



Cape and Islands preseason rankings revealed for '26 season

SPORTS, 1B

CAPE COD TIMES

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A recipe for success

A Dennis-Yarmouth grad credits supportive bosses at Wendy's with helping turn hard work and ambition into a journey to Yale

Catherine Messier
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW ENGLAND

As Thalles De Souza hovered his mouse over his Yale decision letter, the image of a young man fleeing a dangerous neighborhood in Rio de Janeiro stared back at him.

All the hours worked, all the accomplishments made at community college, all the years spent dreaming of attending a prestigious university — had it all been worth it?

When he finally clicked open, shock ran through his body. He had done it. He got into Yale University on a full scholarship.

"Someone at a high level really believes in me," De Souza thought, "and I think it will give me a good foundation, not only for me, but also for my future generations."

For De Souza, 23, however, admission to Yale was not the first time that someone believing in him changed his life. In his eyes, his entire academic journey started with the support of two Cape Cod men.

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▲ Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School graduate Thalles De Souza, who also was student body president at Cape Cod Community College, poses with evidence of his acceptance to Yale University. He will start in the fall semester.

◀ Terry Smily, left, with Thalles De Souza, center, and Usama El-Sehrawey celebrate De Souza's acceptance to Yale University outside the Wendy's in South Yarmouth where he worked. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY THALLES DE SOUZA



Chatham records first-ever positive West Nile mosquito sample as Cape risk rises

Heather McCarron
Cape Cod Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

West Nile virus has reached another corner of Cape Cod, with Chatham recording its first-ever positive mosquito sample and four additional Cape towns moving into a higher risk category.

Mosquitoes collected on Aug. 18 in Chatham tested positive for the virus.

Another positive sample collected the same day in Falmouth was that town's fourth this season, bringing the Cape's total to seven West Nile-positive samples this summer.

No human cases have been reported on Cape, though state health officials on Aug. 20 announced the state's first human case of West Nile virus this year, involving a Middlesex County man in his 90s.

Seven of the Cape's 15 towns are now classified as moderate risk, while eight remain at low risk.

The Chatham detection prompted the state Department of Public Health to raise the West Nile risk level from low to moderate in Chatham, Eastham, Orleans and Sandwich. They join Barnstable, Falmouth and Mashpee,

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Boarded-up homes mark Sagamore Bridge area

Susan Vaughn
Cape Cod Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

SAGAMORE —The houses taken by the state to make way for the new Sagamore Bridge are boarded up, with "No Trespassing" signs in front. High grass and weeds have overtaken yards that were mowed and neatly landscaped only a few months ago.

This is the sight in one half of the small Round Hill neighborhood off Sandwich Road that overlooks the

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A state-owned home on Eleanor Avenue in Sagamore has been boarded up in advance of the construction of the new Sagamore Bridge, which will replace the bridge in the background. Photo taken Aug. 20. RON SCHLOERB/CAPE COD TIMES

Former Otis sergeant sentenced to 6.5 years

Rachael Devaney
Cape Cod Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

A former member of the Air National Guard at Otis Air Base was sentenced in federal court on Wednesday to 6 1/2 years in prison after pleading guilty to possessing hundreds of child sexual abuse images as well as sending out 70 such videos to others.

Nicholas Wells, 45, a former master sergeant with the 102nd Intelligence Wing had pleaded guilty in September 2025 to one count of possession of child pornography and one count of distribution, according to court documents and the U.S. Attorney's Office for Massachusetts.

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