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Local briefs

Latina chosen as an Athena finalist

A prominent Latina has been named among 22 area women as finalists for this year's Athena Award, the Women's Council announced Friday. The award recognizes a Rochester-area professional woman who has demonstrated "significant achievements in business, community service and the professional advancement of women." The Women's Council is an affiliate of the Rochester Business Alliance.

Hilda Rosario-Escher, president and CEO of Ibero-American Action League, was among 22 named finalists.

The winner will be announced Jan. 27 during a noon lunch at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center. For ticket information, call: (585) 256-4612.

County clerk sues over illegal-immigrant licenses

Monroe County Clerk Cheryl Dinolfo filed a lawsuit earlier this month against Department of Motor Vehicles Commissioner David Swarts over plans to issue driver's licenses to illegal immigrants.

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Dinolfo's suit was announced during a morning press conference in the County Office Building.

Dinolfo has been vocal in her opposition to the license plan, announced on Sept. 21 by Gov. Eliot Spitzer and revised on Saturday.

Dinolfo, a Republican, has spoken out during hearings and has recorded a political phone message left on voters' home answering machines, tying the issue to county Legislature races and urging residents to vote Republican.

Dinolfo's is the third such lawsuit to be filed on the issue.

Latinos focus on leadership

An ambitious group of Latino professionals attended the LINC Professional Development Conference, "Empowering the Leader in You," on Oct. 13. LINC, the Latin Inter-Network Council is a partnership between different Hispanic networks and organizations within the Rochester area, including: HOLA at Kodak, HAPA at Xerox, LANET at Bausch & Lomb, HLN at ITT, and SHPE-ROC. Uniting forces and emphasizing the importance of leadership, the conference fostered a message of personal empowerment. Speakers included Frank Sklarsky, Kodak's CFO, discussing the importance of Leadership and the conference's topics. This was followed by workshops on Leadership by executive coach, Sherri McArdle, and Career Mapping by Deborah Kenyon, from Carestream. The Keynote Speaker, Efrain Rivera, Xerox's CFO, provided insights on how to move forward successfully and what it means to be a leader.

Workshops on effective mentoring and networking, by Executive Coach Bobbie Goheen and emotional intelligence, by Professor Richard Morales rounded out the afternoon.

The conference concluded with a final message from Pamela Hines, vice president of ITT Space Systems Division, driving home the importance of taking ownership of your career and encouraging people to take action.

Latinas recognized by local agency

The Latinas Unidas celebrated their 14th annual Reconocimiento Awards last month. Special guest Daisy Martinez, syndicated chef and cookbook author, joined the hundreds of guests at the annual dinner on Oct. 26.

She helped honor this year's award recipients, which included Dr. Gladys Velarde for Professional Achievement; Salvadora Guzmán for Inspirational Leadership Achievement; Leida Martínez for Volunteer Service; and Wanda Liz Pérez was awarded the Young Latina Leader. And they didn't forget about the men—Ange Fantuzzo from Wegmans was honored with the Amigo Award.

Ticket sales from the dinner benefited the Latinas Unidas Scholarship Fund.

Red Cross offers classes in Spanish

The Red Cross has expanded its services by offering safety training, disaster service and volunteer orientation classes to the deaf and hard of hearing and the Spanish-speaking communities.

Red Cross classes are taught at the Rochester Chapter on Prince Street and various locations around Rochester. Groups can request that Red Cross instructors teach a class at a remote location by contacting the Rochester Red Cross.

For more information, contact the Greater Rochester Red Cross at (585) 241-4453 or go online at www.RochesterRedCross.org.



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LISA HUGHES staff photographer
 Hilda Rosario-Escher, president and CEO of Ibero-American Action League and leader of the Latino Health Coalition, is an Athena Award finalist.

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