



Chase tournament winners

Jim Royer, Mary Hutchinson, and the mother and son combination of Sam and Alex Cavanagh played in the Chase Memorial Tennis Tournament finals at the Conanicut Yacht Club.

Sea Level

Continued from page 1

line at www.crmc.ri.gov.

RICRMC Coastal Policy Analyst James Boyd said Section 145 was adopted in January 2008, but a small group of environmental officials met to align state flood zone policies and standards

Though modest, changes in the text increased the rate of sea level rise over the last century. The original document said the rate of change was 10.1 inches, plus or minus 1.2 inches; to 10.2 inches, plus or minus .75 inches.

Boyd said the reason for the change was simply that it had been updated, and was more accurate.

Other changes based findings of the report more on local and regional evidence, and less global evidence.

"We have reviewed local tide gauges and local observations by local scientists," Boyd said in a e-mail. The report also said some sea level change is due to tectonic plate movement due to ice, and

also removal of sediment or oil.

A diagram in the report illustrates the concept behind the changes, with a picture of a building close to the surface of the water, and a second picture of a building higher off the water, which provides a buffer allowance for rising sea levels.

A graph shows that the current sea level is only about .1 inch below ocean-side building bottoms. However, the same graph shows that sea level was above ocean-side building bottoms in the late 1990s and during 2003 to 2005.

Further changes make explanations of terms and findings more specific, and tweak the language of the report to make it clearer.

The data was taken in Newport because Boyd said the tide gauge there is the oldest and most continuously used of the five in Rhode Island waters. The gauge has been used since 1930, Boyd said, and indicates sea levels in Newport have risen 8 inches since 1930.

The changes will require the formal rulemaking process for government agencies, which re-

quires a 30-day public notice and a public hearing, which has not been scheduled yet. Boyd said RICRMC also plans to hold scientific panels and workshops for information, which also have not been scheduled yet.

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