

Quarterly Issues List for WZLO  
January 1st through February 28th, 2018

The following report identifies the quarter's issues as:

- PUBLIC HEALTH
- NALOXONE / NARCAN
- JOBS
- MARIJUANA LEGISLATION
- INFRASTRUCTURE

**WZLO, Bangor, ME**, airs local newscast **Monday-Friday at the top of every hour between 6am and 8am**. A 12pm newscast is also aired. The following news scripts are aired on the following dates, but **the times they are 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.

THE MAINE LEGISLATURE RETURNED TO WORK ON WEDNESDAY FOR THEIR SECOND REGULAR SESSION. LAWMAKERS HAVE MORE THAN 400 BILLS TO CONSIDER. AS THE STATE MANDATED MORATORIUM ON RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA SALES IS SET TO EXPIRE ON FEBRUARY 1ST, LAWMAKERS SAY A REGULATORY SYSTEM NEEDS TO BE IN PLACE SOON OR THE MORATORIUM NEEDS TO BE EXTENDED. PAUL MCCARRIER, WITH LEGALIZE MAINE, TELLS TV5 THE PUBLIC WILL ONCE AGAIN BE ABLE TO WEIGH IN ON THE PROPOSED ENFORCEMENT PROTOCOLS AND DETAILS OF THE ADULT-USE LAW ON FRIDAY AT THE STATE HOUSE.

2006 MCCARRIER

:20

...ADULT-USE LAW.

AMONG THE OTHER ISSUES BEING CONSIDERED THIS SESSION ARE MEDICAID EXPANSION, THE FUTURE OF SOLAR POLICY, AND THE OPIOID CRISIS. THIS SESSION IS EXPECTED TO ADJOURN IN MID-APRIL.

LAWMAKERS RETURNED TO AUGUSTA WEDNESDAY TO BEGIN WORK ON MANY BIG ISSUES. MEDICAID EXPANSION IS EXPECTED TO BE AN UPHILL BATTLE BETWEEN REPUBLICANS, SOME OF WHOM WANT TO REPEAL IT OR ENSURE IT'S NOT FUNDED BY RAISING TAXES OR RAIDING SURPLUS FUNDS, AND DEMOCRATS WHO ARE STILL TRYING TO DETERMINE HOW MUCH IT WILL COST AND WHERE THAT MONEY WILL COME FROM. HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER, REPRESENTATIVE ERIN HERBIG SPOKE WITH TV5.

2007 HERBIG

:15

...NEEDED HEALTHCARE

WHILE RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA SALES WILL ALSO TAKE UP MUCH ATTENTION, VARIOUS ADVOCACY GROUPS ARE PUSHING LAWMAKERS TO ADDRESS THE OPIOID CRISIS, A CRIME-VICTIM BILL OF RIGHTS, AND THE FUTURE OF SOLAR POLICY.

WEDNESDAY MARKED THE FIRST DAY OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE 128TH LEGISLATURE. WHILE MEDICAID EXPANSION AND RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA SALES WILL TAKE UP MUCH ATTENTION, LAWMAKERS ARE ALSO CONSIDERING A CONTROVERSIAL BILL BROUGHT FORWARD BY MAINE'S SECRETARY OF STATE MATT DUNLAP THAT WOULD BAN SIGNATURE GATHERING AT MAINE POLLS. HE SPOKE WITH TV5.

2008 DUNLAP :24 ...OF THE CONVERSATION.

BESIDES THE FUTURE OF SOLAR POLICY AND THE OPIOID CRISIS, LAWMAKERS WILL ALSO NEED TO CONTEND WITH THE RECENTLY APPROVED FEDERAL TAX PLAN. THIS SESSION IS EXPECTED TO ADJOURN IN MID-APRIL.

THE MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION, AND FORESTRY SAYS THE FIRST DAY OF THE STATE'S ANNUAL FARM SHOW WILL FOCUS ON LINKING PEOPLE WITH CAREERS IN AGRICULTURE. THE AGRICULTURAL TRADES SHOW WILL HOLD ITS SECOND AGRICULTURAL CAREER FAIR ON TUESDAY IN AUGUSTA. THE EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE CIVIC CENTER. ORGANIZERS SAY EMPLOYERS WILL INCLUDE 'UNITED FARMER VETERANS OF MAINE', 'THE MAINE ORGANIC FARMERS AND GARDENERS ASSOCIATION', AND 'HAMMOND TRACTOR COMPANY'. THE STATE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT IS HOSTING THE CAREERS EVENT IN COLLABORATION WITH THE MAINE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR. GOV. PAUL LEPAGE SAYS THE CAREER FAIR IS A GREAT WAY FOR JOB SEEKERS TO FIND OUT ABOUT THE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY IN MAINE.

THE MAINE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION HAS DELAYED ACTION ON A POWER CONTRACT FOR THE AQUA VENTUS OFFSHORE WIND PILOT PROJECT NEAR MONHEGAN ISLAND. REGULATORS ON TUESDAY CITED CHANGING ENERGY MARKETS THE FOR DELAY. AQUA VENTUS COUNSEL ANTHONY BUXTON SAYS THE ELECTRICITY TARGET PRICES WILL BE COMPETITIVE IF THE PROJECT REACHES COMMERCIAL SCALE. HE SAYS MILLIONS OF DOLLARS HAVE BEEN SPENT ON THE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT AND THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE-DESIGNED FLOATING WIND TURBINES ARE CRITICAL TO THE STATE'S ECONOMY WITH THE POTENTIAL TO CREATE THOUSANDS OF JOBS. MORE PUBLIC COMMENTS WILL BE TAKEN BEFORE A FINAL DECISION IS MADE.

A NORTHPORT MAN IS GOING TO PRISON FOR TAKING MORE THAN \$4,000 FROM TWO PEOPLE TO FIX THEIR ROOFS, THEN SKIPPING OUT ON THE JOBS. 47-YEAR-OLD STEPHEN BOYLE PLEADED GUILTY THIS WEEK TO HOME REPAIR FRAUD AND THEFT. HE WAS SENTENCED TO 15 MONTHS IN PRISON AND ORDERED TO PAY \$4,300 IN RESTITUTION. LAST APRIL A HOMEOWNER IN BELFAST SIGNED A CONTRACT WITH BOYLE FOR \$6,300 FOR A ROOF REPAIR. BOYLE GOT HALF THE MONEY BUT NEVER DID ANY OF THE WORK. POLICE ALSO LEARNED BOYLE DID THE SAME THING TO ANOTHER PERSON IN 2015 BY TAKING A \$1,000 DOWN PAYMENT AND STEALING SHINGLES FROM THE JOB SITE.

THE THIRD LARGEST BREWING COMPANY IN MAINE IS EXPANDING ITS TAPROOM TO 10 TIMES ITS ORIGINAL SIZE. LEWISTON'S BAXTER BREWING CO. WILL OPEN THE NEW 4,800-SQ. FOOT TAPROOM THIS SUMMER, AND IT WILL INCORPORATE MACHINERY FROM THE BUILDING'S PRIOR HISTORY AS A HISTORIC MILL. FOUNDER LUKE LIVINGSTON SAYS THE TAPROOM'S CURRENT SIZE HAS BEEN A CONTINUING ISSUE FROM THE BEGINNING, BEING ONE OF THE SMALLEST AMONG MAINE'S OVER 100 BREWERIES. BAXTER BREWING EMPLOYS 33 PEOPLE. LIVINGSTON SAYS THE EXPANSION WILL ADD NEW JOBS, THOUGH HE ISN'T SURE HOW MANY YET. ACCORDING TO A 2017 REPORT FROM THE MAINE BREWERS' GUILD, CRAFT BEER IS A GROWING INDUSTRY IN MAINE WITH AN ECONOMIC IMPACT OF MORE THAN \$225 MILLION.



BILL DIES

1/10

PA

THE GOVERNOR'S BILL TO ENCOURAGE THE GROWTH OF FOREST PRODUCTS AND WOOD MANUFACTURING JOBS DIED IN COMMITTEE AT THE REQUEST OF ITS SPONSOR. SENATOR JAMES DILL SAYS THE BILL WAS CARRIED OVER FROM LAST SESSION AND A FEW ISSUES STILL NEED TO BE RESOLVED BEFORE IT CAN BE REINTRODUCED. HE SPOKE IN FRONT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES, AND TECHNOLOGY TUESDAY.

2007 DILL

:16

...IN THE SESSION.

THE BILL WOULD HAVE ENSURED THAT THE COST OF LONG-TERM CONTRACTS FOR MANUFACTURING JOBS COULDN'T EXCEED THE PROJECTS' COSTS PLUS A REASONABLE RATE OF RETURN ON INVESTMENT. IT ALSO PROMISED TO PROVIDE CREDITS OR LONG-TERM ENERGY CONTRACTS FOR ENERGY PROJECTS PROVIDING A CERTAIN NUMBER OF JOBS.

DCF BILL FAILS

2/16

PA

AN EMERGENCY BILL TO FUND THE DOWNEAST CORRECTIONAL FACILITY WAS VOTED ON AND SUPPORTED LAST WEEK, BUT FAILED TO GET THE NECESSARY TWO-THIRDS VOTE IN THE HOUSE THURSDAY IN AUGUSTA. THIS COMES IN THE WAKE OF THE PRISON'S CLOSURE ON FRIDAY. REPRESENTATIVE CHARLOTTE WARREN SPOKE BEFORE YESTERDAY'S VOTE.

2001 WARREN

:16

...OF CORRECTIONS.

THE BILL ISN'T TECHNICALLY DEAD YET. AN AMENDED VERSION COULD COME BACK TO THE HOUSE, AND WOULD TAKE A SIMPLE MAJORITY TO PASS. EVEN THEN IT COULD STILL BE VETOED AND HOUSE REPUBLICANS SAY THEY HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH VOTES TO UPHOLD ONE.

A ROUND OF VOTES IN AUGUSTA THURSDAY SHOWS THAT MAINE LAWMAKERS WILL NEED MORE SUPPORT TO ENSURE FUNDING FOR THE DOWNEAST CORRECTIONAL FACILITY. THE SENATE VOTED 31-3 WHILE THE HOUSE VOTED 87-59 ON A BILL TO PROVIDE \$5.5 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR THE PRISON. LAWMAKERS NEED A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY IN BOTH CHAMBERS TO OVERRIDE LEPAGE'S LIKELY VETO. HE AND HOUSE REPUBLICANS, LIKE REPRESENTATIVE ELLIE ESPLING, ARGUE THE PRISON IS UNNECESSARY.

2002 ESPLING

:11

...FOR EVERYONE.

EVEN THOUGH THE FACILITY WAS FUNDED THROUGH JUNE, LAST FRIDAY LEPAGE TRANSFERRED ABOUT 60 INMATES AND LEFT MORE THAN 50 STAFF MEMBERS WITHOUT JOBS.

A MEASURE TO REOPEN THE DOWNEAST CORRECTIONAL FACILITY IN MACHIASPORT FELL SHORT IN THE MAINE HOUSE THURSDAY. THE ENTIRE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS SUPPORTED THE EMERGENCY LEGISLATION, BUT ALL BUT 7 REPUBLICANS VOTED AGAINST IT, DOOMING THE BILL'S CHANCE OF SURVIVING AN ALL BUT CERTAIN VETO FROM GOVERNOR PAUL LEPAGE. THE MEASURE WOULD KEEP THE FACILITY OPEN FOR ANOTHER YEAR BY PROVIDING \$5.5 MILLION IN FUNDING. ANDREA GUERRA, A WASHINGTON COUNTY BUSINESS OWNER, SPOKE WITH TV5 AFTER YESTERDAY'S VOTE.

2003 GUERRA :10 ...ABOUT JOBS.

GOVERNOR PAUL LEPAGE SAYS THE FACILITY IS OUTDATED AND TOO EXPENSIVE TO RUN. IT WAS A WEEK AGO HE HAD STATE POLICE TRANSFER THE INMATES AND LAID OFF MORE THAN 50 STAFF MEMBERS WITHOUT WARNING.

DECF REACTION

2/12

PA

RESIDENTS OF MACHIASPORT AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES ARE REACTING TO GOVERNOR PAUL LEPAGE'S ORDER TO REMOVE THE INMATES FROM DOWNEAST CORRECTIONAL FACILITY ON FRIDAY. LOCAL OFFICIALS, INCLUDING WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONER CHRIS GARDNER, SAY HE'S OVER-REACHING HIS POWER.

2002 GARDNER

:23

...ON HIS OWN.

THE INMATES WERE BUSED TO THE MOUNTAIN VIEW CORRECTIONAL FACILITY IN CHARLESTON. FORMER STAFF AT THE PRISON SAY THE FACILITY WAS NOT NOTIFIED OF THE MOVE. THE PRISON WAS SLATED TO CLOSE IN JUNE, BUT A BILL WORKING ITS WAY THROUGH THE LEGISLATURE WOULD FUND THE FACILITY THROUGH NEXT YEAR.

GOVERNOR PAUL LEPAGE HAS AGAIN MOVED TO EMPTY DOWNEAST CORRECTIONAL FACILITY AS LAWMAKERS DEBATE THE FACILITY'S FUTURE. 51 PRISON STAFFERS WERE PLACED ON ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE AND RECEIVED LAYOFF NOTICES EFFECTIVE MARCH 2ND. EARLY FRIDAY MORNING STATE POLICE HELPED TO TRANSFER THE INMATES TO MOUNTAIN VIEW CORRECTIONAL FACILITY IN CHARLESTON. FORMER-WORKERS SAY THEIR FUTURES ARE NOW IN THE AIR. KEVIN MILLAY SPOKE WITH TV5.

2003 MILLAY

:21

...OF THE BUDGET.

THE FACILITY WAS DUE TO CLOSE IN JUNE, UNLESS FUNDING WAS APPROVED. A BILL TO PROVIDE THAT FUNDING IS CURRENTLY MAKING ITS WAY THROUGH THE STATE HOUSE.

DECF REACTION 3

2/12

PA

MORE THAN 50 WORKERS AT DOWNEAST CORRECTIONAL FACILITY GOT LAYOFF NOTICES EARLY FRIDAY MORNING. UNDER GOVERNOR PAUL LEPAGE'S ORDERS STATE POLICE HELPED TO TRANSFER THE PRISON'S INMATES TO MOUNTAIN VIEW CORRECTIONAL FACILITY IN CHARLESTON. UNION REPRESENTATIVE JIM MACKIE SAYS THE MOVE SHOCKED WORKERS AND LAWMAKERS ALIKE.

2004 MACKIE

:25

...LEGISLATIVE PROCESS.

GOVERNOR LEPAGE'S OFFICE RELEASED A STATEMENT SAYING HE UNDERSTANDS LOCAL ELECTED LEADERS DON'T WANT TO SEE JOB LOSS, BUT HE DOES NOT BELIEVE A PRISON SHOULD BE THE ECONOMIC ENGINE OF A REGION. IMPACTED WORKERS ARE EXPECTED TO MEET WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S RAPID RESPONSE TEAM TODAY.

DECF WORKERS IN AUGUSTA

2/14

PA

WORKERS FROM THE DOWNEAST CORRECTIONAL FACILITY IN MACHIASPORT WERE IN AUGUSTA ON TUESDAY TO SPEAK WITH LAWMAKERS FOLLOWING THE PRISON'S CLOSURE ON FRIDAY. FOR A REGION THAT LOSES MANY YOUNGER RESIDENTS DUE TO LACK OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, THE SUDDEN CLOSURE LEAVES SINGLE DAD OF TWO JOEL HOLMES WORRIED AFTER BUYING A HOME JUST TWO YEARS AGO. HE SPOKE WITH TV5.

2006 HOMES :10 ...UNTIL THE END.

A PENDING BILL TO KEEP THE FACILITY OPEN WAS VOTED ON AND SUPPORTED LAST WEEK AND IS EXPECTED TO BE TAKEN UP AGAIN LATER THIS WEEK.



MORE THAN 50 STAFF MEMBERS OF THE DOWNEAST CORRECTIONAL FACILITY ARE WITHOUT JOBS IN MAINE'S MOST ECONOMICALLY-CHALLENGED COUNTY. GOVERNOR PAUL LEPAGE'S DECISION TO SHUT DOWN THE PRISON WITHOUT WARNING HAS LEFT THOSE WORKERS CONFUSED AND ANGRY. THEY WERE IN AUGUSTA TUESDAY TO CALL ON THEIR ELECTED OFFICIALS TO STAND UP FOR THEM AND THE REST OF WASHINGTON COUNTY. DANIEL RAMSDELL HAS SPENT THE LAST 26 YEARS WORKING AS A CORRECTIONS OFFICER AT D-C-F. HE SPOKE WITH TV5.

2007 RAMSDELL

:11

...SUPPORT US.

WASHINGTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE FILED AN INJUNCTION WITH THE KENNEBEC COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT. COMMISSIONER CHRIS GARDNER SAYS THEY'RE ASKING A JUDGE TO PREVENT THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS FROM TAKING FURTHER ACTION AT THE DOWNEAST CORRECTIONAL FACILITY UNTIL THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS PLAYS OUT.

TODAY THE MAINE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR WILL BE ON-SITE AT THE DOWNEAST CORRECTIONAL FACILITY IN MACHIASPORT. THEY'LL BE THERE TO OFFER ASSISTANCE TO THOSE WHO WERE LAID OFF WHEN THE GOVERNOR SHUT DOWN THE PRISON ON FRIDAY. WORKERS WHO HAVE LOST THEIR JOB MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO COLLECT UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS AND FOR OTHER SERVICES. THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT HEALTH INSURANCE OPTIONS, RE-EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE, AND HOW AND WHEN TO FILE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS.

ENERGY SUMMIT

1/26

PA

AN ENERGY SUMMIT IS PLANNED FOR SUNDAY ON MOUNT DESERT ISLAND. THE EVENT, HOSTED BY ORGANIZATION "A CLIMATE TO THRIVE" IS SCHEDULED FROM 2 TO 6PM. THE SUMMIT WILL FEATURE 14 WORKSHOPS ON TOPICS SUCH AS SOLAR ENERGY AND BATTERY STORAGE OPTIONS. FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO "A CLIMATE TO THRIVE (DOT) ORG (SLASH) 2018 SUMMIT".

A GROUP THAT SEEKS TO LINK MAINE VETERANS WITH AGRICULTURAL JOBS HAS A NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. UNITED FARMER VETERANS OF MAINE SAYS DONOVAN TODD IS TOOK OVER THE POST ON MONDAY. THE GROUP SAYS TODD HAS WORKED IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE FOR NEARLY 40 YEARS AND HAS HELD POSITIONS WITHIN THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION, AS WELL AS IN PRIVATE INDUSTRY. HE RECENTLY SERVED AS THE STATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE FARM SERVICE AGENCY FROM 2009 TO 2017. UNITED FARMER VETERANS SAYS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND FOUNDER JERRY IRELAND IS STEPPING DOWN AS PRESIDENT, BUT WILL STAY ON BOARD AS C-E-O. HE WILL STAY WITH THE GROUP TO WORK ON INITIATIVES PROMOTING GROWTH AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR MAINE VETS.

FLOODING AND OUTAGES

1/15

PA

WHILE THE RAIN HAS COME AND GONE, STREET FLOODING AND DOWNED POWER LINES MAY STILL BE AN ISSUE IN SOME SPOTS. EMERA SPOKESWOMAN JUDY LONG TELLS TV5 IT'S ALL HANDS ON DECK AT EMERA MAINE'S FLEET HEADQUARTERS IN HAMPDEN.

2004 LONG :10 ...MORE OUTAGES.

OVER 2,000 CUSTOMERS WERE LEFT IN THE DARK SATURDAY MORNING. AND WHILE THE STORM DIDN'T PACK AS MUCH OF A PUNCH IN SOME AREAS, OTHERS WOKE UP TO FLOODED ROADWAYS. SOMETHING THE MAINE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION WILL BE MONITORING CLOSELY FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

THE RAIN AND UNSEASONABLY WARM TEMPERATURES AT THE END OF LAST WEEK CAUSED SOME WIDESPREAD FLOODING ISSUES ACROSS THE STATE. TED TALBOT OF THE MAINE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TELLS TV5 WITH THE DROP IN TEMPERATURES OVERNIGHT, HE URGES FOLKS TO USE CAUTION.

2005 TALBOT :22 ...THROUGH THE PERIOD.

CREWS WITH MAINE DOT AND EMERA MAINE WILL BE OUT AS THEY'RE NEEDED.

FLU

1/23

PA

LIKE CLOCKWORK, EACH WINTER WE DEAL WITH THE FLU. BUT THIS YEAR IS OF PARTICULAR CONCERN, BOTH IN THE NUMBER OF CASES OF INFLUENZA AS WELL AS ITS SEVERITY. THE LATEST REPORT FROM THE MAINE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION SHOW CLOSE TO 1,200 PEOPLE TESTING POSITIVE FOR THE FLU SO FAR THIS SEASON. OF THOSE, 21 CASES RESULTED IN DEATH. DR. FELICITY HOMSTED, CHIEF PHARMACY OFFICER FOR PENOBSCOT COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE, SPOKE WITH TV5.

2007 HOMSTED

:14

...RECOVERING.

IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE THE FLU, HOMSTED SAYS GET TO A DOCTOR RIGHT AWAY. THEY CAN PRESCRIBE TAMIFLU WITHIN THE FIRST 24 TO 48 HOURS TO HELP REDUCE THE SEVERITY OF THE ILLNESS. THAT'S ALSO THE CASE FOR PEOPLE EXPOSED TO PATIENTS WITH INFLUENZA.

MAINE SAW A RISE IN THE NUMBER OF FLU CASES AND HOSPITALIZATIONS LAST WEEK. THE STATE HAD 876 NEW CASES OF INFLUENZA, WHICH WAS A RISE OF MORE THAN 60 PERCENT FROM THE PREVIOUS WEEK. THE MAINE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION SAYS THIS FLU SEASON'S TOTAL IS CLOSE TO 3,300, INCLUDING 667 HOSPITALIZATIONS AND 34 DEATHS. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS HERALD, THIS FLU SEASON, WHICH IS REACHING ITS PEAK RIGHT NOW, IS WORSE THAN LAST YEAR AT THIS TIME. THE MAINE CDC SAYS IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO GET A FLU SHOT.



28 MAINERS HAVE DIED FROM THE FLU THIS SEASON, FOLLOWING FOUR DEATHS LAST WEEK. THE MAINE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL RELEASED THE FLU REPORT WEDNESDAY. ACCORDING TO THE AGENCY, THERE HAVE BEEN 2,307 INFLUENZA CASES IN THE STATE THIS YEAR. THERE HAVEN'T BEEN ANY PEDIATRIC INFLUENZA DEATHS. UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND'S CLINICAL AFFAIRS VICE PRESIDENT DR. DORA ANNE MILLS SAYS MAINE HASN'T SEEN AN OUTBREAK AS SEVERE AS THE REST OF THE COUNTRY. HOWEVER, MILLS WARNS THAT THE SPREAD IS "HEATING UP." PUBLIC HEALTH EXPERTS SAY PEOPLE SHOULD WASH THEIR HANDS OFTEN TO AVOID CONTACTING OR SPREADING THE FLU. EXPERTS SAY IF YOU'RE EXPERIENCING SYMPTOMS TO CONTACT A DOCTOR.

THE FLU IS CONSIDERED WIDESPREAD IN MAINE AND HOSPITAL OFFICIALS AT EASTERN MAINE MEDICAL CENTER IN BANGOR ARE IMPLEMENTING TEMPORARY MEASURES IN AN EFFORT TO REDUCE THE RISK OF SPREADING IT EVEN MORE. BEGINNING ON TUESDAY, THEY'LL LIMIT VISITORS TO TWO PATIENTS AT A TIME ANYWHERE IN THE HOSPITAL. THE MINIMUM VISITOR AGE WILL BE 12 YEARS OLD. ACCESS TO PATIENTS EXHIBITING FLU-LIKE SYMPTOMS WILL BE LIMITED. AND THE PUBLIC WILL BE DIRECTED TO SPECIFIC ENTRANCES WHERE SCREENING FOR FLU-LIKE SYMPTOMS WILL TAKE PLACE. SENIOR V-P DR. JAMES JARVIS SAYS THE TEMPORARY MEASURES WILL CREATE SOME CHALLENGES FOR VISITORS AND MAY CAUSE A BIT OF INCONVENIENCE, BUT E-M-M-C BELIEVES THE PRECAUTIONS ARE NECESSARY TO PROTECT THEIR PATIENTS, STAFF, AND THE PUBLIC.

WHILE DATA SHOWS LOWER SEASONAL FLU CASES IN MAINE COMPARED TO OTHER STATES, THE STRAIN THAT IS CIRCULATING IS MORE SEVERE AND LEADING TO MORE HOSPITALIZATIONS. THE STATE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION HAS REPORTED 373 FLU CASES THROUGH DECEMBER 23RD, WITH 99 REQUIRING HOSPITALIZATION. STATE EPIDEMIOLOGIST DR. SIIRI BENNETT TELLS THE PORTLAND PRESS HERALD 80 TO 90 PERCENT OF CASES THIS YEAR ARE INFLUENZA A, WHICH HE SAYS IS MORE LIKELY TO CAUSE DEATHS AMONG ADULTS OVER 65 AND YOUNG CHILDREN. FLU SEASON LASTS FROM OCTOBER TO MAY. BENNETT SAYS IT'S STILL TOO SOON TO PREDICT WHAT THE SEASON WILL BE LIKE.

THE MAINE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, THE MAINE OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, AND GOVERNOR PAUL LEPAGE ARE BACKING A NEW PROGRAM TO GET HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS INTERESTED IN CYBERSECURITY. "CYBER START" WAS CREATED BY A NATIONAL COMPANY AND WAS FIRST PILOTED LAST SUMMER. ONLY 5 PERCENT OF THE 3,500 PARTICIPANTS WERE GIRLS. THAT PROMPTED CREATION OF THE "GIRLS GO CYBER START" PROGRAM DESIGNED FOR HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS. MAINE STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM WILL BE DOING SO ALONGSIDE STUDENTS FROM MORE THAN A DOZEN OTHER STATES. "GIRLS GO CYBER START" USES ONLINE GAMES OF DISCOVERY TO INTRODUCE HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS TO THE FIELD, WHICH IS POISED FOR JOB GROWTH IN COMING YEARS.

BUSINESS OWNERS IN HALLOWELL SAY THEY'RE CONCERNED ABOUT AN UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION PROJECT THAT COULD HAMPER THEIR BUSINESSES. THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S RECONSTRUCTION OF THE CITY'S HISTORIC DOWNTOWN BEGINS IN APRIL, AND CONTRACTORS WILL WORK FULL-TIME THROUGHOUT THE WORK WEEK UNTIL THE EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE IN OCTOBER. BUSINESS OWNERS IN THE IMPACTED AREA SAY THEY HOPE PEOPLE CONTINUE TO VISIT DESPITE EXPECTED TRAFFIC AND PARKING ISSUES. ANDREW SILSBY, THE C-E-O OF KENNEBEC SAVINGS BANK, SAYS BUSINESSES SHOULD PLAN FOR A 25 PERCENT LOSS IN SALES. THE D-O-T WILL HOST AN OPEN HOUSE AT 5:30 WEDNESDAY NIGHT AT HALLOWELL CITY HALL TO DISCUSS FINAL PLANS.

TWO LAWS AIMED AT LOWERING HEALTH CARE COSTS ARE COMING INTO EFFECT IN THE NEW YEAR. STARTING YESTERDAY, MAINE HEALTH INSURANCE CARRIERS MUST ALLOW ENROLLEES TO GET COST AND QUALITY DATA FOR COMPARABLE HEALTH CARE SERVICES THROUGH A WEBSITE AND TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE NUMBER. CARRIERS CAN SATISFY THAT REQUIREMENT BY DIRECTING ENROLLEES TO THE MAINE HEALTH DATA ORGANIZATION WEBSITE. ALSO, CARRIERS CAN NO LONGER DENY PAYMENT FOR A COVERED HEALTH CARE SERVICE JUST BECAUSE AN OUT-OF-NETWORK PROVIDER MADE THE REFERRAL. ANOTHER NEW LAW IS AIMED AT UNEXPECTED MEDICAL BILLS. THE LAW SAYS CARRIERS CAN ONLY REQUIRE ENROLLEES TO PAY THE OUT-OF-POCKET COST THEY WOULD HAVE FACED UNDER AN IN-NETWORK PROVIDER UNDER CERTAIN SCENARIOS.

THE PERSONAL HEALTH INFORMATION OF 660 PATIENTS OF EASTERN MAINE MEDICAL CENTER IS MISSING. THE HOSPITAL SAYS IT'S UNABLE TO LOCATE AN EXTERNAL HARD DRIVE THAT CONTAINED INFORMATION ABOUT PATIENTS WHO UNDERWENT CARDIAC ABLATION PROCEDURES FROM 2011 TO 2017. THEY SAY THAT DEVICE WAS OWNED AND OPERATED BY A THIRD PARTY VENDOR. THE INFORMATION INCLUDES NAMES, DATES OF BIRTH, AND MEDICAL RECORD NUMBERS, BUT SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS, ADDRESSES, AND FINANCIAL DATA IS NOT ON THE HARD DRIVE.

MAINERS WHO LOST HEALTH CARE COVERAGE WHEN HEALTH INSURER ANTHEM STOPPED SELLING PLANS THROUGH THE FEDERAL MARKETPLACE CAN STILL PURCHASE A NEW PLAN. THE STATE INSURANCE BUREAU SAYS MAINERS QUALIFY FOR A SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD UNTIL MARCH 1ST. ANTHEM CITED UNCERTAINTY AND A SHRINKING CUSTOMER BASE IN ITS DECISION LAST YEAR TO STOP SELLING PLANS THROUGH THE HEALTHCARE MARKETPLACE.



A PLAN OF ACTION TO ADDRESS A RISE IN TRAFFIC DEATHS IN MAINE WAS RELEASED TUESDAY IN AUGUSTA. THE LATEST STRATEGIC HIGHWAY SAFETY PLAN COMBINES THE RESEARCH OF MANY HIGHWAY SAFETY PARTNERS, INCLUDING STATE POLICE AND MAINE D-O-T. CRASH FATALITIES HAVE INCREASED OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS AFTER SEEING IMPROVEMENT OVER THE PRIOR DECADE. IN 2016, THERE WERE MORE THAN 33,000 CRASHES IN MAINE, RESULTING IN 160 DEATHS. DAVID BERNHARDT, COMMISSIONER OF THE MAINE D-O-T, SPOKE WITH TV5.

2007 BERNHARDT :13 ...EDUCATING THE PEOPLE.

MORE THAN HALF OF TEEN CRASHES INVOLVE DISTRACTED DRIVING.

GOVERNOR PAUL LEPAGE SAYS PEOPLE WHO AREN'T OLD ENOUGH TO BUY CIGARETTES SHOULDN'T HAVE ACCESS TO THE OVERDOSE ANTIDOTE NALOXONE AT PHARMACIES. LEPAGE TOLD NEW ENGLAND CABLE NEWS THAT HE OPPOSES THE 18-YEAR-OLD AGE THRESHOLD IN THE RULES BECAUSE MAINE HAS RAISED THE LEGAL AGE TO BUY TOBACCO PRODUCTS FROM 18 TO 21. LEPAGE SAYS HE BELIEVES THE AGE FOR NALOXONE SHOULD ALSO BE 21. THE NALOXONE LAW WAS PASSED LAST YEAR, BUT THE RULES HAVE STALLED. HOUSE SPEAKER SARA GIDEON ACCUSES THE GOVERNOR OF "PLAYING GAMES WITH PEOPLE'S LIVES." LEPAGE HAS OPPOSED WIDESPREAD DISTRIBUTION OF NALOXONE, WHICH IS SOLD UNDER THE NAME NARCAN. HE CONTENDS THE LIFE-SAVING DRUG IS A CRUTCH THAT KEEPS PEOPLE USING DRUGS.

LAWMAKERS ARE SET TO CONSIDER A PROPOSAL TO OFFER TAX CREDITS FOR LOGGING AND TRUCKING BUSINESSES THAT HIRE U.S. RESIDENTS. THE BILL IS SPONSORED BY SENATE LEADER TROY JACKSON, A FIFTH-GENERATION LOGGER WHOSE FAMILY STILL WORKS IN MAINE'S FORESTS. HIS BILL WAS STILL IN CONCEPT FORM AT A JANUARY HEARING. IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS, MAINE HAS SEEN THE CLOSURE OF FIVE PULP AND PAPER MILLS AND THE PERIODIC IDLING OF TWO WOOD TO ENERGY FACILITIES. ACCORDING TO PROFESSIONAL LOGGING CONTRACTORS OF MAINE, THE STATE HAS LOST HALF OF ITS SOFTWOOD PULP MARKET. MORE THAN 5,000 JOBS WERE LOST BETWEEN 2014 AND 2016.

A REPUBLICAN LAWMAKER WANTS TO MAKE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR MAINE CHILDREN PRESCRIBED MEDICAL MARIJUANA. REPRESENTATIVE DEB SANDERSON'S BILL WOULD ALLOW KIDS PRESCRIBED MEDICAL MARIJUANA TO RECEIVE IT FROM CERTAIN MEDICAL PROVIDERS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS. THE BILL IS SCHEDULED FOR A WEDNESDAY HEARING. CURRENT LAW ALLOWS THE CHILD'S PRIMARY CAREGIVER TO POSSESS AND ADMINISTER MEDICAL MARIJUANA SCHOOL GROUNDS. THE MEDICAL MARIJUANA HAS TO BE IN A NON-SMOKEABLE FORM. THE LEGISLATURE'S HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE ON WEDNESDAY IS ALSO SET TO HEAR OTHER MEDICAL MARIJUANA LEGISLATION. ONE BILL WOULD ADD OPIATE ADDICTION AS A QUALIFYING CONDITION FOR MEDICAL MARIJUANA.

REPUBLICAN HOUSE LEADER KEN FREDETTE IS CALLING FOR THE DELAY OF RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA SALES IN MAINE UNTIL NEXT YEAR, OR UNTIL LAWMAKERS APPROVE NEEDED REGULATIONS. A BAN ON RETAIL POT SALES TECHNICALLY LIFTS TOMORROW, BUT THE STATE HASN'T SET UP A WAY FOR MARIJUANA RETAILERS TO GET THE REQUIRED LICENSES. MEANWHILE, THE MAINE SENATE TUESDAY ACCEPTED SENATOR ROGER KATZ'S BILL TO DELAY SALES UNTIL THIS SPRING. THE MATTER FACES FURTHER VOTES.

A LEGISLATIVE PANEL WANTS TO DELAY MEDICAL MARIJUANA RULES CRACKING DOWN ON CAREGIVERS. THE LEGISLATURE'S HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE VOTED UNANIMOUSLY THURSDAY TO SUPPORT A BILL TO DELAY REGULATIONS THAT CAREGIVERS SAY COULD HARM MAINE'S MEDICAL MARIJUANA INDUSTRY. THE RULES, SET TO BECOME EFFECTIVE THURSDAY, WOULD ALLOW MAINE TO CONDUCT SURPRISE INSPECTIONS OF MEDICAL MARIJUANA PROVIDERS AND TO INSPECT SOME USERS' HOMES WITH A DAY'S NOTICE. THE OWNERS OF A MEDICAL MARIJUANA SHOP AND TWO MEDICAL MARIJUANA USERS RECENTLY FILED A COMPLAINT IN FEDERAL COURT TO STOP MAINE FROM IMPLEMENTING THE REGULATIONS. THE BILL TO DELAY THE RULES UNTIL JULY WOULD NEED SPEEDY APPROVAL FROM BOTH HOUSES AND GOVERNOR PAUL LEPAGE, WHO SAYS MAINE'S MEDICAL MARIJUANA PROGRAM NEEDS REFORM.

MILLER DRUG

2/16

PA

MILLER DRUG, WHICH HAS BEEN IN BANGOR SINCE 1957, SAYS THEY'RE CUTTING NINETEEN JOBS. REPORTEDLY THE JOB CUTS PRIMARILY INVOLVE THE LONG TERM CARE PHARMACY, NOT THE RETAIL BUSINESS. THE PHARMACY IS NOW PART OF EASTERN MAINE HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS. OFFICIALS SAY THE RECENT ADDITION OF NEW TECHNOLOGY WILL AUTOMATE A GROWING NUMBER OF SITES THEY PROVIDE SERVICES TO. VINCENT MAINELLA OF MILLER DRUG SPOKE WITH TV5.

2007 MAINELLA

:20

...IN BANGOR.

PHARMACY TECHNICIANS, PART-TIME PHARMACISTS, AND DELIVERY DRIVERS ARE AMONG THOSE AFFECTED BY THE JOB CUTS. EMHS OFFICIALS SAY THEY WILL WORK TO FIND NEW POSITIONS FOR THOSE EMPLOYEES WHO WISH TO REMAIN IN THE SYSTEM.

EASTERN MAINE HEALTHCARE

SAID, "THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS WE WANT TO DO. WE WANT TO INCREASE OUR SPACE IN THE SPECIALTY MEDICINE ONCOLOGY WORLD AND ALL OF OUR FACILITIES, NOT JUST HERE IN THE BANGOR AREA. WE WANT TO EXPAND THAT DISCHARGE PROGRAM "MEDS TO BEDS" PROGRAM IN MANY OF OUR HOSPITALS, NOT JUST HERE "

MORATORIUM ENDS

2/2

PA

MAINE'S MARIJUANA RETAIL SALES MORATORIUM EXPIRED THURSDAY, AFTER LAWMAKERS VOTED DOWN A BILL TO EXTEND IT TO THIS SPRING. DESPITE THE MORATORIUM ENDING, MAINERS CAN NOT GET LICENSES TO SELL CANNABIS UNTIL THE RULEMAKING PROCESS HAS BEEN COMPLETED. POSSESSING SMALL AMOUNTS OF MARIJUANA FOR AT-HOME USE REMAINS LEGAL. REPRESENTATIVE KEN FREDETTE TELLS TV5 THE LEGISLATIVE PANEL, TASKED WITH DRAFTING THE EXTENSIVE LEGISLATION REGULATING THE ADULT-USE MARKET, WILL RESUME ITS WORK TODAY.

2001 FREDETTE

:12

...NEEDS TO HAPPEN.

DUE TO THE LENGTHY RULEMAKING PROCESS, IT'S LIKELY THAT PROSPECTIVE MARIJUANA RETAILERS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GET LICENSED UNTIL EARLY NEXT YEAR.



MAINE LAWMAKERS ARE MAKING IT ALL BUT CERTAIN THAT RETAIL POT SALES APPROVED BY VOTERS IN 2016 WILL BE PUSHED BACK AGAIN UNTIL NEXT YEAR. A MOVE TO PUSH BACK SALES UNTIL THIS SPRING FAILED IN THE HOUSE ON THURSDAY WITH OPPOSITION FROM BOTH REPUBLICANS AND SOME DEMOCRATS. RETAIL SALES OF RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA TECHNICALLY BECAME LEGAL IN MAINE THURSDAY, BUT MARIJUANA RETAILERS HAVE NO WAY TO OBTAIN A NEEDED LICENSE UNTIL THE RULEMAKING PROCESS HAS BEEN COMPLETED. REPRESENTATIVE THERESA PIERCE IS HOUSE CHAIR OF THE MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE. SHE SPOKE WITH TV5.

2002 PIERCE :22 ...FOR A VOTE.

LAWMAKERS TASKED WITH DRAFTING THE EXTENSIVE LEGISLATION REGULATING THE ADULT-USE MARKET WILL RESUME THEIR WORK TODAY.

THE CLOSING OF THE DOWNEAST CORRECTIONAL FACILITY IS EXPECTED TO HAVE FAR REACHING ECONOMIC IMPACTS IN THE MACHIAS AREA. A GROWING CONCERN IS THAT MUCH OF THE FORMER PRISON STAFF WILL BE FORCED TO LEAVE THE AREA FOR A NEW JOB, LEAVING BUSINESSES LIKE THE BLUEBIRD RANCH RESTAURANT WITHOUT A BIG CHUNK OF PATRONS. OWNER BETHANY FOSS TELLS TV5 EVEN THE MOVING OF PRISONERS WILL AFFECT FUTURE JOBS IN THE AREA.

2001 FOSS :14 ...LOCALS YEAR ROUND.

UNDER GOVERNOR PAUL LEPAGE'S ORDERS, STATE POLICE TRANSPORTED THE PRISON INMATES TO MOUNTAIN VIEW CORRECTIONAL FACILITY IN THE WEE HOURS OF FRIDAY MORNING. NEITHER LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP OR STAFF AT THE FACILITY WERE NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE OF THE MOVE. ACCORDING TO THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE A TEAM IS WORKING TO TAKE A FINAL INVENTORY OF THE EQUIPMENT AND PROPERTY ON-SITE.

MORE THAN 50 WORKERS AT THE DOWNEAST CORRECTIONAL FACILITY WERE HANDED LETTERS SAYING THEY WERE ON PAID ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE AFTER THE GOVERNOR SENT STATE POLICE TO SHUT DOWN THE PRISON EARLY FRIDAY MORNING. PEOPLE IN THE MACHIAS-AREA ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE IMPACT THIS SUDDEN CLOSURE WILL HAVE ON THEIR REGION. JULIE BARKER, CO-OWNER OF HELEN'S RESTAURANT, SPOKE WITH TV5. SHE SAYS EVEN PRISONERS HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE LOCAL ECONOMY.

2002 BARKER

:13

...RELEASED.

NEITHER LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP OR STAFF AT THE FACILITY WERE NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE OF THE MOVE, WHICH HAS LEFT SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES REELING.

THE SUDDEN CLOSURE OF THE DOWNEAST CORRECTIONAL FACILITY IN HAS LEFT SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES CONFUSED AND SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS. IN A STATEMENT LAST WEEK, GOVERNOR LEPAGE SAID HE DOES NOT BELIEVE A PRISON SHOULD BE THE ECONOMIC ENGINE OF A REGION. TOWN MANAGER CHRISTINA THERRIEN TELLS TV5 THE GOVERNOR'S DECISION TO CLOSE THE JAIL WILL HAVE FAR-REACHING ECONOMIC IMPACTS. SHE SAYS WORK PROGRAMS HAVE CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO THE AREA.

2003 THERRIEN

:30

...IMPACT HERE.

NEITHER LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP OR STAFF AT THE FACILITY WERE NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE OF THE MOVE. ACCORDING TO THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE A TEAM IS WORKING TO TAKE A FINAL INVENTORY OF THE EQUIPMENT AND PROPERTY ON-SITE.

GOVERNOR PAUL LEPAGE STILL HASN'T APPROVED NEW RULES THAT ALLOW PHARMACISTS TO DISPENSE THE OVERDOSE ANTIDOTE NALOXONE WITHOUT A PRESCRIPTION, DESPITE REGULATORS APPROVING THE POLICY FIVE MONTHS AGO.

A SPOKESWOMAN FOR LEPAGE TOLD THE PORTLAND PRESS HERALD FRIDAY THE RULES ARE STILL IN THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE. SHE DID NOT PROVIDE A REASON FOR THE DELAY. LEPAGE HAS VOICED HIS OPPOSITION TO THE BILL, PREVIOUSLY SAYING NALOXONE ONLY PERPETUATES "THE CYCLE OF ADDICTION." THE STATE REPORTED 376 PEOPLE DIED FROM OVERDOSES IN 2016. WHILE OFFICIALS HAVEN'T CONFIRMED THE NUMBERS FOR LAST YEAR, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE REPORTED MORE THAN ONE OVERDOSE DEATH A DAY FOR THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR. MAINE REMAINS ONE OF FOUR STATES WHERE PEOPLE CANNOT GET NALOXONE AT C-V-S WITHOUT A PRESCRIPTION.

THE MAINE BOARD OF PHARMACY IS SET TO DISCUSS MAKING AN OVERDOSE-REVERSING DRUG AVAILABLE WITHOUT A PRESCRIPTION. MAINE LAWMAKERS IN 2016 PASSED A BILL TO MAKE NALOXONE AVAILABLE WITHOUT A DOCTOR'S PRESCRIPTION, BUT THE LAW LANGUISHED AS REGULATORS SAID LAWMAKERS NEEDED TO CHANGE ITS WORDING FOR IT TO BECOME EFFECTIVE. THE LAW WAS FIXED LAST YEAR, BUT THE LATEST RULES HAVE STALLED ON THE GOVERNOR'S DESK FOR MONTHS.

THE MAINE BOARD OF PHARMACY VOTED THURSDAY MORNING TO RAISE THE AGE TO BUY THE OVERDOSE-REVERSING DRUG NALOXONE FROM 18 TO 21. LEGISLATION WAS PASSED IN 2016 TO ALLOW THE DRUG TO BE GIVEN OUT BY PHARMACISTS WITHOUT A DOCTOR'S PRESCRIPTION, BUT THE BILL HAD AN ERROR. IT TOOK A YEAR FOR THE CORRECTION TO BE MADE. THEN THE RULES STALLED ON GOVERNOR PAUL LEPAGE'S DESK AFTER BEING SENT TO HIM LAST YEAR. LEPAGE'S SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR SIGNED OFF ON THE RULES THURSDAY AFTER THE AGE-CHANGE.

JOE BRUNO, CHAIR OF THE MAINE BOARD OF PHARMACY TELLS TV5 THE RULES NOW HEAD TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE, THEN ARE SUBJECT TO A PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD BEFORE MAKING IT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S DESK.

2003 BRUNO :12 ...GO INTO EFFECT.

BRUNO SAYS IF THE RULES GO INTO EFFECT, THOSE BUYING NALOXONE WOULD STILL NEED A PRESCRIPTION TO DO SO, BUT A PHARMACIST ON SITE WILL HAVE PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY TO DISPERSE THE DRUG.

A STATE LAW, MAKING AN OVERDOSE-REVERSING DRUG AVAILABLE WITHOUT A PRESCRIPTION, IS BECOMING REALITY DUE TO A COMPROMISE BETWEEN THE MAINE BOARD OF PHARMACY AND GOVERNOR PAUL LEPAGE. THE GOVERNOR'S SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR SIGNED OFF ON THE RULES THURSDAY AFTER THE BOARD LIFTED THE AGE LIMIT TO OBTAIN NALOXONE. EARLIER THIS WEEK, LEPAGE SAID THE AGE LIMIT SHOULD BE LIFTED FROM 18 TO 21, THE SAME AS THE NEW LIMIT FOR TOBACCO PURCHASES. LAWMAKERS APPROVED THE BILL IN 2016 BUT IT HAD BEEN IN RULE-MAKING LIMBO ON THE GOVERNOR'S DESK SINCE LAST YEAR. PHIL BARTLETT, CHAIRMAN OF THE MAINE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, TELLS TV5 HIS COLLEAGUES HAVE BEEN FRUSTRATED BY THE ADMINISTRATION'S STALLING OF THE RULES.

2004 BARTLETT

:12

...FAMILY MEMBER.

LEPAGE HAS OPPOSED WIDESPREAD DISTRIBUTION OF NALOXONE, ALSO KNOWN AS NARCAN. HE ARGUES THE LIFE-SAVING DRUG IS A CRUTCH THAT KEEPS PEOPLE USING DRUGS.



THE LEPAGE ADMINISTRATION HAS YET TO PRODUCE THE REGULATIONS NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT A 2015 STATE LAW ALLOWING PUBLIC HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS TO DISTRIBUTE FREE DOSES OF THE OVERDOSE-REVERSING DRUG NALOXONE. THE LAW AUTHORIZES GROUPS WORKING WITH DRUG USERS TO ESTABLISH OVERDOSE PREVENTION PROGRAMS, WHICH COULD GIVE AWAY NALOXONE AND TRAIN PEOPLE TO USE IT. LAWMAKERS DIRECTED THE STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO DRAW UP ANY NECESSARY REGULATIONS, BUT NONE HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED.

A MOVE TO MAKE THE OVERDOSE ANTIDOTE NARCAN AVAILABLE TO MAINERS WITHOUT A PRESCRIPTION IS STALLED ON THE GOVERNOR'S DESK. A SPOKESWOMAN FOR GOVERNOR LEPAGE SAYS THE RULES ARE "PENDING" AND WILL NOT GIVE A TIMELINE FOR WHEN HE WILL ACT ON THEM. THE STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY SENT THE RULES TO THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE IN AUGUST. THE GOVERNOR HAS VOICED HIS OPPOSITION TO MAKING NARCAN MORE WIDELY AVAILABLE. HOUSE SPEAKER SARA GIDEON SPOKE WITH TV5. SHE SAYS THE GOVERNOR SHOULD DO HIS JOB.

2006 GIDEON

:19

...TO SAVE LIVES.

LAWMAKERS TOOK EIGHT MONTHS TO PASS THE BILL THAT CREATED THE NEW RULES.

A LAW PASSED LAST YEAR WOULD LET PHARMACISTS SELL THE NARCAN WITHOUT A PRESCRIPTION, BUT RULES IMPLEMENTING THE LAW REMAIN TIED UP WITH THE GOVERNOR. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE THURSDAY, THE MAINE DEMOCRATIC PARTY CALLED ON LEPAGE TO APPROVE THE RULES. THEY SAY HE HAS BEEN BLOCKING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RULES FOR MONTHS WHILE MAINERS CONTINUE TO DIE. ANDREW KIEZUALAS, A FORMER OPIATE ADDICT, DETAILED HIS RECOVERY AND HIS SUPPORT FOR LETTING FAMILY MEMBERS BUY NARCAN FOR LOVED ONES WHO ARE ADDICTS.

2006 KIEZUALAS :12 ...WITHIN RECOVERY.

THE GOVERNOR SAYS NARCAN IS NOT THE SOLUTION TO THE BIGGER PROBLEM. HIS OFFICE HAS SAID THE RULES ARE PENDING AND HAS NOT PROVIDED A TIME TABLE FOR FURTHER ACTION.

GOVERNOR PAUL LEPAGE STILL HASN'T APPROVED NEW RULES THAT ALLOW PHARMACISTS TO DISPENSE NARCAN WITHOUT A PRESCRIPTION, DESPITE REGULATORS APPROVING THE POLICY FIVE MONTHS AGO. LEPAGE HAS VOICED HIS OPPOSITION TO THE BILL, PREVIOUSLY SAYING THE OVERDOSE TREATMENT ONLY PERPETUATES "THE CYCLE OF ADDICTION." DEMOCRATS HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE ON THURSDAY TO CALL ON LEPAGE TO APPROVE THE RULES. SENATOR BEN CHIPMAN SAYS THEY HAVE A REAL OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE LIVES.

2007 CHIPMAN

:14

...PARAMEDICS.

A SPOKESWOMAN FOR LEPAGE SAYS THE RULES ARE STILL IN THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE. SHE DID NOT PROVIDE A REASON FOR THE DELAY.

AN EFFORT TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC PATTERNS IN A HEAVILY-TRAVELED PART OF ORONO IS MOVING FORWARD. IT'S AN AREA THAT INCLUDES COLLEGE AVENUE. ORONO WILL HOST A PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE PARK STREET TRANSPORTATION STUDY TONIGHT AT 6 IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS. CITY OFFICIALS HOPE TO GET PUBLIC FEEDBACK ON CONCERNS AND POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITIES IN THE PARK STREET CORRIDOR.

THE MAINE D-O-T IS CLOSE TO FINISHING EMERGENCY REPAIRS TO AN AUGUSTA OVERPASS, BUT THEY'RE STILL AT A LOSS AS TO WHO CAUSED THE DAMAGE. OFFICIALS SAY THEY'LL CONFIGURE THE I-95 OVERPASS BACK TO ITS ORIGINAL LAYOUT TODAY. THEY WERE FORCED TO INSTALL TEMPORARY EXIT RAMPS IN NOVEMBER WHILE CREWS REPAIRED THE NEARBY OVERPASS WHERE WORKERS FOUND A MASSIVE CRACK IN OCTOBER. ACCORDING SPOKESMAN TED TALBOT, THERE ARE STILL NO LEADS ON THE DRIVER WHO CAUSED THE CRACK AND OFFICIALS HAVE NOT FOUND WITNESSES, VIDEO FOOTAGE, OR DEBRIS RELATED TO IT. TALBOT SAYS THE MULTIMILLION DOLLAR REPAIRS WERE COMPLETED AHEAD OF SCHEDULE.

PIZZA DEMO

2/20

PA

DEMOLITION CREWS WERE TEARING DOWN A PIZZA RESTAURANT ON BRIDGE STREET IN GARDINER MONDAY. THE STATE ACQUIRED THE BUILDING AS PART OF A PROJECT TO REPLACE BOTH THE BRIDGE STREET AND MAINE AVENUE BRIDGES. DENNIS' PIZZA CLOSED IN THE FALL AS PART OF A DEAL WITH THE MAINE D-O-T. DEMOLITION OF THE CENTURY-OLD BUILDING IS EXPECTED TO WRAP UP TODAY. THE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY NEXT YEAR.

THE SALE OF RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA IS SET TO BECOME LEGAL IN MAINE ON FEBRUARY 1ST, BUT LAWMAKERS WILL LIKELY BE EXTENDING THAT DATE. THE STATE PANEL TASKED WITH CREATING A REGULATORY STRUCTURE FOR LEGAL SALES OF MARIJUANA HELD A PUBLIC HEARING IN AUGUSTA ON TUESDAY. WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S MOVE TO CRACK DOWN ON STATES AUTHORIZING MARIJUANA SALES, THE FUTURE OF THE LEGAL SALE OF THE DRUG IN MAINE IS UNCERTAIN. REP. TERESA PIERCE IS HOUSE CHAIR OF THE MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE. SHE SPOKE WITH TV5.

2004 PIERCE

:10

...THEY'RE GOING TO DO.

THE RULES WERE SET UP AND VOTED ON LAST YEAR, BUT GOVERNOR LEPAGE VETOED THE BILL. LAWMAKERS PLAN TO TRY TO IMPLEMENT THE VOTER-APPROVED LAW WHILE DETAILS AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL ARE STILL FIGURED OUT.



THE MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE HEARD FROM STAKEHOLDERS AND THE PUBLIC TUESDAY IN AUGUSTA ON WHAT THEY LIKED AND DID NOT LIKE ABOUT THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO MAINE'S RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA LAW. RETAIL POT SALES ARE DUE TO BECOME LEGAL AT THE END OF JANUARY, BUT SENATOR ROGER KATZ HAS PROPOSED EXTENDING THE BAN. HE TELLS TV5 THE FUTURE IS UNCERTAIN AFTER THE RECENT CRACKDOWN ON LEGAL MARIJUANA SALES BY ATTORNEY GENERAL JEFF SESSIONS.

2005 KATZ :19 ...WHAT THOSE ARE.

THE MORATORIUM ON RETAIL SALES IN MAINE COULD BE EXTENDED TO MAY OR POSSIBLY JULY.

MAINE'S TOP FEDERAL PROSECUTOR SAYS HIS OFFICE WILL NOT MAKE PROSECUTING MARIJUANA USERS A PRIORITY. U.S. ATTORNEY HALSEY FRANK SAYS HIS OFFICE WILL INSTEAD FOCUS ON TRAFFICKERS OF "HARD DRUGS" SUCH AS OPIATES, COCAINE, AND CRACK. FRANK'S COMMENTS COME AFTER ATTORNEY GENERAL JEFF SESSIONS REVERSED A POLICY NOT TO PROSECUTE MARIJUANA CASES IN STATES WHERE THE DRUG IS LEGAL. MAINE VOTERS APPROVED A LAW LEGALIZING RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA IN NOVEMBER 2016. ALTHOUGH ADULTS COULD USE THE DRUG AS OF LAST YEAR, THERE IS STILL NO WAY TO BUY IT BECAUSE GOVERNOR PAUL LEPAGE VETOED THE RELATED LEGISLATION. FRANK SAYS HIS OFFICE WILL GO ON A "CASE-BY-CASE BASIS" ON DECIDING WHETHER TO PROSECUTE MARIJUANA GROWERS AND USERS.

THE MAINE LEGISLATURE IS HEADING BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD ON RULES FOR IMPLEMENTING RETAIL SALES OF MARIJUANA. LAWMAKERS WHO'RE TRYING ONCE AGAIN TO SORT OUT DETAILS OF THE VOTER-APPROVED LAW LEGALIZING RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA ARE HOLDING A PUBLIC HEARING MONDAY AFTERNOON IN AUGUSTA. RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA USE BECAME LEGAL FOR ADULTS LAST YEAR, BUT THERE'S NO WAY TO LEGALLY BUY IT. THE SALE OF RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA IS TECHNICALLY SET TO BECOME LEGAL FEBRUARY 1ST, EVEN THOUGH THERE'S NO WAY TO OBTAIN THE NEEDED LICENSE. HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER REPRESENTATIVE KEN FREDETTE HAS SAID LAWMAKERS SHOULD EXTEND THE CURRENT MORATORIUM ON LICENSES.

POTHOLE

1/24

PA

IT'S POTHOLE SEASON IN MAINE. WITH THE BITTER COLD TEMPERATURES QUICKLY FOLLOWED BY WARMER TEMPERATURES, ROADS HAVE STARTED TO DETERIORATE. RAIN TUESDAY ONLY HELPED TO WORSEN ROAD CONDITIONS. DANA WARDWELL, DIRECTOR OF BANGOR PUBLIC WORKS, TELLS TV5 THEY'RE WORKING TO FILL POTHOLE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

2006 WARDWELL

:26

...DAMAGING YOUR CAR.

WARDWELL SAYS IF YOU NOTICE A LARGE POTHOLE TO PLEASE GIVE PUBLIC WORKS A CALL WITH ITS EXACT LOCATION.

A NORWEGIAN COMPANY ANNOUNCED PLANS TUESDAY TO BUILD ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST LAND-BASED SALMON FARMS IN BELFAST. NORDIC AQUAFARMS SAYS IT WILL INVEST \$150,000,000 AT FIRST, CREATING 60 HIGH-SKILL JOBS, TO PROVIDE FRESH ATLANTIC SALMON TO THE REGIONAL MARKET. THEY SAY ACCESS TO BOTH FRESH AND OCEAN WATER RESOURCES MAKES BELFAST A PERFECT FIT FOR THE FACILITY. NORDIC AQUAFARMS CEO ERIK HEIM SPOKE WITH TV5.

2005 HEIM :19 ...THE END OF 2021.

HEIM SAYS THE FACILITY IS EXPECTED TO EVENTUALLY EMPLOY MORE THAN 100 PEOPLE AND PRODUCE 66 MILLION POUNDS OF SALMON A YEAR.

A LOCAL COMPANY HAS COMPLETED ITS PURCHASE OF SCARBOROUGH DOWNS. CROSS ROADS HOLDINGS ANNOUNCED MONDAY IT BOUGHT THE 480-ACRE PROPERTY FOR \$6.7 MILLION LAST WEEK. THE PROPERTY WENT UNDER CONTRACT IN OCTOBER. CROSS ROADS SAYS IT WILL CONVERT THE PROPERTY INTO A TOWN CENTER WITH HOUSING AND SHOPPING, ALONGSIDE AN ACTIVE RACE TRACK. CROSS ROADS HAS LEASED THE TRACK PORTION TO THE ORIGINAL OWNERS, WHO'LL CONTINUE TO OPERATE HARNESS RACING AND PRESERVE 60 JOBS. THE MANAGEMENT TEAM INCLUDES TWO SETS OF BROTHERS FROM SCARBOROUGH. THEY SAY THE TRACK'S NEW OWNERSHIP WON'T IMPACT SCARBOROUGH'S CURRENT PROPOSAL TO HOST A SECOND HEADQUARTERS FOR AMAZON.COM. OFFICIALS PLAN TO DISCUSS THE PROJECT AT A PLANNING BOARD MEETING MONDAY.

SCHOOL HEALTH CENTERS ACROSS MAINE, THAT LOST FUNDING IN THE 2018 BUDGET, WOULD GET A BOOST UNDER A NEW BILL. THE EMERGENCY LEGISLATION, PROPOSED BY REPRESENTATIVE JAMES HANDY OF LEWISTON, WOULD PROVIDE \$600,000 OF FUNDING EACH FOR THIS SCHOOL YEAR AND THE SCHOOL YEAR STARTING THIS FALL. HE SAYS THE CENTERS NEED FUNDING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO KEEP UP WITH THEIR SERVICES. HIS BILL IS SET FOR A HEARING THURSDAY.

THE MAINE TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE IS AWARDING \$24.5 MILLION TO FIVE ORGANIZATIONS ACROSS THE STATE THEY HOPE WILL AIDE IN CREATING HUNDREDS OF "STEM" JOBS. AMONG THE RECIPIENTS, JACKSON LAB IS GETTING \$12 MILLION TO GO TOWARD A NEW MOUSE PRODUCTION FACILITY IN ELLSWORTH, WHILE C&L AEROSPACE IN BANGOR WILL RECEIVE \$2.6 MILLION AS THEY PLAN TO EXPAND THEIR OPERATION BY INCREASING ON-SITE MANUFACTURING AND AIRCRAFT MODIFICATION ABILITIES.



LAWMAKERS ARE RETURNING TO AUGUSTA TO TACKLE BIG QUESTIONS ON RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA SALES AND FUNDING FOR VOTER-APPROVED MEDICAID EXPANSION. TOMORROW MARKS THE FIRST DAY OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE 128TH LEGISLATURE. THIS YEAR, LAWMAKERS FACE RE-ELECTION. SEVERAL LEGISLATIVE LEADERS ARE RUNNING FOR GOVERNOR AND CONGRESS. WHILE MEDICAID EXPANSION AND RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA SALES WILL TAKE UP MUCH ATTENTION, VARIOUS ADVOCACY GROUPS ARE ALSO PUSHING LAWMAKERS TO ADDRESS THE OPIOID CRISIS, A CRIME-VICTIM BILL OF RIGHTS, AND THE FUTURE OF SOLAR POLICY. GOVERNOR PAUL LEPAGE IS IN THE LAST FULL YEAR OF HIS TERM IN OFFICE, AND HE WANTS LAWMAKERS TO EASE THE BURDEN OF STUDENT LOAN DEBT. HE HAS ALSO DEMANDED LAWMAKERS FUND MEDICAID EXPANSION WHILE COMPLYING WITH HIS DEMANDS, SUCH AS NO TAX INCREASES.

VERSO ANNOUNCED THURSDAY THAT THEY WILL RESTART A PAPER MACHINE IN JAY CREATING 120 FULL TIME JOBS. THAT MACHINE AND THE PULP LINE ASSOCIATED WITH IT WAS SHUTDOWN LAST JULY. THE COMPANY SAYS THEY WILL SPEND \$17 MILLION TO UPGRADE THAT EQUIPMENT TO MAKE PACKAGING PRODUCTS. \$4 MILLION OF THAT IS COMING FROM A GRANT FROM THE MAINE TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE. THE COMPANY EXPECTS THE RESTART TO BEGIN IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

WINDSTORM

2/7

PA

OCTOBER'S WINDSTORM HAS PROMPTED LOCAL AND STATE OFFICIALS TO EXAMINE THEIR RESPONSE EFFORTS. A MEETING WAS HELD IN AUGUSTA TUESDAY DISCUSSING THE IMPACT OF THE STORM AS WELL AS POLICY CONSIDERATIONS. IN ADDITION TO OUTAGES ANOTHER SYSTEM WENT DOWN IN OCTOBER; CENTRAL MAINE POWER'S \$200 MILLION SMART GRID NETWORK. IT WAS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE OUTAGE COMMUNICATION AND STORM RECOVERY, BUT INSTEAD IT ACTUALLY HINDERED IT. SOME RESIDENTS BELIEVE THIS, COUPLED WITH THE STORM CLEANUP, LED TO A SPIKE IN THEIR BILLS. SETH BERRY, HOUSE CHAIR OF THE ENERGY, UTILITIES, AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE, SPOKE WITH TV5.

2001 BERRY :16 ...TAKE ON.

THE MAINE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION IS HOLDING A PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.

OCTOBER'S WINDSTORM KNOCKED OUT POWER TO NEARLY HALF A MILLION MAINERS. IN AUGUSTA TUESDAY, A MEETING WAS HELD FOR LOCAL AND STATE OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS THE STORM'S IMPACT, THE RESPONSE EFFORTS, AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS. CENTRAL MAINE POWER SAYS THEIR EFFORTS WERE HINDERED BY THE FAILURE OF THEIR \$200 MILLION SMART GRID SYSTEM, WHICH WAS MEANT TO IMPROVE OUTAGE COMMUNICATION AND STORM RECOVERY. REPRESENTATIVE OWEN CASAS OF ROCKPORT SAYS MANY OF HIS CONSTITUENTS FEEL THIS, COUPLED WITH THE \$70 MILLION STORM RESPONSE, LED TO A SPIKE IN THEIR BILLS.

2002 CASAS :13 ...IN THEIR BILL.

MAINERS WISHING TO REGISTER SPECIFIC COMPLAINTS RELATING TO UTILITY PERFORMANCE FOLLOWING THE STORM ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO CALL THE MAINE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION 'S CONSUMER ASSISTANCE HOTLINE, OR HEAD TO THEIR WEBSITE: MAINE (DOT) GOV (SLASH) M-P-U-C.

GOVERNOR PAUL LEPAGE IS APPEALING A JUDGE'S ORDER THAT WOULD FORCE HIS ADMINISTRATION TO DISBURSE \$3 MILLION IN FEDERAL WORKFORCE FUNDS. U.S. DISTRICT COURT JUDGE JOHN WOODCOCK TELLS THE PORTLAND PRESS HERALD THAT THE APPEAL'S CHANCE OF SUCCESS IS "MODEST." LEPAGE HAS LONG FOUGHT TO CONSOLIDATE MAINE'S REGIONAL WORKFORCE BOARDS AND WANTS THEM TO DEDICATE MORE FUNDS TO JOB TRAINING. LAST YEAR HE REFUSED TO RELEASE FUNDS TO COASTAL COUNTIES WORKFORCE INC. THE NONPROFIT SUED AND ARGUES THE BOARDS NEED TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT, SKILLS DEVELOPMENT, AND OTHER SERVICES NOT CATEGORIZED AS "JOB TRAINING." WOODCOCK RECENTLY REJECTED LEPAGE'S ARGUMENT THAT MAINE COULD WITHHOLD \$3 MILLION AS PART OF ITS CONTRACT.

A FEDERAL JUDGE HAS ORDERED THE LEPAGE ADMINISTRATION TO RELEASE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN FEDERAL FUNDING FOR JOB TRAINING. IN A RULING WEDNESDAY, THE JUDGE SAYS THE GOVERNOR IS REQUIRED TO RELEASE THE MONEY BY LAW. THE JUDGE ALSO RULED THAT HOLDING THE FUNDS COULD CAUSE "IRREPARABLE HARM" TO COASTAL COUNTIES WORKFORCE INC. COASTAL COUNTIES, A BRUNSWICK-BASED NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION, FILED A LAWSUIT AGAINST LEPAGE IN OCTOBER FOR \$3 MILLION IN FUNDING PROVIDED THROUGH THE WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT. THE PROGRAM SENDS ABOUT \$9 MILLION TO THE STATE EVERY YEAR. LEPAGE HAS PREVIOUSLY CALLED THE PROGRAM WASTEFUL AND WANTED TO ORGANIZE THE THREE REGIONAL BOARDS RECEIVING THE MONEY INTO A SINGLE STATEWIDE BODY. LEPAGE HAS DECLINED TO COMMENT ON THE RULING.

THE STATE'S WORKFORCE TASK FORCE PRESENTED ITS RECOMMENDATIONS IN AUGUSTA TO EXPAND AND STRENGTHEN THE ECONOMY AND ADDRESS MAINE'S LABOR SHORTAGE. THE GROUP WAS CREATED LAST YEAR TO WORK WITH THE STATE'S BUSINESSES, EDUCATION COMMUNITY, AND POLICY EXPERTS TO EXPAND MAINE'S MIDDLE CLASS AND TO HELP MEET THE DEMAND FOR SKILLED WORKERS. SENATOR BRIAN LANGLEY, SENATE CHAIR OF THE WORKFORCE TASK FORCE, HELPED DETAIL THEIR FINDINGS THURSDAY.

2004 LANGLEY :10 ...INCREASE NURSING INSTRUCTORS.

THE TASK FORCE IS ALSO LOOKING INTO INTEGRATING MORE IMMIGRANTS INTO THE LABOR FORCE AS WELL AS SUPPORTING TRADES THROUGH A TAX CREDIT FOR APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS.

MAINE'S WORKFORCE SHORTAGE IS A CRISIS AND CONTINUES TO HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON THE ECONOMY. THAT WAS THE CONCLUSION REACHED BY THE STATE'S WORKFORCE TASK FORCE WHICH PRESENTED ITS FINDINGS THURSDAY IN AUGUSTA. THEIR HOPE IS TO BRING BACK JOBS AND YOUNG PEOPLE AS WELL AS FACILITATE INVESTMENTS TO HELP MAINE BUSINESSES GROW AND THRIVE

2005 HERBIG :18 ... NEED TO FILL.

REPRESENTATIVE ERIN HERBIG IS HOUSE CHAIR OF THE WORKFORCE TASK FORCE. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDE ACCEPTING FEDERAL FUNDING THROUGH THE WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT.