

\$2.75
Wednesday,
September 17, 2025

Morning Sentinel

WEATHER:
Mostly cloudy,
seasonable
High 76°
Details, C6

CentralMaine.com An edition of Central Maine Sunday

CMP plan would increase bills — again. Mills calls it unacceptable

Gov. Janet Mills says Mainers are already struggling to pay for electricity; the utility says distribution rate hikes and resiliency upgrades come as other charges expire, mitigating costs.

By DANIEL KOOL
Staff Writer

Central Maine Power Co. is asking regulators for permission to incrementally raise customers' monthly distribution rates by about \$35 between 2026 and 2031, using the new revenue to hire hundreds more workers and upgrade southern Maine's

aging electrical grid. While the utility says the increases are necessary to improve service quality and reliability, state officials condemned the proposal, including Gov. Janet Mills, who called the hike "massive and unacceptable" Tuesday. CMP plans to raise its revenue by more than \$400 million

through incremental, annual increases over the five-year period. That money would go toward hiring 400 new, full-time employees, including 200 line workers, and funding infrastructure improvements like stronger poles, upgraded substations and

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A Central Maine Power lineworker clammers up transmission lines while performing routine maintenance in Gorham last month. The utility plans to raise its revenue by more than \$400 million in its five-year plan. (SHAWN PATRICK OUELLETTE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

NIGHT OF THE RAVEN?



Parking kiosks throughout downtown Camden were vandalized early last week, tagged with colorful hearts and with spray foam insulation squirted into credit card readers, leaving the newly installed machines temporarily inoperable. (PHOTOS BY DARYN SLOVER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

Camden vandal's nickname is a hoax. The mess is real.

A masked figure caught on camera sabotaging 25 new parking kiosks has soared to social media notoriety after a fake post gave the culprit a mysterious moniker.

By JOHN TERHUNE
Staff Writer

CAMDEN — The eyes of the hooded figure in surveillance video glow bright white. At 3:30 a.m., long after the tourists had left Bay View Street's art galleries, antique stores and sweet shops, the masked person had all the privacy they could ask for as they turned the corner and strolled down the empty sidewalk. Timestamps from the footage, taken Sept. 8, suggest they already had been at their work for more than an hour. The figure was gone by the time the sun rose over the fruits of their labor: 25 brand new parking kiosks had been tagged with pink hearts, the crevices of their card readers sabotaged with an expanding spray foam. Though officials quickly determined that the vandal had caused little long-term damage and had

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Kendall Espinosa, of Camden Public Works, cleans graffiti Friday from a parking kiosk in downtown Camden. "There are other ways that you can oppose" paid parking, she said.

Activists on right target educators' posts on Kirk's death

No Maine teachers have been fired over the issue, but at least one has been placed on leave over alleged comments online.

By RILEY BOARD
Staff Writer

Several Maine public school employees are facing calls to resign because of social media posts they made about Charlie Kirk, the right-wing activist who was assassinated last week. The pressure is coming from conservative activists in Maine and around the country who are asking school districts to fire educators they believe have made light of Kirk's death. In Lincoln, Kennebunk and other communities, online efforts to dox and seek the firing of school employees for their comments about Kirk have led to "significant attention" and in at least one case, a teacher being placed on leave. Around the country, more than 30 people, including 21 public school teachers, have been fired or suspended because of alleged comments about Kirk's death, NPR reports. A Massachusetts school district placed two teachers on leave over social media posts, and a Rhode Island school did the same because of a Tik Tok video in which a teacher called Kirk a "piece of garbage." In Florida, the state's commissioner of education issued a warning to superintendents and said he would investigate every teacher who engages in "vile, sanctionable" behavior.

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TODAY'S ALMANAC

September 17, 2025

Today is the 260th day of 2025. There are 105 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Sept. 17, 1787, the Constitution of the United States was completed and signed by a majority of delegates attending the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia.

Also on this date:

In 1862, more than 3,600 men were killed in the Civil War Battle of Antietam in Maryland.
In 1908, Lt. Thomas E. Selfridge of the U.S. Army Signal Corps became the first person to die in the crash of a powered aircraft, the Wright Flyer, at Fort Myer, Virginia, just outside Washington, D.C. The pilot, Orville Wright, was seriously injured but survived.
In 1944, during World War II, Allied paratroopers launched Operation Market Garden, landing behind German lines in the Netherlands.
In 1980, former Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza was assassinated in Paraguay.

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Maine Trust for Local News

Penobscot Nation to reclaim 1,700 acres in rural Maine



It will take several years for the Penobscot Nation to take ownership of the Barnard parcel as fee land and transfer it to the Department of the Interior to place in trust. (GREGORY REC/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

The Appalachian Mountain Club is repatriating the parcel to its former Indigenous stewards as the tribe grows its land holdings in the state.

By REUBEN M. SCHAFIR
Staff Writer

WILLIAMSBURG — Chuck Loring Jr. drops the shifting arm of his GMC Sierra into reverse and pulls a three-point turn. Roads like these cut for timber extraction often surrender to forest overgrowth in just a matter of years without continued maintenance. Although at least two decades have passed since there was active logging here, this road

bears the recent marks of a grader and other heavy machinery used to clear brush. That's the first thing that Loring, the director of the Penobscot Nation's Department of Natural Resources, notices as he stands on the land for the first time. It's a welcome surprise. The land has been out of Penobscot control for centuries, and Loring hadn't expected to encounter

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(DOUGLAS C. PIZAC/AP)

ROBERT REDFORD DIES

■ The celebrated actor, 89, dominated the big screen for decades, and became a force for independent film at his Sundance Institute / **C6**
■ We reflect on his visits to Maine colleges / **C3**