletics

Knights avenge lone conference loss with 99-61 rout of Bristol

Haverhill, MA (January 21, 2025) – The #8 nationally ranked Northern Essex men’s basketball team picked up their 15th straight win of the season and their 42nd straight home as they improved to 17-2 overall and 12-1 in conference play with 99-61 rout of Bristol and in the process avenged their lone conference loss on the season.

The Knights slowly opened the advantage in the game’s first half before taking a 20 point lead into the locker room at halftime at 49-29, before outscoring the Bayhawks by a 50-32 total in the second half.

Alejandro Delgado (Haverhill) scored a game high 23 points to go along with 10

rebounds for a double-double effort.

Javien Kirmil (Lowell) and Alex Johnson (Worcester) joined Delgado in double figures as they recorded 11 and 10 respectively.

Ryan Pacy (Salem, MA) had all around strong effort as he picked up five assists, to go along with four steals and six points.

The Knights will return to the court on Saturday when they play host to Community College of Rhode Island at 2:00pm in the second half of a men’s and women’s double header.

Men’s Basketball, Baseball both ranked 8th nationally

Haverhill, MA (January 22, 2025) – With the basketball season heading toward the home stretch in the weeks ahead and baseball preparing for the spring season to kick off in March, both programs currently sit at eighth in their respective NJCAA national polls.

For the men’s basketball team, they are ranked for the fourth consecutive poll and have climbed each of the past three weeks. The number eight ranking is their second straight week inside the top 10.

The Knights are currently winners of 15 straight games and have won 42 straight games on their home court, a streak dating back to the conclusion of the 2021-22 season.

The Knights have a pair of scorers averaging in double figures in Alejandro Delgado (Haverhill) and Javien Kirmil (Lowell) scoring 14.8 and 10.6 points a game respectively.

As a team, the Knights are scoring 86.2 points per game which ranks 12th nationally. Defensively, NECC is holding the opponent to 68 points per game which currently ranks eighth best in the nation.

Switching over to the baseball diamond, NECC will be seeking a fourth consecutive trip to the NJCAA World Series in May as they earned a number eight preseason national ranking.

Set to open a 41-game schedule in March, including a 10-game trip to Florida, the Knights return a core nucleus from 2024 including five everyday positional players and three pitchers who pitched 18 innings or more a season ago.

Armano Paulino (Lawrence) returns after batting .352 last season and Michael Giessler (Peabody) expects to be at the top of rotation after throwing 41 innings on the hill last season.

A host of incoming freshman and transfers will look to make an immediate impact on the roster and add depth over the course of the season. Division I transfer Anthony Marino (Lynn) from the University of South Alabama is rejoining his high school teammate Giessler and the duo expect to lead the pitching staff in 2025.

Head Coach Jeff Mejia will enter the season with 297 career wins, all at Northern Essex.

FREE TRAINING: Youth Mental Health First Aid

We are excited to offer a free Youth Mental Health First Aid Training on Thursday, March 6. This evidence-based course is designed to help adults identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental health challenges in young people.

Details:

- Date: Thursday, March 6
- Time: 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM
- Location: 430 N Canal Street, Lawrence, MA
- Cost: Free

Please note:

All participants are required to complete mandatory online pre-work prior to the training. Instructions for accessing the pre-work will be sent after registration.

This training is perfect for parents, teachers, coaches, and anyone who works with youth. Space is limited, so be sure to register early!

To sign up or learn more, respond to this message or email Katie at kpfeiffer@fsmv.org.

Want this training for your staff? Let's set up a meeting! Email kpfeiffer@fsmv.org to get started.

“El talento gana partidos, pero el trabajo en equipo y la inteligencia ganan campeonatos.”

"Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence win championships."

– Michael Jordan

OUR TEENS NEED YOUR HELP!

TRAINING FOR ADULTS WHO CARE ABOUT YOUNG PEOPLE

YOU WILL LEARN:

- How to distinguish between crisis and non-crisis mental health situations
- Risk factors and warning signs for common mental health challenges affecting young people
- Ways to connect young people to professional, peer, social, and self-help care



FREE

CEUs Available*

Youth Mental Health First Aid

Learn about youth mental health and how to talk with youth about how they're feeling and how to get help.

- 2 hours of online, self-paced pre-work
- 6 hours of in-person training

*CEUs available through MA-NASW only

 Thursday, March 6
9:30 am - 3:30 pm

 430 N Canal St.
Lawrence, MA

 Online pre-work
REQUIRED

 Chance to win \$100!
*Upon completion of course and follow-up surveys

To Register:

Email the Training Coordinator at kpfeiffer@fsmv.org.

Space is limited. Must be 18+ to attend.

Provided by:
Family Services of the Merrimack Valley
FSMV.org



El desafío de la violencia

The challenge of violence



Por Tomás Núñez, ThD

La violencia frecuente nos obliga a pensar. ¿Por qué es tan recurrente? Para vislumbrar alguna luz tenemos que partir sin autoengaños de esta ambigüedad fundamental: por una parte, la realidad está cargada de conflictos, pero en otro sentido, es un tejido de orden y paz. Ninguno de estos dos aspectos consigue erradicar al otro. Se mezclan, y se mantienen en un equilibrio difícil y dinámico.

El arte consiste en mantener esa tensión, buscando aquella convergencia de energías que permite el surgimiento de la paz, fruto de instituciones mínimamente justas e incluyentes, y de ordenamientos sociales sanos, custodiados por un Estado que vela por el equilibrio de las tensiones, usando legítimamente la coerción cuando es necesario. Si no se diese esta búsqueda de equilibrio, tal vez la sociabilidad sería imposible, y los seres humanos se exterminarían unos a otros.

La paz resulta de la administración de los conflictos usando medios no conflictivos. En la construcción de la paz, los intereses colectivos deben sobreponerse a los individuales, la multiculturalidad ha de prevalecer sobre el etnocentrismo, la perspectiva global orientará la local.

Tenemos que ser realistas y sinceros. Hay violencia en el mundo porque yo llevo violencia dentro de mí en forma de rabia,

envidia y odio, que deben ser siempre contenidos.

La explicación de la agresividad ha desafiado a los más agudos pensadores. Sigmund Freud parte de la constatación de que existen dos pulsiones básicas: una que afirma y exalta la vida (Eros) y otra que tiende hacia la muerte (Thánatos) y sus derivados psicológicos, como los odios y las exclusiones.

Para Freud la agresividad surge cuando el instinto de muerte se activa por alguna amenaza que viene de fuera. Alguien puede amenazar a otro y querer quitarle la vida. Entonces el amenazado se anticipa y pasa a agredir y eventualmente a eliminar a quien le amenaza.

Otro pensador contemporáneo, René Girard, afirma que la agresividad proviene de la permanente rivalidad existente entre los seres humanos (a la que él llama «deseo mimético»). Esta rivalidad crea permanentes tensiones y elabora siniestras complicidades. Al concentrar en alguien toda la maldad y toda la amenaza, la sociedad lo convierte en un chivo expiatorio. Todos se unen contra él para apartarlo. Esta unión instaura una paz momentánea entre todos los contendientes. Deshecha la paz, se inventa un nuevo chivo expiatorio (los terroristas, los traficantes, etc.) y nuevamente se crea la unión de todos contra él y se rehace la paz perdida.

Los antropólogos también nos han ayudado a entender la agresividad. Nos aseguran que somos simultáneamente sapiens y demens, no por degeneración, sino por constitución evolutiva. Somos portadores de inteligencia y de energías interiores orientadas hacia la generosidad, la colaboración y la benevolencia. Y al mismo tiempo somos portadores de demencia, de exceso, de pulsiones de muerte. Somos seres trágicos porque surgimos como coexistencia de los opuestos.

Dada esta contradicción, ¿cómo construir la paz? La paz sólo triunfará en la medida en que las personas y las colectividades se dispongan a cultivar, como proyecto de vida, la cooperación, la solidaridad y el amor. La cultura de la paz depende del predominio de estas positivities y de la vigilancia que las personas y las instituciones mantengan sobre la otra dimensión, siempre presente, de rivalidad, de egoísmo y de exclusión.

By Tomás Núñez, ThD

Frequent violence forces us to think. Why is it so recurrent? To see some light, we must start without self-deception from this fundamental ambiguity: on the one hand, reality is full of conflict, but in another sense, it is a fabric of order and peace. Neither of these two aspects succeeds in eradicating the other. They are mixed and maintained in a complex and dynamic equilibrium.

The art consists in maintaining this tension, seeking that convergence of energies that allows the emergence of peace, the fruit of minimally fair and inclusive institutions, and of healthy social arrangements guarded by a State that ensures the balance of tensions, legitimately using coercion when necessary. If this search for balance did not occur, sociability would be impossible, and human beings would exterminate each other.

Peace results from the management of conflicts using non-conflictive means. In peacebuilding, collective interests must prevail over individual interests, multiculturalism must prevail over ethnocentrism, and the global perspective will guide the local one.

We have to be realistic and sincere. There is violence in the world because I carry violence within me in the form of rage, envy, and hatred, which I must always contain.

The explanation of aggression has challenged the most acute thinkers. Sigmund Freud starts by observing two basic drives: one that affirms and exalts life (Eros) and another that tends towards death (Thanatos) and its psychological derivatives, such as hatred and exclusion.

For Freud, aggression arises when the death instinct is activated by some threat that

comes from outside. Someone can threaten another and want to take his life. Then, the threatened person anticipates and attacks and eventually eliminates the person who threatens him.

Another contemporary thinker, René Girard, claims that aggression comes from the permanent rivalry that exists between human beings (which he calls "mimetic desire"). This rivalry creates permanent tensions and elaborates sinister complicities. Society makes him a scapegoat by concentrating all evil and all threats on someone. Everyone unites against him to get rid of him. This union establishes a momentary peace between all the contenders. Once the peace is destroyed, we must invent a new scapegoat (terrorists, drug dealers, etc.), and once again, everyone unites against him, and the lost peace is remade.

Anthropologists have also helped us to understand aggression. They assure us that we are simultaneously sapiens and demons, not because of degeneration but because of the evolutionary constitution. We are carriers of intelligence and inner energies oriented toward generosity, collaboration, and benevolence. And at the same time, we are carriers of madness, of excess, of death drives. We are tragic beings because we emerge as a coexistence of opposites.

Given this contradiction, how can we build peace? Peace will only triumph because people and communities are willing to cultivate cooperation, solidarity, and love as a life project. The culture of peace depends on the predominance of these positives and on the vigilance that people and institutions maintain over the other dimension, always present, of rivalry, selfishness, and exclusion.

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DATE: February 7th, 2025
TIME: 6:00PM - 8:30 PM
168 Newbury ST, Lawrence MA

INDIVIDUAL: \$30
COUPLE: \$50

All proceeds will go to Katherine's Closet in order to continue our ongoing support for the men in our community.

CONTACT INFORMATION:
KKLOSET@LAWRENCECOMMUNITYWORKS.ORG

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UN PUNTO DE VISTA ©1996

Por Paul V. Montesino, PhD, MBA, CCP

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

Las Metáforas no Invitadas

Repetidamente, la vida nos ofrece ejemplos no solicitados de su fragilidad. Son momentos que no solo nos sorprenden, sino que nos confunden y desconciertan. Ya se trate de incidentes climáticos o de nuestras propias interacciones agresivas entre grupos, los resultados son los mismos: nada es como antes y no solo terminamos con la destrucción, sino también con una dura lección que nos enseñará cuán indefensos estamos realmente ante tales calamidades.

Los recientes incendios forestales destructivos en California son una excelente metáfora que podemos usar para evaluar nuestra existencia incluso si no estamos allí. Los árboles y arbustos que habían estado creciendo sin obstáculos durante siglos desaparecieron de la noche a la mañana. Casas de diferentes diseños arquitectónicos que albergaban tanto a ricos como a pobres se convirtieron en cenizas y sus ocupantes tuvieron que salir apresuradamente para evitar la muerte y luego no encontraron nada de valor cuando intentaron regresar. El concepto de "tabula rasa" puede aplicarse aquí.

Pero la metáfora cubre un amplio espectro más allá de California. Hubo millones de seres humanos en ciertos países, incluido el nuestro, antes y ahora, que hemos dejado atrás hogares, familias, cultura y posesiones para emigrar con nada más que un sueño y una bolsa al hombro, una ilusión de que las cosas mejorarían de

alguna manera. Huelga decir que se pagó un alto precio por la destrucción voluntaria de lo que había detrás y por la falta de reconocimiento positivo de las acciones que se tomaron.

No había fuego alimentado por los vientos detrás de nosotros cuando teníamos que movernos, pero el simbolismo era el mismo. En la historia de las civilizaciones, moverse de donde estamos es un comportamiento humano constante. Podrían haber sido las hordas que se desplazaban hacia el oeste desde África hacia las tierras europeas, los europeos que navegaban hacia América, los pueblos indígenas que cruzaban las tierras árticas hacia el este y el sur hasta nuestro continente. Quienes quiera que fueran, actuaron como víctimas de un incendio que consumió su pasado y los obligó a comenzar una nueva forma de vida.

Lo que nos lleva de nuevo al ejemplo de esta metáfora californiana. Los residentes de la Costa Oeste tienen que reconocer su tragedia y volver a encender sus motores. Ellos, y nosotros con simpatía, miraremos la lección enseñada por la destrucción de tantas vidas y seguiremos adelante de la misma manera que los millones de personas que lo hicieron anteriormente. Sobrevivieron; sus culturas finalmente también lo hicieron, y todos esperaron pacientemente cualquier nueva metáfora que la vida quisiera proporcionarles.

Y ese es mi punto de vista hoy. Agur.

NILP organizará un foro legislativo, Cómo crear una comunidad más accesible: haga oír su voz, el 13 de febrero de 2025

Lawrence, MA – El Programa de Vida Independiente del Noreste (NILP, por sus siglas en inglés) invita a los miembros de la comunidad, legisladores y defensores a unirse a su Foro Legislativo el jueves 13 de febrero de 2025, de 10 a. m. a 12 p. m. en Elks Lodge, B.P.O.E. # 65, Ballroom, 652 Andover Street, Lawrence, MA.

El tema de este año, Cómo crear una comunidad más accesible: haga oír su voz, destaca la importancia de la colaboración para construir un futuro más inclusivo para las personas con discapacidades.

El foro reunirá a legisladores estatales, socios comunitarios y personas con discapacidades para analizar soluciones a los desafíos urgentes de accesibilidad. Los asistentes tendrán la oportunidad de participar en la conversación registrándose para asistir o hablar en el evento. Comuníquese con Emily a esoares@nilp.org o llame al 978-245-8464 para asistir o hablar.

Se proporcionará interpretación en ASL, CART y español. Se encuentran disponibles adaptaciones razonables, incluido el transporte para los consumidores de NILP, a pedido. Para obtener más información o solicitar adaptaciones, comuníquese con Emily a esoares@nilp.org o llame al 978-245-8464.

Únase a nosotros para defender una comunidad a la que todos puedan acceder. Juntos, podemos crear un cambio significativo.

Acerca del Programa de Vida Independiente del Noreste

El Programa de Vida Independiente del Noreste es una organización controlada por consumidores dedicada a empoderar a las personas con discapacidades que desean vivir de forma independiente en la comunidad. Durante 45 años, NILP ha trabajado para fomentar la inclusión, la accesibilidad y la equidad en las comunidades a las que sirve.

NILP to Host Legislative Forum, Creating a More Accessible Community: Make Your Voice Heard on February 13, 2025

Lawrence, MA – The Northeast Independent Living Program (NILP) invites community members, legislators, and advocates to join its Legislative Forum on Thursday, February 13, 2025, from 10am to 12pm at the Elks Lodge, B.P.O.E. # 65, Ballroom, 652 Andover Street, Lawrence, MA.

This year's theme, Creating a More Accessible Community: Make Your Voice Heard highlights the importance of collaboration in building a more inclusive future for individuals with disabilities.

The forum will bring together state legislators, community partners, and people with disabilities to discuss solutions to pressing accessibility challenges. Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in the conversation by signing up to attend or speak at the event. Please contact Emily at esoares@nilp.org or call 978-245-8464 to attend or speak.

ASL, CART, and Spanish interpretation will be provided. Reasonable accommodations, including transportation for NILP consumers, are available upon request. For more information or to request accommodations, please contact Emily at esoares@nilp.org or call 978-245-8464.

Join us in advocating for a community that everyone can access. Together, we can create meaningful change.

About Northeast Independent Living Program

The Northeast Independent Living Program is a consumer-controlled organization dedicated to empowering individuals with disabilities who wish to live independently in the community. For 45 years, NILP has worked to foster inclusion, accessibility, and equity across the communities it serves.



A POINT OF VIEW © 1996

By Paul V. Montesino, PhD, MBA, CCP

The Uninvited Metaphors

Repeatedly life provides us with unsolicited examples of its fragility. They are moments that not only surprise us but confuse and befuddle us. Whether they are weather incidents or our aggressive interactions between groups, the results are the same: nothing is as it was before, and we not only end with destruction but also with a hard lesson that will teach us how defenseless we really are in the face of such calamities.

The recent destructive forest fires in California are an excellent metaphor we can use to evaluate our existence even if we are not there. Trees and bushes that had been growing unimpeded for centuries disappeared overnight. Homes of different architectural designs that housed both the rich and the poor turned to ashes, and their occupants had to leave hurriedly to avoid death. They found nothing of any value when they tried to return.

But the metaphor covers a broad spectrum beyond California. Millions of human beings in certain countries, including ours, before and now, have left behind homes, families, culture, and possessions to emigrate with nothing more than a dream and a bag over their shoulders, an illusion that things would be better somehow. A high

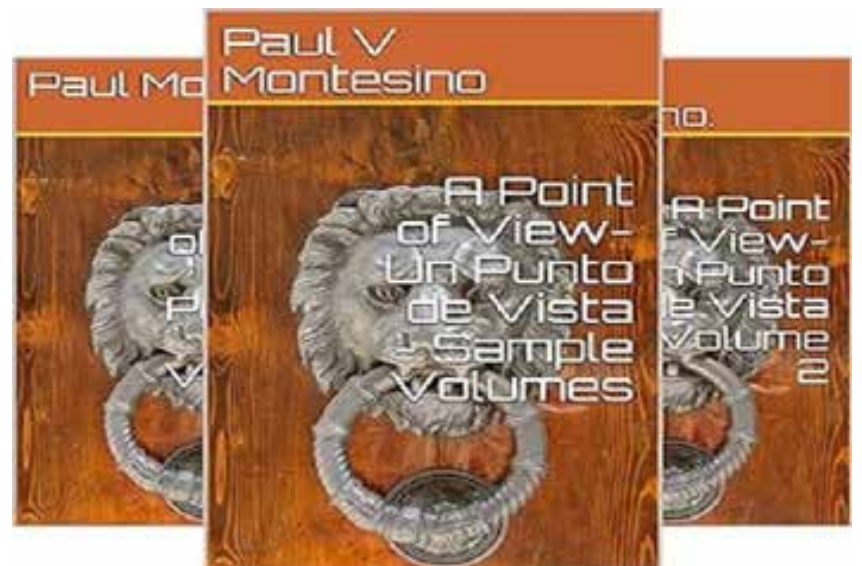
price was paid for the voluntary destruction of what was behind it and the lack of positive recognition for their actions. The concept of "tabula rasa" applies here.

There was no fire fed by the winds behind us when we had to move, but the symbolism was the same. In the history of civilizations, moving from where we are is constant human behavior. It could have been the hordes moving west from Africa to the European lands, the Europeans sailings to America, and the Indigenous peoples who crossed the Arctic East and South to our continent. Whoever they were, they acted like victims of a fire that consumed their past and forced them to start a new way of life.

This leads us again to the example of this California metaphor. The residents of the West Coast have to recognize their tragedy and restart their engines. They, and us in sympathy, will look at the lesson taught by the destruction of so many lives and move on in the same way as the millions who did it previously. They survived, their cultures eventually did as well, and all waited patiently for whatever new metaphor life wanted to provide.

And that is my Point of View today. So long.

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Columna del Seguro Social

5 COSAS QUE DEBE SABER CUANDO SU HIJO TIENE UNA INCAPACIDAD Y CUMPLE 18 AÑOS

Cuando su hijo cumple 18 años, se convierte legalmente en un adulto. Este es un momento importante para considerar su futuro financiero, especialmente si necesitan atención adicional hasta la edad adulta. Aquí hay 5 cosas que pueden ayudarle a prepararse para esta meta:

1. Tomar decisiones sobre la salud y el bienestar

Cuando su hijo se convierte legalmente en un adulto, usted ya no podrá tomar ciertas decisiones por él acerca de su salud y bienestar. Sin embargo, usted puede seguir participando a través del programa representante beneficiario. Infórmese en la página de internet www.ssa.gov/payee/index.htm (sólo en inglés). Tenga en cuenta que el Seguro Social no reconoce el poder notarial.

2. Cambios en la elegibilidad para Seguridad de Ingreso Suplementario (SSI)

Seguridad de Ingreso Suplementario (SSI, siglas en inglés) proporciona pagos mensuales a adultos y niños con incapacidades al igual que a personas de 65 años o más, que tienen escasos recursos o no tienen recursos financieros.

Si su hijo recibe SSI, cuando cumpla 18 años, revisaremos su elegibilidad para continuar recibiendo pagos de SSI según las reglas por incapacidad para adultos. Para informarse mejor, revise la publicación Lo que necesita saber del programa Seguridad de Ingreso Suplementario (SSI) cuando cumple 18 años en www.ssa.gov/pubs/ES-05-10915.pdf. Asegúrese de revisar esto con su niño. También le recomendamos que consulte la página Recursos del Seguro Social para jóvenes en www.segurosocial.gov/jovenes.

3. Transiciones educativas

Si su niño asiste a una escuela, tiene algunas opciones para continuar su educación, como por ejemplo:

- Un diploma: puede continuar su educación en programas universitarios o instituto politécnico con un Programa personalizado de educación (IEP, siglas en inglés). Más información sobre el IEP está disponible en www.ssa.gov/pubs/ES-64-118.pdf.
- Una certificación: Es posible que tengan la oportunidad de continuar en un programa de transición en su escuela preparatoria, incluso después de completar su último año. A la mayoría se les permite permanecer hasta que cumplan 22 años.
- Empleo: Los servicios locales de rehabilitación vocacional pueden ayudar con las opciones de empleo durante las reuniones del IEP previas a la graduación.

4. Apoyo para arreglos de vivienda

Una vez que su hijo cumpla 18 años,



podrá elegir o calificar para diferentes arreglos de vivienda dependiendo de los servicios que ya reciba. Si su hijo recibe servicios de terapia en la escuela, ¿cómo los recibirá una vez que se vaya? Podrían recibirlos a través de una exención de Medicaid o de un seguro privado.

El calificar para los servicios de relevo también puede verse diferente. Los servicios de relevo permiten que los cuidadores de las familias tengan tiempo para alejarse de sus obligaciones. Es esencial que comprenda todos los beneficios y opciones disponibles para su hijo después de completar la escuela preparatoria antes de decidir sobre los arreglos y servicios de vivienda.

5. Protección financiera

- Fideicomiso para necesidades especiales: actualice los documentos de planificación patrimonial antes de que su hijo cumpla 18 años. De lo contrario, la herencia puede cancelar los beneficios gubernamentales de su hijo.

- Cuenta ABLE (siglas en inglés): Puede depositar fondos en esta cuenta hasta un cierto límite cada año; sin embargo, existen límites en cuanto a lo que cubre su financiación. Más información sobre las cuentas ABLE está disponible en www.ssa.gov/payee/able_accounts.htm (solo en inglés).

Lo anterior mencionado es únicamente informativo y no constituye asesoramiento financiero o promoción de productos u organizaciones ABLE por parte de la Administración del Seguro Social. Puede haber otras opciones financieras que podrían ser más adecuadas para algunas personas. Debe usar su mejor juicio para determinar que opción es la apropiada para su situación.

Los niños que reciben beneficios bajo el registro de uno de los padres pueden continuar recibiendo esos beneficios hasta los 19 años si son estudiantes de tiempo completo en escuela primaria o secundaria. Las personas que tienen una incapacidad calificada que comenzó antes de los 22 años, también pueden tener derecho para recibir beneficios por hijos a cualquier edad. Para informarse mejor, revise la publicación Beneficios para hijos en www.ssa.gov/pubs/ES-05-10985.pdf.

Cuando su hijo entra a la edad adulta tenga en cuenta estos asuntos mientras navega su futuro financiero.

Comparta esta información con sus seres queridos y amigos que lo necesiten.

Social Security Column

5 THINGS TO KNOW WHEN YOUR CHILD WITH DISABILITIES TURNS 18

When your child turns 18 years old, they legally become an adult. This is an important time to consider their financial future – especially if they need additional care into adulthood. Here are 5 things that may help you prepare for this milestone:

1. Health and Welfare Decision-making

When your child legally becomes an adult, you can no longer make certain decisions for them about their health and welfare. However, you can stay involved through our Representative Payee program. Social Security will determine who best serves as a representative payee for your child's benefits. To learn more about the Representative Payee program, read our webpage at www.ssa.gov/payee/index.htm. Please note Social Security does not recognize power of attorney.

2. Changes in Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Eligibility

SSI provides monthly payments to adults and children with disabilities, as well as people 65 and older, who have little or no income and resources.

If your child receives SSI, when they turn 18 we will review their eligibility for continued SSI payments based on the disability rules for adults. For more information, please review the publication, What You Need To Know About Your Supplemental Security Income (SSI) When You Turn 18 at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-11005.pdf. Please be sure to review this with your child. We also encourage you to check out Social Security's Youth Toolkit webpage at www.ssa.gov/youth.

3. Education Transitions

If your child attends school, they have a few options to continue their education, such as pursuing:

- A diploma: They may pursue further education in college or trade programs with an Individualized Education Program (IEP). More information on the IEP is available at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-64-118.pdf.
- A certificate: They may have the opportunity to continue in a transitional program in their high school even after they complete their senior year. Most are permitted to remain until they turn 22.

- Employment: Local Vocational Rehabilitation Services can assist with employment options during pre-graduation IEP meetings.

4. Support for Living Arrangements

Once your child turns 18, they may choose or qualify for different living arrangements depending on the services they already receive. If your child receives therapy services at school, how will they receive them once they leave? They could receive them through a Medicaid waiver or private insurance.

Qualification for respite services may also look different. Respite services allow family caregivers time to step away from their duties. It is essential you understand all the benefits and options available to your child after they complete high school and before deciding on living arrangements and services.

5. Financial Protections

- Special Needs Trust: Update estate planning documents before your child turns 18. Otherwise, inheritance may terminate your child's governmental benefits.

- ABLE Account: You can deposit funds into this account up to a certain limit each year. However, there are limits on what its funding covers. More information on ABLE accounts is available at www.ssa.gov/payee/able_accounts.htm.

The above is informational only and does not constitute financial advice or an endorsement of ABLE products or ABLE organizations by the Social Security Administration. There may be other financial options that could be a better fit for some individuals. You must use your best judgement to determine which option is best for your situation.

Children receiving benefits on a parent's record may continue to receive those benefits until age 19 if they're a full-time elementary or secondary school student. People who have a disability that began before age 22 may also be eligible to receive child's benefits at any age. For more information, please review the publication, Benefits for Children at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10085.pdf. As your child enters adulthood, consider these issues while you navigate their financial future.

Please share this information with your friends and loved ones who may need it.



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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

Sealed proposals for the Meaders Lane Neighborhood Infrastructure Improvements Project – Phase III will be received at the Town of Salisbury Town Hall, 5 Beach Road, Salisbury, MA. 01952, until 12 pm Noon on February 25, 2025, at which time and place will be publicly opened and read aloud:

Sealed proposals sent by mail shall be mailed to: Town of Salisbury Planning Department, 5 Beach Road, Salisbury, MA. 01952. Proposals sent through the mail shall be marked “Meaders Lane Neighborhood Infrastructure Improvements Project - Phase III Bid Proposal”.

In general, the work of this project involves drainage improvements and cement concrete sidewalk / granite curbing installation along Short Lane and a portion of Sandy Lane (Total - 600 LF +/-). Work under this contract includes tree removal; drainage installation; raising to grade of new and existing structures; cement concrete sidewalk and granite curb installation; drainage outlet installation ; landscape restoration; driveway repairs to meet new grades; and safety controls for traffic and pedestrian management. Scheduling of work will require coordination with the Salisbury DPW to address work by others within the project. Construction for this project is anticipated to begin on or about April 1, 2025.

The bidding for and award of the contract for this project are to be in accordance with the requirements of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30 § 39M. Bidders are on notice that this project is funded in part through a grant from the Massachusetts Community Development Block Program using U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Funds and Chapter 90 funding. This project is subject to the schedule of federal and state prevailing wage rates.

MassDOT pre-qualification of contractors with a work class as Highway Construction is required for this project with an estimated value of \$354,740. All bidders must be MassDOT pre-qualified in order to take out “Official” bid documents. Contractors seeking “Informational Only” bid documents are not required to be MassDOT pre-qualified.

The Proposal Guaranty shall be in the form of either cash, bid bond, certified check, bank treasurer’s check, or bank cashier’s check, made payable to the Town of Salisbury in the amount of 5% of the value of the Bid. A performance bond and a payment bond, each in the amount of 100 percent of the contract price, will be required in the form described in the Information for Bidders

Bid documents can be acquired from the Salisbury Planning Department, 5 Beach Road, Salisbury, MA 01952 starting on January 29, 2025. Contract Documents are also available for viewing at the Salisbury Planning Department at the address stated above.

An optional pre-bid meeting for all bidders will be held on February 11, 2025, at 10:00 am, 2nd floor meeting room, Town Hall, 5 Beach Road, Salisbury, MA.

Digital copies are available, if a paper copy is requested the price for a complete set of bid documents to Official and Informational parties is \$75.00, which amount shall be refundable to all Official bidders following the opening of bids if the documents are returned within 30 days and in good condition. Bid documents can be obtained from the Salisbury Planning Department via mail at an additional cost of \$40.00. A separate remittance should be submitted for each set of bid documents requested in money order, certified check, bank treasurer’s check, or bank cashier’s check, made payable to the Town of Salisbury, MA.

The Owner may waive any informality or reject any and all bids.

By: Board of Selectmen, Town of Salisbury

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 February 2, 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 Ford F-150 VIN 1FTPW14556KB52538

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

Signed
Kevin Stuart
Stuart’s Automotive
1/15, 1/22, 2/1

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 February 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. 2015 BMW 335i VIN WBA3B9G51FNR93708

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

Signed
Kevin Stuart
Stuart’s Automotive
1/22, 2/1, 2/8



Tuesday, January 28 | 12 p.m.
In Person at Bridges® Andover
A light lunch will be served.

Over time, dementia gradually diminishes a person’s ability to communicate verbally. They may speak less often, lose their train of thought, need more time to process, or use nonverbal or behavioral cues. Discover proven techniques that can help you connect and communicate with your loved one through the various stages of the disease for more positive interactions.

Kindly contact Senior Advisor Susan to RSVP.

Susan Tourtillotte <stourtillotte@bridgesbyepoch.com>

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

¡Gracias por tu apoyo!



IN-PERSON SUPPORT GROUP
 Wednesdays | 4 p.m.
 January 8 | February 5 | March 5

Light refreshments will be served.

Caring for a loved one with dementia can bring stress, frustration, guilt and uncertainty. Find peace and comfort by connecting with other caregivers who understand your challenges, and exchange tips for your caregiving journey.

You're welcome to bring your loved one with memory loss to enjoy an activity with our life enrichment team while you attend the support group.

Kindly contact Senior Advisor Susan to RSVP.

stourtillotte@bridgesbyepoch.com

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House of Mercy focuses on the physical, mental, and most importantly, spiritual rehabilitation of every person that comes seeking help in our organization. We are a place of rest for souls feeling lost and rejected today. Our mission is to reestablish and to raise lives according to the commands and principles of The Bible, and the example of our Lord Jesus Christ.

House of Mercy is in need of underwears for men and women. If you are interested in making a donation, Rumbo recommends ordering from Bags in Bulk.

Check out their webpage for selections where you can buy assorted sizes in bundles of 50 for a very low price.

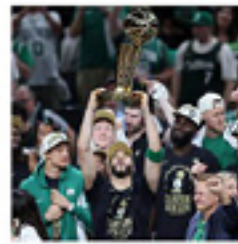
HOUSE OF MERCY
 85 Bay State Rd., Lawrence, MA 01843

Phones: Tel: (978) 655-8141
 Fax: (978) 655-5391
<https://www.houseofmercy.lawrence.com/give-help>



Bagsinbulk.com

Monday, January 27th, 2025 – 7:30 PM
Merrimack Valley Chamber Night at the
Boston Celtics VS Hoston Rockets!



Be there for when Jayson Tatum, Jaylen Brown and the World Champion Boston Celtics take on the Rockets!

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

ONLY \$115.00 EACH
Balcony Section 308/Row12

1/27/25 --- Celtics vs Rockets --- \$115.00 Each
 # of Tickets ___ Total ___ Check (Payable to Merrimack Valley Chamber)
 You can now pay online with secure credit card payments/Amex, Discover, MasterCard, Visa
www.merrimackvalleychamber.com

Name _____ Company _____
 Email _____ Address _____

Telephone: 978-686-0900 Email: office@merrimackvalleychamber.com

IMPORTANT! PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Payment Must Accompany Ticket Order. **No Refunds, No Cancellations.** Thank You!

[LIKE MVCC on Facebook](#) [Join MVCC LinkedIn group](#) [Follow us on Twitter](#) [Instagram](#)

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>

READ PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF RUMBO ON
OUR WEBSITE RUMBONEWS.COM

Merrimack Valley Chamber
Presents NETWORKING AT NOON
LUNCHEON AT The Roma Restaurant!

Open to ALL Chamber Members!



Tuesday, January 28th, 2025
12 Noon - 1:15 PM
The Roma Restaurant
29 Middlesex St.
Haverhill, MA 01835
(978) 374 - 8001

Includes Complimentary Hot Plated Luncheon and Cash Bar!

Have your staff and customer luncheon with
MVCC @ The Roma Restaurant!

Thank you to our sponsor A.P. Michaud Insurance Agency, Inc.

MVCC Members ONLY \$28.00 Roma 1/28/2025 Future Members \$38.00
 You may now Register for this program, and/or pay online with secure Credit Card payment at
www.merrimackvalleychamber.com (978) 686-0900 Office@MerrimackValleyChamber.com

[LIKE us on Facebook](#) [Join MVCC LinkedIn](#) [Follow us on X](#) [Instagram](#)

Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce

1ST ANNUAL WINTER GOLF Classic

\$65 EACH OR \$185 FOR TEAM OF 3!

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 11TH, 2025

X-GOLF METHUEN
90 Pleasant Valley St
Unit 105
Methuen, MA 01844

SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE

Title Sponsor	\$595
Tee Off Sponsor	\$295
Drive Sponsor	\$295
Drink Sponsor	\$295

All Sponsorships include logo on flyer; Recognition at event; 1 Golf Ticket!

AGENDA

- 3:00 - 3:30 PM Golf Registration & Hot Dogs
- 3:30 - 7:30 PM Shotgun Start
- 7:30 - 8:00 PM Awards Presentation

DETAILS

- 18 Holes
- Teams of 3, team with lowest score Wins!
- 7-Foot Gimmes
- Men from White Tees/Women from Red Tees

Register Now
www.merrimackvalleychamber.com 978-686-0900 office@merrimackvalleychamber.com

Mitch's Place Individual Overnight Shelter

Emmaus

Mitch's Place is a 40-bed, year-round emergency overnight shelter for single men and women. Mitch's Place offers temporary overnight shelter to homeless individuals. Guests receive a bed, meals, housing search assistance, employment assistance, and case management support to secure permanent housing as well as referrals to health and social services.

Individuals in need of shelter should call (978) 241-3430 between 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. for bed availability.

If you do not have a phone, you could go to one of the two community centers listed below to call:

- Community Drop-In Center
16 Ashland Street Haverhill MA
Phone: 978-241-9621
Monday through Friday 8a-12noon
- Common Ground Café
194 Winter Street Haverhill MA
Phone: 978-372-3336
Monday through Friday 12noon - 4:30pm, Saturday & Sunday 7a-4pm

If Mitch's is fully occupied, you may also call other shelters listed below.

Day Break
19 Winter Street Lawrence Ma
978-375-4547

Lowell Transitional Living Center
196 Middlesex Street Lowell MA
978-458-9888

For More Information
www.emmausinc.org

“Nosotros no somos periodistas para ser popular. Nuestro trabajo es escudriñar hasta hallar la verdad y poner presión constante en nuestros líderes hasta conseguir la verdad.”

“We don't go into journalism to be popular. It is our job to seek the truth and put constant pressure on our leaders until we get answers.”

— Helen Thomas

READ PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF RUMBO ON OUR WEBSITE RUMBONEWS.COM

Foster MA

Cada padre hace una diferencia

dcf MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF Children & Families

Foster MA

Cada padre crea una diferencia

Sea la diferencia en la vida de un niño

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.

dcf MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF Children & Families
1-800-KIDS-508 | mass.gov/dcf

BY DALIA DÍAZ
daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

LÉALO EN ESPAÑOL EN LA PÁGINA 4

From My Corner



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.

The Bennett Report

There will be a meeting tonight, January 22, to discuss the investigation on Acting Police Chief William Castro called a Special Public Meeting of the Lawrence City Council, which is anything but public.

It was called by Council President Jeovanny Rodriguez and Vice President Stephany Infante for “Review and Discussion of the October 2024 Bennett Report and Related Investigations. There will be no Public Participation section and no communications from the mayor.

The meeting will be closed when they return, and only the media of their choice will hear their version.

Since the “Bennett Report” was made public, it aroused many criticisms on social media, 99% negative towards the mayor and Chief Castro. Still, I am willing to bet that 90% of them, including members of the City Council, have not read it. I say that because I am in the process of reading it. Most people know how to read but have no reading comprehension.

This report is not easy to understand, it’s 83 pages long and full of legal terminologies that we are not used to reading. It’s been difficult for me, and I’m not finished with it. But I have comprehended that most people don’t know how to read. Yes, they read words, and if anyone asks them what they learned, they can only answer that Castro should be left out.

To be able to grasp some of the statements, I needed to consult the Lawrence Police Department police booklet, particularly what it says about “pursuit policy.”

First, the report is unfinished because the primary purpose was to investigate all of those involved in the pursuit and Chief Castro’s actions, and he was not interviewed. When Bennett emailed Castro’s attorney to set up an interview, Castro’s attorney had a conflict and asked to reschedule. Without providing another day to conduct the interview, Bennett finished his report and forwarded it to the city attorney, Lt. Rossi and POST.

I hope the city sues Comprehensive Investigations and Consulting (CIC) for an incomplete job and refunds the \$50,000 the company received. Which brings into question how the mayor was not allowed the opportunity to examine the report before it was sent out incomplete.

On another note, Mayor DePeña did not ask for recommendations. He just wanted the results of his investigation, just like all other investigations have been done. The recommendations will be made at the local level.

Right on page 4, there’s a quote from an email from Octavien Spanner: “To halt the investigation,” not terminate. Then, on page 7, there’s a contradiction of the above. It says to “cease the investigation” when the email didn’t say that. It is fair to say that Bennett’s report has more questions than answers.

Sgt. Michael Simard told the CIC that it is not permissible for a police officer to drive on a sidewalk to follow a car. The investigator asked Simard for a copy of the Pursuit Policy but never got it. The policy doesn’t say that.

According to the report, Simard said that Lawrence Police Department policy requires to alert dispatch and the OIC if engaging in pursuit, but the policy doesn’t say that.

Also on notice, the mayor requested the report to be sent to him upon completion. Instead, this unfinished report, plagued with inaccuracies and unrequested suggestions, was sent to several people, including Lt. Paul Rossi, the POST Commission and the head of the police union, which are Sgt. Michael Simard and Detective Paul MacMillan.

I will continue reading to discover more discrepancies and will be reporting as soon as possible. One recommendation I would like to make to the public is not to go along with the fanatics or people who have a particular interest in this issue. Analyze what you read and come to your own conclusion because following the opinion of ill inspired or just plain ignorant people is very dangerous.

Trump wants to remove “birthright citizenship”

Recently, I wrote about plans to remove United States citizenship from persons born in this country of parents who are not here as permanent residents or citizens.

For decades, a child born in the United States, even if the mother was here as a tourist, her newborn was considered a citizen or what they call birthright citizenship. Fulfilling his promise, on Monday, after his inauguration, President Trump signed an executive order initiating the long struggle to analyze the 14th Amendment protecting those citizens

The next day, 18 states are planning to take legal action against that mandate and Massachusetts is one of them. Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Campbell, went before the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts. They are asking the court

to invalidate the order and block any actions taken to implement it.

In a statement, Campbell argued that Trump’s order would withhold citizenship and all of the associated privileges from more than 150,000 children born every year in the United States. Additionally, the states argue the order would require them to modify the operation and administration of benefits programs.

“President Trump does not have the authority to take away constitutional rights, and we will fight against his effort to overturn our Constitution and punish innocent babies born in Massachusetts,”

Campbell said.

Birthright citizenship means anyone born in the U.S. is a citizen, regardless of their parents’ immigration status. People, for instance, in the United States on a tourist or other visa or in the country illegally can become the parents of a citizen if their child is born here.

Next week, I’ll bring a story of how it began and how the 14th Amendment has been overlooked. Trump and allies dispute the reading of the amendment and say there need to be tougher standards on becoming a citizen.

“A newspaper is not just for reporting the news as it is, but to make people mad enough to do something about it.”

“Un periódico no sólo sirve para informar las noticias tal como son, sino para enfadar a la gente lo suficiente como para que haga algo al respecto”.

Mark Twain

Lawrence employees on paid leave during the past three administrations *

Employee	Date	Department
Gregory Arvinitis	1/30/15	City Clerk
Joseph Rosario	8/16/24	DPW
Santo Anziani Vizcaino	7/25/24	DPW
Michael Buzzel	11/30/22	Fire Department
Jesus Flores	3/2/22	Fire Department
Mark Verville	9/6/18	Fire Department
Julian Perez	8/9/24	Inspectional Services
Julian Perez	4/25/24	Inspectional Services
Alfonso Garcia	6/16/23	Inspectional Services
Johnny Paredes	6/16/23	Inspectional Services
Michael Hanson	3/16/21	Inspectional Services
Glen Fleming	12/8/20	Inspectional Services
Julian Perez	9/19/19	Inspectional Services
Horacio Rodriguez		Inspectional Services
Alondra Caceres	9/26/24	Library
Tomas Michel	8/15/23	Mayor’s Office
Frank Bonnet	6/22/22	Mayor’s Office
Mikel Beltran	9/4/24	Police Department
Ellen Bistany	8/5/24	Police Department
William /Castro	3/22/24	Police Department
Michael Mangan	5/8/23	Police Department
Roy Vasque	1/23/23	Police Department
Fabian Guerrero	11/18/22	Police Department
Paul MacMillan	9/9/22	Police Department
Maurice Aguiler	8/30/22	Police Department
Mike Simard		Police Department
Giovanni Monroy	5/14/24	Water Department
Paul Gadner	2/27/23	Water Department
Jennifer Jimenez	12/6/21	
Martha Dominguez	10/23/18	
Nola Harb		Personnel
Johanny De Soto		Personnel

* Some information is missing but I was told that there many names missing here.

** There is no information between disciplinary action or work-related accidents.

This list was compiled by Dalia Diaz

