

WEATHER:  
Rain likely  
High 53°  
Details, C8

\$2.75  
Friday,  
April 3, 2026

# KENNEBEC JOURNAL

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Gov. Janet Mills speaks at a Portland City Council meeting on Jan. 5. In a Thursday statement backing the proposed millionaire's tax, Mills said when asked by the Senate president and the House speaker if she'd "support a surcharge on the very wealthiest" to help continue the state's social services, she agreed. (DEREK DAVIS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

## Mills supports 'millionaire's tax' approved by Maine budget panel

The Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee is proposing an income tax surcharge of 2% for residents with a taxable income of more than \$1 million.

By **BILLY KOBIN**  
Staff Writer

Democrats on the Legislature's budget committee signed off early Thursday on an addition to the two-year budget headlined by the inclusion of

a "millionaire's tax" and Gov. Janet Mills' proposed \$300 "affordability checks" — and Mills appears likely to back both proposals if the Legislature agrees to keep them in the budget that reaches her desk.

The party-line nod of approval on the state's supplemental budget came just before 12:45 a.m. Thursday



from the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee. The inclusion of the extra tax on Maine millionaires appeared to set up something of a political showdown with the Democratic governor.

But about half an hour after the committee passed the budget, Mills weighed in with a statement approving of the hike.

"Throughout my time in office, we

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### 'I STILL ALMOST GET CHOKED UP WHEN I SEE THESE PACKED ARENAS'



Michael Young, a social studies teacher at Cape Elizabeth High School, with his women's NCAA tournament bracket on Wednesday. He started a women's bracket in 2023 but few faculty members were interested. Now the pool is at 23 compared to 26 for the men's. (BRIANNA SOUKUP/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

## Women's basketball interest is up, and bets and brackets are on the rise

By **DREW BONIFANT**  
Staff Writer

Michael Young wanted to try something new. The Cape Elizabeth High School social studies teacher had long participated in a men's college basketball tournament bracket pool organized by faculty, but he noticed there wasn't an equivalent for the women's tournament.

So in 2023, he got one started, but there was one problem:

The 'Caitlin Clark effect' sparked a boost in viewership, which has led to more people participating in friendly pools and betting markets.

Faculty members were lining up to submit their men's brackets, but for the women's pool, Young had to become a recruiter.

"I kind of guilted (people) into it," he said.

Young doesn't have to do that anymore. Three years later, the pool has steadily grown, and now is at 23 compared to 26 for the men's brackets.

"It gets a good vibe. We get people watching the wom-

en's games that ordinarily wouldn't," Young said.

National data indicates that women's basketball has seen a rise in interest, as viewership numbers show more people tuning in and following the action, which culminates Friday and Sunday with the Final Four and national championship game.

Please see **WOMEN'S**, Page A8

## TODAY'S ALMANAC

April 3, 2026

Today is the 93rd day of 2026. There are 272 days left in the year.

### Today in history:

On April 3, 1996, Theodore Kaczynski, the Harvard-educated mathematician known as the Unabomber, was arrested at a remote Montana cabin by FBI agents. From his off-the-grid location, Kaczynski waged a 17-year bombing campaign that killed three people and injured 23 others, permanently maiming several of his victims. (He died in prison on June 10, 2023, at age 81.)

### Also on this date:

In 1860, the first Pony Express mail delivery rides began, one heading west from St. Joseph, Missouri, and one heading east from Sacramento, California.

In 1968, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. delivered what was to be his final speech, telling a rally of striking sanitation workers in Memphis, Tennessee, "I've been to the mountaintop. ... I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land!"

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## PAM BONDI OUSTED AS ATTORNEY GENERAL

By **ALANNA DURKIN RICHER,**  
**ERIC TUCKER,**  
**MICHAEL BALSAMO**  
and **MICHELLE L. PRICE**  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Thursday that Pam Bondi is out as his attorney general, ending the contentious tenure of a loyalist who upheld the Justice Department's culture of independence from the White House, oversaw large-scale firings of career employees and moved



Attorney General Pam Bondi's departure follows months of scrutiny from irate conservatives over the DOJ's handling of the Jeffrey Epstein files. (ALLISON ROBERT/ASSOCIATED PRESS)

**TRUMP ADDRESS:** The president uses his Iran speech to urge a skeptical electorate to give him more time / **A2**

**SMALL BUSINESSES:** Conflict in the Middle East has led to increased shipping complications and higher prices / **D6**

## Platner re-ups criticism of Collins for Iraq vote, but his past comments paint a different picture

In unreported Reddit comments that have been deleted, the US Senate candidate called combat 'an excellent experience.'

By **RANDY BILLINGS**  
Staff Writer

When Donald Trump launched his bombing campaign against Iran, Graham Platner, the front-runner in the Democratic primary for U.S.

Senate in Maine, returned to a well-worn line to attack the five-term Republican incumbent he hopes to unseat in November.

"@Susan Collins: you voted to send me to Iraq," Platner said on X last month. "Did you learn anything from that experience?"

Platner has been a vocal critic of the war in Iran, and he's been reminding voters for months about

Please see **PLATNER**, Page A8