

WEATHER:  
Partly cloudy  
and hot  
High 90°  
Details, C8

Trump says Iran ceasefire is over: Stories about the repercussions on A3 & C4

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Thursday,  
July 9, 2026

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**GO/B1-8**

## Maine's Democratic primary was over. With Platner on the rocks, it's back on.

The candidate's campaign and the Maine Democratic Party are openly sparring as an assortment of would-be officeholders lines up to replace Platner on the ballot.

By **ETHAN WOLIN**  
Staff Writer

Graham Platner often spoke on the campaign trail about engaging in "a politics of power": Unswerving advocates of the working class had to seize control of American government from the political establishment, Republicans and Democrats alike. Now, Platner is trying to

squeeze out what are likely his last drops of that power. As of Wednesday evening, he had hung onto his Democratic Senate nomination for more than two days since a rape allegation vaporized all his support from elected Democrats. While Democrats wait for him to drop out, the nation has witnessed an extraordinary public debate about the

party's strategy — a month after the primary that would have normally put a lid on in-fighting, and just four months before a general election against five-term incumbent Sen. Susan Collins.

In other words, it feels like Democratic primary season again in Maine.

Please see **PRIMARY**, Page A5

**Maine Matters** 2026

**THE POLITICAL LANDSCAPE** continues to shift long after our print deadlines. Keep up with the latest developments with this story and many others at [centralmaine.com/mainematters](http://centralmaine.com/mainematters)



Graham Platner stands backstage, listening as his mother, Leslie Harlow, introduces him at a town hall event in Ogunquit last October. The campaign has begun soliciting feedback from supporters about what they think should happen next, and it plans to share the suggestions with the state party, according to campaign manager Ben Chin. (GREGORY REC/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

■ **NIRAV SHAH** begins making fundraising calls to donors to gauge interest in a potential race for U.S. Senate / **Story, A5**

### TODAY'S ALMANAC

July 9, 2026

Today is the 190th day of 2026. There are 175 days left in the year.

**Today in History:**

On July 9, 1868, the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, granting citizenship and "equal protection under the laws" to anyone "born or naturalized in the United States," including formerly enslaved people.

**Also on this date:**

In 1850, President Zachary Taylor died of gastrointestinal illness after consuming a large amount of cherries and iced milk on a hot day five days earlier; Vice President Millard Fillmore was sworn in as president the next day.

In 1896, William Jennings Bryant delivered his famous "Cross of Gold" speech at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

In 1918, 101 people were killed in a train collision in Nashville, Tennessee, in the deadliest US rail disaster in history.

In 1937, a fire at 20th Century Fox's storage facility in Little Ferry, New Jersey, destroyed most of the studio's silent films.

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## Maine Democrats plan 600-person convention to replace Graham Platner once he drops out

The U.S. Senate candidate has until Monday to withdraw from the race.

By **RACHEL OHM**  
Staff Writer

As pressure builds on Graham Platner to withdraw from Maine's Senate race, the question on most minds has been: Who would replace him?

That question doesn't have a simple answer, especially since numerous people have said they're interested. But the Maine Democratic Party is coalescing

around a key part of its plans for a selection process for Platner's replacement — if he does indeed drop out.

Party officials are planning an in-person convention of about 600 people for the purpose of selecting a new Senate nominee, according to a person familiar with the planning who asked not to be named because they were not authorized to disclose details

of the ongoing discussions. More details about when and where the convention will be held are forthcoming.

According to Maine law, if a candidate nominated in a primary election withdraws on or before 5 p.m. on the second Monday in July — July 13 this year — a replacement candidate can be named. Platner dropping out would make the replacement

process possible.

The Democrats would have until the fourth Monday in July — July 27 this year — to fill the vacancy, according to the Maine Department of the Secretary of State.

According to the Democratic Party charter, the process for naming replacement candidates includes convening a nominating meeting assembled by a person appointed by the party chair.

Please see **REPLACE**, Page A5

## Electricity use spiked during July 4th heat wave, offering lessons

Demand grew as the holiday weekend approached and many Mainers turned on their air conditioners, pushing peak loads well above a typical summer day.

By **KELLEY BOUCHARD**  
Staff Writer

As Mainers sweltered under a heat dome last week, amped-up air conditioning and other power needs heading into the July 4th holiday spiked electricity demand across New England.

The heat wave started July 1, when the regional peak load registered 23,729 megawatts that evening — well above the 18,000 MW on a typical summer day, according to the Independent System Operator of New England.

Demand peaked last Thursday at 25,351 MW, then dipped to 24,358 MW on Friday and 21,481 MW on Saturday. By Sunday, the heat wave had passed and demand dropped to a near-normal 18,250 MW.

**6** ways to cut your electricity use during a heat wave  
**READ MORE, A8**



From left, Willis Wiggin, Mike Calo and Donny MacMaster react during a World Cup watch party that drew more than 1,000 soccer fans to Thompson's Point for last week's game between Team USA and Bosnia-Herzegovina. (BRIANNA SOUKUP/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

## World Cup soccer has delivered a welcome jolt of enthusiasm

Even with Team USA eliminated, there's plenty for American fans to enjoy as the competition enters the final rounds.



**TRAVIS LAZARCZYK**

Team USA is done, but the party continues.

With Monday's 4-1 loss to Belgium, the United States' run in the World Cup ended pretty much where it always seems to hit the wall — in the round of 16, with promises from the folks in charge of the men's national team that things will get better,

so hang in there, and see you in four years when maybe we'll have a team that can compete with the world's best. When World Cup 2030 rolls around, we'll be 28 years removed from the last time the U.S. advanced to the quarterfinals.

Please see **JOLT**, Page A8

Please see **POWER**, Page A8