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NEW ENGLAND NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

The Standard-Times

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026 | SOUTHCOASTTODAY.COM SERVING THE SOUTHCOAST COMMUNITY | PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Dartmouth's Ellaria offers beauty, healing

Co-owners Kelley Cabral-Mosher and Rachel Boyer-Mendonca hope to bring holistic wellbeing to customers at the just opened Ellaria: Rooted in Beauty, Elevated in Spirit on Elm Street in Dartmouth. PETER PEREIRA/THE STANDARD-TIMES

Seth Chitwood
The Standard-Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

DARTMOUTH – In a world where anything can trigger stress, having a place for spiritual healing is a must. Now, Padanaram Village has a holistic beauty and wellness sanctuary that offers restorative hair artistry, mind-body healing, and soulful self-care rituals.

Ellaria, a new business located on Elm Street in Padanaram, blends salon services, life coaching, therapy, wellness workshops, community gatherings and special experiences under one roof.

"It was in beautiful shape. We just tweaked it to make it our own and have our own stamp on it," said Rachel Mendonca, who co-owns the beauty lounge with Kelley Cabral-Mosher.

Mendonca brings more than three decades of experience in the beauty industry to Ellaria.

"I worked in a commission-based salon for 27 years," she said. "It was Stephen & Co Salon, where I give them all the credit for the training and foundation, but I

See HEALING, Page 5A

Downtown sees wave of small business closures

Seth Chitwood
The Standard-Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

On April 15, Realtor Jack Conway listed the commercial space at 30 North Water St., currently occupied by Salt & Sole, describing it as "a rare opportunity to acquire a prime first-floor retail condominium and a coveted off-street parking space."

If Salt & Sole closes its doors or leaves downtown, it would become the seventh local business to depart downtown New Bedford since October 2025.

Downtown New Bedford has seen a series of notable business closures over the past several months, with several longtime storefronts and creative spaces either shutting their doors, relocating or moving away from brick-and-mortar operations.

The closures span galleries, boutiques, cafes and community arts spaces, reflecting a changing landscape in the city's downtown business district.

In October 2025, artist and gallery owner Alison Wells announced that she would be closing her gallery on Nov. 1 and moving out of New Bedford. Wells' gallery had been part of the city's downtown arts scene, contributing to New Bedford's creative identity and cultural footprint.

In January 2026, after four years in business on William Street in downtown New Bedford, April Moses,

See CLOSURES, Page 2A

Palestinian leader's son wins role in committee

Ali Sawafta
REUTERS

RAMALLAH, West Bank – The millionaire businessman son of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has won a steering role in his father's political party Fatah, a party official said on May 17, as a succession fight looms for control of the embattled Palestinian Authority.

Yasser Abbas won a seat in elections for the Fatah Central Committee, the party's highest decision-making body, at its first general conference in almost a decade. Mahmoud Abbas, 90, will remain chairman, it decided.

The PA was set up as an interim administration under the 1990s Oslo accords between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, an umbrella group still internationally recognized as the representative of the Palestinian people. The powerful Fatah party dominates both the PA and the PLO.

Abbas' son's foray into politics has fueled speculation that the president may be seeking to position Yasser, 64, to succeed him as head of Fatah.

That has drawn criticism from some Fatah officials, who say Yasser would be unable to unify Palestinians or help them chart a new political future after years without national elections or tangible steps toward statehood.

See COMMITTEE, Page 5A

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, center, with his two sons, Yasser, left, and Tarek.
ABBAS MOMANI/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

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