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Foster's Daily Democrat

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ABOVE AND BELOW: New Hampshire Gov. Kelly Ayotte meets with local fishermen at the Portsmouth Commercial Fish Pier on Peirce Island on Aug. 15. PHOTOS BY DEB CRAM/SEACOASTONLINE

Fishermen in Portsmouth share their concerns with Gov. Ayotte

Ian Lenahan Portsmouth Herald | USA TODAY NETWORK

Commercial fishermen expressed concerns about pier infrastructure, delayed equipment and local oversight to Gov. Kelly Ayotte during her Aug. 15 “Super 603 Day” stop in Portsmouth. Ayotte, a former U.S. Senator and ex-attorney general now in her first term as governor, attended an informal gathering at the Portsmouth Commercial Fish Pier on Peirce Island. The governor spoke with the group before taking a boat ride with New Hampshire Marine Patrol and a handful of fishermen.

Jon Savage catches menhaden, then sells the fish as lobster bait. Some of his buyers store their bait at the Portsmouth Commercial Fish Pier, but the replacement cooler they’re waiting on has yet to be delivered. Savage reported it won’t arrive until September but worries for further delay. “It’s having a significant impact on my business because I deliver bait to these guys,” Savage said.

Fishermen raise Rye Harbor access with Gov. Ayotte

A group of fishermen pulled Ayotte aside to discuss the right-of-entry leasing agreements for the shack business owners in Rye Harbor. The Pease Development Authority, which has oversight of the shacks, has hired a consultant to help map out the future of the state marine facility and the old shack businesses, the owners of which previously pushed back against a pitch to replace them with a 12-unit raised commercial platform. “I’ll do a follow up and spend more time talking about each of these issues and what’s on their mind,” Ayotte said in an interview. “They’re really important.” The Portsmouth Commercial Fish Pier is undergoing a \$1 million replacement of its circa-1978 building facility. In

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Sheriff drops Sig Sauer gun over safety concerns

Karen Dandurant Foster's Daily Democrat USA TODAY NETWORK

DOVER — The Strafford County Sheriff’s Office is discontinuing use of the Sig Sauer P320 following multiple lawsuits alleging the firearm can discharge without the trigger being pulled. The Strafford County Commissioners decided Aug. 15 to replace the weapon used by the county’s sheriffs. “We haven’t had any issues with the guns we use, but we feel we do not want the liability,” said Commission Chair George Maglaras. “We decided replacing the guns was a necessary evil that had to take place.”



Maglaras Sig Sauer, headquartered at Pease International Tradeport with facilities in Rochester and Epping, has faced numerous civil lawsuits over the years filed by police, federal law enforcement officers, and gun users who allege they were wounded by the P320 after it accidentally discharged due to a design flaw. Sig Sauer has denied that the gun is defective and states on its website that it “meets and exceeds all U.S. safety standards.” However, the company did implement a “voluntary upgrade” program for the P320 in 2017 in response to what they said was additional testing on the gun “that determined it may discharge if dropped under certain conditions.” The company has won several suits and settled others, including one filed by Marcie Vadnais, a Loudoun County sheriff’s deputy in Virginia, who claimed she was shot in the right thigh while removing the holstered weapon without pulling the trigger.



A number of lawsuits are still in the courts, and the company is currently appealing recent multimillion-dollar verdicts against it in Pennsylvania and Georgia. Strafford County High Sheriff Kathryn Mone said they have not had issues with the weapons. “But recent reports, including from the Houston, Texas Police Department—where they reportedly stopped using all Sig Sauer weapons, along with other reports of unintended discharges, prompted us to move forward with replacing ours without delay,” Mone said.

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York eyes new beach rules: Ban on beer pong; expanded surf zone

Max Sullivan Portsmouth Herald USA TODAY NETWORK

YORK, Maine — A proposed ban on games resembling beer pong and other drinking-related activities could take effect next summer, alongside new rules

on tent sizes and expanded surfing access. The Selectboard voted Aug. 11 to send the proposed regulations in the form of an amendment to the town’s Beach Ordinance to the November referendum ballot. The regulations were proposed by Parks and Recreation Director Peter

Murray, according to Selectboard Chair Todd Frederick, in an effort to clarify what is and is not permitted on the beach. The ordinance amendment would give the Selectboard authority to update the list of permitted tents without a town-wide vote, allowing changes

through a board vote following a public hearing. Some tents, according to head lifeguard Ella Yentsch, are too tall for lifeguards to see over and are more prone to blowing away in the wind. “It just clarifies and makes very clear

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