



Seacoast boys basketball duo thrive with Phillips Exeter Academy team

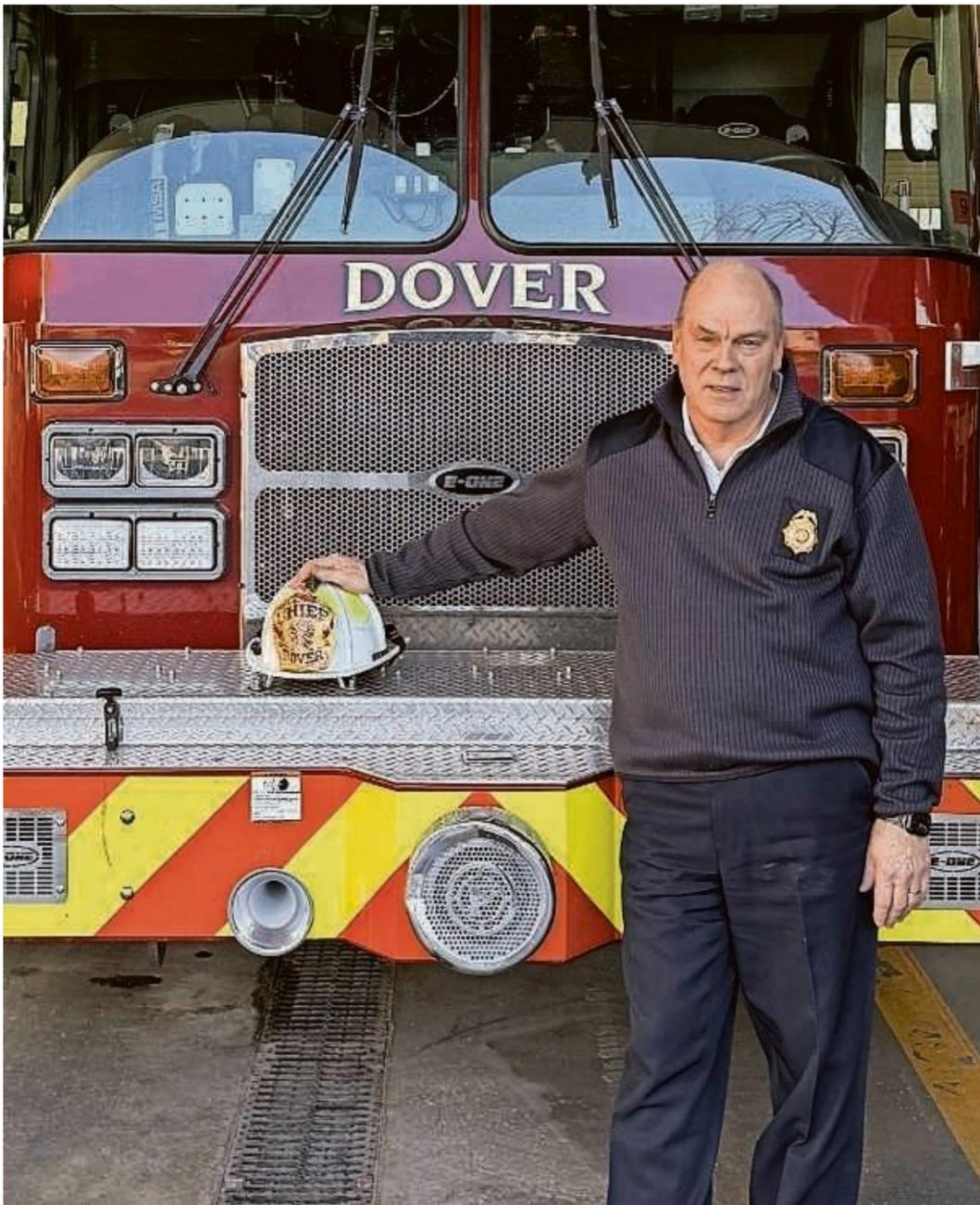
SPORTS, 1B

Foster's Daily Democrat

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'It's been the greatest job in the world'



Dover Fire & Rescue Chief Perry Plummer will retire at the end of January 2026, after about 26 total years with Dover and 40 years in public safety. PROVIDED BY PERRY PLUMMER

Dover Fire Chief Plummer retiring

Sarah Donovan
Foster's Daily Democrat | USA TODAY NETWORK

DOVER — Dover Fire & Rescue Chief Perry Plummer plans to retire after about 26 years with the department and 40 years in public safety.

Plummer began a career in fire service because he wanted to make a difference, he said in a recent interview, switching from a desk job. Throughout his career, he held every rank at Dover Fire & Rescue and went on to serve state and national roles before returning as the Dover chief after he retired from the position many years earlier.

"I don't know why anybody would want another

job other than being a firefighter," said Plummer, who will turn 67 in June. "I think it's been the greatest job in the world."

Plummer started in Dover, went on to distinguished state roles

Plummer said he started in Dover and worked his way up, becoming chief in 2002, and spent nine years leading the department at that time. He said it was a "fantastic experience," with great people.

After initially retiring from Dover Fire & Rescue in 2011, Plummer became the director of the New Hampshire Fire Academy and Bureau of EMS, appointed by

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SOMERSWORTH

Pressed Cafe plaza project faces public hearing

Karen Dandurant
Foster's Daily Democrat | USA TODAY NETWORK

SOMERSWORTH — The owners of Pressed Cafe's plans for a new restaurant and shopping plaza in the city was poised to take an important step forward this week.

A Planning Board public hearing on the project was scheduled Jan. 21 at 6:30 p.m. in council chambers at City Hall.

Pressed Cafe, billed as a healthy alternative to typical fast-food restaurants, was first proposed for Somersworth in July 2025. The site plan for 459 High St. was approved. According to owner Miri Shpindler, the development will include the restaurant, about six to seven retail spaces, and two outdoor pickleball courts.

Shpindler and her husband, Roi, of Nashua are the owners and founders of the chain, which has locations in New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

Pressed Cafe plaza may include 'healthy grocer' in Somersworth

Michelle Mears, the city's director of planning and community development, said the project is moving forward, and she anticipates the Somersworth location to open next year.

See PRESSED CAFE, Page 2A

Study: Portsmouth water and sewer rates are too low

Jeff McMenemy
Portsmouth Herald | USA TODAY NETWORK

PORTSMOUTH — The money the city takes in from its water and sewer operations will not be enough to cover current or projected expenditures in Portsmouth's water and sewer enterprise funds.

That was one of the main conclusions of a water and sewer rate study conducted by Stantec after being hired by the city.

David Hyder of Stantec told the City Council because of this revenue shortfall, "we are going to be recommending that rate adjustments will be required to ensure the stability within each of the funds."

Paying for all costs of water and sewer service

Al Pratt, the city's water resource manager, explained water and sewer enterprise funds "were established to manage (the) finances of the water and sewer utilities."

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