

THE PERISCOPE

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard news and information since 1942

February 2026

'THE LEGEND' RIDES AT DAWN

USS CHEYENNE
DELIVERED TO THE FLEET



From the Commander



Commander's Top 3



Team Portsmouth, as we reflect on our recent work, I want to emphasize our continued commitment to the three lines of effort I established at the beginning of my command. Focusing on developing deep proficiency and expertise at every level will be the bedrock of our success. When we pair that expertise with a mutual respect for authority that is earned through demonstrated skill, we build an unstoppable team. Finally, our drive to lead innovative efforts directly from the deckplate ensures that the best ideas — the most practical and effective solutions — come from you, the experts doing the work every single day. This philosophy is the engine of our continued excellence and is critical to meeting our mission.



It is with immense pride and gratitude that I extend my congratulations to every person involved in completing the overhaul of USS Cheyenne (SSN 773). This was no ordinary project; it was the first-ever Engineered Refueling Overhaul in the Service Life Extension Program, a milestone for both our shipyard and the Navy. The path was difficult, but team Portsmouth's refusal to give up ensured the project's ultimate success. Your work on Cheyenne is the very definition of the grit and determination for which our shipyard is known. I would also like to add special recognition for the recent success of the USS Hampton (SSN 767) team, who surged to complete critical installations before Christmas 2025. Your dedication and effort are truly commendable.



I want to call your attention to our safety campaign for 2026, "Raise the Bar — Lower the Risk." The success of our mission-critical submarine overhauls, a source of immense pride, is a direct result of our unwavering commitment to the well-being of our people. Everyone walks out at the end of shift in the same shape they walked in. The goal of this campaign is to proactively enhance our safety culture, empowering each of you to identify and mitigate risks before they can cause harm. As we move forward, remember that there is absolutely nothing more important than your safety. Nothing.



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On the cover:
USS Cheyenne departs PNSY
for sea trials, Dec. 12, 2025.

Photo by:
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December 2025

United in Mission: PNSY Rallies Support During Uncertain Times

Article by Hanna Lanoie

When last fall's extended lapse in appropriations brought uncertainty to every corner of the shipyard, the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard workforce and extended shipyard family united to ensure the shelves of the Thresher Memorial Chapel Food Pantry remained stocked.

"Within days, a dedicated team of volunteers coalesced, driven by a shared mission: to expand and sustain the food pantry throughout the duration of the government shutdown," said Facilities and Equipment Division Head Adam Henckler.

To meet the growing need, the food pantry was relocated to a larger location, with shipyarders from departments across the shipyard volunteering their time to prepare the new space. As the daily patronage surged from 150 to 600 at the height of the shutdown, labor unions and associations, both on and off the shipyard, rallied support.

Meeting the heightened level of demand required food and goods valued at approximately \$2,500 per day, and the sustained efforts of a dedicated volunteer team working early mornings, late nights, and weekends to keep the pantry operational.

"The weekly food donations we received and stocked prior to the shutdown would not have been sufficient to meet the needs of the over 3,000 shipyard personnel who

utilized the food pantry during the shutdown without the increased support from [all the associations] and volunteer efforts," said Chaplain Lt. Nathanael Gentilhomme. "The number of volunteer hours spent gathering food and supplies, stocking shelves and manning the food pantry during the shutdown is something our tiny Religious Ministries Department could not have done alone. I am truly thankful to God for how our shipyard community united — military and civilian — to support those in need during a financially anxious time for many."

Through collective action, the PNSY community exemplified the New England grit and determination of its people — which is what has made this shipyard so special for more than 225 years. When faced with challenging times, the workforce did not shatter into individuals, rather they united and demonstrated the Gold Standard of strength and resilience. Help from off-yard organizations, such as the Seacoast Shipyard Association, reflected the local community's support for our shipyard family. It is the character of the workforce and the extended shipyard family that enables PNSY to meet the Chief of Naval Operations tasking to serve as part of the Navy's Foundry, taking on all challenges and safely forging a Fleet ready to Fight and win, today and into the future.



CHEYENNE DELIVERED AS BATTLE-READY ASSET TO THE FLEET

Articles by Hanna Lanoie

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard delivered Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS Cheyenne (SSN 773) back to the fleet Dec. 23, 2025, after completing an Engineered Refueling Overhaul. This critical work distinguishes Cheyenne as the first submarine to undergo an overhaul as part of the Service Life Extension Program — extending its total service life beyond 44 years.

The Cheyenne Project Team, encompassing various trade workers, engineers, and material support personnel at PNSY, worked alongside the ship's crew to return Cheyenne back to the fleet as a battle-ready Navy asset — an achievement that advances the effort to close the gap in ready attack submarines. This milestone ensures the U.S. Submarine Force remains the most lethal, capable, and feared combat force in the world.

“The Service Life Extension Program, starting with Cheyenne, is critically important to the overall health of the attack submarine community and the strength of our Navy for any future conflict,” said Shipyard Commander Capt. Jesse Nice. “The Cheyenne Project Team has blazed the trail for us as a shipyard, establishing the successful execution of a Los Angeles-class submarine refueling, as well as the overhaul and modernization of a submarine that is later in its service life.”

Cheyenne's return answers the call from the Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable John Phelan, to accelerate the nation's industrial base in the face of increasing strategic competition.

“The completion of Cheyenne's availability is a powerful example of the industrial velocity we can achieve when the shipyard and our crews work as a single, integrated team,” said Capt. Jason Deichler, commodore, Submarine Squadron TWO. “Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and the crew of the Cheyenne heard the Secretary's call to action, and they are answering it.”

Photo by Branden Bourque

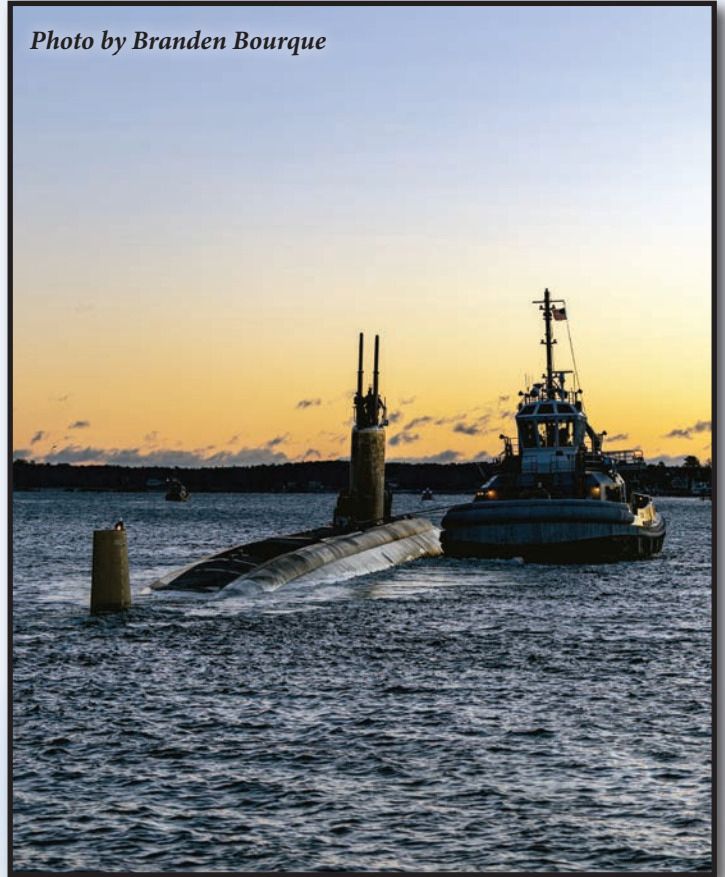


Photo by Branden Bourque



The highly skilled workforce at PNSY continued working hard through the end of the availability, completing Cheyenne nearly two months ahead of the rebaselined delivery date. “Returning the ‘Legend’ to sea will bring an un-paralleled warfighting capability back to the fleet,” said Cheyenne Commanding Officer Cmdr. Mark Rostedt. “Cheyenne has been refueled, overhauled and upgraded with the latest sonar and combat control equipment, which will allow us to remain at sea for months at a time conducting missions vital to our nation’s security. As commanding officer, I could not be prouder of my crew for all the hard work getting to this point. I’m also honored to have been able to work with PNSY, who are hands down experts at their craft.”

Cheyenne Project Superintendent Jerry Legere emphasized how the workforce worked through lessons learned, long hours, and delivered its promise to the Navy in returning Cheyenne in the best material condition as fast as possible. “Thousands of people are responsible for this achievement — it was truly a team effort,” said Legere.

As the Navy’s leader in attack submarine maintenance and modernization, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard is the cornerstone of the Foundry: The Navy’s shore infrastructure and industrial base required to generate, sustain and modernize naval power. PNSY safely delivers first-time quality work ensuring the Navy is ready to fight and win, now and in the future.



USS Cheyenne (SSN 773) crew prepares Cheyenne for departure. Photo by Neil Boorjian.



“Cheyenne’s motto is ‘Ride the Legend,’ but I believe the real ‘Legend’ is comprised of the PNSY team who worked around the clock to ensure Cheyenne was ready to return to the fleet, and the Sailors and families who have trained and mentally prepared to operate in harm’s way if called to do so.”

- Cheyenne Commanding Officer Cmdr. Mark Rostedt

CHEYENNE DEPLAQUING CEREMONY

A Deplaquing Ceremony for Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS Cheyenne (SSN 773) was held Jan. 14, 2026, for ship’s officers, crew and project team following the completion of its Engineered Refueling Overhaul at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.



Above (l to r): Mayor of Portsmouth, New Hampshire Deaglan McEachern; Shipyard Commander Capt. Jesse Nice; Cheyenne Commanding Officer Cmdr. Mark Rostedt; Commander, Submarine Squadron TWO Capt. Jason Deichler; Cheyenne Project Superintendent Jerry Legere. Photo by Branden Bourque.

Sponsored by the Shipyard Naval Civilian Managers Association, the ceremony continued the long-standing tradition of removing a ship’s plaque from the board of homeported vessels displayed at Tirante Tavern, officially marking the conclusion of the availability and Cheyenne’s return to the fleet.

“As your host committee, it is always a bittersweet moment. We celebrate your return to the fleet, but just as Cheyenne’s departure leaves a space on the dock, you leave a space in us as we remember you,” said Deaglan McEachern, mayor of Portsmouth, New Hampshire. “You, your families, your contributions to our community, to our nation, and your presence among us, will fill that void with pride in your example to our nation as you sail from Portsmouth in harm’s way to defend us. Portsmouth is now and forever part of the ‘Legend.’”

The Commute by Ferry, 1918

This Month in Portsmouth Naval Shipyard History

On a freezing February morning in 1918, a ferry trapped in the Piscataqua River's ice tested the determination and resiliency of Portsmouth Naval Shipyard workers on their way to work.

About 70 passengers, including a number of PNSY employees, were aboard Government Ferry No. 1048, Feb. 11, 1918, when the vessel became trapped in the river's heavy ice jam.

The ferry departed Daniels Street landing in Portsmouth — now the site of the Memorial Bridge near Harbor Walk Park— at 7:15 a.m. Shortly after, engineer Mark Tucker shut down the ferry's boiler after failing to raise steam, leaving the vessel without power.

The turning tide pushed the ferry, along with a substantial amount of ice from Great Bay, toward the old Boston & Maine Railroad bridge near the present-day Sarah Mildred Long Bridge. Attempts to assist the ferry failed when an Eagle-class patrol craft and a Coast Guard vessel could not reach the ferry through the thick ice, allowing the vessel to drift dangerously close to the bridge.

Residents on Noble's Island — then a separate island, now part of the mainland where Market Street

and the Portsmouth Chamber Visitor Center exist today — laid planking across the ice to the vessel. Rather than waiting, passengers used the improvised path to keep moving, demonstrating creativity and determination in the face of challenging conditions. A PNSY master machinist named Michael A. Barrett and Chief of the Service Section Millard W. Gardner were among the first to navigate the makeshift crossing, exemplifying the workforce's proactive problem-solving and dedication to mission.

Many passengers continued on foot in subzero temperatures. PNSY employees bound for the shipyard relied on ingenuity and teamwork to complete the journey — they crossed the old toll bridge, near today's Route 1 bridge, to the Boston & Maine Railroad Station at Kittery Junction before reporting to work.

The ferry remained locked in the ice until early afternoon, when the next tide freed it and allowed it to safely return to shore.

The icy ordeal stands as a small but telling example of the resilience that has defined the PNSY workforce for the last 225 years.

Article by Joseph Gluckert. Historical photo.



J. FRANK WALKER
PHOTO

~SHIPYARD 101~

'Behind the Seams' of The Sail Loft

Article by Cat Davis

Once dedicated to crafting sails for 19th century ships, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard's Sail Loft now produces protective equipment that keeps Sailors and shipyard workers safe, supporting a wide range of Navy operations.

Since the early 1800's, sailmaking has been a part of the shipyard's history. During the time of wooden sailing ships, PNSY's Sail Loft would float the masts under the building, raising them through the floor to manufacture and repair them.

Sailmaking began to decline with the introduction of the steam engine, but the duties of the sailmakers continued to adapt and transition to meet the Navy's demands for war vessels.

Today, the Sail Loft operates with more than 80 full-time employees carrying on the same traditions of manufacturing and repairs — but with a modern purpose. On the second floor, with its vast oak flooring and nine-foot ceilings, the team manufactures outdoor covers, changing tents, weld blankets, glove bags, and large- and small-scale containment shelters that protect workers from environmental hazards. These carefully crafted items assist other trades such as welders, painters, and electricians.

There is an energy when you walk into the Sail Loft, located in one of the island's oldest buildings — pride and team spirit are evident when speaking with the personnel. "It has made me grow as a person," said Supervisor Melinda

Lavoie. "Starting from the beginning of my career and working my way up has given me the drive and motivation to succeed and work hard. I wouldn't want to work in any other shop."

"As a worker leader, my priority is keeping personnel safe," said Worker Leader Kaylynn Roy who has been working in the Sail Loft for the last six years. "I want to be able to help the coming generation learn the trade, provide quality products and be confident in their jobs."

Roy's attention to detail, a skill acquired from her previous employment, has proved to be useful in the Sail Loft. "It's important to pay attention to the small details to avoid bigger mistakes, which don't just impact our shop, but the other shops who rely on us," said Roy.

Further supporting the importance of first-time quality, Lavoie explained how the Sail Loft's work is an essential part of a larger operation. "Without us, painters wouldn't be able to do their jobs safely, the outside machinists would not be protected from the elements, piping jobs would be delayed, and the plastic fabricators couldn't lay tile without the enclosures we produce," said Lavoie.

The enduring legacy of the sailmaking trade is a testament to its remarkable ability to adapt and innovate. For centuries, this unique craft has, and continues to, faithfully serve the Navy ensuring the readiness of its assets and contributing to the protection of the Nation.



*Unknown Fabric Worker, 1918.
Historical Photo.*



*Sail Loft Fabric Worker Amber Vigue, 2026.
Photo by Alana Demo.*

Optimizing Critical Operations: New Paint, Blast & Rubber Facility

Article by Alana Demo

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard is continuing its efforts to keep the worker at the center of gravity by supporting the efficient execution of their work. This commitment is reflected in the recent completion of the consolidated Paint, Blast and Rubber Facility.

Delivered by the Officer in Charge of Construction (OICC), PNSY, the new facility directly supports the workforce while aligning with Naval Sea Systems Command's goals under the Shipyard Infrastructure Optimization Program (SIOP).

Housing the Coatings and Coverings Shop — which includes the Plastic Fabricator and Painter Blaster Shops—the new space has created numerous opportunities to increase efficiency and throughput, ultimately resulting in better support of timely schedule execution through facility and machining upgrades.

Previously, the Coatings and Coverings Shop was spread across several different buildings — an arrangement that often required a single job to be moved between multiple locations, leading to a high failure rate and unnecessarily complex work processes.

The facility is equipped to directly support mission-critical work completed at PNSY, including attack submarine maintenance and modernization projects and other productive work. “This is both a showpiece for the shipyard and a symbol of our workforce’s valuable support of the [warfighter],” said Coatings and Coverings Shop Superintendent Dave Veino. “The project serves as validation from the Navy that the daily dedication and sweat equity our mechanics invest is truly valued. I can see a significant shift in pride, confidence, and morale that was not quantifiable in the past.”

The new facility also enhances safety and working conditions for plastic fabricator staff. “The building brings operations into compliance with state-of-the-art life-

safety and industrial ventilation requirements needed for the special functions carried out by the plastic fabricators,” said Deputy OICC Nathan Maher.

In addition to the safety improvements, the facility includes machinery and equipment upgrades that enable production employees to provide higher-quality work. The painters now have a powder-coating machine in the plastisol coating area, along with a plexiglass shaping area and rubber gasket inspection and packaging space. The number of paint blast booths has doubled and upgrades to the powder-coat line equipment now enable a level of production throughput that was previously unattainable.

The facility will also house new rubber-mixing equipment designed to minimize downtime and eliminate the need to transport material between multiple locations. Having one facility allows all of the environmental controls, required for many plastic fabrication processes, to be together in one area which will enable levels to be monitored and stabilized more easily reducing duplicate work. “In the past many parts of our processes had to be completed in different areas all over the shipyard, the new facility eliminates most of that,” said Plastic Fabrication General Foreman Mark Jewell.

This consolidation was the final piece of PNSY’s strategy to co-locate the majority of the structural and preservation shops to a common enclave in close proximity to the dry docks, improving efficiency through the adjacencies of related work and teams. “This state-of-the-art facility will save well in excess of \$2.5M a year just in rework alone, and the safety improvements for our workers are priceless,” said PNSY SIOP Director Russ Gagner. “This facility is focused on getting modernized submarines back to the fleet more efficiently to execute our national priorities, safely and with Portsmouth excellence.”

Paint, Blast and Rubber Facility Rendering

By bringing these crucial functions under one roof, the shipyard is positioned to better support the Chief of Naval Operation's tasking to build a strong industrial Foundry that forges the Fleet to Fight. This step streamlines its processes and increases efficiency while also sending a clear message to its workforce — their contributions are valued, and they deserve a modern, safe, and effective environment in which to perform their vital work.

SIOP is a comprehensive, long-term recapitalization effort that is delivering integrated investments in

infrastructure and industrial plant equipment at the Navy's four public shipyards, expanding shipyard capacity and optimizing shipyard configuration to meet the Navy's nuclear-powered fleet maintenance requirements. Recapitalizing the shipyards' century-old infrastructure increases maintenance throughput, enhances readiness, and improves quality of service for the Navy's 38,000 shipyard employees.



Blast Bays in new Paint, Blast and Rubber Facility.

Photo provided by Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command



Rubber compounding area in new Paint, Blast and Rubber Facility.

Photo provided by Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command



Paint booths in new Paint, Blast and Rubber Facility.

Photo provided by Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command

P R O F I L E

Joe MacGinnis

Article by Alana Demo. Photo by Hanna Lanoie.

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard's Radiological Emergency Planning (EP) Director Joe MacGinnis comes from a long line of shipyarders and has been working at the shipyard for 16 years. During that time, MacGinnis was a Shift Test Engineer, Chief Test Engineer, Reactor Engineering Division Head and his current role, Radiological EP Director for Radiological Emergency Response Organization.

MacGinnis works with a team of EP Advisors and Coordinators, RERO leadership, the Ship and Fire Safety Division and the Emergency Management Office. "Every day this team comes together to work on how we can improve our emergency response readiness and we do that by planning, working on equipment, staffing, and training to maintain emergency preparedness," said MacGinnis. "This ensures PNSY is ready to respond at all times to an emergency on any of the submarines at the shipyard."

RERO is an organization of trained personnel from all departments who are ready to respond to an emergency. They keep their skills sharp with monthly training and periodic drills to always maintain emergency preparedness for the safety and security of the PNSY workforce, Sailors, public and environment.

Ultimately, MacGinnis finds his role on the RERO team immensely rewarding. "My time as the EP Director has allowed me to see the positive impact we have with our state and local partners," said MacGinnis. "It has shown me that being prepared to respond to an emergency is a part of the job for all of us."

Submarine maintenance requires preparedness and the need to plan work extensively with processes like engineered solutions, pre-shift briefs, and safety reviews is paramount.

Emergency preparedness is essential to the work at PNSY. Being ready to respond means being ready for the unexpected, not just the most likely scenarios. This focus directly supports the Chief of Naval Operation's priority to maintain a strong Foundry through operational readiness, accelerating submarine repair at scale and strengthening partnerships.

Individuals interested in volunteering for the RERO team can contact the Radiological Emergency Planning department.



H A L F

M A S T



PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE - William "Bill" D. Littlefield, passed away peacefully September 22, 2025, at age 71.

A graduate of Exeter High School, Littlefield had a lifelong passion for history, which led him to earn a history degree from UNH later in life—an achievement he held with great pride.

For over 30 years, Littlefield worked at the UNH Library, where he found deep purpose and enjoyment.

After semi-retiring in 2005, he continued sharing his love for history as a historian at Albacore Park and as a guide for Historic New England, giving tours at several historic Portsmouth sites. He also spent many Thursdays as a volunteer at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Heritage Center—work he truly cherished.

Shipyard Historian Joe Gluckert memorialized Littlefield in saying, "Bill will always be remembered for his quick wit and encyclopedic knowledge of historic Portsmouth and its ties and connections to the Naval Shipyard. He will be missed by us all."

Photo by Shipyard Heritage Center Volunteer Ken Goldman

NORTH BERWICK, MAINE - William "Frank" Franklin Rose passed away peacefully October 15, 2025, at age 74.

Rose was a graduate of the apprentice program at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, where he worked for many years as a Shipfitter before retiring as a business agent overseeing overhauls and staff after 32 years of dedicated service. He cherished the friendships formed there, both with colleagues and with teammates on the Men's Softball Team at PNSY.

In addition to his work, Rose was also a devoted father and an active presence in his community, volunteering as a coach for local little league baseball teams.

For more than three decades, he also served as a football coach for many different age groups at local school districts. Generations of young athletes remember "Coach Rose" as a mentor who taught them not only the game, but the values of hard work, perseverance, and integrity—treating every player as one of his own "sons."

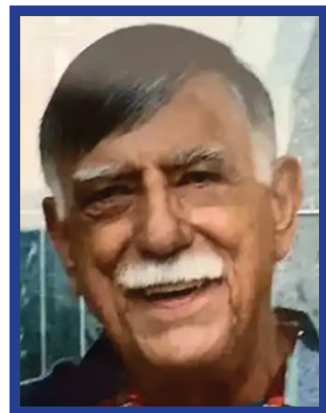


Photo courtesy of the Rose Family



BARRINGTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE - Eugene "Gene" Richard Schmitz, Jr., passed away November 10, 2025.

Schmitz was a graduate of the apprenticeship program at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and spent the last 18 years of dedicated service in many roles, spanning

from mechanic to supervisor. No matter what the task, Schmitz approached his work with humility, professionalism, and a genuine desire to help others succeed.

"Schmitz loved his job and the people he worked with. His coworkers were not just teammates — they were an extension of the care and generosity he carried with him everywhere he went," said Coatings and Coverings Zone Manager Rikki Nesbitt. "Known for his unselfish nature, positive outlook, and caring heart, he consistently put others first, making a lasting impact on everyone fortunate enough to cross his path."

Outside of work, Schmitz enjoyed hiking, gardening, traveling, cooking, and reading. His hobbies reflected his appreciation for both adventure and the quiet joys of everyday life. Schmitz was kind, giving, unselfish, positive and caring. The loss of his presence is felt throughout his community, where he is remembered fondly.

Photo courtesy of the Schmitz Family



Combined Federal Campaign Annual Awareness Breakfast

Photos by Branden Bourque

The workforce of Portsmouth Naval Shipyard gathered together Dec. 18, 2025 to share a warm breakfast, spread holiday cheer, and raise awareness for the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC).

CFC is the official workplace giving campaign for the federal community, offering federal employees and retirees the opportunity to support causes they care about by donating to one or more of thousands of participating charities.

The annual breakfast is a meaningful expression of the season of giving the CFC season brings each year. The event serves as a reminder of the true spirit of the holidays and what it means to contribute to PNSY's mission as a member of the workforce — uniting people in support of causes greater than themselves.

Support Strengthens the Mission Accessing Mental Health Resources

Did you know you have access to Magellan Federal resources through the DON-Civilian Employee Assistance Program (DONCEAP)? Visit the Magellan Federal website by scanning the QR code and search Department of Navy/ Department of Navy Civilian to access free support resource options.

Help at PNSY

Kimberly Aucella,
PNSY- Suicide Prevention Coordinator
207-438-6742, & 207-451-8671

Tara Kennedy
PNSY- Suicide Prevention Coordinator
207-438-2672



Magellan
FEDERAL

PNSY Partners with Kittery to Host Maine's Premiere FIRST Tech Challenge Qualifier

January 17, 2026 marked a significant milestone for local robotics teams with the first-ever FIRST Tech Challenge qualifier event held in the state of Maine.

Part of the FIRST Program, which stands for For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology, the event was proudly co-hosted by Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, the Town of Kittery, and Blue Potato Lobsters — a community team from the NOBLE school district.

Twenty middle school and high school robotics teams from Maine and New Hampshire joined together to compete while demonstrating FIRST's core philosophies of Gracious Professionalism and Coopertition.

"About four years ago, there were no FTC teams in the state of Maine, and we are now up to five," said Chris Herrick, Assistant Chief Test Engineer and Blue Potato Lobsters coach and mentor. This allows teams that normally compete in New Hampshire to now have the option to compete locally and move forward in the competition. "Having this FTC competition in Maine allows us to grow the program even more."

Blue Potato Lobsters Team Captain Xander Upton emphasized the milestone's importance to local students. "Having the tournament in Kittery allowed Maine teams to compete in a place that they know. They didn't have to drive two or more hours away to participate."

Teams arrived early in the morning at the Kittery Community Center to set up in "the pits" and prepared to compete. Teams joined forces with allied teams and went head-to-head against their opponents. After the initial round, officials tallied the points and advanced the top teams to the playoffs, where final champions were crowned.

Participating on a robotics team is so much more than just building robots. Students develop a range of skills similar to those required to run a small business. Students not only learn the engineering and design skills necessary to construct a robot, but they also gain an understanding of how to create their own marketing plans and website designs, how to conduct outreach to local businesses, budgeting and fundraising.

Shipyard Commander, Capt. Jesse Nice, who provided opening remarks, shared how he feels these skills mirror the real-world skills and teamwork required at the shipyard. "I'm



Shipyard Commander Capt. Jesse Nice and student.

watching my three lines of effort play out in real time at this event," said Nice. "Each of these kids have a mastery of the systems they are working on and are continuing to develop their expertise. After every match, they are aligning as a team and diving in to fix their problems. Out of that, they are coming up with new ideas and improving their robots. Every team is able to wield that authority."

Mentors and coaches are pivotal to the success of the program and growing the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) skillset of local students.

"The mentors are the key to what we do," said Ken St. Hilaire, Director of FIRST New Hampshire. "What I enjoy about FIRST is that they stress active mentorship. Mentors are shoulder-to-shoulder with students, teaching them what they know."

Kellen Brown, Support Service Specialist and coach of the Shapleigh School Cybersharks shared, "The highlight from this season is seeing the kids I've known since second or third grade grow into true leaders, take ownership of the team and guide their peers in the right direction to become successful robotics engineers."

STEM is at the core of many career pathways, including those at PNSY. Through investing in STEM programs locally, communities strengthen their workforce, economy and the nation's readiness.

Nice ended by stating, "This is the future of the shipyard – the future of the Foundry is here at this FTC Qualifier and will eventually be part of the shipyard workforce."

Article by Libby Hite. Photos by Neil Boorjian.



Raise the Bar.

The new safety awareness campaign has three pillars:

STANDARDS

Basic safety in every job. If it's unsafe, STOP, reassess, and fix the problem.

OWNERSHIP

Make and own safety decisions and the impact on self and team.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Be safe and professional at all times.



A new comprehensive safety campaign, “Raise the Bar—Lower the Risk,” is launching to enhance workplace safety across the shipyard by fostering a culture of continuous awareness and improvement. The phrase captures the campaign’s core objective: elevating safety awareness and practices (raising the bar) to proactively minimize hazards, risks and injuries (lowering the risk).

“This campaign calls on everyone—from entry-level personnel to senior management—to actively participate in creating a safer work environment for all. Its goal is to build a seamless safety culture that reaches across the shipyard,” said Occupational Safety, Health, and Environment Department Head Tia Lantiegne.

The foundational pillars of the foundation are **standards**, **ownership**, and **accountability**. If a standard cannot be followed—stop—reassess and fix the plan before proceeding. Take ownership of decisions and their impact on individuals and the team. Be accountable for acting safely and professionally at all times.

Throughout the campaign, employees can expect to see new safety videos that highlight essential practices designed to improve daily job performance and overall work efficiency. Key focus areas for this campaign include proactive hazard identification, effective communication, and adherence to best practices.

“By collectively raising the bar on safety standards and fostering active risk awareness, the shipyard community helps ensure everyone returns home safely at the end of each shift,” said Production Operations Manager Kurt West.

A safer workplace is not only more productive but also builds trust, boosts morale, and demonstrates commitment to the shipyard’s most valuable asset—its people.

More than just a slogan, “Raise the Bar—Lower the Risk” is a vital commitment to protecting the workforce. Working together will raise the bar on safety and lower the risk of accidents and injuries, ensuring the shipyard continues to safely deliver excellence for the Navy.

Article by Neil Boorjian

Lower the Risk.

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Multiple Locations - WHITE KNUCKLE TRANSIT LLC: 1st shift 0630-1500, (3) 15-passenger vans serving the Brunswick area, Sanford/Springvale/Wells and Limington/Waterboro/Alfred. Space available. Contact Matt: (207) 252-0584 or wtnukltransit@gmail.com.

Alfred/Lyman/Kennebunk/Sanford/Wells - CUNNINGHAM VAN, 10-hour van, 0600-1630, 5 days a week, 10 riders in a 15-passenger van. Contact Ken Cunningham: Call or text (207) 608-9402 or CunninghamVan@gmail.com.

Lebanon/Berwick/S. Berwick - AT BUS 1: Lebanon, ME (Upper Cross Road), Berwick (via Long Swamp Rd), Berwick, Berwick Park & Ride, South Berwick (via Rte. 236) 0600-1430, M-F (8 hour day shift).
AT BUS 2: Lebanon, ME (Town Hall Park & Ride), Berwick via Long Swap Rd & Berwick (Park & Ride), South Berwick (Rte. 236) 0600-1530 5/4/9 shift
Call Lee for details: ext. 4531, daytime cell (207) 703-3769, evening cell (603)312-7956

Biddeford - O'BRIENS VANPOOL: 0700-1530, Two vans, 1st picks up at Biddeford Park & Ride; 2nd picks up at Five Points Shopping Center in Biddeford. Pickups also available at homes on Village Lane, Westmore Ave. or near this area. Registered with TIP. Contact Mike: ext. 3737 or (207) 590-0546.

Biddeford/Saco - ACIN VANPOOL: 1st shift. Picks up at Biddeford Park & Ride, 10 passenger limit. Arrives on-yard by 0615. Contact Phil: ext. 1682 or (207) 423-6142.

Biddeford/Saco area - PERHAM VANPOOL: 1st shift, (2) vanpools. Meet at Biddeford Park & Ride. Second vanpool meets at Saco Park & Ride. Space available. Contact Chris: ext. 1821 or (207) 590-2378.

Portland/Saco - CHURCH VANPOOL: 1st shift, reliable drivers. Space available. Contact Randy: ext. 4790 or (207) 450-5824.

Dayton/Lyman/Kennebunk - DANLEY VAN POOL: (4) 15-Passenger vans with seats available. Can accommodate first shift 0600-1430 or 0630-1500. No out-of-pocket expense when enrolled in TIP. Contact Tyler: (207) 590-3279.

Biddeford - SWANK VANPOOL LLC: Two 15-passenger vans from Biddeford (1) 0600-1500 leaves Biddeford Park & Ride at 0500, (2) 0600-1530 5/4/9 Friday SDO leaves Biddeford Park & Ride at 0500. Please contact Kevin Swank 207-205-1311

Brunswick/Topsham/Yarmouth/Portland/South Portland - CRONIN VANPOOL: 1st shift 0600-1430. Reliable drivers, newer 12-passenger Chevrolet van. With Transportation Incentive Program, \$0 out-of-pocket cost. Space Available. For more info, call Kevin ext. 2531 or (207)837-3561.

Hollis/Waterboro/Alfred/Sanford/Wells - MADORE VANPOOL: 1st shift, via Rt. 117/202/4/109/I-95. Non-smoking. Riders wanted. Contact Cory: (207) 752-6019 or (207) 423-3774.

W. Newfield - NEWFIELD EXPRESS: 1st shift (0630-1530). 15-passenger. Multiple pickup spots include W. Newfield, Shapleigh, Springvale, Sanford, N.Berwick, Berwick, Contact Ben x5873 or sign up on TIPS directly. newfieldexpress@gmail.com, (207) 806-7043

Lebanon/Berwick/South Berwick - POPLAR HILL TRANSPORTATION LLC: 1st shift. Picks up at Lebanon Park & Ride, Berwick Park & Ride, and South Berwick Park & Ride. Contact Jake: (207) 608-3879 or email at poplarhillllc@yahoo.com.

Lebanon-North Berwick/Berwick/South Berwick/Eliot/Kittery - FARREN TRANSPORTATION: 1st Shift; On schedule means on yard by 5:40. 15-passenger van. Berwick, South Berwick Park & Rides. Will pick up along Little River Rd., or Rt. 236. Contact Dan: (207) 451-7092, (207) 475-6325, email RidewithFT@gmail.com.

Lebanon/Berwick/South Berwick - CRASHIN' BURNS TRANSPORT: 0630-1500/0645-1515 shifts. Free for TIPS participants. 10 passenger van. Space available, contact Ryan Burns: ext. 2786.

Springvale/Sanford/Berwick - MATHIEU VANPOOL: 1st shift. No overcrowding, 10 riders in a 15-passenger van. Dependable drivers, no out-of-pocket expense with TIP. 2 openings available, call Shawn: (207) 651-4975.

Gray - BENNER'S VANPOOL: 1st shift, (no stops). Accommodates 0600-1500 shift. Registered with TIP, no out of pocket expense. Contact Jason (207) 590-1955. Call or text.

Lebanon/Berwick/South Berwick - DEVOLL'S VAN POOLS: 1st shift, non-smoking, 15 passenger van that only takes 12 passengers, TIP participant, Lebanon Park & Ride, Little River Road, Lebanon Road, Beach Ridge Road, Rt 9 to Berwick, Rt 236 to shipyard. Contact Kip (H) 457-1241, (C) 451-3257.

Dayton/Lyman/Kennebunk - DANLEY VANPOOL: 15-passenger OVERTIME van with seats available. Accommodates 0530-1530 shift. No out-of-pocket expense when enrolled in the TIP program. Contact Tyler: (207)590-3279.

Lebanon/Berwick/South Berwick - DK TRANSPORTATION: 15 passenger van. Plenty of seats available! 10-hour shifts. 0600-1630. TIP participant. 1st pick up at Lebanon Park & Ride, into Berwick via Long Swamp Rd., stop at Berwick Park & Ride, into South Berwick via 236. Multiple stops along the way. Call or text Drew: (978)305-0537

Wells area - PERHAM VANPOOL: 1st shift. Meet at Wells Park & Ride. Space available. Contact Chris: ext. 1821 or (207) 590-2378.

Farmington, NH - GRANITE STATE TRANSIT 25- Passenger, leaves daily from old Fire Station downtown 0515, leaves from Shipyard Mall 1500. Contact Lee: (603) 781-3402.

Lebanon, ME - GRANITE STATE TRANSIT 32-Passenger, 3 pickup locations: Lebanon corner of Depot Rd. and Rt. 202, Berwick Park & Ride - corner of Sullivan St. and Wilson St., bus stop - corner of Norton St. and Main St., (across from B&T Bank) South Berwick. Leaves from Shipyard parking garage 1500. Contact Lee: Personal (603) 781-3402, Work (207) 451-7497. Contact Lee: (603) 781-3402.

Rochester/Milton/Farmington/Barrington - SEACOAST EXPRESS: 3 buses running daily covering 0500-1530, 0600-1430, 0600-1530, 0700-1530 and "5/4/9" shifts. Seacoast Express users can switch buses at any time throughout the month if they would like to work overtime, switch shifts or leave early. All buses leave from Rochester Home Depot parking lot. Vehicle available at shipyard if passengers have an emergency situation and need to leave early. For more information, contact Aaron: (603) 337-5137.

Sanford/Wells/Kittery - CCR EXPRESS: 1st shift (0630-1500) pickup at Hannaford-Sanford (0445), Mardens-Sanford (0455), Hannaford-N. Berwick (0505), Aroma Joes-S. Berwick (0515), Kittery Masonic Lodge #184(0600). Either snooze or watch a movie on the way to work. Come give it a try. 100% Free ride to work with TIP. Contact Milton: (207) 604-4936.

Sanford/Springvale/points south - TURNER VAN POOL: Arrives 0545 am, departs 1500, 8-hr shift. Contact Herv: cell (207) 432-3779, email herveyturner@gmail.com

Waterboro/Alfred/Sanford/Wells - AB VANPOOL: 1st shift. Clean, comfortable, and reliable. Arrives on yard around 0615. No out-of-pocket expenses for TIP participants once enrolled. For more information, contact Cory: ext. 1442 or (207) 651-1526.

Dover - J.R.'s VANPOOL: 1st shift. Departs from Exit 9 Park & Ride at 0540. Large comfortable van, space available. Contact J.R.: ext. 1123 or (603) 749-1409.

Manchester/Epping - QUEEN CITY AND EPPING VAN POOL: Commute for free, picks up in Manchester and the Epping Park & Ride (Exit 7, Rt-101) First shift (0630-1530). 15-passenger van. No smoking or out-of-pocket costs, fees covered by TIP program. Call or text Pete, cell (603) 505-5508, home (732) 397-0429.

Waterboro/Alfred/Sanford/Wells - AB VANPOOL: 1st shift. Clean, comfortable, and reliable. Arrives on yard around 0615. No out-of-pocket expenses for TIP participants once enrolled. For more information, contact Cory: ext. 1442 or (207) 651-1526.

Dover - J.R.'s VANPOOL: 1st shift. Departs from Exit 9 Park & Ride at 0540. Large comfortable van, space available. Contact J.R.: ext. 1123 or (603) 749-1409.

Manchester/Epping - QUEEN CITY AND EPPING VAN POOL: Commute for free, picks up in Manchester and the Epping Park & Ride (Exit 7, Rt-101) First shift (0630-1530). 15-passenger van. No smoking or out-of-pocket costs, fees covered by TIP program. Call or text Pete, cell (603) 505-5508, home (732) 397-0429.

Rochester/Somersworth/Dover - PLATT VANPOOL: 1st shift 4/10s, 0600-1630. Main pickups are Rochester Park & Ride and Tuckers off Exit 9 in Dover/ Somersworth. Route starts from Parsonsfield, ME; Newfield, ME; and Wakefield, NH; so if you are in the north country, call for details. Contact John Platt ext. 2912; text or call (603) 923-3979; email jpe.john@gmail.com.

Rochester/ East Rochester - COPPS TRANSPORTATION 1st Shift 0630-1500. Leaving out of Rochester, stops in East Rochester and Lowes. Arrive on yard 0550, home by 1545. No out-of-pocket cost. Call Jesse: 207-451-0973.

Saco/Biddeford/Wells - WISE MAN TRANSPORTATION: 10-hour days, 0600-1630, 5 days a week, non-smoking, 25-passenger limo bus from the Park & Rides with no out-of-pocket fee after TIP reimbursement. Pick up **Saco-0450**.

Biddeford-0457, Kennebunk-0505, Wells-0515 arrive at shipyard-0545. 2nd bus running 8-hour shift, 0630-1500, in a non-smoking 32-passenger bus with no out-of-pocket fee if signed up on TIP. Pick up at Park & Rides **Saco-0520** and **Biddeford-0530**. Contact Brad: ext. 1228, (207) 219-2474 or nascardriver_39@hotmail.com

Shapleigh/Sanford/Wells - TRIPLE C&K TRANSPORT: 1st shift. No out-of-pocket expense for riders once enrolled in TIP. For more information contact Darrell: (207) 752-7886.

Hooksett/Candia/Epping/Exeter - CAPITAL CITY TRANSPORTATION: Commute for FREE with TIP debit card, servicing I-93, exit 11 and Rt. 101, exits 7 & 11, 1st shift (0600-1500) no overcrowding, 15-passenger van with bench seats, non-smoking. For more information call, text or on Facebook - Jeff (603) 682-6124.

Springvale/Sanford/Wells - FROMMIES FREIGHT LLC: 15-passenger van, 8-hour work days 0600 to 1430. Clean, comfortable and reliable. No out-of-pocket expenses once enrolled in TIPS program. Contact Mike: 207-608-9964 and/or frommiesfreightllc@gmail.com.

Springvale/Sanford/Wells - DAVID BOMBARO TRANSPORTATION: 1ST shift. Departs Springvale Public Library 0505, Guerrero Maya (formerly Back Street Grill) 0515, Wells Park 'n Ride 0530. Will pick up anywhere along Rt. 109. No more than 2 riders per seat. Nothing out of pocket when registered with the TIP. Seats available. Call or text David: 207-210-2626

Shapleigh/Springvale/Sanford/South Berwick - S.S. TRANSPORTATION: 1st Shift. 15-passenger van. 1st pickup at Pine Springs, Shapleigh 0445; Boonies 0500; foot of Mousam 0506; stops at Springvale Courthouse, Sanford Hannaford, Mardens, North Berwick Hannaford, South Berwick Town Hall. Contact Shawn (207) 459-9536.

Southern NH/Berwick/Kittery - COAST Bus- Public Transit Bus System - First arrival Gate 1 is at 0600, then 45 minutes past the hour every hour from 0745-2045. TIP-registered. Contact: COASTBUS.ORG, or call/text (603) 743-5777.

For more commuter information or information on the TIP, or to add, remove, or edit an ad, check out the "TIP Transportation Incentive Program" section under the resources tab on the PNSY Intranet or contact the TIP coordinator at ext. 3551 or 6335, or via email at: PNS_TIPS@us.navy.mil.

AWARDS

During the month of December 2025, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard issued 1728 awards:

1,506

On The Spot Awards

200

Time Off Awards

11

Special Act Awards

11

Special Act Awards for Qualifications

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

During the month of December 2025, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard issued 32 disciplinary actions including:

Non-Bargaining Unit Employees (Supervisors)

4

Letters of Reprimand

2

Suspension (14 days or less)

Bargaining Unit Employees (Non-Supervisors)

7

Letters of Reprimand

8

Suspensions (14 Days or fewer)

11

Terminations/ Removals

