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SPORTS, 1B

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Driver’s attorney disputes DUI



Paul Clement, right, talks with his attorney, Andrew Cotrupi, during his trial for alleged negligent homicide and driving under the influence in Strafford County Superior Court in Dover Nov. 17. DEB CRAM/FOSTER’S DAILY DEMOCRAT

Clement crash killed Air Guard leader Pogorek

Karen Dandurant
Foster’s Daily Democrat
USA TODAY NETWORK

DOVER — At the time of his arrest last year, Paul Clement, now 82, told police he had been drinking at a local bar and “blacked out” when his vehicle fatally struck Brig. Gen. John Pogorek in Rochester, court documents show.

Very different pictures were painted by the opposing attorneys during opening statements of Clement’s trial Nov. 17 in Strafford County Superior Court.

Assistant County Attorney Walter Ramos noted Clement had been drinking at Club Victoire in Rochester on July 8, 2024, and drove drunk, stating test results show he had a blood alcohol concentration of .123, well above the legal limit.

Defense attorney Andrew Cotrupi made the case Clement was not drunk, but instead was suffering from hyponatremia, very low sodium levels, causing balance and confusion issues. He said he will provide witnesses from Club Victoire, commonly referred to as the Victory Club, who will say Clement was not drunk.



Pogorek

Pogorek, 57, was commander of the New Hampshire Air National Guard at Pease. He is survived by his wife, Whitney, and their five children.

Clement is charged with Class A negligent homicide and Class B conduct after an accident for failing to stop after striking Pogorek. He is also charged with driving under the influence, a Class B misdemeanor.

Here’s a look at key testimony on the opening day of the trial.

John Pogorek’s teenage son testifies about fatal accident

A very emotional Jason Pogorek was the first witness. He was 15 and in his father’s truck at the time of the fatal accident.

Now 17 and a senior at Coe-Brown Northwood Academy, Jason said he plans to join the Air Force.

“My father was my mentor; I strive to be

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Latest plan to slow Woodbury Avenue speeding

Jeff McMenemy
Portsmouth Herald
USA TODAY NETWORK

PORTSMOUTH — A city committee recommended approval for a substantially scaled-back project aimed at reducing speeding on Woodbury Avenue.

The Parking, Traffic and Safety Committee recently advised the City Council to install what city engineer Eric Eby called raised “median islands” at either end of Woodbury Avenue’s residential corridor.

The islands would be located where Woodbury Avenue intersects with Echo and Rockingham avenues, according to Eby and the project plans.

Neighborhood signs

The revised traffic-calming plan for Woodbury Avenue also calls for installing “signs informing you you’re coming into the Frank Jones

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York OKs \$50K study for Cliff Walk repairs

Max Sullivan
York Weekly
USA TODAY NETWORK

YORK, Maine — The town is hiring a geotechnical engineering firm to produce a report on the historic Cliff Walk, taking a step toward reopening the sea-side path.

The Selectboard voted 5-0 at its Nov. 10 meeting to allocate \$50,000 from the town’s Disaster Assistance Fund for the study. The Cliff Walk— long cherished by York residents and visitors— runs along the coast and has suffered significant storm damage in recent years.

The path remains mostly closed, and town officials estimate it could cost more than \$1 million to restore. Emergency Management Director Nicole Pestana recommended the study to help inform the board and contractors as they assess what it will take to reopen it.

Town staff seek answers on Cliff Walk repairs

York’s Cliff Walk once stretched two miles along the coast, beginning near the Reading Room in York Harbor and ending at Lobster Cove.

Pestana’s work on finding answers about repairing the Cliff Walk follows the May 2025 referendum in which residents voted yes on an article asking

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