



# Catching up with 7 Seacoast stars in MLB spring training

SPORTS, 1B

# Foster's Daily Democrat

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## Hampton Beach Casino project delayed until '27



Developers say the Casino Ballroom will remain open for its 100th season as the massive Hampton Beach Casino project is pushed back. DEB CRAM/PORTSMOUTH HERALD

## Dover looks to open recovery house

**Sarah Donovan**  
Foster's Daily Democrat  
USA TODAY NETWORK

DOVER — The Dover Housing Authority is proposing a recovery house at 7 Avon Ave. with SOS Recovery serving as the operator.

The property is owned by the DHA, according to city documents.

It's vacant and needs repairs, according to city planner Erin Bassegio.

While it's a DHA project, said Bassegio, DHA is proposing to work with SOS Recovery as the operator.

Bassegio said "their concept would be a single-family home of four bedrooms, three bathrooms, community space, shared kitchen and dining rooms, and an attached in-law apartment to house an on-site resident services provider."

**Dover poised to seek \$1 million grant for project; public hearing set**

The City Council is seeking a \$1 million grant, which would be transferred to DHA for the project. The funding is being applied for through the New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority, which is "only available to municipalities. The city is therefore assisting DHA to apply," said Bassegio.

Mayor Dennis Shanahan said council votes and public hearings are part of the process for the application, and the grant application is "pending."

He said city leaders are "reasonably confident" it will be granted when all the application steps are done.

A resolution for the project was recently on the council's agenda with a public hearing.

There will be a second public hearing, followed by a vote, at the council's Feb. 25 meeting at 7 p.m. in City Hall, according to Shanahan.

**See RECOVERY, Page 2A**

## Ballroom now will reach its 100th season

**Max Sullivan**  
Portsmouth Herald  
USA TODAY NETWORK

HAMPTON — The redevelopment of the Hampton Beach Casino complex is now expected to begin after the 2027 summer season, allowing its historic concert venue to reach its 100th season.

"We've got 99 seasons, but this ain't the last one," Casino Ballroom marketing director Andrew Herrick said in a press release announcing the slate of concerts appearing at the Ballroom in 2026.

Shows listed for the coming summer

include Melissa Etheridge, the Fools, Lita Ford and Bret Michaels.

Ballroom officials say concertgoers should be ready to return for at least one more season next year.

"While exciting enhancements and future plans are in motion down the road, the Ballroom is very much open and rocking," the press release stated, "And will definitely be here for 2027, our 100th anniversary year and beyond."

**Redevelopment project start pushed to 2027**

Developers behind the project to re-

develop the Casino told the Hampton Planning Board the complex could be torn down for new construction after the 2026 season, when the project's approval was granted by the board.

A spokesman for majority Casino owner Sal Lupoli shared a statement from Lupoli Companies that the timeline for the project is still being defined.

However, Lupoli Companies indicated there definitely will be Casino Ballroom shows in 2027.

"We fully expect the Hampton Casino Ballroom to be open for the 2027 summer season," the Lupoli Company stated.

**See CASINO, Page 2A**

## 4 takeaways from Pete Buttigieg's New Hampshire visit

**Margie Cullen**  
USA TODAY NETWORK

MANCHESTER — Former Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg appeared alongside Rep. Chris Pappas, D-NH, Feb. 19 at the Puritan Backroom restaurant, where he was supporting Pappas' campaign for Senate as well as

stoking presidential run rumors.

The visit came after the University of New Hampshire Survey Center released a poll that morning showing Buttigieg with a small lead in the state over other potential 2028 Democratic primary candidates.

Buttigieg has not confirmed whether he is running for president and did not

in Manchester. Of the poll, he said that it "feels good to be well received."

At the restaurant, one woman told him that she hopes he'll run again.

"We'll see what the future holds," he responded.

It's still a long way until the election, but Buttigieg is one of three major potential candidates visiting the early pri-

mary state in the next few weeks, suggesting an unofficial race is already underway.

Sitting at the bar of the restaurant, New Hampshire residents Maggie and Matt Thibeault said it's too early for them to say who their top candidate is,

**See BUTTIGIEG, Page 2A**

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