

Quarterly Issues List for WKIT  
October 1st through December 31st, 2023

The following report identifies this quarter's issues as:

- GUN VIOLENCE
  - In late October a gunman opened fire at a restaurant and a bowling alley in Lewiston, killing 18 and injuring another 13. It was the deadly mass shooting in Maine history. We covered the event, the aftermath, and the outcry from residents calling on lawmakers to rectify legislation to prevent tragedies from like this in the future.
- STATE ELECTION
  - Mainers headed to the polls in early November to hand down decisions on a number of issues, the most contentious for which was a referendum that would have the state buyout Versant Power and CMP to create a publicly-owned utility. We covered the leadup to the vote and the results.
- DECEMBER STORM
  - A deadly storm, plowed into the state of Maine in mid-December, bringing hurricane-force winds and heavy rain. The damage was extensive and the storm knocked out power to more than half of the state. Our newsroom covered the storm and its aftermath, which we are still feeling the effects of in early January.
- FISHING ISSUES
  - The state's seafood industries continues to grapple with federal regulations and pressure. Issues effecting these vitally important industries have been reported on at length this past quarter.
- HOMELESSNESS
  - The state continues to grapple with the issue of homelessness. Many officials have tried to come up with solutions to tent cities that have sprung up in communities statewide. We covered this issue this past quarter. And will continue to cover it moving forward.

**WKIT, Bangor, ME**, airs local newscasts **Monday-Friday at the top and bottom of every hour between 6am and 8:30am. Afternoon newscasts are aired at 12pm.** The following news scripts are aired on the following dates, but **the times they're read are at the total discretion of the anchor.** This listing is by no means exhaustive, and the order in which the issues appear does not reflect any priority or significance.

STORM DAMAGE

12/28

PA

THE MAINE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION HAS BEGUN SOLICITING AND AWARDING BIDS TO REPAIR MAINE INFRASTRUCTURE, DAMAGED BY LAST WEEK'S STORM. GOVERNOR JANET MILLS DECLARED A STATE OF CIVIL EMERGENCY ON DECEMBER 19TH, THE DAY AFTER HIGH WINDS AND RAIN BROUGHT FLOODING TO AREAS ACROSS THE STATE, WASHED OUT A NUMBER OF ROADWAYS, AND BROUGHT DOWN TREES AND POWERLINES, KNOCKING OUT POWER TO HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF MAINERS. ACCORDING TO TV5, MAINE DOT ESTIMATES THE OVERALL COST OF THE STORM DAMAGE WILL BE BETWEEN \$10 MILLION AND \$12 MILLION.

THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY WILL BE CONDUCTING A PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENT OF LAST WEEK'S STORM. ACCORDING TO GOVERNOR JANET MILLS, FEMA IS WORKING WITH THE MAINE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY TO SCHEDULE THOSE ASSESSMENTS. IF FEMA BELIEVES THE TOTAL COST IS BEYOND THE CAPABILITIES OF THE STATE, THE GOVERNOR WILL FORMERLY REQUEST A MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO REPORT PROPERTY DAMAGE FROM LAST WEEK'S STORM, DIAL 2-1-1. THAT WILL HELP THE STATE GET AN ESTIMATE OF THE FULL IMPACT OF THE STORM. OFFICIALS REMIND MAINERS THAT REPORTING DAMAGE IS NOT AN APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE. YOU ARE STILL ENCOURAGED TO FILE CLAIMS WITH HOMEOWNERS OR AUTO INSURANCE.

EV GOAL DELAY

12/27

PA

THE ROLLOUT OF POTENTIAL NEW ELECTRIC VEHICLE GOALS IN MAINE HAS BEEN PUSHED BACK BY A YEAR. THAT'S BECAUSE LAST WEEK'S STORM DELAYED A VOTE BY THE BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, MEANING IT WON'T MEET AGAIN BEFORE YEAR'S END. THAT DELAY MEANS THE PROPOSED RULES MUST BE AMENDED TO GO INTO EFFECT FOR VEHICLES IN THE 2028 MODEL YEAR INSTEAD OF THE 2027 MODEL YEAR. THE POTENTIAL RULES WILL ALSO BE REOPENED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT. THE ORIGINAL PLAN WOULD EVENTUALLY REQUIRE 82% OF NEW VEHICLES SOLD TO BE CONSIDERED ZERO EMISSIONS BY THE 2032 MODEL YEAR.

FLOODING      12/22      PA

**update**

FIELD CREWS FROM THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY ARE IN MAINE, MEASURING FLOOD WATERS AND GATHERING SCIENTIFIC DATA ABOUT THE FLOODING ACROSS THE STATE. THEY ARE ALSO REPAIRING U-S-GS STREAM GAGES, DAMAGED DURING THE STORM. THE FIELD CREWS PLAN TO BE IN MAINE THROUGH TOMORROW, AND WILL BE BACK AFTER CHRISTMAS UNTIL THE 30TH. PRELIMINARY USGS DATA SUGGESTS THE FLOODING IN MANY PLACES ACROSS MAINE IS LIKELY THE SECOND WORST IN THE STATE'S RECORDED HISTORY. THE DATA COLLECTED OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS WILL HELP SCIENTISTS ACCURATELY DETERMINE FLOOD LEVELS AND VERIFY ANY FLOOD RECORDS THAT MAY HAVE BEEN SET.

HOMELESS VIGIL

12/22

PA

BANGOR'S HOPE HOUSE HEALTH AND LIVING CENTER HELD THEIR ANNUAL VIGIL FOR THE HOMELESS THURSDAY NIGHT. THE ANNUAL EVENT, SET ON THE LONGEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR, IS AIMED AT DRAWING ATTENTION TO THE HOMELESSNESS CRISIS IN THE AREA. TV5 REPORTS THE COMMUNITY STOOD OUTSIDE SHARING PERSONAL STORIES, PRAYING, SINGING, AND RINGING BELLS IN HONOR OF THOSE WHO DIED THIS PAST YEAR. ORGANIZERS SAY WHILE EVENTS LIKE THESE ARE ABOUT REMEMBRANCE THEY ARE ALSO CRUCIAL IN CREATING CHANGE.

THE REDEVELOPMENT OF A FORMER YARN MILL IN SKOWHEGAN HAS BEEN ABRUPTLY POSTPONED AFTER SUSTAINING ROUGHLY \$3 MILLION IN STORM DAMAGE. ACCORDING TO TV5, THE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN INCLUDES 41 APARTMENT UNITS ON THE UPPER FLOORS, A 20-UNIT HOTEL, A 3000 SQUARE FOOT RESTAURANT SPACE ON THE FIRST FLOOR, AND AN AMENITY SPACE IN THE BASEMENT. THE HOTEL AND AMENITY SPACE WERE SLATED TO DEBUT LATE THIS YEAR OR EARLY NEXT YEAR, BUT AFTER SUSTAINING ALMOST 5 FEET OF FLOODING AND OTHER STORM DAMAGE, THE ENTIRE PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO BE FINISHED IN THE SPRING OF 2025. GOVERNOR JANET MILLS VISITED THE LOCATION ON ISLAND AVENUE THURSDAY TO ASSESS THE DAMAGE.

AGENCIES IN PENOBSOT COUNTY STRETCHED FAR AND WIDE IN THE AFTERMATH OF THIS WEEK'S STORM. FOR MANY, RESTORING POWER IS THE TOP PRIORITY, BUT ACCORDING TO TV5, AREAS LIKE MILFORD AND MATTAWAMKEAG ARE FACING EXTREMELY HIGH LEVELS OF WATER. OVER IN OLD TOWN, THE FIRE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN STAYING BUSY. DURING THE STORM, OFFICIALS SAY THE RESPONDED TO OVER 50 CALLS IN A SPAN OF 24 HOURS. WARMING CENTERS ARE ALL OVER THE REGION AND SOME ARE JUST OPENING, LIKE ONE IN OLD TOWN AT THE ELKS LODGE. A LIST OF WARMING AND CHARGING CENTERS CAN BE FOUND ON OUR MEDIA PARTNERS' WEBSITE: "W-A-B-I (DOT) T-V".



TENS OF THOUSANDS OF MAINERS ARE STILL WITHOUT POWER IN THE WAKE OF MONDAY'S STORMS. MANY WERE OUT WEDNESDAY GETTING GAS TO KEEP THEIR GENERATORS GOING. ACCORDING TO CENTRAL MAINE POWER, AS OF EARLIER THIS MORNING, OVER 100-THOUSAND CUSTOMERS WERE STILL WITHOUT ELECTRICITY. VERSANT POWER WAS REPORTING ROUGHLY 35-THOUSAND OUTAGES. VERSANT SAYS RESTORATION WORK WILL CONTINUE THROUGH THE END OF THE WEEK AND MORE DETAILS ABOUT ESTIMATED RESTORATION TIMES WILL BE PROVIDED LATER TODAY.

WIRES ON CARS

12/20

PA

ONE PERSON WAS HOSPITALIZED AFTER TWO UTILITY POLES SNAPPED AND WIRES CAME DOWN ON THEIR CAR IN BREWER LATE MONDAY AFTERNOON. OFFICIALS SAY THE POLES WERE BROUGHT DOWN BY HEAVY WINDS FROM MONDAY'S STORM. THE WIRES FROM BOTH POLES HIT TWO SEPARATE VEHICLES. ACCORDING TO TV5, ONE DRIVER LEFT THEIR CAR BEFORE RESCUE CREWS GOT THERE. THEY WERE TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL WITH MINOR INJURES. OFFICIALS ARE REMINDING PEOPLE TO STAY IN THEIR CARS AND WAIT UNTIL CREWS CAN GET ON-SCENE TO MAKE SURE THERE ARE NO LIVE WIRES DOWN.

ROAD CLOSURES

12/20

PA

MAINEDOT IS REPORTING NEARLY 100 STATE ROAD CLOSURES DUE TO DOWNED TREES AND POWER LINES, FLOODING, AND SIGNIFICANT INFRASTRUCTURE DAMAGE FROM MONDAY'S STORM. TV5 REPORTS HALF OF THOSE CLOSURES ARE IN OXFORD, FRANKLIN, SOMERSET, AND KENNEBEC COUNTIES. THE DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO CLOSED ALMOST THREE DOZEN BRIDGES STATEWIDE DUE TO HIGH AND FAST-RUNNING WATER. THEY SAY MOST OF THOSE CLOSURES ARE PRECAUTIONARY, BUT A FEW ARE DUE TO APPARENT STRUCTURAL DAMAGE. THE BEST SOURCE FOR INFORMATION ON ROAD CLOSURES IS "NEW ENGLAND 5-1-1 (DOT) ORG".

TREE KILLS GUY

12/20

PA

A FAIRFIELD MAN IS DEAD AFTER BEING STRUCK BY A TREE AT HIS HOME ON NORRIDGEWOCK ROAD DURING MONDAY'S STORM.

OFFICIALS SAY THE MAN WAS USING A TRACTOR TO REMOVE AN

UPROOTED TREE THAT WAS BLOCKING HIS DRIVEWAY, WHEN THE TREE

FELL ON HIM. HE WAS PRONOUNCED DEAD AT THE SCENE. HIS NAME

HAS NOT BEEN RELEASED.

HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF MAINERS CONTINUE TO WAIT FOR POWER TO BE RESTORED THROUGHOUT THE STATE AFTER MONDAY'S STORM. VERSANT AND CENTRAL MAINE POWER SAY CREWS ARE WORKING AROUND THE CLOCK. C-M-P SAYS IT HAD 400 LINES CREWS WORKING TUESDAY, WITH AN ADDITIONAL 400 ON THE WAY, SOME COMING FROM AS FAR AWAY AS OHIO. THEY ALSO HAD 200 TREE CREWS WORKING WITH 200 MORE ON THEIR WAY. VERSANT POWER HAD 95 LINE CREWS TUESDAY WITH MORE ON THE WAY, INCLUDING 18 FROM VERMONT. THEY ALSO HAD 70 TREE CREWS WITH MORE ON THE WAY. VERSANT PRESIDENT JOHN FLYNN TELLS TV5 HE'S HOPEFUL WE'LL SEE SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS TODAY WITH MORE RESTORATIONS COMING LATER THIS WEEK. AS OF THIS MORNING NEARLY 218-THOUSAND C-M-P CUSTOMERS WERE STILL WITHOUT POWER, WHILE CLOSE TO 90-THOUSAND VERSANT CUSTOMERS WERE IN THE DARK AS WELL.

GOVERNOR JANET MILLS HAS ISSUED A STATE OF CIVIL EMERGENCY FOR 14 COUNTIES FOLLOWING MONDAY'S STORM THAT LEFT HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF MAINERS WITHOUT POWER.

ACCORDING TO TV5, THE STORM BROUGHT FLOODING TO AREAS ACROSS THE STATE, INCLUDING IN MEXICO, AUGUSTA, LEWISTON AND RUMFORD, AND WASHED OUT A NUMBER OF ROADWAYS. THE DECLARATION MEANS STATE OF MAINE RESOURCES WILL BE ABLE TO ASSIST AND SUPPORT RESPONSE AND RECOVERY EFFORTS. IT WILL ALSO ALLOW MAINE TO SEEK FEDERAL DISASTER RELIEF.

THE U.S. ARMY INSPECTOR GENERAL WILL CONDUCT AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION INTO THE EVENTS THAT LED UP TO THE LEWISTON SHOOTING. THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW WAS ANNOUNCED IN A JOINT LETTER FROM MAINE'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION ON FRIDAY. THE ANNOUNCEMENT COMES A WEEK AFTER SEVERAL FAMILY MEMBERS OF VICTIMS, AS WELL AS A SURVIVOR OF THE SHOOTINGS, VISITED MAINE'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AT THE CAPITOL TO CALL FOR SUCH AN INVESTIGATION BY THE U.S. ARMY.

AN INDEPENDENT REPORT, CONDUCTED FOR THE SAGadahoc COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, HAS CLEARED THE AGENCY'S RESPONSE TO GROWING CONCERNS ABOUT THE MENTAL HEALTH OF THE MAN WHO WOULD GO ON TO CARRY OUT THE DEADLIEST MASS SHOOTING IN MAINE HISTORY. BUT LEGAL EXPERTS SAID FRIDAY THE REVIEW REVEALS MISSED OPPORTUNITIES TO INTERVENE AND PREVENT THE TRAGEDY IN LEWISTON. DESPITE WARNINGS OF DETERIORATING MENTAL HEALTH, DRUNKEN THREATS, AND GUN POSSESSION, THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT CHOSE TO AVOID CONFRONTING THE ARMY RESERVIST WHO LATER KILLED 18 PEOPLE. LEGAL EXPERTS SAY THE REPORT LEAVES UNRESOLVED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ABILITY OF POLICE TO REMOVE GUNS FROM THE RESERVIST BEFORE THE SHOOTINGS HAPPENED.



A REPORT HAS BEEN RELEASED BY THE SAGADAHOC COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE CONCERNING THEIR RESPONSE TO THE MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS OF THE LEWISTON SHOOTING SUSPECT. IN THE INITIAL RELEASE, THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE SAYS THE REVIEW HAS DETERMINED THAT SAGADAHOC COUNTY DEPUTIES "RESPONDED REASONABLY UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES AT THE TIME." ACCORDING TO TV5, THE 93-PAGE REPORT ALSO COVERED MAINE'S YELLOW FLAG LAW, THE PROCEDURE WHICH ALLOWS LAW ENFORCEMENT TO REMOVE WEAPONS FROM SOMEONE WHO POSES A THREAT TO THEMSELVES OR THE PUBLIC DUE TO MENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS. SHERIFF JOEL MERRY SAYS THE REVIEW FOUND THAT RESPONDING DEPUTIES FOLLOWED THE LAW AND THEIR TRAINING WITH THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT THE TIME. MERRY HAS PROMISED HIS DEPARTMENT WILL FULLY COOPERATE WITH GOVERNOR MILLS' INDEPENDENT COMMISSION TO STUDY THE OVERALL LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE TO THE SHOOTING.

TWO UTILITIES AND TWO MEDIA ORGANIZATIONS ARE SUING OVER A REFERENDUM IN MAINE THAT CLOSED A LOOPHOLE IN FEDERAL ELECTION LAW THAT ALLOWS FOREIGN ENTITIES TO SPEND ON LOCAL AND STATE BALLOT MEASURES. THE MAINE ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTERS AND MAINE PRESS ASSOCIATION CONTEND THE NEW LAW IMPOSES A CENSORSHIP MANDATE ON NEWS OUTLETS, WHICH ARE REQUIRED TO POLICE CAMPAIGN ADS. MEANWHILE, CENTRAL MAINE POWER AND VERSANT, THE STATE'S LARGEST ELECTRIC UTILITIES, BOTH FILED THEIR OWN SEPARATE CONSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGES. WITHOUT THE MAINE LAW, FEDERAL ELECTION LAW CURRENTLY BANS FOREIGN ENTITIES FROM SPENDING ON CANDIDATE ELECTIONS YET ALLOWS DONATIONS FOR LOCAL AND STATE BALLOT MEASURES.

**UPDATE**

THE BANGOR AREA HOMELESS SHELTER IS SEEKING DONATIONS AS MOST OF THE SHELVES AT THEIR FOOD PANTRY ARE BARE. IN ADDITION TO NON-EXPIRED AND NON-PERISHABLE FOODS, THE SHELTER IS IN NEED OF CLOTHING AND OTHER ITEMS. IF YOU'D LIKE TO DONATE, A WISH LIST OF ITEMS THE SHELTER ESPECIALLY NEEDS IS AVAILABLE ON THEIR WEBSITE AT "BANGOR AREA SHELTER (DOT) ORG". JUST CLICK "SUPPORT US" AND THEN "OUR WISH LIST".

A GROUP OF LAWMAKERS FROM NEW ENGLAND AND ALASKA SAYS A FEDERAL PROGRAM THAT PROTECTS THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN SHOULD BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE SUBSTANCE-USE DISORDER AND WORKER FATIGUE. THE LAWMAKERS WANT TO EXPAND A FEDERAL COMMERCIAL FISHING OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY PROGRAM THAT FUNDS RESEARCH AND TRAINING. THE PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO HELP THE NATION'S FISHERMEN WITH THE OFTEN HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS THEY FACE AT SEA. SENATOR SUSAN COLLINS SAYS EXPANDING THE PROGRAM WOULD HELP FISHERMEN ACCESS MORE SAFETY TRAINING AND MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES.

BRAIN SAMPLE

12/12

PA

A BRAIN SAMPLE FROM THE GUNMAN WHO KILLED 18 PEOPLE IN MAINE HAS BEEN SENT TO A LAB IN MASSACHUSETTS TO BE EXAMINED FOR SIGNS OF INJURY RELATED TO HIS SERVICE IN THE ARMY RESERVES. THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER ON MONDAY SAID IT WANTS TO KNOW IF A BRAIN INJURY STEMMING FROM 40-YEAR-OLD ROBERT CARD'S MILITARY SERVICE COULD HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR HE EXHIBITED BEFORE THE SHOOTINGS ON OCTOBER 25TG IN LEWISTON. THE CONCERN SURROUNDS CARD'S EXPOSURE TO BLASTS WHILE TRAINING U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY CADETS IN GUNS, ANTI-TANK WEAPON, AND GRENADES AT WEST POINT, NEW YORK.

MAINE'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION IS CALLING FOR AN ARMY INVESTIGATION INTO THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO OCTOBER'S MASS SHOOTING IN LEWISTON. THEIR CALL FOLLOWS A MEETING WITH FAMILIES AFFECTED BY THE KILLINGS. ARMY RESERVIST ROBERT CARD KILLED 18 PEOPLE IN A BOWLING ALLEY AND A RESTAURANT IN THE DEADLIEST MASS SHOOTING IN MAINE'S HISTORY. ARMY OFFICIALS SAY THERE WILL BE AN ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATION INTO THE EVENTS THAT PRECEDED CARD'S DEATH BY SELF-INFLICTED GUNSHOT, BUT THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION ALSO WANTS THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY INSPECTOR GENERAL TO INVESTIGATE.

A SURGE IN HOMICIDE CASES IN MAINE IS STRETCHING THE RESOURCES OF THE MAINE STATE POLICE AND ITS CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION. ACCORDING TO TV5, THERE HAVE BEEN A TOTAL OF 51 HOMICIDES SO FAR THIS YEAR. EIGHTEEN OF THOSE DEATHS WERE RELATED TO THE MASS SHOOTINGS IN LEWISTON. IN AN AVERAGE YEAR, MAINE INVESTIGATES ABOUT 20 HOMICIDES. POLICE SAY, IN NOVEMBER ALONE, THERE WAS A STRING OF EIGHT HOMICIDES IN EIGHT DAYS, MAKING IT ONE OF THE MOST VIOLENT MONTHS IN MAINE HISTORY. COLONEL WILLIAM ROSS OF THE MAINE STATE POLICE SAYS EFFORTS ARE UNDERWAY TO REORGANIZE THE DEPARTMENT, AS WELL AS EXPAND AND HIRE MORE PEOPLE TO FILL THE MAJOR CRIMES UNIT.

A SURVIVOR AND FAMILY MEMBERS OF THOSE KILLED IN THE DEADLIEST MASS SHOOTING IN MAINE HISTORY ARE PRESSING FOR THE ARMY INSPECTOR GENERAL TO OBTAIN ANSWERS ABOUT THE GUNMAN'S MENTAL HEALTH AND HOSPITALIZATION. THE GROUP MET PRIVATELY WITH EACH MEMBER OF MAINE'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION ON THURSDAY TO PRESS FOR THE INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION. THE GUNMAN, AN ARMY RESERVIST, WAS HOSPITALIZED LAST SUMMER, AND THE ARMY RESTRICTED HIS ACCESS TO WEAPONS BEFORE HE RETURNED TO MAINE. ALL TOLD, 18 PEOPLE WERE KILLED AND 13 WOUNDED ON OCTOBER 25TH IN LEWISTON. THE GUNMAN DIED BY SUICIDE.



MAINE'S PUBLIC UNIVERSITY SYSTEM IS OFFERING FREE TUITION TO FAMILY MEMBERS OF THOSE WHO DIED AND TO THOSE WHO WERE INJURED IN THE MASS SHOOTINGS IN LEWISTON LAST MONTH. THE LEWISTON STRONG TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM COVERS MORE THAN 80 PEOPLE. THE OCTOBER 25TH SHOOTINGS WERE THE DEADLIEST IN THE STATE AND LEFT 18 PEOPLE DEAD AFTER A GUNMAN OPENED FIRE AT A BOWLING ALLEY AND A RESTAURANT. THE PROGRAM WAS ANNOUNCED BY GOVERNOR JANET MILLS, UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM CHANCELLOR DANIEL MALLOY, AND TRUSTEES.

LOBSTER TRAPS

11/29

PA

THE MAINE DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES HAS RECEIVED \$5-MILLION FROM THE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION TO RESEARCH ALTERNATIVES TO TRADITIONAL LOBSTER TRAPS. THE AIM IS TO REDUCE THE RISK OF INJURY AND DEATH TO NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALES. ACCORDING TO TV5, TWO DIFFERENT RESEARCH PROGRAMS WILL START IN THE SPRING OF 2024. THE GEAR BEING TESTED WILL BE LOANED TO FISHERMEN TO USE AND PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON.

ANOTHER FATAL TENT FIRE

11/27

PA

THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE IS INVESTIGATING AFTER HUMAN REMAINS WERE FOUND INSIDE A MAKESHIFT TENT THAT WAS DESTROYED BY A FIRE IN SANFORD ON SATURDAY. FIREFIGHTERS RESPONDED TO THE FIRE, LOCATED IN A WOODED AREA NEAR EAGLE DRIVE AROUND 10:30 SATURDAY MORNING. W-L-B-Z REPORTS THAT OFFICIALS FOUND THE REMAINS OF AN ADULT MALE INSIDE THE MAKESHIFT TENT. AN AUTOPSY IS BEING CONDUCTED BY THE STATE MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE TO IDENTIFY THE REMAINS. THE CAUSE OF THE FIRE IS STILL UNDER INVESTIGATION.

PORTLAND DEATH

11/27

PA

POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING AFTER A BODY WAS DISCOVERED ON-FIRE AT A CAMPSITE NEAR MARGINAL WAY IN PORTLAND EARLY SUNDAY MORNING. ACCORDING TO W-L-B-Z, AN OFFICER WAS PATROLLING THE AREA JUST BEFORE 3:30AM WHEN HE SAW WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS A CAMPFIRE. UPON FURTHER EXAMINATION, THE OFFICER SAW THAT IT WAS A TENT IN FLAMES WITH WHAT APPEARED TO BE A BODY INSIDE. THE REMAINS WERE TAKEN TO STATE MEDICAL EXAMINER FOR IDENTIFICATION AND TO DETERMINE THE CAUSE OF DEATH. NO OTHER DETAILS HAVE BEEN RELEASED.

MAINE'S LARGEST CITY HAS TURNED DOWN A PROPOSAL THAT WOULD HAVE ALLOWED HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS THROUGH THE COMING WINTER. THE PORTLAND CITY COUNCIL REJECTED THE PROPOSAL BY A VOTE OF 3-6 EARLY TUESDAY MORNING FOLLOWING HOURS OF TESTIMONY. THE CITY HAS A LARGE HOMELESS POPULATION AND ITS PRACTICE OF CLEARING HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS HAS DRAWN CRITICISM FROM SOME ADVOCATES IN THE COMMUNITY. CITY LEADERS HAVE LONG DEBATED THE BEST WAY TO DEAL WITH GROWING HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS AROUND THE CITY AND VOTED THIS FALL TO TEMPORARILY ADD 50 BEDS TO A HOMELESS SERVICES CENTER ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN.

IN THE WAKE OF THE MASS SHOOTINGS IN LEWISTON, OVER ONE HUNDRED PHYSICIANS AND ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDERS ARE ADVOCATING FOR STRICTER GUN LAWS. "MAINE PROVIDERS FOR GUN SAFETY" HAS COLLECTED SIGNATURES FROM HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ADDING THEIR NAMES TO A STATEMENT CALLING FOR STRONGER GUN LAWS AND ASKING THAT EVERY POLICY DISCUSSION RELATED TO GUNS INCLUDE A PHYSICIAN REPRESENTATIVE.

AN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION INVESTIGATING THE MASS SHOOTING THAT KILLED 18 PEOPLE IN MAINE LAST MONTH MOVED MONDAY TO SEEK SUBPOENA POWER SO IT CAN OBTAIN THE MILITARY SERVICE RECORDS OF THE SHOOTER. GOVERNOR JANET MILLS AND ATTORNEY GENERAL AARON FREY HAVE TASKED THE COMMISSION WITH PERFORMING A REVIEW OF THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE LEWISTON SHOOTINGS AND THE RESPONSE TO IT. ARMY RESERVIST ROBERT CARD KILLED 18 PEOPLE IN A BOWLING ALLEY AND A RESTAURANT ON OCTOBER 25TH BEFORE DYING OF A SELF-INFLICTED GUNSHOT WOUND. THE COMMISSION HELD ITS FIRST MEETING ON MONDAY.

SHOOTING PATIENT DISCHARGED

11/15

PA

ONE OF THE THREE REMAINING PATIENTS AT CENTRAL MAINE MEDICAL CENTER, INJURED IN LAST MONTH'S DEADLY MASS SHOOTINGS IN LEWISTON, WAS DISCHARGED ON TUESDAY. ACCORDING TO TV5, DOCTORS, NURSES AND OTHER TEAM MEMBERS LINED THE HALL THAT LEADS TO THE MAIN ENTRANCE. AS THE PATIENT WAS WHEELED DOWN THE HALL, THEY PUT THEIR HANDS ON THEIR HEARTS AS A GESTURE OF SOLIDARITY AND EMPATHY. OFFICIALS SAY THE TWO REMAINING PATIENTS FROM THE OCTOBER 25TH SHOOTINGS ARE BOTH IN STABLE CONDITION. A TOTAL OF 14 PATIENTS WERE TAKEN TO C-M-M-C THAT NIGHT. 18 PEOPLE WERE KILLED IN THE SHOOTING.



MAINE'S YELLOW FLAG LAW HAS BEEN INVOKED MORE THAN A DOZEN TIMES SINCE THE DEADLIEST SHOOTINGS IN STATE HISTORY. THE LAW IS USED TO RESTRICT ACCESS TO GUNS DURING A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS. AN UPDATED LIST SHOWS THE YELLOW FLAG LAW HAS BEEN USED 13 TIMES SINCE THE OCTOBER 25TH MASS SHOOTING IN LEWISTON. THAT BRINGS THE TOTAL TO 94 TIMES SINCE THE LAW WENT INTO EFFECT IN JULY OF 2020. THE NEW FIGURES WERE RELEASED MONDAY DURING A LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING ON THE LAW. EIGHTEEN PEOPLE WERE KILLED AND ANOTHER 13 WOUNDED WHEN ARMY RESERVIST ROBERT CARD OPENED FIRE AT A PAIR OF LOCATIONS IN LEWISTON.

THE BANGOR CITY COUNCIL HELD A SWEARING-IN CEREMONY IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY. TWO NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS, CAROLYN FISH AND SUSAN DEANE, WERE SELECTED BY VOTERS ON ELECTION DAY. JOSEPH LEONARD WAS ALSO ELECTED TO ANOTHER THREE-YEAR-TERM ON THE COUNCIL. COUNCILOR CARA PELLETIER WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO SERVE AS COUNCIL CHAIR, THE CEREMONIAL MAYOR OF BANGOR. THE BANGOR NATIVE TELLS TV5 SHE'S LOOKING FORWARD TO CREATING MORE SOLUTIONS WITH HER COUNCIL MEMBERS ON MAJOR ISSUES FOR THE CITY SUCH AS HOMELESSNESS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE.

INTERSTATE FISHING REGULATORS ARE LIMITING THE HARVEST OF HORSESHOE CRABS TO HELP REBUILD THEIR POPULATION AND AID A THREATENED SPECIES OF BIRD. FISHERMEN HARVEST THE CRABS FOR USE AS BAIT AND IN BIOMEDICAL PRODUCTS. THE ANIMALS ARE DECLINING IN SOME OF THEIR RANGE, AND THEY'RE CRITICALLY IMPORTANT AS A FOOD SOURCE FOR THE RED KNOT, A MIGRATORY SHOREBIRD LISTED AS THREATENED UNDER THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT. DRUG AND MEDICAL DEVICE MAKERS DEPEND ON THE VALUABLE BLUE BLOOD OF THE CRABS TO TEST FOR POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS IMPURITIES IN THEIR PRODUCTS.

FUNERAL

11/13

PA

FUNERALS FOR THE 18 VICTIMS OF THE MASS SHOOTING IN LEWISTON LAST MONTH CONTINUED OVER THE WEEKEND WITH A SERVICE FOR A HUSBAND AND FATHER OF TWO SONS WHO WAS SLAIN. JASON WALKER OF SABATTUS WAS REMEMBERED AS AN AMBITIOUS MAN WITH MANY SELF-TAUGHT SKILLS, FROM GARDENING AND PLAYING THE GUITAR TO BEEKEEPING, MAKING SAUSAGE AND SOURDOUGH BREAD. FAMILY SAID AT HIS FUNERAL ON SATURDAY THAT THE 51-YEAR-OLD WAS ALSO QUICK-WITTED, GENEROUS AND CARING. WALKER AND HIS BEST FRIEND, MICHAEL DESLAURIERS, WERE KILLED AT A BOWLING ALLEY IN LEWISTON ON OCTOBER 25TH. THIRTEEN PEOPLE WERE INJURED IN THE SHOOTING RAMPAGE BY GUNMAN ROBERT CARD, WHO WAS LATER FOUND DEAD OF AN APPARENT SELF-INFLICTED GUNSHOT WOUND.

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN IS HEADING TO LEWISTON TODAY TO MOURN WITH THE COMMUNITY AFTER 18 PEOPLE WERE KILLED IN THE DEADLIEST MASS SHOOTING IN STATE HISTORY. IT'S THE TYPE OF TRIP THAT IS BECOMING FAR TOO FAMILIAR. WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY KARINE JEAN-PIERRE SAYS THAT BIDEN AND FIRST LADY JILL BIDEN HAVE TRAVELED TO COMMUNITIES "TORN APART BY GUN VIOLENCE" TOO MANY TIMES. THE PRESIDENT IS EXPECTED TO PAY RESPECTS TO THE VICTIMS, MEET WITH FIRST RESPONDERS, AND GRIEVE WITH FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS IMPACTED BY THE OCTOBER 25TH SHOOTING.

THE ARCHITECT OF MAINE'S "YELLOW FLAG LAW" SAID IT WAS DESIGNED TO STOP SHOOTINGS LIKE THE ONE THAT CLAIMED 18 LIVES LAST WEEK, AND THAT THE TRAGEDY NEEDS TO BE EXAMINED TO SEE IF CHANGES ARE NEEDED. INVESTIGATORS ARE STILL PIECING TOGETHER DETAILS OF WHAT INFORMATION WAS SHARED WITH POLICE AND HOW AUTHORITIES RESPONDED BEFORE ROBERT CARD, A MENTALLY ILL ARMY RESERVIST, OPENED FIRE IN LEWISTON. STATE SENATOR LISA KEIM, THE SPONSOR OF MAINE'S YELLOW FLAG LAW, CALLED IT A "MASSIVE FAILURE" THAT NEITHER MAINE LAW NOR A RED FLAG LAW IN NEW YORK, WHERE CARD WAS HOSPITALIZED, PREVENTED THE TRAGEDY. SHE SAID SHE HOPES THE GOVERNOR'S INDEPENDENT PANEL WILL PROVIDE ANSWERS AHEAD OF LAWMAKERS' RETURN TO WORK IN JANUARY.

AN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION IS BEING ESTABLISHED TO INVESTIGATE THE POLICE RESPONSE TO THE MASS SHOOTINGS IN LEWISTON. IN A STATEMENT, RELEASED WEDNESDAY, (ONE WEEK AFTER THE SHOOTING THAT LEFT 18 PEOPLE DEAD AND 13 INJURED) GOVERNOR JANET MILLS SAYS (QUOTE) "A CORNERSTONE OF THE ABILITY TO HEAL IS TO KNOW THE TRUTH – IN THIS CASE, THE FACTS OF WHAT HAPPENED ON THAT TRAGIC NIGHT, OF THE MONTHS THAT LED UP TO IT, AND OF THE POLICE RESPONSE TO IT." MILLS SAYS THE COMMISSION SHOULD BE COMPRISED OF INDEPENDENT EXPERTS WITH LEGAL, INVESTIGATIVE, AND MENTAL HEALTH BACKGROUNDS. SHE HOPES TO FORMALLY ANNOUNCE THE COMMISSION AND ITS MEMBERSHIP NEXT WEEK.

AUTHORITIES FACE MOUNTING QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW A GUNMAN WITH A HISTORY OF MENTAL ILLNESS, AN ARRAY OF WEAPONS, AND WHO POLICE KNEW HAD A POTENTIAL FOR VIOLENCE WAS STILL ABLE TO OWN GUNS AND COMMIT THE DEADLIEST MASS SHOOTING IN MAINE'S HISTORY. ROBERT CARD WAS IDENTIFIED AS A PERSON OF INTEREST ABOUT FOUR HOURS AFTER HE SHOT AND KILLED 18 PEOPLE AND WOUNDED 13 OTHERS LAST WEEK IN LEWISTON. HE WAS FOUND DEAD TWO DAYS LATER. THE INTENSIFYING SCRUTINY OVER CARD'S ACCESS TO FIREARMS UNDERSCORES HOW HARD IT IS TO SEIZE GUNS FROM POSSIBLY DANGEROUS PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESS. THAT'S ESPECIALLY TRUE WHEN NUMEROUS STATES AND JURISDICTIONS ARE INVOLVED, AS WAS THE CASE WITH CARD.



MAINE IS THE LATEST STATE TO CONSIDER CLOSING AN ELECTION LAW LOOPHOLE TO STOP FOREIGN GOVERNMENT SPENDING ON REFERENDUMS. THE BALLOT MEASURE COMES AFTER A CANADIAN GOVERNMENT-OWNED UTILITY SPENT \$22 MILLION IN 2021 ON A MAINE REFERENDUM AIMED AT STOPPING A HYDROPOWER TRANSMISSION PROJECT. FEDERAL ELECTION LAW PREVENTS FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS AND ENTITIES FROM DONATING TO CANDIDATES IN ELECTIONS. BUT THERE'S NO PROHIBITION ON DONATING TO REFERENDUM CAMPAIGNS. THE CAMPAIGN LEGAL CENTER IN WASHINGTON, D.C., SAYS THAT IF THE INITIATIVE IS APPROVED BY VOTERS, MAINE WILL BE THE 10TH STATE TO CLOSE THE REFERENDUM LOOPHOLE.

A MAN WHO ALLEGEDLY CONFRONTED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WITH A RIFLE OUTSIDE THE RUMFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT WAS SHOT AND KILLED BY AUTHORITIES MONDAY NIGHT. 23-YEAR-OLD SEAN DYMENT OF CANTON WAS TRANSPORTED TO RUMFORD HOSPITAL WHERE HE WAS PRONOUNCED DEAD. RUMFORD POLICE OFFICERS AND OXFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES SAY THEY WERE TALKING TO A PERSON OUTSIDE THE POLICE STATION ABOUT A VEHICLE THAT HAD BEEN FOLLOWING THEM. AS THEY TALKED, POLICE SAY A VEHICLE, MATCHING THE PERSON'S DESCRIPTION, DROVE UP TO THE STATION. DYMENT THEN ALLEGEDLY CONFRONTED OFFICERS WITH A RIFLE AND WAS SHOT.

A FORMER WALMART EMPLOYEE WHO MADE A THREATENING SOCIAL MEDIA POST THAT REFERENCED THE RECENT MASS SHOOTING IN LEWISTON HAS BEEN ARRESTED. POLICE IN PALMYRA CHARGED THE 18-YEAR-OLD MAN WITH AGGRAVATED RECKLESS CONDUCT AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TERRORIZING AFTER HE PHOTOGRAPHED HIMSELF WITH A FIREARM AND AMMUNITION WHILE SITTING IN THE PARKING LOT OF HIS FORMER WORKPLACE AND ALLUDING TO COMMITTING "LEWISTON PART TWO." POLICE SAY THE TEEN MADE THE THREAT VIA A SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNEL ON SUNDAY.

CHILDREN HAVE RETURNED TO SCHOOL AND WERE TRICK-OR-TREATING IN LEWISTON LAST NIGHT IN THE WAKE OF THE DEADLIEST MASS SHOOTING IN STATE HISTORY. LOCAL RESIDENTS SPENT DAYS LOCKED IN THEIR HOMES LAST WEEK WHILE POLICE SEARCHED FOR THE MAN WHO FATALLY SHOT 18 PEOPLE AT A BOWLING ALLEY AND A BAR. HE WAS FOUND DEAD ON FRIDAY. ON TUESDAY, HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS RETURNED TO A HIGH SCHOOL THAT HAD RECENTLY BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO A LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMAND POST. INSIDE, STUDENTS PETTED THERAPY DOGS AND WERE SIGNING A LARGE BANNER THAT READ "LEWISTON STRONG," THE COMMUNITY'S NEW MOTTO.

GOVERNOR JANET MILLS HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE STATEHOUSE IN AUGUSTA MONDAY TO SHARE THE LATEST ON THE LEWISTON SHOOTINGS. SHE ORDERED THAT FLAGS REMAIN LOWERED STATEWIDE FOR THE NEXT 18 DAYS IN HONOR OF THE 18 VICTIMS. MILLS SAYS HER ADMINISTRATION IS WORKING WITH BOTH FEDERAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO PROVIDE RESOURCES TO THOSE IMPACTED. IN ADDITION TO OPENING A MENTAL HEALTH ASSISTANCE CENTER IN LEWISTON, MILLS SAYS THEY HAVE LAUNCHED A WEBSITE THAT IDENTIFIES PLACES FOR FINANCIAL DONATIONS TO SUPPORT THE VICTIMS, AND EVERYONE IMPACTED. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS HERALD, MILLS STOPPED SHORT OF CALLING FOR CHANGES TO STATE OR FEDERAL GUN LAWS AND ABRUPTLY ENDED THE PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER QUESTIONING FROM REPORTERS TURNED COMBATIVE. SHE REFUSED TO COMMENT ON REPORTS THAT POLICE OFFICIALS HAD BEEN NOTIFIED OF THE SUSPECT'S MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS MONTHS BEFORE THE DEADLY RAMPAGE.

MAINE AUTHORITIES ARE TRYING TO PIECE TOGETHER THE EVENTS THAT LED TO THE WORST MASS SHOOTING IN STATE HISTORY. THE SAGADAHOC COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORTED MONDAY THAT THE SHOOTER'S FAMILY HAD EXPRESSED CONCERNS ABOUT HIS DETERIORATING MENTAL HEALTH JUST FIVE MONTHS BEFORE THE RAMPAGE. THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE SAYS IT REACHED OUT TO OFFICIALS OF ROBERT CARD'S ARMY RESERVE UNIT, WHICH ASSURED DEPUTIES THAT THEY WOULD SPEAK TO CARD AND MAKE SURE HE GOT MEDICAL ATTENTION. THE GUNMAN SHOT 18 PEOPLE AND WOUNDED 13 OTHERS AT A BOWLING ALLEY AND THEN A BAR IN LEWISTON ON OCTOBER 25TH.

LEWISTON MASS SHOOTER ROBERT CARD REPORTEDLY HAD NUMEROUS RUN-INS WITH AUTHORITIES AND SHOWED WARNING SIGNS LONG BEFORE LAST WEEK'S SHOOTINGS THAT LEFT 18 PEOPLE DEAD. AUTHORITIES ARE FACING GROWING SCRUTINY OVER HOW CARD WAS ABLE TO KEEP HIS GUNS AND REMAIN ON THE STREET DESPITE EXHIBITING SIGNS THAT HE MIGHT COMMIT VIOLENT ACTS. AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT SAID WHETHER THEY BELIEVE THE 40-YEAR-OLD PLANNED HIS SHOOTING RAMPAGE IN ADVANCE. BUT ACCORDING TO A GUN SHOP OWNER IN AUBURN, CARD TRIED AND FAILED TO ACQUIRE A FIREARM SUPPRESSOR NEARLY THREE MONTHS AGO. SILENCERS ARE MORE HEAVILY REGULATED UNDER FEDERAL LAW THAN MOST FIREARMS. POLICE ACROSS MAINE WERE ALERTED JUST LAST MONTH TO CARD'S "VEILED THREATS" TO SHOOT UP A MILITARY BASE, AND WERE TOLD TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR HIM. BUT ULTIMATELY, AFTER A VISIT TO CARD'S HOME, POLICE MOVED ON.

POLICE ACROSS MAINE WERE ALERTED WEEKS AGO ABOUT “VEILED THREATS” BY THE MAN WHO AUTHORITIES SAY WOULD GO ON TO CARRY OUT THE WORST MASS SHOOTING IN THE STATE’S HISTORY. TWO LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT CHIEFS TOLD THE ASSOCIATED PRESS THAT A STATEWIDE ALERT WAS SENT IN MID-SEPTEMBER TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR ARMY RESERVIST ROBERT CARD BECAUSE OF THREATS HE MADE AGAINST HIS BASE AND FELLOW SOLDIERS. BUT AFTER STEPPED-UP PATROLS OF THE BASE AND A WELFARE CHECK TO CARD’S HOME – NEITHER OF WHICH TURNED UP ANY SIGN OF HIM – THEY MOVED ON. OVER THE SUMMER CARD WAS COMMITTED TO A MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY FOR TWO WEEKS. JODY MADEIRA, AN INDIANA UNIVERSITY LAW PROFESSOR WHO HAS STUDIED GUN LAWS, SAYS SOMEONE DROPPED THE BALL BECAUSE CARD’S THREATS AND MEDICAL EVALUATION SHOULD HAVE TRIGGERED A YELLOW FLAG SEIZURE OF HIS GUNS WHEN HE RETURNED HOME.



VIGIL      10/30      PA

MORE THAN 1,000 PEOPLE GATHERED FOR A VIGIL IN LEWISTON SUNDAY NIGHT TO REMEMBER THOSE KILLED AND WOUNDED IN MAINE'S WORST MASS SHOOTING. THE NAMES OF THE 18 KILLED WERE READ ALOUD. AUTHORITIES SAY 40-YEAR-OLD ROBERT CARD OPENED FIRE WEDNESDAY AT A BOWLING ALLEY AND THEN A BAR, LEAVING 18 DEAD AND 13 INJURED. HE WAS FOUND DEAD LATE FRIDAY OF AN APPARENT SELF-INFLICTED GUNSHOT WOUND. THE REVEREND TODD LITTLE FROM THE FIRST UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF LEWISTON SPOKE AT SUNDAY'S VIGIL OF HOW THAT DIVERSE COMMUNITY IS NOW SHARING "BROKENNESS, WORRY, FEAR AND LOSS" BECAUSE OF THE SHOOTING. BUT HE VOWED THE COMMUNITY IS BIGGER THAN THE TRAGEDY AND WILL EMERGE STRONGER. DOZENS GATHERED FOR A VIGIL IN BANGOR SUNDAY NIGHT AS WELL.