



For the past 14 years, the Pancake Breakfast honoring Roger Twomey has been a beautiful way to get together and thank all veterans in this country. Sadly, this year marked the last time to be held although part of the announcement was that a different group will continue this tradition. (See more pictures of that event on page 7.)

## Lawrence held a Halloween celebration at The Center



The City of Lawrence held a magnificent Halloween celebration on October 31 at the Center. Besides the goodies shared with all the children, there were scary displays and lots of fun for the little ones and their parents.

(See more pictures on page 8)

La Ciudad de Lawrence tuvo una magnífica celebración de Halloween el 31 de octubre en El Centro. Aparte de los dulces compartidos con los niños, había también adornos que asustaban y mucha diversión para los pequeños así como para sus padres. (Vea más fotos en la página 8)

## Visita de Monseñor Ozoria



Monseñor Francisco Ozoria, Arzobispo Metropolitano de Santo Domingo, República Dominicana, estuvo de visita en la ciudad invitado por WGUA 98.1 FM Radio Católica.

Archbishop Francisco Ozoria, Metropolitan Archbishop of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, visited the city at the invitation of WGUA 98.1 FM Catholic Radio. Pg. 6

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Mitt Romney (2012)



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I promise to always be your advocate and I will continue putting in the work to ensure that the residents of Lawrence and Andover have every opportunity to thrive.

Gracias a los votantes del Distrito 17 de Essex por brindarme la oportunidad de seguir sirviendo a mi comunidad en la Cámara de Representantes de Massachusetts.

Esta no es una responsabilidad que tome a la ligera y su apoyo a lo largo de los años ha sido reconfortante.

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# Eunice Zeigler declara victoria en la carrera para el Consejo de la Gobernadora

METHUEN, MA – Durante los últimos meses, Eunice Zeigler, candidata para el Consejo del Gobernador, acumuló constantemente el apoyo de funcionarios locales y estatales, funcionarios electos locales, organizaciones sindicales y organizaciones cívicas nacionales.

El 5 de noviembre, Zeigler y su equipo llevaron a sus partidarios a las urnas en gran número, lo que llevó a una victoria considerable en la carrera para el Consejo del Gobernador. Con aproximadamente el 90% de los resultados de la votación informados, está claro que Zeigler obtendrá más del 47% de los votos.

Zeigler declaró la victoria en un mensaje a sus partidarios: “Es con un corazón agradecido que anuncio que ¡LO LOGRAMOS! Seré su próxima Consejera del Gobernador en el Distrito 5. Comenzamos este viaje hace un año con una visión. Una visión arraigada en la comunidad y la asociación mientras abogamos por jueces justos y un sistema judicial transparente.



**En enero, Zeigler prestará juramento como consejero del gobernador en representación del quinto distrito. El quinto distrito incluye las ciudades de:**

In January, Zeigler will be sworn in as the Governor’s Councillor representing the Fifth District. The Fifth District includes the cities of:

Amesbury, Beverly, Gloucester, Haverhill, Lawrence, Lowell, Methuen, Newburyport, Peabody y Salem y los pueblos de Andover, Boxford, Danvers, Dracut, Dunstable, Essex, Georgetown, Groveland, Hamilton, Ipswich, Manchester-by-the-Sea, Merrimac, Middleton, Newbury, North Andover, North Reading, Pepperell, Rockport, Rowley, Salisbury, Tewksbury, Topsfield, Tyngsborough, Wenham, West Newbury y Wilmington.

# Eunice Zeigler declares victory in Governor’s Council race

METHUEN, MA – Over the last few months Eunice Zeigler, a Candidate for Governor’s Council steadily amassed support from local and statewide officials, local elected officials, union organizations and national civic organizations.

On November 5th, Zeigler and her team drove supporters to the polls in her numbers leading to a sizable victory in the Governor’s Council race. With approximately 90% of the vote results

reported it is clear that Zeigler will take over 47% of the vote.

Zeigler declared victory in a message to supporters, “It is with a grateful heart that I announce that WE DID IT! I will serve as your next Governor’s Councilor in District 5. We started this journey a year ago with a vision. One rooted in community and partnership as we advocate for fair judges and a transparent judicial system.

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## Rumbo

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# IRS alienta a todos los contribuyentes a inscribirse para obtener IP PIN para la temporada de impuestos de 2025

WASHINGTON — Al acercarse la temporada de impuestos de 2025, el IRS alienta a todos los contribuyentes a dar un paso importante para salvaguardar su identidad al inscribirse para obtener un número de identificación personal para la protección de la identidad (IP PIN).

Este paso simple pero crucial puede proporcionar una capa adicional de seguridad, ayudando a proteger contra el robo de identidad relacionado con impuestos.

El IRS alienta a los contribuyentes a inscribirse para una Cuenta en línea del IRS, que proporciona una manera rápida y fácil de obtener un IP PIN. La inscripción temprana asegurará que los contribuyentes tengan seguridad adicional al tener un IP PIN para presentar electrónicamente sus declaraciones cuando comience la temporada de presentación en 2025.

El IRS anima a las personas a que se inscriban para un IP PIN antes del 23 de noviembre de 2024. Después de esta fecha, el sistema será sometido a mantenimiento y no estará disponible hasta principios de enero de 2025. Inscribirse ahora para obtener un PIN de IP garantizará que la identidad del contribuyente esté protegida cuando comience la temporada de presentación de impuestos. Se generan nuevos IP PINs para la temporada de presentación 2025 durante este período, por lo que los inscritos en línea deben recuperar su nuevo IP PIN a principios de enero de 2025.

Un IP PIN es un número de seis dígitos

que impide que otra persona presente una declaración federal de impuestos con el número de Seguro Social o el Número de identificación personal del contribuyente. Es una herramienta vital para garantizar la seguridad de la información personal y financiera de los contribuyentes. El IP PIN, conocido solo por una persona y el IRS, confirma su identidad cuando presentan electrónicamente su declaración de impuestos, lo que hace mucho más difícil para los ladrones usar su información fraudulentamente.

## Cómo solicitar un IP PIN

La mejor manera de inscribirse para obtener un IP PIN es a través de Cuenta en línea del IRS. El proceso requiere verificación de identidad, y los cónyuges y dependientes también pueden obtener un IP PIN si completan los pasos de verificación requeridos. Una vez que se emite un IP PIN, debe estar en las declaraciones electrónicas y en papel.

Para obtener un IP PIN, los contribuyentes deben crear o iniciar sesión en su cuenta en línea en IRS.gov y seguir los pasos para verificar su identidad. Una vez verificado, los contribuyentes deben hacer clic en la pestaña de perfil para solicitar su IP PIN. Los usuarios de IP PIN deben usar este número cuando presenten sus declaraciones federales de impuestos para el año calendario actual y cualquier año anterior presentado durante ese mismo período.

Para aquellos que no pueden crear una cuenta en línea, existen métodos alternativos disponibles, como la autenticación en persona en un Centro de asistencia al contribuyente. Hay más información disponible sobre cómo inscribirse en Obtenga un PIN para la protección de la identidad (IP PIN).

## Información adicional acerca de IP PINs

- Un IP PIN es válido durante un año calendario. Por razones de seguridad, se generan nuevos IP PINs al principio de cada año calendario. Algunos participantes recibirán su IP PIN por correo, mientras que otros tendrán que iniciar sesión en su cuenta en línea para ver su IP PIN actual.

- Los contribuyentes inscritos pueden volver a iniciar sesión en su cuenta en línea para ver su IP PIN actual.

- Los contribuyentes con un IPPIN deben usarlo al presentar cualquier declaración federal de impuestos durante el año, incluyendo declaraciones de impuestos del año anterior o declaraciones enmendadas.

- Los usuarios de IP PIN deben compartir su número solo con el IRS y su proveedor de preparación de impuestos. El IRS nunca llamará, enviará por correo electrónico o texto una solicitud de IP PIN.

- Los contribuyentes pueden obtener un IP PIN ahora para 2024. El IRS emitirá nuevos IP PINs a partir de enero de 2025.

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<sup>1</sup> Mínimo del 1.5% de fondos del comprador y del 1.5% de ayuda o regalo

<sup>2</sup> Mínimo del 3% de fondos del comprador y del 2% de ayuda o regalo

Este documento no representa un compromiso de entregar un préstamo. Sujeto a pautas del programa y aprobación de crédito. Eastern Bank NMLS #451827.

# DCF Audit Identifies Areas for Improvement Around Mental Health Services and Related Medical Records

## Psychosocial Services, Psychotropic Meds, Child Sex Trafficking Oversight Among Topics Reviewed

**(Léalo en español en la página 9)**

BOSTON — Today, State Auditor Diana DiZoglio’s Office released an audit of the Department of Children and Families (DCF), which reviewed the period from July 1, 2019 to December 31, 2023.

DCF is tasked with providing services to children who are at risk or who have been victims of abuse or neglect, as well as their families. These services include adoption, guardianship, foster care, housing stabilization, and family support and stabilization.

Among the audit’s findings is that DCF did not always obtain or renew court approval before children in its protective custody were administered antipsychotic medications. If DCF does not obtain or renew court approvals for antipsychotic medications, which includes presenting treatment plans to the courts, it cannot ensure that these treatment plans are safe and appropriate. In addition, this is removing the courts’ oversight of children in DCF protective custody, who are too young to consent to their treatment plans and need a neutral, third party to ensure any prescribed medications are in the children’s best interest.

The audit found that DCF did not always document and/or update psychotropic medications listed in children’s medical passports. Without accurate and complete information, DCF and healthcare providers may make decisions that conflict with existing medical treatments or do not reflect a child’s best interests, such as overprescribing psychotropic medications, which can lead to adverse side effects.

Moreover, DCF did not document follow-up doctor appointments and recommended psychosocial services, such as counseling, in the iFamilyNet (iFN) system for children in its protective custody receiving psychotropic medications. If DCF does not keep accurate and complete medical records in iFN, then children in

DCF’s protective custody may not receive the services needed to treat their conditions. This may delay the growth, development, or recovery of the children who did not receive needed care. Failure to keep accurate and complete medical records may also prevent DCF from determining which medical treatments or providers are most effective or cost-efficient for serving the medical needs of children in its care.

The audit also found that DCF did not always document its consent in iFN for children in its protective custody to receive psychotropic medications. Without documentation of consent or court approval for prescriptions of psychotropic medications, DCF cannot ensure that its social workers and/or medical social workers are providing children in DCF protective custody with medical treatment that is legally required.

Furthermore, DCF did not ensure that children received recommended psychosocial services in conjunction with their prescriptions for psychotropic medications. If children do not receive the recommended therapy and psychosocial services with psychotropic medications, treatment effectiveness can be negatively affected. Moreover, DCF cannot monitor the effectiveness of these medications and cannot identify and mitigate any side effects that these children may experience. In addition, the audit found that DCF does not have adequate oversight policies or procedures for children prescribed psychotropic medications that exceed the FDA’s recommended maximum dosage.

During the course of the audit, additional, high-risk areas of concern that were outside the original scope of objectives came to the office’s attention. Given the high-risk nature of these areas, the office examined them while still engaged with DCF. These areas include human trafficking prevention measures, as well as DCF’s implementation of recommendations by the Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth.

In July 2022, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General issued a report that cited Massachusetts as one of five states where there was no evidence that children in foster care were screened for human trafficking after they had gone missing from, and later returned to, foster care. The audit recommends DCF coordinate with other state agencies, law enforcement, and other child-serving agencies to address how to detect and respond to human trafficking.

The audit also recommends DCF collaborate with the Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth to implement recommendations from its annual report.

Finally, the audit found that DCF did not ensure that all employees with access to COVID-19 funds received annual refresher

cybersecurity awareness training. If DCF does not ensure that all its employees complete cybersecurity awareness training, then it is exposed to a higher-than-acceptable risk of cyberattacks and financial and/or reputational losses.

“As we strive to ensure the Commonwealth’s children are fully protected and supported, it is so important that we shine a light on areas for improvement, especially when it comes to a child’s mental health and overall safety,” said Auditor DiZoglio. “We acknowledge the Department of Children and Families’ full cooperation with our audit team to ensure that we are able to, together, help make government work better for our most vulnerable populations. We will be following up with a six-month post-audit review to track progress.”



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## FREE Youth Mental Health First Aid - REGISTER NOW

Family Services of the Merrimack Valley will be hosting an in-person Youth Mental Health First Aid training for members of the Greater Lawrence community on December 5. Attendance is free!

This training will take place from 9:30am to 3:30pm (6 hours). Additionally, there is a mandatory online component that takes about 2 hours to complete (however, you do not have to complete it all at once). You will receive access to this pre-work upon registration of the course.

To register, please email [kpfeiffer@fsmv.org](mailto:kpfeiffer@fsmv.org)

Continuing Education (CE) credits are available through the MA-NASW only.

Registration deadline: November 22

Training time and location:  
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\*CEUs available through MA-NASW only

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9:30 am - 3:30 pm

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Lawrence, MA

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

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# Arzobispo Metropolitano de Santo Domingo visitó Lawrence

LAWRENCE, MA. - Monseñor Francisco Ozoria, Arzobispo Metropolitano de Santo Domingo, República Dominicana, estuvo de visita en la ciudad invitado por WGUA 98.1 FM Radio Católica.

Durante su estadía, Monseñor Ozoria disertó sobre el tema "Viviendo en Esperanza" en una cena conferencia en el salón del Santuario del Santo Rosario. El prelado también celebró una misa en la Parroquia Santa María de la Asunción junto con el Obispo del Valle de Merrimack Monseñor Robert Hennessy, los sacerdotes Israel Rodríguez y José Ignacio Montero, y los diáconos Jesús Castillo, Francisco Amonte, Osvaldo Fernández y Arsenio Frías.

El Arzobispo Ozoria también concelebró una misa en la Parroquia de San Patricio con los sacerdotes Paul O'Brien y Alonso Macías. Los sacerdotes de la Parroquia de Santa María, Israel Rodríguez y José Ignacio Montero al igual que los diáconos Jesús Castillo y Georgy Escoto se unieron a ellos en el altar.

José Rodríguez, Director de WGUA, dijo que la visita de Monseñor Ozoria fue todo un éxito. "Su visita fue una renovación de fe y unidad alrededor de la Eucaristía para todos los católicos latinos," afirmó Rodríguez.

Además de dialogar sobre la fe y la esperanza, el propósito primordial de la visita del Arzobispo Ozoria fue la recaudación de fondos para la estación de radio que transmite 24 horas, siete días de la semana. Rodríguez dijo que los fondos recaudados se usarán para ayudar a cubrir los costos de funcionamiento y operación de la radio emisora. A sugerencia de Julia Silverio, tesorera de WGUA, se formó un club de donantes para apoyar la radio y el Arzobispo Ozoria fue el primero en contribuir.

Durante su encuentro Monseñor Ozoria visitó el Ateneo Dominicano de Nueva Inglaterra al igual que MI CASA Adult Day Care, un centro para envejecientes.



## Archbishop Francisco Ozoria, Metropolitan Archbishop of Santo Domingo

LAWRENCE, MA. - Archbishop Francisco Ozoria, Metropolitan Archbishop of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, visited the city at the invitation of WGUA 98.1 FM Catholic Radio.

During his stay, Archbishop Ozoria spoke on the topic "Living in Hope" at a dinner conference in the hall of the Shrine of the Holy Rosary. The prelate also celebrated a Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish together with Bishop Robert Hennessy of the Merrimack Valley, priests Israel Rodríguez and Jose Ignacio Montero, and deacons Jesus Castillo, Francisco Amonte, Osvaldo Fernandez and Arsenio Frías.

Archbishop Ozoria also concelebrated a Mass at St. Patrick Parish with priests Paul O'Brien and Alonso Macias. St. Mary Parish priests Israel Rodríguez and Jose Ignacio Montero as well as deacons Jesus Castillo and Georgy Escoto joined them at

the altar.

Jose Rodriguez, Director of WGUA, said Archbishop Ozoria's visit was a great success. "His visit was a renewal of faith and unity around the Eucharist for all Latino Catholics," Rodriguez said.

In addition to discussing faith and hope, the primary purpose of Archbishop Ozoria's visit was to raise funds for the 24-hour, seven-day-a-week radio station. Rodriguez said the funds raised will be used to help cover the costs of running and operating the radio station. At the suggestion of Julia Silverio, WGUA treasurer, a donor club was formed to support the radio station and Archbishop Ozoria was the first to contribute.

During his meeting, Monsignor Ozoria visited the Dominican Athenaeum of New England as well as MI CASA Adult Day Care, a center for the elderly.

# Rumbo

"The Bilingual Newspaper of the Merrimack Valley"

[www.rumbonews.com](http://www.rumbonews.com)

# Last Breakfast honoring Roger Twomey

## Lawrence Elks Lodge - November 3, 2024

Photos courtesy of Richardd Russell

For the past 14 years, the Pancake Breakfast honoring Roger Twomey has been a beautiful way to get together and thank all veterans in this country. Sadly, this year marked the last time to be held although part of the announcement was that a different group will continue this tradition.

Marilyn Twomey, Keith Wlodyka and all the volunteers who worked all year long gathering the raffle prizes and serving the guests on that day, did a wonderful job based on their love for this community.

This year, the money tree consisted of \$500.00 and the service was provided by members of the Lawrence Police Department and Lawrence Fire Department who volunteered for that task.





# Halloween at The Center

La Ciudad de Lawrence tuvo una magnífica celebración de Halloween el 31 de octubre en El Centro. Aparte de los dulces compartidos con los niños, habían también adornos que asustaban y mucha diversión para los pequeños así como para sus padres.

La Ciudad de Lawrence tuvo una magnífica celebración de Halloween el 31 de octubre en El Centro. Aparte de los dulces compartidos con los niños, había también adornos que asustaban y mucha diversión para los pequeños así como para sus padres.

Thanks to Brenda Rossi and the Lawrence Neighborhood Association Partnership for this effort.

Photos courtesy of Richardd Russell





# Auditoría del DCF identifica áreas de mejora en torno a los servicios de salud mental y registros médicos relacionados

*Servicios psicosociales, medicamentos psicotrópicos, supervisión del tráfico sexual infantil entre los temas revisados*

**(Read it in English on page 4)**

BOSTON — La Oficina de la Auditora Estatal Diana DiZoglio publicó una auditoría del Departamento de Niños y Familias (DCF), que revisó el período del 1 de julio de 2019 al 31 de diciembre de 2023.

El DCF tiene la tarea de brindar servicios a los niños que están en riesgo o que han sido víctimas de abuso o negligencia, así como a sus familias. Estos servicios incluyen adopción, tutela, cuidado de crianza, estabilización de la vivienda y apoyo y estabilización familiar.

Entre los hallazgos de la auditoría se encuentra que el DCF no siempre obtuvo o renovó la aprobación judicial antes de que a los niños bajo su custodia protectora se les administraran medicamentos antipsicóticos. Si el DCF no obtiene o renueva las aprobaciones judiciales para los medicamentos antipsicóticos, lo que incluye presentar planes de tratamiento a los tribunales, no puede garantizar que estos planes de tratamiento sean seguros y apropiados. Además, esto está eliminando la supervisión de los tribunales sobre los niños bajo custodia protectora del DCF, que son demasiado jóvenes para dar su consentimiento a sus planes de tratamiento y necesitan un tercero neutral que garantice que los medicamentos recetados sean lo mejor para los niños.

La auditoría encontró que el DCF no siempre documentaba y/o actualizaba los medicamentos psicotrópicos que figuraban en los pasaportes médicos de los niños. Sin información precisa y completa, el DCF y los proveedores de atención médica pueden tomar decisiones que entren en conflicto con los tratamientos médicos existentes o que no reflejen los mejores intereses del niño, como recetar medicamentos psicotrópicos en exceso, lo que puede provocar efectos secundarios adversos.

Además, el DCF no documentó las citas médicas de seguimiento ni los servicios psicosociales recomendados, como el asesoramiento, en el sistema iFamilyNet (iFN) para los niños bajo su custodia protectora que reciben medicamentos psicotrópicos. Si el DCF no mantiene registros médicos precisos y completos en iFN, es posible que los niños bajo su custodia protectora no reciban los servicios necesarios para tratar sus afecciones. Esto puede retrasar el crecimiento, el desarrollo o la recuperación de los niños que no recibieron la atención necesaria. El hecho de no llevar registros médicos completos y precisos también puede impedir que el DCF determine qué tratamientos médicos o proveedores son más eficaces o rentables para atender las necesidades médicas de los niños bajo su cuidado.

La auditoría también determinó que el DCF no siempre documentó su consentimiento en iFN para que los niños bajo su custodia protectora recibieran medicamentos psicotrópicos. Sin documentación del consentimiento o aprobación judicial para las prescripciones de medicamentos psicotrópicos, el DCF no puede garantizar que sus trabajadores sociales y/o trabajadores sociales médicos estén brindando a los niños bajo custodia protectora del DCF el tratamiento médico que se requiere legalmente.

Además, el DCF no se aseguró de

que los niños recibieran los servicios psicosociales recomendados junto con sus prescripciones de medicamentos psicotrópicos. Si los niños no reciben la terapia y los servicios psicosociales recomendados con medicamentos psicotrópicos, la efectividad del tratamiento puede verse afectada negativamente. Además, el DCF no puede monitorear la efectividad de estos medicamentos y no puede identificar y mitigar los efectos secundarios que estos niños puedan experimentar.

Además, la auditoría determinó que el DCF no tiene políticas o procedimientos de supervisión adecuados para los niños a los que se les recetan medicamentos psicotrópicos que exceden la dosis máxima recomendada por la FDA.

Durante el transcurso de la auditoría, la oficina se dio cuenta de otras áreas de alto riesgo que estaban fuera del alcance original de los objetivos. Dada la naturaleza de alto riesgo de estas áreas, la oficina las examinó mientras aún colaboraba con el DCF. Estas áreas incluyen medidas de prevención de la trata de personas, así como la implementación por parte del DCF de las recomendaciones de la Comisión de Massachusetts sobre Jóvenes LGBTQ.

En julio de 2022, la Oficina del Inspector General del Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos de los EE. UU. emitió un informe que citaba a Massachusetts como uno de los cinco estados en los que no había evidencia de que los niños en hogares de acogida fueran examinados para detectar la trata de personas después de que desaparecieran y luego regresaran a hogares de acogida. La auditoría recomienda que el DCF se coordine con otras agencias estatales, las fuerzas del orden y otras agencias que brindan servicios a los niños para abordar cómo detectar y responder a la trata de personas.

La auditoría también recomienda que el DCF colabore con la Comisión de Massachusetts sobre Jóvenes LGBTQ para implementar las recomendaciones de su informe anual.

Por último, la auditoría encontró que el DCF no se aseguró de que todos los empleados con acceso a los fondos de COVID-19 recibieran una capacitación anual de actualización sobre concienciación sobre ciberseguridad. Si el DCF no garantiza que todos sus empleados completen la capacitación sobre concienciación sobre ciberseguridad, estará expuesto a un riesgo más alto que el aceptable de sufrir ciberataques y pérdidas financieras o de reputación.

“Mientras nos esforzamos por garantizar que los niños del Commonwealth estén completamente protegidos y apoyados, es muy importante que pongamos de relieve las áreas que se pueden mejorar, especialmente cuando se trata de la salud mental y la seguridad general de un niño”, dijo la auditora DiZoglio. “Reconocemos la plena cooperación del Departamento de Niños y Familias con nuestro equipo de auditoría para garantizar que podamos, juntos, ayudar a que el gobierno funcione mejor para nuestras poblaciones más vulnerables. Realizaremos un seguimiento con una revisión posterior a la auditoría de seis meses para hacer un seguimiento del progreso”.

# The Gallery at 43 Washington in Haverhill to Close December 21, 2024, as SJ Art Consulting Relocates

Haverhill, MA — The Gallery at 43 Washington will close its doors on December 21, 2024. SJ Art Consulting plans to relocate to an office / showroom model in 2025, shifting its focus to working closely with our represented artists, preparing for art fairs, and hosting smaller, more intimate events. Since SJ Art Consulting was established in 2013, we've focused on supporting artists, but lately, demand from our residential and commercial clients has been outpacing sales at our Haverhill Gallery. This transition aims to increase art sales and enhance our long-term relationships.

Owner Sarah LoVasco expresses heartfelt gratitude to the exhibiting artists who contributed to the gallery's success over the past three years. Their trust and authenticity have shaped the gallery's identity. We curated 11 solo shows and hosted over 70 artists for our Small Works Show! LoVasco also thanks the friends and supporters of these artists for their presence, highlighting the importance of creative gathering spaces.

We encourage everyone to stay connected with SJ Art Consulting as it continues its work in the New England art scene and looks forward to sharing exciting announcements in the year ahead.

Please join us for our final opening reception, Hot House by Helen Popinchalk on Saturday, November 9th from 5-8 pm.

## About SJ Art Consulting

SJ Art Consulting was established in 2013 by Owner and Founder Sarah



LoVasco to fill a need for residential design, curatorial, and professional artwork installation. LoVasco began selling original artwork directly to clients in their homes, finding a channel for non-traditional modes of promoting and selling artwork by contemporary, emerging artists.

Today, LoVasco operates an art consulting business where both residential and corporate clients can expect top tier customer service and highly skilled curatorial and installation teams, and artists can rely upon a proven reputation of trust and integrity. To learn more about SJ Art Consulting, please visit our website: [sjartconsulting.com](http://sjartconsulting.com)

“Un líder lleva a las personas a donde quieren ir. Un gran líder lleva a las personas a donde no necesariamente quieren ir, pero deberían ir”.

"A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don't necessarily want to go, but ought to be."

Rosalynn Carter

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# Alcalde Brian A. DePeña otorga \$500,000 en ayuda económica a negocios locales de Lawrence

Como parte del compromiso permanente de su administración de fomentar el crecimiento económico y apoyar a la comunidad de pequeñas empresas, el Alcalde Brian A. DePeña otorgó \$500,000 en subvenciones a los propietarios de empresas locales. Este importante apoyo financiero está diseñado para fortalecer el panorama económico de Lawrence al brindar recursos cruciales a los empresarios y propietarios de pequeñas empresas que son esenciales para la vitalidad de la ciudad.

La ceremonia de entrega de las subvenciones se llevó a cabo en el 255 de la calle Essex en Lawrence, donde el Alcalde DePeña reiteró su dedicación a promover iniciativas para impulsar el desarrollo económico, crear empleos y garantizar la sostenibilidad a largo plazo de las empresas locales. En sus comentarios, el alcalde subrayó la importancia de estas subvenciones, destacando su papel no sólo en la estabilización de las empresas que enfrentan desafíos recientes, sino también en la facilitación del crecimiento y la modernización.



Se distribuyó un total de \$387,000 de los \$500,000 asignados a través de los fondos federales ARPA-Free Cash a 53 empresas locales. Las solicitudes de financiación pasaron por un proceso de revisión exhaustivo por parte del Departamento de Desarrollo Económico y recibieron la aprobación de la administración del Alcalde DePeña y de los concejales de Lawrence, Massachusetts.

"Las pequeñas empresas son la piedra angular de nuestra comunidad. Con estas ayudas, pretendemos dotarlas de los recursos necesarios para que sigan prosperando y contribuyendo a la revitalización económica de nuestra ciudad", afirmó el Alcalde DePeña. "Nuestra administración está comprometida a fomentar un entorno en el que los empresarios puedan triunfar y generar nuevas oportunidades para todos los residentes de Lawrence".

La subvención para pequeñas empresas "Lawrence Prosperando", una iniciativa de la administración DePeña a través del Departamento de Desarrollo Económico y Comunitario, está diseñada para revitalizar los distritos comerciales e impulsar la infraestructura económica de la ciudad. A través de un riguroso proceso de selección, se otorgaron fondos a los propietarios de empresas que presentaron planes detallados

sobre cómo utilizarían el apoyo para hacer crecer y fortalecer sus empresas.

Entre los sectores que reciben apoyo a través de estas subvenciones se encuentran los restaurantes, los comercios minoristas y los proveedores de servicios profesionales, cada uno de los cuales desempeña un papel fundamental en el crecimiento económico y la vitalidad de la ciudad. Los beneficiarios expresaron su agradecimiento por el liderazgo del alcalde y reconocieron el impacto positivo que esta ayuda tendrá en sus empresas.

Esta iniciativa ejemplifica aún más el compromiso de la ciudad de fomentar un crecimiento económico inclusivo que beneficie a todos los residentes de Lawrence, al tiempo que refuerza el papel fundamental de las pequeñas empresas para impulsar el progreso y la innovación a nivel local.

"Un líder lleva a las personas a donde quieren ir. Un gran líder lleva a las personas a donde no necesariamente quieren ir, pero deberían ir".

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## Mayor Brian A. DePeña awards \$500,000 in grants to local businesses in Lawrence

As part of his administration's ongoing commitment to fostering economic growth and supporting the small business community, Mayor Brian A. DePeña has awarded \$500,000 in grants to local business owners. This substantial financial support is designed to strengthen Lawrence's economic landscape by providing crucial resources to entrepreneurs and small business owners who are essential to the vitality of the city.

The grant award ceremony took place at 255 Essex St. in Lawrence, where Mayor DePeña reiterated his dedication to advancing initiatives to drive economic development, create jobs, and ensure local businesses' long-term sustainability. In his remarks, the Mayor underscored the significance of these grants, highlighting their role not only in stabilizing businesses facing recent challenges but also in facilitating growth and modernization.

A total of \$387,000 from the \$500,000 allocated through the Federal ARPA-Free Cash funds was distributed to 53 local businesses. The funding applications went through a thorough review process by the Economic Development Department and received approval from Mayor DePeña's administration and the City Council of Lawrence, Massachusetts.

"Small businesses are the cornerstone of our community. With these grants, we aim to equip them with the necessary resources

to continue thriving and contributing to the Economic Revitalization of our city," said Mayor DePeña. "Our administration is committed to fostering an environment where entrepreneurs can succeed and generate new opportunities for all the residents of our Lawrence."

The Prospering Lawrence Small Business Grant, an initiative by the DePeña administration through the Business & Economic Development Department, is designed to revitalize commercial districts and boost the city's economic infrastructure. Through a rigorous selection process, funds were awarded to business owners who presented detailed plans on how they would use the support to grow and strengthen their businesses.

The sectors receiving support through these grants include restaurants, retail businesses, and professional service providers—each playing a critical role in the economic growth and vibrancy of the city. Grantees expressed their appreciation for the Mayor's leadership and recognized the positive impact this funding will have on their businesses.

This initiative further exemplifies the city's commitment to fostering inclusive economic growth that benefits all residents of Lawrence, while reinforcing the pivotal role of small businesses in driving local progress and innovation.

## Fire victims / Víctimas de incendios

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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

<http://heallawrence.org/> [heallawrence@aol.com](mailto:heallawrence@aol.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/heallawrence.mass>

## ACT Lawrence is hosting their First Time Home Buyers session in November

Buying a home for the first time? With the First-Time Homebuyer (FTHB) program at ACT Lawrence, we provide you with the tools and support you need to make your path to homeownership smooth and successful.

Our team will guide you every step of the way with financial coaching, credit counseling, and educational workshops.

We're here to help you make your dream a reality!

Sign up for our next workshop and start your journey toward owning your own home. Do it for you and your family!

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Nuestro equipo te acompaña paso a paso con orientación financiera, asesoramiento en créditos y talleres educativos. ¡Estamos aquí para ayudarte a hacer tu sueño realidad!

Inscríbete en nuestro próximo taller y comienza tu viaje hacia ser dueño de tu propia casa. ¡Hazlo por ti y tu familia!

Regístrate Hoy: <https://forms.office.com/r/DvAVsNdPE3>

## City of Lowell Receives \$150,000 Housing Choice Grant to Fund Comprehensive Zoning Code Review

Lowell, Mass., November 1, 2024 – The City of Lowell has been awarded a \$150,000 grant as part of the Housing Choice Grant Program, a competitive state initiative that supports cities and towns committed to advancing sustainable housing production. This grant will enable Lowell to conduct a comprehensive review of its zoning code, focusing on zoning changes that will encourage new housing development and better align with the City's vision for sustainable growth.

The grant will fund the hiring of a consultant who will conduct a thorough analysis of the City's existing zoning policies, which have not been reviewed in over two decades. This project marks a significant step forward in fulfilling the goals outlined in the Lowell Forward plan, which identifies comprehensive zoning analysis as a priority to support sustainable housing and smart development. The Lowell Forward comprehensive plan provides a strategic roadmap for the City's growth and development. This analysis aims to modernize the zoning code and position Lowell as a leader in innovative urban planning.

Yovani Baez-Rose, Director of the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) and Assistant City Manager, highlighted the alignment with Lowell Forward: "Securing this grant is a proud moment for the City and for DPD. One of the core goals of Lowell Forward is a comprehensive zoning review, and this

award allows us to move that goal into action. It's been 20 years since our zoning code was updated, and if we want to continue to innovate and be recognized as a leader in planning, we need a zoning framework that reflects modern development and housing needs."

As part of the Housing Choice Program, cities that have shown commitment to housing production and implemented practices that encourage growth were invited to apply. Lowell's commitment to housing, transportation, infrastructure, and economic development made it an ideal recipient for this grant.

"This grant represents a transformative opportunity for Lowell," said City Manager Thomas A. Golden, Jr. "By modernizing our zoning code, we are not just addressing today's housing challenges but also laying the groundwork for sustainable growth that benefits our entire community. We are grateful for the support that allows us to move ahead with a comprehensive approach to development and housing."

The Housing Choice Grant Program awards funding based on a project's potential impact across housing, infrastructure, economic development, and community priorities. This grant provides Lowell with the resources needed to build a zoning framework that can adapt to current and future demands, thereby supporting a thriving and sustainable community for years to come.

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# Espiritualidad ecológica



By **Tomás Núñez, ThD**

Retos ético-sociales de la ecología. Cuando hablamos de espiritualidad pensamos en una experiencia de base omnienglobante, con la cual se capta la totalidad de las cosas, exactamente como una totalidad orgánica cargado de significado y de valor.

Originariamente, espíritu de donde viene la palabra espiritualidad es la cualidad de todo ser que respira. Por lo tanto, es todo ser que vive, como el ser humano, el animal y la planta, pero no solo eso, la tierra entera y todo el universo son vivenciados como portadores de espíritu, porque de ellos viene

la vida, proporcionan todos los elementos para la vida y mantienen el elemento creador y organizador.

Espiritualidad es la actitud que pone la vida en el centro, que defiende y promueve la vida contra todo mecanismo de disminución, estancamiento y muerte. En este sentido lo opuesto a la vida no es cuerpo sino muerte. Tomado en su sentido amplio de muerte biológica, social y existencial (fracaso, humillación, opresión.)

Alimentar la espiritualidad significa estar abierto a todo lo que es portador de vida, cultivar el espacio de experiencia interior a partir del cual todas las cosas se ligan y se religan, superar los comportamientos estancos, captar la totalidad y vivenciar las realidades más allá de su factibilidad opaca y muchas veces brutal, como valores evocaciones y símbolos de una dimensión más profunda.

El hombre/mujer espiritual es aquel que percibe el otro lado de la realidad, capaz de captar la profundidad que se revela y vela en todas las cosas y que consigue entre ver la relación de todo con la última realidad.

Espiritualidad parte no del poder, acumulación o interés, sino de la razón emocional, sacramental, simbólica nace de la gratuidad del mundo, de la relación inclusiva de la conmoción profunda, del movimiento de comunión que todas las cosas mantienen entre sí, de la percepción del gran organismo cósmico empapado de huellas y señales, de una realidad más alta y más última.

# Ecological spirituality

By **Tomás Núñez, ThD**

Ethical-social challenges of ecology. When we talk about spirituality we think of an all-encompassing experience, with which the totality of things is captured, exactly as an organic totality loaded with meaning and value.

Originally, spirit, from which the word spirituality comes, is the quality of every being that breathes. Therefore, it is every being alive, such as human beings, animals and plants, but not only that, the entire earth and the entire universe are experienced as carriers of spirit, because life comes from them, they provide all the elements for life and maintain the creative and organizing element.

Spirituality is the attitude that puts life at the center, that defends and promotes life against all mechanisms of diminution, stagnation and death. In this sense, the opposite of life is not body but death. Taken in its broad sense of biological, social and existential death (failure, humiliation, oppression.)

To nourish spirituality means to be

open to everything that is a bearer of life, to cultivate the space of inner experience from which all things are linked and re-linked, to overcome stagnant behaviors, to grasp the totality and to experience realities beyond their opaque and often brutal feasibility, as evocative values and symbols of a deeper dimension.

The spiritual man/woman is the one who perceives the other side of reality, capable of grasping the depth that is revealed and hidden in all things and who manages to see the relationship of everything with the ultimate reality.

Spirituality does not come from power, accumulation or interest, but from emotional, sacramental, symbolic reason born from the gratuitousness of the world, from the inclusive relationship of profound emotion, from the movement of communion that all things maintain among themselves, from the perception of the great cosmic organism soaked in traces and signs, of a higher and more ultimate reality.

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## Fire victims / Víctimas de incendios

Please contact Heal Lawrence if you wish to make a contribution to the victims of the recent fires in Lawrence. The website has a list of donated items and things that are still needed.

Favor de ponerse en contacto con Heal Lawrence si desea hacer una contribución a las víctimas de los incendios recientes en Lawrence. El sitio en la internet tiene una lista de artículos que han sido donados y lo que todavía necesitan.

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# Coming up at the Buttonwoods Museum in November!



November at the Buttonwoods Museum brings cozy traditions, festive cheer, and an incredible opportunity to make your support go even further! Join us for a special Hearth Cooking Demonstration with Ed Dube and learn about historic culinary techniques. Plus, our beloved Festival of Trees is back, filling the museum with holiday magic! This

month, you can also double your donation through our matching grants initiative, where every contribution unlocks two matching grants, amplifying your impact in our community.

**Check out what awaits you this month!**

## Hearth Cooking Demonstration with Ed Dube November 11, 2024, 1-4 pm

Discover the art of traditional hearth cooking that has shaped our culinary history. This event is perfect for all ages and free of charge.

Ed will talk about traditional colonial foods and demonstrate cooking methods the early settlers used. He highlights what was available at the time and what foods and spices were imported. It's an immersive

experience that will ignite your curiosity and delight your senses.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to connect with the past through the aromas and tastes of heritage cooking. Invite your friends and family to join you for an unforgettable afternoon at the Buttonwoods Museum.

## The Merrimack Valley Immigrant & Education Center

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

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

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

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Notice is hereby given by Trombly Bros., Inc. of 141-153 Sutton Street North Andover, MA, pursuant to the provisions of Mass G.L c. 255, Section 39A, that they will sell the following vehicles on or after November 22, 2024 beginning at 10:00 am by public or private sale to satisfy their garage keeper's lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale. Vehicles are being stored at Trombly Bros., Inc.

1. 2010 Acura TL VIN 19UUA8F54AA011497
2. 2018 Chevrolet Trax VIN 3GNCJNSB2JL292090
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Signed,  
Mark Trombly  
Trombly Bro., Inc.  
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### LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given by Stuart's Automotive, Inc. 97 Tanner Street, Lowell, MA, pursuant to the provisions of Mass G.L c. 255, Section 39A, that they will sell or junk the following vehicle on or after November 22, 2024 starting at 10:00 am by private or public sale to satisfy their garage keepers lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale:

1. 2008 Hyundai Veracruz VIN KM8NU73C68U052144

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

Signed  
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### LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given by Coady's Towing Service 139 Marston Street, Lawrence, MA, pursuant to the provisions of Mass G.L c. 255, Section 39A, that they will sell or junk the following vehicles on or after November 22, 2024 starting at 10:00 am by private or public sale to satisfy their garage keepers lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale:

1. 2010 Nissan Versa VIN 3N1BC1CP4AL360054
2. 2005 Pontiac Grand Prix VIN 2G2WP522X51263677
3. 2003 Dodge Ram VIN 1D7HU18N43J594481
4. 2018 Honda Civic VIN 19XFC2F77JE202327
5. 2021 Nissan Altima VIN 1N4BL4DV0MN363135

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

Signed  
Frank Coady  
Coady's Towing Service  
11/1, 11/8, 11/15

### LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Notice is hereby given by Stuart's Automotive, Inc. 97 Tanner Street, Lowell, MA, pursuant to the provisions of Mass G.L c. 255, Section 39A, that they will sell or junk the following vehicles on or after November 29, 2024 starting at 10:00 am by private or public sale to satisfy their garage keepers lien for towing, storage, and notices of sale:

1. 2006 Nissan Altima VIN 1N4AL11D76N459448
2. 2011 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 VIN 3GCPKSE38BG327509

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

Signed  
Kevin Stuart  
Stuart's Automotive  
11/8, 11/15, 11/22

"Rather than demanding accountability, I think we've slipped into a sort of 1984 style of acceptance."

Sharyl Attkisson



# Sports with Northern Essex Community College

By Dan Blair, Director of Athletics

## #6 Knights take down CCRI, advance to Region 21 Championship Game

Haverhill, MA (November 1, 2024) – The #6 nationally ranked and top seeded Northern Essex Community College men's soccer team picked up their 13th consecutive win on Friday night with a 5-1 result and in the process advanced to the Region 21 championship game where they will take on third seed Quinsigamond Community College at 4:30pm at Whittier Tech High School. The Knights improve to 13-2 on the season and advance to their second straight title game looking for the programs first tournament championship and national tournament birth.

The Knights controlled the pace of play throughout the game and broke the ice in the games 28th minute on Jadiel Bomfim's (Nashua, NH) 14th goal of the season when he collected the ball 30 yards out and ran past a pair of defenders and beat the goalie to the left side.

The Knights took a 2-0 advantage to halftime when Edwin SamMbaka (Paris, FR) got his foot on a corner kick from Christian Coleman (Nashua) and tucked the

ball in the lower left corner.

Sam Lucena (Tynsborough, MA) made it 3-0 in the 59th minute when he took a penalty kick that the goalie made an initial save on, but the rebound came right back and he sent it in back in the goal.

Following a CCRI penalty kick goal in the 62nd minute, NECC added a pair of goals in the 70th and 81st minutes.

Yassir Hounane (Salem, NH) blasted a goal home to the upper right corner when he took a pass from Angel Lopez (Lawrence) and Lucena closed out the scoring with his second of the game when he took a feed from Coleman at the top of the box and beat the keeper to his right side.

Will Paganini (Derry, NH) picked up the win in goal as he made six saves for his 13th win of the season.

Sunday's winner will advance to the NJCAA National Tournament in Batavia, NY scheduled to get underway on November 12th.

## Ticket punched: #6 Knights Soccer captures first ever Regional Championship

Haverhill, MA (November 3, 2024) – The Northern Essex Community College men's soccer team, ranked sixth in the latest national poll captured the programs first ever Region 21 and Northeast District Championship on Sunday night with a 5-3 win over Quinsigamond Community College and in the process won their 14th straight game and punched their ticket to the programs first ever national tournament, scheduled to begin on Tuesday November 12th in Batavia, NY on the campus of Genesee Community College.

The Knights jumped out to 3-0 lead in the games opening 30 minutes before the Wyverns scored a quick pair of goals, while NECC would get one back and take 4-2 into the halftime break.

Jadiel Bomfim (Nashua) got the scoring started in the 11th minute when he beat the keeper to his left with an assist credited to Sam Lucena (Tynsborough).

Lucas Cantelli (Lowell) added a goal in the 29th as he snuck one just inside the left post on a pass from Bomfim.

Edwin SamMbaka (Paris, FR) put the Knights up 3-0 when he blasted a rocket past the goalie from 25 yards out.

The Wyverns would net a pair of quick goals just 90 seconds apart before Jonathan Lopes (Nashua, NH) added a cushion in the 36th minute when he took a cross in the box from Bomfim who picked up his second assist of the game.

Following the break, the game was scoreless until the 75th minute when Lucena added an insurance goal as the Wyverns would score a third goal with two minutes remaining in the contest.

The full NJCAA national tournament bracket will be released on Tuesday afternoon at 3:00pm live on the NJCAA Network.

## Men's Basketball rallies past Roxbury to open conference play, 71-67

Haverhill, MA (November 6, 2024) – The #5 nationally ranked Northern Essex Community College men's basketball team rallied past Roxbury in the second half to open up conference play and in process improved their record to 2-1 on the young season.

The win was the Knights 35th straight home win and 46th consecutive conference win.

Javien Kirmil (Lowell, MA) drilled what turned out to be the game winning three pointer with 23.8 seconds remaining and the Knights trailing 67-66, he took a pass at the top of the arc and gave the Knights a 69-67 advantage. A pair of free throws from Derrick Twum (Lowell, MA) sealed

the game in the closing seconds.

Alex Johnson (Worcester, MA) came off the bench to lead the Knights offense with a team high 19 points, including a perfect six for six at the free throw line. Twum joined Johnson in double figures with 15 as did Kirmil with 12.

The Knights trailed 41-37 at halftime.

The Knights will hit the road for three straight road games starting Tuesday at Bristol Community College. Game time is set for 7:30. The Knights will return home on Tuesday November 19th.

## Knights soccer earned #6 national seed, opens tournament play November 12th

Haverhill, MA (November 5, 2024) – The Region 21 and Northeast District champion Northern Essex Community College men's soccer team was named the sixth seed in the upcoming national tournament as announced today by the NJCAA Soccer Committee. The Knights who enter the tournament with a 14-2 overall record and winners of 14 straight, will take on third seeded Mohawk Valley Community College on Tuesday November 12th at 6:30pm on the campus of Genesee Community College in Batavia, NY

The Knights are making their first national tournament appearance in school history as the program was reestablished in 2019 following more than a 20-year hiatus. The tournament field also includes the six-time defending national champion Dallas College Richland who earned the top seed, followed by Nassau Community College earning the second seed. The fourth and fifth seeds went to Camden County College and Finger Lakes Community College. The eight-team field was rounded out by Joliet Junior College and Raritan Valley Community College.

The opening round winners will advance to the national semi-finals on November 15th while the non-advancing team will play in the consolation round on November 14th. The national championship and third place games are set for Sunday November 17th.

NECC will enter the national tournament leading the nation in shots per game with 24.4, while their 65 goals scored and 174 points on the season both rank fifth among teams in the tournament field.

## Three from volleyball named to All-Region teams

Haverhill, MA (November 6, 2024) – Three members of the Northern Essex Community College women's volleyball team earned All-Region honors as announced by the region today. The Knights finished the season with a 13-8 overall record and finished as Region 21 semi-finalist.

Ashley NivarMartinez (Lawrence) was named to the All-Region First Team, while Cherly BritoRosario (Lawrence) picked up second team honors and Nileyshka Rigual (Lawrence) was named honorable mention.

This is the second career All Region recognition for NivarMartinez as she led the Knights attack and finished second in the region with 171 kills which amounted to 2.67 kills per set. Defensively she added

Jadiel Bomfim (Nashua, NH) leads the Knights offense with 37 points on the season with 15 goals and seven assists. Sam Lucena (Tynsborough) (11 goals and four assists) and Christian Coleman (Nashua, NH) (seven goals and 11 assists) follow closely behind with 26 and 25 points respectively on the season.

Jonathan Lopes (Nashua, NH) anchors a backline in front of goalkeeper Will Paganini (Derry, NH) which has held the opposition to just 12 goals on the season in 16 games played.

All games of the tournament are available live on the NJCAA Network.

### Tournament Seeding:

1. Dallas College-Richland
2. Nassau Community College
3. Mohawk Valley Community College
4. Camden County College
5. Finger Lakes Community College
6. Northern Essex Community College
7. Joliet Junior College
8. Raritan Valley Community College

### National Quarterfinals Tuesday November 12th

#1 Dallas College vs. #8 Raritan Valley 11:00am

#4 Camden County vs. #5 Finger Lakes 1:30pm

#2 Nassau vs. #7 Joliet 4:00pm

#3 Mohawk Valley vs. #6 NECC 6:30pm

165 digs which led the team and ranked fifth in the region.

BritoRosario ranked among the top setters in the region as she dished out 304 assists on the season for an average of 4.28 assists per set, both of which ranked fourth in the region. From the service line she also served up a region best 85 service aces. Defensively she picked up 186 digs which also ranked four in the region.

Rigual played in a key part in the Knights attack and ranked fourth in the region and second on the team behind NivarMartinez in kills with 134. She also added 139 digs and 56 service aces in her rookie campaign.

## Knights shoot past Roxbury in conference opener

Haverhill, MA (November 7, 2024) – The Northern Essex women's basketball team opened up the conference portion of their season with a 79-26 victory over Roxbury Community College and in the process improved their overall record to 1-1 on the season.

Freshman Rhaelyn Gutierrez (Methuen) had a breakout game as she exploded for 40 points, hitting on nine three pointers in the contest. The Knights jumped out to an early 11-0 and never looked back as they took 38-10 lead at halftime.

Serena Rechdan (Methuen) and Shaneley Henriquez (Lawrence) joined Gutierrez in double figures as they recorded 19 and 14 points respectively.

The Knights will head to Bristol on Tuesday evening for the first of three straight road game. Opening tip is set for 5:30. NECC will return home on Tuesday November 19th when they take on Quinsigamond at 5:30pm

(More sports on page 15)

**NECC Sports...** (Cont. from page 14)

**Bomfim Player of the Year, Marote Coach of the Year, highlight six All-Region Selections**

Haverhill, MA (November 6, 2024) – Six members of the Region 21 and Northeast District champion Northern Essex Community College men’s soccer team were named to the All-Region teams as announced today. Highlighting the selections were Jadiel Bomfim (Nashua, NH) who was named Co-Regional Player of the Year and Eusebio Marote who was named Region 21 Coach of the Year.

The Player of Year Bomfim was joined on the first team with three of his teammates in goalie Will Paganini (Derry, NH), forward Sam Lucena (Tyngsborough) and midfielder Nikos Kakavitsas (Athens, GR). Second team honors went to center back Jonathan Lopes (Nashua, NH) and midfielder Christian Colem.

Marote, who was hired to restart the program prior to the 2019 season following a 20-plus year hiatus has led the Knights to their best season in school history. He picked up his 40th career win in last weeks championship game.

Bomfim, who repeated as player of the year led the region in scoring for the second consecutive year as he recorded 15 goals and seven assists for 37 points on the season. He was also named the NJCAA Player of the Week back in mid-September when he recorded a five-goal week in a pair of wins of CCRI and NHTI. Heading into the national tournament he has 42 career goals in his two seasons with the Knights.

Paganini, a two-year starter in goal for the Knights lands on the All-Region first team for a second consecutive year as he has played all but two minutes of the season in goal for the Knights and recorded an

.857 save percentage to go along with a .75 goals against average. He’s recorded nine shutouts on the season and from September 24 through October 22 recorded a shutout streak that spanned 571 game minutes. He was named the NJCAA Goalie of the Week the week ending October 20th.

Lucena, has made an immediate impact on the field for the Knights in his first season. He finished second on the team in scoring, which was also good for second in the region with 11 goals and four assists for 26 points. He recorded a hat trick back on September 10th in the Knights 8-0 win over NHTI.

Kakavitsas, finds himself on the all-region team for a second consecutive year as he earned second team honors in the 2023. A stronghold in the defensive midfield he’s recorded two goals and two assists on the season.

In his rookie campaign, Lopes has been a stronghold on the backline for Knights which held the opponent to just 12 goals in 16 games. Offensively he’s contributed three goals and assist on the season while causing problems for the oppositions attack on the offensive end.

Colem, playing primarily on the outside backline has generated plenty of offense as he leads the region with 11 assists and has seven goals of his own for 25 points.

Winners of 14 straight games, the Knights will enter next week’s national quarterfinal as the sixth seed with a 14-2 overall record and will take on third seeded Mohawk Valley on Tuesday November 12th at 6:30pm on the campus of Genesee Community College in Batavia, NY



**Football Beat By Robert Morris Saturday**



Moon Township, Pa. (11/2/2024) - The Merrimack College football team dropped their matchup with Robert Morris University on Saturday afternoon 6-0.

**The Essentials**

Score: Robert Morris 6, Merrimack 0  
Records: Merrimack (4-5) | Robert Morris (6-3)

**How It Happened**

The Colonials started the game off with the ball. The home team went on a 15-play drive that resulted in a missed 43-yard field goal. The Warriors took the ball over and were forced to punt. The Merrimack defense then responded with a stop of their own to give the ball back to their offense.

The Warriors ended the first quarter, marching with the ball. Merrimack would get down to the Robert Morris 21-yard line and miss the field goal from 38-yards. The game stayed tied a zero.

The Merrimack defense once again stood strong, getting a stop on fourth down. The Warrior offense was forced to punt, giving the Colonials back the ball with just over two minutes left in the half. On the second play of the drive, Kendal Sims picked off the Robert Morris quarterback, giving Merrimack the ball in Colonial territory. Two punts finished off the half.

The score was tied a zero heading into the locker room.

Merrimack received the ball at the start of the second half, went on an 11-play drive that resulted in another Cole Peterson punt. Robert Morris struck first with a touchdown.

Merrimack, however would block the extra point attempt to make the lead only six. The Warriors punted on their next offensive possession. The Colonials headed into the fourth with the ball. The Merrimack defense held strong, forcing their second turnover on downs of the game.

With the offense once again stalled, another punt was in store for the Warriors. The defense, come up big for the second drive in a row, forcing a punt. One Merrimack's last chance offensively they called nine plays, but none could find the end zone, the Warriors lost by six.

**Notes & Numbers**

- DJ Frazier finished the game with a team-high 10 tackles, including one for a loss of three yards. Frazier also forced a fumble in the loss.
- Garry Rosemond Jr. led the team with two pass breakups.
- Jermaine Corbett had four receptions for 57 yards, as well as 11 carries for 49 yards on the ground.

**Up next**

The Warriors head into a bye week, but will be back in action on November 16 when Sacred Heart University comes to town for the Yankee Conference Championship game. Kick is set for noon.

For continuing coverage of Merrimack College Athletics, visit MerrimackAthletics.com and follow the Warriors on Twitter and on Facebook.

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**¡Gracias por tu apoyo!**

# MV Chamber Veterans Recognition Forum Review



MV Chamber President Joe Bevilacqua; 2024 Award Recipient Ralph T. Basilere; 2023 award recipient John Howard.



MV Chamber Chairman Michael Sullivan; Haverhill Mayor Melinda Barrett; Award Recipient Ralph T. Basilere; MV Chamber President Joe Bevilacqua.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended the Merrimack Valley Chamber Veterans Recognition Breakfast Forum this past Friday! It was a privilege to honor U.S. Marine Ralph T. Basilere with the US Marine Corps Sgt. Johanny Rosario Pichardo Memorial Award for his incredible contributions to the Veteran community.

Special thanks to our speaker, Bill Kelly, Captain U.S. Coast Guard (Retired), who continues to make a difference as the Executive Director of the Veterans Northeast Outreach Center.

Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce

## Annual Awards Dinner

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH**

CONFIRMED KEYNOTE SPEAKER  
MASSACHUSETTS GOVERNOR  
**MAURA HEALEY**

Monday  
November 18, 2024

Hors D'oeuvres 5:30 PM  
Dinner 6:00 PM

Michael's Function Hall  
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1-800-KIDS-508 | mass.gov/dcf

**Caregiver Support Group  
Online via Zoom**  
Wednesday, November 20 | 11 a.m.

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[Register for Zoom Support Group](#)

We also offer in-person support group opportunities. Reach out to your local Senior Advisor for details.

**Early-Stage Support Group  
Online via Zoom**  
Wednesday, November 27 | 11 a.m.

We invite those with early-stage dementia to join us for a guided conversation and open forum.

Connect with others who are coping with memory loss – people who truly understand what you’re experiencing. Ask questions of our memory care professionals and share your concerns. Learn about resources available and practical tips to help you live an active life while planning a secure future.

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