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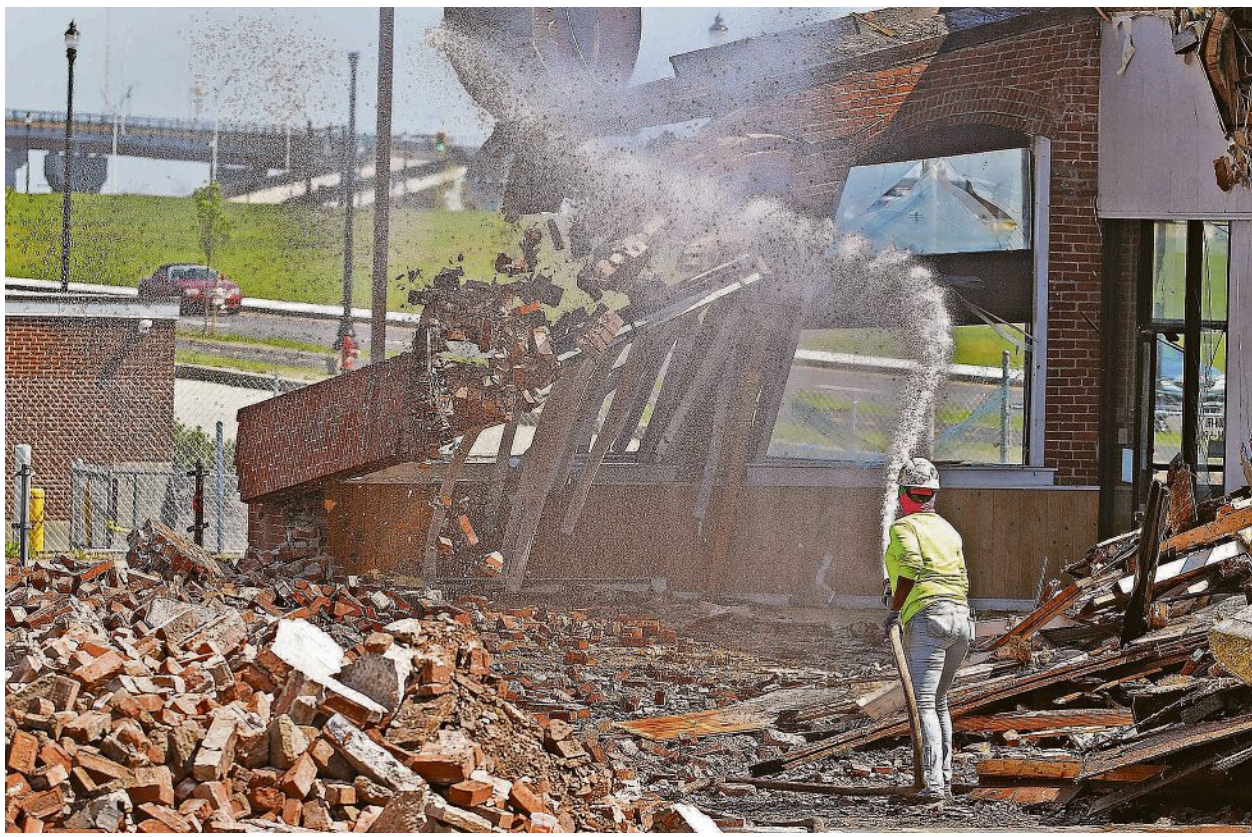
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The Herald News

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2026 | HERALDNEWS.COM

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GOING DOWN



Workers demo the old Al & Paul's on Davol Street in Fall River on May 5. COLIN FURZE/HERALD NEWS

Hegseth: U.S. has fiscal plan in Iran

Pentagon indicates cost of war is rising

Joey Garrison and Michael Loria
USA TODAY

The Pentagon revised the cost of the war in Iran upward on May 12.

A week before, the Trump administration estimated the price tag at \$25 billion.

"Now we think it's closer to \$29 billion," Jules Hurst III, the Pentagon's acting comptroller, told a House Appropriations subcommittee.

The figure reflects the cost of the nine-week war so far and does not include projected future expenditures. Hurst said the revision came from updated figures on operational costs and equipment repair and replacement. He said \$24 billion has gone toward munitions and equipment.

The Pentagon is seeking \$1.5 trillion in the next federal budget and more than \$200 billion in supplemental funding from Congress.

Minnesota Rep. Betty McCollum, the subcommittee's Democratic ranking member, asked whether the Pentagon has a "plan B" if Congress does not authorize the budget request. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth, formally known as the Secretary of Defense, responded that the Trump administration has "a plan" for shifting the approach in Iran, depending on how events unfold.

"We have a plan to escalate if necessary. We have a plan to retrograde if necessary. We have a plan to shift assets. Certainly in this setting, we wouldn't reveal what the next steps may be," he said.

A day before, President Donald Trump rejected an offer from Iran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, slamming the Islamic country's peace proposal as "TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE" and saying a ceasefire between the two nations was on "massive life support."

Iran's Speaker of Parliament Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf retorted with a threatening message.



Israel strikes in the area of al-Housh in southern Lebanon on May 12. It has intensified its attacks in south Lebanon as it trades fire with Iran-backed Hezbollah despite an April 17 ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon that aimed to halt the fighting.

KAWNAT HAJU/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

"Our armed forces are ready to deliver a well-deserved response to any aggression," he said in a statement. "There is no alternative but to accept the rights of the Iranian people as laid out in the 14-point proposal."

The longer U.S. leaders "drag their feet, the more American taxpayers will pay for it," he said.

U.S. gas prices remain at levels not seen since Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine in 2022. The national average price of a gallon of regular unleaded gas was \$4.50 on May 12, according to AAA.

As the House hearing began, Trump made a rapid-fire spree of Truth Social posts targeting Democrats, defending his war in Iran and sharing a pair of AI-generated photographs that sought to display U.S. military strength. One of the photos shows a U.S. ship shooting down a plane with the Iran flag with a laser.

"Lasers: Bing, Bing GONE!!!" the caption reads. The second shows a U.S. plane blowing up two Iranian ships with the caption "BYE, BYE 'FAST BOATS.'"

New polling shows continuing resistance within the United States. Two-thirds of Americans say Trump hasn't made a clear case for going to war with Iran, and almost as many are feeling the financial pinch, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll released May 11.

About 66% of those polled said Trump hasn't "clearly explained" U.S. military goals in Iran, and 63% said their financial situation has been impacted

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Case closed in Facebook investigation, POST says

Dan Medeiros

The Herald News | USA TODAY NETWORK

FALL RIVER — The state commission overseeing police standards has finished its review of an investigation into the Fall River Police Department's use of a search warrant to unmask an anonymous Facebook poster, and apparently found no evidence of wrongdoing.

According to documents received by The Herald News as part of a public records request, the state Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission received a complaint about the issue and the city's investigation in late March.

POST reviewed all evidence and "closed this matter" as of April 30.

POST apparently took no further action.

After an online opinion article in March accused FRPD of "weaponizing" a search warrant to identify an anonymous Facebook user, the city's Human Resources Department investigated the issue. The city found that FRPD officers did nothing illegal and that no discipline was necessary.

However, city councilors stopped city business unless allowed to proceed with its own investigation and City Council President Cliff Ponte saying he would complain to POST as a private citizen.

According to obtained public records, POST reviewed the city's investigation into the search warrant and a private citizen's complaint; the complainant's name is redacted.

POST told both Fall River Corporation Counsel Alan Rumsey and the complainant that it "conducted a careful review of the facts and circumstances outlined in the documents you provided. Having done so, the Division [of Police Standards] has closed this matter."

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Swansea names three finalists for town administrator

Emily Scherny

The Herald News | USA TODAY NETWORK

SWANSEA — A selection committee tasked with searching for the next person to take the helm of Swansea's daily operational affairs by July 1 has narrowed the choice down to three finalists up for the job. Now, the town invites residents to provide feedback on the candidates.

On Thursday, the May 7 Board of Selectman's meeting kicked off on Zoom where the public was able to listen as Bernard Lynch, the principal and founder of Community Paradigm Associates — a consulting nonprofit — spoke about the search for the right candidate, indicated the timeline for the selection process, and gave an overview of who the three finalists were.

One internal candidate, Town Planner Christopher Parayno, was named as a finalist. The two other candidates mostly unanimously hand-picked by the selection committee are already serving as town administrators for other Massachusetts municipalities: Hopedale's Mitchell Ruscitti and Harwich's Joseph Powers.

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Volume 154 | No. 113
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