



# Another forecasting tool is scrapped

NEWS, 4A

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# The Herald News

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## School will use \$2M grant to improve air quality

Emily Scherny  
The Herald News | USA TODAY NETWORK

FALL RIVER —The Massachusetts Clean Energy Center is awarding \$52 million in grant funding to upgrade public school facilities in need up infrastructure improvements, and Fall River’s William S. Greene Elementary School will receive a \$2,090,315 share.

Fall River Public Schools plans to spend the money

— funded through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in partnership with the Green School Works program — on air source heat pumps and a building management system at Greene.

DESE and Green School Works “aim to make K–12 public school buildings more energy-efficient, lower

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JAY MELLO MISCONDUCT CASE

## Diocese: Support continues for victims

Dan Medeiros  
The Herald News | USA TODAY NETWORK

FALL RIVER — Though the investigation into allegations of sexual misconduct by the Rev. Jay Mello is over, the work for the diocese isn’t.

According to the Diocese of Fall River, victim assistance that began when the investigation began can continue indefinitely.

On July 1, the diocese announced the end of a year-long investigation into allegations made against Mello, the former pastor of St. Michael and St. Joseph parishes in Fall River’s north end. According to the diocese, Mello is credibly accused of having “abused his position of power as a priest and engaged in sexual misconduct with two parishioners he was counseling.” Mello was restricted from priestly duties and will not return to lead those parishes.

Here’s what happens next:

### What comes next for the victims of Father Jay Mello?

It has not been announced who the parishioners are; the diocese has said they are not minors.

When victims lodge complaints against staff or clergy, the diocese’s Office of Safe Environment and Victim Assistance offer support and counseling. According to an interview with director Carolyn Shipp, that can mean everything from finding therapists to assisting with insurance co-pays to simply being there with encouragement.

That does not end when the investigation ends.

Diocesan spokesman John Kearns said, “The Office of Safe Environment and Victim Assistance continues to offer support to victims of clergy abuse and misconduct after the conclusion of an investigation,

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## SHOOT YOUR SHOT



Colin Roberts practices his jump shot at Palmer Street Playground in Dighton in July 2025.  
COLIN FURZE/HERALD NEWS

## Donut Factory closing, but new project in the works

Ashley Schuler  
The Herald News | USA TODAY NETWORK

After eight years of serving up unique handmade treats in the SouthCoast, The Donut Factory shared some bittersweet news.

The popular family-run destination for sweet and savory bites announced in a Facebook post Thursday, July 10, that it will be closing its doors in Fairhaven come fall.

But sit tight Donut Factory fans because “this isn’t goodbye, it’s a new beginning,” teased owner Jackie Webb and her sister Katie.

The Westport resident is closing the eatery — with locations in Fairhaven and Dartmouth — to embark on

something “even bigger and better.”

The pair offered a hint of what’s to come with the unveiling of a new logo for Fork Yeah! handcrafted food and drinks — an indication that the go-to for gourmet doughnuts is looking to rebrand and expand well beyond its signature sweets.

“We’re working behind the scenes on a brand new concept, with an exciting menu, fresh vibes, and a brand-new location coming your way soon!” reads the post.

The Donut Factory — which has been featured on the New England foodie show “Phantom Gourmet” — has built a name for itself for nearly a decade in Greater

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Owner Jackie Webb stands with her sister Katie and mom Melody in front of the new Donut Factory Express location on March 13, 2024.

COLIN FURZE/THE HERALD NEWS

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