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SERVING THE SOUTHCOAST SINCE 1872

# The Herald News

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## RAKE IN PEACE



A Swansea facility and grounds worker rakes leaves at the Town Hall cemetery on April 8.

COLIN FURZE/HERALD NEWS

## MBTA, Weaver's Cove delay lawsuit

**Dan Medeiros**  
The Herald News  
USA TODAY NETWORK

FALL RIVER — A lawsuit claiming the MBTA underpaid for land taken to build a South Coast Rail station has been delayed.

Weaver's Cove LLC, which owns about 50 acres of waterfront property along the Taunton River on North Main Street, sued the MBTA in 2022 in Bristol County Superior Court. At issue are 18 acres of property the MBTA took by eminent domain in February 2020 to build the Weaver's Cove Layover station.

The MBTA paid \$2.28 million for those 18 acres. Weaver's Cove LLC claims the land's fair market value was \$8.2 million.

A jury was scheduled to hear the case this spring; recent court filings show both parties have agreed to move the court date to June 1.

In the meantime, both Weaver's Cove and the MBTA "have agreed to engage in a series of settlement conferences or possibly sessions with a mediator ... to try to resolve this case."

### How much was the Weaver's Cove land really worth?

This will be key to the case; both

See **LAWSUIT, Page 2A**



The Zoning Board of Appeals in Fall River will reconsider a proposal to store vehicles on the Weaver's Cove site. THE HERALD NEWS FILE

## SouthCoast rivalry fueled by custard tarts

**Ashley Schuler**  
The Herald News  
USA TODAY NETWORK



A pastel de nata, or Portuguese custard tart, sits on the downtown cobblestone streets of New Bedford. PROVIDED BY NEW BEDFORD FOOD TOURS

Nothing unites — and divides — fans of Portuguese sweets than their famous custard tart, the pastel de nata, with each local bakery offering its own spin on the dessert staple.

If you know, you know. And if you don't know what the fuss is about, now's your chance to find out and weigh in on your favorite.

The region's sweetest rivalry is heating up once again with the return of the SouthCoast Snackdown this month, spotlighting Portugal's iconic treat and tasking area foodies with the

seemingly impossible: voting on which Fall River or New Bedford area shop does it best.

### What to know about SouthCoast Snackdown

Now in its third year, this friendly food fight spearheaded by local tourism groups New Bedford Food Tours and Viva Fall River aims to build on the buzz from their previous competitions — a 2024 sweetbread showdown and 2023 nata throwdown — by coming full circle to its inaugural event.

Round 1 of this playful foodie faceoff

See **SNACKDOWN, Page 3A**

## FBI warned agencies of Iran's threat to U.S.

**Kristina Cooke and Ted Hesson**  
REUTERS

WASHINGTON — The FBI warned U.S. state and local law enforcement of an elevated threat posed by Iran's government to targets in the United States last month even as the White House sought to downplay the likelihood of an attack, a law enforcement intelligence report reviewed



Trump

and government personnel and buildings, Jewish and Israeli institutions, and

by Reuters shows.

In the March 20 report, the FBI and other federal intelligence agencies cautioned that the Iranian government "poses a persistent threat" to U.S. military

Iranian dissidents in the United States.

Despite those warnings, the FBI and National Counterterrorism Center had not identified broad threats to the American public, the report said.

President Donald Trump publicly has minimized the possibility of Iranian attacks on American soil in response to other intelligence assessments in recent months. When asked outside the White

House on March 11 whether he was worried about Iran perpetrating an attack in the United States, Trump said, "No, I'm not."

Trump said on April 7 he had agreed to a two-week ceasefire with Iran.

The March 20 report — titled "Public Safety Awareness Report" — was issued

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