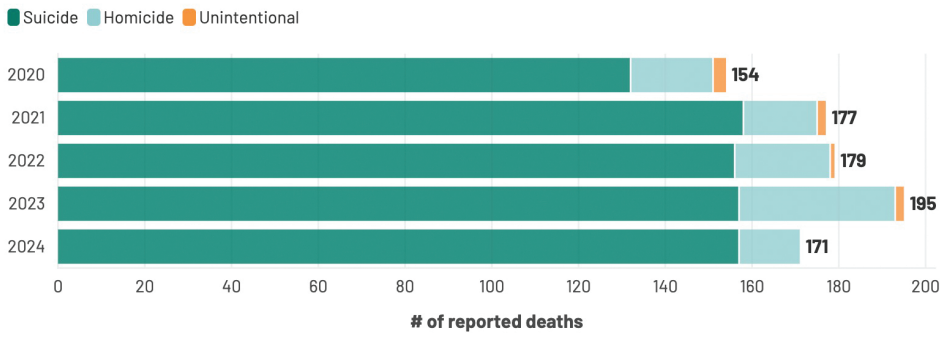


Report: Most firearms deaths in Maine are suicides

Data included in the assessment also highlights an increase in the use of Maine's yellow flag law in the wake of the state's deadliest mass shooting in 2023.

Firearm deaths in Maine



SOURCE: Firearm Fatalities and Hospitalizations in Maine 2026 Annual Report • STAFF VISUALIZATION | JAKE LAWS

By GILLIAN GRAHAM
Staff Writer

An overwhelming majority of gun-related deaths in Maine are suicides and most are men, according to a new analysis from the state.

The Firearm Fatalities and Hospitalizations in Maine annual report, released in March, also shows there was a large increase in the number of assessments done last year under the state's yellow flag law, which allows police to ask a judge to order someone to relinquish their guns if a mental health professional agrees the person is suicidal or poses a threat.

Firearm-related deaths and injuries are an ongoing public health concern in Maine and across the U.S., but the state has made some progress with suicide and injury prevention through public awareness campaigns and efforts to distribute gun locks and lockboxes to gun owners, according to state officials.

Last month, the Maine Legislature enacted an emergency bill to establish a review panel that will look at trends in deaths by suicide, help identify weaknesses in the system of care, and recommend ways to prevent deaths.

Please see **FIREARMS**, Page A6

TODAY'S ALMANAC

April 10, 2026

Today is the 100th day of 2026. There are 265 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On April 10, 1998, the Northern Ireland peace talks concluded as negotiators signed the Good Friday Agreement, a landmark settlement to end 30 years of bitter rivalries and bloody attacks.

Also on this date:

In 1815, Indonesia's Mount Tambora exploded in the biggest known volcanic eruption in 1,000 years, one that altered global weather. About 92,000 people are thought to have died, including 82,000 who perished of starvation and disease and 10,000 killed by its direct impact.

In 1866, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was founded in New York.

In 1912, the British liner RMS Titanic set sail from Southampton, England, bound for New York on its ill-fated maiden voyage.

In 1919, Mexican revolutionary Emiliano Zapata was assassinated by forces loyal to President Venustiano Carranza.

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KJ DAILY



Visitors watch the sunrise at Cadillac Mountain in Acadia National Park in July 2017. Predictions about the coming tourism season "are definitely difficult to make," says the director of the Maine Office of Tourism. (SHAWN PATRICK OUELLETTE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

HEADWINDS BLUR THE HORIZON FOR TOURISM SEASON IN MAINE

As summer approaches, those who count on visitors for their livelihoods in Vacationland are closely watching a number of factors, including rising gas prices and airfare, to understand possible impacts.

By MEGAN GRAY
Staff Writer

Gas above \$4 a gallon. Price hikes for plane tickets and baggage fees. Global unrest. Federal government shut-downs.

Tourism experts are watching those factors closely to understand how they might impact Maine this summer. It's too early to say whether the high cost of travel will de-

ter people during the state's busiest season, they said.

"This is a very fluid situation," said Carolann Ouellette, director of the Maine Office of Tourism. "Predictions are definitely difficult to make."

Still, industry leaders and business owners said they see positive indicators. Ouellette is keeping a close eye on market research about traveler sentiment, and a recent na-

■ The Maine Office of Tourism reported **more than 6 million visits** from out-of-staters between May and October last year. Nearly 30% of them came from New England.

tional survey from research group Future Partners showed that 60% of Americans are still prioritizing travel in their household budgets.

"Anytime prices go up, it can have an impact on how people make their decisions," said Tony Cameron, CEO of the Maine Tourism Association, a nonprofit membership organization that also runs visitor information centers around the state. "But in some ways, it might actually work out in our favor."

Please see **TOURISM**, Page A5

Maine man will be officiating at NCAA's Frozen Four

Steven Rouillard, of Turner, a former high school player and referee in Hockey East, will work the ice for college hockey's marquee event.

By JIMMY JAMES
Staff Writer

Steven Rouillard has always been a rink rat.

If ice time was available, the former Leavitt Area High School hockey forward and Maine high school referee was there.

IN SPORTS:

UMaine raising prices on hockey tickets / **D1**

"When (Rouillard) wasn't playing, he was reffing," said Mike Keaney, who worked with Rouillard as a referee in the area. "(He) was really involved in the game and whenever he had an opportunity to learn as a referee, always hung around the older referees,



Steven Rouillard, of Turner, is set to work his second Frozen Four in three years. (PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVEN ROUILLARD)

Please see **REFEREE**, Page A5

Supporters of referendum over trans sports policy object to ballot language

A draft proposal released by the Secretary of State's office this week is 'not dutifully faithful' to the legislative text, organizers say.

By RILEY BOARD
Staff Writer

The secretary of state's office has released proposed language for a citizens initiative restricting transgender athletes' ability to compete in school sports and use facilities like bathrooms.

Proponents of the referendum aren't happy with the phrasing.

Secretary of State Shenna Bellows announced the draft language Tuesday, opening a 30-day public comment period. The proposed wording reads:



Secretary of State Shenna Bellows announced the draft language Tuesday, opening a 30-day public comment period.

Please see **BALLOT**, Page A6