

Portland Press Herald

\$3.25
Friday,
February 20, 2026

WEATHER:
Scattered
snow showers
High 36°
Details, C8

pressherald.com



State representatives work last month in the House chamber of the State House in Augusta. On Thursday, members talked about using state funds for lawmakers' security. (JOE PHELAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

LAWMAKERS MAY GIVE THEMSELVES FUNDING FOR PERSONAL SECURITY

The shootings of elected officials and political figures around the country serve as the backdrop for two new Democratic proposals to bolster personal protective measures.

By **BILLY KOBIN**
Staff Writer

Maine lawmakers could soon sign off on several measures to improve security for themselves and family members in the wake of high-profile killings of political figures in the past year. Proposals from Democrats

would give lawmakers money to install security systems at their homes and would allow elected officials to remove their addresses from public records or government websites. They are responses to various fatal shootings, assassinations and threats that have affected law-

makers around the country. Last year, a man impersonating a police officer killed former Minnesota House Speaker Melissa Hortman and her husband at their home and also wounded a state senator and his wife at their residence.

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■ **RELATED STORY:** Police investigating 'suspicious package' sent to Maine Republican Party headquarters / A5

TODAY'S ALMANAC

February 20, 2026

Today is the 51st day of 2026. There are 314 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Feb. 20, 1962, astronaut John Glenn became the first American to orbit the Earth, circling the globe three times aboard Project Mercury's Friendship 7 spacecraft in a flight lasting 4 hours and 55 minutes before splashing down safely in the Atlantic Ocean.

Also on this date:

In 1792, President George Washington signed an act creating the United States Post Office Department, the predecessor of the U.S. Postal Service.

In 1862, William Wallace Lincoln, the 11-year-old son of President Abraham Lincoln and first lady Mary Todd Lincoln, died at the White House from what was believed to be typhoid fever.

In 1905, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Jacobson v. Massachusetts*, upheld, 7-2, compulsory vaccination laws intended to protect the public's health.

In 2003, a fire sparked by pyrotechnics broke out during a concert by the rock group Great White at The Station nightclub in West Warwick, Rhode Island, killing 100 people and injuring over 200 others.

Today's birthdays: Racing Hall of Famer Roger Penske is 89. Hockey Hall of Famer Phil Esposito is 84. Republican Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky is 84. Film director Mike Leigh is 83. Actor Brenda Blethyn is 80. Actor Sandy Duncan is 80. Basketball Hall of Famer Charles Barkley is 63. Model Cindy Crawford is 60. Actor Andrew Shue is 59. Actor Lili Taylor is 59. Singer Brian Littrell (Backstreet Boys) is 51. Actor Lauren Ambrose is 48. Actor Jay Hernandez is 48. MLB pitcher Justin Verlander is 43. Comedian-TV host Trevor Noah is 42. Actor Miles Teller is 39. Singer Rihanna is 38. Singer-actor Olivia Rodrigo is 23.



The washout of a bridge on Route 16 between Rangeley and Stratton in the December 2023 "Grinch Storm" closed a vital logging truck route and forced truckers to use an 80-mile detour. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO/PROFESSIONAL LOGGING CONTRACTORS)

MAINE FOREST SERVICE URGES LOGGERS: Adapt to extreme weather

By **PENELOPE OVERTON**
Staff Writer

With winters growing more unpredictable, the Maine Forest Service has issued guidance to help the state's loggers, foresters and woodlot owners navigate the new era of extreme weather.

The 42-page handbook acknowledges a stark reality for people who earn their living in the Maine woods: the traditional methods are often no longer

enough to handle the unseasonable thaws and heavy rains that are increasingly common in a changing climate. "Extreme weather events aren't just more frequent and more severe but are inevitable," the guide warns. "Being prepared for these events with the tools and ideas described in this manual is a good start."

Failure to adapt would have economic as well as environmental consequences. Washed-out roads stall harvests for an industry that is already suffer-

ing razor-thin profit margins. Meanwhile, unchecked runoff can scar the forest floor and choke trout streams with sediment.

Maine's \$582 million a year logging industry has been under stress due to low demand, reduced markets, shrinking operational capacity and high equipment costs, according to Dana

Please see **LOGGING**, Page A8

Selective bonuses generate complaints at Portsmouth shipyard

Some civilian workers at the government-owned facility in Kittery recently got bonuses of up to \$25,000 from the Department of Defense. Others did not — and they're not happy about it.

By **KELLEY BOUCHARD**
Staff Writer

The Department of Defense recently awarded bonuses as high as \$25,000 to the "top 15% of performers" among civilian workers at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard — a process that is generating complaints of favoritism and discrimination for the lack of clear criteria in

choosing recipients.

The Trump administration rolled out the bonus program in December as a way to recognize "our very best civilians with meaningful monetary awards" across the department, including at the government-owned shipyard in Kittery.

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US WOMEN WIN ICE HOCKEY GOLD

Hilary Knight, No. 21 at right, celebrates after scoring an equalizer during a women's ice hockey gold medal game between the United States and Canada at the 2026 Winter Olympics, in Milan, Italy, Thursday. The U.S. won in overtime. Read all about it in **Sports, D1**



(PETR DAVID JOSEK/ASSOCIATED PRESS)

New Trump administration order could lead to detention of thousands of legal refugees

By **STEVE KARNOWSKI**
and **TIM SULLIVAN**
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — The Trump administration has issued a sweeping new order that could lead to the arrest of tens of thousands of refugees who are lawfully in the United States but do not yet have permanent residency, over-

turning years of legal and

immigration safeguards. A memo filed by the Department of Homeland Security ahead of a Thursday federal court hearing in Minnesota says refugees

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