WEATHER:
Partly cloudy
High 52°
Details, C6

$2.75

Tuesday,
November 4, 2025

ALLEGED RINGLEADER in Farmington drug case faces new accusations / **C1**

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Collins: Election appears key to ending shutdown

Maine's senior senator said waiting until after Tuesday is important to some Democrats, and that a public commitment by Republicans to vote on health care subsidies may be forthcoming.

By RANDY BILLINGS
Staff Writer

U.S. Sen. Susan Collins said Monday that she's optimistic that an agreement to reopen the federal government could be reached by the end of this week.

Collins, the top Senate appropriator, believes bipartisan talks to end the shutdown will gain steam after Tuesday's election.

"I don't want to create false hopes out there, but that is based on discussions that I've had with numerous Democrats as recently as last night, as well as with my Republican colleagues," she said, adding that a compromise could hinge on an agreement over Affordable Care Act subsidies.

The shutdown entered its 34th day on Monday and is on track to become the longest in the nation's history, eclipsing the 35-day shutdown in 2018-19 during President Donald Trump's first term.

Collins discussed the shutdown on Maine Public's "Maine Calling" program Monday. Gov. Janet Mills, a Democrat who is now running for Collins' Senate seat, and U.S. Rep. Chellie Pingree, D-1st District, also were interviewed, along with leaders of several community groups.

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"My hope is that it will end towards the end of this week."

SEN. SUSAN COLLINS
on Maine Public's 'Maine Calling'

White House will partially fund SNAP benefits after court rulings

By GEOFF MULVIHILL and KIMBERLEE KRUESI
Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — President Donald Trump's administration said Monday that it will partially fund SNAP after two judges issued rulings requiring the U.S. Department of Agriculture to keep the nation's largest food aid program running.

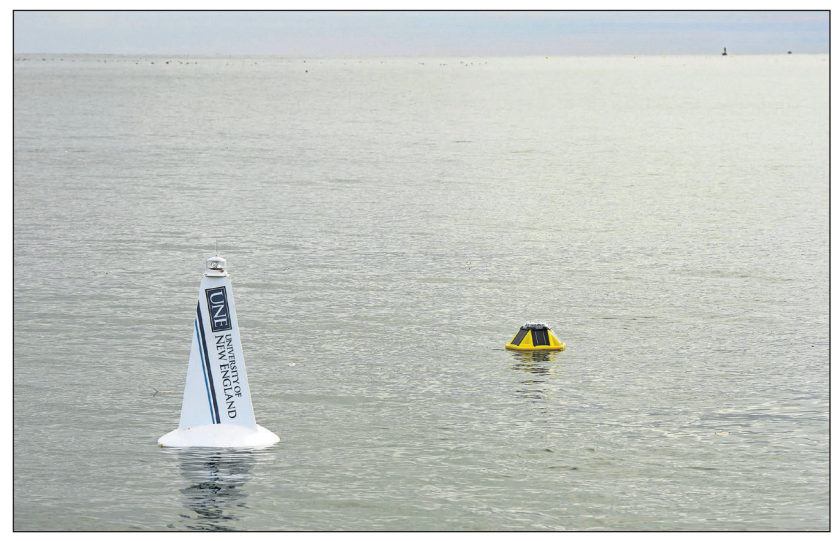
The USDA, which oversees the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, had planned to freeze payments starting Nov. 1 because it said it could no longer keep funding

Please see **SNAP,** Page A6

UNE LAUNCHES STORM TRACKER

University of New England students are helping one of Maine's most vulnerable coastal communities collect data to help residents prepare for a wetter, stormier future. Above, off Camp Ellis in Saco, marine sciences major Lexi DeGree lifts a sensor that will record ocean currents and direction. **Story in Local, C3**

(PHOTOS BY GREGORY REC/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)



TODAY'S ALMANAC

November 4, 2025

Today is the 308th day of 2025. There are 57 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Nov. 4, 2008, Democratic Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois was elected the first Black president of the United States, defeating the Republican candidate, Sen. John McCain of Arizona.

Also on this date:

In 1922, the entrance to King Tutankhamen's tomb was discovered in Egypt.

In 1979, the Iran hostage crisis began as militant students stormed the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, seizing its occupants; 52 of the hostages were held for 444 days and were released on Jan. 20, 1981.

In 1980, Republican Ronald Reagan won election to the White House for the first time as he trounced Democratic President Jimmy Carter.

In 1995, Yitzhak Rabin, prime minister of Israel, was assassinated by a right-wing Israeli minutes after attending a peace rally.

In 2016, the Paris climate accord took effect, calling on the world to collectively cut and then eliminate greenhouse gas pollution but imposed no sanctions on countries that didn't.

Farmington principal's ICE costume sparks backlash

Some say Mount Blue Middle School Principal James Black showed poor judgment on Halloween. His family says it was a private photo blown out of proportion.

By JOE CHARPENTIER
Staff Writer

FARMINGTON — Franklin County residents and people well beyond were shocked Friday when a photo showing Mount Blue Middle School Principal James Black in an ICE officer-inspired Halloween costume was shared online.

The photo of Black went viral over the weekend, showing him wearing what appears to be a tactical vest with a patch reading "POLICE ICE," a hat with the word "ICE" and an American flag on the side, a stars-and-stripes neck gaiter and zip ties on his hip.

Another photo that has been shared online appears to show Black dressed in the same outfit, holding an assault-style rifle. It isn't clear who originally shared the second photo.

Local residents and people from the far reaches of Maine and beyond have called for Black to step down as principal. Many have made calls and sent emails to Regional School Unit 9 Superintendent Christian Elkington and school board members demanding action be taken.

Many have also said they will be writing letters to the board of directors and will be attending the board's next meeting on Nov. 18 if Black has not resigned or if the district has not taken action.

Elkington said in a statement Monday afternoon that the

Please see **PRINCIPAL,** Page A5

Fresh off upset win, Hearts of Pine heading to Spokane for semifinals

By STEVE CRAIG
Staff Writer

Based on their playoff seeding, the Portland Hearts of Pine have already pulled off a significant upset in the USL League One playoffs, and now have a chance at another

After beating the second-seeded Chattanooga Red Wolves 1-0 on Saturday, the seventh-seeded Hearts of Pine will travel across the country to face the No. 3 Spokane Velocity in a semifinal at 9 p.m. Sunday (ESPN+).

Considering that Chattanooga had only lost five matches, had four more wins than Portland, and held a 13-4 shot advantage in Saturday's game, the Hearts' victory did feel unexpected.

That won't be the case on Sunday. Portland and Spokane played to

Please see **HEARTS,** Page A5

Ollie Wright and the Hearts of Pine will face the Spokane Velocity in the USL League One playoffs Sunday at 9 p.m.
(BRIANNA SOUKUP/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

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ELECTION 2025

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