

\$3.25
Monday,
December 22, 2025

Portland Press Herald

WEATHER:
Sunny, windy
and cold
High 26°
Details, B6

pressherald.com



The Office of the Maine Attorney General, with Aaron Frey at the helm, said it will share its spending data with the Maine Opioid Settlement Support Center at the University of Southern Maine. (GARRICK HOFFMAN/THE MAINE MONITOR)

AG’s office negotiated opioid settlements but has the fewest reporting requirements

The state agency has no formal distribution process and says it can respond ‘quickly and creatively’ to urgent funding requests.

By EMILY BADER
The Maine Monitor

Over the past five years, the attorney general’s office, with Aaron Frey at the helm, has

secured for Maine more than \$260 million in settlements with major pharmaceutical companies accused of “supercharging” the opioid epidemic. It has overseen the settlements’ distribution and contributed to efforts to help a state council and local governments spend their shares deliberately and transparently. Yet information about how

the attorney general’s office — which is receiving a fifth of Maine’s funds — is itself making spending decisions has been limited. Data obtained by The Maine Monitor and published publicly here for the first time shows that the AG’s office has spent \$10 million of the \$17.2 million it has received so far, with more than half going to the Depart-

ment of Health and Human Services. The money is intended to address the harms caused by a drug epidemic that has claimed thousands of lives in Maine by supporting prevention and harm reduction efforts and treatment and recovery programs. The settlements include

Please see **AG**, Page A6

Official: Another oil tanker pursued by the US

The Coast Guard chase comes after the seizing of other vessels linked to Venezuela.

By AAMER MADHANI
Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — The U.S. Coast Guard on Sunday was pursuing another sanctioned oil tanker in the Caribbean Sea as the Trump administration appeared to be intensifying its targeting of such vessels connected to the Venezuelan government.

The pursuit of the tanker, which was confirmed by a U.S. official briefed on the operation, comes after the U.S. administration announced Saturday it had seized a tanker for the second time in less than two weeks.

The official, who was not authorized to comment publicly about the ongoing operation and spoke on the condition of anonymity, said Sunday’s pursuit involved “a sanctioned dark fleet vessel that is part of Venezuela’s illegal sanctions evasion.”

The official said the vessel was flying a false flag and under a judicial seizure order.

The Pentagon and Department of Homeland Security, which oversees the U.S. Coast Guard, deferred questions about the operation to the White House, which did not offer comment on the operation.

Saturday’s predawn seizure of a Panama-flagged vessel called Centuries targeted what the White House described as a

Please see **TANKER**, Page A3

INDEX

Advice/TV	B4
Classified.....	B5
Comics.....	B3
Crossword.....	B3
Horoscope.....	B4
Lottery.....	A2
Opinion.....	A5
Public Notices.....	B5
Sports.....	B1

Volume 164, Number 155

PPH DAILY



© Copyright 2025
Maine Trust for Local News

‘WE TRY TO GIVE BACK’



Terry Capuano, executive director of St. Martin De Porres in Lewiston, unpacks bags of fresh produce on Thursday from Little Ridge Farm in Lisbon Falls. The food was brought by a volunteer with the Androscoggin Gleaners, a group of volunteers who take fresh produce donated by farms to local community organizations. Capuano said none of it will go to waste, as it’s more appreciated by the shelter’s residents than the alternative of canned vegetables. (PHOTOS BY LIBBY KAMROWSKI KENNY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

Lisbon Falls farm uses leftover crops help hungry neighbors



Little Ridge Farm owner Keena Tracy harvests fresh tatsoi Thursday. The crop, similar to bok choy, is one of multiple grown in the warm environment of the high tunnel greenhouse.

Amid an uptick in need for food assistance, ‘gleaning’ is helping bridge the gap in several Maine counties.

By CHRISTOPHER WHELOCK
Staff Writer

LISBON — Fresh vegetables bound for people in need in Lewiston and Lisbon on Thursday were exchanged at Little Ridge Farm in Lisbon Falls.

It’s part of a gleaning project that takes place all over Maine and is a collaboration of farmers, the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, a network of volunteer gleaners, businesses, and schools. Gleaning has been around as long as farming. The leftover,

or not-quite-perfect-looking crops, in a farmer’s field are gathered and distributed to people who may not have access to fresh produce.

Little Ridge Farm owner Keena Tracy says her relationship with Androscoggin Gleaners is multifaceted, and a win for everyone involved.

“Several times throughout the season we give them a shout if we have extra produce in the fields that we don’t have a direct place for them to go ... it’s excess, generally. Or, we just feel like sharing something, we give them a call and they come and harvest it.”

Please see **FARM**, Page A3

This canned holiday staple was invented by a Mainer – and people have strong opinions

The debate over canned versus fresh cranberry sauce continues to rage across holiday food-laden tables.

By TIM CEBULA
Staff Writer

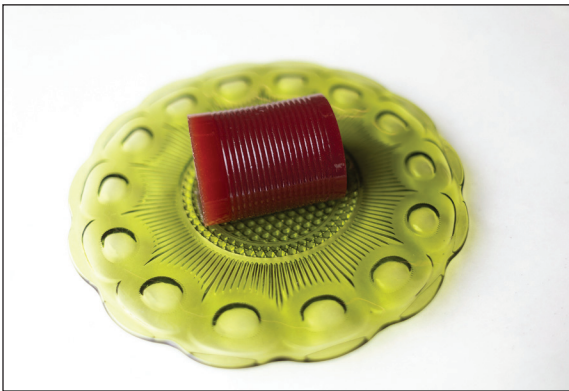
The holiday season is a time of year when people typically put aside their petty differences. But the debate over fresh vs. canned cranberry sauce is the culinary civil war that never ends.

Since home cooks figured out how to properly make Brussels sprouts in the past couple of decades, canned cranberry sauce may be the most divisive foodstuff on the holiday table. Though

obviously a much more critical part of the Thanksgiving feast, cranberry sauce — both canned and fresh — still makes plenty of appearances at Christmastime.

Heather Armstrong, of Etna, serves her homemade cranberry sauce with duck at special December dinners, uses it to make her cranberry crumb bars, and also likes to spread it on crackers.

“To be honest, I would make the bars with canned in a pinch, but I always choose fresh when given the choice for anything with cranberry sauce,” said Armstrong, whose husband, Charles — a cranberry professional at the University of Maine Cooperative



Ocean Spray Jellied Cranberry Sauce may be the most divisive holiday foodstuff. It was also invented by a Mainer. (DEREK DAVIS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

Extension — no doubt supports her in this.

The other side is dug in just as deep. “Give me ridges or give me death,” said Eliza Matheson,

of Cape Elizabeth, referring to the iconic, can-molded grooves around each jiggly log.

Please see **SAUCE**, Page A6