



Surging York boys blank soccer rival Traip to extend their winning streak to 4

SPORTS, 1B

Portsmouth Herald

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How much Portsmouth taxpayers will pay for police station, City Hall

Jeff McMenemy
Portsmouth Herald
USA TODAY NETWORK

PORTSMOUTH — Members of a city committee recently received preliminary estimates on how the \$58.6 million municipal complex project will impact taxpayers.

Nathan Lunney, deputy city manager for finance and administration, shared the estimates on upgrading and modernizing the police station and City Hall with the Municipal Building Blue Ribbon Committee.

The biggest projected property tax increase the owner of a median Portsmouth single-family home – valued at \$777,200 – could see in a single year is \$372, according to Lunney’s estimates.

The projected annual property tax rate hike impacts vary widely over the years of repayment, according to a presentation Lunney shared with the committee. This includes a 10-year period when prop-



Portsmouth has released updated designs for an overhaul and expansion of the police station and City Hall complex. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

erty tax hikes — estimated just for the municipal complex project — could be around \$300.

Committee members also received updated color renderings of the massive police station and City Hall upgrades during their recent meeting, showing views from the parking lot and the South Mill Pond.

Financing phased over time; numbers called ‘worst case’

The plan calls for “six annual borrowings” to pay for

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Miles Burns has big plans as Upside Arts takes over Strand in Dover

Sarah Donovan
Foster's Daily Democrat
USA TODAY NETWORK

DOVER — A new era is beginning at the former Strand theater space at 20 Third St., with the arrival of Upside Arts, a local youth theater company.

Miles Burns, a co-founder and co-owner of Upside Arts, said the company was formerly based in the Mall at Fox Run in Newington. The mall is being demolished to make way for a new retail center called Seacoast Landing. Burns said signing a lease at the former Strand feels like it was meant to be because he went to movies there growing up.

Burns said the space “fell into our laps.” The parents of one of the kids who participates in Upside Arts programs owns the Ohana Kitchen restaurant next door. They reached out to Burns to inform him about the space opening up.

“I’d been wanting to get this place for a long time because I grew up in Somersworth, and I used to come here every weekend, see movies and it just seems right for theater and for this community,” Burns said.

Upside Arts to offer summer camps and more

Burns said Upside Arts is “all things theater for kids to come and get to utilize their talents and learn and how to get stronger.”

Upside Arts offers summer camps and will run two-week sessions at the new space where youth can learn an entire show and perform it at the theater, Burns said. Vacation camps for school vacation weeks are planned, too. Programming starts for very young kids, with a class called “Curtain Up” for ages 4-6, and runs up through age 18.

Opening performance of ‘Frozen’ planned

Upside Arts had its first rehearsal in the new space for the current show “Frozen,” which will open Dec. 4, said Seraphina Caligiure, one of three co-founders and co-owners of Upside Arts. This will be the official opening to the public in the Strand space.

Burns noted Upside Arts runs shows year-round.

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Karoline Leavitt back in NH, to join Fox News as contributor

Kalia Richardson and Margie Cullen
USA TODAY NETWORK

Former White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt will be joining Fox News, the network announced Oct. 5, and broadcasting out of her New Hampshire home.

President Donald Trump’s former press secretary will be joining Fox News as an on-air contributor.

“I am grateful for the opportunity to continue appearing on Fox News Channel as an official member of the extraordinary team at Fox News Media,” Leavitt said in a statement. “I look forward to bringing my unique perspective from my experience as White House press secretary, along with the same energy and candor that defined my tenure, to Fox’s millions of viewers across their many platforms.”

Leavitt, 29, held her press secretary position in the Trump administration from January 2025 to August 2026, becoming the youngest person in American history to hold the position.

Leavitt grew up in Atkinson, New Hampshire, and attended Saint Anselm College in Manchester. After college, she moved to Hampton, and in 2022 she unsuccessfully ran for Congress in New Hampshire’s 1st Congressional District.

Leavitt will kickstart her role, offering political commentary and analysis, beginning Nov. 1. USA TODAY understands the former press secretary has moved back to New Hampshire with her family, and Fox has agreed to build a studio in her home.

“Karoline’s firsthand experience in the White House and on the presidential campaign trail gives her a distinct understanding of today’s political landscape,” Suzanne Scott, Fox News CEO, said in an announcement. “We look forward to her providing our audience with authentic and sharp insight across all FOX News Media platforms.”

Why did Karoline Leavitt leave the White House?

On Aug. 12, Trump announced Leavitt, who recently gave birth to her second child, would step away from the role at the end of the month to spend more time with her young children and family. He thanked Leavitt for her work and said that she would “now be one of my top outside advisors” and “an influential voice within the Republican Party.”

Leavitt joins Kayleigh McEnany, another former Trump press secretary, at the network. McEnany, who served in Trump’s first term, now co-hosts Fox News show “Outnumbered,” and hosts a Saturday program.

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