

## Irish Flag Raising



On Friday, March 1st, 2019, Irish got together to raise their flag at Campagnone Common. Pictured, from left, Lawrence Mayor Daniel Rivera, Anne Marie Nyhan-Doherty, President, Division 8 LAOH and Charles Breen, 2019 Dinner Dance Chairman Toastmaster, holding the flag. Pgs. 12 & 13

## Bellesini abre matrícula de quinto grado

Durante los últimos diecisiete años, la Academia Bellesini ha tenido un éxito increíble con los estudiantes en Lawrence.

La Academia Bellesini está aceptando solicitudes para estudiantes de ambos sexos que ingresan al quinto grado este otoño. Pg. 7

### Bellesini accepting 5th grade applications

For the past seventeen years, Bellesini Academy has had incredible success with students in Lawrence.

Bellesini Academy is currently accepting applications for male and female students entering grade five this fall. Pg. 7



## 13th Annual Kimball Classic



These young men are Zach Vermette and Ahian Rodriguez who participated in the annual event at Lawrence YMCA Kimball Classic. Pg. 12

I have never been one for hitting soft; my apologies if I offend you

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Nunca he sido uno para dar suave; mis disculpas si lo ofendo

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Let your voice be heard! Mayor needs a PR person Increase in VIH cases in Lawrence

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# 13th Annual Kimball Classic

Young athletes in grades pre-kindergarten through first grade got the chance to show off their basketball skills and teamwork at the 13th Annual Kimball Classic on Saturday, March 2nd at the Lawrence YMCA.

Teams from the Andover/North Andover, Lawrence, and Methuen YMCAs participated in the event, which was named for one of the founding fathers of the YMCA's Youth Basketball League (YBL), Walter Kimball.

Kimball was on hand for a ceremony at noon during which one player from each team received the Walter Kimball Sportsmanship Award. Players were chosen by their coaches based on sportsmanship and teamwork throughout the season, as well as their display of the four core YMCA values: caring, honesty, respect and responsibility.



## Men's Ice Hockey Hosts 2018-19 Season Banquet Sunday

The Merrimack College men's ice hockey team closed the books on the 2018-19 season on Sunday morning, distributing its major end-of-year accolades while honoring its graduating seniors at the annual team banquet at Merrimack Volley Golf Club.

Four different student-athletes took home awards, headlined by junior Johnathan Kovacevic being named Most Valuable Player honors. Two seniors – Derek Petti and Michael Babcock – earned the Strength and Conditioning Award and Tim Burke Warrior Award, respectively. Petti was also the winner of the Unsung Hero Award, while freshman forward Chase Gresock was selected as the program's Rookie of the Year.

Petti was presented the Strength and Conditioning Award by Assistant Athletic Director for Strength and Conditioning Mike Kamal, which is given annually to the player who has elevated his game to play at an elite level throughout his work and dedication to the strength and conditioning program on and off the ice. Petti was one of Merrimack's top centers over the last four years. He played key minutes at even strength and on the power play over that span, taking on a top-six role over the last two years while also excelling on the faceoff dot, where he led the team in faceoff win percentage as a senior. He had his most productive year as a senior, finishing with 18 points (7g, 11a), setting single-season highs in both categories. For his career, he appeared in 127 games, logging 49 points on the strength of 20 goals and 29 assists.

He had 12 blocked shots this year, as well. He was also presented the Unsung Hero Award, an honor bestowed to the player who exemplifies perseverance, enthusiasm, dedication and hard work throughout the season and takes into account the work ethic and determination that he has shown in all facets of the game.

Babcock was named the winner of the Tim Burke Warrior Award, which is presented to the player who shows perseverance, toughness and dedication to the program and defines what it means to be a Merrimack Warrior. The senior forward and captain epitomized the program's core values and ascended into a leadership role this season. He did it all on the ice as one of the team's most hard-working forwards, who played in virtually every role over the course of his career. He is the Warriors' iron man and graduates among the all-time leaders in games played with 143 before tonight. His eight points as a senior featured a career-high five goals, and he led the team in total faceoff victories, as well. He is a three-time all-academic selection and one-time Top Scholar Athlete, as well.

Gresock was named the team's Rookie of the Year, presented to those first-year players who had the most impact in their first seasons with the program. The freshman forward certainly did that and more, becoming the first rookie to lead the team in scoring since former Hockey East Third Team All-Star Brett Seney '18 did so during his freshman year in 2014-15. Gresock's 24 points were based on a team-high 11 goals and 13 assists. He ranked fifth in Hockey



East in total points by rookie skaters and he ranked 17th nationally in points per game by rookies, averaging 0.71 points per contest. He scored at least one point in 19 of the team's 34 games; he also was named Hockey East's Rookie of the Month or January. His 109 shots on goal were by far the most on the team -- nearly 30 more than the next-closest player -- and among the most in Hockey East.

Finally, Kovacevic was voted the team's Most Valuable Player, presented to the player who had the most outstanding season and was considered most important to his team. One of the team's most dynamic skaters who logged arguably the most minutes by any Warrior this season from the blue line, Kovacevic concluded his junior campaign with 18 points -- one shy of his career-high -- on the strength of a personal-best four goals and 14

helpers. The Grimsby, Ontario, native led all Warrior defensemen in scoring and was tied for seventh in Hockey East defensemen in total points by the end of the regular season. Three of his four goals also came on the power play, a new single-season high, while his 67 shots on goal were among the most on the team. He also blocked 15 shots, as well. Kovacevic has also been a banner student with two straight Hockey East Top Scholar-Athlete awards after owning a perfect 4.0 grade-point average after four semesters.

In addition to celebrating its annual award winners, the program honored all six members of the Class of 2019 one last time, with Babcock, Petti, Alex Carle, Matt McArdle, Craig Pantano and Drew Vogler all having the chance to give speeches in front of their fellow student-athletes, coaches, family, friends and peers one last time.