

Quarterly Issues List for WKIT
October 1st through December 31st, 2017

The following report identifies the quarter's issues as:

- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
- ELECTIONS
- ENERGY
- SENIOR ISSUES
- TAX REFORM

WKIT, Bangor, ME, airs local newscast Monday-Friday at the top and bottom of every hour between 6am and 8:30am. 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.

A NEW PHONE SCAM IS TARGETING MAINERS. AUTHORITIES SAY THE CALLERS CLAIM TO BE FROM THE "POLICEMAN'S FUND" OR "MAINE POLICE ALLIANCE" OR ANOTHER SIMILARLY-NAMED GROUP. THE SCAMMERS THEN REQUEST DONATIONS TO BE PAID THROUGH A WIRE TRANSFER, GIFT CARD, OR OTHER UNTRACEABLE METHOD. SENATOR SUSAN COLLINS SAYS THE SENATE AGING COMMITTEE HAS RECEIVED "SEVERAL" COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE SCAM. IF YOU RECEIVE ONE OF THESE PHONE CALLS, YOU'RE ADVISED TO HANG UP AND CONTACT POLICE.

RENT CAMPAIGN

12/27

PA

A CAMPAIGN THAT SUCCESSFULLY OPPOSED A BALLOT MEASURE TO RESTRICT RENT INCREASES IN PORTLAND COST ABOUT \$21 FOR EACH VOTE. THE PRESS HERALD REPORTS "SAY NO TO RENT CONTROL" SPENT OVER \$285,000 ON AN INITIATIVE TO REJECT THE MEASURE. THE QUESTION WAS DEFEATED BY A NEARLY 2 TO 1 MARGIN. IF THE MEASURE WAS APPROVED, CITY RENTS WOULD HAVE BEEN FROZEN AND RENT INCREASES WOULD HAVE BEEN CAPPED AT 10 PERCENT. THE MEASURE ALSO WOULD HAVE MADE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR LANDLORDS TO EVICT TENANTS.

THE GOVERNOR'S ENERGY OFFICE IS ASKING MAINERS FOR INPUT IN DEVELOPING A ROADMAP FOR ENERGY PLANNING. THE OFFICE IS WORKING WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL & ENERGY TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL OF MAINE TO HOLD FORUMS DECEMBER 29TH AND JANUARY 10TH IN PRESQUE ISLE. GOVERNOR PAUL LEPAGE SAYS MAINE MUST REDUCE ITS ENERGY PRICES TO BECOME MORE COMPETITIVE WITH STATES IN DIFFERENT REGIONS. THE PLAN WILL ADDRESS THE STATE'S ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS.

HOLIDAY SCAMS

12/22

PA

A NEW STUDY SHOWS MAINE SENIORS LOST MORE THAN \$28 MILLION IN SCAMS DURING A 7-YEAR PERIOD. A-A-R-P IS RELEASING ITS SEASONAL GUIDE TO AVOIDING HOLIDAY SCAMS. AMONG THE SUGGESTIONS, THEY RECOMMEND YOU GOOGLE A COMPANY'S NAME AND THE WORD "SCAM" BEFORE CLICKING LINKS SAYING THINGS LIKE "HOT DEAL" OR "MAJOR DISCOUNT." COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR JANE MARGESSON SPOKE WITH TV5.

2006 MARGESSON

:16

...THESE CRIMES

THE A-A-R-P ALSO SUGGESTS NOT BUYING ANYTHING ON A PUBLIC WI-FI NETWORK. THEY SAY TO CHECK YOUR CHARITIES BEFORE DONATING TO THEM. AND IF YOU GET GIFT CARDS IN STORES, YOU SHOULD BUY THEM AT COUNTERS STAFFED BY EMPLOYEES INSTEAD OF THE UNMONITORED RACKS, BECAUSE THIEVES CAN SCAN THOSE CARDS AND DRAIN THE MONEY ONCE THEY'RE ACTIVATED.

A FAILED CAMPAIGN TO BRING A THIRD CASINO TO YORK COUNTY COST ABOUT \$150 FOR EVERY VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE PLAN. THE "PROGRESS FOR MAINE" PAC AND A SERIES OF AFFILIATED BALLOT QUESTION COMMITTEES SPENT A COMBINED \$8.4 MILLION ON THE CITIZEN INITIATIVE THAT FAILED IN A LANDSLIDE LOSS. THE PORTLAND PRESS HERALD REPORTS ONLY 57,280 VOTERS SUPPORTED THE CASINO COMPARED TO 285,372 WHO REJECTED IT - AN 83 TO 17 PERCENT MARGIN. ABOUT \$5 MILLION OF THE \$8.4 MILLION WAS DEVOTED TO THE CAMPAIGN IN SUPPORT OF THE BALLOT QUESTION.

THE MAINE RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION SAYS THE STATE'S TOURISM INDUSTRY COULD IMPROVE THROUGH DEDUCTIONS INCLUDED IN THE REPUBLICAN TAX PLAN. M-R-A REPRESENTATIVE GREG DUGAL SAYS THE PLAN WOULD HAVE A 20 PERCENT DEDUCTION FOR LOCALLY-OWNED HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS. THE DEDUCTION WOULD BE ON THE BUSINESS' FIRST \$315,000 OF INCOME. SO, A BUSINESS THAT MAKES \$200,000 IN INCOME COULD RECEIVE \$40,000 FREE OF TAXES. JEAN GINN MARVIN, OF THE STATE INNKEEPER'S ASSOCIATION, SAYS HOTELS COULD USE THE MONEY ON HIRING NEW STAFF OR IMPROVING FACILITIES. SHE SAYS SHE MET WITH SENATOR SUSAN COLLINS TO DISCUSS THE BILL DAYS BEFORE THE SENATOR GAVE HER SUPPORT. THE TAX BILL WAS PASSED IN THE HOUSE AND SENATE, AND NOW GOES TO THE PRESIDENT.

ACCORDING TO A NEW REPORT, OLDER MAINERS ARE LOSING MORE OF THEIR MONEY TO EXPLOITATION BY THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS THAN FROM SCAMS. THE REPORT, RELEASED BY LEGAL SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY AND MAINE'S OFFICE OF AGING AND DISABILITY, FOUND THAT MAINE SENIORS LOST \$28 MILLION TO FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION BETWEEN 2010 AND 2016. ACCORDING TO THE BANGOR DAILY NEWS, THE ANALYSIS BY THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE'S MUSKIE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC SERVICE INDICATES THAT IN MORE THAN 60 PERCENT OF REPORTED ABUSE CASES, THE PERPETRATOR WAS THE VICTIM'S ADULT CHILD. THE VICTIMS WERE LIKELY TO BE WOMEN 80 OR OLDER. THE REPORT ANALYZED MORE THAN 600 CASES. JAYE MARTIN FROM LEGAL SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY IS URGING MORE FUNDING FOR LEGAL SERVICE PROVIDERS, POLICE, AND PROSECUTORS TO TARGET FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION OF MAINE'S ELDERLY.

MORE PROTESTER ARRESTS

12/20

PA

FIVE PROTESTERS WERE ARRESTED AT THE LEWISTON OFFICE OF SENATOR SUSAN COLLINS AND CHARGED WITH CRIMINAL TRESPASS. POLICE SAY THE PROTESTERS WERE EXTREMELY POLITE AND COOPERATIVE, BUT REFUSED TO LEAVE THE OFFICE WHEN ASKED. COLLINS VOTING YES TUESDAY NIGHT ON THE FINAL VERSION OF THE REPUBLICAN TAX BILL PACKAGE. THE BANGOR DAILY NEWS REPORTS THREE PROTESTERS WERE ALSO ARRESTED AT COLLINS' BANGOR OFFICE AND WERE ISSUED CITATIONS.

COLLINS SEXIST?

12/20

PA

SENATOR SUSAN COLLINS IS CALLING MEDIA COVERAGE OF HER SUPPORT FOR A TAX OVERHAUL "UNBELIEVABLY SEXIST." THE HOUSE AND SENATE APPROVED A SWEEPING REWRITE OF THE NATION'S TAX LAWS ON TUESDAY, THOUGH THE HOUSE WILL HAVE TO RE-VOTE ON THE BILL TODAY BECAUSE THREE PROVISIONS WITHIN IT VIOLATED SENATE RULES AND HAD TO BE REMOVED. COLLINS ON TUESDAY CRITICIZED WHAT SHE CALLED "UNBELIEVABLY SEXIST" PRESS COVERAGE. SHE CITED NEWS COVERAGE THAT ORIGINALLY NOTED SHE DIDN'T CRY AFTER MEETING WITH PROTESTERS. COLLINS SAID SHE SUPPORTS THE LEGISLATION BECAUSE IT'LL GROW THE ECONOMY AND INCLUDES AMENDMENTS SHE PROPOSED. SHE'S ALSO SAID SHE HAS ASSURANCES THAT CONGRESS WILL PASS BILLS SHE BACKS TO SHORE UP THE HEALTH INSURANCE MARKET. DEMOCRATS HAVE BEEN CLAIMING THE SENATOR IS BEING PLAYED BY HOUSE REPUBLICANS WHO OPPOSE SUCH EFFORTS.

UTILITY REGULATORS ARE LOOKING INTO THE RESPONSE OF MAINE'S TWO POWER COMPANIES TO OCTOBER'S WIND STORM THAT LEFT ROUGHLY HALF A MILLION PEOPLE WITHOUT POWER. THE MAINE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION LAUNCHED AN INVESTIGATION ON TUESDAY, NOTING THE EXTENT AND DURATION OF POWER OUTAGES. REGULATORS SAY THEY'LL REVIEW WHAT STEPS CENTRAL MAINE POWER AND EMERA MAINE HAVE ALREADY TAKEN AND WHAT STEPS THEY SHOULD TAKE IN THE FUTURE TO PREPARE FOR FUTURE STORMS. THE P-U-C ORDERED C-M-P AND EMERA TO FILE A STORM REPORT WITHIN 30 DAYS. THAT REPORT MUST ADDRESS THE USE OF OUTSIDE CONTRACTORS AND THE OPERATION OF A \$200 MILLION SMART-GRID COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK THAT FAILED.

FEDERAL OFFICIALS ARE GIVING MAINE RESIDENTS AFFECTED BY A MASSIVE POWER OUTAGE MORE TIME TO ENROLL FOR HEALTH CARE UNDER THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT. SENATOR ANGUS KING SHARED A LETTER FROM THE CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES FRIDAY WHICH SAYS RESIDENTS COULD QUALIFY FOR AN EXTENSION THROUGH A SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD. A C-M-S REPRESENTATIVE DECLINED TO SHARE HOW MUCH LONGER ENROLLMENT WILL BE EXTENDED OR HOW RESIDENTS WOULD KNOW THEY QUALIFIED. KING REQUESTED AN EXTENDED DEADLINE AFTER MORE THAN 400,000 RESIDENTS LOST POWER FOR A WEEK FOLLOWING AN OCTOBER WINDSTORM. HE SAYS RESIDENTS WERE HAMPERED BY THE FACT THAT OPEN ENROLLMENT LASTED FOR A SHORTER PERIOD THIS YEAR.

MAINE'S FIRST LADY IS SERVING AS CHAIRWOMAN OF A CAMPAIGN AIMED AT GIVING CRIME VICTIMS RIGHTS UNDER THE STATE CONSTITUTION. ANN LEPAGE, WIFE OF GOVERNOR PAUL LEPAGE, SAID CRIME VICTIMS DESERVE "COMMON-SENSE EQUAL RIGHTS." THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT WOULD NEED A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY IN BOTH LEGISLATIVE CHAMBERS BEFORE BEING SENT TO A STATEWIDE VOTE IN NOVEMBER 2018. SUPPORTERS OF THE AMENDMENT, DUBBED MARSY'S LAW, SAY CRIME VICTIMS HAVE NO PROTECTIONS UNDER THE MAINE CONSTITUTION AND THAT STATE LAWS ARE INADEQUATE. AMONG OTHER THINGS, IT ENSURES CRIME VICTIMS HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE NOTIFIED IF THE OFFENDER IN THEIR CASE IS RELEASED FROM JAIL.

TAX BILL TODAY 12/19 PA

SENATOR SUSAN COLLINS SAYS SHE WILL VOTE FOR HER PARTY'S TAX REFORM BILL. WITH HER SUPPORT, IT'S EXPECTED THE G-O-P WILL HAVE ENOUGH VOTES TO PASS THE \$1.5 TRILLION DOLLAR PACKAGE. COLLINS ADDRESSED THE SENATE MONDAY AFTERNOON SAYING SHE'LL VOTE WITH PROVISIONS SHE HELPED WRITE INCLUDED.

2001 COLLINS :25 ...ECONOMIC GROWTH

PROTESTERS GATHERED AT THE FEDERAL BUILDING IN BANGOR MONDAY AFTERNOON, THE SITE OF COLLINS' LOCAL OFFICE, CRITICIZING COLLINS' DECISION TO SUPPORT THE BILL. THE VOTE IS SCHEDULED FOR TODAY.

THE U-S SENATE'S VOTE ON THE REPUBLICAN TAX REFORM BILL IS SLATED FOR TODAY, AND SENATOR SUSAN COLLINS SAYS SHE'LL BE VOTING YES. PROTESTERS GATHERED OUTSIDE THE FEDERAL BUILDING MONDAY AFTERNOON TO VOICE THEIR CONCERNS ON THE BILL, WHICH THEY SAY WILL BENEFIT ONLY THE WEALTHY AND BIG CORPORATIONS. COLLINS SAYS THE BILL NOW INCLUDES PROVISIONS THAT SHE HELPED WIN, INCLUDING LETTING PEOPLE DEDUCT STATE AND LOCAL INCOME, AS WELL AS SALES AND PROPERTY TAXES UP TO \$10,000.

2002 ARRUDA

:25

...NOT WEALTHY PEOPLE.

PROTESTER NATHALIE ARRUDA SPEAKING WITH TV5. COLLINS SAYS THE BILL WILL ALSO INCLUDE HER PROVISIONS REGARDING RETIREMENT SAVINGS AND MEDICAL EXPENSES. PROTESTERS SAY THEY'LL CONTINUE TO HAVE PEOPLE OUTSIDE THE FEDERAL BUILDING UP TO AND THROUGH THE VOTE.

SENATOR SUSAN COLLINS SAYS THE TAX REFORM OVERHAUL NOW CONTAINS PROPOSALS SHE BACKED CONCERNING STATE AND LOCAL TAXES, RETIREMENT SAVINGS, AND MEDICAL EXPENSES. THE LEGISLATION WOULD SLASH TAX RATES FOR BIG BUSINESS AND LOWER LEVIES ON THE RICHEST AMERICANS. THE G-O-P PLANS TO MUSCLE THE \$1.5 TRILLION BILL THROUGH CONGRESS THIS WEEK BEFORE ITS YEAR-END BREAK. REPUBLICANS ON FRIDAY GAINED NEEDED SUPPORT FROM REPUBLICAN SENATORS MARCO RUBIO OF FLORIDA AND BOB CORKER OF TENNESSEE, WHICH COULD LESSEN THE NEED FOR COLLINS' VOTE.

2005 RICHTMAN

:13

...WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN.

MAX RICHTMAN OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE COMMENTING ON THE PULSE MORNING SHOW. COLLINS HAS SAID HER VOTE WILL HINGE ON WHETHER CONGRESS PASSES TWO BILLS SHE FAVORS TO STABILIZE THE INSURANCE MARKET. SHE ALSO WANTS LAWMAKERS TO ENSURE TAX REFORM DOESN'T TRIGGER MEDICARE CUTS. MAINE DEMOCRATS QUESTION COLLINS' CONFIDENCE IN SUCH FIXES AND POINT TO HOUSE REPUBLICAN RESISTANCE.

A RETREAT FOR COMBAT-INJURED VETERANS CREATED BY A QUADRUPLE AMPUTEE IS WRAPPING UP ITS FIRST FULL SEASON WITH A SNOWY SESSION. THE TRAVIS MILLS FOUNDATION IS HOSTING A WINTER RETREAT FOR FIVE VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES FROM HURRICANE-DAMAGED FLORIDA AND TEXAS. THE RETREAT CREATED BY MILLS HAS SERVED NEARLY 90 VETERANS AND FAMILIES THIS SEASON. MILLS LOST PARTS OF ALL FOUR LIMBS IN AN EXPLOSION IN AFGHANISTAN.

SENATOR ANGUS KING IS INTRODUCING A BILL HE SAYS WILL CREATE A PUSH FOR GREATER ENERGY INDEPENDENCE. KING IS CALLING THE LEGISLATION THE GRID ACT. HE SAYS IT'S DESIGNED TO USE FEDERAL RESOURCES TO SUPPORT AN ELECTRICITY GRID THAT'S MORE RESILIENT. KING SAYS THE BILL BUILDS ON HIS FREE MARKET ENERGY ACT, WHICH HE INTRODUCED IN 2015. THE NEWER BILL WOULD PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO THE STATES AND ALLOW FOR MORE DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES, LIKE SOLAR. HE ALSO SAYS IT WOULD GROW ENERGY INDEPENDENCE "AT THE PERSONAL LEVEL."

MAINE COULD EXPAND MEDICAID AS EARLY AS JULY IF EVERYTHING GOES AS PLANNED. BUT FIRST, LAWMAKERS HAVE TO FIGURE OUT EXACTLY HOW MUCH EXPANSION WILL COST AND HOW THE STATE WILL PAY FOR IT. THE LEGISLATURE'S APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MET WEDNESDAY TO START THAT DISCUSSION. MAINE IN NOVEMBER BECAME THE FIRST STATE WHERE VOTERS HAVE DEMANDED LAWMAKERS EXPAND MEDICAID. GOVERNOR PAUL LEPAGE CLAIMS THE LEGISLATURE'S OFFICE OF FISCAL AND PROGRAM REVIEW IS VASTLY UNDERESTIMATING THE COST OF EXPANSION WHILE INFLATING SAVINGS. THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HEALTH SERVICES DECLINED TO ATTEND WEDNESDAY'S MEETING, BUT AGREED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS IN WRITING.

THE LEGISLATURE'S APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE IS MEETING TODAY TO DISCUSS MEDICAID EXPANSION. GOVERNOR PAUL LEPAGE HAS SAID HE WILL NOT ALLOW IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VOTER-APPROVED EXPANSION WITHOUT FULL FUNDING BY THE LEGISLATURE AT THE LEVELS D-H-H-S HAS CALCULATED. REPRESENTATIVE AARON FREY, COMMENTING ON THE PULSE MORNING SHOW, SAYS THE GOVERNOR DECLINED AN INVITATION TO ATTEND THE MEETING AND WILL INSTEAD ANSWER QUESTIONS IN WRITING.

2005 FREY :12 ...FROM THE ADMINISTRATION.

IN A LETTER MONDAY THE GOVERNOR DEMANDED THAT LAWMAKERS QUICKLY FUND EXPANSION AND COMPLY WITH HIS LIST OF CONDITIONS. REPRESENTATIVE FREY SAYS THAT DESPITE LEPAGE'S RESISTANCE, THEY INTEND TO IMPLEMENT THE LAW.

THE AGENCY REGULATING UTILITIES IN MAINE IS REVIEWING THE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE OF ELECTRIC COMPANIES FOLLOWING OCTOBER'S WINDSTORM. ABOUT 400 THOUSAND CENTRAL MAINE CUSTOMERS AND 90 THOUSAND EMERA MAINE CUSTOMERS LOST SERVICE AT THE PEAK OF THE STORM. IT TOOK C-M-P TEN DAYS TO RESTORE POWER TO ALL OF ITS CUSTOMERS. THE PORTLAND PRESS HERALD REPORTS THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION ASKED CENTRAL MAINE POWER AND EMERA MAINE TO DETAIL THEIR RESPONSES AND LESSONS LEARNED WITHIN 30 DAYS. THE STATE'S PUBLIC ADVOCATE AND LAWMAKERS ALSO PLAN ON LOOKING INTO THE RESPONSE TO THE STORM.

SEN. ANGUS KING IS PRAISING THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR FUNDING THREE NEW STAFF POSITIONS IN MAINE. THE V-A ANNOUNCEMENT ON TUESDAY MEANS THERE WILL BE A SECOND VETERANS' JUSTICE OUTREACH SPECIALIST ALONG WITH THE FIRST RE-ENTRY SPECIALIST IN MORE THAN EIGHT YEARS TO HELP VETERANS CONFRONTING HOMELESSNESS AND MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE ISSUES. KING SAID VETERANS STRUGGLING WITH THOSE PROBLEMS "DESERVE OUR COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORT." KING HAD CALLED ON V-A SECRETARY DAVID SHULKIN IN FEBRUARY TO FUND THE POSITIONS AS MAINE HAS ONE OF THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF VETERANS PER CAPITA.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION HEARD FROM THE PUBLIC IN HALLOWELL ON TUESDAY ON A RULE PROPOSED BY CENTRAL MAINE POWER TO DOUBLE THE COST TO CONNECT SOLAR INSTALLATIONS TO THE GRID. MEMBERS FROM THE NATURAL RESOURCES COUNCIL OF MAINE AS WELL AS BUSINESSES AND HOMEOWNERS THAT UTILIZE SOLAR POWER SPOKE IN OPPOSITION TO THE RULE CHANGE. THEY SAY THE P-U-C IS CONTINUING TO DISMANTLE THE FRAMEWORK THAT ALLOWS MAINERS TO GENERATE THEIR OWN SOLAR POWER. SUE ELY, CLEAN ENERGY ATTORNEY FOR THE NATURAL RESOURCES COUNCIL OF MAINE, TELLS TV5 THAT UTILIZING SOLAR POWER WOULD CREATE MORE JOBS, INCREASE ENERGY INDEPENDENCE, AND PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT.

ELY 2004 :12 ...ENERGY BILL.

THE CURRENT NET-METERING RULE REQUIRES UTILITIES TO PAY ENERGY GENERATORS THE FULL RETAIL PRICE FOR THE ELECTRICITY THEY SEND INTO THE GRID. BUT UNDER THIS NEW RULE, SYSTEMS INSTALLED IN 2018 WOULD SEE THE CREDIT ON THEIR ELECTRIC BILLS REDUCED OVER TIME.

GOVERNOR PAUL LEPAGE SAYS HE WANTS TO REVERSE THE MAINE P-U-C'S MOVE TO DELAY A GRADUAL RAMP DOWN IN COMPENSATION FOR NEW SOLAR PANEL OWNERS WHO GENERATE EXCESS ENERGY. THE GOVERNOR SAID LAST WEEK THAT HE'S CONTACTED CENTRAL MAINE POWER AND THE MAINE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION. SOLAR INSTALLERS SAID REDUCING TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION BILL CREDITS FOR NEW CUSTOMERS WOULD HURT THE INDUSTRY. UTILITY REGULATORS VOTED DEC. 5 TO PUSH BACK THE PENDING RULE FROM JAN. 1 TO APRIL 30. P-U-C SPOKESMAN HARRY LANPHEAR SAID THE COMMISSION HASN'T YET RECEIVED PETITIONS TO CHANGE OR RESCIND THE DELAY. C-M-P SPOKESWOMAN GAIL RICE SAID THE DELAY WILL ALLOW MORE TIME TO WORK OUT THE NEW RULES' COMPLEXITIES. LEPAGE HAS SAID UTILITY REGULATORS SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN RID OF THE FINANCIAL INCENTIVE SYSTEM ALTOGETHER.

THE FIVE PROTESTERS ARRESTED FOR REFUSING TO LEAVE THE BANGOR OFFICE OF SENATOR SUSAN COLLINS LAST WEEK HAVE COME TO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE D-A TO DONATE TO A LOCAL NON-PROFIT. IN EXCHANGE, THE CHARGES WILL BE DROPPED. THE PROTESTS COME IN THE WAKE OF COLLINS' RECENT VOTE ON THE SENATE VERSION OF THE G-O-P TAX REFORM BILL. ONE OF THE PROTESTERS, TINA DAVIDSON OF PORTLAND, SPOKE WITH TV5.

2006 DAVIDSON :07 ...SCARES ME.

THE GROUP HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE MONDAY IN BREWER AT MAINE AFL-CIO HEADQUARTERS TO ANNOUNCE THE NONPROFIT OF THEIR CHOOSING. ERIN OBERSON OF OLD TOWN MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT.

2007 OBERSON :14 ...THEIR IMPORTANT WORK.

LAST WEEK, COLLINS TOLD TV5 SHE MIGHT CHANGE HER VOTE AND IS WAITING FOR A FINAL VERSION OF THE BILL TO COME OUT BEFORE SHE MAKES A DECISION. IT'S UNCLEAR IF PROTESTERS ARRESTED AT THE SENATOR'S PORTLAND OFFICE WILL BE OFFERED THE SAME DEAL.

GOVERNOR PAUL LEPAGE SAYS HE'S TRYING TO COME UP WITH PROPOSED SPENDING CUTS TO PAY FOR VOTER-APPROVED MEDICAID EXPANSION, BUT SAYS "IT'S A BIG REACH." LEPAGE TOLD THE ASSOCIATED PRESS "THE MONEY HAS GOT TO BE IN THE BANK" BEFORE MAINE EXPANDS MEDICAID TO THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE AT A \$54.5 MILLION PRICE TAG. HE DIDN'T DETAIL WHAT CUTS COULD PAY FOR EXPANSION, BUT PREVIOUSLY PUSHED FOR CUTS TO MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. THE LEGISLATURE'S APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE IS TO MEET WEDNESDAY TO DISCUSS REVENUE FORECASTS AND MEDICAID EXPANSION. LEPAGE'S ADMINISTRATION DECLINED AN INVITATION TO ATTEND THE MEETING AND WILL INSTEAD ANSWER QUESTIONS IN WRITING. THE GOVERNOR DEMANDED MONDAY THAT LAWMAKERS QUICKLY FUND EXPANSION AND COMPLY WITH HIS LIST OF CONDITIONS, INCLUDING ADDRESSING REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR IN-HOME CARE.

THE CONSERVATION LAW FOUNDATION AND CLEAN ENERGY SUPPORTERS ARE CHALLENGING A BIG CHANGE IN HOW MAINE COMPENSATES OWNERS OF NEW ROOFTOP SOLAR PANELS FOR ENERGY THEY GENERATE. THE MAINE SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT HAS SCHEDULED ORAL ARGUMENTS FOR WEDNESDAY. SOLAR INSTALLERS SAY A PUSH TO GRADUALLY REDUCE SUCH CREDITS FOR NEW CUSTOMERS WOULD DISSUADE RESIDENTS AND SMALL BUSINESSES FROM INSTALLING SOLAR PANELS. THE GROUPS BEHIND THE LEGAL CHALLENGE ARGUE THE MAINE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION'S ADOPTED RULE DOES NOT COMPLY WITH MAINE LAW. CONSERVATION LAW FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT SEAN MAHONEY SAID UTILITY REGULATORS HAVE CREATED A NEW CHARGE AND A NEW SYSTEM OF RATES WITHOUT PROVING THEY ARE REASONABLE. ORAL ARGUMENTS COME AFTER MAINE UTILITY REGULATORS VOTED ON TUESDAY TO DELAY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RULE FROM JAN. 1 TO APRIL 30.

A LEGISLATIVE PANEL IS SET TO DISCUSS THE COST OF EXPANDING MEDICAID TO SOME 70,000 CITIZENS IN A PUBLIC REFERENDUM. VOTERS IN NOVEMBER APPROVED A REFERENDUM TO HAVE MAINE JOIN 31 OTHER STATES IN EXPANDING MEDICAID. MEDICAID EXPANSION WOULD COVER ADULTS UNDER AGE 65 WITH INCOMES AT OR BELOW 138 PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL. THAT'S \$16,643 FOR A SINGLE PERSON OR \$22,412 FOR A FAMILY OF TWO. GOVERNOR PAUL LEPAGE HAS SAID HE WON'T IMPLEMENT THE VOTER-APPROVED EXPANSION UNTIL IT'S FULLY FUNDED BY THE STATE LEGISLATURE. THE LEGISLATURE'S APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE ON WEDNESDAY IS SET TO DISCUSS ROLLING OUT THE EXPANSION.

PROTESTERS DEAL

12/11

PA

THE FIVE PROTESTERS ARRESTED FOR REFUSING TO LEAVE SENATOR SUSAN COLLINS' BANGOR OFFICE MONDAY NIGHT WILL NOT BE PROSECUTED. PENOBSCOT COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY CHRIS ALMY TELLS TV5 THE DECISION WAS MADE, IN PART, BECAUSE OF THE GRACIOUSNESS OF THE SENATOR AND HER STAFF, AS WELL AS BANGOR P-D.

2005 ALMY

:26

...THIS PARTICULAR CASE.

PROTESTS ENSUED ACROSS THE STATE LAST WEEK FOLLOWING COLLINS' RECENT VOTE ON TAX REFORM. IT'S UNCLEAR IF THE PROTESTERS ARRESTED AT COLLINS' PORTLAND OFFICE THURSDAY WILL BE OFFERED THE SAME DEAL.

TAX PLAN PROTEST

12/11

PA

PEOPLE WERE PROTESTING SENATOR SUSAN COLLINS' DECISION ON THE G-O-P TAX BILL IN BANGOR SUNDAY. COLLINS SAID LAST WEEK SHE MIGHT CHANGE HER VOTE IF AMENDMENTS SHE ADDED TO THE SENATE BILL ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE FINAL VERSION OF THE TAX PLAN. ORGANIZERS SAY THEY'RE ENCOURAGED BY COLLINS' STATEMENT BUT ARE URGING HER TO VOTE NO ON THE WHOLE THING. PROTESTER MEREDITH BUSHKIN SPOKE WITH TV5.

2003 BUSHKIN

:25

...I NEED TO LISTEN.

PROTESTERS SAY THEY'LL CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS BECAUSE OF THEIR CONCERN THAT THE BILL WILL BENEFIT THE TOP ONE PERCENT AND CORPORATIONS AT THE EXPENSE OF POOR PEOPLE AND THE MIDDLE CLASS.

RANKED-CHOICE VOTING SUPPORTERS CONTINUED THEIR EFFORTS ON SUNDAY IN BREWER. THEY WENT FROM DOOR-TO-DOOR COLLECTING PETITION SIGNATURES TO STOP LAWMAKERS FROM DELAYING THE VOTING SYSTEM, WHICH WAS PASSED AT THE POLLS LAST YEAR. PETITIONER NICOLE GROHOSKI TELLS TV5 THEY NEED 61-THOUSAND SIGNATURES TO STOP THE LEGISLATURE, AND THEY HOPE BY GOING DOOR-TO-DOOR IT'S EASIER FOR FOLKS TO HAVE THEIR VOICES HEARD.

2002 GROHOSKI :17 ...GOVERNMENT THAT.

IF SUPPORTERS GET THEIR SIGNATURES BEFORE FEBRUARY 5TH, RANKED-CHOICE VOTING COULD BE USED FOR PRIMARIES AND FEDERAL RACES.

PEARL HARBOR

12/8

PA

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT CALLED DECEMBER 7TH, 1941 A DATE WHICH WILL LIVE IN INFAMY. THURSDAY MARKED THE 76TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR WHERE MORE THAN 2,400 AMERICAN LIVES WERE LOST. MEMBERS OF EVERY MILITARY BRANCH WERE ON HAND THURSDAY FOR A REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY HELD ON THE FOOTBRIDGE BRIDGE OVER THE KENDUSKEAG STREAM IN BANGOR. CITY COUNCIL CHAIR BEN SPRAGUE WAS ONE OF THE SPEAKERS.

2006 SPRAGUE

:17

...PEARL HARBOR ON THIS DAY

THE EVENT ENDED WITH A CEREMONIAL WREATH TOSS.

PEARL HARBOR

12/8

PA

THURSDAY MARKED THE 76TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR. BANGOR AREA VETERANS GATHERED AT NOON TO PAY TRIBUTE AT A REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY ON THE FOOT BRIDGE OVER THE KENDUSKEAG STREAM. VETERANS AND COMMUNITY OFFICIALS SPOKE, HONORING THE MEMORY OF THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES. IT ENDED WITH A CEREMONIAL WREATH TOSS, A POWERFUL SYMBOL FOR ALL VETERANS, INCLUDING WORLD WAR II VET BILL DEERING. HE SPOKE WITH TV5.

2007 DEERING

:18

...A LOT TO ME.

VETERANS SAY THIS CEREMONY HELPS REMIND FOLKS TO NEVER FORGET THE EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE ON THAT DAY IN 1941, EVENTS THAT COMPELLED AMERICA TO ENTER WORLD WAR II.

SENATOR SUSAN COLLINS WEIGHED IN ON THE CONTENTIOUS TAX BILL DEBATE FROM WASHINGTON DC. COLLINS BELIEVES THE AMENDMENTS SHE ADDED IN THE SENATE VERSION ON PROPERTY TAX AND MEDICAL EXPENSE DEDUCTION FOR RETIREMENT FUNDING IMPROVED THE BILL AND THAT IN TIME, IT WILL LOWER THE DEBT. BUT SHE TOLD TV5 THURSDAY IF THOSE CHANGES ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE FINAL PACKAGE, SHE WILL CONSIDER CHANGING HER VOTE.

2004 COLLINS :17 ...PACKAGE IS.

COLLINS ADDED SHE'S ENCOURAGED BY SIGNALS SHE'S GETTING AND HOPES HER AMENDMENTS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE FINAL BILL.

SENATOR SUSAN COLLINS SAYS SHE MAY CHANGE HER VOTE ON THE GOP TAX REFORM PLAN IF CHANGES SHE ADDED IN THE SENATE VERSION ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE FINAL PACKAGE. COLLINS BELIEVES THE AMENDMENTS SHE ADDED ON PROPERTY TAX AND MEDICAL EXPENSE DEDUCTION FOR RETIREMENT-FUNDING IMPROVED THE BILL AND THAT IN TIME, WOULD LOWER THE DEBT. COLLINS TELLS TV5 SHE'S HEARD COMPLAINTS FROM HER CONSTITUENTS ABOUT THE FUNDING OF MEDICARE.

2005 COLLINS 2

:22

...MCCONNELL.

COLLINS ALSO BELIEVES THE TAX BILL WILL LOWER HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS. SHE POINTS TO A NEW STUDY CONDUCTED BY A HEALTH POLICY FIRM THAT FOUND THE BILL WILL OFFSET THE EFFECT OF REPEALING THE INDIVIDUAL MANDAT E.

MORE PROTESTERS

12/8

PA

PORTLAND POLICE ARRESTED NINE PROTESTERS WHO GATHERED IN SENATOR SUSAN COLLINS' OFFICE TO OPPOSE A BILL TO OVERHAUL THE FEDERAL TAX CODE. COLLINS WAS IN WASHINGTON ON THURSDAY AND DIDN'T MEET WITH THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS WHO WERE PROTESTING. POLICE SAY THEY WERE PEACEFUL, BUT REFUSED TO LEAVE THE BUILDING AFTER HER OFFICE CLOSED FOR THE DAY. NINE OF 10 PEOPLE PRESENT WERE CHARGED WITH CRIMINAL TRESPASS AND WERE TAKEN TO THE COUNTY JAIL. FIVE OTHER PROTESTERS WERE ARRESTED ON MONDAY DURING A SIT-IN AT COLLINS' BANGOR OFFICE. COLLINS SAID SHE'D SUPPORT THE TAX PLAN AFTER WINNING SOME CONCESSIONS FROM SENATE LEADERS.

PEARL HARBOR CEREMONY

12/7

PA

TODAY MARKS THE 76TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR. THE EVENTS ON DECEMBER 7TH, 1941 LED TO AMERICA'S ENTRY INTO WORLD WAR II. BANGOR AREA VETERANS WILL GET TOGETHER AT NOON TO PAY TRIBUTE AT A REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY ON THE FOOT BRIDGE OVER THE KENDUSKEAG STREAM. EVERYONE IS INVITED.

SENATOR SUSAN COLLINS SAYS SHE REMAINS "CONFIDENT" THAT PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP AND SENATE MAJORITY LEADER MITCH MCCONNELL WILL GET BEHIND TWO HEALTH CARE BILLS SHE WANTS AS PART OF HER SUPPORT FOR THE REPUBLICAN TAX OVERHAUL. DEMOCRATS ARE CRITICIZING COLLINS' INITIAL VOTE ON THE TAX BILL AND SAY SHE TRADED HER SUPPORT FOR CONCESSIONS THAT REPUBLICANS WILL BLOCK. BUT COLLINS SPOKESWOMAN ANNIE CLARK SAID THE SENATOR IS CONFIDENT CONGRESS WILL PASS THE HEALTH CARE BILLS BEFORE YEAR'S END. DESPITE NON-PARTISAN ANALYSES TO THE CONTRARY, COLLINS CLAIMS THE TAX BILL WILL SPUR ECONOMIC GROWTH THAT COULD LOWER THE NATION'S DEBT. THE SENATE APPROVED ITS VERSION OF TAX LEGISLATION ON A 51-49 VOTE SATURDAY. GOP LEADERS ARE INTENT ON DELIVERING A FINAL PACKAGE TO TRUMP BY CHRISTMAS.

MAINE UTILITY REGULATORS ARE DELAYING IMPLEMENTATION OF A BIG CHANGE IN HOW OWNERS OF ROOFTOP SOLAR PANELS RECEIVE COMPENSATION FOR ENERGY THEY GENERATE. SOLAR INSTALLERS SAY A PUSH TO GRADUALLY REDUCE SUCH CREDITS FOR NEW CUSTOMERS WOULD DISSUADE RESIDENTS AND SMALL BUSINESSES FROM INSTALLING SOLAR PANELS. THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION VOTED TUESDAY TO PUSH BACK THE PENDING RULE'S EFFECTIVE DATE FROM JAN. 1 TO APRIL 30. MAINE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION CHAIRMAN MARK VANNOY SAID THAT HE HOPES THE DELAY WOULD ALLOW MORE TIME TO HAMMER OUT SPECIFICS OF THE NEW RULE. THE CONSERVATION LAW FOUNDATION AND CLEAN ENERGY SUPPORTERS ARE CHALLENGING THAT RULE IN MAINE COURT. ORAL ARGUMENTS ARE SET FOR DEC. 13.

PROTESTERS ARRESTED

12/5

PA

FIVE PROTESTERS WERE ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH CRIMINAL TRESPASS AFTER REFUSING TO LEAVE SENATOR SUSAN COLLINS' BANGOR OFFICE. THE GROUP GATHERED OUTSIDE THE FEDERAL BUILDING MONDAY AFTERNOON TO VOICE THEIR CONCERNS ON THE SENATE TAX BILL, WHICH THEY SAY WILL BENEFIT ONLY THE WEALTHY AND BIG CORPORATIONS. A SMALLER GROUP OF PROTESTERS THEN MOVED INSIDE TO THE SENATOR'S OFFICE AROUND 3PM, ADDING THAT THEY WOULD NOT LEAVE UNTIL COLLINS COMMITTED TO OPPOSE THE TAX BILL. WHEN THEY REFUSED TO LEAVE THE BUILDING, BANGOR POLICE RESPONDED.

2001 WARNER

:16

...YOU INTO CUSTODY? OK.

AUDIO COURTESY OF SARAH BIGNEY ON FACEBOOK. THE ARRESTED PROTESTERS WERE TAKEN TO THE PENOBSOT COUNTY JAIL.

PROTESTERS ARRESTED 2 12/5 PA

SEVERAL PEOPLE WERE ARRESTED BECAUSE OF A PROTEST IN DOWNTOWN BANGOR MONDAY. PROTESTERS GATHERED OUTSIDE SENATOR SUSAN COLLINS' OFFICE IN RESPONSE TO HER RECENT SENATE TAX BILL VOTE. THEY SAID THE BILL IS HARD TO UNDERSTAND AND THEY SAY IT WILL HURT MAINERS, ESPECIALLY THE POOR. AROUND 4 O'CLOCK A SMALL GROUP WENT INSIDE HER OFFICE AND REFUSED TO LEAVE. COLLINS' COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR ANNIE CLARK TELLS TV5 THAT A STAFFER WAS THERE TO HEAR THEIR CONCERNS.

2002 CLARK :08 ...SENATOR COLLINS.

AROUND 7 O'CLOCK, FIVE PEOPLE WERE ARRESTED AND TAKEN TO PENOBSBOT COUNTY JAIL.

AROUND 3:00 MONDAY, FIVE UNION WORKERS WALKED INTO SENATOR COLLINS' BANGOR OFFICE AND REFUSED TO LEAVE. THEY WERE UPSET OVER COLLINS' "YES" VOTE ON THE SENATE'S TAX REFORM BILL IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2ND. THE GROUP RELEASED A STATEMENT AS THEY BEGAN THEIR SIT-IN, SAYING THEY WERE PREPARED TO RISK ARREST UNTIL THE SENATOR OPPOSES THE BILL. JUST BEFORE SEVEN O'CLOCK, BANGOR POLICE ARRIVED, AND EACH PERSON WAS TAKEN PEACEFULLY INTO CUSTODY FOR CRIMINAL TRESPASS. SENATOR COLLINS' OFFICE RELEASED A STATEMENT MONDAY EVENING, SAYING IN PART SHE ALWAYS WELCOMES HEARING THE VIEWS OF HER CONSTITUENTS. SHE ALSO REITERATED THE PROVISIONS PROMISED TO HER BY SENATE MAJORITY LEADER MITCH MCCONNELL.

COLLINS PROTEST

12/4

PA

PROTESTERS WERE SEEN AT THE BANGOR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT THIS WEEKEND. THEY HELD SIGNS SATURDAY PROTESTING SUSAN COLLINS'S DECISION TO SUPPORT THE G-O-P TAX PLAN. OPPONENTS BELIEVE THE PLAN GIVES MORE FUNDS TO THE WEALTHY AND DOES NOT BENEFIT THE MIDDLE CLASS. JEANNE CURRAN, ONE OF THE ORGANIZERS, TELL TV5 THEY WANT COLLINS TO SEE THE REAL SIDE OF THEIR DISAPPROVAL.

2011 CURRAN

:15

...US VERY SERIOUSLY.

PROTESTERS SAY THEY'LL CONTINUE THEIR EFFORT TO MAKE THEIR OPINIONS KNOWN.

GOVERNOR PAUL LEPAGE HAS ASKED THE PRESIDENT FOR A DISASTER DECLARATION TO HELP RECOVER FROM THE WINDSTORM THAT KNOCKED OUT POWER FOR MORE THAN HALF OF THE STATE'S HOMES AND BUSINESSES. THE STORM ON THE DAY BEFORE HALLOWEEN TOPPLED DROUGHT-WEAKENED TREES, LEFT ROADS IMPASSABLE, AND KNOCKED DOWN MORE THAN 1,400 UTILITY POLES. THE GOVERNOR SAID THE STATE DOCUMENTED \$4.7 MILLION IN DAMAGE TO PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE, FAR SURPASSING THE THRESHOLD FOR A DECLARATION. LEPAGE SAID SEVERAL COMMUNITIES SPENT DAYS CLEANING UP FROM THE DAMAGE, AND THAT THE CLEANUP WILL CUT DEEPLY INTO MUNICIPAL BUDGETS.

HEAT @ UMAINE

12/1

PA

NEARLY \$2 MILLION IS COMING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. THE FUNDING FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AIMS TO ADVANCE THE INSTALLATION OF COST-EFFECTIVE AND HIGHLY EFFICIENT COMBINED HEAT AND POWER TECHNOLOGIES. DAVID DVORAK IS A PROFESSOR OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY AT UMAINE. HE TELLS TV5 THE GOAL IS TO USE MAINE'S NATURAL RESOURCES WHILE BOLSTERING THE FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY AND HELPING CREATE JOBS.

2005 DVORAK

:12

...THEIR ENERGY RELIABILITY.

THE FUNDING WILL BE DISBURSED OVER FIVE YEARS TO EIGHT NEW ENTITIES IN THE NORTHEAST, INCLUDING THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE.

BILL REVIEW

12/1

PA

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WENT THROUGH A LONG LIST OF BILL REQUESTS THURSDAY. 99 WERE UP FOR REVIEW. THE COUNCIL ADVANCED A BILL THAT CALLS FOR ENSURING MATERNITY CARE TO CONTINUE IN RURAL HOSPITALS. REPRESENTATIVE STEPHEN STANLEY OF MEDWAY TELLS TV5 THAT ADVANCING THIS BILL, AND PROVIDING LOCAL MATERNITY CARE, COULD ULTIMATELY LEAD TO KEEPING MORE PEOPLE FROM LEAVING THE REGION.

2001 STANLEY

:11

...IN OUR AREAS

JUST LAST MAY, CALAIS REGIONAL HOSPITAL CLOSED ITS OBSTETRICS UNIT. THE BILLS MOVED THROUGH YESTERDAY WILL BE HEARD ON THE FLOOR DURING THE NEW LEGISLATIVE SESSION IN JANUARY.

NEARLY 100 BILL REQUESTS WERE UP FOR REVIEW THURSDAY BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. A BILL ADDRESSING RISING COSTS OF ELECTRICITY BILLS PASSED THROUGH. IT FOLLOWS THE WIND STORM IN OCTOBER WHICH IS EXPECTED TO CAUSE RATE HIKES FROM C-M-P AND EMERA MAINE. THERE WERE ALSO MULTIPLE BILLS DEALING WITH MAINE'S DRUG CRISIS. ONE TARGETING OPIOID TREATMENT FOR THE HOMELESS POPULATION PASSED. REPRESENTATIVE DREW GATTINE SPOKE WITH TV5.

2002 GATTINE

:11

...AND IMPACT.

THE BILLS MOVED THROUGH WILL BE HEARD ON THE FLOOR DURING THE NEW LEGISLATIVE SESSION IN JANUARY.

BILL REVIEW 3

12/1

PA

99 BILL REQUESTS WERE REVIEWED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL IN AUGUSTA YESTERDAY. THE COUNCIL ADVANCED MULTIPLE BILLS, INCLUDING ONE TO HELP RURAL HOSPITALS TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE MATERNITY CARE. A BILL ADDRESSING RISING COSTS OF ELECTRICITY BILLS PASSED THROUGH, AND ONE TARGETING OPIOID TREATMENT FOR THE HOMELESS POPULATION WAS GIVEN THE THUMBS UP. HOWEVER, ANOTHER CALLING FOR SAFE DISPOSAL OF DRUGS AT PLACES LIKE PHARMACIES WAS REJECTED.

2003 GRATWICK

:08

...NEXT SESSION.

REPRESENTATIVE GEOFF GRATWICK SPEAKING WITH TV5. THE BILLS MOVED THROUGH THURSDAY WILL BE HEARD ON THE FLOOR DURING THE NEW LEGISLATIVE SESSION IN JANUARY.

GAS PRICES 11/28 PA

GAS PRICES HAVE FALLEN A BIT MORE IN MAINE AND ACROSS THE COUNTRY. GASBUDDY'S DAILY SURVEY OF GAS OUTLETS SAYS THE PRICE HAS FALLEN 1.2 CENTS PER GALLON IN THE LAST WEEK, AVERAGING \$2.54. THE NATIONAL AVERAGE FELL 3.9 CENTS IN THE LAST WEEK TO \$2.49. THAT'S 3.4 CENTS HIGHER THAN LAST MONTH, AND 38 CENTS HIGHER THAN A YEAR AGO.

WHILE OTHER STATES STRUGGLE WITH GERRYMANDERING, MAINE REMAINS LARGELY UNAFFECTED. THE BANGOR DAILY NEWS REPORTS THAT REDISTRICTING IN MAINE HAS RESULTED IN FEW CHANGES TO THE STATE'S CONGRESSIONAL AND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS. MAINE ONLY HAS TWO CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS AND THE STATE LEGISLATURE IS DIVIDED CLOSELY. A NEW STATISTICAL STANDARD CALLED "THE EFFICIENCY GAP" CAN DETERMINE IF ELECTIONS ACCURATELY REFLECT VOTES. THE STRATEGY COUNTS WASTED VOTES, WHICH IS ANY VOTE THAT GOES TO A LOSING CANDIDATE OR ANY VOTE IN EXCESS OF WHAT IT TAKES TO FORM A MAJORITY. ACCORDING TO A BDN ANALYSIS, WASTED VOTES HAVEN'T BENEFITED REPUBLICANS OR DEMOCRATS UNEVENLY. THE ANALYSIS FOUND THAT BOTH PARTIES SHARED ABOUT THE SAME NUMBER OF WASTED VOTES IN STATE ELECTIONS IN 2016.

RANKED-CHOICE VOTING SUPPORTERS ARE EMBARKING ON A REFERENDUM DO-OVER, SEEKING ENOUGH SIGNATURES TO STOP A LEGISLATIVE DELAY OF THE VOTING SYSTEM. ADVOCATES HAVE UNTIL FEB. 5 TO COLLECT 61,123 SIGNATURES FROM REGISTERED VOTERS FOR A "PEOPLE'S VETO" REFERENDUM. IF THEY SUCCEED, RANKED-CHOICE VOTING COULD BE IMPLEMENTED FOR PRIMARIES AND FEDERAL RACES. LAWMAKERS VOTED LAST MONTH TO DELAY RANKED-CHOICE VOTING. WITHOUT ACTION, IT'LL EVENTUALLY BE REPEALED, UNLESS THE MAINE CONSTITUTION IS AMENDED.

PROTESTERS WERE OUT IN FRONT OF THE FEDERAL BUILDING IN BANGOR TUESDAY RALLYING AGAINST THE TAX PLAN THAT WILL SOON BE VOTED ON IN THE U-S SENATE. DEMONSTRATORS SAY THE PLAN BENEFITS THE TOP ONE PERCENT AND CORPORATIONS. PROTESTER NATHALIE ARRUDA TELLS TV5 THEY'RE URGING SENATOR SUSAN COLLINS TO VOTE AGAINST THE BILL.

ARRUDA :14 ...THE STATE OF MAINE.

SUPPORTERS OF THE BILL SAY IT WILL BENEFIT LOWER AND MIDDLE INCOME WORKING FAMILIES, BUT PROTESTERS SAY IT'S BEEN PROVEN THAT THESE TYPES OF TAX BREAKS DON'T WORK. COLLINS COULD BE A KEY VOTE AND HAS EXPRESSED CONCERNS OVER THE BILL. SHE SAYS THE PART OF THE PLAN TO REPEAL THE INDIVIDUAL HEALTH INSURANCE MANDATE WOULD ACTUALLY INCREASE PREMIUMS AND OFFSET ANY TAX RELIEF FOR MIDDLE INCOME FAMILIES.

TAX PLAN 11/22 PA

SENATOR ANGUS KING SAYS HE'S LIKELY TO VOTE 'NO' ON PRESIDENT TRUMP'S TAX PLAN. HE SPOKE WITH TV5 TUESDAY.

KING :29 ...AND DO IT RIGHT.

REPUBLICAN LEADERS HAVE VOWED TO GET A TAX BILL TO THE PRESIDENT'S DESK BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

THE MAINE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY IS SENDING TEAMS INTO THE FIELD TO VERIFY DAMAGE FROM A WIND STORM TO GIVE GOVERNOR PAUL LEPAGE THE DATA HE NEEDS TO DECIDE WHETHER TO ASK FOR FEDERAL AID. THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY AND LOCAL AND COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE FORMAL DAMAGE ASSESSMENT TODAY AND TOMORROW. MEMA SAYS THE ASSESSMENT WILL CONTINUE INTO NEXT WEEK IF NECESSARY. THE WIND STORM LEFT MORE THAN HALF OF MAINE'S RESIDENTS IN THE DARK ON THE DAY BEFORE HALLOWEEN. SOME DIDN'T GET THEIR POWER BACK FOR MORE THAN A WEEK. THE DATA WILL HELP LEPAGE DECIDE WHETHER TO ASK PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP FOR A FORMAL DISASTER DECLARATION.

GAS PRICES

11/21

PA

THE PRICE OF GASOLINE HAS GONE DOWN VERY SLIGHTLY IN THE LAST WEEK. GASBUDDY'S DAILY SURVEY OF GAS OUTLETS SAYS THE PRICE IN MAINE WENT DOWN TO AN AVERAGE OF \$2.55 A GALLON. THE NATIONAL AVERAGE WENT UP 8.9 CENTS PER GALLON IN THE LAST WEEK TO \$2.55. IT'S 8.6 CENTS PER GALLON HIGHER THAN LAST MONTH, AND 40.4 CENTS PER GALLON HIGHER THAN A YEAR AGO.

THE U.S. MARSHALS SERVICE IS WARNING OF SCAMS INVOLVING PEOPLE CLAIMING TO BE MARSHALS, COURT OFFICERS OR OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS. MARSHAL NOEL MARCH SAYS THE SCAMMERS CLAIM TO BE COLLECTING A FINE IN LIEU OF ARREST FOR FAILING TO REPORT TO JURY DUTY OR OTHER OFFENSES. THE VICTIMS ARE TOLD THEY CAN AVOID ARREST BY PURCHASING A PREPAID DEBIT CARD. HE SAYS THE SCAMMERS MAY SOUND CREDIBLE BUT THAT LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS NEVER ASK FOR BANK ROUTING NUMBERS OR NUMBERS OF CREDIT, DEBIT OR GIFT CARDS. MARCH SAYS IF YOU GET A CALL HANG UP AND CALL THE MARSHALS OR THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.

THE CROWDED FIELD OF GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES WILL LIKELY STRAIN MAINE'S CLEAN ELECTION FUND. THE PORTLAND PRESS HERALD REPORTS IT ALL DEPENDS ON HOW MANY CANDIDATES OPT FOR PUBLIC FINANCING. SO FAR THERE ARE NEARLY 20 CANDIDATES, BUT ONLY SIX ARE RUNNING AS CLEAN ELECTION CANDIDATES. CANDIDATES WHO QUALIFY COULD RECEIVE UP TO \$1 MILLION FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION. PRIMARY VICTORS COULD GET ANOTHER \$2 MILLION FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION. THE CURRENT FUND HAS A BALANCE OF \$4.5 MILLION. JONATHAN WAYNE OF THE MAINE COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS AND ELECTION PRACTICES SAID THE PANEL COULD GO TO THE LEGISLATURE IN JANUARY TO SEEK ADDITIONAL MONEY.

REPRESENTATIVE BRUCE POLIQUIN SAYS HE'S GOING TO VOTE FOR A GOP TAX OVERHAUL THAT KEEPS THE TOP TAX RATE INSTEAD OF LOWERING IT AS PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP SUGGESTED. POLIQUIN SAYS THE PROPOSAL WILL HELP MAINERS BY DOUBLING THE STANDARD DEDUCTION AND INCREASING TAX CREDITS FOR CHILDREN. HE SAYS IT'D KEEP TAXES LOW FOR SMALL BUSINESSES AND MAKE LARGE BUSINESSES MORE COMPETITIVE BY BRINGING THE CORPORATE RATE INTO LINE WITH OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES. HE BRUSHED ASIDE A PROPOSAL BY TRUMP TO LOWER THE TOP RATE FOR HIGH-INCOME EARNERS TO 35 PERCENT. POLIQUIN FAVORS KEEPING IT AT 39.6 PERCENT. THE HOUSE WILL VOTE TOMORROW. REPRESENTATIVE CHELLIE PINGREE SAYS THE PLAN IS A "GIVEAWAY TO CORPORATIONS" AND THE WEALTHY.

OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR AFFORDABLE CARE ACT HEALTH INSURANCE IS OPEN. SENATOR ANGUS KING IS TRYING TO GIVE MAINERS MORE TIME TO SIGN UP BECAUSE OF LAST MONTH'S STORM. HE TELLS TV 5 THE WIDESPREAD POWER OUTAGES COULD'VE DELAYED RESIDENTS' ABILITY TO ENROLL.

KING IT NOW :14
ENROLLMENT IS CURRENTLY OPEN THROUGH DECEMBER 15.

OUTAGES

11/20

PA

POWERFUL WINDS, GUSTING BETWEEN 30 AND 45 MPH, CAUSED MORE POWER OUTAGES THIS WEEKEND. CENTRAL MAINE POWER REPORTED THAT MORE THAN 5,000 HOMES AND BUSINESSES WERE IN THE DARK SUNDAY AFTERNOON. EMERA MAINE REPORTED SEVERAL HUNDRED POWER OUTAGES, AS WELL. METEOROLOGISTS SAY YESTERDAY'S GUSTS WERE NOTHING COMPARED TO THE OCTOBER 30TH STORM THAT KNOCKED OUT POWER FOR MORE THAN HALF OF THE STATE'S RESIDENTS.

FORMER PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE JILL STEIN IS JOINING A PUSH TO GET MAINE TO ENACT RANKED-CHOICE VOTING. THE SYSTEM IS DESIGNED TO LET VOTERS RANK CANDIDATES ON BALLOTS. PROPONENTS SAY IT ELIMINATES SPOILERS AND ENSURES MAJORITY SUPPORT FOR THE WINNER. VOTERS CHOSE TO ENACT RANKED-CHOICE VOTING IN MAINE WITH A 2016 REFERENDUM VOTE. BUT THE SYSTEM MAY NEVER BE PUT IN PLACE BECAUSE OF DELAYS IMPOSED BY STATE LAWMAKERS WHO SAY IT CONFLICTS WITH THE MAINE CONSTITUTION. STEIN, WHO RAN LOSING GREEN PARTY CAMPAIGNS IN 2012 AND 2016, IS CALLING FOR SUPPORT OF AN ONGOING "PEOPLE'S VETO" CAMPAIGN THAT COULD ENACT RANKED-CHOICE VOTING. SHE SENT OUT A MASS EMAIL ON WEDNESDAY URGING SUPPORTERS IN MAINE TO SIGN PETITIONS THAT ARE CIRCULATING IN SUPPORT OF THE VETO.

THE PENOBSCOT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE TOOK TO FACEBOOK SATURDAY WARNING PEOPLE ABOUT A WORLD WIDE SCAM INVOLVING NETFLIX CUSTOMERS. SCAMMERS ARE SENDING EMAILS CLAIMING CUSTOMER BILLING INFORMATION NEEDS TO BE UPDATED AND THEIR ACCOUNT HAS BECOME INVALID. IF A USER WERE TO CLICK ON THE LINK IN THE EMAIL, IT WOULD APPEAR THEY WERE ON A REAL NETFLIX WEBSITE. HOWEVER, THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE SAYS DO NOT ENTER YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION--IT'S A FALSE PAGE. NETFLIX SAYS IT WILL NEVER ASK FOR PERSONAL INFORMATION OVER AN EMAIL.

MOST MAINERS WILL SEE INCREASES IN THEIR ELECTRICITY BILLS STARTING JANUARY 1ST. FOR RESIDENTIAL AND SMALL BUSINESS CUSTOMERS IN EMERA MAINE'S BANGOR HYDRO DISTRICT THAT RECEIVE THE STANDARD OFFER, THE AVERAGE BILL WILL GO UP ABOUT 5% EACH MONTH. RESIDENTIAL AND SMALL BUSINESS CUSTOMERS FOR CENTRAL MAINE POWER WILL SEE AN AVERAGE RATE HIKE OF ABOUT 8%. MEDIUM SIZED BUSINESSES FOR BOTH UTILITIES WILL SEE AN AVERAGE INCREASE OF ABOUT 21%. ACCORDING TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION, THE RATE HIKES ARE DUE TO COMPETITION IN THE MARKET AND ARE NOT RELATED TO LAST WEEK'S STORM.

ON THEIR LAST DAY OF SCHOOL BEFORE VETERANS DAY, STUDENTS AND STAFF AT PENINSULA SCHOOL IN PROSPECT HARBOR HONORED MAINE VETERANS AS PART OF TAKE A VETERAN TO SCHOOL DAY. TEACHER SARAH NORWOOD TELLS TV 5 IT HELPS VETERANS AS MUCH AS STUDENTS.

NORWOOD

AS WELL

:19

VETERANS WERE HONORED AT A SCHOOL ASSEMBLY WHERE STUDENTS READ PREPARED SPEECHES. THE STUDENTS LATER BROKE OUT INTO GROUPS MEETING WITH EACH VETERAN TO HEAR ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE ONE-ON-ONE.

A NEW PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN EASTERN MAINE HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS AND THE US ARMY WILL CREATE JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR VETERANS. THE ARMY PROVIDES ACCREDITED MEDICAL TRAINING, BUT MANY VETERANS STRUGGLE TO FIND EMPLOYMENT WHEN THEY RETURN TO CIVILIAN LIFE. THE US ARMY PARTNERSHIP FOR YOUTH SUCCESS PROGRAM GUARANTEES AN INTERVIEW FOR A MEDICAL POSITION UPON A SOLDIER'S RETURN HOME. EMHS' PAUL BOLIN TELLS TV 5 IT'S A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR VETERANS TO SERVE THEIR COUNTRY WHILE PREPARING FOR THEIR FUTURES.

BOLIN OF MANY :08
EMHS HAS NEARLY 400 VETERAN EMPLOYEES ACROSS ITS SYSTEM. IT ALSO PARTICIPATES IN THE MAINE HIRE-A-VET CAMPAIGN, WHERE ORGANIZATIONS FROM ACROSS THE STATE ARE ASKED TO COLLECTIVELY HIRE 100 VETS IN 100 DAYS.

SENATOR SUSAN COLLINS IS WORKING WITH ANOTHER SENATOR TO STREAMLINE THE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR A FEDERAL PROGRAM THAT PROVIDES NUTRITIOUS FOOD TO SENIOR CITIZENS. THEY CALL IT THE NOURISHING OUR GOLDEN YEARS ACT. THEY SAY IT WOULD REDUCE THE BURDEN ON STATES IN ADMINISTERING A U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PROGRAM KNOWN AS THE SENIOR FOOD BOX.

THE PROGRAM, ALSO CALLED THE COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM, PROVIDES FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND NON-PERISHABLE FOODS TO SENIOR CITIZENS. THE SENATORS SAY MORE THAN 10-MILLION ADULTS AGE 60 OR OVER EXPERIENCED FOOD INSECURITY IN 2014.

SUPPORTERS OF RANKED-CHOICE VOTING ARE WELL ON THEIR WAY TO COLLECTING ENOUGH SIGNATURES FOR A REFERENDUM ON THE ISSUE IN JUNE. UNDER THE SYSTEM, VOTERS WOULD RANK CANDIDATES IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE AS A WAY TO ENSURE A CANDIDATE WINS MAJORITY SUPPORT. VOTERS APPROVED THE IT IN 2016, BUT AFTER THE STATE SUPREME COURT RULED PARTS OF THE LAW COULD BE UNCONSTITUTIONAL, LAWMAKERS VOTED TO DELAY IMPLEMENTATION UNTIL 2021. SUPPORTERS ARE GATHERING SIGNATURES FOR A REFERENDUM THAT WOULD OVERTURN THE LAW THAT DELAY THE SWITCH. SO FAR VOLUNTEERS HAVE GATHERED 32-THOUSAND OF THE JUST OVER 61-THOUSAND NEEDED FOR A REFERENDUM. THE DEADLINE FOR SIGNATURES IS DEC. 15.

STORM HELP ENDING

11/10

WC

THOSE LIVING IN BANGOR WHO WANT TO APPLY FOR HELP FROM THE CITY TO REPLENISH FOOD LOST DUE TO LAST WEEK'S POWER OUTAGES HAVE UNTIL END OF BUSINESS ON MONDAY TO APPLY. THE CITY WILL NOT ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FOR FOOD REPLACEMENT AFTER 4:30 ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13. THE TEXAS AVENUE OFFICE IS CLOSED TODAY IN OBSERVANCE OF VETERANS' DAY AND WILL RE-OPEN AT 8 ON MONDAY MORNING. IN ORDER TO QUALIFY YOU'LL NEED TO BRING PROOF OF BANGOR RESIDENCY. THIS AID IS FOR THOSE THAT ARE NOT RECIPIENTS OF SNAP BENEFITS.

THE MAINE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES MIS-SPENT MORE THAN \$13-MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDS IN 2015 AND 2016, BUT IS UNLIKELY TO FACE A PENALTY. DHHS SPENT THE WELFARE FUNDS ON SERVICES FOR ELDERLY AND DISABLED MAINE RESIDENTS. FEDERAL LAW REQUIRES STATES TO USE MONEY ON PROGRAMS FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN. A 2016 STATE AUDITOR REPORT HIGHLIGHTED THE "IMPROPER MANAGEMENT" OF FEDERAL FUNDS. FEDERAL OFFICIALS ARE CURRENTLY REVIEWING THE REPORT. MAINE DHHS IS UNLIKELY TO FACE A PENALTY AS IT REVERSED ITS UNLAWFUL SPENDING AND RETROACTIVELY RETURNED THE FUNDING, MEETING A 2016 DEADLINE TO RETURN THE FUNDS. THE DEPARTMENT SAYS IT MISSPEND THE FUNDS BECAUSE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WERE UNCLEAR ON FEDERAL RULES.

LAST MONTH, THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PUBLISHED ITS LARGEST AND MOST COMPREHENSIVE STUDY EVER OF VETERAN SUICIDES. THE ANALYSIS BROKE DOWN NUMBERS STATE BY STATE. THE RESULTS FOR MAINE ARE ALARMING. IN 2014, 55 MAINE VETERANS COMMITTED SUICIDE. AT A RATE OF 48.3 SUICIDES PER 100-THOUSAND VETS, MAINE'S RATE FAR OUTPACES THE NATION'S WHICH IS 38.4 PER 100-THOUSAND. THE MAINE BUREAU OF VETERANS' SERVICES, VA MAINE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM, AND MAINE VET CENTERS ARE TAKING ADDRESSING THE PROBLEM. THEY'LL BE HOLDING THEIR FIRST-EVER MILITARY VETERAN SYMPOSIUM ON DECEMBER 12TH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE. ADRIA HORN, DIRECTOR OF THE MAINE BUREAU OF VETERANS' SERVICES TELLS TV 5 THEY'RE ENCOURAGING PEOPLE TO REACH OUT TO A VETERAN IN THEIR FAMILY OR COMMUNITY.

HORN EXPERIENCE IS DIFFERENT :19
THERE WILL BE SPEAKERS, INCLUDING MAINE VETERANS THAT HAVE ATTEMPTED SUICIDE, AND PANEL DISCUSSIONS ON STRATEGIES TO REDUCE VETERAN SUICIDE AT THE SYMPOSIUM.

GOVERNOR PAUL LEPAGE SAYS HE WILL NOT ALLOW IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VOTER APPROVED MEDICAID EXPANSION WITHOUT FULL FUNDING BY THE LEGISLATURE AT THE LEVELS DHHS HAS CALCULATED. HE SAYS THE LAST TIME MAINE EXPERIMENTED WITH MEDICAID EXPANSION IN 2002 IT CREATED A \$750-MILLION DEBT TO HOSPITALS, RESULTED IN MASSIVE BUDGET SHORTFALLS EVERY YEAR, AND DID NOT REDUCE THE NUMBER OF UNINSURED MAINERS. TUESDAY NEARLY 60% OF MAINE VOTERS SAID 'YES' TO QUESTION 2. GOVERNOR LEPAGE VETOED FIVE ATTEMPTS BY LAWMAKERS TO EXPAND THE PROGRAM. HOUSE REPUBLICANS SAY THEY INTEND TO ABIDE BY THE WILL OF THE VOTER. MINORITY LEADER KEN FREDETTE TELLS TV 5 IT JUST WON'T BE AT THE EXPENSE OF WORKING MAINE FAMILIES.

FREDETTE BUSINESSSES IN MAINE :22
DEMOCRATS ARE MAKING IT CLEAR THAT DESPITE LEPAGE'S RESISTANCE, THEY INTEND TO IMPLEMENT THE LAW. SENATE MINORITY LEADER TROY JACKSON SAYS THEY'LL BE WORKING TO IMPLEMENT THE LAW AS SOON AS THEY RETURN TO SESSION.

JACKSON THEY DESERVE :20
MAINE IS THE FIRST STATE IN THE NATION TO APPROVE THE EXPANSION AT THE BALLOT BOX.

MORE VOTERS TURNED OUT TO CAST THEIR BALLOTS THAN PREDICTED.
SECRETARY OF STATE MATT DUNLAP EXPECTED 20-30 PERCENT. HE TELLS TV 5
THERE WERE A COUPLE OF REASONS FOR THE BIGGER NUMBERS.

DUNLAP LOCAL ISSUES :11

DUNLAP SPENT THE DAY TRAVELING TO DIFFERENT POLLING PLACES AROUND THE
STATE. THE NUMBERS AREN'T IN YET ON EXACTLY HOW MANY VOTERS TURNED
OUT.

CREWS ARE RESTORING POWER TO THE LAST OF THE CUSTOMERS LEFT IN THE DARK BY A POWERFUL FALL STORM MORE THAN A WEEK AGO. IT LEFT NEARLY A HALF MILLION HOMES AND BUSINESSES WITHOUT POWER. EMERA MAINE SAYS ALL ITS OUTAGES HAVE BEEN FIXED AND ALL CUSTOMERS ARE BACK ONLINE. CENTRAL MAINE POWER IS REPORTING ABOUT 400 OUTAGES LEFT.

LOCAL RESULTS

11/8

WC

THE CITY OF BANGOR HAS TWO NEW COUNCILORS AND ONE RETURNING. VOTERS ELECTED NEWCOMERS CLARE DAVITT AND LAURA SUPICA AS WELL AS INCUMBENT BEN SPRAGUE. SIX CANDIDATES WERE VYING FOR THE THREE SEATS.

VOTERS WEIGHED IN ON FOUR BALLOT QUESTIONS YESTERDAY. THEY OVERWHELMINGLY SHOT DOWN QUESTION 1 WHICH WOULD HAVE ALLOWED A SINGLE DEVELOPER TO RUN A CASINO IN YORK COUNTY. SUPPORTERS OF THE PROPOSAL SAID IT WOULD PROVE TO BE A WINDFALL FOR SCHOOLS, JOBS AND THE ECONOMY. OPPONENTS CALLED IT A SHADY DEAL. VOTERS ALSO DECIDED TO JOIN 31 OTHER STATES IN EXPANDING MEDICAID UNDER THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.

QUESTION 2 WAS THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE LAW TOOK EFFECT THAT THE QUESTION OF EXPANSION HAD BEEN PUT IN FRONT OF VOTERS. GOVERNOR PAUL LEPAGE VETOED FIVE DIFFERENT TRIES TO EXPAND THE PROGRAM. QUESTION 3, THE TRANSPORTATION BOND ALSO PASSED. SO DID QUESTION 4 WHICH AMENDS THE MAINE CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW CHANGES TO THE STATE'S PENSION FUND.

EMERA THANKS

11/7

WC

EMERA MAINE OFFICIALS SAY AROUND 150 OF THEIR CURRENT OUTAGES ARE PEOPLE WHO LOST POWER DURING LAST WEEK'S STORM. THEY HAVE ABOUT 50 NEW OUTAGES FROM WIND AND WEAKENED TREES OVER THE WEEKEND. THEY SAY THEY ARE STILL WORKING TO GET EVERYONE RESTORED. CREW MEMBER DEREK FISKE SAYS HE'S PUT IN MORE THAN 100 HOURS SINCE THE STORM. HE TELLS TV 5 COMMUNITY MEMBERS HAVE BEEN AMAZING AND HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE HAVE THANKED HIM AND HIS CREW.

FISKE

YOU GUYS

:14

EMERA SAYS CREWS ARE STILL WORKING TO RESTORE POWER TO THE REMAINING CUSTOMERS WITHOUT IT BUT SOME OF THOSE CUSTOMERS NEED THE HELP OF AN ELECTRICIAN BEFORE THEY CAN TURN THE POWER BACK ON. CENTRAL MAINE POWER STILL HAS 36-HUNDRED OUTAGES.

VOTERS WILL WEIGH IN ON JOINING 31 OTHER STATES EXPANDING MEDICAID UNDER FORMER PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA'S AFFORDABLE CARE ACT. THE BALLOT MEASURE COMES AFTER GOVERNOR LEPAGE VETOED FIVE ATTEMPTS TO EXPAND THE PROGRAM. ROUGHLY 11 MILLION PEOPLE NATIONWIDE HAVE GAINED COVERAGE THROUGH THE EXPANSION OF MEDICAID. SOME 70-THOUSAND MAINERS WOULD QUALIFY FOR COVERAGE IF IT PASSES. ALSO ON THE STATEWIDE BALLOT, A TRANSPORTATION BOND AND A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO REDUCE VOLATILITY IN STATE PENSION FUNDING.

VOTERS WILL DECIDE TODAY WHETHER THE STATE SHOULD HAVE A THIRD CASINO.

AN OUT-OF-STATE GAMBLING ENTREPRENEUR BANKROLLED THE CAMPAIGN TO CREATE A CASINO IN YORK COUNTY. HE WOULD BE THE ONE TO OPERATE THE CASINO IF IT'S APPROVED. SUPPORTERS SAY IT WOULD CREATE JOBS, BOOST EDUCATION AND HELP VETERANS, SENIORS AND OTHERS. CRITICS SAY IT'LL STRESS AN ALREADY BLOATED CASINO INDUSTRY IN MAINE AND THE MAN BEHIND THE PLAN CAN'T BE TRUSTED. THE MAINE ETHICS COMMISSION IMPOSED \$500-THOUSAND IN FINES AGAINST FOUR PRO-CASINO COMMITTEES FOR MISSING DEADLINES FOR FILING DISCLOSURES THAT ACCURATELY REFLECTED WHO WAS FUNDING THE CAMPAIGN.

A BILL TO DELAY RANKED-CHOICE VOTING BECAME LAW WITHOUT THE GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE. MAINERS APPROVED THE ELECTION SYSTEM THAT ALLOWS VOTERS TO RANK THEIR TOP CANDIDATE CHOICES RATHER THAN JUST PICKING ONE. THE SYSTEM IS DESIGNED TO ENSURE THAT THE WINNER GETS A MAJORITY. BUT MAINE'S HIGHEST COURT EARLIER THIS YEAR ISSUED AN ADVISORY OPINION SAYING THE RANKED-CHOICE VOTING SYSTEM GOES AGAINST THE STATE CONSTITUTION FOR SOME ELECTIONS. LAWMAKERS ULTIMATELY VOTED TO DELAY THE LAW, WHICH WILL BE REPEALED IN 2021 UNLESS THE MAINE CONSTITUTION IS AMENDED TO EXPLICITLY ALLOW RANKED-CHOICE VOTING.

SECRETARY OF STATE MATTHEW DUNLAP ISSUED THE PETITIONS FOR A PEOPLE'S VETO OF THE RANKED CHOICE VOTING DELAY. THE WORDING OF THE VETO QUESTION IS: "DO YOU WANT TO REJECT THE PARTS OF A NEW LAW THAT WOULD DELAY THE USE OF RANKED-CHOICE VOTING IN THE ELECTION OF CANDIDATES FOR ANY STATE OR FEDERAL OFFICE UNTIL 2022, AND THEN RETAIN THE METHOD ONLY IF THE CONSTITUTION IS AMENDED BY DECEMBER 1, 2021, TO ALLOW RANKED-CHOICE VOTING FOR CANDIDATES IN STATE ELECTIONS?" THOSE IN FAVOR OF THE CHANGE NOW NEED TO COLLECT MORE THAN 61-THOUSAND SIGNATURES OF REGISTERED MAINE VOTERS. THEY NEED TO BE SUBMITTED WITHIN 90 DAYS OF THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE LEGISLATURE. THAT DATE HASN'T BEEN SET YET.

THOUSANDS OF MAINERS ARE STILL WITHOUT POWER A WEEK AFTER A WINDSTORM KNOCKED DOWN TREES, DAMAGED BUILDINGS, AND LEFT NEARLY HALF A MILLION MAINERS IN THE DARK. WHILE MOST CUSTOMERS ARE BACK ONLINE, CENTRAL MAINE POWER IS STILL REPORTING 6-THOUSAND CUSTOMERS WITHOUT POWER. EMERA MAINE HAS 400 CUSTOMERS STILL WAITING. BOTH COMPANIES SAY THE REMAINING CUSTOMERS ARE IN REMOTE, HARD TO REACH PLACES WITH MAJOR DAMAGE IN THE AREAS MAKING IT A SLOW PROCESS TO GET TO WHAT NEEDS TO BE FIXED.

QUESTION 1, A CITIZEN'S INITIATIVE, WOULD ALLOW THE SAME MAN BEHIND HOLLYWOOD SLOTS IN BANGOR TO BUILD A NEW GAMBLING DESTINATION IN SOUTHERN MAINE. AS THE REFERENDUM IS WRITTEN, ONLY SHAWN SCOTT OR ONE OF HIS ENTITIES COULD OPERATE THE THIRD CASINO IN MAINE IF APPROVED BY VOTERS. SCOTT WANTS TO BUILD A \$200-MILLION FACILITY THAT WOULD INCLUDE A HOTEL AND EVENT CENTER SOMEWHERE IN YORK COUNTY. WHILE SCOTT SAYS THE PROJECT WOULD BRING THOUSANDS OF JOBS AND PROVIDE THE STATE WITH MILLIONS IN REVENUE, THE HEAD OF THE STATE'S VETERANS & LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, WHICH HANDLES ELECTIONS, CITIZEN'S INITIATIVES AS WELL AS CASINO GAMBLING SAYS NOT SO FAST. REPRESENTATIVE LOUIS LUCHINI TELLS TV 5 IT'S BAD BUSINESS FOR MAINE.

LUCHINI

ETHICS INVESTIGATION

:22

THE MAINE ETHICS COMMISSION LEVIED \$500-THOUSAND IN FINES AGAINST THE FOUR COMMITTEES BEHIND QUESTION 1. THE FINE IS ALMOST 10 TIMES THE COMMISSION'S PREVIOUS RECORD FINE. THE ETHICS RECORDS SHOW SHAWN SCOTT AND HIS BUSINESS PARTNERS WERE FRONTING CASH AND MAKING DECISIONS FOR THE DRIVE. SCOTT'S SISTER, LISA SCOTT, OF THE HORSERACING JOB FAIRNESS COMMITTEE GAVE CONFLICTING ACCOUNTS ABOUT SHAWN SCOTT'S ROLE AND WHAT SHE KNEW ABOUT IT. LISA SCOTT'S ATTORNEY SAYS IT'S "HARD TO FATHOM" HOW THE COMMISSIONERS REACHED THEIR DECISION. SHE'S GOING TO APPEAL.

MAINE'S TOP ELECTION OFFICIAL IS PREDICTING A "LOW TO MODERATE" TURNOUT ON ELECTION DAY. VOTERS WILL GO TO THE POLLS TOMORROW TO DECIDE WHETHER TO EXPAND MEDICAID UNDER THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AND WHETHER TO APPROVE A THIRD CASINO IN SOUTHERN MAINE. ALSO ON THE STATEWIDE BALLOT ARE BONDS AND A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT THAT DEALS WITH THE STATE PENSION PROGRAM. SECRETARY OF STATE MATT DUNLAP SAYS HE EXPECTS TURNOUT ON THE ORDER OF 20 TO 30 PERCENT OF THE VOTING AGE POPULATION IN MAINE. HE SAYS SEVERAL LOCAL REFERENDUMS ARE GENERATING BIG INTEREST IN AN OFF-YEAR ELECTION.

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IS GIVING AN ISLAND ELECTRIC CO-OP A \$1.5-MILLION LOAN FOR IMPROVEMENTS. THE MONEY WILL PAY FOR ELECTRICAL SYSTEM UPGRADES THROUGH THE FOX ISLANDS ELECTRIC CO-OP IN VINALHAVEN AND NORTH HAVEN. THE USDA SAYS THE MONEY WILL FUND WORK, INCLUDING IMPROVEMENTS TO 5 MILES OF LINE. THE TWO ISLAND COMMUNITIES OWN THE CO-OP. THE ELECTRICAL ENERGY FOR THE ISLANDS' GRID IS MOSTLY GENERATED ON VINALHAVEN BY A COMMUNITY-OWNED WIND FARM. IT'S ALSO PARTLY PURCHASED FROM THE MAINLAND.

MAINE'S TWO MAJOR UTILITY COMPANIES ARE STILL WORKING TO RESTORE POWER TO THOUSANDS OF CUSTOMERS. NEARLY A HALF MILLION HOMES AND BUSINESSES LOST POWER DURING MONDAY'S WINDSTORM. CENTRAL MAINE POWER REPORTS 68-THOUSAND OUTAGES AT THIS HOUR. EMERA MAINE IS REPORTING 12-THOUSAND. BOTH COMPANIES SAY EVERYONE SHOULD BE UP AND RUNNING BY LATE TOMORROW.

PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC IN ORONO THE TOPIC OF DISCUSSION AT A FORUM LAST NIGHT. A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE BICYCLE COALITION OF MAINE AND THE MAINE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION HAS TAKEN OFFICIALS AROUND THE STATE. ORONO WAS THE 10TH OF 21 COMMUNITIES BEING VISITED FOR THE PUBLIC'S INPUT. COALITION ASSISTANT DIRECTOR JIM TASSE TELLS TV 5 THE GOAL IS TO COLLECT INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT AREAS PEDESTRIANS AND BIKERS SEE AS NEEDING IMPROVEMENT.

TASSE

GET ACROSS

:14

OFFICIALS WILL RETURN TO ORONO TO CHECK OUT THE TOP 5 SPOTS RESIDENTS IDENTIFIED AS NEEDING TO BE MADE SAFER. A REPORT ON THEIR FINDINGS IS DUE NEXT YEAR.

ELECTION DAY IN MAINE IS LESS THAN A WEEK AWAY. ADVOCATES FOR YES ON QUESTION 2 GATHERED IN BANGOR YESTERDAY TO RALLY VOTERS. QUESTION 2 IS A BALLOT INITIATIVE THAT WOULD REQUIRE THE STATE TO EXPAND MAINECARE.

DR. NOAH NESIN TELLS TV 5 EXPANSION WOULD HELP ADDRESS THE OPIOID CRISIS AND PROVIDE HEALTHCARE TO MANY WHO GO WITHOUT.

NESIN THAT CARE :22
THE GOVERNOR OPPOSES QUESTION 2 SAYING IT COULD THRUST MAINE BACK INTO FINANCIAL CRISIS. VOTERS HEAD TO THE POLLS TUESDAY.

UTILITY CREWS ARE MAKING PROGRESS IN THEIR EFFORTS TO RESTORE POWER. EMERA MAINE REPORTS 25-THOUSAND CUSTOMERS WITHOUT POWER. CENTRAL MAINE POWER HAS 107-THOUSAND. THE RED CROSS HAS SET UP MORE SHELTERS AROUND THE AREA. THEY ARE AT THE BREWER AUDITORIUM ON WILSON STREET AND THE OLD TOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL ON OAK STREET. FOOD AND COTS FOR SLEEPING ARE AVAILABLE. IN BANGOR IF YOU NEED A HOT SHOWER YOU CAN BRING YOUR OWN TOWELS AND SOAP TO THE CROSS INSURANCE CENTER. THEY ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE JAMES F DOUGHTY SCHOOL FROM 6-10 AM. SEVERAL AREA FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND FACILITIES ARE ALSO OFFERING CHARGING AND WARMING STATIONS.

QUESTION 4 ON THE BALLOT ASKS VOTERS IF THEY'D LIKE TO AMEND THE STATE'S CONSTITUTION TO STABILIZE THE STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM MANAGING PUBLIC WORKERS' PENSIONS. IT INCLUDES CURRENT AND RETIRED STATE WORKERS AND TEACHERS. IT WOULD EXTEND THE PERIOD OF TIME OVER WHICH NET LOSSES IN THE MARKET VALUE OF THE RETIREMENT PLANS MUST BE RETIRED OR FUNDED FROM 10 TO 20 YEARS. MAINE'S SECRETARY OF STATE, MATTHEW DUNLAP, SAYS IT WOULD HELP MAKE THE STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM SAFER AND MORE STABLE.

THE MAINE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, REPRESENTATIVES FROM GOVERNOR LEPAGE'S OFFICE, CMP, EMERA MAINE, AND THE NATIONAL GUARD GATHERED YESTERDAY TO DISCUSS THE SEVERITY OF THE STORM. LINE AND TREE CREWS HAVE BEEN WORKING ROUND THE CLOCK AS QUICKLY AND SAFELY AS POSSIBLE TO RESTORE POWER TO THE THOUSANDS OF CUSTOMERS STILL WITHOUT ELECTRICITY.

MEMA OFFICIALS SAY THIS IS GOING TO BE A LONG TERM CLEANUP EVENT AND UPCOMING WARM WEATHER WILL HELP THOSE EFFORTS. CENTRAL MAINE POWER HAS MOBILIZED HUNDREDS OF CANADIAN AND CONTRACTED CREWS FROM OUT-OF-STATE TO REMOVE SNAPPED TREES AND RESTORE DOWNED POWER LINES. STATE TOXICOLOGIST ANDREW SMITH REMINDED PEOPLE TO USE GENERATORS SAFELY TO AVOID CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING. HE ALSO TELLS TV 5 THERE'S ANOTHER MAJOR CONCERN.

SMITH

IT OUT

:16

CMP IS REPORTING 211-THOUSAND CUSTOMERS WITHOUT POWER. EMERA MAINE HAS ABOUT 45-THOUSAND OUTAGES. BOTH COMPANIES SAY THE MAJORITY OF CUSTOMERS WILL BE BACK ONLINE BY SATURDAY NIGHT. THE NATIONAL GUARD IS ON STANDBY IF MUNICIPAL CREWS NEED RELIEF.

THE MAINE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY SAYS EVERY COUNTY IN MAINE HAD SOME FORM OF DAMAGE FROM YESTERDAY'S STORM. HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE REMAIN WITHOUT POWER. SUSAN FALON, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER FOR MEMA SAYS OFFICIALS ARE STILL TRYING TO ASSESS THE DAMAGE.

FALON 1

FROM US

:17

CREWS WILL BE WORKING TO RESTORE POWER FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS. OFFICIALS SAY IF YOU USE A GENERATOR, MAKE SURE IT'S OUTSIDE AND THE EXHAUST IS CLEAR OF YOUR HOME TO PROTECT YOU FROM CARBON MONOXIDE.

GOVERNOR LEPAGE DECLARED A STATE OF EMERGENCY BECAUSE OF YESTERDAY'S STORM. SUSAN FALON FROM THE MAINE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY SAYS THAT WILL MAKE IT EASIER TO GET POWER OUTAGES AND DAMAGES REPAIRED.

FALON 2

FINANCIAL THRESHOLD

:16

RIGHT NOW EMERA IS REPORTING CUSTOMERS WITHOUT POWER. CENTRAL MAINE POWER HAS CUSTOMERS IN THE DARK. BOTH COMPANIES SAY IT COULD BE DAYS BEFORE EVERYONE GETS POWER BACK.

POWER CREWS AND PUBLIC WORKS CREWS AROUND THE STATE WILL BE CLEANING UP FROM YESTERDAY'S STORM FOR AT LEAST THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS. THEY'RE DEALING WITH DOWNED POWER LINES AND TREES, STREET FLOODING AND DAMAGED HOMES. WATERVILLE'S PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR MARK TURNER SAYS HIS CREW WAS OUT ALL DAY CLEARING STORM DRAINS AND CUTTING UP AND REMOVING DOWNED TREES FROM ROADWAYS AND YARDS. HE TELLS TV 5 HOMEOWNERS NEED TO BE CAREFUL HOW THEY DEAL WITH POWER OUTAGES.

TURNER

THE HOUSE

:18

OFFICIALS SAY PAY ATTENTION TO CONES AND BARRIERS THEY HAVE SET UP AND DON'T DRIVE OR WALK AROUND THEM. SEVERAL SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED TODAY BECAUSE THEY DON'T HAVE POWER. THE RED CROSS SET UP AN EMERGENCY SHELTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE FIELD HOUSE. BANGOR PARKS AND REC WILL OPEN AT 8AM AS A WARMING AND CHARGING STATION.

GOVERNOR PAUL LEPAGE ISSUED A STATE OF EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION BECAUSE OF YESTERDAY'S STORM. THE NUMBER OF HOMES AND BUSINESSES IN THE DARK IN MAINE SURPASSED THE PEAK NUMBER FROM THE ICE STORM OF 1998. HALF A MILLION PEOPLE WERE IN THE DARK AT THE PEAK OF THE STORM. LEPAGE SAYS THE PROCLAMATION WILL GIVE UTILITY COMPANIES FLEXIBILITY THEY NEED TO RESTORE POWER. CENTRAL MAINE POWER SAYS 359-THOUSAND OF ITS CUSTOMERS ARE STILL IN THE DARK. EMERA MAINE HAS NEARLY 60-THOUSAND CUSTOMERS STILL WITHOUT POWER. OFFICIALS WITH BOTH COMPANIES SAY IT COULD BE A FEW DAYS BEFORE EVERYONE IS BACK ONLINE.

TODAY'S HIGH WINDS ARE LEAVING THOUSANDS OF MAINERS WITHOUT POWER. EMERA MAINE REPORTS NEARLY 24-HUNDRED CUSTOMERS IN THE DARK RIGHT NOW. CENTRAL MAINE POWER IS REPORTING MORE THAN 178-THOUSAND CUSTOMERS WITHOUT POWER.

STATE LAWMAKERS VOTED MONDAY TO DELAY IMPLEMENTATION OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING IN MAINE UNTIL 2021. HOWEVER IF THE LEGISLATURE CAN'T SOLVE THE LAW'S CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES, IT WOULD BE REPEALED. THE MAINE SUPREME COURT CALLED INTO QUESTION THE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF THE ORIGINAL REFERENDUM SO LAWMAKERS TRIED FIXING THE PROBLEM. FIRST THEY TRIED PASSING A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO BRING MAINE INTO COMPLIANCE WITH RANKED CHOICE VOTING BUT THAT FAILED. LAWMAKERS THEN TRIED TO REPEAL IT ALL TOGETHER. THAT ALSO FAILED. MONDAY AN AMENDED BILL WAS PASSED THAT SAYS IF A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT IS NOT APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OR VOTERS, THE LAW WILL BE REPEALED. SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE SARA GIDEON SAYS WHILE REPUBLICANS WANT THE LAW TO GO AWAY, DEMOCRATS WILL KEEP FIGHTING FOR IT.

GIDEON

IN MAINE

:15

THE RANKED CHOICE VOTING CAMPAIGN IS PLANNING TO LAUNCH A PEOPLE'S VETO. IT'LL NEED TO COLLECT MORE THAN 61-THOUSAND SIGNATURES AND SUBMIT THEM WITHIN 90 DAYS AFTER THE ADJOURNMENT OF THIS LEGISLATIVE SESSION TO MAKE IT TO THE BALLOT NEXT JUNE.

LAWMAKERS WERE BACK IN AUGUSTA YESTERDAY FOR A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE. THEY TACKLED SOME OF THE STATE'S MOST CONTESTED BILLS INCLUDING THE RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA LAW AND THE VOTER-APPROVED RANKED-CHOICE VOTING. THEY PASSED THE MARIJUANA BILL. IT NOW HEADS TO GOVERNOR LEPAGE FOR APPROVAL. HOUSE MINORITY LEADER KEN FREDETTE SAYS THE GOVERNOR WILL LIKELY VETO IT AND ACCORDING TO THE VOTES IN BOTH THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE THERE WOULD NOT BE ENOUGH SUPPORT TO OVERTURN THE VETO - DELAYING THE BILL AS THE GOVERNOR ORIGINALLY WANTED. HOUSE DEMOCRATS ARE HOPEFUL HOWEVER, THAT THE GOVERNOR WILL PASS THE LAW AND IT WILL FINALLY BE PUT INTO PLACE. LAWMAKERS ALSO VOTED TO DELAY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RANKED-CHOICE VOTING UNTIL 2021. SOME IN FAVOR THE LAW SAY IT'LL GIVE LAWMAKERS TIME TO WORK OUT A SOLUTION BOTH SIDES CAN BE HAPPY WITH. NOT EVERYONE'S HAPPY WITH THE DECISION THOUGH. REPRESENTATIVE BRAD FARRIN TELLS TV 5 ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.

FARRIN

THE PEOPLE

:14

THE BILL NOW HEADS TO THE GOVERNOR'S DESK. IF HE SIGNS IT LAWMAKERS WILL WORK TO PASS A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT WITHIN THE NEXT 4 YEARS WHICH REQUIRES 2/3 APPROVAL FROM BOTH CHAMBERS. IF THEY FAIL THE LAW WILL BE OFFICIALLY REPEALED. THE LEGISLATURE ALSO FIXED A FOOD SOVEREIGNTY LAW MAKING SURE MEAT AND POULTRY WILL CONTINUE TO BE INSPECTED BY THE STATE. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD WARNED IT WOULD TAKE OVER IF THE CHANGE WASN'T MADE. LAWMAKERS ALSO RESTORED FUNDING FOR THE STATE OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS.

DV ARRESTS

10/24

WC

IN HONOR OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH, STATE POLICE ARE TARGETING DOZENS OF PEOPLE WITH OUTSTANDING ARREST WARRANTS RELATED TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. A TEAM OF 28 TROOPERS FANNED OUT ACROSS THE STATE LAST THURSDAY NIGHT. THE OFFENSES RANGED FROM VIOLATING PROTECTION ORDERS, FAILING TO APPEAR IN COURT, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ASSAULT AND PROBATION REVOCATION. SOME OF THE OFFENSES DATED BACK A DECADE, WHICH MEANT OUTDATED ADDRESSES FOR MANY OF THOSE ON THE LIST. TROOPERS DID MAKE SIX ARRESTS. THEY ALSO FOUND TWO CASES OF UNREPORTED DOMESTIC ASSAULT AND TWO OTHER VIOLATIONS OF PROTECTION FROM ABUSE ORDERS.

A LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE IS SET TO CONSIDER BILL TO ALLOW MUNICIPALITIES TO CREATE MICROGRIDS. REPRESENTATIVE MICHAEL DEVIN SAYS THE GOAL OF HIS BILL IS TO CREATE A LEGAL FRAMEWORK ALLOWING MUNICIPALITIES TO CREATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS THAT CAN BE OPERATED WHILE INDEPENDENT OF THE MAIN POWER NETWORK. HE SAYS THE BILL COULD HELP MUNICIPALITIES BECOME ENERGY SELF-SUFFICIENT. THE LEGISLATURE'S COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY IS SCHEDULED TO HOLD A DISCUSSION ON THE BILL TOMORROW. THE GOVERNOR'S ENERGY OFFICE ASKED FOR MORE DETAILS ON THE BILL, LIKE WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYING POWER RATES. THE OFFICE'S REPRESENTATIVE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT MICROGRIDS POWERED WITH RENEWABLE POWER AND STORAGE TECHNOLOGIES COULD INCREASE OVERALL ELECTRICAL COSTS.

THE AUGUSTA AGE-FRIENDLY COMMITTEE HAS STARTED A PROGRAM TO HELP ELDERLY AND DISABLED RESIDENTS SAND THEIR DRIVEWAYS THIS WINTER. A FREE BUCKET OF SAND WILL BE DELIVERED TO THE HOME OF SENIORS UNABLE TO FILL AND HAUL SAND TO SPREAD AT THEIR HOMES. COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR SARA GRANT TELLS TV 5 THEY HOPE 'SAND BUCKETS FOR SENIORS' WILL HELP REDUCE FALLS AND INJURIES OF ISOLATED, SHUT-IN, OR HOMEBOUND AUGUSTA RESIDENTS.

GRANT AS WELL :19
THE CITY'S BUREAU OF PARKS, CEMETERIES, AND TREES WILL BE
DISTRIBUTING THE BUCKETS AFTER THANKSGIVING.

RESIDENTS OF ST. GEORGE, WHICH INCLUDES TENANTS HARBOR AND PORT CLYDE ARE VOICING OPPOSITION TO PLANS FOR A WIND FARM IN THE AREA. YESTERDAY THEY HANDED IN A PETITION WITH MORE THAN 300 SIGNATURES TO TRY AND STOP IT. OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS THE TOWN HAS BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT PLANS OF MAINE AQUA VENTUS TO BUILD A WIND FARM NEAR MONHEGAN ISLAND. RESIDENT GLEN LIBBY TELLS TV 5 THEY'RE WILLING TO WORK TOGETHER WITH MAINE AQUA VENTUS TO COME UP WITH A BETTER SOLUTION.

LIBBY

WIND POWER

:13

THE PROPOSAL INCLUDES THE BUILDING OF TWO FLOATING WIND TURBINES WITH CABLE RUNNING THROUGH ST. GEORGE.

THE KENNEBEC VALLEY COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM NEEDS VOLUNTEER DRIVERS. THE NON-PROFIT PROVIDES TRANSPORTATION SERVICES TO LOW INCOME RESIDENTS AND THE ELDERLY THROUGHOUT SOMERSET AND KENNEBEC COUNTIES. KVCAP CURRENTLY HAS 86 VOLUNTEER DRIVERS AND THEY NEED AT LEAST 50 MORE. THE DEMAND FOR TRANSPORTATION TO MEDICAL SERVICES, WORK PROGRAMS, AND MORE CONTINUES TO GROW IN THE REGION. VOLUNTEER SERVICES COORDINATOR SANDY BURTON TELLS TV 5 DRIVERS PROVIDED MORE THAN 110-THOUSAND TRIPS LAST YEAR, TRAVELING MORE THAN 3-MILLION MILES.

BURTON MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS :09
VOLUNTEERS MUST HAVE A SAFE AND RELIABLE VEHICLE, AND PASS A STATE BACKGROUND CHECK.

RANKED CHOICE SPLIT
WC

10/17

A LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE COULDN'T DECIDE ON A SINGLE COURSE FORWARD FOR A VOTER-APPROVED ELECTION OVERHAUL THE MAINE SUPREME COURT SAYS RUNS AGAINST THE MAINE CONSTITUTION FOR SOME ELECTIONS. THE COMMITTEE'S DIVIDED VOTES YESTERDAY MEAN LAWMAKERS WILL HAVE A VARIETY OF OPTIONS —INCLUDING DELAYING THE RANKED-CHOICE VOTING LAW — TO CONSIDER WHEN THEY RETURN OCTOBER 23. RANKED-CHOICE VOTING ALLOWS VOTERS TO RANK BALLOT CHOICES FROM FIRST TO LAST IN A SYSTEM AIMED AT ENSURING A CANDIDATE WINS MAJORITY SUPPORT. MAINE'S HIGHEST COURT IN MAY ISSUED AN ADVISORY OPINION THAT THE SYSTEM WOULD BE UNCONSTITUTIONAL FOR GENERAL ELECTIONS FOR THE LEGISLATURE AND GOVERNOR.

OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH. THE FAMILY VIOLENCE PROJECT AND THE SOMERSET COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TASK FORCE HOSTED A CANDLELIGHT VIGIL IN SKOWHEGAN LAST NIGHT. COMMUNITY MEMBERS GATHERED IN COBURN PARK TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO HELP THOSE IN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS. BETH CROWE OF THE FAMILY VIOLENCE PROJECT TELLS TV 5 THEY ALSO PAID TRIBUTE TO ALL OF THOSE THAT HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES THIS YEAR IN MAINE AS A RESULT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

CROWE

THE CULTURE

:15

AUTHORITIES SAY ABOUT HALF OF THE HOMICIDES IN MAINE ARE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RELATED. A 5K WALK/RUN AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS SET FOR TOMORROW AT THE GOODWILL-HINCKLEY CAMPUS IN FAIRFIELD WITH ALL PROCEEDS BENEFITTING THE FAMILY VIOLENCE PROJECT.

MADISON ELECTRIC WORKS CELEBRATED THE BEGINNING OF OPERATIONS OF THEIR SOLAR ARRAY YESTERDAY. IT'S THE LARGEST ONE IN THE STATE. THE SYSTEM IS BUILT ON MORE THAN TWENTY ACRES OF LAND IN MADISON AND UTILIZES MORE THAN 16-THOUSAND 330W PANELS. IT'S LARGE ENOUGH TO POWER ROUGHLY 700 HOMES AND WILL MEET APPROXIMATELY 20 PERCENT OF MADISON ELECTRIC WORKS' ANNUAL NEEDS. IGS SOLAR FINANCED THE PROJECT AND WILL OWN AND OPERATE THE SYSTEM. COMPANY VICE PRESIDENT PATRICK SMITH TELLS TV 5 MADISON ELECTRIC WILL BUY 100 PERCENT OF THE POWER GENERATED AT A FIXED RATE THROUGH A LONG TERM POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT.

SMITH THE CONTRACT :15
MADISON ELECTRIC SAYS MAINERS PERFORMED NEARLY ALL OF THE LABOR INVOLVED IN INSTALLING THE SYSTEM.

LAWMAKERS AND ATTORNEYS ARE LOOKING AT WAYS TO REFORM THE STATE'S SYSTEM FOR HELPING LOW-INCOME MAINERS IN NEED OF LEGAL SERVICES. THE BIENNIAL BUDGET CALLED FOR A NEW WORKING GROUP TO PREPARE A REPORT BY DECEMBER 6. THE GROUP MEETS TODAY. THIS YEAR, ATTORNEYS WERE FORCED TO WORK WITHOUT PAY FOR WEEKS WHEN THE STATE'S INDIGENT LEGAL SERVICES COMMISSION FACED A FUNDING GAP THAT ATTORNEYS CALLED POLITICIZED AND AVOIDABLE. THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE COULD TAKE THE FINDINGS AND REPORT OUT A BILL BEGINNING IN JANUARY.

A GLOBAL INSULATION COMPANY IS CLOSING ITS PLANT IN BRUNSWICK PUTTING DOZENS OUT OF WORK. OWENS CORNING SAYS THE PLANT IS MOVING ITS MACHINERY TO WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS. A SPOKESMAN SAYS THE 60 EMPLOYEES BEING LAID OFF WILL NOT BE RELOCATED. THE COMPANY WANTS TO BE CLOSER TO ITS CUSTOMERS AND LOWER CROSS-COUNTRY TRANSPORTATION COSTS. THE SPOKESMAN SAYS THE DECISION DOESN'T REFLECT THE BRUNSWICK PLANT'S PERFORMANCE. THE PLANT PRIMARILY MADE FABRICS FOR THE WIND POWER INDUSTRY.

POWER OUTAGE

10/11

WC

EMERA MAINE HAD A MAJOR POWER OUTAGE IN AROOSTOOK COUNTY YESTERDAY LEAVING THOUSANDS IN THE DARK. EMERA MAINE SAID AT AROUND 5 A LARGE SCALE OUTAGE IMPACTED AN ESTIMATED 24-THOUSAND CUSTOMERS. CREWS, DISCOVERED A FALLEN TREE AGAINST A TRANSMISSION LINE FEEDING THE REGION TO BE THE CAUSE OF THE OUTAGE. THEY HAD POWER RESTORED IN ABOUT AN HOUR.

JUST UNDER OF \$3-MILLION IN FEDERAL MONEY IS HEADED TO BANGOR TO HELP WITH A RENOVATION AND EXPANSION PROJECT AT THE MAINE VETERANS' HOME ON HOGAN ROAD. THE MONEY COMES FROM THE VA STATE HOME CONSTRUCTION GRANT PROGRAM. OFFICIALS SAY THE WORK WILL MODERNIZE THE FACILITY MAKING THE HOME MORE COMFORTABLE FOR RESIDENTS AND SAFER AND MORE EFFICIENT FOR STAFF. WORK STARTED IN JANUARY TO EXPAND THE 40-BED UNIT, CREATING A MODERNIZED NURSES STATION AND A NEW SHORT-ORDER KITCHEN AND SERVING AREA.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS AND RURAL SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS TURNED OUT FOR A FREE RENEWABLE ENERGY WORKSHOP AT COLBY COLLEGE ON YESTERDAY. IT FEATURED DETAILS ON HOW TO ACCESS THE USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT LOANS AND COMPETITIVE GRANT FUNDS FOR BUYING, INSTALLING AND BUILDING RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS. ORGANIZER JENNIFER BRENNAN TELLS TV 5 THOSE PROJECTS INCLUDE SOLAR, BIOMASS, RENEWABLE BIODIESEL AND MORE.

BRENNAN FARM PRODUCTION :09
SMALL RURAL BUSINESSES AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS THAT GET AT LEAST HALF OF THEIR INCOME FROM FARMING ARE ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTENCE.

SIX VETERANS WHO YEARS LATER LEARNED THEY RECEIVED POOR CARE FROM A PODIATRIST SAY VETERANS AFFAIRS CONCEALED THOSE FINDINGS TO LIMIT THE VETERANS' ABILITY TO SUE. A FEDERAL DISTRICT JUDGE WILL DECIDE WHETHER THEIR LAWSUITS AGAINST THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CAN MOVE FORWARD. FEDERAL LAWYERS MOVED TO DISMISS THE CASES AND ARGUED VETERANS WAITED TOO LONG TO FILE THE SUITS. THE VA HAS ACKNOWLEDGED IT TOOK YEARS TO NOTIFY THE VETERANS ABOUT PROBLEMS WITH TREATMENT THEY RECEIVED FROM PODIATRIST THOMAS FRANCHINI AT THE TOGUS VA HOSPITAL. VA OFFICIALS DENY THEY CONCEALED SUCH FINDINGS TO AVOID LAWSUITS. A VA SPOKESMAN SAID FRANCHINI RESIGNED FROM THE VA AFTER THE AGENCY TOLD HIM TO STEP DOWN OR FACE BEING FIRED IN 2010.