

NECC men's basketball team NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

Pg. 4



Division 8 AOH Lawrence 2026 Award Recipients



Lane Glenn, the President of Northern Essex Community College has been selected as the recipient of Division 8's 2026 Hon. John E. Fenton Citizenship Award. The Fenton Award will be presented at Division 8's 56th Annual Saint Patrick's Day Luncheon on Friday, March 13, 2026, at the Lawrence Lodge of Elks, 652 Andover Street, Lawrence, MA



The Rev. James T. O'Reilly OSA Division 8 Ancient Order of Hibernians has selected their 2026 Award Recipients. Dan Halloran, the SSIU Program Director of the Lawrence Family Development Inc Lawrence Prospera. Dan has been selected as the 2026 recipient of the Richard Cardinal Cushing Award.

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Lane Glenn, presidente de Northern Essex Community College, ha sido seleccionado para recibir el Premio a la Ciudadanía Hon. John E. Fenton 2026 de la División 8.

El Dr. Lane A. Glenn es presidente de Northern Essex Community College (NECC), la primera Institución al Servicio de los Hispanos en Nueva Inglaterra, la cual cuenta con campus tanto en Haverhill como en Lawrence, Massachusetts.

Con más de tres décadas de experiencia en la educación superior, el Dr. Glenn siente una profunda pasión por ayudar a todos los estudiantes a alcanzar sus metas educativas y es un firme defensor del cierre de las brechas de equidad, así como del papel de los colegios y universidades como motores de desarrollo económico y de la fuerza laboral, particularmente en las "Gateway Cities" (ciudades de entrada).

Como presidente de NECC, el Dr. Glenn ha liderado la significativa expansión del campus de la institución en Lawrence, incluyendo la construcción del Centro de Salud y Tecnología Ibrahim El Hefni —con una inversión de 27 millones de dólares—, la creación del Centro Educativo Haffner Fournier y el desarrollo de "The Hub", un espacio que alberga alianzas universitarias y la galardonada "Revolving Test Kitchen" (Cocina Experimental Rotativa). Asimismo, es el presidente fundador de la junta directiva de "Lawrence Partnership", una colaboración público-privada integrada por líderes empresariales, líderes comunitarios y funcionarios electos, dedicada al desarrollo económico y a la mejora de la calidad de vida de los residentes de Lawrence, Massachusetts.

Como líder sumamente colaborativo y enérgico, el Dr. Glenn fomenta la experimentación y la innovación organizacional. Recientemente, NECC se convirtió en la primera institución

educativa del país en ofrecer un grado asociado basado en competencias en Educación de la Primera Infancia; además, su academia de policía —una de las más grandes del estado— fue la primera en ser aceptada en el Programa Nacional de Capacitación para Interventores Activos en la Aplicación de la Ley (ABLE, por sus siglas en inglés), diseñado para preparar a los agentes policiales para intervenir con éxito a fin de prevenir daños y para crear una cultura policial que respalde la intervención entre pares, lo cual conduce a comunidades más seguras.

El Dr. Glenn ha sido descrito como un "líder de pensamiento optimista" que promueve activamente la educación superior en diversas publicaciones, en las redes sociales y a través de su blog, "Running the Campus". Ha recibido reconocimiento a nivel nacional por su labor de defensa y promoción, siendo galardonado con el Premio Eduardo J. Padrón al Liderazgo Presidencial, otorgado por "Campus Compact"; el Premio al Líder Destacado del Año ("Pacesetter of the Year"), del Consejo Nacional de Marketing y Relaciones Públicas; y el Premio al Liderazgo en Educación Superior "SUCCESS", de la "Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration".

El Dr. Glenn posee un doctorado de la Universidad Estatal de Michigan, una maestría de la Universidad Estatal de Oklahoma y una licenciatura de la Universidad Estatal Northeastern; además, se enorgullece de decir que inició su formación académica en Rose State College, un colegio comunitario en Midwest City, Oklahoma.

Lane Glenn, the President of Northern Essex Community College has been selected as the recipient of Division 8's 2026 Hon. John E. Fenton Citizenship Award.

Dr. Lane A. Glenn is president of Northern Essex Community College (NECC), the first Hispanic Serving Institution in New England, which has campuses in both Haverhill and Lawrence, Massachusetts.

With more than three decades of experience in higher education, Dr. Glenn is passionate about helping all students achieve their educational goals and is a strong advocate for closing equity gaps, and for colleges and universities as engines of economic and workforce development, particularly in Gateway Cities.

As president of NECC, Dr. Glenn has led the significant expansion of the college's Lawrence campus, including construction of the \$27 million Ibrahim El Hefni Health and Technology Center, the creation of the Haffner Fournier Education Center, and the development of "The Hub" with university partnerships and the award-winning Revolving Test Kitchen. He is also the founding board chair of the Lawrence Partnership, a private-public collaboration of business leaders, community leaders, and elected officials devoted to economic development and improving the quality of life for residents of Lawrence, Massachusetts.

A highly collaborative, energetic leader, Dr. Glenn encourages experimentation and organizational innovation. Recently, NECC became

the first college in the country to offer a competency-based associate degree in Early Childhood Education, and its police academy, one of the largest in the state, was the first to be accepted into the National Active Bystander for Law Enforcement (ABLE) Training Program, designed to prepare police officers to successfully intervene to prevent harm and to create a law enforcement culture that supports peer intervention, leading to safer communities.

Dr. Glenn has been described as an "optimistic thought leader" who actively promotes higher education in a number of publications, on social media, and through his blog, "Running the Campus." He has been nationally recognized for his advocacy with the Eduardo J. Padron Award for Presidential Leadership from Campus Compact; the Pacesetter of the Year Award from the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations; and the SUCCESS Higher Education Leadership Award from the Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration.

Dr. Glenn holds a PhD from Michigan State University, a master's degree from Oklahoma State University and a bachelor's from Northeastern State University—and he is proud to say that he started his education at Rose State College, a community college in Midwest City, Oklahoma.



Some of the attendees to the luncheon. // Algunos de los participantes en el almuerzo.



Dr. Lane Glenn after receiving his award from Bill Sullivan. There was no need for a comedian because Lane was at his best that day.



Bill Sullivan gave City Council President Jeovanny Rodriguez a T-shirt emblazoned with "Irish-Dominican" on the back, which brought the house down in laughter. Jeovanny was acting mayor on that day.



At left is Steve Crowley, Director of Development and Marketing and at right, Jon Beauchesne, Senior Vice President Chief Operating Officer at GLFHC. In the center is Dan Halloran who was honored the week before.



Perfectly attired for the occasion were Lawrence School Committee member Donna Bertolino, City Councilor Vice President Ana Levy, and Anne-Marie Nyhan-Doherty president of the Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 8.



From the left, Ana Levy, Eileen Giordano, Richard Russell, Auditor Diana DiZogio, and Larry Giordano.

Desde Mi Esquina

POR DALIA DÍAZ
daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

Where’s Mayor DePeña?

Several people are wondering about the mayor’s absence last week. We are being told that he went to Colombia to attend a meeting with some mayors, but there’s not too much more coming forth as information and purpose of the visit.

Something that was clarified for me was the reason since this trip was not a simple vacation. He was accompanied by his assessor Octavien Spanner and Claudia Hoyos because this was an invitation that was canceled twice before due to pressing issues in the city.

It stems from a tour of several Colombian dignitaries of our water plant a few years ago. They were in the process of building something similar and came to Lawrence to see the latest advances in water filtration, leaving with a most positive opinion of our city. Probably they wanted to return the favor for the pleasantries offered to their commission when they came or perhaps show off their advances. We’ll make sure to ask Brian upon his return.

You all know that I am the first one to criticize and chastise him when I disagree with him or believe that somebody should tell him when things are going the wrong way. Attacking him when he goes on vacation is not fair; every worker is entitled to time off and the mayor is no different, although this trip was justified as business-related.

Don’t worry; I have a list of issues I need to discuss with him being my usual.

Ana Levy is running for State Representative

Please take the time to look at this announcement on page 4 because it will take many by surprise.

Ana has been fiercely fighting for Lawrence for over 30 years, long before she became interested in politics and doing many things on a volunteer basis. That’s why the news surprised me; she’ll be working away from the city most of the time and we’ll miss seeing her as often as we do now – because she’s everywhere!

Who can you trust?

Something has been bothering me for a long time, and I would like to find out how justifiable this is.

Is it appropriate for a public official to have two identities? Yes, two different names, two different Facebook pages both with the same picture. That’s City Councilor Celina Reyes. She has her own page, and another one identifies herself as Lina Montesino, same picture of her on both pages.

I asked her about it a couple of years ago and her response was simply that back in the Dominican Republic, that is the name by which she was known. I thought about it for a long time trying to see the logic taking into consideration her cultural background, but it doesn’t convince me, particularly because she is an elected official.

Can you trust a candidate with two identities? I feel very uncomfortable about it.

From My Corner

BY DALIA DÍAZ
daliadiaz@rumbonews.com

¿Dónde está el alcalde DePeña?

Varias personas se preocupaban por la ausencia del alcalde la semana pasada. Nos han dicho que viajó a Colombia para asistir a una reunión con algunos alcaldes, pero no hay mucha más información sobre el propósito de la visita.

Lo que sí me aclararon fue el motivo, ya que este viaje no fue una simple vacación. Brian estuvo acompañado por su asesor, Octavien Spanner, y Claudia Hoyos. El alcalde tuvo que cancelar esta invitación dos veces antes debido a asuntos urgentes en la ciudad.

Todo se debe a una visita que hicieron varios dignatarios colombianos a nuestra planta de tratamiento de agua hace unos años. Estaban construyendo una planta similar y vinieron a Lawrence para ver los últimos avances en filtración de agua, y se llevaron una opinión muy positiva de nuestra ciudad. Probablemente querían devolver el favor por la amabilidad ofrecida a su comisión durante su visita o para mostrar sus avances. Nos aseguraremos de preguntarle a Brian a su regreso.

Todos saben que soy la primera en criticarlo y reprenderlo cuando no estoy de acuerdo con él o creo que alguien debería decirle cuando las cosas van mal. Atacarlo mientras está de vacaciones es injusto; todo trabajador merece tiempo libre, y el alcalde no es la excepción. Este viaje está justificado por motivos laborales.

No se preocupen; tengo una lista de asuntos que necesito discutir con él, como siempre.

Ana Levy se postula para Representante Estatal

Por favor, tómense un momento para leer esta noticia en la página 4, ya que sorprenderá a muchos.

Ana ha luchado incansablemente por Lawrence durante más de 30 años, mucho antes de interesarse por la política trabajando como voluntaria. Por eso me sorprendió la noticia; estará trabajando fuera de la ciudad la mayor parte del tiempo, y la extrañaremos al no verla con la frecuencia conque la vemos ahora, ¡porque está en todas partes!

¿En quién se puede confiar?

Hay algo que me ha estado inquietando desde hace tiempo, y me gustaría saber si está justificado.

¿Es apropiado que un funcionario público tenga dos identidades? Sí, dos nombres diferentes, dos páginas de Facebook distintas, ambas con la misma foto. Ese es el caso de la concejala Celina Reyes. Tiene su propia página y otra que la identifica como Lina Montesino, con la misma foto en ambas.

Le pregunté al respecto hace un par de años, y su respuesta fue simplemente que en la República Dominicana ese era el nombre por el que la conocían. Lo pensé mucho, tratando de encontrarle la lógica y teniendo en cuenta su origen cultural, pero no me convence, sobre todo porque es una funcionaria electa.

¿Se puede confiar en un candidato con dos identidades? Me resulta muy incómodo.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS!!! Knights storm past Richland in closing minutes for First National Title

Herkimer, NY (March 14, 2026) – With the game tied at 50 with 5:09 remaining in the second half the top seeded Northern Essex Community College men’s basketball team outscored the Richland Thunderducks 18-12 and secured the first national championship in the college’s history by a 68-62 final score. The win was also a program record tying 33rd win of the season.

NECC got off to a hot start and jumped out to a 17-9 lead in the opening minutes before a brief cold shooting streak allowed Richland to tie the game at 17 and it remained a one possession contest for the remainder of the half with the Knights trailing at halftime 30-28.

Until the final two minutes of the half when the Knights began to extend the advantage, neither team led by more than 5 at the any point in the second half.

With the game tied at 50, a

Yunosuke Matsuda (Tokyo, JP) layup gave the Knights a 52-50 lead with 4:58 remaining and following a defensive stop a Cristian Moscat (Lawrence) three-point basket gave the NECC a five-point advantage.

Alejandro Delgado (Haverhill) scored a game high 16 points along with eight rebounds as he was named to the All-Tournament team as he lead a trio of scorers in double figures. National Tournament MVP Alex Johnson (Worcester) followed up his 39 point performance in the semi-final with 12 points and Jay’von Depina (Brockton) added 12 points off the bench and was received the tournaments Small Man of the Tournament.

Christian Sanders (Boston) was also named to the All-Tournament and finished the championship game with eight points and eight rebounds.

Head coach Darren Stratton was named Coach of the Tournament.

Ana Levy se postula para Representante Estatal



Ana Levy recibe sus formularios de nominación con las instrucciones de C. Dawne Warren, CMC, secretaria municipal de North Andover, ya que dicha oficina se encarga de tramitar las solicitudes y nominaciones de algunas de las ciudades y pueblos vecinos. Este cargo representará únicamente a Lawrence y Methuen ante el estado.

Ana Levy receiving her nomination forms with instructions from C. Dawne Warren, CMC, North Andover Town Clerk since that office oversees handling applications and nominations for some of the surrounding cities and towns. This position will represent just Lawrence and Methuen before the Commonwealth.

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Your Y, Your Community: What’s happening at the Y next month

April Vacation Week Programs: Sign up today!

When school’s out, the Y is here! We’re here to help kids stay active, engaged, and having fun during April break. Join us April 21-24 at the Andover/North Andover Y for special youth programs and activities.

Itty Bitty Sports Sampler & STEAM	Mini STEAMers and Splash	Harry Potter and Splash Week
When: Tuesday through Friday from 9-11 a.m. Ages: 3-5	When: Tuesday through Friday from 12-2 p.m. Ages: 5-7	When: Tuesday through Friday from 2:30-4:30 p.m. Ages: 8-11

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Por Dalia Díaz

La Concejala de Lawrence Ana Levy se ha declarado candidata para la posición de representante estatal que ocupa en la actualidad el Representante Francisco Paulino.

Recientemente, Ana renunció a su posición como secretaria del Partido Demócrata de Massachusetts, donde figuró por muchos años, tomando por sorpresa a otros miembros que laboraron junto a ella con tantos éxitos.

Pero la sorpresa mayor fue cuando Ana se registró en el Departamento de Elecciones como Independiente, dejando atrás los años que fue Demócrata. Ahora que se postula para una posición estatal, ha sido una movida muy inteligente porque ella es admirada por muchas personas que probablemente no podían votar por ella en unas elecciones primarias. Ahora, la Sra. Levy irá solamente a las elecciones finales de noviembre y todos podrán darle su voto de confianza.

Ana Levy will Run for State Representative

By Dalia Díaz

Lawrence City Councilor Ana Levy has declared her candidacy for the state representative seat currently held by Representative Francisco Paulino.

Ana recently resigned from her position as secretary of the Massachusetts Democratic Party, where she served for many years, surprising other members who had worked alongside her with such success.

However, the biggest surprise came when Ana registered with the Elections Department as an independent, leaving behind her years as a Democrat. Now that she is running for a statewide position, it has been a very smart move because she is admired by many people who probably couldn't vote for her in a primary election. Now, Mrs. Levy will only be on the ballot in the final November election, and everyone will have the opportunity to give her their vote of confidence.



Rev. James T. O'Reilly OSA Division Eight
Ancient Order of Hibernians
Lawrence, Massachusetts

"155 Years of Dedication to Religion, Heritage, Charity and Community"

Irish Heritage Month March 2026
Lawrence, Massachusetts
Preserving and Fostering our Heritage and Culture

Division 8 AOH Lawrence
2026 Award Recipients



The Rev. James T. O'Reilly OSA Division 8 Ancient Order of Hibernians has selected their 2026 Award Recipients. Dan Halloran, the SSIU Program Director of the Lawrence Family Development Inc Lawrence Prospera. Dan has been selected as the 2026 recipient of the Richard Cardinal Cushing Award, and John J. Sipsey of Methuen, a 40 plus year member of Division 8 AOH, has been selected as Division 8's 2026 Irishman of the Year.



“¿Qué dulzura queda en la vida, si le quitas la amistad? Robar la vida a la amistad es como robarle al mundo el sol. Un verdadero amigo es más digno de estima que un pariente”.

“What sweetness is left in life, if you take away friendship? Robbing life of friendship is like robbing the world of the sun. A true friend is more to be esteemed than kinsfolk.”

CICERO

Irish Heritage Month March 2026
Lawrence, Massachusetts
Preserving and Fostering our Heritage and Culture

Tuesday, March 17, 2026 – HAPPY SAINT PATRICK’S DAY! – Enjoy this grand day with family and friends listening to Irish Music, stories, and laughter with family and friends.

Saturday, March 21, 2026 – SAINT PATRICK’S DAY CELEBRATION at Saint Patick Parish Center, David Burke Way, Lawrence, MA @ 5 pm. Featuring a variety of ethnic foods. For tickets and more information please call 978 683 – 9416. Sponsored by St Patrick’s Parish -Handicap Accessible

Sunday, March 22, 2026 - JOIN PIANIST TERRI KELLEY AND VOCALIST BILL DONELAN FOR AN ALL-NEW PROGRAM OF CELTIC MELODIES - FROM ANCIENT GAELIC AIRES TO CURRENT SONGS - at the Lawrence Public Library, Sargent Auditorium, 51 Lawrence St., Lawrence, MA @ 2 pm Presented by Division 8 AOH (FREE) – Handicap Accessible

Saturday, March 28, 2026 - IRISH FILM FESTIVAL at Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson St, Lawrence MA @ 10 am. Sponsored by Division 8 AOH (FREE) – Handicap Accessible

Monday, March 30, 2026 - EXHIBIT CLOSES " THE PEMBERTON MILL" at Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, 1 Jackson St, Lawrence (FREE) – Handicap Accessible

The Rev. James T. O'Reilly OSA Division Eight AOH was organized on November 5, 1871. The Division yearly hosts numerous social events and activities, and has scholarship opportunities for members, the children and grandchildren of members on the high school and college level, including a scholarship for study in Ireland. Division 8 meets at the Lawrence Lodge of Elks, 652 Andover Street, Lawrence, MA, on the second Wednesday of the month. For information on AOH Membership please write to: Division 8 AOH Organizer, PO Box 1407, Lawrence, MA

IRISH HERITAGE MONTH IS SPONSORED BY THE ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS DIVISION 8



Irish Heritage Month 2026 is supported in part by a grant from the Lawrence Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

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Make It Haverhill abre inscripciones para el Programa Gratuito de Capacitación en Certificación mpTIA A+

Make It Haverhill (MIH), un programa de desarrollo laboral y acceso digital de Community Action, Inc., ha abierto las inscripciones para su Programa de Certificación CompTIA A+, el estándar de la industria para iniciar una carrera en Informática.

El programa prepara a los residentes de Massachusetts (18+ años) que están desempleados o subempleados para carreras de nivel inicial en Informática, incluyendo puestos como Asistente Técnico, Especialista en Soporte de Informática, y Técnico de Campo.

Las clases se ofrecerán en inglés, de manera presencial, los lunes, miércoles y viernes de 5:00 p.m. a 7:00 p.m. El programa abarca hardware, redes, sistemas operativos y

ciberseguridad.

Cada participante recibirá una computadora portátil para apoyar su aprendizaje y una beca de 100 dólares al pasar ambos exámenes de certificación. El programa también incluye talleres de preparación para el empleo y apoyo para la búsqueda de trabajo.

Los cupos son limitados y el plazo de inscripción finaliza el 23 de marzo. Los solicitantes deben ser residentes en Massachusetts, estar autorizados para trabajar en los Estados Unidos y poder comprometerse a seguir un proceso de entrenamiento de un año de duración.

Para inscribirse, envíe un correo electrónico a info@makeithaverhill.com o llame al (978) 891-4074.

Make It Haverhill Opens Enrollment for Free CompTIA A+ Certification Training Program

Make It Haverhill (MIH), a workforce and digital access program of Community Action, Inc., has officially opened enrollment for its CompTIA A+ Certification Training Program, the industry standard for launching a career in Information Technology.

The program prepares Massachusetts residents (18+) who are unemployed or underemployed for entry-level careers in Information Technology, including roles such as Help Desk Technician, IT Support Specialist, and Field Technician.

Classes will be held in person on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Coursework covers hardware, networking, operating systems, and cybersecurity.

Each participant will receive a laptop to support their learning and a \$100 stipend upon passing both certification exams. The program also includes job readiness workshops and employment placement support.

Enrollment is limited and closes March 23. Applicants must be Massachusetts residents, authorized to work in the U.S., and able to commit to a one-year training process.

To begin enrollment, email info@makeithaverhill.com or call (978) 891-4074.

"Keep your face always toward the sunshine - and shadows will fall behind you."
Walt Whitman



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

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

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

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City Clerk Announces Haverhill 2026 Top Dog Contest Winners

City Clerk Kaitlin Wright is pleased to announce the winners of the 5th Annual Haverhill Top Dog Contest. The contest encourages residents to license their dogs while enjoying a friendly competition. Winners were selected based on the “most-liked” photos posted to the City Clerk’s Office Facebook page.



First Place Winner Dante.

Taking First Place and earning his time in the spotlight with 185 votes is Dante, a one-year-old male Golden Retriever owned by Nancy Cassidy. Dante is now proudly sporting dog license #1 and taking home the first-place trophy, proving he’s truly top dog.

Second Place was awarded to Watson, a five-year-old male Terrier mix owned by David and Allison Kazarian. Watson fetched dog license #2 after receiving an impressive 167 likes.

Finally, Third Place went to Monty, a two-year-old male Bernese Mountain Dog owned by Brittany Scarelli and Matthew Wrenn. Monty wagged his way into third place with 91 likes and was awarded dog license #3.

City Clerk Kaitlin Wright commented, “A huge thank you to everyone who entered the contest, and congratulations to our winners. This year we saw our highest turnout yet, with 183 entries, more than 100 additional contestants compared to last year! We paw-sitively enjoyed seeing the photos of everyone’s furry friends

and watching the competition unfold on Facebook. The winning pups will have their photos proudly displayed in our office and on our website. Be sure to keep an eye out for next year’s contest. We can’t wait to see which dogs will rise to the top of the pack!”

Dog licenses must be obtained before May 31 to avoid a late fee. New dogs may be licensed at any time. Licensing can be completed in person at the Clerk’s Office at City Hall, Room 118, 4 Summer Street, online at <https://haverhillma.portal.opengov.com/categories/1074/record-types/6355>, or by mail. A copy of a valid rabies certificate is required for licensing.

For more information, please contact the City Clerk’s Office at (978) 374-2312.



Second Place Winner Watson.



Third Place Winner Monty.

Fire victims / Víctimas de incendios

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

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

<http://heallawrence.org/> heallawrence@aol.com
<https://www.facebook.com/heallawrence.mass>



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

AVISO DE PRESENTACIÓN Y AUDIENCIAS PÚBLICAS

D.P.U. 26-50

30 de enero de 2026

Petición de Boston Gas Company, operando como National Grid, conforme a G.L. c. 164, § 94 y 220 CMR 5.00, para la aprobación de un aumento general en las tarifas básicas de distribución de gas para el servicio y un plan de fijación de tarifas basado en el rendimiento.

El 16 de enero de 2026, Boston Gas Company, operando como National Grid ("National Grid" o la "Empresa"), presentó una solicitud ante el Departamento de Servicios Públicos ("Departamento") para un aumento en las tarifas básicas de distribución de gas. El Departamento registró este caso como D.P.U. 26-50 y ha suspendido la fecha de entrada en vigor de la tarifa propuesta hasta el 1 de diciembre de 2026 para investigar la conveniencia de la solicitud de la Empresa. La Empresa recibió previamente un aumento en las tarifas de distribución básicas en Boston Gas Company, D.P.U. 20-120 (2021).

National Grid busca aumentar sus tarifas básicas de distribución de gas como parte de sus esfuerzos para generar aproximadamente 342 millones de dólares en ingresos adicionales. El déficit de ingresos de la empresa incluye la transferencia a las tarifas básicas de distribución de aproximadamente 198 millones de dólares relacionados con inversiones de capital completadas hasta el 31 de diciembre de 2024, como parte del programa de mejora del sistema de gas de la empresa (GSEP). Excluyendo estos ajustes, el aumento total propuesto en ingresos es de aproximadamente 144 millones de dólares, lo que, según la empresa, representa un incremento del 12% en la tarifa de distribución. Este aumento se suma a otras tarifas que cambian durante el año, como las tarifas de suministro y los mecanismos de conciliación.

Como parte de esta solicitud, National Grid propone implementar un plan de tarifas basado en el rendimiento a cinco años (PBR), que permitiría a la empresa ajustar sus tarifas básicas anualmente mediante la aplicación de una fórmula de límite de ingresos totales que tiene en cuenta la inflación. El plan propuesto incluye también un dividendo para el consumidor; una disposición para recuperar o reembolsar costos exógenos fuera del control de la empresa (incluyendo una definición ampliada para tratar ciertas inversiones de capital significativas); una disposición para compartir ganancias excesivas; y una disposición para compartir ahorros con los clientes generados por la ejecución de ciertos proyectos alternativos no relacionados con gasoductos. National Grid propone además métricas de desempeño individuales para evaluar el progreso de la empresa con respecto a los compromisos del plan PBR.

La empresa también busca implementar un mecanismo de recuperación para los requisitos anuales de ingresos incrementales relacionados con inversiones de capital necesarias para cumplir con las regulaciones de seguridad del gas, conforme al 220 CMR 101. La empresa hace propuestas adicionales en relación con la seguridad del gas y el cumplimiento normativo, incluyendo la contratación de personal adicional y cambios contables relacionados con ciertas reparaciones. Además, National Grid solicita una recuperación única durante la vigencia del plan PBR para los costos relacionados con el ciclo de vida del gas natural licuado. También busca financiamiento para establecer programas de investigación, desarrollo y demostración relacionados con ciertos aspectos de la distribución de gas.

La solicitud de National Grid también incluye información sobre sus prácticas de facturación y problemas relacionados, derivados de la falta de emisión oportuna de facturas durante el invierno de 2024-2025. Esto incluye la solicitud de la empresa para recuperar las sumas condonadas, reembolsadas o acreditadas a los clientes debido a retrasos en la facturación. Además, la solicitud incluye información sobre el programa Gas Business Enablement de la empresa y una propuesta para recuperar costos del programa. La empresa también propone retrasar la recuperación de ciertos costos relacionados con el programa GSEP para mitigar el impacto de la tarifa solicitada en la factura del cliente.

La solicitud también incluye ajustes propuestos para ciertas categorías de ingresos y gastos, así como la recuperación de ciertas inversiones de capital realizadas hasta el 31 de marzo de 2026. También proporciona información sobre el impacto de la venta de su afiliada en Rhode Island. La solicitud incluye propuestas sobre pensiones, depreciación y asuntos fiscales. La empresa propone cambios en el diseño de tarifas, incluidos aumentos en los cargos a los clientes; un descuento escalonado para clientes de bajos ingresos; y la consolidación de las antiguas clases tarifarias (es decir, Boston Gas Company y Colonial Gas Company). También propone revisiones tarifarias para implementar sus distintas propuestas.

Lo anterior no pretende ser una lista exhaustiva de los temas incluidos en la solicitud de la empresa. Para obtener más información sobre las propuestas mencionadas, y todas las demás propuestas de National Grid, visite la solicitud de la empresa, disponible en el sitio web del Departamento, como se indica a continuación.

Además de los temas y propuestas planteadas por National Grid, el Departamento podría examinar en este procedimiento cuestiones relacionadas con la facturación de contratistas externos por servicios de concreto y restauración de asfalto, que ya están siendo investigadas en National Grid declara que, si se aprueba su solicitud, los clientes pueden esperar los siguientes impactos en sus facturas:

Para clientes del área de servicio de Boston Gas Company:

- Cliente residencial con calefacción bajo la Tarifa R-3 que consume en promedio 106 therms de gas al mes durante el invierno: aumento mensual de \$23.66 (8.4%)
- Cliente residencial sin calefacción bajo la Tarifa R-1, con un promedio de 14 therms al mes: aumento mensual de \$4.99 (9.3%)
- Cliente residencial de bajos ingresos con calefacción bajo la Tarifa R-4, que consume 765 therms al año: los impactos variarán según los ingresos y el nivel de descuento. El impacto puede ir de un aumento del 17.0% a una disminución del 65.0
- Cliente residencial de bajos ingresos sin calefacción bajo la Tarifa R-2, que consume 164 therms al año: los impactos pueden variar de un aumento del 19.0% a una disminución del 64.0%

Para clientes del antiguo territorio de Colonial Gas Company:

- Cliente residencial con calefacción bajo la Tarifa R-3, con 106 therms mensuales: aumento mensual de \$24.76 (9.4%)
- Cliente residencial sin calefacción bajo la Tarifa R-1, con 14 therms mensuales: aumento mensual de \$5.14 (10.0%)
- Cliente residencial de bajos ingresos con calefacción bajo la Tarifa R-4, con 765 therms anuales: impactos entre un aumento del 18.0% y una disminución del 65.0%
- Cliente residencial de bajos ingresos sin calefacción bajo la Tarifa R-2, con 164 therms anuales: impactos entre un aumento del 20.0% y una disminución del 64.0%

Para clientes comerciales e industriales (“C&I”):

- Los clientes comerciales e industriales pueden experimentar impactos variables. Según la empresa, dependiendo del consumo mensual durante el invierno, la clase tarifaria y si el cliente será reclasificado bajo la consolidación tarifaria propuesta, los impactos pueden variar desde una disminución del 37.5% hasta un aumento del 37.8%

Más información sobre los impactos en las facturas y detalles adicionales de esta solicitud se encuentran en:

<https://mass.gov/info-details/national-grid-2026-gas-base-distribution-rate-case/>.

La Procuradora General del Commonwealth de Massachusetts (“Procuradora General”) ha presentado una notificación de intervención en este asunto conforme a la G.L. c. 12, § 11E(a). Además, conforme a la G.L. c. 12, § 11E(b), la Procuradora General ha presentado una notificación de contratación de expertos y consultores para asistir en su investigación sobre la solicitud de la Compañía, y ha solicitado al Departamento autorización para gastar hasta \$600, 000 con este propósito. Conforme a la G.L. c. 12, § 11E(b), los costos en los que incurra la Procuradora General relacionados con la contratación de expertos y consultores podrán ser recuperados en las tarifas de la Compañía.

El Departamento llevará a cabo audiencias públicas presenciales para recibir comentarios sobre la solicitud de la Compañía en las siguientes fechas:

18 de marzo de 2026, 7:00 p.m.

Lowell Senior Center, 276 Broadway Street

Lowell, Massachusetts 01854

Interpretación disponible en español, portugués brasileño y khmer

23 de marzo de 2026, 7:00 p.m.

Dennis-Yarmouth Intermediate Middle School

Auditorium, 286 Station Avenue

South Yarmouth, Massachusetts 02664

Interpretación disponible en mandarín y cantonés

6 de abril de 2026, 7:00 p.m.

Breed Middle School Auditorium, 90 O'Callaghan Way

Lynn, Massachusetts 01905

Interpretación disponible en español

26 de marzo de 2026, 7:00 p.m.

North Quincy High School, 316 Hancock Street

North Quincy, Massachusetts 02171

Servicios de interpretación disponibles en mandarín y cantonés.

(Cont. en la página 9)





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NECC Among Colleges Launching New Apprenticeship Degree Programs

Six Massachusetts community colleges are partnering with employers across the state to launch new apprenticeship degree programs that combine paid, on-the-job training with academic coursework—connecting students to high-growth careers while helping employers close critical talent gaps.

The apprenticeship degree model is new in Massachusetts but is gaining momentum nationwide. Apprenticeship degrees take a long-proven workforce development approach, common in careers such as plumbing and electrical trades, and apply it to new occupations where there is a significant and long-standing need for talent with post-secondary credentials. With this model, the learning takes place in both the classroom and at the workplace, and students earn both wages and credit while in the program. These programs open doors to high-demand careers for students who may need to work while they learn, while providing employers with a reliable, local pipeline of skilled talent.

The initiative is supported by over \$6 million in grants from the Richard and Susan Smith Family Foundation and Accelerate the Future, which have partnered to accelerate innovation and workforce alignment across higher education.

Six colleges each received multi-year grants to launch apprenticeship degrees. Four colleges—Bunker Hill Community College, Quinsigamond Community College, MassBay Community College, and Middlesex Community College—have already enrolled students in apprenticeship degree programs. North Shore Community College and Northern Essex Community College will launch programs in fall 2026. The Massachusetts Association of Community Colleges also received a grant to hire a statewide apprenticeship project manager to oversee the development, registration, and scaling of registered apprenticeships across Massachusetts’ 15 community colleges.

NECC plans to launch three apprenticeship degrees over the next three years:

- Fall 2026: A.A.S. in Surgical

Technology

- Fall 2027: A.S. in Medical Lab Technology
- Fall 2028: A.S. in Radiologic Technology

In addition to the programs above, the college is exploring additional programs for apprenticeships in:

- Certificate in Medical Assisting
- Educator Prep (pre-apprenticeship)
- Finance and Accounting

About Apprenticeship Programs

Apprentices are currently training for careers as licensed practical nurses, medical assistants, behavioral health technicians, and K–12 educators. Additional programs are coming online in early education, cybersecurity, surgical technologist, social work, medical laboratory technology, dental assisting, and many other high-demand occupations in allied health and nursing.

“Apprenticeships are no longer just for the trades,” said William Heineman, President of North Shore Community College and Chair of the Community College Council of Presidents. “These programs expand access to a wide range of careers that were previously only available to traditional college graduates. They allow students to earn while they learn and graduate with both experience and credentials that employers value.”

For employers, apprenticeship degrees offer a powerful workforce strategy supporting recruitment, upskilling incumbent workers, and improving retention in high-turnover roles. Apprenticeships have consistently shown a great return on investment for employers. A few of the more than thirty employer partners engaged include Mass General Brigham, Tufts Medicine, Reliant Medical Group, SALMON Health and Retirement, Advocates, Wayside Youth and Family Support Network, Salem Public Schools, and Chelsea Public Schools.

Interest in apprenticeships is surging nationwide. In Massachusetts, Governor Maura Healey recently announced a goal of registering

100,000 apprentices by 2036, spanning industries such as healthcare, technology, advanced manufacturing, construction, and education.

Almudena Abeyta, Superintendent of Chelsea Public Schools, noted: “Apprenticeships allow us to grow our own talent pipeline while giving paraprofessionals already on our team meaningful opportunities to advance. With the time and cost of traditional degree pathways, this model makes licensure and career growth more accessible for everyone.”

Kristin Driscoll, Executive Director of Workforce Development at Mass General Brigham, added: “Apprenticeships are a powerful tool for us to address significant and long-standing labor shortages in operating room and allied health professions, while also creating clear pathways for our employees to advance their careers. They enable employers to grow their own talent in fields and give workers real opportunities for upward mobility.”

Research shows that earn-and-learn models increase student retention, completion, and post-graduation earnings—making apprenticeship degrees a high-impact strategy for advancing economic mobility while strengthening the Commonwealth’s workforce.

“Apprenticeships open doors,” added Regina Marshall, Chief Operating Officer of Advocates. “They allow people to gain hands-on experience while continuing their education and building toward a meaningful, stable career. At the same time, they help organizations like ours strengthen and support the next generation of professionals our communities depend on.”

Apprenticeship degree programs build on the successful apprenticeship model widely known for preparing students for careers in the trades. Colleges partner with employers to provide highly structured programs that lead to careers in healthcare, education, IT, and many more, and open post-secondary education to many for whom a more traditional postsecondary education model cannot work.

“By aligning education directly with labor market demand, apprenticeship degree pathways help companies grow talent locally, expand opportunity for students, and keep Massachusetts competitive,” said Nate Mackinnon, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Association of Community Colleges.

This article was adapted from a press release by the Massachusetts Association of Community Colleges,



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Auditor DiZoglio’s Bureau of Special Investigations Identifies Over \$4.4 Million in Public Benefit Fraud



BOSTON – State Auditor Diana DiZoglio released a Bureau of Special Investigations (BSI) report examining the periods of July 1, 2025 to September 30, 2025 and October 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025. The

report summarizes BSI’s work and initiatives to help make government work better by investigating fraud, abuse, and illegal acts involving public assistance benefits throughout the Commonwealth. During these periods, BSI investigated a total of 1,847 cases and there were overpayment calculations in 317 cases with identified fraud. Further details regarding these 317 cases may be found below.

“Fraud affects everyday Massachusetts residents who depend on these programs to obtain healthcare or put food on the table,” said Auditor DiZoglio. “This makes the work of our fraud examiners essential in ensuring programs operate efficiently, reliably, and as intended for those who truly need them.”

Summary of Investigations Completed with Fraud Identified

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| • Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) | \$2,482,378 |
| • MassHealth/Medicaid | \$1,717,084 |
| • Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC) | \$ 144,664 |
| • Personal Care Attendant (PCA) | \$ 88,962 |
| • Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled, and Children (EAEDC) | \$ 30,572 |
| • Department of Early Education & Care (EEC) | \$ 22,442 |

Grand Total	\$4,486,102
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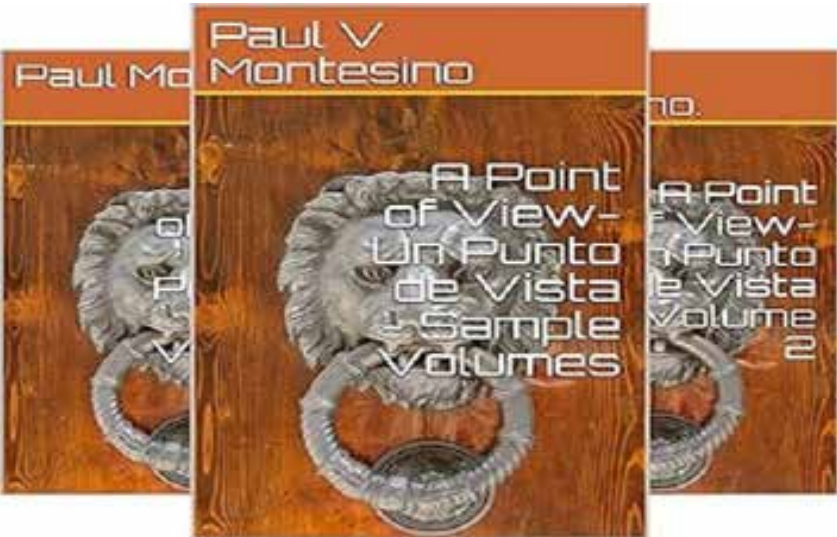
Andrew Carden
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La Oficina de la Auditora DiZoglio presenta una moción de emergencia en respuesta a la moción de desestimación de la Fiscal General

La Oficina de la Auditora Estatal Diana DiZoglio presentó una moción de emergencia en respuesta a la moción de la Fiscal General para desestimar la demanda de la Auditora, la cual busca obtener asesoría legal externa para defender la auditoría legislativa mandatada por los votantes.

La Fiscal General Andrea Campbell tiene el deber, conforme a la ley, de representar el interés público, lo que incluye a los aproximadamente 2.3 millones de residentes de Massachusetts que votaron a favor de una auditoría de la Legislatura Estatal en 2024.

La Fiscal General no solo no ha representado los intereses del 72% de los votantes que aprobaron abrumadoramente esta auditoría, sino que ha luchado activamente en contra de la aplicación de esta ley. Ahora, la moción de desestimación de la Fiscal General —presentada en nombre del Presidente de la Cámara, Ron Mariano, y de la Presidenta del Senado, Karen Spilka— demuestra claramente que ella es una adversaria no solo de mi oficina, sino —lo que resulta sumamente decepcionante— una adversaria del interés público que

su oficina tiene la obligación legal de representar.

La Fiscal General no puede seguir afirmando que representa los intereses legales de la Auditora mientras, simultáneamente, incurre en un conflicto de intereses al adoptar una postura legal adversaria ante el tribunal: en contra de la Auditora y a favor de la Legislatura. Las acciones de la Fiscal General, al tomar partido, hacen necesaria la intervención del tribunal con respecto al nombramiento de un Fiscal General Adjunto Especial.

“La Fiscal General Campbell ha abdicado de su deber de defender el interés público”, declaró la Auditora DiZoglio. “La democracia está bajo ataque y el pueblo merece una respuesta de los tribunales. La Fiscal General Campbell afirma que soy una ‘funcionaria estatal disidente’ y que ella es la ‘guardiana de acceso’ a los tribunales; sin embargo, esas puertas nunca tuvieron la intención de permanecer cerradas para el pueblo. Restringir el acceso a la justicia no es liderazgo; es obstrucción. Los tribunales pertenecen al pueblo, no a los políticos; por lo tanto, sí: yo disiento”.

Auditor DiZoglio’s Office Files Emergency Motion in Response to Attorney General’s Motion to Strike

State Auditor Diana DiZoglio’s Office filed an Emergency Motion in response to the Attorney General’s Motion to Strike the Auditor’s lawsuit seeking outside counsel to defend the voter-mandated legislative audit.

Attorney General Andrea Campbell has a duty under the law to represent the public interest – including the roughly 2.3 million Massachusetts residents who voted in favor of an audit of the State Legislature in 2024.

Not only has the Attorney General not represented the interests of the 72% of voters who overwhelmingly approved this audit, but she has actively fought against enforcing this law. Now the Attorney General’s Motion to Strike on behalf of Speaker Ron Mariano and Senate President Karen Spilka clearly shows she is an adversary not only to my office but, most disappointingly, an adversary to the public interest her office is statutorily obligated to represent.

The Attorney General cannot continue to claim that she is representing the Auditor’s legal interests while simultaneously conflicting herself out by taking an adversarial legal posture in court, against the Auditor, and for the Legislature. The AG’s actions, in choosing a side, necessitate intervention by the court with respect to the appointment of a Special Assistant Attorney General.

“Attorney General Campbell has abdicated her duty to defend the public interest,” said Auditor DiZoglio. “Democracy is under attack and the people deserve an answer from the courts. AG Campbell claims I am a ‘dissenting state official’ and that she is the ‘gatekeeper’ to the courts, but those gates were never meant to be locked to the people. Gatekeeping justice isn’t leadership. It’s obstruction. The courts belong to the people, not the politicians, so yes – I dissent.”

“Debemos aprender a vivir juntos como hermanos o perecer juntos como necios.”

"We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools."

Martin Luther King Jr.

Consejos para que las familias apoyen la salud dental y el bienestar general de los niños

Tips for families to support children's dental health and overall well-being

Por el Dr. Paul McConnell
Director Dental Nacional,
UnitedHealthcare Dental

La salud dental no solo se trata de una linda sonrisa, es una parte importante del crecimiento, desarrollo y bienestar general de un niño. Las caries son la enfermedad crónica más común entre los niños en Estados Unidos, afectando a casi la mitad de niños de 2 a 19 años¹. Alrededor de 1 de cada 10 niños de 2 a 5 años tiene caries que no han sido curadas, un número que sube a casi 1 de cada 5 niños de 6 a 8 años¹.

Los dientes de leche juegan un papel importante en el desarrollo de un niño, ya que son la base para dientes permanentes sanos y apoyan el habla y el bienestar general. Además, la atención dental de emergencia causa que los niños pierdan aproximadamente 34 millones de horas escolares en Estados Unidos anualmente. Los buenos hábitos de salud bucal y las visitas al dentista desde una edad temprana pueden ayudar a reducir el riesgo de desarrollar caries y otras condiciones médicas.

Consejos para ayudar a los padres a promover la buena salud dental de los niños:

Anime el consumo de refrigerios saludables y la hidratación. Lo que los niños comen y beben juega un papel importante en su salud dental. Los aperitivos y bebidas azucaradas alimentan a las bacterias que pueden erosionar el esmalte dental y provocar caries. Limitar el azúcar y fomentar el consumo de agua ayuda a eliminar las partículas de alimentos, diluir los ácidos y apoyar el flujo saludable de saliva. Los alimentos ricos en nutrientes como frutas, verduras, queso y yogur proporcionan calcio y vitamina D para ayudar a mantener dientes y huesos fuertes.

Haga que el cuidado dental preventivo sea parte de su rutina. La atención dental preventiva regular puede ayudar a detectar problemas temprano, ayudando a reducir el riesgo de problemas más graves y costosos en el futuro. Para los niños, las caries no tratadas pueden causar deficiencias en la nutrición y potencialmente atrofiar el crecimiento y desarrollo. La salud bucal también puede estar relacionada con problemas de salud como diabetes y enfermedades cardíacas, por lo que es importante aprovechar los servicios preventivos desde pequeño.

Muchos planes dentales cubren servicios preventivos como exámenes, limpiezas, radiografías y selladores. Llame al número en la parte posterior de su tarjeta de seguro dental para averiguar lo que cubre su plan.

La primera visita dental de un niño debe programarse después de que aparezca su primer diente y no más tardar su primer cumpleaños. Las siguientes visitas deben ser cada seis meses.

Promueva una experiencia dental positiva. La ansiedad y miedo al dentista son bastante comunes, afectando a un tercio de los niños pequeños en el mundo⁴. Las visitas dentales pueden incluir el uso de instrumentos o servicios que pueden parecer aterradores. Visitar al dentista regularmente puede ayudar a los niños a sentirse más cómodos y hacer que la experiencia sea más familiar. Los padres pueden ayudar a calmarlos al explicarles qué esperar, respondiendo preguntas o usando libros o videos para que los niños se sientan preparados y seguros.

Fomente la buena higiene dental. Aunque se sugiere que los padres supervisen el cepillado hasta por lo menos los 8 años para asegurar la técnica apropiada, la educación sobre la salud dental puede comenzar mucho antes³. Promueva el cepillado dos veces al día con una pasta de dientes aprobada por la Asociación Dental Americana (ADA). Introduzca el hilo dental cuando dos dientes se toquen para enseñarles a los niños que la limpieza entre los dientes es tan importante como el cepillado. Los padres pueden hacer que el cuidado dental sea divertido dejando que los niños elijan cepillos de dientes coloridos, convirtiendo el cepillado en una actividad familiar, cantando canciones o usando un cronómetro.

Reemplace los cepillos de dientes regularmente. Cambie los cepillos de dientes cada tres a cuatro meses, o antes si las cerdas están desgastadas. Durante la temporada de resfriados y gripes, reemplace los cepillos de dientes después de cada enfermedad para evitar reintroducir gérmenes al cuerpo.

Fomentar hábitos dentales saludables y ser consistente con la atención preventiva desde una edad temprana puede ayudar a los niños a crecer con sonrisas fuertes, menos complicaciones de salud y con confianza.

By Dr. Paul McConnell
National Dental Director
UnitedHealthcare Dental

Oral health is more than just a bright smile, it's an important part of a child's growth, development and overall well-being. Tooth decay is the most common chronic disease among kids in the U.S., affecting nearly half of children ages 2 to 19¹. About 1 in 10 children ages 2 to 5 experience untreated decay, a number that climbs to nearly 1 in 5 by ages 6 to 8¹.

Baby teeth play an important role in a child's development, serving as the foundation for healthy permanent teeth and supporting speech and overall well-being. Moreover, emergency dental care causes children in the U.S. to miss approximately 34 million school hours annually. Good oral health habits and staying on top of dental checkups from an early age can help reduce the risk of developing cavities and other conditions that affect overall health.

Here are some tips for parents to help promote good childhood dental health:

Encourage healthy snacking and hydration. What children eat and drink plays a big role in their oral health. Sugary snacks and drinks feed bacteria that can erode enamel and lead to cavities. Limiting sugar and encouraging plenty of water helps rinse away food particles, dilute acids, and support healthy saliva flow. Adding nutrient rich foods like fruits, vegetables, cheese and yogurt provides calcium and vitamin D to help keep teeth and bones strong.

Make preventive dental care part of your routine. Regular preventive dental care may help to catch issues early on, helping reduce the risk of more serious — and costly — problems down the road. For kids, untreated cavities can result in poor nutrition and potentially stunt growth and development. Oral health can also be linked to health conditions like diabetes and heart disease, making it important to take advantage of preventive services from a young age.

Many dental plans cover preventive services such as exams, cleanings, x-rays and sealants. Call the number on the back of your dental insurance card to find out what your specific plan covers.

A child's first dental visit should be scheduled after their first tooth appears and no later than their first birthday. After that, kids should see the dentist every six months.

Promote a positive dental experience. Dental fear and anxiety is quite common — one third of young kids around the world experience it. Dental visits may include the use of instruments or services that can seem scary. Regular visits to the dentist may help kids get more comfortable and help make the experience more familiar. Parents can help ease nerves by explaining what to expect, answering questions or using books or videos to help kids feel prepared and confident.

Provide guidance for good dental hygiene. While parents may want to supervise brushing until at least age 8 to ensure proper technique, education around oral health can begin much earlier³. Encourage brushing twice daily with an ADA-approved toothpaste. Introduce flossing when two teeth touch. This helps teach children that cleaning between teeth is just as important as brushing. Parents can make dental care fun by letting kids choose toothbrushes in their favorite colors, turning brushing time into a family activity, singing songs or setting timers to help them stay engaged.

Replace toothbrushes regularly. Change toothbrushes every three to four months, or sooner if bristles are frayed³. During cold and flu season, replace toothbrushes after being sick to avoid reintroducing germs to the body.

Encouraging healthy dental habits and staying consistent with preventive care from a young age may help children grow up with strong smiles, fewer health complications and the confidence that comes with a lifetime of good oral health.

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URGENT CARE

- Sprains
- Minor animal bites or stings
- Minor cuts or burns
- Dehydration

- Pink eye
- Rashes or other skin issues
- Primary care concerns (if unable to see primary care provider)

El Representante Estatal Frank A. Moran entrega un cheque de \$25,000 a la Fundación Cambiando el Mundo de Personas con Discapacidad

El Representante Estatal Frank A. Moran entregó un cheque por valor de \$25,000 a la Fundación Cambiando el Mundo de Personas con Discapacidad (CEMDPCD) —una organización sin fines de lucro que trabaja para construir un mundo acogedor y respetuoso para las personas con discapacidad— en su sede ubicada en Lawrence.

"Estoy agradecido con la Directora Ejecutiva Raquel Quezada por su arduo trabajo al frente de la Fundación CEMDPCD y por seguir marcando la diferencia en las vidas de las personas con discapacidad y sus familias", declaró el Representante Estatal Moran (D – Lawrence). "Es fundamental que cada padre de familia conozca las herramientas y recursos necesarios para abogar por los derechos de sus hijos a medida que estos aprenden y crecen hasta convertirse en adultos seguros de sí mismos y capaces".

La Directora Ejecutiva Raquel Quezada fundó la Fundación CEMDPCD junto a su esposo, Yonatan, con el objetivo de brindar apoyo a las personas con discapacidad y a sus familias mientras navegan por el sistema escolar, el ámbito profesional y la sociedad en general. Estos fondos se destinarán a los programas vitales de la Fundación CEMDPCD, los cuales proporcionan a los seres queridos las mejores herramientas para abogar por los derechos de sus hijos dentro del sistema educativo.

Uno de estos populares programas enseña a los padres los pormenores del sistema de educación especial, incluyendo instrucción sobre las leyes de educación especial, cómo actuar como defensores de sus hijos en la escuela, la preparación para reuniones y el cuidado de su propia salud mental.

Otros programas brindan a los niños con discapacidad la oportunidad de ejercitar su creatividad y los reúnen para recibir regalos, útiles escolares y participar en celebraciones alegres a lo largo del año.

El Representante Estatal Moran señaló que logró asegurar estos fondos gracias al apoyo de sus colegas de la delegación estatal de Lawrence, en el marco del presupuesto estatal para el año fiscal 2026 (FY26).

"Agradezco al Representante

Estatal Moran y a la delegación estatal de Lawrence por asegurar estos fondos para la Fundación CEMDPCD", expresó la Directora Ejecutiva Quezada. "Me siento agradecida de contar con aliados tan extraordinarios en Beacon Hill, quienes comprenden la importancia de empoderar a los padres y de lograr un cambio duradero".

Además de su labor en la Fundación CEMDPCD, la Directora Ejecutiva Quezada forma parte del Consejo de Discapacidades del Desarrollo de Massachusetts.

"Las familias que navegan por el sistema de educación especial merecen recibir información clara y un apoyo sólido mientras abogan por sus hijos", afirmó el Senador Pavel Payano (D – Lawrence). "Organizaciones como la Fundación CEMDPCD están ayudando a los padres de Lawrence a adquirir el conocimiento y la confianza necesarios para defender los derechos de sus hijos. Agradezco al Representante Moran y a la delegación de Lawrence por trabajar juntos para asegurar estos fondos, permitiendo así que más familias puedan acceder a estos recursos".

La Fundación CEMDPCD cree que los pequeños cambios son el primer paso hacia la inclusión y la igualdad. Sus programas han servido a cientos de familias en Massachusetts y continuarán transformando muchas vidas para mejor.

"La Fundación CEMDPCD demuestra, día tras día, que la mejor manera de cambiar el mundo es comenzar cambiando la vida de una persona para mejor", afirmó la Representante Estatal Estela Reyes (D – Lawrence). "Me enorgullece luchar codo con codo junto al Director Ejecutivo Quezada y a la delegación de Lawrence para garantizar que las personas con discapacidad sean tratadas con igual dignidad y respeto en todo Massachusetts".

"Las familias nunca deberían sentirse solas al intentar abogar por sus hijos. La labor que realiza la Fundación CEMDPCD brinda a los padres el conocimiento y la confianza para defender a sus hijos y asegurar que reciban el apoyo que merecen", declaró el Representante Estatal Francisco Paulino (D – Methuen).



State Representative Frank A. Moran Presents \$25,000 Check to Fundación Cambiando el Mundo de Personas con Discapacidad

State Representative Frank A. Moran awarded Fundación Cambiando el Mundo de Personas con Discapacidad (CEMDPCD)—a nonprofit working to build a world that is welcoming and respectful to people with disabilities—with a check for \$25,000 at its location in Lawrence.

"I am grateful to Executive Director Raquel Quezada for her hard work in leading Fundación CEMDPCD and continuing to make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities and their families," said State Representative Moran (D – Lawrence). "It is important that every parent be familiar with tools and resources to advocate for their child's rights as they learn and grow into confident and capable adults."

Executive Director Raquel Quezada founded Fundación CEMDPCD alongside her husband Yonatan to support people with disabilities and their families as they navigate school, careers, and society. The funding will go toward Fundación CEMDPCD's vital programming that provides loved ones with the best tools to advocate for their children's rights in the education system.

One of these popular programs teaches parents the ins and outs of the special education system, including instruction on special education laws, acting as their child's lawyer at school, preparing for meetings, and taking care of their own mental health.

Others give children with disabilities the opportunity to exercise creativity and bring them together for presents, school supplies, and joyful gatherings throughout the year.

State Representative Moran said that he secured the funding with the support of his Lawrence state delegation colleagues in the FY26 state budget.

"Thank you to State Representative Moran and the Lawrence state delegation for securing this funding for Fundación

CEMDPCD," said Executive Director Quezada. "I am grateful to have such incredible allies on Beacon Hill who understand the importance of empowering parents and achieving lasting change."

Executive Director Quezada also serves on the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council alongside her role at Fundación CEMDPCD.

"Families navigating the special education system deserve clear information and strong support as they advocate for their children," said Senator Pavel Payano (D – Lawrence). "Organizations like Fundación CEMDPCD are helping parents in Lawrence gain the knowledge and confidence to stand up for their children's rights. I'm grateful to Representative Moran and the Lawrence delegation for working together to secure this funding so more families can access these resources."

Fundación CEMDPCD believes in that small changes are the first step toward inclusion and equality. Its programs have served hundreds of families in Massachusetts and will continue to change many lives for the better.

"Fundación CEMDPCD proves each and every day that the best way to change the world is to begin by changing one person's life for the better," said State Representative Estela Reyes (D – Lawrence). "I am proud to fight alongside Executive Director Quezada and the Lawrence delegation to ensure that people with disabilities are treated with equal dignity and respect across Massachusetts."

"Families should never feel alone when trying to advocate for their children. The work Fundación CEMDPCD is doing gives parents the knowledge and confidence to stand up for their kids and make sure they receive the support they deserve," said State Representative Francisco Paulino (D – Methuen).



IRS anuncia horarios extendidos los días laborales y sábados en Centros de Asistencia al Contribuyente hasta la primavera

El Servicio de Impuestos Internos (IRS) anunció hoy que extenderá el horario de atención semanal en más de 200 Centros de Asistencia al Contribuyente, (TAC, por sus siglas en inglés) en todo el país para brindarles a los contribuyentes más tiempo para recibir asistencia en persona durante la temporada de impuestos. El horario extendido estará disponible hasta el jueves, 30 de abril.

Los contribuyentes pueden consultar si un TAC cercano ofrece horario extendido al visitar IRS.gov y usar la herramienta de Localizador de TAC: Comuníquese con su oficina local del IRS. La herramienta proporciona la ubicación de las oficinas, indicaciones para llegar, servicios disponibles e

información sobre el horario extendido.

Además del horario ampliado entre semana, muchos Centros de Asistencia también estarán abiertos algunos sábados hasta junio de 2026 para brindar asistencia en persona. Durante este horario especial los sábados, los contribuyentes podrán acceder a todos los servicios disponibles en los TACs, excepto realizar pagos en efectivo.

Para obtener más información acerca del horario de los sábados, visite IRS.gov/SaturdayHours (en inglés). Se anima a los contribuyentes a revisar el sitio web con regularidad, ya que las ubicaciones participantes y la disponibilidad pueden cambiar sin previo aviso.

Los contribuyentes podrían ver un cambio en su factura o reembolso de impuestos de 2025

Los contribuyentes podrían ver una reducción en su factura de impuestos o un aumento en sus reembolsos este año. La Ley de un Gran y Hermoso Proyecto (en inglés) introduce varios cambios para esta temporada de declaración de impuestos.

Se han añadido nuevas deducciones y se han actualizado ciertos créditos. Algunos de estos cambios son retroactivos al año 2025, lo que sugiere que los contribuyentes podrían no haber ajustado sus retenciones ni recalculado sus pagos estimados de impuestos.

Adiciones y cambios claves que podrían afectar los ingresos tributarios o un reembolso.

Nuevas deducciones

Las personas mayores de 65 años (en inglés) podrían ser elegible para reclamar una deducción adicional de 6,000. Esto se suma a la actual deducción estándar más alta para las personas mayores según la ley actual. Trabajadores que reciben propina (en inglés) podrían ser elegibles para deducir hasta \$25,000 por propinas calificadas. Este límite de aplica por declaración de impuestos para los que presentan como solteros y parejas casadas que presentan su declaración conjunta.

Las personas pueden ser elegibles para deducir hasta \$12,500 (\$25,000 para contribuyentes conjuntos), por horas extras calificadas (en inglés).

Las personas pueden deducir hasta \$10,000 en intereses de préstamos para vehículos de pasajeros calificado (en inglés).

Es importante que los

contribuyentes sepan que cada una de estas deducciones se elimina gradualmente según el nivel de ingresos de quienes declaran individualmente y en conjunto, y tienen requisitos de elegibilidad específicos.

Actualizaciones de créditos

- Una parte del Crédito por adopción ahora es reembolsable hasta \$5,000 por niño elegible a partir del año tributario 2025 y se ajusta por inflación anualmente.

Gobiernos tribales indios ahora tienen la autoridad de determinar si un niño tiene necesidades especiales a los efectos del crédito tributario por adopción.

- Para contribuyentes que reclaman el Crédito tributario por hijos (CTC, por sus siglas en inglés), ellos (o su cónyuge si presentan una declaración conjunta) y cada hijo calificado deben tener un número de Seguro Social válido para el empleo que haya sido emitido antes de la fecha límite de presentación de la declaración de impuestos, incluyendo extensiones, para reclamar el CTC.

Los contribuyentes deben mantener registros para comprobar su elegibilidad para cualquier deducción o crédito tributario que soliciten. No deben dejarse tentar por promotores de estafas que comparten información engañosa mientras intentan promocionar grandes reembolsos.

El Asistente Tributario Interactivo del IRS (ITA, por sus siglas en inglés) puede ayudar a una persona a determinar si son elegibles para varios créditos y deducciones tributarias populares.



IRS Announces Extended Weekday and Saturday Hours at Taxpayer Assistance Centers Through Spring

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) announced today that it is extending weekly operating hours at more than 200 Taxpayer Assistance Centers (TACs) nationwide to provide taxpayers with more time to receive in-person assistance during the tax season. These extended hours will be available through Thursday, April 30.

Taxpayers can check if a nearby TAC offers extended hours by visiting IRS.gov and using the TAC Locator tool: Contact Your Local IRS Office. The tool provides office locations, directions, available services, and information regarding extended hours.

In addition to expanded weekday hours, many Assistance Centers will also be open on select Saturdays through June 2026 to provide in-person assistance. During these special Saturday hours, taxpayers will be able to access all services available at TACs, with the exception of making cash payments.

For more information regarding Saturday hours, visit IRS.gov/SaturdayHours (in English). Taxpayers are encouraged to check the website regularly, as participating locations and availability are subject to change without prior notice.

Taxpayers Could See a Change in Their 2025 Tax Bill or Refund

Taxpayers could see a reduction in their tax bill or an increase in their refunds this year. The *Great and Beautiful Project Act* introduces several changes for this tax filing season.

New deductions have been added, and certain credits have been updated. Some of these changes are retroactive to the year 2025, suggesting that taxpayers may not have adjusted their withholdings or recalculated their estimated tax payments.

Key additions and changes that could affect tax liability or a refund:

New Deductions

Individuals aged 65 and older could be eligible to claim an additional deduction of \$6,000. This is in addition to the current higher standard deduction for seniors under existing law. Tipped workers could be eligible to deduct up to \$25,000 for qualified tips. This limit applies per tax return for those filing as single individuals and married couples filing jointly.

Individuals may be eligible to deduct up to \$12,500 (\$25,000 for joint filers) for qualified overtime hours.

Individuals may deduct up to \$10,000 in interest on loans for qualified passenger vehicles.

It is important for taxpayers to know that each of these deductions is phased out based on the income level

of individual and joint filers, and they have specific eligibility requirements.

Credit Updates

- A portion of the Adoption Credit is now refundable—up to \$5,000 per eligible child—starting with the 2025 tax year, and is adjusted annually for inflation.

Indian tribal governments now have the authority to determine whether a child has special needs for purposes of the adoption tax credit.

- For taxpayers claiming the Child Tax Credit (CTC), they (or their spouse, if filing a joint return) and each qualifying child must have a valid Social Security number for employment purposes that was issued before the tax return filing deadline—including extensions—in order to claim the CTC.

Taxpayers must maintain records to substantiate their eligibility for any tax deduction or credit they claim. They should not be tempted by scam promoters who share misleading information while attempting to promote large refunds.

The IRS Interactive Tax Assistant (ITA) can help individuals determine whether they are eligible for various popular tax credits and deductions.



We’re excited to announce that starting next month, our board member, Felipe Collazo, will host Open Mic Nights at the Center! Mark your calendars for Sundays: February 15, March 15, April 12, and May 17, and get ready to unleash your creativity!

Whether you want to share spoken word, sing a solo, or showcase your unique performance style, this is your moment to shine. Open Mic Nights will kick off at 6:00 PM—come ready to express yourself and connect with fellow artists in our vibrant community.



Boost the blood supply: Red Cross offers free A1C testing as 1 in 5 donors have levels in prediabetic or diabetic range

Successful donations will receive free testing in March, \$15 Amazon Gift Card by email for coming to give March 1-31

News Summary:

- New American Red Cross data reveals that 1 in 5 blood donors have elevated A1C levels — a sign that prediabetes and diabetes are prevalent among adults in generally good health.
- Early detection isn’t just good for long-term health — it’s also a warning for people’s wallets.
- As the nation’s largest blood supplier, the Red Cross is uniquely positioned to provide donors with health insights that can help bridge preventative care gaps, such as undiagnosed diabetes and hypertension.
- Visit RedCrossBlood.org now to book a time to give blood or platelets. In March, the Red Cross will provide free A1C testing on successful blood, platelet and plasma donations. Those who come to give March 1-31 will also get a \$15 Amazon Gift Card by email. See RedCrossBlood.org/March.

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Celebrate Women’s History Month on the Freedom Trail® Revolutionary Women Tours Step Off in March

This March, the Freedom Trail® Foundation will honor Women’s History Month with the return of the Revolutionary Women Tours. The tours will help residents and visitors discover the indomitable women who took part in the American Revolution, and the generations of women that followed, inaugurating their own struggles for freedom and equality.

The Freedom Trail Revolutionary Women Tours invites people of all ages to walk the Freedom Trail and explore four centuries of revolutionary women who changed history. These 90-minute tours feature tales of the early religious rebellions of Anne Hutchinson and Mary Dyer, abolitionist movements of Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman, landmark achievements of Black pioneers Phillis Wheatley and Dr. Rebecca Lee Crumpler, prolific writings of Abigail Adams and Louisa May Alcott, dynamic speeches of Margaret Sanger and Susan B. Anthony, and more. Walk the paths these influential women treaded, while visiting the places where their voices were heard, works published, and were laid to rest.

The tours also feature official Freedom Trail historic sites from the site of the Great Elm on Boston Common, where women paid the ultimate price for refusing to conform to puritanical values, to the Granary Burying Ground, where those who fought fiercely

for independence are remembered alongside their revolutionary male counterparts, the Old Corner Bookstore and Old South Meeting House, where women made change through the power of literature and the spoken word. Revolutionary Women Tours culminate at Faneuil Hall, the Cradle of Liberty, which played a prominent role in both the abolitionist and women’s suffrage movements.

Revolutionary Women Tours depart from the Boston Common Visitor Information Center on Saturdays and Sundays starting Saturday, March 7 at 10:45 a.m.; the tours will also be available on select Saturdays in July and August. Led by 18th-century costumed guides, Freedom Trail Foundation’s walking tours are \$17 for adults, \$15 for seniors/students, and \$8 for children, and include a \$1 donation to the Freedom Trail Foundation’s Preservation Fund. Tickets may be purchased at the Boston Common Visitor Information Center or online at TheFreedomTrail.org.

All walking tours and specialty tours, including the Revolutionary Women Tours, are available as private tours year-round by appointment and are perfect for families, company outings, corporate activities and team building, tourist groups, and more.

For additional information please visit TheFreedomTrail.org or call (617) 357-8300.



Sports with Northern Essex Community College

By Dan Blair, Director of Athletics

Three from Women's Basketball named All-Region

Haverhill, MA (March 4, 2026) – Three members of the Northern Essex Community College women's basketball team were named All-Region as announced this week following a vote of the region's coaches. Rhaelyn Gutierrez (Methuen) earned her second straight nod to the All-Region First Team, while Shaneley Henriquez (Haverhill) and Kelsie Martinez (Lawrence) earned Honorable Mention recognition.

Gutierrez, who scored her 1,000th career point as a Knight in her final home game in the Region 21 Quarterfinal victory over Quinsigamond and finished her two years with 1,019 points. For the season she averaged 19.3 points per game which ranked second in the region. She also led the region in free throw shooting percentage at 78.5 percent.

Henriquez earned her first all-region

award in her second season with the team as she had a break out season averaging 14.3 points per game which ranked fifth in the region. Rarely coming off the court she averaging playing 35 minutes per game this season and finished fifth in the region in steals with 68, while her 69.1 free throw shooting percentage ranked fourth in the region.

Lastly, Martinez who was playing her first season of college basketball after transferring in from UMass-Lowell averaged a double-double for the Knights throughout the season with 10.3 rebounds and 10.9 points per game. Her rebounding total was good enough to rank third in the region over the course of the season.

The Knights finished the season as Region 21 semi-finalist with an overall record of 14-12 and 10-4 in conference play.

Delgado Player of the Year headlines four All-Region Selections, Stratton named Coach of the Year

Haverhill, MA (March 6, 2026) – The Northern Essex Community College men's basketball team, the number one overall seed in next week's national tournament had four players named to the Region 21 All-Region teams following a vote of the leagues coaches, including Region 21 Player of the Year Alejandro Delgado (Haverhill) being named regional Player of the Year. Head coach Darren Stratton was also named Region 21 Coach of the Year for the fourth straight year and fifth time overall in his 23 years as head coach.

With Delgado headlining the All-Region First team he was joined by teammates Christian Sanders (Boston) who earned second team honors while Yunosuke Matsuda (Tokyo, JP) and Alex Johnson (Worcester) both earned honorable mention recognition.

For Delgado, its his second straight season earning first team honors as his name is scattered among the top five in several statistical categories in the region. While he led the region in rebounds at 12 per game. He also ranked fifth in field goal percentage at 53.4 percent, while averaging 18.1 points per game, and fifth in assists with 107. On the defensive end he finished

four in the region with 62 steals. He was named the NJCAA National Player of the Week back on December 7th.

Sanders, who nearly averaged a double-double on the seasons finished seventh in the region in rebounding at 9.6 rebounds per game while also averaging 12.1 points per game. He also led the team in blocks at one per game.

Matsuda, who spent the majority of him time on the floor running the point for the Knights finished second in the region with 120 assists on the season. He delivered a season best eight assists against Bristol in the regional quarterfinal win last week.

Johnson, who played hero in the regional championship game scoring the game winning basket with 3.8 seconds remaining as part of his season high 23-point performance, finished second on the team in scoring with 12.2 points per game.

NECC will return to the court next Thursday March 12th in a national quarterfinal contest scheduled to tip off at 2:00pm on the campus of Herkimer College in Herkimer, NY against the winner of an opening round game between eighth seeded Northampton and ninth seeded Genesee.

Northern Essex Named #1 Overall Seed in NJCAA Men's Basketball Tournament

Haverhill, MA (March 4, 2026) – The NJCAA Men's Basketball Committee has announced Northern Essex Community College as the number one overall seed for the national tournament set to get underway on Wednesday March 11th on the campus of Herkimer College in Herkimer, NY.

The top overall seed makes history as this will mark the first time in the college's history that a team has been seeded and/or ranked first nationally in any sport. With the top seed, NECC will receive an opening round bye and play their first game on Thursday March 12th at 2:00pm against the winner of Wednesday's game between eighth seeded Northampton and ninth seeded Genesee.

Coming off a thrilling Region 21/ East District championship game victory over Quincy in which Alex Johnson (Worcester) hit the game winning basket with 3.8 seconds remaining. The Knights will enter the national tournament with an overall record of 30-3 and winners of 16 straight games. Their last lost coming on the road at Massasoit on December 13th.

Heading into the national tournament, the Knights are led by Alejandro Delgado (Haverhill) who averages a double-double of 18.1 points and 12 rebounds per game, while Johnson and Christian Sanders (Boston) are both scoring in double digits with 12.6 and 12.1 points per game respectively.

In the backcourt Yuno Matsuda (Tokyo, JP) and Joan Vidal (Lawrence) are both averaging four assists per game.

The Knights will enter the national tournament scoring 89.3 points per game which ranks seventh nationally, defensively NECC ranks third nationally forcing the opponent into 18.3 turnovers per game.

A win in Thursday's quarterfinal would send NECC into the national semi-finals on Friday night with the national championship game scheduled for Saturday evening at 5:00pm. Full tournament seeding and schedule is below.

National Tournament Seeding:

- #1 Northern Essex
- #2 Riverland
- #3 Dallas-North Lake

- #4 Salem
- #5 Dallas-Eastfield
- #6 Montgomery County
- #7 Dutchess
- #8 Northampton
- #9 Genesee
- #10 Dallas-Richland
- #11 Ridgewater
- #12 Joliet

Opening Round Games Wednesday March 11

- Game 1: 12:00pm #8 Northampton vs. #9 Genesee
- Game 2: 2:00pm #5 Dallas-Eastfield vs. #12 Joliet
- Game 3: 4:00pm #7 Dutchess vs. #10 Dallas-Richland
- Game 4: 6:00pm #6 Montgomery County vs. #11 Ridgewater

Quarterfinal Round Thursday March 12

- Game 5: 10:00am Loser Game 1 vs. Loser Game 2
- Game 6: 12:00pm Loser Game 3 vs. Loser Game 4
- Game 7: 2:00pm #1 Northern Essex vs. Northampton/Genesee Winner
- Game 8: 4:00pm #4 Salem vs. Dallas-Eastfield/Joliet Winner
- Game 9: 6:00pm #2 Riverland vs. Dutchess/Dallas-Richland Winner
- Game 10: 8:00pm #3 Dallas-North Lake vs. Montgomery/Ridgewater Winner

Semi-Finals Friday March 13

- Game 11: 12:00pm Loser of Game 7 vs. Loser of Game 8
- Game 12: 2:00pm Loser of Game 9 vs. Loser of Game 10
- Game 13: 5:00pm Winner of Game 7 vs. Winner of Game 8
- Game 14: 7:00pm Winner of Game 8 vs. Winner of Game 9

Saturday March 14th

- Game 15: 12:00pm - 5th Place Game (W11 vs. W12)
- Game 16: 2:00pm 3rd Place Game (L13 vs. L14)
- Game 17: 5:00pm Championship Game (W13 vs. W14)

Five score in double figures as Knights soar into FINAL FOUR

Herkimer, NY (March 12, 2026) – The top seeded Northern Essex Community College men's basketball team saw five players score in double figures as their fast pace subdued ninth seeded Genesee Community College on Thursday afternoon by a 99-78 final score. The Knights 31st win of the season sends them onto the programs first ever final four. NECC will play on Friday evening at 5:00pm against the winner of 12th seeded Joliet and 4th seeded Salem.

The Knights won the opening tip and went ahead 2-0 on a layup from Yunosuke Matsuda (Tokyo, JP) in the opening seconds and after a back and forth first four minutes of play an Alejandro Delgado (Haverhill) layup at the 16:12 mark of the opening half, gave the Knights a 10-8 advantage that would continue to grow through the half.

NECC went to the locker room with a 21-point halftime lead at 44-23 and led by

as many as 25 points in the closing minutes of the first half.

Delgado led five Knights in double figures as he had team highs of 14 points and nine rebounds. Joan Vidal (Lawrence) and Johnarius Davis (Waterbury, CT) each scored 11, while Alex Johnson (Worcester) and Jay'von Depina (Brockton) dropped 10 each.

Crisitan Moscat (Lawrence) added nine points on three of five shooting from behind the three-point arc. Matsuda also finished with nine points and a game high six assists.

NECC continued the explosive play in the second half as the lead grew to as many as 30 points before the teams eventually played even at 55 points apiece in the second half.

For the game, the Knights shot 54.9 percent from the floor including 47.4 percent from three (9-19). Genesee was held to 34.6 percent shooting and the Knights bench outscored Genesee 48-20.

Johnson's career night sends Knights to National Championship game on Saturday night

Herkimer, NY (March 13, 2026) – Behind a career high 39 points from Alex Johnson (Worcester) the top seeded Northern Essex Community College men's basketball picked up an 88-85 victory over fourth seeded Salem Community College in the national demi-finals and advanced to the programs first ever national championship game on Saturday evening at 5:00pm where they will take on Dallas College-Richland.

Johnson shot 12-23 from the floor and went 15 of 19 from the free throw line to lead three players who scored in double figures for the Knights.

The Knights trailed by as many as six points in the first half before tying the game at 27 at the 6:08 mark of the half and would outscore Salem 22-15 over the closing minutes to take a 49-42 advantage to the locker room at halftime.

NECC would never trail in the second half and would lead by as many as eight points in the opening minutes but the majority of the second half would be a one possession contest with the Knights unwilling to relinquish the lead.

Alejandro Delgado (Haverhill) would score 15 points and likely had the biggest block of his career with 10 seconds remaining in the game as he stuffed a Salem defender going for a game tying layup.

Christian Sanders (Boston) scored 11 points.

For the contest, NECC shot 46.9 percent from the floor slightly behind the 48.3 percent shot by Salem.

NECC will become just the second team from New England to play in the NJCAA men's basketball national championship and first since 2000.

El horario de verano también afecta a tu mascota: lo que debes saber

Best Friends Animal Society comparte consejos para ayudar a las mascotas a adaptarse al cambio de horario



Cuando el reloj se adelanta el domingo 8 de marzo, muchas personas se preparan para perder una hora de sueño. Pero las mascotas también pueden sentir el impacto. Los perros y gatos dependen de la rutina, y un cambio repentino en los horarios de comida, paseos y descanso puede dejarlos confundidos, ansiosos o completamente despiertos antes de que el resto del hogar esté listo para comenzar el día.

Para ayudar a que la transición sea más sencilla tanto para las personas como para las mascotas, Best Friends Animal Society, una organización nacional líder en bienestar animal dedicada a salvar la vida de perros y gatos en los albergues de Estados Unidos y a lograr que todo el país sea No-Kill*, lo que significa salvar a cada perro y gato sano y tratable, comparte los siguientes consejos para mantener a las mascotas cómodas mientras se adaptan al horario de verano.

• **Ajusta los horarios de forma gradual**

En los días previos al cambio de hora, comienza a modificar la rutina de tu mascota en incrementos de 10 a 15 minutos. Sirve sus comidas, programa los paseos y el tiempo de juego un poco más tarde cada día, para que el cambio se sienta más natural. Si tu mascota toma medicamentos en un horario específico, comienza a ajustarlo con mayor anticipación y consulta a tu veterinario para asegurar una transición segura y sin contratiempos.

• **Mantén rutinas consistentes**

Una vez que cambie la hora, mantén horarios predecibles para la alimentación, los paseos y la hora de dormir. La consistencia ayuda a que las mascotas se sientan seguras y reduce comportamientos relacionados con el estrés, como gemidos o caminar de un lado a otro.

• **Ten paciencia durante el periodo de adaptación**

Algunas mascotas pueden tardar varios días en acostumbrarse al nuevo horario. Bríndales tranquilidad y refuerzos positivos mientras se adaptan.

Con temperaturas más cálidas y días más largos, la primavera es el momento perfecto para abrir tu hogar a un perro o gato que lo necesite. Durante todo el mes

de marzo, las tarifas de adopción son de solo \$15 en todas las ubicaciones de Best Friends en el país, incluyendo Nueva York, Los Ángeles, Houston, Salt Lake City y el noroeste de Arkansas, así como en el Best Friends Animal Sanctuary en Kanab, Utah.

Para encontrar un albergue local o conocer más sobre Best Friends Animal Society, visita salvaunamascota.org

*No-Kill se define como una tasa de salvamento del 90% para los animales que ingresan a un albergue y es un punto de referencia significativo y de sentido común para medir el progreso en salvar vidas. Generalmente, el número de mascotas que sufren problemas médicos o de comportamiento irreparables que comprometen su calidad de vida e impiden su adopción no supera el 10% de todos los perros y gatos que ingresan a los albergues. Para que una comunidad sea No-Kill, todos los actores deben trabajar juntos para alcanzar y mantener ese objetivo común, priorizando la seguridad de la comunidad y una buena calidad de vida para las mascotas como principios rectores. Esto implica la colaboración entre albergues de animales, grupos de rescate, agencias gubernamentales, miembros de la comunidad y otras partes interesadas, todos comprometidos con las mejores prácticas y protocolos.

Acerca de Best Friends Animal Society
Best Friends Animal Society es una organización líder en bienestar animal dedicada a salvar las vidas de perros y gatos en los albergues de Estados Unidos y hacer que todo el país sea “no-kill”. Fundada en 1984, Best Friends opera instalaciones y programas de salvación en todo el país en asociación con más de 5,500 albergues y organizaciones de rescate. Desde nuestra sede en Kanab, Utah, también operamos el santuario de animales “no-kill” más grande del país, un destino que da vida a nuestra misión para miles de visitantes cada año. Mantenemos la base de datos de albergues de animales más completa del país y la ponemos a disposición del público, brindando a las comunidades información crítica sobre las necesidades de sus albergues locales y cómo pueden ayudar. Creemos que cada perro y gato merece un hogar. Y creemos que, trabajando juntos, podemos salvarlos a todos®.

Cataracts in dogs: What every owner should know



Dear Pet Corner

I noticed that my dog's eyes are starting to look cloudy, and I think it could be cataracts. What should I do?

Cataracts are among the most common eye conditions found in dogs, and visible cloudiness is certainly a symptom. While there is no way to prevent cataracts from forming, they can be treated, restoring your dog's vision and preventing further damage to his or her eyes. Dr. Martin Coster, an ophthalmologist at Angell Animal Medical Center in Boston, shares key information that pet owners should know about cataract development in dogs, including which factors contribute to their formation, how surgery can help, and what can happen without medical intervention.

www.rumbonews.com

YaR Youth at Risk
PATHWAYS FOR CHILDREN



"Rise Above..."

26th Annual
YAR Conference

Endicott College
May 20, 2026
7:30 am - 4:00 pm

The New England region's only annual full-day conference bringing together professionals who are committed to the well-being of youth and young adults—featuring interactive workshops, CEUs, and valuable networking.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

You can view the schedule and all of the workshop descriptions by clicking the link below. We look forward to seeing you at the conference!

MARCH

CELEBRATIONS OF AMERICA'S 250TH IN HAVERHILL

SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH

Museum of Printing : Printing Revolution Presentation Lecture

Time: 1 pm

Location: 15 Thornton Ave. Haverhill MA

Program is free with Museum admission.

- \$15 regular adult • Documented Seniors, Veterans • Free with Haverhill Public Library, NARM

**Registration is required: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/printing-revolution-lecture-with-andy-voigt-tickets-2972697313161>*

LOOK FORWARD TO...

- Patriot's Day Weekend Celebration
- History Trivia Night in May
- Month of Museums with the Haverhill Cultural Treasures in mid-June/July

more details to follow!

ARE YOU HOSTING A 250TH EVENT?

For your programming to be considered in the citywide calendar, please submit this form by the 15th of the month prior to your event: <https://forms.gle/z3JRFMx4DgJdW7vJA>

Save the dates for upcoming 250th programming this Spring featuring a Patriot's Day celebration on April 18th and a History Trivia night on May 14th. June-July will highlight a "Month of Museums," in which each Cultural Treasure will host events throughout the month. More details to follow.

For inquiries regarding volunteering, sponsorship, or participating, please contact Hailey Pearson at hpearson@haverhillma.gov



New Homebuyer BOOTCAMP

Thursday, March 26th 5:30 - 8 pm
Roma Restaurant, 29 Middlesex St, Haverhill

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

- ✓ Determining How Much You Can Afford
- ✓ The Bidding Process
- ✓ What Loan is Right for You
- ✓ Costs of Special Programs
- ✓ Closing Fees...and More!

Ready to stop renting and start owning?
Join us for a complimentary New Homebuyer Boot Camp—a no-pressure seminar designed to help first-time buyers understand the path to homeownership.

Workshop attendees may be eligible for a closing-costs credit when financing with us!* Plus, all attendees will be entered in a drawing to win a pair of Boston Bruins tickets!*

Presented by Institution for Savings and Downey Law Group, LLC.
Complimentary dinner for attendees • Registration required.

For more information, call Andrea Leal Jesse at 978-225-1363.

REGISTER HERE!



Scan Me

↳ **Downey Law Group, LLC**



INSTITUTION FOR SAVINGS
Member FDIC



**EQUAL
HOUSING
LENDER**
Member FDIC
Member OF

*Closing-costs credit of up to \$1,750 available to qualified first-time homebuyers who finance their purchase with Institution for Savings. Additional First-time Homebuyer courses required to qualify for closing cost credit. Credit applied at closing. Program guidelines, loan approval and property eligibility apply. Other terms and conditions may apply. Offer expires 12/31/25. **No purchase necessary; must be 18 years of age or older to enter. Winning entry will be drawn on 3/26 at conclusion of event. "Boston Bruins" is a trademark of Boston Professional Hockey Association, Inc. Bank NML.S 22478201

LEGISLATIVE FORUM

Funding Care and Preserving Dignity

Legislators, Community Partners, and people with disabilities are coming together to discuss solutions.

THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2026

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**Elks Lodge
652 Andover St
Lawrence, MA 01843**

**Please RSVP by April 2nd to
Emily at esoares@nilp.org or
978-245-8464**

**Sign up to attend or speak at the event!
We want to hear about your experiences**

ASL, CART, and Spanish interpreters will be provided. To request a reasonable accommodation, including transportation for NILP consumers wishing to attend, please reach out to the RSVP contact.

Abraham Lincoln



STARTING APRIL 7TH, 2026 METHUEN POLICE CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY



Chief Scott McNamara
Is proud to announce that the
**METHUEN POLICE DEPARTMENT IS
NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS!**

The academy is an exciting, dynamic, and informative 12-week course designed to provide participants with an interactive, hands-on, comprehensive overview of the Methuen Police Department. Class time will include an introduction to patrol, detectives, swat, communications, CPR, and various other department programs. At the completion of the academy, you will have knowledge of CPR with the option of certification.

Applications can be picked up at the Methuen Police Department dispatch window or printed from our website, Methuenpolice.com. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age. You must fill out the application and all the waivers to be considered. You must live or work in the city of Methuen to be considered.

Participants cannot have any felony convictions, be on parole or probation, or have been arrested in the last 2 years.

WHEN: April 7th, 2026 – June 16th, 2026
Every Tuesday Night

COST: FREE

WHERE: Methuen Police Department
90 Hampshire St. Methuen, MA 01844

****apply early due to a limited amount of space****

For more information contact:
Officer Mark Aiello
Community Outreach Division
Call (978) 983-8701 or
Email: Maello@methuen.gov

MERRIMACK VALLEY CHAMBER SPRING EXPO LUNCHEON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE



**Eric Paley, Mass Secretary
of the Executive Office
of Economic Development**
Wednesday, April 1st, 2026
12 Noon - 1:15 PM
Phoenician Restaurant
12 Alpha St., Haverhill, MA 01832

**The State of the State's Economy
and how the MV Region is Moving Forward!**
Speaker Panel Including: To Be Announced

\$39.00 Members - \$49 Future Members
Thank you to our Title Sponsor: Pentucket Bank
**Friend Sponsors to date: Health Connector for Business;
Merrimack Valley Economic Development Corporation**

Register/Sponsor: www.merrimackvalleychamber.com;
office@merrimackvalleychamber.com or call 978-686-0900

READ PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF RUMBO ON
OUR WEBSITE RUMBONEWS.COM



THE MERRIMACK VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Wednesday, April 1st, 2026
**THE PREMIER SPRING BUSINESS EXPO,
TRADE SHOW, HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIR!**
Michael's Function Hall
12 Alpha Street, Off Rte 110
Haverhill, MA
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

The Premier, Most Effective Business Marketing and Networking
Opportunity This Year AND Most Affordable With Our "Early Bird" Pricing!

THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO EXHIBIT YOUR PRODUCT(S) AND SERVICES TO THE
MANY WHO WILL ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE
DON'T DELAY REGISTER TODAY!
ACT NOW & SAVE \$5

Exhibitors
Will Benefit
By:

- FREE EXPO ADMISSION - PUBLIC INVITED FREE AND FREE PARKING!
- STANDARD EXHIBIT TABLES - INCLUDES TABLE & TWO CHAIRS - ALSO DOUBLES, CORNER BOOTHS AND SPONSOR TABLES AVAILABLE
- EXTENSIVE MULTIMEDIA ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN
- EXHIBITION DIRECTORY OF PARTICIPANTS IN PRINT AND ON THE MVCC WEBSITE!
- FREE RAFFLES AND DOOR PRIZES
- COMPLIMENTARY BREAKFAST WITH VIP SPEAKER!
- FREE COFFEE & REFRESHMENTS DURING SET-UP FOR EXHIBITORS
- FREE AFTER EXPO NETWORKING RECEPTION MIXER
- ACRES OF FREE PARKING FOR VISITORS & EXHIBITORS

www.merrimackvalleychamber.com

SEE SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES INSIDE

LIKE US ON  INSTAGRAM  JOIN US ON  FOLLOW US ON 

“¿Qué dulzura queda en la vida, si le quitas la amistad? Robar la vida a la amistad es como robarle al mundo el sol. Un verdadero amigo es más digno de estima que un pariente”.

“What sweetness is left in life, if you take away friendship? Robbing life of friendship is like robbing the world of the sun. A true friend is more to be esteemed than kinsfolk.”

CICERO



¡Separa la fecha!

Esencia Cubana

Esta Noche Cubana

SABADO 16 DE MAYO 2026
ELK'S LODGE 652 ANDOVER ST. LAWRENCE MA 01843
6PM-12AM



Thursday, May 14, 2026
Andover Country Club
6:00 PM

Join us as we honor these Champions of Community Action:

Mercy Anampiu, Lowell Community Health Center
Steve Joncas, Housing Development Champion
Lala Books, Local Bookstore and Community Advocate

Money raised at our Spring Celebration will support our efforts to strengthen communities and reduce poverty.

Taste of Haverhill

Celebrating Greater Haverhill's culinary scene



Food vendor registration now available.
No cost to participate. To register or inquire about tables or sponsorship opportunities go to MerrimackValleyChamber.com

Title Sponsor



April 13, 2026 | 5:30-7:30P
at Michael's Function Hall

Fire victims / Víctimas de incendios

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

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

<http://heallawrence.org/> heallawrence@aol.com
<https://www.facebook.com/heallawrence.mass>

¿Eres una joven embarazada o un(a) padre/madre menor de 25 años?



¡Únete a nuestro Programa para Padres Jóvenes!
Apoyamos a madres y padres jóvenes y a sus hijos para que alcancen su máximo potencial, ofreciendo ayuda en todos los aspectos de la salud, el crecimiento personal y el bienestar.

Nos enfocamos en:

- Apoyo social y emocional
- Asistencia educativa
- Acceso a atención médica
- Apoyo con necesidades básicas (Comida, Ropa, Pañales)
- Conexión con otros servicios según sea necesario

Ofrecemos:

- Acceso a recursos comunitarios
- Educación e información sobre la crianza
- Apoyo con la escuela secundaria, universidad, GED y programas de capacitación laboral
- Ayuda para encontrar cuidado infantil seguro y confiable
- Grupos de bienestar y apoyo entre padres

Requisitos:

- Estar embarazada o ser padre/madre menor de 25 años y residente de Lawrence o Haverhill.
- Participar activamente en el programa, incluyendo visitas en el hogar, crear metas educativas, personales y profesionales.

¿Te interesa aplicar?

Escanea el código QR o llámanos al (978) 327-6646





430 N Canal St. Lawrence - 978-327-6600 - FSMV.org

Are you an expectant or parenting young adult under 25?



Join Our Young Parents Program!
Supporting young parents and their children to reach their full potential with care for health, wellness, and personal growth.

We focus on:

- Social & emotional support
- Education assistance
- Access to medical care
- Support with basic needs (Food, Clothing, Diapers)
- Connections to other needed services

We provide:

- Access to community resources
- Parenting education & information
- Support with high school, college, GED, and job training
- Help finding safe and reliable childcare
- Wellness & peer support groups

Eligibility

- Must be under 25, expecting or parenting, and live in Lawrence or Haverhill.
- Actively participate in program activities, including home visits, and work on your educational, personal, and professional goals.

Interested in applying?

Scan the QR Code or call us at (978) 327-6646





430 N Canal St. Lawrence - 978-327-6600 - FSMV.org

Rumbo

"The Bilingual Newspaper of the Merrimack Valley"

WWW.rumbonews.com