



Body discovered at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard

INSIDE, 4A

Foster's Daily Democrat

FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2026 | FOSTERS.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



Crowds packed Hampton Beach during a hot and humid day on May 19. PHOTOS BY DEB CRAM/SEACOASTONLINE

Hampton Beach heat hits 90s

Fights break out amid massive crowds

Max Sullivan
Portsmouth Herald
USA TODAY NETWORK

HAMPTON — A scorching 94-degree day packed Hampton Beach on Tuesday, May 19 — and by late afternoon, police were breaking up fights and declaring an unlawful assembly after a sudden downpour.

Portsmouth topped out at 94.1 degrees and Rochester hit 93, National Weather Service meteorologist Jon Palmer said. It marked Rochester's hottest May 19 since NWS data for the city began in 2000, far surpassing the previous mark of 84.

Beach businesses said the crowds were no surprise. Jake Magro, owner of L Street Tavern,

See **CROWDS**, Page 2A



State and local police maintained a strong presence at a crowded Hampton Beach on May 19.

Rochester Ridge 2 construction OK'd to start

Karen Dandurant
Foster's Daily Democrat
USA TODAY NETWORK

ROCHESTER — Construction on the long-anticipated Ridge phase 2 development is set to begin.

Waterstone Properties received approval May 18 from the city's Planning Board to begin construction while waiting for a needed driveway permit from the New Hampshire Department of Transportation.

Waterstone has touted Ridge phase 2 as a \$400 million project on 26.5 acres. Ridge II will feature 222 units of housing, a gym, a movie theater and arcade venue, restaurants and shops.

In addition to a Wentworth-Douglass Hospital/Mass General Brigham emergency department facility, Waterstone already announced agreements at Ridge 2 with Service Credit Union and Crunch Fitness. The identities of a majority of the businesses have not been revealed.

Ridge 2 will be built adjacent to the existing 27-acre Ridge Marketplace (phase I), which opened in 2016 and includes Market Basket, NH Liquor & Wine Outlet, Marshalls, Old Navy, Starbucks and more stores and restaurants. A third project called North Ridge, which would be bigger than Ridge 1 and 2 combined, is already in talks with the city, too.

Waterstone takes on risk, not city, officials say

Planning Board members made it clear the risk and expense of starting construction before the NHDOT permit is in place is on Waterstone Properties. Should the state deny the driveway permit after construction begins, any buildings constructed would have to remain vacant until the permit is successfully renegotiated.

David Litwin, a development manager for Waterstone Properties Group,

See **CONSTRUCTION**, Page 2A

Wife of officer killed in I-95 crash sues House of Blues

Live Nation is also named as a defendant

Patrick Cronin
Portsmouth Herald
USA TODAY NETWORK

EXETER — The wife of an Endicott College police officer killed in a wrong-way crash early Thanksgiving morning 2024 has filed a wrongful death lawsuit

against the House of Blues Boston, alleging the venue overserved the man charged in her husband's death.

Laura Cole, as representative of the estate of her husband, Jeremy Cole, filed the civil suit in Suffolk Superior Court on May 18. The complaint alleges the House of Blues continued serving alcohol to Keoma Duarte during a Djodje concert even though he was "visibly intoxicated." Live Nation, which promoted and sold tickets for the event, is also

named as a defendant.

"Duarte left the House of Blues in an intoxicated condition and therefore negligently operated his motor vehicle, causing a fatal wrong-way crash on I-95, which resulted in the wrongful death of Jeremy Cole," states the lawsuit filed by attorneys Benjamin H. Duggan, Kathy Jo Cook and Julie N. DeNardo of Sheff & Cook.

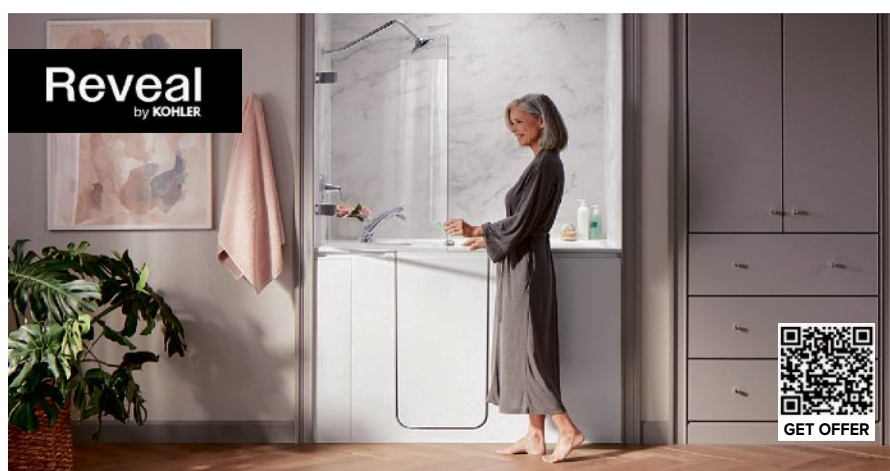
Duarte, 41, of New Bedford, currently faces vehicular homicide and man-

slaughter while operating under the influence charges in Massachusetts, as well as two counts of reckless conduct (deadly weapon) and disobeying a police officer charges in New Hampshire.

Prosecutors say he led police on a chase from Interstate 95 in Hampton to Newbury, Massachusetts, where the fatal crash occurred.

According to police, officers began

See **LAWSUIT**, Page 2A



FOR A LIMITED TIME
Get \$1,000 Off Your KOHLER® Walk-In Bath + No Interest for 12 Months†

For a FREE in-home consultation and quote

Call (844) 425-2671

†Offer ends May 31, 2026. Participating dealers only. Not available in AK; HI; Nassau Cty, Suffolk Cty, Westchester Cty, or City of Buffalo, NY. \$1,000 off average price of KOHLER walk-in bath. Reveal by KOHLER Authorized Dealers set all prices and are responsible for full amount of discount. Cannot be combined with any other advertised offer. Contact Reveal by KOHLER Authorized Dealer for financing details.

Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to fosters.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



Volume 199 | No. 74
Subscribe 888-736-4061
©2026 \$2.99

