



Estado en que quedo la casa de la calle Andover después del fuego y que acaba de ser demolida.

Conditions of the Andover Street house after the fire (insert) which has now been demolished.

EL MÁS RECIENTE INCENDIO DE LAWRENCE Y ESFUERZOS DE LIMPIEZA DE LOS PREVIOS

POR ALBERTO SURÍS
ALBERTOSURIS@RUMBONEWS.COM

El último de una serie de fuegos en Lawrence sucedió la noche del jueves 15 de febrero, 2008, que dejó una persona muerta y 16 residentes en busca de otro sitio donde vivir.

Cuando llegamos allí, encontramos a Thomas Joseph Madden, de 53 años, muerto en su apartamento del primer piso, situado en el 16-18 de la Calle Royal”, dijo el Jefe del Departamento de Incendios Chief Peter Takvorian durante una conversación telefónica al día siguiente con Richard Aybar y Dalia Díaz durante su programa radial CrossOver que sale al aire todos los viernes de 1 a 2 de la tarde por WCCM-1110AM.

Takvorian también mencionó acerca de una explosión en el segundo piso que causó que dos de sus hombres – Tte. John Duxbury y el Bombero David Amero de la Estación 4- fueran atrapados en el tercer piso mientras buscaban a residentes de la casa que no habían sido contados. Ellos subieron al tercer piso a toda carrera, después de oír

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Lawrence's most recent fire and clean-up efforts on previous ones

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Mayor Michael J. Sullivan

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Embellieciendo Lawrence, un comercio a la vez | 11

El programa para mejorar el frente de los negocios de la Calle Essex y de la Calle Broadway asiste a los comerciantes restaurando y embelleciendo las fachadas con sus diseños arquitectónicos originales, teniendo en cuenta comercializar las necesidades del dueño del negocio para proporcionar un aumento en el tráfico de peatones.

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could damage your heart and lead to disability, heart attack, or both.

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February is American Heart Month. Celebrate by taking heart action.



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Methuen

Chief Solomon encara acusaciones de Manzi

POR DALIA DÍAZ

DALIADIAZ@RUMBONEWS.COM

Durante esta semana se ha venido celebrando una audiencia en el ayuntamiento de Methuen para determinar si hay causa para tomar acción disciplinaria contra el Jefe de Policía Joseph Solomon por haber malversado fondos federales y por tener conducta inapropiada a su posición. Según las reglas de Servicio Civil, él tiene derecho a esta audiencia.

Como Jefe de la Policía, Solomon es responsable de la debida administración e implementación de las dádivas para seguridad pública y de la eficaz administración y comportamiento del Departamento de Policía en general.

Solomon fue suspendido de su puesto con pago desde setiembre mientras la investigación del FBI se lleva a cabo y el Alcalde William Manzi nombró a la Capitana Katherine Lavigne Jefa Suplente de Policía.

Por varios años nuestra columnista Ellen Bahan ha estado escribiendo sobre las cosas de esa ciudad, incluyendo cuando el gobierno federal investigó el uso que le dieron a \$900,000 de fondos de Weed and Seed. Solomon, su diputado, su secretaria y una serie de oficiales estaban siendo pagados de esos fondos federales ilegalmente y dicha investigación arrojó un resultado muy negativo ya que no pudieron encontrar pruebas de que habían trabajado las horas extras que reclamaron como overtime. Ahora la ciudad tiene que devolver \$170,000 al gobierno.

Parte de la queja expuesta por el Alcalde Manzi contra el Chief Solomon dice, "Usted ha sido un fracaso en general proveyendo el liderazgo necesario para promover y mantener la moral de una entidad al cargo de la justicia."

Además del dinero que no pudieron



Joseph Solomon

justificar en overtime, Manzi acusa a Solomon de utilizar a sus oficiales para asuntos familiares que no tenían nada que ver con la justicia; abusar verbalmente de sus oficiales; autorizar pagos a un comercio que beneficiaba a un miembro de su familia inmediata; consultar con abogados externos sin notificárselo al abogado municipal; de gastar \$30,000 de fondos municipales en abogados privados sin ser aprobado por el alcalde; y otras cosas más.

Por el momento, no lograron terminar la audiencia y acordaron una continuación para el 25 de marzo.

Cuando esta audiencia termine, el oficial a su cargo hará unas recomendaciones las cuales pueden ir desde un castigo hasta el despido. El Alcalde Manzi no está obligado a seguir estas recomendaciones.

EDITORIAL | EDITORIAL

Un pequeño sacrificio; una gran recompensa

Como una medida para disminuir la actividad criminal en la ciudad, Lawrence/Methuen Community Coalition (L/MCC) ha establecido el Proyecto Vecinos en Acción.

Un par de semanas atrás, los Capitanes de Cuadra de Vecinos en Acción, junto al Alcalde de Lawrence, Michael J. Sullivan y el Jefe de Policía de Lawrence John J. Romero hicieron el anuncio oficial, a la vez que colocaban una placa distintiva en un poste de alumbrado frente a las oficinas de L/MCC. De acuerdo con el Director de L/MCC Harold Magoon, durante el año pasado ellos han venido trabajando muy estrechamente con el Departamento de Policía en un detallado plan para que residentes de la comunidad se interesen en mantener sus vecindarios seguros.

El personal de L/MCC, conjuntamente con representantes del Departamento de Policía ha organizado a los residentes en caminatas por la cuadra, con líderes de la ciudad, como parte del entrenamiento de los residentes de cómo reportar actividades delictivas a través de una línea especial localizada dentro del centro de despacho del Departamento de Policía.

Desde entonces, el personal de L/MCC ha continuado colocando placas distintivas a través de distintos puntos de la ciudad, mientras está en la búsqueda de unos cuantos más capitanes de cuadra dispuestos a pasar el entrenamiento de 4 horas y unirse a este grupo cívico.

Su pequeño sacrificio tendrá una gran recompensa: ¡Paz y Tranquilidad!

A little sacrifice; big reward

In order to curve criminal activity within the city, Lawrence/Methuen Community Coalition (L/MCC) established Neighbors in Action Project. A couple of weeks ago, Neighbors in Action Block Captains were joined by Lawrence Mayor Michael J. Sullivan and Lawrence Chief of Police, John J. Romero to officially make the announcement, while placing a distinctive plaque on a lamp post across the L/MCC headquarters.

According to L/MCC Director, Harold Magoon, over the past years they have been working very closely with the Lawrence Police Department on a comprehensive plan to engage community residents in keeping their neighborhoods safe. L/MCC staff together with representatives of the Lawrence Police Department had organized residents in Neighborhood Block walks with neighborhood leaders as part of the training for area residents on the reporting of suspicious activities through a special Block Watch Hotline located within the Lawrence Police dispatch center.

Since, L/MCC staff has been placing signs in different places throughout the city while looking for a few more additional Block Captains willing to go thru the 4 hours training and join this civic group.

Your little sacrifice will have a big pay off: Peace and Tranquility!

Cartas al Editor | Letters to the Editor

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.

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

información

CLASES DE INGLÉS Y GED GRATIS

La YMCA de Lawrence, a través del Programa REC, está ofreciendo clases de GED y Inglés Como Segundo Idioma (ESL) a todas las comunidades del Merrimack Valley. Las clases son ofrecidas gratis, cinco días a la semana a diferentes horarios.

Estamos buscando personas voluntarias para maestros. Si usted conoce alguna persona interesada en ofrecer servicios voluntarios, el programa REC esta solicitando apoyo voluntario para clases de GED y ESL.

Para más información favor de comunicarse con Luz Wheatly al 978-686-6191 Ext. 38.

Esta pulsera era un regalo que Amber Apodaca recibió del centro donde ayudaba a adolescentes con problemas de drogas y alcohol. La tenía puesta cuando un chofer menor de edad borracho le quitó la vida

Los amigos no dejan que amigos manejen borrachos



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OPINIÓN

Por/By Dalia Díaz
rumbonews.com/blogs

Desde Mi Esquina

BILINGUAL CONTENT

Please see PAGE 15 to read this article in English

Para comenzar la columna de esta semana, me gustaría dirigir su atención a la página 10. Hay una Carta al Editor de Jasmín García Escoto en respuesta a un comentario que yo hice el 15 de enero como parte de esta columna. En caso que no lo recuerde o no lo haya leído, reproduce el artículo ofensor para que usted pueda juzgar la relevancia de su carta con su contenido.

Al día con las escuelas de Lawrence

Como me imagino que usted leyó primero la página 10, vamos a continuar con las Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence. El 22 de enero del 2008, Jeffrey Nelhuas, Comisionado Suplente de Educación envió una carta al Superintendente Escolar Wilfredo T. Laboy aconsejándole que seis escuelas se unirán a las escuelas de prioridad estatal (Commonwealth Priority Schools – CPS), similar a lo que es la Escuela Arlington en la actualidad. La carta dice en parte:

...“aviso por escrito a la administración de la escuela, el superintendente del distrito, si lo hay, la directora de la escuela, y el agente del sindicato representando a la facultad de la escuela, si lo hay, informándolos que la escuela ha sido designada como tal.” Esta carta es su aviso formal que la Emily Wetherbee, Gerard Guilmette Elementary, Gerard Guilmette Middle, John Tarbox Elementary, South Lawrence East Elementary, y South Lawrence East Middle Schools en Lawrence han sido designadas como CPSs. Una vez extendido,

esta notificación formal inicia el término de 30 días para que el distrito busque ser reconsiderado o proveer un plan enmendado y comparecer ante un Panel Estatal de Revisión.

El Superintendente Laboy y sus fanáticos en el departamento escolar siguen hablando del “progreso que han hecho”. Este superintendente ha estado al frente por siete años y nuestras escuelas están en condiciones miserables. ¡Oh, no debí usar esa palabra! Puede ofender a alguien en las Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence, pero el Departamento de Educación prueba lo contrario.

Si el estado no ve suficiente mejora en esas escuelas para junio, se convertirán en CPS como la Escuela Arlington.

¿Quiere un PhD? Venga a Lawrence

Sí, en Lawrence le resultará fácil avanzar en su trabajo.

Recientemente escribí sobre los administradores de las Escuelas Públicas de Lawrence que hacen el trabajo para su doctorado durante horas de trabajo y me encanta cuando el teléfono empieza a sonar con información adicional.

Algunos dijeron, “me alegró ver que comenzaste a escribir sobre los administradores en Lawrence haciendo su programa doctoral durante horas de trabajo. Aquí en la South Lawrence East School tenemos a la Directora Dina Hickey.” La persona continuó diciendo que ella entra a trabajar a las 9:30 A.M. todas las mañanas y no hace nada en todo el día sino sentarse ante su computadora (con la espalda hacia la puerta de la oficina) y trabaja en su

doctorado.

Entretanto, los estudiantes andan corriendo como indomesticados. Tanto que los maestros se esconden detrás de las puertas cuando hay cambios de clases. Entonces, ella les gritó a los maestros en la reunión de la facultad del mes pasado, quejándose de que si ella disciplina a los muchachos parecerá como que ellos han perdido el control.

¿Se habrá puesto a pensar alguna vez que si ella pone un poquito de esfuerzo en su trabajo puede que las cosas mejoren? Después de todo, a ella le pagan para que sea líder.

Me pregunto en qué estará sacando su doctorado. Yo sé: ¡Escribiendo propuestas! Ahí es donde está el dinero, van a trabajar en la administración y no tienen que lidiar con esos engorrosos muchachos.

¿Cuánto por un voto? O votos a la venta

A través de los años he estado escribiendo y hablando por radio en forma muy negativa del miembro del Comité Escolar Jorge González y recientemente como concejal.

Como miembro del Comité Escolar él no fue sino un cuño de aprobación del Superintendente Laboy y en el Concilio él está jugando a la política en la peor de las formas. Yo le di un halago el pasado octubre cuando dije que tiene material

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10

Consulado Dominicano en Boston anuncia actividades de clausura Mes de la Patria

Dentro de las actividades programadas para recordar el 164 aniversario de la Independencia de la República Dominicana el Consulado General de la República Dominicana de la Ciudad de Boston realizará este próximo viernes 22, a la 1 de la tarde, la ceremonia de reconocimiento a líderes dominicanos residentes en este estado.

El acto se llevará a cabo en las oficinas del Consulado Dominicano en la ciudad de Boston.

Esta es la segunda vez que la sede consular dominicana entrega dicho reconocimiento, que ha sido llamado: Premiación Independencia Dominicana.

Este evento es parte de las actividades auspiciadas por el Consulado Dominicano dentro de la celebración del Mes de la Patria, que culmina con la celebración de la Independencia Nacional lograda el día 27 de febrero de 1844 y en conmemoración de la lucha patriótica de los héroes de dicha gesta.

Por otro lado el cónsul general de la República Dominicana, Dominico Cabral anunció el izamiento de la bandera dominicana en diferentes ciudades del estado de Nueva Inglaterra.

Comenzando en Lynn, el viernes 22 en horas de la mañana, el sábado en la Ciudad de Lawrence a partir de las 12 del mediodía frente a la alcaldía y ese mismo día en Nashua, NH, a las 2 de la tarde.

Mientras que en las ciudades de Providence y Boston la actividad está programada para el 27 de febrero al igual que en Connecticut.

Representantes de la misión diplomática dominicana estarán presentes en cada uno de los eventos.

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CONTINÚA DE LA PÁGINA
1

PLEASE JOIN
Governor Deval Patrick
IN SUPPORT OF

REPRESENTATIVE
William Lantigua

Committee on Ways & Means | Committee on Elder Services

Monday, March 3, 2008
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Dear Friend,

I am asking you to support William Lantigua because he and I share the same values and priorities for Lawrence and the entire Commonwealth.

We both believe that first-rate schools, safe neighborhoods and civic engagement are the building blocks for our community. We both believe that government must invest in our citizens by promoting lifelong learning and workforce training. And we both believe that we must strengthen our communities by properly maintaining public infrastructure, developing more affordable housing and creating more urban parks and recreational space.

Please show your support for William and join us on March 3rd. I truly appreciated it and look forward to seeing you in Lawrence.

Sincerely,
Governor Deval Patrick

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO RE-ELECT WILLIAM LANTIGUA
PO Box 1767 | Lawrence, MA 01842 | 978.423.0079

SURÍS: El más reciente incendio de Lawrence y esfuerzos de limpieza de los previos

ruidos que en ese momento les parecieron humanos. Luego fue confirmado que eran tres perros los que perecieron el incendio. "Afortunadamente nuestros hombres salieron ilesos del incidente", dijo el Chief.

De acuerdo con el Comisionado de Inspecciones Myles Burke, las ventanas y puertas del 16-18 de la Calle Royal han sido cubiertas con planchas de madera prensada así como el edificio de al lado, 10-12-14 de la misma calle, el cual necesita extensas reparaciones y limpieza antes de obtener el certificado habitacional, ya que fue seriamente dañado por el agua y el humo. "Todo este trabajo se ha hecho sin costo para la ciudad", dijo el Comisionado Burke.

Sobre la demolición que se está llevando a cabo en la Calle Andover, el Comisionado Burke dijo que como resultado de que fueron cuatro edificios que se quemaron a la vez, han tenido que lidiar con 4 propietarios y 4 compañías de seguro diferentes todas con diferentes ideas de lo que quieren hacer con sus propiedades. "El dueño del edificio de tres pisos está pagando por su demolición", dijo Burke.

"En el sitio de la Parker con la Calle Market, la ciudad puso este trabajo a subasta, la cual le fue adjudicada al postor más bajo, All State Abatement Professionals (ASAP)", dijo Burke. Como el área fue declarada como "Emergencia"

Cuando llegamos allí, encontramos a Thomas Joseph Madden, de 53 años, muerto en su apartamento del primer piso, situado en el 16-18 de la Calle Royal", dijo el Jefe del Departamento de Incendios Chief Peter Takvorian durante una conversación telefónica al día siguiente con Richard Aybar y Dalia Díaz durante su programa radial CrossOver...

por el alcalde, la ciudad pudo circunvalar la práctica normal de subastas y adjudicar al ganador en menos de una semana. "Este proceso dura de uno a dos meses", terminó Burke.

La ciudad está administrando la limpieza del sitio completo, utilizando dinero de Community Development, aproximadamente \$150,000, los cuales serán reembolsados a la ciudad por las distintas compañías de seguro y los propietarios.

El proceso de limpieza comenzó oficialmente el miércoles, 20 de febrero, cuando la oficina del Fiscal General desestimó un reto que había sido impuesto al proceso de subastas.

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POR BEATRIZ PÉREZ
BPerez@RUMBONEWS.COM

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Actualmente la Biblioteca Pública de esta ciudad, 51 Lawrence Street, cuenta con una exhibición de 60 nombres de periódicos de más de 150 años, los cuales representan el recuento de los hechos más relevantes que han impactado a esta comunidad conocida como la ciudad de Inmigrantes.

La exhibición que se llama: Hot off the press: la historia de los periódicos en la Ciudad de Lawrence, estará abierta al público hasta el mes de junio de este año.

Comenzando con el The Merrimack Courier de 1846, el primer periódico que fue publicado aquí, un año antes de que el municipio de Lawrence fuese incorporado, hasta los periódicos locales y los semanarios RUMBO y Siglo 21.

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departamento de Colecciones Especiales de la biblioteca el objetivo principal de esta exhibición es poder reconocer el rol que juega la prensa, en este caso escrita, como parte de la historia de la ciudad, "esto es una anécdota que hay que contar".

Entiende Sandberg que al momento que se observa un periódico nos transportamos al pasado.

La biblioteca cuenta con una inmensa colección de copias de periódicos y rollos de micro filmico de medios escritos.

La tarea de organización de la exhibición aunque ardua, no dejó de ser fascinante para Louise Sandberg quien en el proceso encontró varias copias de una variedad de periódicos alternativos, como es el caso de un periódico Árabe que data del 1920 y de un periódico en español llamado El Comercio, impreso en 1992.

En su portada aparece el extinto ex presidente dominicano, fundador del Partido de la Liberación Dominicana el profesor y escritor Juan Bosch, durante una visita que hizo a esta ciudad, durante la cual fue recibido por el alcalde de ese entonces Kevin Sullivan, quien le entregó una placa de reconocimiento.

Asimismo en su estadía en Lawrence Bosch hizo una donación a la biblioteca

pública de sus obras literarias.

Es importante destacar que en muchos casos la información de esos periódicos está limitada.

La exhibición consta de fotografías de otros tabloides como: American Register, el cual fue publicado por Know-Nothing Party, Weekly Messenger y dos periódicos en Francés: Le Progress del 1890 y los periódicos Italianos La Difesa y Il Risveglio.

La muestra incluye además el Anzeiger Und Poft, impreso en la antigua escritura Gótica Alemana, que fue publicado el 26 de abril de 1924.

En la exposición aparecen dos periódicos árabes: Al-Wafa y Al Fajr, ambos medios fueron publicados por cristianos quienes emigraron de Siria y el Líbano.

Sin importar el idioma, el año en que fue publicado o la línea que seguía el medio informativo, cada uno de los periódicos que forman parte de esta interesante exhibición representa el crecimiento y el desarrollo de esta comunidad, que está fundamentada en la presencia de los inmigrantes.

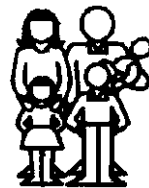
Los interesados en visitar la exposición, que se encuentra en el tercer piso de la biblioteca pueden hacerlo de lunes a jueves de 9am-8pm, y los viernes y sábado de 9am-5pm.



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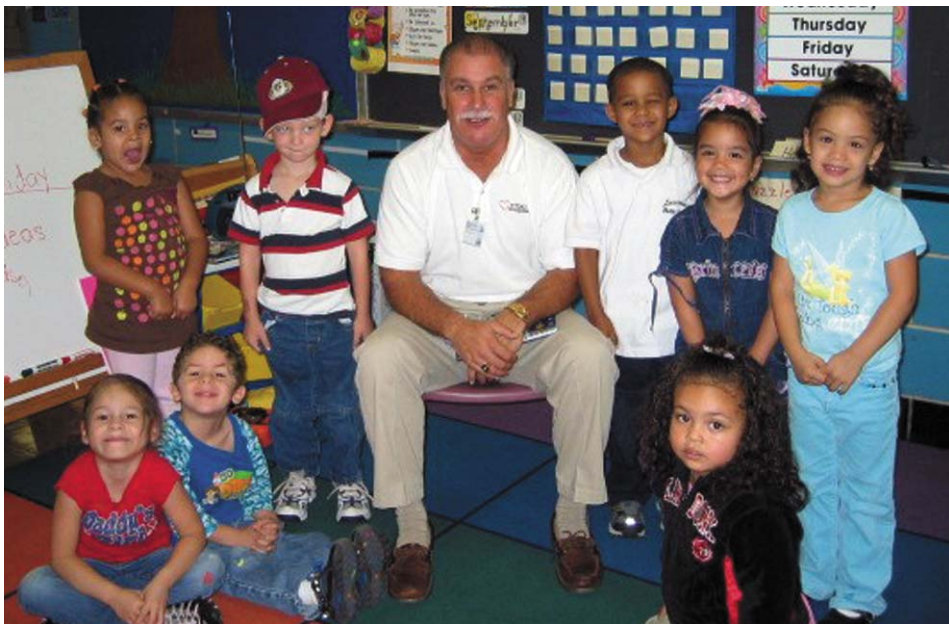
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FAMILY PRACTITIONER

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HABLAMOS ESPAÑOL

Peter Matthews lee a estudiantes de la Leahy



Los empleados de la Merrimack Valley Federal Credit Union han adoptado a un grupo de estudiantes pre-escolares en la Escuela Hennessey en Lawrence. Ellos tienen lectores que van una vez al mes y en el invierno, les traen abrigos, guantes y sombreros.

En la foto vemos a Peter Matthews, presidente/CEO de Merrimack Valley Federal Credit Union con algunos de los estudiantes.

Merrimack Valley Federal Credit Union sirve a cualquier persona que viva, trabaje o asista a servicios religiosos en toda la región del Valle de Merrimack. Sus sucursales en Massachusetts son Lawrence, North Andover, Haverhill y Methuen así como en Plaistow, NH.

Peter Matthews reads to Hennessey students

Employees of the Merrimack Valley Federal Credit Union have adopted a group of pre-schoolers at the Hennessey School in Lawrence. They have readers who go out to read twice a month and then in the winter, they donate them coats, mittens and hats.

In the picture appears Peter Matthews, President/CEO of Merrimack Valley Federal Credit Union with some of the students.

Merrimack Valley Federal Credit Union serves anyone who lives, works or worships throughout the Merrimack Valley region. Branches located in Massachusetts are Lawrence, Methuen, North Andover and Haverhill and also in Plaistow, NH.

Llama Hoy! (978) 794-5360



¿COMO UTILIZARÍAS ESTE ESPACIO?

Si pensaba que un anuncio pequeño no funciona, esta es la prueba de que estaba equivocado. Este pequeño anuncio ha logrado llamarte la atención y ya le ha dedicado unos segundos de tu tiempo. Los lectores de Rumbo podrían estar leyendo sobre sus productos y/o servicios. El costo del anuncio no es un secreto ni envuelve trucos de venta. Este lo podrás calcular con la guía que aparece en la página 23. ¿Qué pondrías tú en este espacio? Comunícate con Alberto al (978) 794-5360.

Adelante Student Awarded Four-Year Scholarship



This photo was taken after the awards ceremony held at the Omni Parker House on January 3. From the left we see David Hildt, Executive Director, Adelante Inc., Genesis Giraldo and Daftali Corcino, Adelante Inc. Program Coordinator.

Adelante is delighted to report that one of our students, Genesis Giraldo, a senior at Central Catholic High School, was recently nominated by Adelante as a candidate for a college scholarship the Posse Foundation. Genesis was one of ten Boston area high school students selected to receive a four-year \$100,000 scholarship to Denison University in Granville, Ohio. In all this year, Posse Foundation/Boston is awarding 62 scholarships to students who will be attending one of six partner colleges and universities.

The Posse Foundation identifies,

As the United States becomes an increasingly multicultural society, Posse believes that the leaders of this new century should reflect the country's rich demographic mix

recruits and trains student leaders from public high schools to form multicultural teams called "Posses." These teams are then prepared, through an intensive eight-month Pre-Collegiate Training Program, for enrollment at top-tier universities nationwide to pursue their academics and to help promote cross-cultural communication on campus. The Posse Program has exhibited great success over the past 18 years placing 1,850 students into colleges and universities. These students have won over \$175 million in scholarships from Posse partner universities and are persisting and graduating at 90 percent—a rate higher than the national averages at institutions of higher education. Posse currently has sites in six major cities across the United States: Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, Washington, D.C., and its newest site in Atlanta.

The concept of a Posse works for both students and college campuses, and is rooted in the belief that a small, diverse group of talented students—a Posse—carefully selected and trained, can serve as a catalyst for increased individual and community development. As the United States becomes an increasingly multicultural society, Posse believes that the leaders of this new century should reflect the country's rich demographic mix, and that the key to a promising future for our nation rests on the ability of strong leaders from diverse backgrounds to develop consensus solutions to complex social problems. One of the primary aims of the Posse Program is to train these leaders of tomorrow.



¡Dieta SIN HACER Dieta!

"Yo rebajé 30 libras en 3 meses y he mantenido ese peso por estos últimos 5 meses. La mejor parte del plan de Advance Weight Loss es que puedo comer comida ordinaria. Con otras dietas anteriores, yo perdí peso pero volví a recuperarlas y gané aún más cuando dejé de seguir la dieta. Los profesionales de Advance Weight Loss me mostraron cuáles comidas podía comer más y de cuáles apartarme. Ellos me enseñaron cómo cambiar mis hábitos de comer y me enseñaron cómo seleccionar mejor mis comidas. Para mí ha sido un exitoso cambio de estilo de vida. Su plan, conjuntamente con Mesotherapy, y una rutina de ejercicio diario, me ha dado un gran resultado".

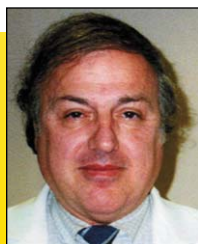
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NOTAS DE SU BIBLIOTECARIA

Por Maureen Nimmo
Directora de la Biblioteca Pública de Lawrence

Saludos, Amigos Lectores. Continúo con mi búsqueda de la primavera. Cuando hayan leído este artículo, ya habrá pasado más de la mitad del mes de febrero. A pesar de que marzo es actualmente un mes malo en relación al tiempo, trato de imaginar que va a ser bueno ya que es el comienzo oficial de la primavera. Por supuesto, ya que la temporada del fútbol terminó (por favor, no me hablen sobre los detalles), tengo pocas cosas que hagan el invierno palpable.

Los Amigos de la Biblioteca han acordado patrocinar nuestro programa "Tarjetas de la Biblioteca para Todos los Niños de Primer Grado." Les estoy muy agradecida por su ayuda ya que no creo que la biblioteca tenga un programa más importante que este. En años anteriores, nuestro Departamento de Niños otorgó tarjetas de la biblioteca a todos los niños que entraron al primer grado, estuvieran en escuela pública o privada de Lawrence. Esto conlleva un gran esfuerzo de planificación y trabajo, el cual será mucho más difícil ahora que contamos con menos personal. Sin embargo, permaneceremos comprometidos con este proyecto. La mayoría de las personas están de acuerdo de que la educación es la llave principal para el éxito de este mundo. Nada es más importante que el proveer a nuestros niños todas las armas necesarias para que puedan tener éxito en sus estudios. La principal arma es la habilidad y amor hacia la lectura.

El lunes pasado, Ana Santos, mi asistente, llevó a cabo la primera discusión del grupo de lectura en español. Ella cuenta con un grupo de personas inteligentes y muy animadas el cual se reúne para discutir libros en español, ¡no es tarde para hacerse miembro de este grupo! Siempre he pensado que uno goza más de la lectura cuando uno puede leer el libro y discutirlo en su lengua materna. Es por esta razón y con mucho orgullo, el cual le presentamos el primer grupo de lectura en español en esta ciudad donde este lenguaje se habla por la mayoría de sus ciudadanos. Por supuesto, también continuaremos con nuestro grupo de lectura en inglés con Louise Sandberg como anfitriona. Louise ha añadido un grupo nuevo el cual se reunirá un sábado al mes y discutirán libros de misterio. Ahora contamos con tres grupos en nuestra biblioteca. Únase a uno o a todos estos grupos y se le garantiza que disfrutará de unas grandes y estimulantes

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conversaciones.

Hablando de la Sra. Sandberg, ella cuenta con una nueva exhibición en nuestro Salón de Historia Local. La exhibición trata de los periódicos de Lawrence, ayer y hoy. Es fascinante el ver cuántos periódicos han informado nuestra ciudad desde su formación. También contamos con un patrimonio de periódicos en diferentes lenguajes, incluyendo: alemán, francés, árabe, irlandés, español e italiano. Una de las cosas que encontré muy interesante en esta exhibición es que aparte de Rumbo, no ha habido otro periódico local bilingüe. Puede que esté equivocada, pero hasta ahora no sabemos de ningún otro. Por favor, la próxima vez que venga a la biblioteca no se olvide de pasar por el tercer piso para que vea esta gran exhibición.

Como les informé anteriormente, pertenezco al comité de la parada del Día de San Patricio. Estamos todos trabajando arduamente para que ésta parada continúe. Por causa de cortes al presupuesto de la ciudad, parte de los servicios que eran pagados por la ciudad para este tipo de actividad (Ej.: Semana Hispana, Bread and Roses, la Parada Dominicana, etc.) ya no son pagados por la ciudad. No hay remedio para esta situación, así que quisiera tomar este momento para decirles a todos aquellos los cuales estas actividades son importantes, que por favor ayuden con los esfuerzos para la recaudación de fondos para todas estas actividades. ¡No permitamos que Lawrence pierda los eventos culturales por los cuales tanto nos distinguimos! ¡Nos vemos en la biblioteca!



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PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE

Rol de la Mujer en la Independencia Dominicana

POR BEATRIZ PÉREZ
BPerez@RUMBONEWS.COM

El 27 de febrero se conmemora el 164 aniversario de la Independencia de la República Dominicana y se hace homenaje a los hombres y mujeres que jugaron un papel trascendental en el proceso de libertad.

Aunque pocas veces se hace alusión a la presencia y los aportes del sector femenino en esta lucha, lo cierto es que las huellas de muchas mujeres están presentes en la misma.

Tal es el caso de María Trinidad Sánchez quien abrazó con fervor y lealtad al sueño Independentista.

Hermana del padre de Francisco del Rosario Sánchez, por tanto tía del patricio. Ayudó a la causa independentista y confeccionó la primera bandera dominicana. Después de la independencia, participó, junto a un grupo de "febreristas y comunicadas" en una conspiración para derrocar a Santana, pero fueron descubiertos. María Trinidad fue una de las primeras personas arrestadas y fue condenada a muerte por haberse negado a decir los nombres de sus compañeros. Fue fusilada el 27 de Febrero de 1845, aniversario de la independencia, junto a su sobrino, Andrés Sánchez.

Entre otras febreristas estuvieron: Concepción Bona, Rosa Duarte, Josefa Antonia Pérez De la Paz (Chepita), Ana Valverde, María Baltasara De los Reyes, entre otras.

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De ella y otras mujeres estará hablando la abogada investigadora y escritora Susi Pola en una disertación que estará ofreciendo en esta ciudad el sábado primero de marzo, a las 7 de la noche en Casa Dominicana.

Pola quien vive en la ciudad de Santiago, en la República Dominicana es una reconocida activista femenina que lucha por los derechos de la mujer y que propugna por un cambio cultural desde el Estado, en República Dominicana para superar la Violencia contra la Mujer

Junto a Casa Dominicana coordinan el evento la organización Delamano y el programa radial En Plural que se transmite de 5-6pm por Impacto 1490 AM.

Durante su visita a la ciudad de Lawrence Pola se reunirá con diferentes sectores de la comunidad que abogan por la erradicación de la violencia intrafamiliar en la sociedad.

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- ✚ ¿Ha pasado por lo menos un año desde su última mamografía, o es ésta su primera?
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¡Si su respuesta a cualquiera de estas preguntas es "Sí," usted puede ser elegible para recibir su mamografía anual con la Unidad Móvil de Mamografías de Boston!



Próxima Visita de la Unidad Móvil de Mamografías

Fecha: sábado 1º de marzo, 2008
Lugar: YWCA de Lawrence
38 de la calle Lawrence, Lawrence, MA
Hora: 8am—3:30pm

¡¡Toda mujer es motivada para registrarse, sin importar si tiene o no seguro médico, o su habilidad para pagar!!

Para más información o para hacer una cita, llame a:

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OPINIÓN | CARTAS AL EDITOR

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rumbo
315 Mt. Vernon Street, 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.

Hace unas semanas publicó usted en su periódico un comentario estableciendo un hecho que indirectamente es cierto pero, enfocado desde su punto de vista, suena duro.

Este comentario decía que yo, Jasmín García-Escoto era la vocera de Laboy. Todo el que aquí me conoce sabe que llevo ocho años trabajando para el sistema escolar público de Lawrence y en mi nueva posición en el departamento de transportación tengo el deber de comunicar a la comunidad las informaciones que se producen en este departamento y que son necesarias dar al público. Por lo tanto, sí soy vocera del Dr. Laboy, ya que de él emanan las directrices e instrucciones que yo, como su empleada, debo seguir. Afortunadamente, yo soy graduada de locución en mi país, la República Dominicana, lo cual me provee de las calificaciones necesarias para desempeñar mejor este trabajo. Esto lo digo por si surgiese alguna duda en cuanto a mi capacidad para desempeñar dicha función.

Yo sé que en su artículo/comentario no se refería a nada relacionado con el departamento de transportación, sino a un conflicto que se presentó entre dos entrenadores deportivos de la escuela secundaria y sobre el cual yo respondí unas preguntas a un reportero de un canal de televisión. Pero, como usted no se preocupó en llamarme para preguntarme nada al respecto, sino que decidió dar una opinión que no es fiel reflejo de la verdad, yo no me voy a molestar en explicarle nada sobre ese punto específicamente. Sin embargo, sí quisiera darle mi humilde opinión sobre lo que, basada en su comportamiento, he llegado a pensar de usted y su periódico.

Este pasado diciembre se cumplieron veinte años de mi llegada a esta ciudad y desde entonces hasta la fecha he sido una gran y fiel admiradora de todos los latinos que emigran a este país y que con mucho trabajo logran, no sólo abrirse paso, sino descollar y ganarse una posición pública desde la cual pueden y ciertamente dan brillo a nuestras culturas.

Este fue mi caso con usted Doña Dalia. A pesar de que nunca hemos desarrollado una relación más allá de lo cordial y profesional, la he visto como una mujer batalladora que a base de mucho esfuerzo ha logrado sembrar su periódico en toda el área y mantenerlo en auge a pesar de las críticas y negativismo.

Pero, y este es un gran pero, desde hace unos años he visto como su objetividad, profesionalismo e imparcialidad se han visto afectados y mermados drásticamente, hasta el grado, desde mi humilde punto de vista, de perder el foco y el realismo.

No es un secreto para nadie el deterioro de las relaciones entre usted y el Dr. Laboy, lo que ha causado que la distribución de su periódico haya sido prohibida en todos los planteles escolares de la ciudad de Lawrence. Yo creo que esto nunca debió suceder, que, como diría mi mamá, "la sangre no debió llegar hasta el río", queriendo decir que las cosas nunca debieron llegar hasta ahí. Pero mi deseo

no es juzgar ni señalar culpables, pues cada quién tiene su porción de responsabilidad aquí, sino de evaluar su función como periodista, como administradora de uno de los medios de prensa más importantes de nuestra comunidad latina.

Algo que yo aprendí hace mucho tiempo y que me fue reforzado en mis clases de locución y comunicación social, es que una persona que realiza su trabajo tiene (subrayado y en mayúsculas) que procurar ser claro, imparcial, objetivo y lo más justo posible al momento de proveer información a sus lectores. De no hacerlo así, se convierte en un comunicador ineficiente y amañado, que se aparta de la verdad, lo que provoca que pierda credibilidad ante la opinión de lectores pensantes y de criterio serio.

Poniendo a un lado los problemas que en un principio crearon su hoy tan fuerte animadversión hacia el Dr. Laboy, en su afán por dañarle a él, lamentablemente, usted se ha olvidado de todos los demás seres humanos que trabajamos para las escuelas públicas de Lawrence. Usted, y utilizando el argot popular, no le ha dado mente a los miles de personas que de una forma u otra estamos ligados a este sistema, para dar rienda suelta a su ira y frustración. Para nada ha pensado en los padres y estudiantes que se ven directamente afectados con sus comentarios negativos en detrimento de los maestros y las escuelas que sirven a sus hijos. ¿Cómo cree usted que ellos se sienten al enterarse de todo lo que usted escribe acerca de las escuelas? Tristemente, muchos de ellos no pueden hacer nada para proveerle a sus hijos otro tipo de educación, sino que tienen que conformarse con enviarlos a estas escuelas, que desde el punto de vista de usted, están muy lejos de ofrecer un servicio siquiera apropiado para sus hijos; y todo por estar bajo la dirección del Dr. Laboy, su archienemigo. Usted no tiene derecho de vender la idea unilateral de que todo lo que se abriga bajo la sombrilla del sistema escolar público de la ciudad de Lawrence está mal. Es cierto que no todo está bien, pero es sencillamente imposible que no haya absolutamente nada positivo a lo que pueda usted dar publicidad en beneficio y para satisfacción, principalmente, de padres y estudiantes.

Quiero aclarar que yo no estoy implicando que este el mejor sistema escolar que existe, ni que funciona de la mejor manera. No. Los números están ahí, los resultados de las evaluaciones tanto locales como estatales están ahí y no se pueden ignorar. Pero, sí ha habido una mejoría palpable que usted para nada acepta ni mucho menos revela al público. Para usted todo lo relacionado con el sistema escolar de Lawrence está mal y huele mal.

¿Qué le deja usted a los cientos de maestros que honestamente quieren a nuestros hijos y que trabajan día a día por brindarles el mejor servicio que las posibilidades económicas les permiten? ¿Cómo puede usted ignorar al personal administrativo que también día por día desempeña un trabajo encomendable que

En nuestra publicación del 15 de enero del 2008, salió en mi columna esta breve nota. La repetimos para que sirva de conexión con la carta que nos envió Jasmín Escoto y en caso de que no la haya visto antes.

Jasmín Escoto, la portavoz de Laboy

La semana pasada yo di la noticia de una pelea entre dos entrenadores en la escuela secundaria y el periódico local trató por todos los medios de conseguir más información logrando solamente "Sin comentario" por parte de los entrenadores y la secretaria del Superintendente Laboy le dijo al reportero que él no puede hacer comentarios sobre asuntos de personal. El Canal 7 tuvo mejor suerte porque su reportero contactó a Jasmín Escoto y ella le dijo que Paul Neal estuvo profundamente emocionado cuando se disculpó ante los estudiantes al día siguiente del incidente.

Yo recuerdo que unos años atrás Laboy les dijo a todos en el departamento escolar que nadie estaba autorizado para hablar a ningún miembro de la prensa. Parece que ella es la portavoz de Laboy.

contribuye con la eficiencia del desarrollo de un día escolar?

En su venganza en contra del Dr. Laboy, usted, definitivamente, ha perdido objetividad y sobre todo consideración humana. Su corazón se ha vuelto duro y frío y ha perdido sensibilidad y respeto por la reputación de todos los chiquitos que conformamos esta gran familia del sistema escolar público de la ciudad de Lawrence.

Por esto, y con muchísimo dolor, veo cómo usted se ha olvidado de dar uno de los pasos más elementales del periodismo: indagar y verificar la fuente de su información o de confirmar mínimamente la noticia que va a comunicar.

Con respecto a la nota que publicó usted sobre mi persona, actuó a la ligera y de forma totalmente inapropiada, y más aún alejada de la verdad básica del hecho. Lo único que voy a decir a este respecto es que, comenzando con el Dr. Laboy, todo el que me conoce sabe que yo no soy una contribuidora incondicional de nadie. Yo soy una mujer antes que nada cristiana que no compromete sus principios ni valores morales por nada ni nadie ni vende su dignidad a ningún precio. Yo tengo la obligación de ser una mujer íntegra que lucha día a día, momento a momento por ser un mejor ser humano, no sólo porque este es mi legado y ejemplo para mis hijos, sino porque esto es lo que Dios espera de mí.

Yo estaré orando por usted, pidiéndole a Dios que le dé la humildad y todo el amor de El que usted necesite para enderezar sus sentimientos y acciones y volver a correr su periódico con la objetividad e imparcialidad que una vez le caracterizó.

Con respeto y todavía admiración, le saludo atentamente.

JASMIN L. GARCÍA-ESCOTO
Lawrence

CONTINÚA DE LA PÁGINA
4

DÍAZ: Desde Mi Esquina

para alcalde al compararlo con Michael Sullivan. Cuando Mike estaba en el concilio él era callado y no contribuía a las discusiones y Jorge es de la misma manera. Inclusive cuando él me llama en alguno de los programas radiales en español, rápidamente se identifica como "el mudo".

Mientras, se las ha arreglado para conseguirle empleo a la esposa en el departamento escolar, sus dos hijas son maestras en el sistema y ahora, su hijo es oficial de la policía.

A él no le importa si crean un movimiento para removerlo de su puesto o si nunca más es reelegido a nada. ¡Su familia está bien colocada!

¡Empleados de DPW furiosos!

"¡La ciudad ha retrocedido 20 años!" Esa reacción tiene que ver con los 96 teléfonos de Nextel que amanecieron muertos hace un par de semanas. Un lunes por la mañana, no había forma alguna para que pudieran comunicarse a menos que usaran el teléfono como... 20 años atrás.

Pues bien, esta fue una medida para ahorrar a la ciudad \$50,000 anuales de lo cual el Director de DPW, Frank McCann estaba al tanto pero no se lo dijo a nadie. ¡Es cuestión de sentirse poderoso!

Ahora solamente 18 teléfonos serán otorgados a gerentes, supervisores y los encargados de las lecturas de los metros de agua. Esta acción también servirá para obligar a los supervisores a permanecer con sus subalternos mientras ellos trabajan en lugar de ser encontrados en restaurantes por la cámara de Rumbo. ¿Recuerdan?

Horario del City Clerk

Durante las dos últimas semanas hemos recibido varias llamadas de lawrencianos quejándose que la oficina del escribano de la ciudad está cerrada a la hora del almuerzo cuando es probablemente su hora de más demanda, considerando que muchas personas utilizan su hora de almuerzo para hacer diligencias en el ayuntamiento.

Llamé al City Clerk Bill Maloney y me explicó que en las recientes cesantías en Lawrence, su oficina perdió a tres empleados por lo cual ellos ahora tienen dificultad proveyendo el mismo nivel de servicio.

El Sr. Maloney me dijo que han optado por cerrar la oficina por una hora durante su almuerzo en lugar de tratar de tomarse ese tiempo por separado porque, cabe dentro de lo posible, que él no pueda cumplirlo siempre. Depende de si todo su personal está presente en el trabajo, si no están haciendo algo que los lleva fuera de la oficina o están enfermos. Esas situaciones lo obligarían a cerrar algunas veces y eso será más razón de quejas que si él lo hace una práctica general hasta que el personal sea reemplazado y el pueblo pueda continuar yendo al horario más conveniente para el público trabajador.

Beautifying Lawrence – one store at a time

Up to \$40k in grant funding available for storefront improvements to Broadway and Essex Street merchants.

The Storefront Improvement Program assists Essex Street and Broadway businesses by restoring and enhancing storefront façades to their original architectural designs, taking into account merchandising needs of the business owner to provide an increase in foot traffic.

Up to \$40k in grant funds are available for each approved applicant, with 25% of the cost paid by the approved applicant. Both building owners and leasers of storefronts are eligible to apply for the program which is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). 100% of architectural design fees are paid by the Community Development Department for approved applications. These funds are not taken from the grant funding.

Currently, the Community Development Department has completed seven storefronts on Essex Street and has six storefronts undergoing a new look on Broadway and Essex Street.

For more information on the Storefront Improvement Program and how to get an application, contact: Sharon DuBois, Economic Development Project Manager, Community Development Department, 147 Haverhill Street, Lawrence, MA 01840, (978) 620-3527 or sdubois@cityoflawrence.com

Embelliendo Lawrence, un comercio a la vez



Scott Lebowitz, business owner at 139 Essex Street and Sharon DuBois, Project Manager for the city's Storefront Improvement Program, stand in front of Scott's newly renovated historical storefront.

Hasta \$40 mil disponibles en dádivas para mejoras de fachadas de comercios en la Calle Broadway y en la Essex St.

El programa para mejorar el frente de los negocios de la Calle Essex y de la Calle Broadway asiste a los comerciantes restaurando y embelleciendo las fachadas con sus diseños arquitectónicos originales, teniendo en cuenta comercializar las necesidades del dueño del negocio para proporcionar un aumento en el tráfico de peatones.

Hasta \$40 mil en fondos están

disponibles para cada solicitante aprobado, con 25% del costo pagado por el solicitante aprobado. Ambos los dueños que construyen y los que alquilan espacios tienen derecho a solicitar el programa que es financiado por el Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de los EE.UU. (HUD). 100% de los honorarios por el diseño arquitectónicos es pagado por el Departamento de Desarrollo de Comunitario para aplicaciones que sean aprobadas. Estos fondos no son tomados de la financiación de la dádiva.

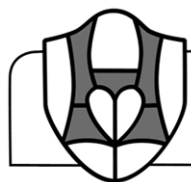
Actualmente, el Departamento de Desarrollo de Comunitario ha completado

siete fachadas en la calle Essex y tiene seis fachadas que pronto tendrán un nuevo aspecto en Broadway y la Calle Essex.

Para más información sobre el programa para mejorar el frente de los negocios y cómo conseguir una aplicación, póngase en contacto con: Sharon DuBois, Directora del Proyecto de Desarrollo Económico, el Departamento de Desarrollo de Comunitario, 147 Haverhill St., Lawrence, MA 01840, (978) 620-3527 ó sdubois@cityoflawrence.com.

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Lawrence's most recent fire and clean-up efforts on previous ones

Photo Courtesy of Henry D. Lantigua

By ALBERTO SURÍS

ALBERTOSURIS@RUMBONEWS.COM

The last of a series of fires in Lawrence happened Thursday night, February 15, 2008, leaving one person dead and 16 others looking for another place to live.

"When we arrived there, we found Thomas Joseph Madden, 53, dead on his first floor apartment at 16-18 Royal St.," said next day Fire Chief Peter Takvorian during a telephone conversation with Richard Aybar and Dalia Diaz during their CrossOver show which airs every Friday on WCCM-1110AM between 1:00 and 2:00 PM.

Takvorian also mentioned an explosion on the second floor that caused two of his men – Lt. John Duxbury and Firefighter David Amero of Ladder 4- to become trapped on the third floor when looking for unaccounted residents of the dwelling. They rushed to the third floor after hearing noises that at the moment it was unclear if it were those of humans. It was later confirmed that the noises were coming from three dogs that perished in the fire. "Fortunately our men got out safely," said the Chief.

According to Inspectional Services Commissioner Myles Burke, 16-18 Royal St. has been boarded up by the owner and also the building next door, 10-12-14 Royal St. needs extensive clean-up before getting their certificate of occupancy, since it was heavily damaged by water and smoke. "All this work was done at no cost to the city," said Commissioner Burke.

On the Andover Street demolition going on, Commissioner Burke said, "that site is a result of four buildings going up on fire at the same time, with 4 owners and 4 insurance companies, all closely working with the city, but with different ideas of what they (the owners) want to do with their property. " The owner of the three stories building is paying for its demolition," said Burke.

"On the Parker and Market Streets site, the city put this work out to bid, and it was awarded to the lowest bidder, All State Abatement Professionals (ASAP)," said Burke. Because the area was declared as



10-12-14 y 16-18 Calle Royal durante y después del fuego.

10-12-14 and 16-18 Royal St., during and after the fire.



an "Emergency" by the mayor, the city was able to waive the normal bidding practices, therefore selecting the winning bidder in about one week's time. "This process normally takes one to two months," ended Burke.

The city is managing the cleaning of the whole site, using moneys from Community Development, approximately \$150,000, which will be reimbursed by the different insurance companies and property owners. The cleaning process officially started on Wednesday, February 20 when a challenge of the bidding process was dismissed at the state's Attorney General's office.

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El trabajo ha comenzado en el sitio de las Calles Parker y Market.

Work had started at the Parker and Market Streets.



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Local Oncology Nurse Plans Successful Fundraiser

Raises \$8,000 for Fight Against Cancer!

Andover resident, Patty Bateson, is a woman with a passion for helping cancer patients and their loved ones in her community. Patty, a breast cancer survivor and a longtime oncology nurse for Commonwealth Hematology-Oncology in Lawrence, attended a retreat for cancer survivors and oncology nurses. It was here, after hearing a success story from a woman in Arizona, that she got the idea to host a fashion show and raise funds for the fight against cancer. "The idea of the event touched my heart, I knew I had to do something," explained Patty.

With help from family, friends, and co-workers, Patty spent the following months devoting all her extra time, talent, and energy to "Fashion for Life." Patty coordinated twenty-four models for the event, all of whom are cancer survivors. For their time on the runway, each model chose their own song and wrote a story to share. Fashion donations were provided by Black Tie Affair of Andover, Harley Davidson of Manchester, Lady Grace of Rockingham, Talbots of Rockingham, and fashion designers Nidia Sosa of Fashion River and Isabel Jaime. The evening also included boutiques, raffles, dinner, and an inspiring survivor speaker, Augusta Williams of

North Andover. Methuen resident and close friend of Patty, Lee Sugden, who modeled for the event, described "Fashion for Life" as "... an incredible, uplifting, inspiring day. Lots of emotion tied up in one evening."

The successful event, held at the Haverhill Country Club, gathered 230 guests who raised \$8,000 for the fight against cancer! Patty donated all proceeds from "Fashion for Life" to the American Cancer Society. Blanca Figueroa, Community Executive for Cancer Control, with the American Cancer Society states, "Patty's dedication to make a difference in the fight against cancer is an inspiration to us all. The funds she has worked tirelessly to raise will support the Society's research program."

The American Cancer Society is dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by saving lives, diminishing suffering and preventing cancer through research, education, advocacy and service. Founded in 1913 and with national headquarters in Atlanta, the Society has 13 regional Divisions and local offices in 3,400 communities, involving millions of volunteers across the United States. For more information anytime, call toll free



Pictured left to right: Patty Bateson, RN, Commonwealth Hematology Oncology - Lawrence; Blanca Figueroa, Community Executive for Cancer Control, American Cancer Society; Lee Sugden.

1-800-ACS-2345 or visit www.cancer.org. Commonwealth Hematology-Oncology has offices and clinical sites throughout the state and is the largest private practice cancer care network in New England. Known for its leadership in community-based cancer care, CHO physicians have been caring for patients for over three decades. CHO was the first group

practice in the state to develop treatment guidelines for specific cancers, the first to develop a computerized software program for chemotherapy ordering, the first to create a patient advocacy program, and the first to be selected by the National Cancer Institute for admission to a community-based clinical trials program. For more information, visit www.chomed.com.



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Munro Graphics moves to Lawrence

Munro Graphics formerly of Methuen, Massachusetts is excited to announce their relocation to 60 Island Street, Lawrence, Massachusetts.

Munro Graphics has been servicing print customers in the Merrimack Valley for over 20 years. Jim Munro, President and owner of Munro Graphics says the move has been needed due to size and space issues at their previous location.

"It was a great location for many years, but as our business grew our customer needs changed. Before we knew it we were bursting at the seams. Architecturally it became difficult to work efficiently because of the broken up floor plans," Munro states.

Munro Graphics evolved in the past 20 years, in the Merrimack Valley from two small offset presses and a very slow black and white copier, to the installation of a state of the art black and white and full color printer as well as a digital duplicator, which prints a wide variety of colors with speed. As a four man operation, Munro Graphics turned "green" before anyone knew what the term really meant. They have always been advocates for cleaner production methods and recycling, and take it one step further by re-using and minimizing packaging.

Munro says his customer base is diverse, "I serve many non-profits both locally and regionally, but I also have a broad base of small business customers. Most of my business customers are owner operated. They appreciate that I am the one who answers the phone and they know that I will respond quickly."

Ed Warnshuis the President of the Merrimack Valley Habitat for Humanity, and Director of Lawrence Partners in Education says those believing in the future of Lawrence and the value of small independent businesses should work with Munro Graphics, "He's moving to Lawrence because he believes the city is on the rebound and has a bright future and he wants to contribute to that bright future. He's also an independent small business man. He's not a franchise or part of a conglomerate. He's an independent businessman who knows his craft and works hard on behalf of his customers."

Jim himself says his clients are surprised to see him show up at their doors, either delivering or picking up print jobs. "That is how I expect to be treated and they deserve the same."

They would like new customers to know they are looking forward to developing long term relationships with them and would like to current customers to know they look forward to servicing you from their new location.

For all your printing and copying needs, contact Munro Graphics at 978-682-0699 or you can reach them via the web at www.munrographics.com.

Letters to the Editor

Rumbo
315 Mt. Vernon Street
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.

OPINION

Por/By Dalia Díaz
rumbonews.com/blogs

From My Corner

MATERIAL BILINGÜE

Favor ver la PÁGINA 4 para leer este artículo en Español

To start this week's column, I would like to direct your attention to page 22. There is a Letter to the Editor from Jasmin García Escoto in response to a comment I made on January 15 as part of this column. In case you may not remember or have not read it, I reprinted the offending piece so that you can judge the relevance of her letter to its content.

Update on Lawrence schools

Since I assume you read page 22 first, let's stick with the Lawrence Public Schools. On January 22, 2008, Jeffrey Nelhaus, Acting Commissioner of Education sent a letter to School Superintendent Wilfredo T. Laboy advising him that six schools will be joining the ranks of Commonwealth Priority Schools (CPS), similar to that of the Arlington School at present. The letter says in part:

"written notice to the governing body of the school, the district superintendent, if any, the school's principal, and the collective bargaining agent for the school's faculty, if any, informing them that the school is so designated." This letter is your formal notice that the Emily Wetherbee, Gerard Guilmette Elementary, Gerard Guilmette Middle, John Tarbox Elementary, South Lawrence East Elementary, and South Lawrence East Middle Schools in Lawrence have been designated as CPSs. Once issued, this formal notification

initiates the 30-day timeframe for the district to seek reconsideration or to provide an improvement plan and appear before a State Review Panel.

Superintendent Laboy and his fanatics in the school department keep talking about "the progress they have made." This superintendent has been in charge for seven years and our schools are in miserable conditions. Oh, I shouldn't have used that word; it might offend somebody at LPS, but the Department of Education proves otherwise.

If the state does not see sufficient improvement in those schools by June, they will become CPS like the Arlington School.

Want a PhD? Come to Lawrence

Yes, in Lawrence we make it easy to advance on the job.

Recently I wrote about the Lawrence Public Schools administrators doing their school work towards their doctorate degree during work hours and I love it when the telephone starts ringing with additional information.

Some said, "I was glad to see you write about administrators in Lawrence doing their doctoral program work during school hours. We have one here at the South Lawrence East School, Principal Dina Hickey." The caller went on to say that she comes in to work at 9:30 AM every morning and does nothing but sits at her computer all day (her back turned to the door of her office) and works on her doctorate.

Meanwhile students are running wild

Superintendent Laboy and his fanatics in the school department keep talking about "the progress they have made." This superintendent has been in charge for seven years and our schools are in miserable conditions. Oh, I shouldn't have used that word; it might offend somebody at LPS, but the Department of Education proves otherwise.

in the corridors. So much so that teachers are hiding behind closed doors as classes change. Then she yelled at the teachers at the last monthly faculty meeting, complaining that if she disciplines the kids it makes the teachers look like they have lost control.

Has she stopped to think that if she puts a little effort at doing her job, things are bound to work better? Let's face it, she is getting paid to lead.

I wonder in what she is getting a doctorate. I know: Grant-writing! That's where the money is, they get to work in the administration building and they don't have to deal with pesky kids.

How much for a vote? Or votes for sale

Through the years, I have been writing and talking on the radio very negatively

CONTINUES ON PAGE
20



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OPINION

By Ellen Bahan
rumbonews.com/blogs



It's All About Right(s)

Ding Dong Da Dawwg Is Gone

AKA Deputy Chief Joseph Alaimo

Wow, that must have cost him a hefty penalty in his retirement benefits, almost two years before his time. He is not leaving until March... it can't be too soon. March is a little early for fireworks, but da dawwg must have gotten word of the show and has decided to get the hell out of dodge before the real show begins.

I wonder if he thinks that when the sheeeeet, (to quote Eli Ramey), hits the fan his sudden departure is going to save him for any consequences? I DON'T THINK SO!

A quick little song...Bad boyz, Bad boyz, whatca gonna do, whatca gonna do when they come for you! CAN YOU HEAR THEM COMING?

The puff piece in the daily record

of advertising, death, Dear Abby and horoscope, failed to mention da dawwg sorted past; you know loyal readers, where he and his family because of their indiscretions have cost the citizens of Methuen dearly.

What amused me the most was the fact that he just like little Joey Salvo are leaving \$90,000+, a full fledged membership at the "all you eat rolling buffet", for greener pastures. What could be greener?

After all he's got police work in his blood. So I am just guessing, but his new venture is going to be that of the real dog... McGruff the Crime Dog! Sorry Joey Salvo, the legs in the suit are long, the suit is just too big for you. Perhaps we can make up a side kick for McGruff. Like Deputy Dawwg had Moochie... you can be Pouchie. Now, if it were a donkey suit, we could accommodate both of you.

And remember DAWWG, just like Disney, the characters don't speak. So

DRAT, I hate when that happens, but I must admit, it could not have happened to better boyz. We need yet another sidekick! I'll think on that... better still, blog me loyal readers and offer suggestions....Blog me at Rumbonews.com, and give me some suggestions, information or a tongue lashing. I can take it!

perhaps we will never know, the one thing we will know is you are gone but certainly not forgotten. We will all sit and wait for the other shoe to drop!

I do so hope that you have invested all your ill-gotten gains wisely, you know not in your name! Because if indictments are passed out and convictions are forthcoming, your retirement is out the window. It is time to set an example, accountability I believe is what they call it! METHUEN IS LONG OVERDUE.

I do understand that Bridgeboy Manzi is trying to do his best to save his trusty dawwg, whose wife just happens to be his executive secretary, but perhaps Bridgeboy is not aware, he is also on the usual suspects list.

DRAT, I hate when that happens, but I must admit, it could not have happened to better boyz. We need yet another sidekick! I'll think on that... better still, blog me loyal readers and offer suggestions.

Blog me at Rumbonews.com, and give me some suggestions, information or a tongue lashing. I can take it!

Mayor Manzi Calls for Emergency Management Volunteers

Methuen's Department of Emergency Management is looking for volunteers for their Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Shelter Management Team (SMT). The CERT volunteers will be responsible to assist the City of Methuen's Department of Emergency Management throughout the city in times of disaster and emergencies. The CERT Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area, and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. The SMT volunteers will be responsible to staff and assist with setting up emergency shelters throughout the city in times of disaster and emergencies.

"This is a great opportunity for citizens to help their neighbors and give back to the city," Manzi said. "Often during times of crisis people look to help out where they can. We experienced this during the Mother's Day Flood of 2006. We received calls and visits from dozens of people looking to do what they could."

All volunteers will go through a thorough screening process including, but not limited to a criminal background check and must be 18 years of age or older. Please contact the Emergency Management Director, John J. Santoro, at 978-983-8579 or email him at EMDirector@ci.methuen.ma.us.

The Department of Emergency Management is prepared to activate an Emergency Operations Center during any major disaster to allow coordination of all support agencies to provide continuity of services to the public. It is responsible for advertisement, notification and assembly of services that are in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Methuen and to prepare and distribute information and procedures governing the same.

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Free Nursing Home Advocates Training
Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley, in partnership with North Shore Elder Services, is hosting a FREE 3-day Nursing Home Advocates Training March 18, 19 and 20 in the Elder Services offices at 360 Merrimack Street (Bldg 5) in Lawrence. Sessions will last from 9:30am until 3:30pm each day. Lunch and light refreshments will be provided.
At the conclusion of the training, participants will be certified by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as Nursing Home Ombudsmen for Elder Services of Merrimack Valley. Nursing Home Ombudsmen help protect the rights of nursing home residents, visiting nursing homes regularly to resolve issues on behalf of residents. The one-year commitment includes three days of training, monthly supervision, and dedicated hours each month for nursing home visits.
Due to the popularity of this training, we anticipate this seminar will be over enrolled. With limited space, reservations are strongly recommended. Please contact Gerry Proulx of Elder Services at 978.946.1445 for reservations.

Giordano Family Methuen Karate Association Promotes 6 New Black Belts



Left to right: Lauren Goddard, Sempais Riane, John II & John Goddard The Goddard family, 1st time sister and brother are promoted to Shodan together.

Presentation Advanced 6 Junior Black Belts to Shodan and Honored Three Families Representing 2 Generations of Black Belts.

The Giordano Family Methuen Karate Association (MKA) promoted 6 new Black Belts at a private ceremony on January 29, 2008. The initial test for this promotion occurred on September 30, 2007. All candidates are advancing from Junior Black Belt to first degree black belt, Shodan. The students who were presented with Black Belts included Riane Goddard, John Goddard, Phi Nguyen, Greg Hamel, Jenna Kish and Ashley Bolise.

Making History at MKA

This promotion included a number of firsts for Giordano Family MKA. This was the first time in MKA history that a brother and sister, Riane and John Goddard, tested together. It was also the first time that three families were honored for adding a second generation of black belts. The three families included Sempai John Goddard with his children, Riane & John Goddard, Sempai Mary Ellen Moore with daughter Jenna Kish and Sempai Steve Hamel with son Greg Hamel.

"This promotion was a special event at the Giordano Family MKA. Only 1 in 100 students make it to a black belt, and these young students worked very hard to advance from Junior Black Belt," stated Larry Giordano, Shihan at Giordano Family MKA. "We are also proud to have 3 families representing 2 generations of black belts that is quite an accomplishment. These students and families have consistently demonstrated their commitment to Kyokushin Karate, and I am exceptionally proud of all who were promoted."

Achieving Shodan, 1st Degree Black Belt

The rank of Shodan is the beginning of a student's journey in karate, with ten black belt levels to achieve over a student's lifetime. To achieve a black belt status, a student must train many years and demonstrate proficiency in all the basics of karate, which include performing katas (pre-arranged forms), weapons proficiency with a Bo (Staff), and effective self-defense performance in Kumite (sparring). In addition, a Shodan is required to give back to martial arts and share their training in the form of teaching and other volunteer opportunities.

About Giordano Family MKA

Giordano Family MKA, formerly known as MKA, was founded in 1968 by Shihan Larry F. Giordano. The "school of the rooster's" mission is to promote the traditional, spiritual, and educational goals of karate through the discipline of Kyokushin Karate. Shihan Giordano holds the rank of Haichidan 8th Dan. His efforts have been recognized internationally, including being inducted into the Martial Arts Hall of Fame and the Hawaiian International Martial Arts Hall of Fame, and named Master Instructor of the Year by the International Hall of Fame for World Head Sokeship Council. To date, the school has graduated more than 64 black belts. For more information, visit www.methuenkarate.com.

Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley presents The first multicultural Elder Conference

Offering simultaneous presentations in 5 languages (English, Khmer, Portuguese, Spanish and Vietnamese) – is being sponsored by the Massachusetts SMP Program's Merrimack Valley Regional Multicultural Task Force on Saturday, March 29, from 8:00am to 3:00pm in the S. Lawrence East School at 165 Crawford Street in Lawrence. The Conference is free, and includes multicultural entertainment, breakfast and a multicultural buffet lunch. Transportation is available for those who need it.

The three workshops – each provided in separate, simultaneous sessions in the 5 languages – will include: "Educating Seniors to Become Informed & Engaged Health Care Consumers – How to Prevent Healthcare Errors, Fraud & Abuse"; "Medicare Health Benefits Eligibility Information"; and "A Culturally Focused Talk on Health Concerns Most Prevalent for Latino Elders. Content is oriented for both elders and caregivers.

For more information, call Lucilia Prates, Director of the Massachusetts SMP Program, at 978.683.7747 ext. 1326.

The Massachusetts Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) projects train retired professional volunteers to help their peers become better health care consumers.

Cartas al Editor

Rumbo
315 Mt. Vernon Street
Lawrence, MA 01843

Email: rumbo@rumbonews.com

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To have your event listed on this section of Rumbo, please send us an email to (and only to) calendar@rumbonews.com. The email must contain the name, date, time and location of the event. A contact email and phone number is recommended. A brief description of less than 30 words could also be included. If your message is missing any of this information, it will not be posted. Posting of your event is subject to space availability. Rumbo is not responsible for any misprinted information.

NOTICE

Effective February 4th, 2008
Methuen City Hall hours will change to better serve the citizens of Methuen.

New City Hall Hours
The Searles Building (City Hall) & Quinn Building (City offices)

Effective February 4th, 2008
Monday -Thursday 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Friday 8:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

DEIAMANO VOLUNTEER NEEDED

DELAMANO is seeking for empathic and committed volunteers to answer our domestic violence Spanish/English helpline serving victims of domestic violence in the Greater Lawrence community.

Volunteers must be fluent in spoken English and Spanish and be over 21.

Volunteers are required to attend 24 hours of training covering a variety of topics in the field of Domestic violence.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT WENDY LUZON AT 978-530-7058.

BOOK DONATIONS NEEDED!

The Lawrence YMCA's child care center is in need of new and gently-used books (for preschool to middle-school students). Donations can be brought to the Lawrence YMCA, 40 Lawrence Street. For more information: 978-686-6191.

VOLUNTEER WITH HOMELESS CHILDREN!

Horizons for Homeless Children is looking for volunteers to play with some great kids for 2 hours a week. Your time can make a world of difference for the children living in homeless shelters in Massachusetts. Many located in the Merrimack Valley including Lawrence, Haverhill, Lowell, Tewksbury and North Chelmsford.

A commitment of six months and attendance at a training session are required. There will be training in Lawrence in October.

For more information about the program, visit our website: www.horizonsforhomelesschildren.org, or call or write Sheila Carman at 978-557-2182-scarman@horizonsforhomelesschildren.org.

LAWRENCE: "Personal Space, Community Risk" Seminar

Elder Services of Merrimack Valley
360 Merrimack Street, Building 5, Lawrence
Date: 2/26/2008
Start Time: 9:30:00 AM - 12:00:00 PM
Cost Per Person: \$ 0
More Info: 978-946-1496

Defining, identifying and treating Compulsive Hoarding is the focus of an innovative seminar "Personal Space, Community Risk" on Tuesday, February 26 from 9:30am to 12:00pm at Elder Services of Merrimack Valley, 360 Merrimack Street, Building 5, Lawrence. The seminar, which takes a community approach to compulsive hoarding, is approved for 2.0 Social Work CEUs.

The program will cover topics from the causes of compulsive hoarding to differentiating between hoarding and clutter, and knowing when a situation is a health or safety risk. Inspectional Services, Tenancy Preservation, Lawrence Housing Authority and Elder Services will lead panel discussions to cover a variety of issues about compulsive hoarding, and how to respond.

Because space is limited, registrants should contact Alicia Hussey at 978-946-1496 to assure seating.

The seminar is supported by a Lawrence Community Development Block Grant.

Haverhill: James Vanderpol

Haverhill Public Library, Milhendler Room
Date: 2/26/2008
Start Time: 2:00:00 PM - 12:00:00 PM
Cost Per Person: \$ 0
More Info: Haverhill Council on Aging

The Council on Aging is hosting local commentator and historian James Vanderpol on Tuesday, February 26, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at the Haverhill Public Library in the Milhendler Room.

Mr. Vanderpol will speak on "The State of the Union..... Dictatorship versus Democracy". He will speak on life under the Hitler regime from personal experience as well as the state of our educational system, poverty in the United States, and illegal immigration.

Please join us for a lively discussion on current events and refreshments. There is no fee for this event.

Haverhill: Trip to Williamsburg

Date: 3/1/2008
Cost Per Person: \$ 699
More Info: 978.372.1081

The Council on Aging is offering a 6-day trip to Williamsburg, Washington, D. C., and Lancaster, PA. This trip will run from April 17-22, 2008.

This trip includes five nights lodging, four dinners, and five breakfasts, 2-day ticket to Williamsburg, ticket to the Virginia Tattoo, and luxury motor coach transportation with tour guide.

Cost for this trip is \$779 pp/double, \$699 pp/triple, and \$1089/pp triple. Deposit of \$100 is required at sign-up and balance is due on March 1.

For additional information contact Kathy Bresnahan X11 or Rita LaBella X16 at 978-372-1081 or kbresnahan@cityofhaverhill.com.

LOWELL: Seminario para Primeros Compradores

10 de la calle Kirk, Lowell
Date: 3/3/2008
Start Time: 6:00:00 PM - 9:00:00 PM
Cost Per Person: \$ 0
More Info: 978.459.8490

El Merrimack Valley Housing Partnership se complace en anunciar que estamos ofreciendo en Lowell el Proyecto Génesis, Seminarios para Primeros Compradores de Casa en Español.

Las clases se llevarán a cabo en el #10 de la calle Kirk, Lowell. Las próximas clases comenzarán en Marzo 3, 10, & 17 de 6:00pm a 9:00pm. Se requiere asistir a las tres clases para recibir el certificado del Proyecto Génesis.

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Programas de Asistencia para el Depósito
Información de Crédito

Llame a nuestra oficina al 978-459-8490 para registrarse. www.mvhp.org.

LOWELL: First Time Home Buyer Training

10 Kirk Street, Lowell
Date: 3/3/2008
Start Time: 6:00:00 PM - 9:00:00 PM
Cost Per Person: \$ 0
More Info: 978.459.8490

The Merrimack Valley Housing Partnership is pleased to announce that we are offering the Project Genesis Home Buyer Training Seminars in Lowell in Spanish.

The classes will be held at 10 Kirk St., Lowell. The next series will begin on the evenings of March 3, 10, & 17 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. Participants must attend all sessions to receive a certificate of completion.

TOPICS INCLUDE

Overview of the Home Buying Process

Bank Mortgage Guidelines
Legal Aspects
Home Inspections
Down Payment Assistance Programs
Information on Credit

Please call the office at 978-459-8490 to register. www.mvhp.org. Thank you.

Haverhill: St. Patrick's Day Craft Class

Haverhill Citizen Center
Date: 3/4/2008
Start Time: 12:00:00 PM
Cost Per Person: \$ 0
More Info: 978.374.2390

Wingate at Haverhill and the Council on Aging are offering a craft class at the Citizen Center on Tuesday, March 4, 2008, at 12:00 noon. Participants will create a St. Patrick's Day door ornament. There is no cost for this class.

Don't miss out on the fun!

Please contact Kathy X11 or Rita X16 at 978-374-2390 for additional information.

LAWRENCE: Essex Art Center Exhibitions

Essex Art Center
56 Island Street, Lawrence
Date: 3/7/2008
Start Time: 5:00:00 PM - 7:00:00 PM
Cost Per Person: \$ 0
More Info: 978.685.2343

Main Gallery:

Photography and the sculpture it inspires
Flynn Costello, Helena Parrish, Hilary Scott, Robert Umenhofer, and T. Luke Young

Elizabeth A. Beland Gallery:

Impermanence
Photography by Shelley Zatsky

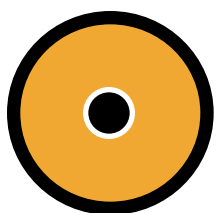
WHEN: March 7 – May 2, 2008, with an opening reception on Friday, March 7, 5-7 p.m. GALLERY HOURS: M - F 10-6. Call for additional evening hours. CLOSED: March 21 and April 21. Photographs are available on request.

The reception and galleries are free and open to the public. The Essex Art Center is located at 56 Island Street, Lawrence, MA. For directions and other information, please visit our website, www.essexartcenter.com, or call 978-685-2343.

Haverhill: New England Spring Flower Show

Date: 3/10/2008
Start Time: 9:00:00 AM - 3:00:00 PM
Cost Per Person: \$ 25
More Info: 978-374-2165

On March 10th join Bethany Homes at The New England Spring Flower Show 'Rhapsody in Green' at the Bayside Expo in Boston. The



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Carmen Chalas
"La Embajadora"

bus will leave Haverhill at 9a and will leave Boston at 3p. The cost is \$25 and includes the show ticket and transportation. Enjoy lunch on your own, there are many food vendors available.

HAVERHILL: St. Patrick's Day Party

DiBurro's of Ward Hill
Date: 3/13/2008
Start Time: 11:00:00 AM - 2:00:00 PM
Cost Per Person: \$ 7
More Info: 978.374.2390

Faith and Begorrah, St. Patrick's Day is just around the corner! Haverhill Council on Aging announces its Senior Citizen St. Patrick's Day Party will be held on Thursday, March 13, at DiBurro's of Ward Hill from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. E. J. Ouellette and the Irish Maggies will provide live entertainment, and a traditional Irish meal of corned beef and cabbage will be served. Doors will open at 10:45 a.m.

The presentation of the prestigious D. Raymond Taffe Award will take place at the luncheon. Last year's recipient were Bernice Descheneau and Maryjane Thomas, who are known for their leadership qualities and volunteer efforts.

There are 300 tickets available for Haverhill seniors at \$7.00. Addition seniors, non-seniors and out-of-town seniors may purchase tickets for \$16.00. Tables of ten may be reserved.

Tickets are available at the Citizens Center, 10 Welcome St., Haverhill, MA. Contact Kathy Bresnahan X11 or Rita Labella X16 at the Council on Aging 978-374-2390 for additional information.

HAVERHILL: Michael Amante Concert

Date: 3/15/2008

Start Time: 12:00:00 AM
Cost Per Person: \$ 54
More Info: 978.374.2165

Michael Amante is performing at Mass Mutual Convention Center in Springfield, MA on April 15, 2008. Your day trip includes this magnificent show, motorcoach transportation and lunch on your own at Holyoke Mall at Ingleside. Sign up required, the cost is \$54 and final payment due March 15, 2008. Please note that this is a ticketed event and seating will be assigned in order of payment.

HAVERHILL: Four Day Tour of Washington DC

Date: 3/15/2008
Cost Per Person: \$ 579
More Info: 978-374-2165

Bethany Homes Presents-A four-day tour of Washington DC 'A Patriotic Celebration of America. The trip includes World War II Memorial, Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials, the Holocaust Museum, the city's Famous Monuments: the FDR and Korean Monuments, Arlington Cemetery, Vietnam Memorial. Also includes is round trip motorcoach transportation, six meals (three dinners-three breakfasts), all admission to touring venues, lodging at Courtyard by Marriott, tour director luggage handling and taxes. The cost is \$579pp double plus \$15 trip protection a \$50 deposit confirms your reservation. Your final payment due by March 15th.

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- ✚ Are you between the ages of 35-39 with a strong family history of breast or ovarian cancer (mother, daughter, sister)?

If you answer yes to any of these questions, you may be eligible to get your annual mammogram with the Boston's Mammography Van!!



Next Mammography Van Day

Date: Saturday, March 1, 2008
Place: YWCA of Greater Lawrence
38 Lawrence Street, Lawrence, MA
Time: 8am—3:30pm

All women, with or without health insurance, regardless of their ability to pay, are encouraged to register!!

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call:
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NECESITAN CHOFERES PARA TRANSPORTAR ANCIANOS

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

Si usted puede, aunque sea ocasionalmente, por favor, llame a Jerry Proulx, reclutador de voluntarios, al 1-800-892-0890 ext. 463 (y mencione Interfaith Caregivers.)

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

Rep. Tsongas Presents Check for \$392,000 to MVRTA

Federal Funding Will Help Purchase New Buses to Serve Lawrence, Andover, Haverhill and Methuen

Fifth District Congresswoman Niki Tsongas today presented a check in the amount of \$392,000 to the Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority which will help purchase fourteen new buses to serve residents of Lawrence, Andover, Haverhill and Methuen. Tsongas secured the funding as part of the recently enacted federal Omnibus Appropriations Act.

"Over the past several months, I heard from people throughout the Merrimack Valley about their support for efforts to make it easier to travel throughout our region," said Congresswoman Tsongas. "I was pleased to deliver these federal funds to the Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority today which will assist in the purchase of fourteen new buses which will help tens of thousands of Merrimack Valley residents get to and from work, school, health appointments, or many other

destinations in our communities. Greater access to public transit is particularly important to the elderly and disabled in our region."

"Two of these buses will be hybrid and clean diesel models, features which will benefit our environment and also allow the buses to get greater gas mileage, reducing their overall operating costs," Congresswoman Tsongas added.

"In addition to the outstanding transportation services provided by the Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority, the agency plays a significant role in major economic development projects in the Merrimack Valley such as the Lawrence Gateway and Haverhill parking garage. I look forward to continue to working with Joe Costanzo and members of the MVRTA board to advance these critical initiatives," Congresswoman Tsongas concluded.

"We are very appreciative of Congresswoman Tsongas efforts on behalf of the Merrimack Valley Regional Transit

Authority," said MVRTA Administrator Joe Costanzo. "These funds will help purchase the next generation of buses for the MVRTA, which will provide regional transportation services to over 1 million miles of city, interurban, suburban, and rural communities in the region."

The Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority (MVRTA) serves 2 million riders annually on scheduled bus routes in the northeast corner of Massachusetts. MVRTA bus service is provided in Andover, Amesbury, Haverhill, Lawrence, Merrimac, Methuen, Newburyport and North Andover. The Authority also provides service to the Robert B. Kennedy Transfer Station for connections with the Lowell Regional Transit Authority. The MVRTA also provides a Commuter Bus service to and from Boston on weekdays. Funding for the purchase of the buses will also be aided by formula funding that MVRTA is provided annually by the Department of Transportation.

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 15

DÍAZ: From My Corner

about School Committeeman Jorge González and most recently as a City Councilor.

As a member of the School Committee he was nothing but a rubber stamp for Superintendent Laboy and in the City Council he is playing politics in the worst way. I paid him a compliment last October when I said that he has mayoral conditions by comparing him to Michael Sullivan. When Mike was on the council, he was the quiet one who did not contribute much to discussions and Jorge is the same way. When he calls me on the Spanish radio shows he quickly identifies himself as "the Mute."

Meanwhile, he managed to get his wife a job in the school department, his two daughters are teaching there and now, his son became a police officer.

He no longer cares if a movement is created to remove him from office or if he is never reelected again to anything. His family is all set!

DPW employees are furious!

"The city has reversed 20 years." That reaction has to do with 96 Nextel telephones that went dead a couple Sundays ago. On Monday morning, there was no way for anyone to communicate unless they used a telephone like... 20 years ago.

Well, this was a cost-cutting measure to save the city \$50,000 each year that DPW Director Frank McCann was aware of but did not tell anyone. It's all a power trip!

Now, only 18 telephones will be issued to managers, supervisors and water meter readers. This action will also serve to force the supervisors to stay with their crews while they work instead of being found in restaurants by Rumbo's camera. Remember?

City Clerk Office Hours

During the past couple of weeks we received several calls of Lawrencians complaining that the City Clerk's office is closed at lunch time when it is probably their busiest time, considering that many people would use their own lunch hour to run errands to City Hall.

I called City Clerk Bill Maloney and he explained that during the recent lay offs in Lawrence, his office lost three employees for which they now find it difficult to continue performing at the same level of service.

Mr. Maloney told me they have opted for closing the office for one hour during their lunch hour instead of staggering the breaks because he might not be able to promise that it would happen on a steady basis. It depends on whether his staff is all there, if they are not performing some duty that takes them away from the office or out sick. Those situations would force him to close some days and that will be more of a reason for complain than if he makes it a general practice until the personnel is restored and the public can continue going at the most convenient time for working people.

Countdown to the American Cancer Society's Daffodil Days®

Last Days to Place Your Order!

In a few short weeks, the American Cancer Society will receive millions of beautiful, golden daffodils during the annual Daffodil Days® campaign just in time for the first week of spring. To ensure delivery the week of March 17, orders must be received by 5:00 p.m., Monday, March 3.

- A bouquet of ten daffodils is \$10.
- New this year are potted daffodils, a multi-stem daffodil bulb, which will bloom beautifully on a desk or at home for a donation of \$15.
- A Gift of Hope, bouquets of fresh golden daffodils delivered anonymously to a local cancer patient

or person in need, is available for a minimum donation of \$20.

- This year's Bear and a Bunch™ marks the addition of Bea R. Hope, a special Boyds™ Bear designed exclusively for the American Cancer Society and is available for a donation of \$25.
- To place an order, call your American Cancer Society at 1.800.ACS.2345 or visit www.cancer.org/daffodils.

The American Cancer Society is dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by saving lives, diminishing suffering, and preventing cancer through research, education, advocacy, and service.

To ensure delivery the week of March 17, orders must be received by 5:00 p.m., Monday, March 3.

Founded in 1913 and with national headquarters in Atlanta, the Society has 13 regional Divisions and local offices in 3,400 communities, involving millions of volunteers across the United States. For more information anytime, call toll free 1-800-ACS-2345 or visit www.cancer.org.

VOLUNTARIOS

Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley, Inc.

Choices for a life long journey

Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley (Servicio a los ancianos del Valle de Merrimack) está activamente reclutando voluntarios para un número de programas y servicios relacionados con la asistencia a ancianos en el Valle de Merrimack.

NECESITAMOS VOLUNTARIOS PARA:

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- Aconsejar a los ancianos sobre la opciones de seguro de salud
- Abogar por los residentes de casas de asilo

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Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley es una agencia privada sin ánimo de lucro. Su misión es la de crear programas y servicios que los dé fuerza a adultos para que permanezcan seguros e independientes en sus propios hogares y comunidades por el mayor tiempo como sea posible. Anualmente, más de 20,000 ancianos a través de 23 ciudades y pueblos del Valle de Merrimack reciben asistencia de varios programas ofrecidos por Elder Services. Nuestras oficinas están convenientemente localizadas en Lawrence, en el 360 de la Calle Merrimack.

PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN, FAVOR DE LLAMAR AL 800-893-0890, EXT. 445 Ó 463 A NUESTRO PROGRAMA DE VOLUNTARIOS. SE ALEGRARÁ DE HABERLO HECHO.

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NOTES FROM YOUR LIBRARIAN

By Maureen Nimmo
Lawrence Public Library Director

Hello Rumbo readers! I continue my quest for spring. By the time you read this we will be more than halfway through February. March, though usually pretty miserable in actual fact, at least seems better because spring does start. Of course, now that the football season (and please don't talk to me about the details) is over, I have little else to make winter palatable.

The Friends of the Library have agreed to sponsor our Library Card for Every First Grader program. I am very grateful to them for their help in this. I don't think the library has a more important program. Last year our children's room crew managed to deliver a card to every first grader in the city whether the child attended public or private school. That required a great deal of work and this year it will be even more difficult given the shortage of staffing. Nonetheless we remain committed to this project. Most people would agree that education is the key to success in this world. Nothing is more important than arming people when they are very young with all the weapons they need to succeed in school. Chief among those weapons is proficiency with, and love of, reading.

On Monday, Ana Santos, our Assistant Director, held the first of this year's Spanish language book discussion sessions. She has a lively and intelligent group who are meeting now but there is still room for new members. I have always said that reading for pleasure or the simple love of literature is best enjoyed in one's first language. Therefore, we are proud to offer the first Spanish book group in the area here in a town where Spanish is the first language of the majority. Of course, we also continue

our English Language group as well with Louise Sandberg as hostess. Louise has added a new mystery book discussion one Saturday a month. In all then, there are three different discussion groups. Join any or all of them and you will be assured a spirited and stimulating conversation.

Speaking of Mrs. Sandberg, she has a new exhibit up in our Local History room. The exhibit features Lawrence newspapers past and present. It is quite fascinating to see how many different newspapers have informed our city over the years. We also have a rich heritage of ethnic and foreign language papers including German, French, Arabic, Irish, Spanish and Italian. One thing I found interesting in particular is that, apart from Rumbo, there does not seem to have been any bilingual newspapers. I may be wrong about that but I have never been made aware of any others. Be sure to come by and see the exhibit next time you are in the building or the neighborhood.

As I said last time, I am with the St. Patrick's Day Parade committee. We are all working very hard to make sure that the parade continues. Because of budget cutbacks, each of the cultural groups in the city running parades or festivals (e.g. Semana Hispana, Bread and Roses, the Dominican Parade) have to pay for services the city used to cover in the past. There is no help for the situation so I remind all of you out there for whom these events are important to help out the boards of these groups in their fundraising efforts.

Let's not let Lawrence lose any of the cultural events that so distinguish us! See you at the library.

Tech Prep Success Focus of National Article

It's no secret that most jobs in today's highly technical workplace require an education beyond high school.

The success of a local program, designed to provide high school juniors and seniors with college preparation for technical careers, was recently featured in a national publication, Council for Resource Development.

The article explains how Tech Prep at Northern Essex Community College is designed to enhance student success in a global economy with advancing technologies. Tech Prep focuses on career exploration as well as seamless transitions to postsecondary programs.

"Tech Prep students graduate from high school with college credits and having had exposure to careers," says Gerri Girgenti, Tech Prep coordinator at Northern Essex. "Our goal is to encourage them to continue their education in preparation for high demand occupations in technology, health care, education and business."

Tech Prep students earn college credits for certain courses that are taught at their high schools, according to Northern Essex guidelines.

Northern Essex currently holds more than 70 articulation agreements with area high schools. College credit is awarded to students who meet the agreement criteria, which is usually a minimum of a B grade. The Tech Prep program, which is federally funded and administered locally by the Merrimack Valley Occupational and Tech Prep Educators Collaborative (MVOTEC), saves high school students both time and money while providing them with a strong incentive to continue their education.

This year, NECC developed an innovative 18-credit agreement in robotics and telecommunications with Whittier

Regional Vocational Technical High. It is the first of its kind in Massachusetts. This collaborative effort, according to Girgenti, demonstrates what can be achieved when college and high schools faculties work together for the good of the students.

Once enrolled in Tech Prep, students have the opportunity to participate in college visits targeting high school pathways. Each visit offers students a comprehensive event focusing on interactive classroom activities and presentations from different college offices. The idea is to provide students with extensive resources and information about NECC as well as their own career paths.

Tech Prep students also have the opportunity for career exploration through the Tech Prep Ambassador Program which involves students in events at NECC as well as career fairs at local high schools. By developing their leadership skills, students enhance their employability.

In their junior year of high school, Tech Prep students are administered the Accuplacer Test which identifies any areas of academic weakness. The students are advised to enroll in classes that address these deficiencies.

Local high schools participating in Prep Tech include Chelmsford High School, Greater Lawrence Technical School, Greater Lowell Regional Vocational Technical School, Lowell High School, Minuteman Regional High School, Nashoba Valley Technical High School, Newburyport High School, Shawsheen Valley Technical High School, and Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School.

To learn more about NECC's Tech Prep program contact Gerri Girgenti at 978-556-3308 or ggirgenti@necc.mass.edu.

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OPINION | LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rumbo
315 Mt. Vernon Street, 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.

A few weeks ago, you published a comment in your paper stating a fact that indirectly is true, but seen from your point of view, sounds harsh.

This comment said that I, Jasmín García-Escoto, am Wilfredo Laboy's spokesperson. Everyone who knows me knows that I have been working for eight years for the Lawrence Public Schools and in my new position in the transportation department, I have the duty to bring to the community the news that are produced in this department and that need to be given to the people. Thus, I am, indeed, Dr. Laboy's spokesperson since all directions and instructions that I ought to follow as his employee come directly from him. Fortunately, I have a degree in broadcasting from my country, the Dominican Republic, which provides me with the necessary qualifications to appropriately perform this job. This is said just in case any doubt may arise about my capacity to perform such functions.

I know that in your article/comment you were not referring to anything related to the transportation department, but to a conflict that occurred between two sport coaches from Lawrence High School and about which I answered some questions to a reporter from a TV channel. However, because you did not worry in calling me to ask me any questions about this issue and instead decided to give an opinion that was not a true reflection of the truth, I am not going to bother explaining to you anything about this specific issue. Nevertheless, I would like to give you my humble opinion about what I have come to think about you and your paper based on your behavior.

This past December, I completed twenty years living in this city and since then I have been a great and faithful admirer of all Latinos that immigrate to this country and through hard work not only open paths, but excel and win public positions from where they can, and certainly do make our cultures shine.

This was my situation with you, Mrs. Dalia. Despite the fact that we have never had a relationship beyond a polite and professional one, I have seen you as a strong woman who with great effort has established her newspaper in all this area and has kept it running despite criticism and negativism.

But, and this is a big but, during the last years I have seen your objectivity, professionalism, and impartiality being affected and drastically diminished to the point, from my humble point of view, of losing focus and realism.

It is not a secret for anyone the deterioration of the relationship between you and Dr. Laboy, which has caused your newspaper to be banned from every building of the Lawrence Public Schools. I believe that this shouldn't have happened, that, as my mother would say, "the blood shouldn't have gotten to the river", meaning that things shouldn't have gotten that far. But my wish is not to judge or point out guilty

ones because everyone has a portion of responsibility here. I am evaluating your job as a journalist, as the administrator of one of the most important newspapers of our Latin community.

Something that I learned long time ago and that was reinforced to me during my broadcasting and social communication classes, is that someone who does your job has (underlined and in capital letters) to seek to be clear, impartial, objective, and as fair as possible when providing information to readers. By doing the opposite, he/she becomes an inefficient, tricky communicator that separates him/herself from the truth, which provokes losing credibility among thinking readers who have an honest discernment.

Putting aside the problems that in the beginning created the strong enmity you have today towards Dr. Laboy, in your eagerness for hurting him, unfortunately, you have forgotten all the other human beings who work for the Lawrence Public Schools. You have not cared for the thousands of people who in one way or the other are linked to this system, to let loose your anger and frustration. In no way have you thought about parents and students that are directly affected by your negative comments with detriment to teachers and schools that serve the children. How do you think parents feel knowing all that you write about the schools? Sadly, most of them can do nothing to provide their children with another type of education, and just have to conform themselves to send them to these schools, which, from your point of view, are far from offering the appropriate service their children need, and only because they are administered by Dr. Laboy, your archenemy. Despite what is established by the first amendment of this country's constitution, about the freedom of speech, you have no right to sell the unilateral idea that everything under the umbrella of the public school system of the city of Lawrence is bad. Don't forget that your rights end where mine begin and the Latin community of the city of Lawrence (and surrounding neighbors) has the right to receive information as objective and fair as possible. It is true that not everything here is running well, but it is simply impossible that there is absolutely nothing positive for you to write about to benefit, mainly, parents and students.

I want to make clear that I am not implying that this is the best school system ever, or that it is functioning at its best. No. Numbers are there; the results from local and state evaluations are there and cannot be ignored. But there has been a palpable improvement which you don't accept nor reveal to the public. To you, everything related to the school system in Lawrence is bad and smells bad.

What do you leave to the hundreds of teachers that honestly love our children and work day by day to give them the best service that the economic possibilities

In our January 15, 2008 publication, we printed in my column this brief note. We chose to repeat it so that it would serve as connection with the letter sent by Jasmin Escoto and in case you did not see it before.

Laboy's spokesperson Jasmin Escoto

I broke the news last week about the fight between the two high school coaches and the daily paper set out to find more information only to get "No comment" from the coaches and Superintendent Laboy's secretary told the reporter that he cannot comment on personnel issues. Channel 7 had better luck because their reporter contacted Jasmin Escoto and she said that a deeply emotional Paul Neal apologized to the students the very next day of the incident.

I remember that a few years ago Laboy told everyone at the school department that no one was authorized to speak to a member of the press. I guess she must be Laboy's spokesperson.

allow? How can you ignore the administrative staff that also day by day performs a commendable job which contributes to the efficient development of a school day?

In your vengeance against Dr. Laboy you have definitely lost objectivity, and above all, consideration for humans. Your heart has turned hard and cold and you have lost sensibility and respect for the reputation of all the little ones that are also part of this big family of the public school system of the city of Lawrence.

Because of this, and with great regret, I see how you have forgotten to take one of the most basic steps in journalism: search and then verify your source of information or, merely confirm the news you are about to communicate.

In reference to the note you published about me, you acted lightly and in a totally inappropriate way, and even more far from the basic factual truth. The only thing that I am going to say on this regard is that, starting with Dr. Laboy, everyone who knows me, knows that I am not anyone's unconditional contributor. Before anything I am a Christian woman who does not compromise her principles or her moral values for anyone, nor sells her dignity at any price. I have the obligation to be an upright woman that fights day by day, moment to moment to be a better human being, not only because this is my legacy and example to my children, but because this is what God expects from me.

I will be praying for you to ask God to grant you the humility and all the love from Him you might need to straighten out your feelings and actions, and to again run your newspaper with the objectivity and impartiality you once did.

With respect and still admiration, I send you my regards.

JASMIN L. GARCÍA-ESCOTO
Lawrence

Community Invited to Sleep Awareness Week Events at NECC



Having trouble sleeping at night? You're not alone. According to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, over 40 million Americans a year suffer from

some sort of sleep disorder.

The week of March 3-7, students in Northern Essex Community College's Sleep Technology Program—a one-year certificate program designed to train sleep lab technicians—will celebrate Sleep Awareness Week with a series of events that are free and open to the public.

Each day from noon to 1 p.m., the college will feature informational programs—many interactive—on different aspects of sleep. All programs will be held at the college's Dimitry Building which is located at 45 Franklin St. in Lawrence.

On Monday, a state trooper will present a program on drowsy driving; Tuesday, students will demonstrate a real sleep study;

Wednesday various types of equipment, including Sleep Apnea machines will be demonstrated; and Thursday will feature sleep trivia games.

The week will culminate on Friday, March 7 at noon with a lecture by Patrick Sorenson, MA, RPSGT, a published author and national expert on pediatric sleep issues, who will speak about SIDS (sudden infant death syndrome). Sorenson will report on progress being made in battling SIDS, a leading cause of death among infants. A faculty member in Northern Essex Community College's Sleep Technology Program, Sorenson has almost 20 years of clinical experience in the field of sleep disorders. He is the director of education for the Healthcare System Sleep Laboratories in the Greater Boston area and is a regular speaker at regional and national meetings of sleep and health care professionals. NECC's Sleep Technology Certificate prepares students for a career in sleep medicine. Throughout the program students participate in classroom study, laboratory practice, and clinical experiences. Graduates of the program are qualified to take the RPSGT or Registered Polysomnography Technologist credentialing examination.

Sponsored by the National Sleep Foundation, National Sleep Awareness Week is a public education, information, and awareness campaign that coincides with the return of Daylight Saving Time, the annual "springing forward" of clocks that cause Americans to lose an hour of sleep.

For more information on Sleep Awareness Week at Northern Essex Community College or the college's Sleep Technology Program, please contact John Murray, program coordinator at 978 738-7274 or jmurray@necc.mass.edu.

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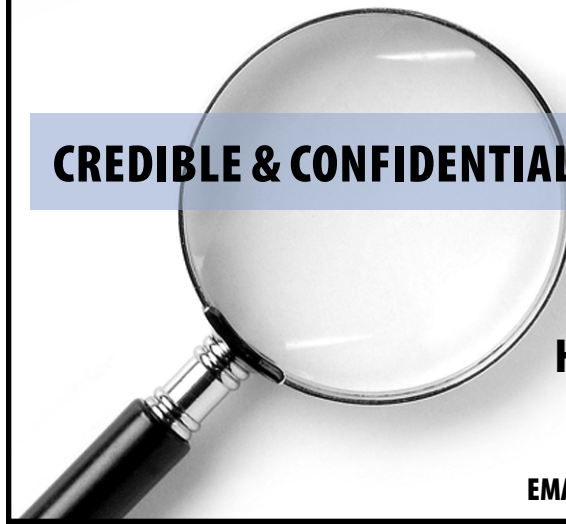
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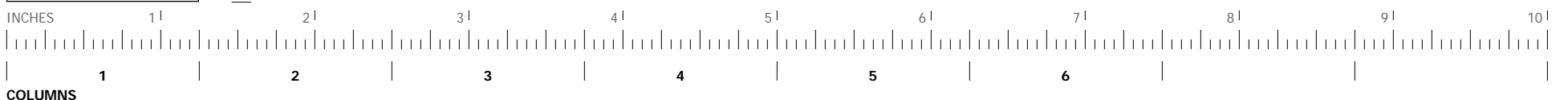
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