

\$4.25
Friday,
August 7, 2026

Portland Press Herald

WEATHER:
Mostly sunny
and hot
High 87°
Details, B6

pressherald.com

Board votes to close Lincoln Hospital birthing center



Labor and delivery services at MaineHealth Lincoln Hospital in Damariscotta will transition to Brunswick starting on Dec. 18. (JOE PHELAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

Despite legal, political and grassroots efforts to forestall the decision by MaineHealth trustees, the Damariscotta facility will become the 12th maternity ward to shutter in Maine since 2015.

By JOE LAWLOR
Staff Writer

The MaineHealth board of trustees voted on Thursday to close the Lincoln Hospital birthing center in Damariscotta, despite calls from politicians for a delay and a grassroots campaign urging the health system to keep the ward open.

Labor and delivery services at the hospital will transition to MaineHealth Mid Coast Hospital in Brunswick starting on Dec. 18, according to a news release from the health system. The maternity ward

is poised to become the 12th to shutter in Maine since 2015, as the state deals with low birth volumes and workforce shortages.

The board “committed that MaineHealth will not close any additional labor and delivery programs anywhere in the health system during the next two years,” MaineHealth said in a news release. It also said the board “calls upon the next governor and Legislature” to “identify solutions to the challenges of labor and delivery services in rural communities.”

A lawsuit filed against MaineHealth on Wednesday by Corrinna Stum, a Newcastle resident who is pregnant and due to give birth in January, attempted to prevent the board’s vote. Joe Baldacci, one of the attorneys representing Stum, said a Lincoln County Superior Court justice denied that request.

The lawsuit, which is also seeking a permanent injunction against the health system to prevent it from closing the maternity ward, will

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TODAY’S
ALMANAC

August 7, 2026

Today is the 219th day of 2026. There are 146 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Aug. 7, 1974, French high-wire artist Philippe Petit performed an unapproved tightrope walk between the two towers of the World Trade Center in New York, over 1,300 feet above the ground; the event was chronicled in the Academy Award-winning documentary “Man on Wire.”

Also on this date:

In 1942, U.S. and other allied forces landed at Guadalcanal, marking the start of the first major allied offensive in the Pacific during World War II.

In 1964, Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin resolution, giving President Lyndon B. Johnson broad powers in dealing with reported North Vietnamese attacks on U.S. forces.

In 1971, the Apollo 15 moon mission ended successfully as its command module splashed down in the Pacific Ocean.

In 1978, President Jimmy Carter declared the Love Canal environmental disaster in Niagara Falls, N.Y., a federal health emergency; it would later top the initial list of Superfund cleanup sites.

In 1989, a plane carrying U.S. Rep. Mickey Leland, D-Texas, and 15 others disappeared over Ethiopia. (The wreckage of the plane was found six days later; there were no survivors.)

In 1990, President George H.W. Bush ordered U.S. troops and warplanes to Saudi Arabia to guard the oil-rich desert kingdom against a possible invasion by Iraq.

In 1998, terrorist bombs at U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania killed 224 people, including 12 Americans.

In 2007, San Francisco’s Barry Bonds hit home run No. 756 to break Hank Aaron’s storied record with one out in the fifth inning of a game against the Washington Nationals, who won, 8-6.



The Capitol dome looms over athletes participating in the Ironman 70.3 Maine triathlon on July 26 in Augusta. This is the last mile of the cycling leg before competitors transition to the 13.1-mile run. (PHOTOS BY LIBBY KAMROWSKI KENNY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

WHEN ALL YOU WANT TO DO IS TRI

Dreaming of and training for the Ironman 70.3 Maine triathlon, **Colby College student Charley DiAdamo** didn’t quite get the race she wanted, but it was the one she needed.

By CHARLEY DIADAMO
Staff Writer

“It doesn’t hurt,” I sobbed, referring to my unnaturally bent left arm.

Actually, it did hurt. A lot. But that wasn’t why I was crying in an urgent care center three days after moving into my Portland apartment, the same day I started my summer internship at the Portland Press Herald, and about 56 minutes after I bought my new bike.

I was crying because I was seeing four months of training, and well over a year of dreaming, go down the drain. Because I was scared and in urgent care with a roommate I had met two days prior. Because I was seeing my perfect Maine summer disappear before my eyes as they put the soft

cast around my elbow.

I played competitive sports from a young age through prep school at home in Massachusetts. They were a defining part of my life. When I started at Colby College three years ago, I needed something to fill the hole, so I just kept training.

I ran my first marathon this spring but decided that wasn’t enough. Ironman 70.3 Maine, in Augusta, was four months after the marathon. A 1.2-mile swim, followed by a 56-mile bike ride, followed by a 13.1-mile run through the Kennebec Valley. I signed up.

I started training in the winter, amidst classes and working as a freelancer, hoping

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Charley DiAdamo, a Press Herald intern, nears the finish of the Ironman 70.3 Maine, where she competed on a relay team.

Maine Matters 2026

Teachers union in Maine endorses Hannah Pingree

The Democratic gubernatorial candidate pledges to sustain 55% state funding for schools and says she’d aspire to raise the minimum salary for teachers more quickly if elected.



Hannah Pingree speaks at the Maine Education Association headquarters in Augusta. (JOE PHELAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

By RACHEL OHM
Staff Writer

AUGUSTA — The Maine teachers union endorsed Hannah Pingree in the race for governor Thursday, giving the Democratic candidate an opportunity to lay out some of her top priorities for schools.

During a news conference outside Maine Education Association headquarters, Pingree said that, if elected, she would continue to have the state fund 55% of the cost of education. She also would try to raise teacher salaries more quickly.

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Bobby Charles wants to expand Maine’s homestead exemption — a program he doesn’t use

The Republican’s campaign says he hadn’t capitalized on the exemption because of an accounting oversight.

By RACHEL OHM
Staff Writer

Bobby Charles, the Republican candidate for Maine governor, sits behind the wheel of his SUV in a new ad, pointing out that his vehicle is from 2015 and has 260,000 miles on it.

It still runs better than the Democratic state government, he says, going on to raise concerns about property taxes, energy costs and

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“I’m going to cut your property taxes by raising the homestead exemption,” says the Republican gubernatorial candidate. (RICH ABRAHAMSON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

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