



Seacoast Roundup: Defending state tennis champs win opener

SPORTS, 1B

Foster's Daily Democrat

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I-95 suicide barrier systems recommended

Plan introduced to reduce deaths on Piscataqua River Bridge

Ian Lenahan

Portsmouth Herald
USA TODAY NETWORK

PORTSMOUTH — Wire net and rod fencing systems have been recom-

mended for potential installation on the Piscataqua River Bridge to reduce future deaths by suicide off the Interstate 95 span.

Stantec, an engineering consultant, completed a suicide barrier feasibility

study for the high-level structure connecting Maine and New Hampshire, one of three bridges between Portsmouth, New Hampshire and Kittery, Maine.

See **BARRIER**, Page 5A



A sign on the Piscataqua River Bridge reminds people that help is available for anyone experiencing a mental health crisis. DEB CRAM/SEACOASTONLINE



Jody Papandrew, middle, learned a letter written in 1962 by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to her father-in-law, late Portsmouth Rev. John Papandrew, is worth of tens of thousands of dollars through an appraisal on "Antiques Roadshow." To her left is appraiser Catherine Williamson, and to her right is her son, Jordan Papandrew. PROVIDED BY JODY PAPANDREW

'It's such an intense, powerful letter'

MLK Jr. letter to late Portsmouth minister on 'Antiques Roadshow'

Ian Lenahan

Portsmouth Herald
USA TODAY NETWORK

PORTSMOUTH — A 1962 letter from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to a Portsmouth minister and civil rights activist received an appraisal of tens of thou-

sands of dollars on "Antiques Roadshow."

The late Rev. John Papandrew received King's letter that October, shortly after the end of the Albany Movement. King praised Papandrew's efforts in the widespread bid to desegregate all public facilities in Albany, Georgia, between

1961 and 1962, which served as a precursor to the spring 1963 Birmingham Campaign. Papandrew traveled to Albany alongside other clergymen from the north and was arrested during a prayer protest.

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SOMERSWORTH

Top city and school wage earners of 2025

Karen Dandurant

Foster's Daily Democrat
USA TODAY NETWORK

SOMERSWORTH — Former City Manager Robert Belmore, who retired at the end of last year, was paid \$155,040.48, making him the highest paid of all city-side employees in 2025.

Superintendent John Shea, at \$151,013, was the highest paid among all Somersworth school employees.

The median income for a male Somersworth resident is \$65,479, and it's \$56,648. for female residents, according to the 2020-2024 American Community Survey, published by New Hampshire Employment Security.

Somersworth paid 74 city-side employees and 65 school employees more than \$65,479 in 2025.

Police and firefighters are often among the highest paid employees with overtime and/or end-of-career payouts driving up their wages.

Somersworth's 10 highest paid city-side employees of 2025

Robert Belmore, city manager (now retired), \$155,040.48.

Anthony DeFrancesco Jr., investigative sergeant, \$141,762.94

Erich Lutz, patrol sergeant, \$137,410.41

Thomas Geary, patrol sergeant, \$133,344.76

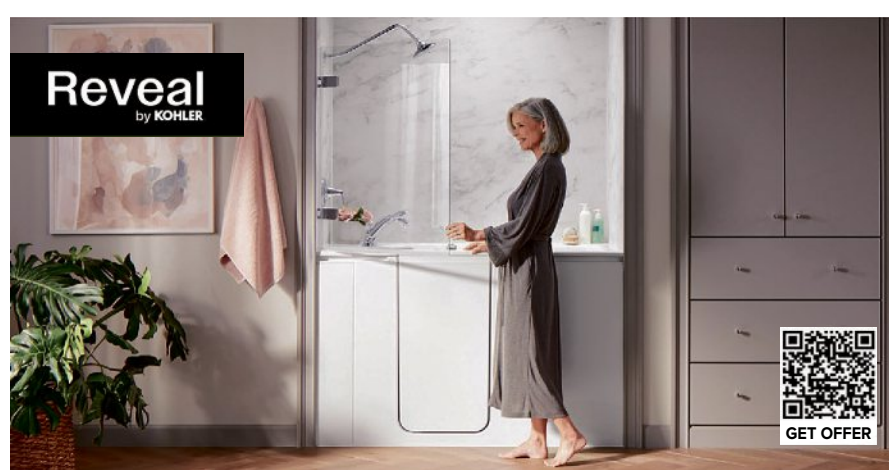
Michael Bobinsky, director of public works and utilities, \$132,111.68

Matthew Duval, police captain of operations, \$126,878.97

John Sunderland, police chief, \$126,524.56

Matthew Moore, fire chief,

See **EARNERS**, Page 3A



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