ASK MAINE AUDUBON: Northern finches are moving into Maine for winter / **B2**

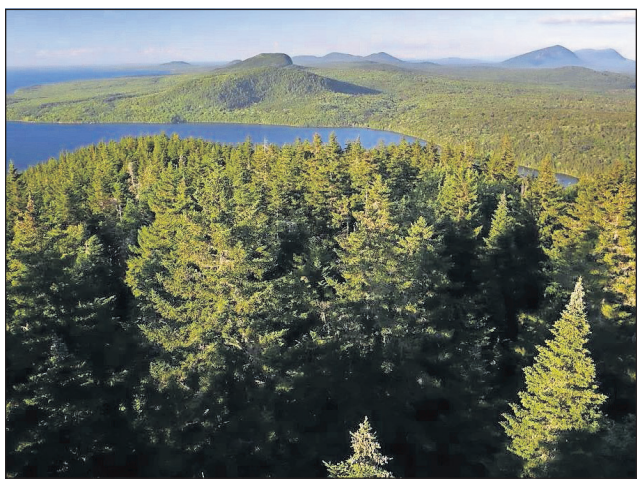
$3.50
Monday, November 9, 2026

Morning Sentinel

WEATHER: **Mostly cloudy**
High 53°
Details, B8

CentralMaine.com

An edition of Central Maine Sunday



In March, the Maine Forest Service introduced the WoodsWISE Resilience Program, which supports private woodland owners. (ROBERT F. BUKATY/ ASSOCIATED PRESS)

Maine looks to the forests to achieve its climate goals

A new Maine Forest Service program encourages landowners to practice climate-focused stewardship and reimburses them for some of the costs.

By NICOLE WILLIAMS
Inside Climate News

As the most heavily forested state in the country, about 94 percent of Maine's forests are privately owned, so focusing on their carbon benefits has both immediate ecological and economic effects.

By creating specific programs and collaborations, the state has been strategic in using its resources to reach its climate goals and has made thoughtful partnerships for years ahead. The story of Maine demonstrates how individuals can collectively make a greater impact and how international alliances can contribute toward global stewardship.

In a four-year climate action plan called "Maine Won't Wait," the state sets out four

Please see **FORESTS,** Page A8

INSIDE

■ **UN'S DEPARTING** chief refers to upcoming climate talks as 'a moment of truth' / ***B8***

Trump, Democrats face tough choices on economy

The president and Congress must also confront concerns over deficits, AI, tariffs and Social Security.

By JOSH BOAK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Voters have sent a strong election-year message to the new Democratic congressional majority and President Donald Trump: Repair the damage inflation has done to the economy.

Trump, who campaigned on the idea that a Democratic victory in the midterms would trigger a 1929-style economic depression, has maintained that the economy is booming. Since his party lost in Tuesday's voting, he has claimed he is willing to work with Democrats in the House and Senate, though that's not something he has done much of in the past.

"I'll get along, probably, with the Democrats, unless they want to be destructive," Trump told reporters last week.

After Friday's strong jobs report showed employers adding 165,000 jobs and the unemployment rate dipping to 4.1%, Trump was defiant. "Democrats may control Congress, but I will NEVER stop fighting for you, and I will VETO anything that hurts America," he said in a text message to his supporters.

Democrats are seeking to check Trump's power and are preparing for early fights on government spending. Other challenges include chronic budget deficits, tariffs, artificial intelligence and difficult choices about a Social

Please see **ECONOMY,** Page A7



Molly Magdelena, left, of Stem Bolt Arts shows off her handmade art pieces to Celeste Giannelli, right, and Liz Gaudette, both of Biddeford, on Sunday at Maker's Market at Cherry Hill Place in Gorham. (PHOTOS BY DEREK DAVIS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

In Gorham, they're crafting an early start to the holiday season

The **Cherry Hill Place Maker's Market** gave visitors an early jump at shopping as local vendors gear up for the their busiest seasons.



Leslee Mansdoerfer, of Saco, looks at jewelry while carrying her 3-month-old son, Myles, at Sunday's market.

By ISABELLE OSS
Staff Writer

GORHAM — Sydney Hobart watched potential customers scan her bright red greeting cards at the Cherry Hill Place Maker's Market on Sunday. They chuckled, reading the quippy, festive quotes on the front.

"Three wise men? Be serious," one read. Next to it, "Peace on Earth? Let's start with the family and see how it goes."

Hobart, who owns a small craft business called Salty Handmade Goods, was one of a few dozen vendors selling goods at the market as hundreds of visitors got an early jump on their holiday shopping.

Hosted by Cherry Hill Place and local market coordinator, PL&H Makers, the event boasted more than 40 local vendors, food trucks and a bar to keep shoppers warm as the holiday chill sets in. Until Dec. 20, a rotating cast of local artists will sell their wares every Sunday, including a two-day event after Thanksgiving.

A live musician sat in the corner, serenading shoppers in the market's second weekend ever as they perused the booths. Not all her fellow vendors have leaned into the holiday season quite yet, but Hobart said getting an early start has already made her a big hit in her second year selling her crochet goods.

"This is the first time I've done cards and ornaments and stickers,

Please see **MARKET,** Page A8

Leadership vacuum at AI safety center raises independence concerns

Staff at the Center for Advancing Innovation and Standards for Super Intelligence are being asked to report to the White House.

By GARANCE BURKE
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — With public anxiety growing over mounting reports about out-of-control artificial intelligence agents, the tiny U.S. government division charged with assessing the safety of new AI offerings lacks a permanent leader and has stopped publishing its research.

Officials with the Center for Advancing Innovation and Standards for Super Intelligence, or CAISSI, an independent division of the Commerce Department, recently were asked to informally report to an office of the White House. That's according to two former government officials with knowledge of the ongoing conversations who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to avoid repercussions for current staffers.

The new arrangement concerns some critics, who worry that the executive branch might be politicizing decisions that could affect everything from cybersecurity to bioweapons and that the center's findings could be altered or muted in deference to the tech industry, which has been largely entrusted to police itself.

"These are really powerful institutions that can

Please see **AI,** Page A7



Open AI CEO Sam Altman speaks at the OpenAI DevDay 2026 conference in September in San Francisco. (JEFF CHIU/ASSOCIATED PRESS)

INDEX

Advice B5
Classified B7
Comics B4
Crossword B4
Horoscope B5
Local & State A2
Opinion A6
Sports B1
World/Nation A2, 4

Volume 123, Number 223
MS DAILY
6 16198 20075 9

© Copyright 2026
Maine Trust for Local News