

\$2.75  
 Wednesday,  
 May 13, 2026

# Morning Sentinel

WEATHER:  
 Few showers  
 High 58°  
 Details, B6

CentralMaine.com

An edition of Central Maine Sunday

## Lawmakers grill Hegseth on war's endgame, rising costs

By BEN FINLEY, KONSTANTIN TOROPIN, BILL BARROW and STEPHEN GROVES  
 Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth faced tough questions Tuesday from Republican and Democratic lawmakers about the Trump administration's end game for the Iran war, the conflict's rising \$29 billion cost and its impact on diminishing U.S. weapons stockpiles.

While the Pentagon chief softened his tone from hearings before Congress nearly

### WAR IN IRAN

two weeks ago, notably avoiding the same pointed criticism of lawmakers, he got far more pushback from members of his own Republican Party about the levels of U.S. munitions used in the Iran war and President Donald Trump's intense criticism of traditional allies for not taking part in the conflict.

Please see **HEGSETH**, Page A3



Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth answers a question during a Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing Tuesday on Capitol Hill. (JOE GROMELSKI/SPECIAL TO THE SUN JOURNAL)

### What Sen. Collins did and didn't ask the defense chief

By RANDY BILLINGS  
 Staff Writer

At a Senate hearing Tuesday, Sen. Susan Collins said she was puzzled and concerned that President Donald Trump's \$1.5 trillion defense budget request did not include more battleships from Bath Iron Works.

Unlike others at the meeting of the Senate Appropriations subcommittee on defense, Collins largely steered clear of broader issues such as America's relationship with allies, Russia's war with Ukraine and the status

Please see **COLLINS**, Page A3



**SEN. SUSAN COLLINS** questioned why Trump budget only requested one BIW destroyer

### TODAY'S ALMANAC

May 13, 2026

Today is the 133rd day of 2026. There are 232 days left in the year.

#### Today in history:

On May 13, 1846, the United States Congress formally declared war against Mexico, following battles along the disputed U.S.-Mexico border in the preceding weeks; the Mexican-American War would continue for nearly two years until the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in February 1848.

#### Also on this date:

In 1940, in his first speech to the House of Commons as British prime minister, Winston Churchill said, "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat."

In 1973, in tennis' first so-called "Battle of the Sexes," Bobby Riggs defeated Margaret Court 6-2, 6-1 in Ramona, California. (Billie Jean King soundly defeated Riggs at the Houston Astrodome later that year.)

#### Today's Birthdays:

Actor Harvey Keitel is 87. Musician Stevie Wonder is 76. Screenwriter-producer David Simon ("The Wire") is 67.

### INDEX

- Advice/TV ..... C5
- Business ..... C1
- Classified ..... D5
- Comics ..... C4
- Crossword ..... C4
- Horoscope ..... C5
- Letters ..... A4
- Local & State ..... B1
- Opinion ..... A4
- Scoreboard ..... D4
- Sports ..... D1

Volume 123, Number 95



© Copyright 2026  
 Maine Trust for Local News



Maine Game Warden Justin Beal talks with a Strong firefighter on Dustin Road in Avon, a few miles from where authorities were investigating a plane crash in which a game warden was killed Tuesday. (PHOTOS BY RUSS DILLINGHAM/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

## Veteran Maine game warden dies in Franklin County plane crash



Forest Ranger Lisa Byers heads to a helicopter Tuesday at the Lindbergh Airport in Avon.

Authorities confirm that pilot Joshua Tibbetts, 50, was alone in the plane when it crashed Tuesday morning in Avon.

By QUENTIN BLAIS and ETHAN HORTON  
 Staff Writers

A Maine Warden Service pilot died Tuesday in a plane crash near Schoolhouse Pond in Avon, said Mark Latti, spokesperson for the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

Joshua Tibbetts was alone in the plane at the time of the crash. Emer-

gency crews confirmed Tibbetts' death upon arriving at the scene, and his remains have been transported to the Office of Chief Medical Examiner in Augusta, Latti said.

He was working with Inland Fisheries and Wildlife crews to stock fish in western Maine's waterways — a routine

Please see **CRASH**, Page A6

## A report outlines goals for boosting Maine's economy by 2035. Here are four takeaways.

By KELLEY BOUCHARD  
 Staff Writer

SACO — Maine businesses are keen to grow and invest in their operations, but they need a more predictable environment and more workers to make it happen, according to a report released Tuesday by the Maine State Chamber of Commerce and the Maine Development Foundation.

"Maine Economic Vision

2035" lays out priorities to boost business competitiveness, lower housing costs and increase wages 20% within the next decade.

Four major goals outlined in the report are designed to ensure that both workers and businesses succeed, said Heather Johnson, the report's author and a former commissioner of

Please see **GOALS**, Page A6



Portland's North Deering neighborhood. A new report says Maine must reduce zoning and regulatory barriers to ease the housing crisis. (GREGORY REC/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)