

Quarterly Issues List for WZLO
October 1st through December 31st, 2022

The following report identifies this quarter's issues as:

- HEATING AND ENERGY ISSUES
 - Energy costs remain the primary issue facing our listening audience. at large, still remain high. We've informed our listeners about the legislative measures being taken to alleviate the strain on Mainers trying to heat their homes this Winter. We've also reported on a referendum effort to create a public-owned utility to replace CMP and Versant Power
- MIDTERMS
 - In the lead-up to and aftermath of Election Day we reported on the closely-watched races for Governor and Maine's 2nd congressional district. We also kept listeners abreast of the influx of dark money to sway Maine voters.
- OVERDOSES
 - 2022 is expected to have been Maine's deadliest year for overdose deaths. This quarter we reported on the latest figures from state public health authorities and efforts to curb Maine's ongoing opioid epidemic.
- HOUSING
 - Maine's housing market continues to skyrocket. Officials say the current market is being driven by high demand, caused in part by a lack of inventory. We've continued to report on this trend that's not expected to end anytime soon.
- CHILD WELFARE
 - The recent homicide of a 3-year-old girl on Christmas Day has re-sparked the conversation around Maine's child welfare system, an issue we've continued to report on during this past quarter. That includes the Legislature's Government Oversight Committee's effort to obtain confidential child welfare records from the Maine Department of Health and Human Services

WZLO, Bangor, ME, airs local newscasts **Monday-Friday at the top of every hour between 6am and 8am. 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.

3YO HOMICIDE

12/29

PA

THE DEATH OF A 3-YEAR-OLD GIRL IN EDGEComb HAS BEEN RULED A HOMICIDE. THE LINCOLN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT SAYS THEY RESPONDED TO A HOME ON ROUTE 1 JUST AFTER 7:30 CHRISTMAS MORNING AFTER THE CHILD WAS FOUND NOT BREATHING. SHE WAS LATER PRONOUNCED DEAD AT A HOSPITAL. AN AUTOPSY WAS CONDUCTED MONDAY AND THE GIRL WAS IDENTIFIED ON WEDNESDAY AS 3-YEAR-OLD MAKINZLEE HANDRAHAN. STATE POLICE ARE STILL INVESTIGATING AND SAY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WILL BE RELEASED WHEN APPROPRIATE.

THE PARENT COMPANY OF CENTRAL MAINE POWER IS BACKING A REFERENDUM AIMED AT COUNTERING A CAMPAIGN TO CREATE A CONSUMER-OWNED UTILITY IN THE STATE. ACCORDING TO THE BANGOR DAILY NEWS, THE GROUP “NO BLANK CHECKS” SUBMITTED MORE THAN 93,000 PETITION SIGNATURES TO THE MAINE SECRETARY OF STATE’S OFFICE THIS WEEK, SETTING UP A LIKELY SCENARIO WHERE MAINERS WILL CAST VOTES NEXT FALL ON TWO COMPETING REFERENDUM CAMPAIGNS RELATED TO ELECTRIC UTILITIES.

THE B-D-N REPORTS “NO BLANK CHECKS” WANTS TO FORCE ANY CONSUMER-OWNED UTILITY TO RECEIVE VOTER APPROVAL BEFORE TAKING ON MORE THAN \$1 BILLION IN DEBT THROUGH REVENUE BONDS. THE PROPOSAL IS A DIRECT RESPONSE TO THE REFERENDUM SPEARHEADED BY A GROUP CALLED “OUR POWER MAINE” THAT WOULD FORCE C-M-P AND VERSANT POWER TO SELL THEIR ASSETS TO A NEW CONSUMER-OWNED UTILITY.

CHILD DEATH

12/27

PA

STATE POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING THE DEATH OF A CHILD ON CHRISTMAS DAY IN LINCOLN COUNTY. ACCORDING TO NEWSCENTER MAINE, SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES WERE CALLED TO A HOME ON ROUTE 1 IN EDGECOMB FOR A REPORT OF A 3-YEAR-OLD CHILD WHO WASN'T BREATHING. THE CHILD WAS LATER PRONOUNCED DEAD AT A LOCAL HOSPITAL. THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER IN AUGUSTA PERFORMED AN AUTOPSY ON MONDAY, BUT A POLICE SPOKESPERSON SAID THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE HAS REQUESTED THAT THE CAUSE AND MATTER OF DEATH NOT BE RELEASED AS THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH CONTINUES.

MULTIPLE CANDIDATES ARE SEEKING TO LEAD THE MAINE REPUBLICAN PARTY AS IT TRIES TO REBOUND FROM BRUISING ELECTION LOSSES IN NOVEMBER. CHAIRWOMAN DEMI KOUZOUNAS IS SEEKING A FOURTH TWO-YEAR TERM AS LEADER OF THE STATE PARTY. FORMER REPRESENTATIVE JOEL STETKIS OF CANAAN, WHO SERVED AS HOUSE MINORITY LEADER IN THE PREVIOUS LEGISLATURE, IS ALSO VYING FOR THE SPOT. ALSO LOOKING TO UNSEAT KOUZOUNAS IS REPRESENTATIVE HEIDI SAMPSON OF ALFRED. . SAMPSON HAS BEEN AN OUTSPOKEN CONSERVATIVE, ONCE COMPARING VACCINE MANDATES TO NAZI MEDICAL EXPERIMENTS DURING THE HOLOCAUST. SHE ALSO CALLED FOR A FORENSIC AUDIT OF MAINE'S 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS. ACCORDING TO THE KENNEBEC JOURNAL, SAMPSON WOULD HAVE TO RESIGN FROM THE LEGISLATURE IF ELECTED AS PARTY LEADER. THE PARTY IS EXPECTED TO ELECT ITS NEW CHAIRPERSON ON JANUARY 28TH.

MAINE IS GETTING TENS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS AS PART OF A NEW OPIOID SETTLEMENT WITH PHARMACY CHAINS C-V-S AND WALGREENS. THE SETTLEMENT FOLLOWS INVESTIGATIONS AND LAWSUITS AGAINST THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY FOR ITS ROLE IN THE OPIOID CRISIS. UNDER THE NEW SETTLEMENT, C-V-S IS PAYING A TOTAL OF \$5 BILLION OVER 10 YEARS AND WALGREENS IS PAYING \$5.7 BILLION OVER 15 YEARS. A SIMILAR SETTLEMENT WITH WALMART WAS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED, WORTH \$2.7 BILLION. MOST OF WALMART'S PAYMENTS WILL BE PAID DURING THE FIRST YEAR. IN TOTAL, MAINE IS GETTING MORE THAN \$66 MILLION FROM THE SETTLEMENTS. C-V-S, WALGREENS AND WALMART HAVE ALSO AGREED TO COURT-ORDERED INJUNCTIVE RELIEF THAT REQUIRES THEM TO MONITOR, REPORT, AND SHARE DATA ABOUT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY RELATED TO OPIOID PRESCRIPTIONS.

TWO STATE SENATORS ARE PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO GOVERNOR MILLS' \$474 MILLION EMERGENCY HEATING BILL THAT FAILED TO PASS LAST WEEK. THE MAINE HOUSE OVERWHELMINGLY APPROVED THE PROPOSAL, WITH ONLY 16 VOTING AGAINST IT. BUT IN THE SENATE, LAWMAKERS VOTED ALONG PARTY LINES, MEANING IT WAS 3 VOTES SHY OF THE TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY NEEDED TO PASS AN EMERGENCY BILL. THE PROPOSAL WOULD HAVE SENT \$450 CHECKS TO AN ESTIMATED 880-THOUSAND MAINERS. REPUBLICAN SENATOR RICK BENNETT AND DEMOCRATIC SENATOR NICOLE GROHOSKI SAY THE RELIEF PROGRAM SHOULD TARGET PEOPLE FACING THE HIGHEST ENERGY BURDEN, SO THEY'VE PROPOSED 3 DIFFERENT TIERS OF CHECKS TIED TO THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL. GROHOSKI TELLS TV5 THE ORIGINAL CHECKS WERE TOO SMALL FOR THE PEOPLE WHO REALLY NEED THEM AND TOO LARGE FOR OTHERS. THE SENATORS SAY THE TIERED SYSTEM WOULD SAVE ABOUT 187-MILLION DOLLARS, COMPARED TO THE ORIGINAL PLAN PROPOSED BY THE GOVERNOR.

TWO OF MAINE'S CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS ARE CALLING FOR MORE FUNDING FOR THE LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. IN A LETTER TO HOUSE AND SENATE LEADERS, SENATOR SUSAN COLLINS AND CONGRESSMAN JARED GOLDEN HAVE REQUESTED AN ADDITIONAL \$500 MILLION IN FEDERAL LIHEAP FUNDING. THE REQUEST COMES AS THE U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS INDICATES THE COST OF HEATING OIL IS ALMOST 70% HIGHER THAN LAST YEAR AND NATURAL GAS 20% HIGHER. THE LAWMAKERS SAY AS THESE PRICES RISE, LIHEAP'S PURCHASING POWER GOES DOWN, LEAVING MORE PEOPLE AT RISK. ACCORDING TO TV5, MAINE HAS ALREADY RECEIVED \$42.5 MILLION IN FEDERAL LIHEAP AID.

SENATORS SUSAN COLLINS AND ANGUS KING HAVE INTRODUCED A BILL TO HELP LOWER THE COST OF HOME HEATING OPTIONS. THE "BTU TAX CREDIT EXPANSION ACT" INCENTIVIZES THE PURCHASE OF BIOMASS STOVES AND BOILERS, LIKE PELLET STOVES. TV5 REPORTS THE LEGISLATION WOULD INCREASE THE MAXIMUM REBATE FOR THESE HEATING SOURCES FROM \$2,000 TO \$8,000. ACCORDING TO THE SENATORS, ONCE PURCHASED, THE STOVES ONLY COST A FEW HUNDRED DOLLARS A YEAR TO FUEL AND MAINTAIN, WHICH COULD SAVE MAINERS THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS A YEAR.

OVERDOSES

12/8

PA

MAINE IS ON TRACK TO SEE A RECORD NUMBER OF OVERDOSE DEATHS FOR THE 3RD YEAR IN A ROW. THE BANGOR DAILY NEWS REPORTS THAT IN OCTOBER, 58 PEOPLE DIED FROM DRUG OVERDOSES. 11 OF THOSE DEATHS WERE IN PENOBSCOT COUNTY, THE HIGHEST TOTAL FOR ANY MAINE COUNTY. ACCORDING TO THE STATE, 565 OVERDOSE DEATHS HAVE BEEN RECORDED IN THE FIRST 10 MONTHS OF 2022, PUTTING MAINE ON TRACK TO EXCEED LAST YEAR'S RECORD OF 631 OVERDOSE DEATHS. ACCORDING TO THE B-D-N, EXPERTS HAVE ATTRIBUTED THE WORSENING OVERDOSE NUMBERS TO THE DISRUPTIVE EFFECTS THE PANDEMIC HAS HAD ON TREATMENT AND RECOVERY PROGRAMS, AND TO AN INCREASINGLY POTENT DRUG SUPPLY.

MAINE SENATE REPUBLICANS HAVE BLOCKED AN EMERGENCY BILL THAT WOULD HAVE PROVIDED \$900 CHECKS TO MOST MAINE FAMILIES FOR HEATING RELIEF. THE \$474 MILLION PROPOSAL PASSED THE HOUSE WITH A 125-16 VOTE, BUT FAILED IN THE SENATE WITH A 21-8 VOTE, JUST 3 VOTES SHY OF THE TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY NEEDED TO PASS AN EMERGENCY BILL. THE PROPOSAL WOULD HAVE PROVIDED \$450 PAYMENTS TO AN ESTIMATED 880-THOUSAND MAINERS, ADDING UP TO \$900 FOR A FAMILY. IN A STATEMENT, GOVERNOR MILLS SAID, QUOTE, "TONIGHT, A MINORITY OF THE MINORITY CHOOSE TO REJECT THIS HELP FOR MAINE PEOPLE."

GOVERNOR JANET MILLS' EMERGENCY HEATING RELIEF PROPOSAL WAS BLOCKED BY SENATE REPUBLICANS ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE 131ST MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE. THE \$474 MILLION PROPOSAL PASSED THE HOUSE WITH A 125-16 VOTE. BUT IN THE SENATE LAWMAKERS VOTED ALONG PARTY LINES, MEANING IT WAS 3 VOTES SHY OF THE TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY NEEDED TO PASS AN EMERGENCY BILL. THE PROPOSAL WOULD HAVE PROVIDED \$450 PAYMENTS TO AN ESTIMATED 880-THOUSAND MAINERS, ADDING UP TO \$900 FOR A FAMILY. GOVERNOR MILLS CALLED THE PLAN, QUOTE, "THE FASTEST, MOST DIRECT WAY TO GET HELP TO MAINE PEOPLE AS WE WORK TO BRING DOWN ENERGY COSTS IN THE LONG-TERM."

THE MAINE SUPERIOR COURT HAS DENIED A REQUEST BY THE LEGISLATURE'S GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE TO OBTAIN CONFIDENTIAL CHILD WELFARE RECORDS. THE COMMITTEE SUED TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE RECORDS OF FOUR CHILDREN WHO DIED IN 2021 AS IT INVESTIGATED MAINE'S CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES. THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES HAD REFUSED TO PROVIDE THE RECORDS TO THE COMMITTEE DUE TO STATE AND FEDERAL CONFIDENTIALITY LAWS. ACCORDING TO MAINE PUBLIC, IN A RULING ISSUED MONDAY, A JUDGE AGREED THAT THE COMMITTEE DOES NOT HAVE LEGAL STANDING TO ACCESS THE RECORDS. D-H-H-S HAS SENT THE CONFIDENTIAL FILES TO OPEGA FOR REVIEW, WHICH WILL THEN SHARE ITS FINDINGS WITH LAWMAKERS.

GOVERNOR JANET MILLS HAS ANNOUNCED A \$474 MILLION WINTER HEATING RELIEF PROGRAM THAT WOULD PROVIDE \$900 CHECKS TO MOST FAMILIES. THE PROPOSAL, TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE FULL LEGISLATURE ON WEDNESDAY, CALLS FOR \$450 PAYMENTS TO AN ESTIMATED 880,000 MAINERS, ADDING UP TO \$900 TOTAL FOR AN AVERAGE FAMILY. MILLS SAID IT'S IMPORTANT FOR LAWMAKERS TO MAKE THE EMERGENCY LEGISLATION THEIR FIRST PRIORITY. THE PROPOSAL ALSO CALLS FOR SETTING ASIDE EXTRA MONEY FOR ENERGY ASSISTANCE AND EMERGENCY HOUSING PROGRAMS. A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY VOTE WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR THE BILL TO GO INTO EFFECT IMMEDIATELY, ALLOWING CHECKS TO BE MAILED NEXT MONTH.

MAINE SENATE PRESIDENT TROY JACKSON AND SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE-ELECT RACHEL TALBOT ROSS ANNOUNCED PLANS THURSDAY TO CREATE A NEW JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON HOUSING.

ACCORDING TO TV5, THE NEW COMMITTEE'S LIMITED SCOPE WILL ALLOW MEMBERS TO FOCUS SOLELY ON CRITICAL HOUSING ISSUES ACROSS THE STATE. MAINEHOUSING REPORTS THE HOUSING MARKET HAS OUTPACED AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN ALMOST EVERY COUNTY AS THERE IS A SHORTAGE OF HOMES FOR SALE. IN ADDITION, MORE THAN 40% OF MAINE RENTERS SPEND MORE THAN 30% OF THEIR INCOME ON HOUSING WITH MANY SPENDING MUCH MORE. OTHER CONCERNS INCLUDE THE NUMBER OF UNHOUSED MAINERS AND AFFORDABILITY ISSUES FOR OLDER HOMEOWNERS AND THOSE LIVING ON FIXED INCOMES. LAWMAKERS ARE EXPECTED TO VOTE ON THE ORDER CREATING THE COMMITTEE WHEN THE LEGISLATURE CONVENES NEXT WEEK.

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES IS GETTING A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR GRANT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PROTECTION. THE U-S C-D-C ANNOUNCED THIS WEEK THAT THEY WERE AWARDING \$3 BILLION TO IMPROVE THE COUNTRY'S PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE. MAINE D-H-H-S SAYS THEY WILL BE GETTING NEARLY \$14 MILLION OF THAT AWARD. IN A STATEMENT THURSDAY, MAINE C-D-C DIRECTOR DR. NIRAV SHAH SAYS THIS WILL ALLOW THEM TO SUSTAIN AND ADD POSITIONS CRITICAL TO THE LONG-TERM HEALTH AND SAFETY OF MAINERS. ALONG WITH INFECTIOUS AND CHRONIC DISEASE, THE FIVE-YEAR GRANT WILL ALSO EXPAND AND SUPPORT POSITIONS IN AREAS LIKE MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH, INJURY PREVENTION, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH, AND ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE SERVICES.

HEATING RELIEF?

12/2

PA

GOVERNOR MILLS IS UNVEILING A NEW PLAN TARGETING FINANCIAL RELIEF TO LOW-AND-MIDDLE-INCOME MAINERS FOR THEIR HEATING OIL AND ELECTRICITY COSTS. ACCORDING TO TV5, THE FUNDS WILL BE DRAWN FROM A NEW \$282 MILLION REVENUE SURPLUS ANNOUNCED THIS WEEK BY MAINE'S NONPARTISAN REVENUE FORECASTING COMMITTEE. THE PLAN WILL NEED TO BE PASSED BY THE NEW MAINE LEGISLATURE. THEIR FIRST DAY ON THE JOB IS DECEMBER 7TH, AFTER ALL MEMBERS ARE SWORN IN.

A PROPOSED REFERENDUM, AIMED AT RESTRICTING FOREIGN GOVERNMENT INFLUENCE ON MAINE ELECTIONS, HAS ENOUGH SIGNATURES TO APPEAR ON THE 2023 BALLOT. THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE SAID THURSDAY THAT 67,550 SIGNATURES HAVE BEEN VALIDATED. THAT MEANS THAT THE PROPOSAL WILL GO TO THE MAINE LEGISLATURE FOR CONSIDERATION. IF IT ISN'T PASSED BY LAWMAKERS, THEN IT WOULD GO TO STATE VOTERS IN NOVEMBER. THE PROPOSAL WAS SPURRED BY THE COSTLIEST REFERENDUM IN STATE HISTORY — A PROPOSAL TO STOP A POWER LINE IN WESTERN MAINE — IN WHICH CANADA'S HYDRO QUEBEC WAS ONE OF THE BIG DONORS.

2022 WAS A RECORD YEAR FOR VOTER PARTICIPATION IN MAINE. ACCORDING TO TV5, THE OFFICIAL TABULATION OF VOTES FROM THE GENERAL ELECTION WERE SUBMITTED TO GOVERNOR JANET MILLS TUESDAY NIGHT. OFFICIALS SAY MORE THAN 680,000 BALLOTS WERE CAST. SECRETARY OF STATE SHENNA BELLOWS SAYS AROUND 75% OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS PARTICIPATED IN THE NOVEMBER 8TH ELECTION. ACCORDING TO BELLOWS, OBSERVERS ARE SAYING THAT MAINE MAY HAVE BEEN THE FIRST IN THE NATION FOR VOTER TURNOUT, BUT THAT WON'T BE KNOWN UNTIL EVERY STATE REPORTS THEIR RESULTS TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. WHEN IT COMES TO FUTURE ELECTIONS, BELLOWS SAYS THEY'RE WORKING TO CONTINUE TO INCREASE ACCESSIBILITY TO THOSE WHO ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE HAS CERTIFIED AN ADEQUATE NUMBER OF VOTER SIGNATURES FOR A REFERENDUM ON A PROPOSAL TO REPLACE MAINE'S PRIVATELY-OWNED ELECTRIC UTILITIES WITH A CONSUMER-OWNED ONE. THE STATE CERTIFIED 69,735 VALID SIGNATURES, SURPASSING THE THRESHOLD BY MORE THAN 6,000. THAT MEANS THAT THE PROPOSAL WILL GO TO THE MAINE LEGISLATURE FOR CONSIDERING. IF IT ISN'T PASSED BY LAWMAKERS, THEN IT WOULD GO TO STATE VOTERS IN NOVEMBER.

MAINERS NOW HAVE A NEW WAY TO APPLY FOR HEATING ASSISTANCE. MAINEHOUSING LAUNCHED ITS NEW ONLINE APPLICATION PORTAL THIS WEEK. OFFICIALS SAY IT SENDS THE INFORMATION DIRECTLY TO YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY FOR PROCESSING. TV5 REPORTS THAT COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES HAVE ALREADY PROCESSED MORE THAN 33,000 APPLICATIONS AND SUPPLIED OVER \$16.5 MILLION IN HEATING ASSISTANCE. YOU CAN APPLY BY GOING TO "MAINE HOUSING (DOT) ORG" AND CHOOSING "HEAP FUEL ASSISTANCE" UNDER THE PROGRAMS MENU. STATE LAW REQUIRED AN ONLINE APPLICATION TO BE MADE AVAILABLE BEFORE THE END OF THE 2023 HEATING SEASON.

SCHOOL HEATING

11/30

PA

THE BANGOR CITY COUNCIL VOTED MONDAY TO FUND THE INSTALLATION OF AN ENTIRELY NEW HEATING SYSTEM AT THE FRUIT STREET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. ACCORDING TO THE BANGOR DAILY NEWS, THE DECISION COMES YEARS AFTER A FACILITIES ASSESSMENT IN 2019 FOUND SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS IN THE EXISTING SYSTEM. THE SCHOOL WAS BUILT IN 1954 AND THE STEAM HEATING SYSTEM WAS ONLY EXPECTED TO LAST 40 TO 50 YEARS. THE B-D-N REPORTS CITY COUNCILORS APPROVED FUNDING THE \$2.6 MILLION PROJECT ON AN "EMERGENCY" BASIS, MEANING THERE WILL BE NO REQUIREMENT THAT VOTERS APPROVE THE USE OF THE BOND FUNDS NEEDED. CONSTRUCTION TO REPLACE THE ENTIRE SYSTEM IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN NEXT SUMMER.

BIG DONATION

11/23

PA

AN ORLAND-BASED NON-PROFIT IS GETTING \$600 THOUSAND FROM THE “BEZOS DAY 1 FAMILIES FUND” TO HELP THOSE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS FIND PERMANENT HOUSING. “H.O.M.E INC.”, WHICH SERVES FAMILIES IN HANCOCK AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES, SAYS IT’S THE LARGEST GRANT IN THE HISTORY OF THE NON-PROFIT. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TRACEY HAIR TELLS TV5 THE FUNDING WILL GO TOWARDS A THREE-PHASE APPROACH. PHASES ONE AND TWO WILL INCLUDE RAPID OUTREACH TO FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS AND RESTRUCTURING THEIR SHELTERS. THEY SAY THEY’RE ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR A MULTI-UNIT BUILDING FOR PERMANENT HOUSING, WHICH WOULD COMPLETE PHASE THREE. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON H.O.M.E. INC., VISIT “HOME M-M-A U-S-A (DOT) ORG”.

PENQUIS AND DOWNEAST COMMUNITY PARTNERS ARE TEAMING UP WITH VERSANT POWER FOR A PROGRAM AIMED AT HELPING MAINERS PAY THEIR ENERGY BILLS THIS WINTER. ACCORDING TO TV5, THE "POWER MATCH PROGRAM" WILL HELP PROVIDE ELECTRICITY BILL CREDITS TO CUSTOMERS IN NEED. VERSANT HAS AGREED TO MATCH ALL DONATIONS UP TO \$200,000 AND HAS PROVIDED \$60,000 TO BEGIN HELPING CUSTOMERS IMMEDIATELY. OFFICIALS SAY THE PROGRAM IS AIMED AT HELPING PEOPLE THAT ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE NORMAL LIHEAP EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR THEIR ELECTRICITY BILLS. FOR DETAILS ON THE PROGRAM AND HOW YOU CAN DONATE, VISIT PENQUIS.ORG

UMaine UNVEILED THE WORLD'S FIRST BIO-BASED 3D PRINTED HOUSE MONDAY IN ORONO. TV5 REPORTS THE 600-SQUARE-FOOT PROTOTYPE HAS BEEN A PROJECT AT THE ADVANCED STRUCTURES AND COMPOSITES CENTER FOR YEARS. THE HOME IS BUILT FROM RECYCLED MATERIALS SUCH AS TILES AND REPURPOSED WOOD-WASTE. THE CENTER'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HABIB DAGHER, TELLS TV5 THIS IS A STEP FORWARD IN ADDRESSING THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING CRISIS FACING MAINE AND OTHER AREAS OF THE COUNTRY. THIS PROJECT IS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MAINE HOUSING AUTHORITY, THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, AND A PROGRAM BETWEEN UMaine AND OAK RIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORY.

SENATORS ANGUS KING AND SUSAN COLLINS ARE HOPEFUL THAT A BIPARTISAN EFFORT TO PREVENT FUTURE ATTEMPTS TO OVERTURN A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION DURING THE CEREMONIAL COUNTING OF ELECTORAL COLLEGE VOTES WILL GET ACROSS THE FINISH LINE BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. THE KENNEBEC JOURNAL REPORTS KING AND COLLINS HAVE BEEN AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE EFFORT TO CORRECT THE SHORTCOMINGS IN THE 1887 ELECTORAL COUNT ACT, WHICH FORMER PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP ATTEMPTED TO EXPLOIT IN AN EFFORT TO STAY IN POWER. THE SENATE HAS YET TO ACT ON A BIPARTISAN BILL, NEGOTIATED IN JULY BY COLLINS AND SENATOR JOE MANCHIN. THE CURRENT, DEMOCRAT-CONTROLLED HOUSE PASSED A VERY SIMILAR BILL IN LATE SEPTEMBER, BUT IF THE SENATE DOESN'T ACT BY THE END OF THE YEAR THE PROCESS WOULD HAVE TO BEGIN AGAIN IN THE HOUSE, WHICH WILL COME UNDER REPUBLICAN CONTROL IN THE NEW SESSION.

THE HANCOCK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT IS ORGANIZING A FUNDRAISER TO HELP RESIDENTS COVER THEIR HOME HEATING COSTS THIS WINTER. ACCORDING TO TV5, THE DEPARTMENT IS TAKING A \$10,000 SURPLUS FROM ITS SHERIFF CHARITIES AND USING IT TO START A CAMPAIGN TO MATCH DONATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC, DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR. HANCOCK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HAVE PLEDGED THE SAME, MATCHING AND DOUBLING EVERY DOLLAR DONATED. IN ALL, THE CAMPAIGN COULD RAISE \$60,000 TO BE USED TO HELP HANCOCK COUNTY RESIDENTS HEAT THEIR HOMES. INFORMATION ON HOW TO DONATE WILL BE ON THE HANCOCK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT FACEBOOK PAGE AS SOON AS IT'S AVAILABLE.

VERSANT POWER CUSTOMERS WILL SEE A PORTION OF THEIR ELECTRICITY BILL RISE MORE THAN 40 PERCENT NEXT YEAR. THE MAINE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION SET THE NEW STANDARD OFFER SUPPLY RATE FOR CUSTOMERS IN THE BANGOR HYDRO DISTRICT TO 16.4 CENTS PER KILOWATT-HOUR. ACCORDING TO TV5, THIS WILL COST THE AVERAGE CUSTOMER ALMOST \$24 MORE PER MONTH. THE PUC SAYS THE RATE WAS SET THROUGH A COMPETITIVE BID PROCESS AND REFLECTS REGIONAL MARKET CONDITIONS. VERSANT HAS ALSO REQUESTED A 10.6 PERCENT INCREASE IN ITS DISTRIBUTION RATE, WHICH WOULD RAISE THAT PORTION OF CUSTOMERS' BILLS BY \$12 PER MONTH.

SOME OF THE RANKED-CHOICE PRE-TABULATION WORK FOR THE RACE FOR MAINE'S SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT BEGAN MONDAY IN AUGUSTA. INCUMBENT JARED GOLDEN DID NOT GET A MAJORITY OF THE VOTES IN THE ELECTION LAST TUESDAY, ONLY RECEIVING 48% OF THE VOTE WHILE CHALLENGER REPUBLICAN BRUCE POLIQUIN GOT 45%. TV5 REPORTS, THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE STARTED UPLOADING MEMORY DEVICES YESTERDAY, WHICH WERE RETRIEVED BY STATE POLICE. TODAY'S RANKED-CHOICE TABULATION IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. IT'S HAPPENING AT 45 COMMERCE DRIVE, SUITE 13 IN AUGUSTA. THE TABULATION WILL ALSO BE LIVESTREAMED ON THE MAINE STATE DEPARTMENT'S FACEBOOK PAGE.

THE NUMBER OF VETERANS WITHOUT PERMANENT HOUSING IN MAINE HAS DOUBLED SINCE 2020. THE BANGOR DAILY NEWS REPORTS THE RISING NUMBERS ARE NOT DUE TO MORE VETERANS BECOMING HOMELESS BUT BECAUSE OF A SEVERE AND STATEWIDE LACK OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING. EXPERTS SAY VETS WHO FIND THEMSELVES WITHOUT A ROOF ARE STAYING THAT WAY FOR TWO OR THREE TIMES LONGER THAN BEFORE THE PANDEMIC. NATIONALLY, THE NUMBER OF HOMELESS VETERANS HAS ACTUALLY BEEN CUT IN HALF SINCE 2010. AND IN JUST THE PAST TWO YEARS, IT'S FALLEN BY 11 PERCENT.

LEPAGE CONCESSION

11/10

PA

FORMER GOVERNOR PAUL LEPAGE OFFICIALLY CONCEDED MAINE'S GUBERNATORIAL RACE WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON. LEPAGE MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT ON HIS OFFICIAL FACEBOOK PAGE, SAYING HE CONTINUES TO HAVE GRAVE CONCERNS FOR THE PEOPLE OF MAINE OVER THE NEED FOR HOME HEATING OIL RELIEF AND EFFORTS TO HANDLE INFLATION. PRIOR TO THE RACE BEING CALLED FOR GOVERNOR JANET MILLS, LEPAGE EXPRESSED FRUSTRATION THAT, IN HIS VIEW, ABORTION WAS "MORE IMPORTANT" TO SOME THAN THE COST OF HEATING OIL. MILLS SAYS SHE PLANS TO ASK THE STATE LEGISLATURE FOR EMERGENCY LEGISLATION TO ADDRESS INFLATION WHEN THEY CONVENE IN DECEMBER.

ELECTION DAY

11/10

PA

ELECTION DAY SAW A HIGH VOTER TURNOUT ACROSS MAINE, EVEN AFTER MORE THAN 250,000 MAINERS VOTED ABSENTEE. MAINE SECRETARY OF STATE SHENNA BELLOWS TELLS TV5 TUESDAY'S ELECTION WAS "SMOOTH, FAIR, AND SECURE." CANDIDATES HAVE UNTIL WEDNESDAY TO REQUEST A RECOUNT. THAT DOES NOT APPLY IN MAINE'S SECOND CONGRESSIONAL RACE, WHICH IS HEADING TO A RANKED CHOICE RUNOFF IN AUGUSTA ON TUESDAY. CANDIDATES IN THAT RACE WILL HAVE FIVE DAYS AFTER THAT TABULATION TO REQUEST A RECOUNT.

SOMALI AMERICANS ARE MAKING HISTORY IN THE MAINE LEGISLATURE. NOT ONLY DID MAINE VOTERS GIVE DEMOCRATS CONTROL OF BOTH CHAMBERS OF THE MAINE LEGISLATURE FOR ANOTHER TWO YEARS, TWO SOMALI AMERICANS WERE ELECTED TO THE HOUSE ON TUESDAY, AND THE FIRST BLACK WOMAN WAS ELECTED TO THE SENATE. THE REELECTION OF GOVERNOR JANET MILLS MARKED A SWEEP FOR DEMOCRATS IN THE MIDTERM ELECTION, TURNING BACK REPUBLICAN EFFORTS TO WIN CONTROL OF AT LEAST ONE LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER.

ELECTION DAY

11/9

PA

RESULTS CONTINUE TO COME IN FROM TUESDAY'S MIDTERM ELECTION, BUT SOME RACES HAVE ALREADY BEEN CALLED. JANET MILLS, THE FIRST WOMAN TO SERVE AS GOVERNOR IN MAINE, IS GETTING A SECOND TERM AFTER TURNING BACK A CHALLENGE BY FORMER TWO-TERM GOVERNOR PAUL LEPAGE. DEMOCRAT CHELLIE PINGREE IS BELIEVED TO HAVE WON REELECTION IN MAINE'S 1ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT. HOWEVER, THE RESULTS OF MAINE'S C-D-2 RACE HAVE NOT BEEN CALLED. INCUMBENT DEMOCRAT JARED GOLDEN APPEARS POISED TO WIN, BUT HE HAS YET TO SECURE 50% OF THE VOTE TO AVOID A RANKED-CHOICE RUN-OFF. THE RESULTS OF THAT RACE MAY NOT BE KNOWN UNTIL NEXT WEEK. STATEWIDE, DEMOCRATS CRUISED TO MAJORITIES IN BOTH CHAMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE.

MAINE'S VOTER TURNOUT IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN "EXTREMELY HIGH" FOR TUESDAY'S MIDTERM ELECTION. MAINE SECRETARY OF STATE SHENNA BELLOWS TELLS MAINE PUBLIC THAT DURING THE LAST GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION IN 2018, ABOUT 65% OF VOTERS CAST BALLOTS. THAT FIGURE ROSE TO ABOUT 76% DURING THE 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, AND SHE PREDICTED THIS YEAR'S TURNOUT COULD BE AROUND 70%. IN THE GOVERNOR'S RACE, INCUMBENT JANET MILLS HAS BEEN CALLED AS THE WINNER, HANDILY DEFEATING FORMER-GOVERNOR PAUL LEPAGE. CHELLIE PINGREE HAS BEEN PROJECTED AS THE WINNER IN MAINE'S 1ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT. INCUMBENT JARED GOLDEN LEADS FORMER-REPRESENTATIVE BRUCE POLIQUIN IN MAINE'S 2ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, BUT THAT RACE IS LIKELY HEADED TO A RANKED-CHOICE RUNOFF; THE RESULTS OF WHICH WON'T BE KNOWN UNTIL NEXT WEEK. FOR THE 3RD STRAIGHT ELECTION DEMOCRATS HAVE KEPT CONTROL OF THE STATE LEGISLATURE, ONCE AGAIN WINNING MAJORITIES IN BOTH CHAMBERS.

MAINE'S CLOSELY-WATCHED GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION HAS BEEN CALLED. GOVERNOR JANET MILLS HAS WON A SECOND-TERM BY DEFEATING FORMER GOVERNOR PAUL LEPAGE, WHO HAD VOWED TO CHALLENGE HER BEFORE HE EVEN LEFT OFFICE IN 2019. MAINE'S 2ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT RACE APPEARS TO BE HEADED TO A RANKED-CHOICE RUNOFF, ALTHOUGH INCUMBENT JARED GOLDEN LEADS FORMER-CONGRESSMAN BRUCE POLIQUIN IN THE FIRST ROUND TABULATIONS. IN MAINE'S 1ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, INCUMBENT CHELLIE PINGREE HAS BEEN PROJECTED AS THE WINNER, SECURING AN 8TH TERM IN OFFICE. STATEWIDE DEMOCRATS KEPT THEIR MAJORITIES IN THE MAINE HOUSE AND SENATE.

BANGOR VOTERS, IN NEED OF A RIDE TO THE POLLS TODAY, CAN HOP ON THE COMMUNITY CONNECTOR. ELECTION DAY IS A FREE-FARE DAY. TV5 REPORTS BUS DRIVERS WILL TAKE RIDERS TO AND FROM THE CROSS INSURANCE CENTER TO VOTE. THE CITY SAYS YOU JUST HAVE TO INFORM YOUR BUS DRIVER THAT YOU WILL BE GOING TO VOTE, AND YOUR RIDE WILL BE FREE.

ELECTION DAY

11/8

PA

MAINERS ARE HEADING TO THE POLLS TODAY TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS YEAR'S MIDTERM ELECTION. VOTERS WILL DECIDE WHETHER GOVERNOR JANET MILLS WILL REMAIN IN THE BLAINE HOUSE FOR ANOTHER 4 YEARS, OR TO ELECT FORMER-GOVERNOR PAUL LEPAGE. HERE IN MAINE'S 2ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, REPRESENTATIVE JARED GOLDEN FACES FORMER REPRESENTATIVE BRUCE POLIQUIN IN A REMATCH FROM THEIR 2018 ELECTION, WHICH WAS WON BY GOLDEN UNDER THE RANKED-CHOICE VOTING SYSTEM. RANKED-CHOICE COULD COME INTO PLAY AGAIN IN THEIR RACE. THERE ARE NO STATEWIDE REFERENDUM QUESTIONS ON THE BALLOT THIS YEAR. AND AS ALWAYS, IF YOU'RE NOT ALREADY REGISTERED TO VOTE, YOU CAN REGISTER IN-PERSON TODAY BEFORE CASTING A BALLOT.

LAST DEBATE

11/4

PA

REPUBLICAN PAUL LEPAGE CALLED DEMOCRAT JANET MILLS' FOUR YEARS IN OFFICE AN "ECONOMIC DISASTER," WHILE THE CURRENT GOVERNOR URGED VOTERS NOT TO RETURN TO THE "FIGHTING, DYSFUNCTION AND STALEMATE" THAT SHE SAID MARKED LEPAGE'S EIGHT YEARS IN OFFICE. MILLS, THE FIRST WOMAN TO SERVE AS MAINE GOVERNOR, IS SEEKING A SECOND TERM WHILE LEPAGE, WHO ALREADY SERVED TWO TERMS, WANTS TO RETURN TO OFFICE TO BECOME THE LONGEST-SERVING GOVERNOR IN STATE HISTORY. THEIR FINAL DEBATE THURSDAY NIGHT BEFORE THE NOVEMBER 8TH ELECTION WAS SPONSORED BY W-M-T-W, W-A-B-I, AND W-A-G-M.

LIHEAP

11/3

PA

MAINE IS GETTING MORE THAN \$42 MILLION IN LIHEAP FUNDING THIS YEAR. STATE OFFICIALS SAY THE MONEY IS CRUCIAL FOR MANY FAMILIES TO WARM THEIR HOMES. THE OFFICE OF SENATOR SUSAN COLLINS SAYS SHE WAS PART OF A BIPARTISAN EFFORT TO SECURE BILLIONS MORE IN LIHEAP FUNDING. TV5 REPORTS THE SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING GIVES MAINE A MORE THAN \$7 MILLION BOOST IN LIHEAP, ON TOP OF THE STATE'S TYPICAL ALLOCATION. LAST YEAR, MORE THAN 30,000 MAINE HOUSEHOLDS BENEFITED FROM LIHEAP.

ELECTION DAY IS RAPIDLY APPROACHING, AND MAINERS WILL SEE SOME FAMILIAR NAMES ON THE BALLOT THIS YEAR. FORMER TWO-TERM GOVERNOR PAUL LEPAGE IS SEEKING TO UNSEAT CURRENT GOVERNOR JANET MILLS. IF ELECTED, HE WOULD BECOME THE LONGEST-SERVING GOVERNOR IN MAINE HISTORY. IN MAINE'S 2ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, REPRESENTATIVE JARED GOLDEN FACES FORMER REPRESENTATIVE BRUCE POLIQUIN IN A REMATCH FROM THEIR 2018 ELECTION, WHICH WAS WON BY GOLDEN UNDER THE RANKED-CHOICE VOTING SYSTEM. RANKED-CHOICE COULD COME INTO PLAY AGAIN IN THEIR RACE. THERE ARE NO STATEWIDE REFERENDUM QUESTIONS ON THE BALLOT. ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH.

THE GROUP “PROTECT MAINE ELECTIONS” HAS SUBMITTED OVER 80,000 SIGNATURES TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE’S OFFICE FOR A BIPARTISAN REFERENDUM EFFORT. THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN THE STATE HOUSE ON TUESDAY. THE GROUP SAYS THE SIGNATURES ARE FROM MAINERS WHO ARE TIRED OF THEIR VOICES BEING DROWNED OUT BY FOREIGN GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE AND DARK MONEY SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS. WHILE FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO CONTRIBUTE TO AN INDIVIDUAL CANDIDATE’S CAMPAIGN, THEY SAY THE FEDERAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION RECENTLY RULED THAT IT HAD NO JURISDICTION OVER STATE REFERENDUM CAMPAIGNS. THE “PROTECT MAINE ELECTIONS” PETITION AIMS TO CLOSE THAT LOOPHOLE.

ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUESTS FOR THIS YEAR'S ELECTION HAVE SURPASSED THE TOTAL NUMBER OF REQUESTS FROM THE 2018 GENERAL ELECTION. ACCORDING TO TV5, MORE THAN 221,000 REQUESTS HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED SO FAR THIS YEAR, COMPARED TO NEARLY 197,000 FOUR YEARS AGO. OFFICIAL SAY MORE THAN 160,000 BALLOTS HAVE BEEN RETURNED AND ACCEPTED BY MUNICIPAL CLERKS SO FAR. TOMORROW IS THE LAST DAY FOR NO-EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING.

AT A WORKSHOP ON TUESDAY, THE CITY OF BANGOR TOOK THE FIRST STEP TOWARD ALLOCATING \$20 MILLION IN FUNDING FROM THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT. ACCORDING TO TV5, THE MONEY CAN BE SPENT ON SERVICES TO DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTED COMMUNITIES, NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES. THE SUGGESTED FOCUS AREAS ECHOED PUBLIC INPUT FROM EARLIER THIS YEAR, INCLUDING HOUSING, MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, CHILD CARE, BROADBAND, AND INFRASTRUCTURE. THERE IS EXPECTED TO BE ANOTHER FOLLOW-UP SESSION AFTER REACHING OUT TO AREA NONPROFITS BEFORE THANKSGIVING. THE CITY MUST SPEND THE MONEY BY THE END OF 2026.

RENTAL ASSISTANCE

11/1

PA

FUNDS FROM THE EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ARE SLATED TO RUN OUT IN THE COMING WEEKS. THE PROGRAM WAS GIVEN \$350 MILLION IN 2021 TO HELP ELIGIBLE MAINERS COVER THE COST OF THEIR RENT. MAINEHOUSING, WHICH STOPPED ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS ON SEPTEMBER 29TH, CALLED THE PROGRAM A SUCCESS. THE AGENCY SAYS IT'S HELPED OVER 35,000 HOUSEHOLDS. FOR MORE INFO, VISIT "MAINE HOUSING (SOT) ORG".

A GROUP SEEKING TO REPLACE MAINE'S PRIVATELY OWNED ELECTRIC UTILITIES WITH A CONSUMER-OWNED ONE HAS SUBMITTED IT'S REFERENDUM SIGNATURES. IF CERTIFIED, THE PETITIONS WOULD PUT THE PROPOSAL ON THE BALLOT IN NOVEMBER 2023. THE MAINE LEGISLATURE APPROVED THE PROPOSAL TO OUST CENTRAL MAINE POWER AND VERSANT POWER LAST YEAR, BUT GOVERNOR JANET MILLS VETOED THE BILL, SAYING THE UTILITIES' PERFORMANCE WAS "ABYSMAL" BUT THAT THE PROPOSAL WAS "DEEPLY FLAWED." THE PETITIONS WERE DELIVERED LATE MONDAY AFTERNOON.

STUDENTS FROM ACROSS MAINE HAVE SELECTED DEMOCRATIC INCUMBENT JANET MILLS AS THE WINNER OF THE STATE'S GUBERNATORIAL RACE IN A MOCK ELECTION. MORE THAN 19,000 STUDENT VOTES WERE CAST. ACCORDING TO W-M-T-W, MILLS GOT OVER 9,200 VOTES, WHILE REPUBLICAN PAUL LEPAGE GOT OVER 7,100 VOTES, AND INDEPENDENT SAM HUNKLER GOT NEARLY 2,700 VOTES. THE RACE FOR THE 2ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOULD HAVE END UP IN RANKED-CHOICE TABULATION AS NO CANDIDATE HAD THE 50% NEEDED TO WIN. INCUMBENT JARED GOLDEN LED WITH ALMOST 4,000 VOTES. REPUBLICAN BRUCE POLIQUIN HAD OVER 3,200 VOTES AND INDEPENDENT TIFFANY BOND HAD OVER 2,400 VOTES. ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 8TH.

HEAT PUMP GRANTS

10/31

PA

BANGOR'S COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS EXTENDING THE CITY'S HEAT PUMP & WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM AS LONG AS FUNDING IS AVAILABLE. TV5 REPORTS THE CITY IS OFFERING GRANTS UP TO UP \$2,000, WHICH CAN BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH HEAT PUMP AND WEATHERIZATION REBATES FROM EFFICIENCY MAINE. TO QUALIFY, YOU MUST OWN (AND LIVE IN) A SINGLE-FAMILY HOME WITHIN CITY LIMITS AND MEET CERTAIN INCOME REQUIREMENTS. FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO APPLY, VISIT BANGOR MAINE (DOT) GOV (SLASH) HEAT PUMP".

THE BANGOR WATER DISTRICT HAS FILED A PROPOSED RATE ADJUSTMENT WITH THE MAINE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION. IF APPROVED, RATES WOULD GO UP AROUND \$5 EACH QUARTER AND WOULD GO INTO EFFECT ON JANUARY 1ST. ACCORDING TO TV5, THE EXTRA MONEY WILL HELP OFFSET INFLATIONARY IMPACTS ON MATERIALS AND LABOR, FUND MAJOR PROJECTS TO IMPROVE THE RELIABILITY OF THE SYSTEM, AND HELP RECRUIT AND RETAIN EMPLOYEES. A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED ADJUSTMENT WILL BE HELD AT BANGOR CITY HALL ON NOVEMBER 17TH AT 5PM.

HEAP 10/28 PA

MAINEHOUSING HAS RELEASED \$11 MILLION IN HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BENEFITS. THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE ON THURSDAY. MAINEHOUSING DIRECTOR DANIEL BRENNAN SAYS BY RELEASING THESE FUNDS NEARLY A MONTH AHEAD OF THE TYPICAL HEAP SCHEDULE, THEY'RE HOPING TO ALLEVIATE SOME WORRY FOR FOLKS WHILE THE AGENCY WAITS FOR ADDITIONAL HEATING HELP FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

MAINE REGULATORS HAVE APPROVED A PAIR OF ENERGY PROJECTS THAT WOULD GENERATE ENOUGH WIND POWER FOR AS MANY AS 900,000 HOMES ALONG WITH CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW TRANSMISSION CORRIDOR. THE MAINE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION WAS REQUIRED BY LAW TO CHOOSE THE PROJECTS TO BOOST TRANSMISSION CAPACITY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY IN AROOSTOOK COUNTY. ON WEDNESDAY, IT SELECTED L-S POWER BASE FOR A 345-KILOVOLT TRANSMISSION PROJECT AND LONGROAD ENERGY'S 'KING PINE' FOR A WIND GENERATION PROJECT. REGULATORS HAVE NOT YET DECIDED HOW MUCH OF THE COST WOULD BE BORNE BY RATEPAYERS.

CHILD CARE MONEY

10/27

PA

GOVERNOR JANET MILLS ANNOUNCED ON WEDNESDAY A \$5.5 MILLION INVESTMENT IN SUPPORT OF MAINE CHILD CARE. SHE MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT ON WEDNESDAY IN WATERVILLE. MILLS SAYS THE FUNDS ARE FROM THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT AND WILL ATTRACT NEW CHILD CARE PROVIDERS BY OFFERING A ONE TIME \$10,000 STIPEND TO CHILD CARE CENTERS, NEWLY LICENSED BETWEEN OCTOBER 1ST, 2020 AND SEPTEMBER OF NEXT YEAR. IT WILL ALSO INCREASE THEIR STIPEND FROM \$100 TO \$150 PER INFANT PER WEEK AND INCENTIVIZE CHILD CARE PROVIDERS TO SERVE LOWER INCOME FAMILIES BY AWARDING \$500 FOR EACH CHILD NEWLY SERVED THROUGH THE CHILDCARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM.

A MAINE DOCTOR WAS CHARGED WEDNESDAY WITH ILLEGALLY DISTRIBUTING DRUGS AND OTHER CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES. AUTHORITIES SAY THAT 52-YEAR-OLD DR. MERREDITH NORRIS OF KENNEBUNK ALLEGEDLY PRESCRIBED OPIOIDS, AS WELL AS OTHER CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES, OUTSIDE OF HER "USUAL COURSE OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE" AND "WITHOUT A LEGITIMATE MEDICAL PURPOSE." NEWS CENTER MAINE REPORTS NORRIS HAS BEEN INDICTED ON 10 COUNTS. IF CONVICTED, SHE FACES UP TO 20 YEARS IN PRISON. NORRIS' ARREST IS THE FIRST BY THE 'NEW ENGLAND PRESCRIPTION OPIOID STRIKE FORCE', WHICH WAS FORMED OVER THE SUMMER.

MOCK ELECTION

10/25

PA

STUDENTS ACROSS THE STATE WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN A MOCK ELECTION THIS WEEK. MORE THAN 150 MAINE SCHOOLS HAVE SIGNED UP FOR THE MOCK ELECTION, WHICH IS A TRADITION ORGANIZED BY MAINE'S SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE. THIS YEAR IT'LL BE HELD VIRTUALLY. ACCORDING TO TV5, THERE IS A VIDEO OPTION WHERE PARTICIPATING K-12 SCHOOLS RECEIVE A VIDEO MESSAGE FROM EVERY CANDIDATE ON THE BALLOT. THE SCHOOLS WILL RECEIVE A MOCK ELECTION BALLOT THAT HAS THE CHOICES FOR GOVERNOR AS WELL AS U-S CONGRESS IN BOTH OF MAINE'S DISTRICTS. THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTION WILL BE ANNOUNCED FRIDAY.

IN A RARE REBUKE, MAINE HOUSING AUTHORITIES RESPONDED THURSDAY TO A STORY, TOLD REPEATEDLY ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL BY FORMER U.S. REP. BRUCE POLIQUIN, ABOUT A WOMAN LIVING IN HER CAR WHO SAYS SHE WAS BUMPED FROM A HOUSING LIST BY UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS. ACCORDING TO THE BANGOR DAILY NEWS, MOST FEDERAL HOUSING PROGRAMS MANAGED BY LOCAL HOUSING AUTHORITIES DO NOT SERVE THOSE IN THE COUNTRY ILLEGALLY AND THOSE SERVED AT HOUSING AUTHORITIES MUST PROVIDE PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP OR LEGAL IMMIGRATION STATUS. A STATEMENT FROM THE MAINE ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY DIRECTORS READS "SUCH MISINFORMATION ERODES TRUST IN THE PUBLIC HOUSING SYSTEM... AND IT CANNOT BE LEFT UNCORRECTED". POLIQUIN WAS NOT MENTIONED BY NAME.

A FEW WEEKS AFTER NOTIFYING CUSTOMERS OF A POTENTIAL RATE INCREASE, VERSANT POWER SAYS IT'S STILL APPLYING FOR THE CHANGE, BUT AT A HIGHER PERCENTAGE THAN ORIGINALLY INDICATED. VERSANT SAYS THEIR PRINTING VENDOR MISTAKENLY SENT OUT AN EARLY VERSION OF THE LETTER, WHICH READ THEY REQUESTED A 9% DISTRIBUTION RATE INCREASE FROM THE MAINE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION. THE UPDATED LETTER SAYS IT'S ACTUALLY A 10.6 % INCREASE. THE COMPANY SAYS CUSTOMER BILLS WILL RISE BY ABOUT \$12 PER MONTH AND CREATE \$34 MILLION IN ADDITIONAL ANNUAL REVENUE. TV5 REPORTS THAT MONEY WOULD GO TOWARD A NEW METERING SYSTEM, AS WELL AS IMPROVED RELIABILITY, CUSTOMER SERVICE AND EMPLOYEE RETENTION. GOVERNOR JANET MILLS HAS CALLED ON THE GOVERNOR'S ENERGY OFFICE TO INTERVENE IN OPPOSING THE RATE INCREASE.

A LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE IS GOING TO SUE THE MAINE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES FOR ACCESS TO FULL INVESTIGATIVE FILES ON CHILD MURDERS IN THE STATE. THE GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE TOOK ACTION TUESDAY AFTER THE AGENCY FAILED TO COMPLY WITH A SUBPOENA REQUESTING THE FILES. MAINE D-H-H-S SHARED THE FILES WITH THE LEGISLATURE'S WATCHDOG, OPEGA, BUT IT DID NOT SHARE THEM WITH COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

ARPA GRANTS

10/19

PA

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT CHECKS WERE AWARDED DURING THE PENOBSCOT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING ON TUESDAY. A TOTAL OF NINE GRANT AWARDS WERE ANNOUNCED. ACCORDING TO TV5, THESE INITIAL GRANTS ARE FROM THE BENEFICIARY PROGRAM, WHICH IS ONE OF TWO GRANT PROGRAMS CREATED BY PENOBSCOT COUNTY. THE BANGOR AREA HOMELESS SHELTER, FOOD AND MEDICINE IN BREWER, AND WELCOME TO HOUSING IN OLD TOWN ARE SOME OF THE ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVING GRANTS.

NEARLY 3,000 SMALL BUSINESSES AND NONPROFITS ACROSS MAINE WILL RECEIVE A COMBINED SEVEN MILLION DOLLARS TO HELP RELIEVE HIGH ENERGY COSTS.

ON TUESDAY, GOVERNOR JANET MILLS ANNOUNCED THE ONE-TIME ELECTRIC UTILITY ACCOUNT CREDITS, WHICH ARE A PRODUCT OF LEGISLATION SIGNED BACK IN APRIL. ACCORDING TO TV5, THE LEGISLATION OFFERS TIERED RELIEF BASED ON ELECTRICITY USAGE WITH FUNDING FROM THE MAINE JOBS AND RECOVERY PLAN. THE CREDITS, MOST OF WHICH ARE JUST OVER \$2,300, WILL BE APPLIED BY THE END OF THE MONTH.

WITH 3 WEEKS LEFT UNTIL THE ELECTION, SPENDING BY OUTSIDE GROUPS HAS SURGED IN MAINE. ACCORDING TO THE PORTLAND PRESS HERALD, IN THE PAST WEEK, OUTSIDE GROUPS DUMPED MORE THAN \$3 MILLION INTO POLITICAL ADVERTISING AND OTHER EFFORTS. THE GROUPS, WHICH OPERATE INDEPENDENTLY FROM THE CANDIDATES, HAVE NOW SPENT NEARLY \$14 MILLION ON MAINE'S GUBERNATORIAL AND LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS SINCE LABOR DAY, SURPASSING THE \$12.1 MILLION SPENT THROUGH THE END OF OCTOBER BEFORE THE 2018 ELECTION. THE PAPER REPORTS THAT SPENDING ON ADS, DIRECT MAIL, AND GET-OUT-THE-VOTE EFFORTS IS CERTAIN TO RISE FURTHER IN THE FINAL WEEKS.

TINY HOMES

10/13

PA

THE BANGOR CITY COUNCIL WILL SOON CONSIDER ALLOWING TINY HOME DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CITY. TV5 REPORTS EACH TINY HOME WOULD BE 400 SQUARE FEET OR LESS, WITH A LOT SIZE OF AT LEAST 1,000 FEET, INCLUDING ONE PARKING SPACE. THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE WOULD ALLOW FOR TINY HOME DEVELOPMENTS, SOMETHING THE CITY COMPARED TO THE CONCEPT OF A MOBILE HOME PARK. THE CITY SAYS THIS ORDINANCE KEEPS WITH NATIONAL TRENDS AND THE CITY'S OWN RECOMMENDATIONS TO ADD DIVERSE HOUSING. THE PLANNING BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE MEASURE NEXT TUESDAY.

HEATING OIL

10/12

PA

THE RISING COST OF HOME HEATING OIL IS EXPECTED TO IMPACT MAINERS WHO ALREADY RECEIVE HELP FOR WARMING THEIR HOMES. OFFICIALS SAY RECIPIENTS OF THE HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM CAN EXPECT LESS "DEPTH" WHEN IT COMES TO THEIR BENEFITS THIS WINTER. W-M-T-W REPORTS THAT DEMAND FOR ASSISTANCE IS UP SIGNIFICANTLY AND, ACCORDING TO DATA FROM THE GOVERNOR'S ENERGY OFFICE, THE AVERAGE COST OF HOME HEATING OIL IS ROUGHLY 45% HIGHER THAN IT WAS LAST OCTOBER.

EARLY VOTING

10/11

PA

WHILE ELECTION DAY IS JUST ABOUT A MONTH AWAY, EARLY VOTING FOR MAINERS BEGINS TODAY. STATE OFFICIALS SAY EARLY VOTING AND ABSENTEE VOTING ARE THE ONLY WAYS YOU CAN CAST YOUR BALLOT BEFORE NOVEMBER 8TH. BOTH END THE THURSDAY BEFORE ELECTION DAY. THROUGH EARLY VOTING, YOU CAN SHOW UP AT YOUR TOWN OFFICE AND CAST YOUR VOTE, JUST AS YOU WOULD ON ELECTION DAY. ABSENTEE BALLOTS CAN STILL BE REQUESTED UNTIL NOVEMBER 3RD. SECRETARY OF STATE SHENNA BELLOWS SAYS MORE THAN 61,000 MAINERS HAVE REQUESTED ABSENTEE BALLOTS SO FAR.

GOVERNOR JANET MILLS IS CALLING ON THE GOVERNOR'S ENERGY OFFICE TO INTERVENE IN OPPOSING AN ELECTRICITY RATE INCREASE THAT VERSANT POWER IS REQUESTING FROM THE MAINE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION. ACCORDING TO TV5, IF APPROVED, VERSANT RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS COULD SEE THEIR BILLS GO UP 12 TO 24 DOLLARS A MONTH, DEPENDING ON ELECTRICITY USAGE, STARTING NEXT SUMMER. CUSTOMERS RECEIVED THE NOTICE LAST WEEK. MILLS SAYS MAINERS ARE ALREADY DEALING WITH HIGH ELECTRICITY RATES THAT ARE HARMING FAMILIES AND BUSINESSES. THE GOVERNOR IS ALSO OPPOSED TO A RATE INCREASE REQUESTED BY CENTRAL MAINE POWER IN AUGUST.

MAINE'S GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES FACED OFF IN THEIR FIRST TELEVISED DEBATE IN LEWISTON ON TUESDAY. THE DEBATE WAS HOSTED BY MAINEPUBLIC, THE PORTLAND PRESS HERALD, AND THE SUN JOURNAL. GOVERNOR JANET MILLS AND FORMER GOVERNOR PAUL LEPAGE CLASHED ON POLICIES INCLUDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING, THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC, AND ABORTION RIGHTS AND RESTRICTIONS. THREE MORE TELEVISED DEBATES ARE SCHEDULED BETWEEN NOW AND ELECTION DAY.

BANGOR CITY COUNCILORS ARE CONSIDERING A TENANT'S RIGHTS ORDINANCE AS THE CITY WORKS ON HOUSING INSECURITY SOLUTIONS. COUNCILORS, RESIDENTS, LANDLORDS AND CITY OFFICIALS DISCUSSED THE DRAFT ORDINANCE DURING MONDAY'S GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING. ACCORDING TO TV5, THE ORDINANCE WOULD IMPLEMENT A 60-DAY WRITTEN NOTICE OF ANY RENT INCREASE, A MORE SPECIFIC ANTI-DISCRIMINATION POLICY, AND COST RESTRICTIONS ON APPLICATION AND SCREENING FEES. LANDLORDS WOULD ALSO NOT BE ALLOWED TO WAIVE ANY OF THESE PROVISIONS UNDER AGREEMENTS WITH TENANTS. MONDAY'S DISCUSSION CENTERED AROUND ENSURING THE MEASURES WOULD BE FAIR TO BOTH SIDES.

THE MAINE STATE HOUSING AUTHORITY HAS HALTED NEW APPLICATIONS FOR EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE WHILE IT WAITS TO FIND OUT IF A REQUEST FOR MORE FEDERAL MONEY WILL BE APPROVED. MAINEHOUSING SAID IN A STATEMENT THAT AN "UNANTICIPATED UPTICK IN DEMAND" AND UNCERTAINTY ABOUT NEW REVENUE PROMPTED THE DECISION TO PAUSE APPLICATIONS. THE PROGRAM STARTED IN MARCH 2021. THE HOUSING AUTHORITY DESCRIBED THE PROGRAM AS A TEMPORARY SUPPORT THAT IS FUNDED VIA FEDERAL MONEY THROUGH COVID-19 RELIEF LAWS. THE AUTHORITY SAID THE PAUSE WILL ALLOW MORE THAN 11,000 PENDING REQUESTS TO BE PROCESSED.