

Maine Sunday Telegram

\$5.00
Sunday,
July 5, 2026

WEATHER:
Partly cloudy
and cooler
High 77°
Details, B8

EST.
1862



A Bath Iron Works ship off South End Park in Bath. BIW employs over 6,800 people, who were paid a total of \$508 million in 2025, according to company reports. Last year, BIW also spent \$122 million with 246 vendors and suppliers across Maine, sharing some of the \$2.1 billion in defense contracts awarded in fiscal 2023. (PHOTOS BY BRIANNA SOUKUP/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

Community joins fight to keep its birthing center open

MaineHealth Lincoln Hospital in Damariscotta is considering closing its maternity ward by year's end. But a grassroots resistance has become vocal.

By JOE LAWLOR
Staff Writer

DAMARISCOTTA — Leah Hurwitz said if it hadn't been for the local hospital being a short drive from her home, she wouldn't be the mother of a 7-month-old girl.

Hurwitz said she almost didn't make it to MaineHealth Lincoln Hospital when she started going into labor at 2:30 a.m. on Nov. 19. Once there, her daughter Veda was breech, delivered feet first.

"Her head got stuck on the way out," she said. "A lot of things went wrong."

Veda lost oxygen for seven minutes and, after birth, was transferred from the hospital in Damariscotta to Maine Medical Center in Portland, where she spent 15 days in intensive care, Hurwitz said.

"This was literally life or death," she said, adding she wouldn't have Veda if it weren't for her local hospital. "I don't know if I would be here."

Lincoln Hospital is about nine miles from Hurwitz's home in Round Pond. The next-closest hospitals from there are in Brunswick and Rockport, both about a 50-minute drive. Driving that far, she said, would have threatened both of their lives.

A recent proposal under consideration by Lincoln Hospital officials to shutter the birthing center

Please see **BIRTHING**, Page A12



Jamie Wallace, left, and Leah Hurwitz with their daughter Veda on June 24 in Damariscotta. Hurwitz, of Round Pond, says the proximity of MaineHealth Lincoln Hospital was crucial during Veda's problematic birth. (JOE PHELAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

MAINE ECONOMY FUELED BY BILLIONS IN DEFENSE CONTRACTS

Hundreds of Maine companies, large and small, share in the surprising breadth of military spending each year in communities across the state.

By KELLEY BOUCHARD
Staff Writer

The lunch rush is on at Allard's Market & Deli in North Berwick. Owner Tom Allard is cranking out burgers, subs and pizza slices for hungry customers, as he has for 37 years.

Andrew Patneau is waiting for his buffalo chicken wrap. He works at Pratt & Whitney, a military and commercial jet engine maker just down the road. He's here nearly every day.

7 defense contractors in Maine you probably didn't know about
READ MORE, A9

Patneau admits he hasn't really considered Pratt & Whitney's wider economic impact — beyond his attractive salary and benefits. Median pay for his job is about \$40 an hour. But he recognizes his role as one of more than 2,300 employees at the Raytheon-owned plant and thousands of other Mainers who work for defense contractors.

"There's a lot of money running through that place, and it's important work being done," said Patneau, 39, of Sebago. "There's a huge sense of pride, but I just play a small part."

All told, there are about 300 defense contractors in Maine, including compa-



Tom Allard, owner of Allard's Market for 37 years, puts ready-made lunches into the warmer at his business in North Berwick last month. Workers from nearby Pratt & Whitney, one of Maine's largest defense contractors, "have been a big part of our business through the years," he says.

nies that provide cleaning and food services to military programs, in addition to the well-known players such as Pratt & Whitney, General Dynamics-Bath Iron Works and Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in nearby Kittery.

Allard's Market is among hundreds of additional businesses that benefited indirectly from \$4.6 billion that the U.S. Department of Defense spent in Maine in the 2024 budget year, according to the most recent data from the federal Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation.

That was 4.7% of the state's gross domestic product (GDP), putting Maine at No. 9 in the nation by that measure. It's an investment of outsized importance to the state's economy, especially since Maine's share of total U.S. defense spending was just 0.6% and ranked No. 31 nationally. The ripple effect of that cash infusion benefits hundreds of other businesses and over 20,000 Maine workers — and experts say there's opportunity for growth.

Please see **DEFENSE**, Page A7

The essence of Maine found in 40 OBJECTS

By RAY ROUTHIER
and LESLIE BRIDGERS
Staff Writers

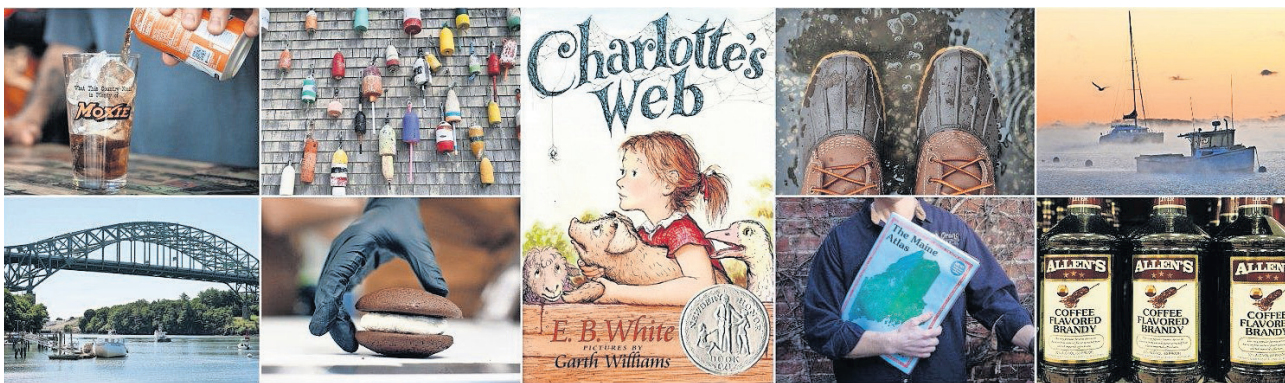
How does one explain Maine?

Lots of people do it with flowery prose about the state's natural beauty or the rugged individualists who settled the land. But for those of us who live and work in Maine, the state is revealed to us everyday in the things we use and see: L.L.Bean boots, whoopie pies, cribbage boards, the Piscataqua River Bridge, a Maine Italian sandwich, Katahdin, blaze orange hats.

As the country celebrates its 250th anniversary this summer, we've compiled a list of 40 things we think

We've compiled a list — though it's far from exhaustive — of everyday things that reveal the distinctive character of the state's people, history and culture.

THE COMPLETE LIST
appears on **Pages A4-5**



help define and explain Maine, past and present. But paring the list was not easy.

We debated, for instance,

the definition of an object. Mount Desert Island, home of Acadia National Park, is world-famous and closely linked to Maine's

history and lore. But is an island an object? We thought about the quirky Maine County Song, which Maine school kids have

memorized for decades as a way to learn about the state's 16 counties.

Some items we left off the list might seem obvi-

ous, like clams and lobsters. But we do have lobster boats and lobster rolls. We also left off some other prominent places, like the 1807 Portland Observatory or the Paris Hill and Bangor homes of Abraham Lincoln's first vice president, Hannibal Hamlin. They are certainly all part of Maine's story.

So this list is in no way exhaustive, because that would be an impossible task. But it is an initial stab at identifying some of the things that say "Maine" to us. Let us know what you might add to the list.

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