

Bangor Daily News

Statewide edition

BDN bangordailynews.com

Thursday, October 15, 2020 \$1.25

The towns that will decide a tight race in Dist. 2

White House hopefuls seek to win lone elector

BY CAITLIN ANDREWS
BDN STAFF

RUMFORD — In his 83 years, Francis Jannace has seen major economic and political changes in his hometown. Businesses have come and gone along Congress Street, a downtown artery near the paper mill on a rugged portion of the Androscoggin River.

That mill helped Rumford grow to more than 10,000 people in the middle of the last century. The Oxford County hub now has less than 6,000 today. In 1980, the mill employed about 1,200 union workers. It hums now with about half, but it is still so intertwined with the town that a September coronavirus outbreak there led businesses and schools to briefly shut down.

That history informs the compelling politics of Rumford. The historic Democratic stronghold is one of 52 Maine cities and towns to vote for Republican President Donald Trump in 2016 only to flip two years later to help Democratic U.S. Rep. Jared Golden win a narrow race in Maine's 2nd Congressional District.

Rumford and towns like it will be crucial to whether Trump can again carry the one elector from the district. He won it by 10 percentage points in 2016, but polls this year have him lagging former Vice President Joe Biden nationally with the two tied in the 2nd District. It is the closest of any race for an elector in the nation, according to a model from Decision Desk HQ.

Jannace did not vote for Trump in 2016, though he appreciated his handling of the trade war with China. The president won while railing against trade agreements reviled in Rumford and other historic manufacturing centers. But Jannace said Trump's leadership "gradually fell apart."

"He promised a change," he said. "He looked like he could turn things around, but it didn't work out."

Golden outran his party's 2016 presidential nominee all across the 2nd District, but he did best in Rumford and other western areas of Maine, in his home area of Lewiston and Auburn and the St. John Valley. All of those are historic Democratic strongholds where Republicans including former Gov. Paul LePage did well in recent years. *See 2nd District, Page A6*



ANNA MONEYMAKER | THE NEW YORK TIMES VIA AP POOL
Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett speaks during a confirmation hearing Wednesday before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Barrett keeps Dems at bay during hearing

Nominee says she'll be her own judge on court

BY MARK SHERMAN, LISA MASCARO AND LAURIE KELLMAN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Over and over, Amy Coney Barrett said she'd be her own judge if confirmed to the Supreme Court. But she was careful in two long days of Senate testimony not to take on the president who nominated her, and she sought to create distance between herself and past positions, writings on controversial subjects and even her late mentor.

Barrett's confirmation to the Supreme Court to take the seat of the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg seems inevitable, as even some Senate Democrats acknowl-

edged in Senate hearings on Tuesday and Wednesday. The shift would cement a 6-3 conservative majority on the court and would be the most pronounced ideological change in 30 years, from the liberal icon to the conservative appeals court judge.

The 48-year-old judge skipped past Democrats' pressing questions about ensuring the date of next month's election or preventing voter intimidation, both set in federal law, and the peaceful transfer of presidential power. She also refused to express her view on whether the president can pardon himself. "It's not one that I can offer a view," she said in response to a question Wednesday from Sen. Pat

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TROY R. BENNETT | BDN
A pedestrian walks by the Holy Donut's Exchange Street location in Portland's Old Port on Wednesday. The location will close for good next week. Story on Page B2.

Groups seek to protect Atlantic salmon

Endangered status sought for species

BY JOHN HOLYOKE
BDN STAFF

After being rebuffed by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Maine Department of Marine Resources, a group of conservation groups and individuals is remaining steadfast in its effort to have the state conduct an investigation into whether Atlantic salmon deserve inclusion on the Maine list of endangered species.

In June, that group of 10 groups and six individuals wrote to the DIF&W seeking an investigation. However, a month later in July, DIF&W commissioner Judy Camuso and marine resources commissioner Patrick Keliher replied saying they didn't think state listing was needed, citing ongoing federal Endangered Species Act protection for the species, and cooperation between state, federal and non-governmental organizations on salmon conservation efforts.

Atlantic salmon in most Maine rivers have been protected under the federal Endangered Species Act since 2000. Federal protection was expanded to all Maine Rivers in 2009, with the addition of the Penobscot, Androscoggin and Kennebec rivers. Among the results of the federal listing: Fishing for Atlantic salmon is not allowed on any Maine river.

"A recommendation for state listing of Atlantic salmon by [Department of Marine Resources] does not offer any conservation benefits beyond the existing protections already afforded by federal [Endangered Species Act] and existing state regulations. The listing does however cause a workload issue that does not justify the ends, Absent any specific conservation or fiscal benefits, [Department of Marine Resources] has and continues to decline to list Atlantic salmon," the commissioners wrote in the letter.

On Aug. 28, the group *See Salmon, Page A2*

Maine virus cases on the rise

Experts say increase 'inevitable' with more reopening, time spent inside

BY CHARLES EICHACKER
BDN STAFF

Coronavirus cases have been steadily rebounding in Maine over the last two months, even as the state enters the next phase of its economic reopening and loosened travel restrictions have made it easier for visitors to come here from around the Northeast.

Though case numbers continue to be lower in Maine than in most of the rest of the country, new and active cases of the virus have been climbing since mid-August — as they have been across much of the Northeast, which had kept the virus under relative control during the summer.

The state's seven-day average of new daily COVID-19 cases more than doubled from 15 in mid-August — its lowest point since the start of the pandemic — to around 35 in recent days. However, that rolling average of new daily cases still hasn't ap-

proached the high point of 52 that it hit in late May.

At the same time, new outbreaks have been emerging in less populated areas of the state's interior that saw few cases earlier. While Cumberland, York and Androscoggin counties have accounted for the bulk of Maine's cases throughout the pandemic, new and active cases have recently been rising in more rural Somerset and Kennebec counties.

Since the start of October, Somerset County, home to 3.8 percent of Maine's population, has accounted for 10.6 percent of the state's new cases, while Kennebec County, home to 9.1 percent of Maine residents, has been responsible for 13.5 percent of new cases.

Dr. Peter Millard, a former epidemiology staffer at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and an adjunct professor with the University of New England, thinks the steady rise in cases across Maine was "pretty predictable" after an

Aug. 7 wedding in the Millinocket area sparked the state's largest COVID-19 outbreak and contributed to at least two secondary outbreaks, including one that infected 87 people connected to the York County Jail.

While Millard credited the administration of Gov. Janet Mills with "trying to thread the needle and not be overly restrictive" as it loosens business restrictions, he also warned that a continued uptick in new cases may be "inevitable" as the economy keeps reopening.

In addition to a steady number of outbreaks, Nirav Shah, director of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, sees two other reasons for the steady rise in cases since mid-August. One of them is the state's ramped up ability to test for the virus, which has allowed it to detect the virus more easily as schools have resumed classes for the fall and people have started spending more time indoors.

See Virus, Page A7

Calais hospital no longer needs watchdog, rules judge

BY CHARLES EICHACKER
BDN STAFF

A judge has dismissed a court-appointed watchdog who was overseeing the patient care at Calais Regional Hospital after state officials found the facility had made a number of improvements since last spring.

That ombudsman was appointed to monitor the hospital early in April as part of its ongoing Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceeding. The

court agreed to the appointment after state health officials raised alarm about the Down East hospital's ability to handle the spread of the coronavirus after an emergency room doctor was unable to intubate a patient who was having trouble breathing.

But at the beginning of October, state officials proposed terminating the ombudsman, a health care consultant based in Belfast, after his reports showed patient care was not declining and that the hos-

pital had made a number of improvements. Last week, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Michael Fagone agreed to the termination.

In his initial report in June, ombudsman Jeffrey Brown identified several shortcomings in patient care at Calais Regional Hospital, including delays for those seeking breast cancer screenings, billing mistakes that were time-consuming to fix and poor communication between management and front-line workers.

As Brown was putting together that first report, the hospital warned it might have to close by the summer without outside funding and lay off 10 percent of its workforce, due to steep revenue shortfalls stemming from delaying nonessential services during the coronavirus pandemic.

The hospital has not confirmed how many workers it laid off in late April, and Brown did not specifically reference the layoffs in *See Hospital, Page A7*



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Maine court mulls post-election counts of absentee ballots

MAINE PUBLIC

The Maine Supreme Judicial Court is deciding whether absentee ballots received up to two days after the election should be counted.

The court heard arguments from several groups that seek an opinion.

Lawyers for the Alliance for Retired Americans and other groups said that Maine has unique provisions in its constitution that ensure not only the right to vote, but also the safety of its citizens.

Zachary Heiden of the American Civil Liberties Union of Maine said that the COVID-19 pandemic has created a health risk for voters that warrants changing the deadlines for receiving and counting ballots. "They're not doing it for

the reason that people often vote absentee through the mail, which is convenience," Heiden said. "But rather, they are doing it for safety. They are doing it to protect their health, the health of their family, the health of their community."

Current law requires absentee ballots be returned to the local clerk by 8 p.m. on Election Day. But Heiden said because of mail delivery slowdowns at the U.S. Postal Service, the court should allow ballots received two days after the election to be counted.

The law court said it will expedite its consideration of the request, given the election is less than three weeks away.

This article appears through a media partnership with Maine Public.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 15, 1981, as reported in the Bangor Daily News, an official at Eastern Maine Medical Center said a steering committee would be formed to look into the establishment of Maine's first Ronald McDonald House, which would assist cancer-stricken children, their families, and others undergoing treatment at the hospital. McDonald's restaurants in Maine said they favored a home in Bangor and would commit "a minimum of \$100,000" to the project.

On this date:

In 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte, the deposed Emperor of the French, arrived on the British-ruled South Atlantic island of St. Helena, where he spent the last 5 1/2 years of his life in exile.

In 1917, Dutch exotic dancer Mata Hari (Margaretha ZelleGeertruida MacLeod), 41, convicted by a French military court of spying for the Germans, was executed by a firing squad outside Paris. (Maintaining her innocence to the end, Mata Hari refused a blindfold and blew a kiss to her executioners.)

In 1940, Charles Chaplin's first all-talking comedy, "The Great Dictator," a lampoon of Adolf Hitler, opened in New York.

In 1945, the former premier of Vichy France, Pierre Laval, was executed for treason.

In 1946, Nazi war criminal Hermann Goering fatally poisoned himself hours before he was to have been executed.

Salmon

Continued from Page A1

responded to that rejection with another letter, further explaining why it thought that state protection was essential.

"The undersigned groups and individuals believe Maine is not doing enough to prevent the extinction of this iconic keystone species. Our goal is to provide increased protections for Atlantic salmon to facilitate their recovery. While Atlantic salmon may technically fall under [Department of Marine Resources]'s jurisdiction, many of our concerns are specific to [DIF&W], including but not limited to the lack of a species-specific management plan, inadequate protections for individuals in freshwater, and ongoing stocking of competing and nonnative species in Atlantic salmon watersheds," the group wrote.

The signatories seeking an investigation that could lead to inclusion on the state endangered species list: Native Fish Coalition Maine Chapter, Downeast Salmon Federation, Maine Salmon Federation, Maine Council of the Atlantic Salmon Federation, Union Salmon Association, Upstream Watch, Friends of Merrymeeting Bay, Elliottsville Foundation and Kennebec Reborn, former DIF&W commissioner Ray "Bucky" Owen, fisheries scientists Edward Baum, Matthew Scott, Edward Baum, Joan Garner Trial, Mark Whiting and journalists Catherine Schmidt and Topher Browne.

Although Atlantic salmon have been protected under the federal Endangered Species Act for the last 20 years, the fish has been absent from the Maine state list.

Adding a state listing would help address ongoing threats to Atlantic salmon that the federal listing hasn't dealt with, John Burrows, the executive director of U.S. Programs for the Atlantic Salmon Federation, said in June. "While some improve-

ments have occurred, the stocking and management of non-native fish species in Atlantic salmon critical habitat remains a problem," Burrows said. "In addition, there are virtually no protections in place for Atlantic salmon critical habitat. The federal definition of critical habitat includes only the wetted area of a river and stream and doesn't include the riparian zone [close to the water] or adjacent upland areas."

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AAA Travel Alert: Many travel destinations have implemented COVID-19-related restrictions. Before making travel plans, check to see if hotels, attractions, cruise lines, tour operators, restaurants and local authorities have issued health and safety-related restrictions or entry requirements. The local tourism board is a good resource for updated information. **For all offers, unless otherwise indicated:** Rates quoted are accurate at time of publication and are per person, based on double occupancy. Gratuities, transfers, excursions and, for non-air-inclusive offers, airfare, taxes, fees & surcharges, are additional. Advertised rates do not include any applicable daily resort or facility fees payable directly to the hotel at check-out, such fee amounts will be advised at the time of booking. Rates, terms, conditions, availability, itinerary, taxes, fees, surcharges, deposit, payment, cancellation terms/conditions and policies subject to change without notice at any time. Cruise rates capacity-controlled. Advance reservations through AAA Travel required to obtain Member Benefits & savings which may vary based on departure date. Rates may be subject to increase after full payment for increases in government-imposed taxes or fees and, except for air-inclusive offers, for supplier-imposed fees. Blackout dates & other restrictions may apply. **As An Inclusive Offer Only:** Other restrictions may apply, including, but not limited to, baggage limitations & charges for first & second checked bag, standby policies & fees, non-refundable airfare/airline tickets, advance purchase requirements & supplier & airline-imposed change/cancellation fees up to & including the price of the fare plus any applicable fare differential (which may involve pre-notification deadlines). Air component of packaged offers may be non-refundable; refunds are subject to supplier & airline terms & conditions. Supplier & airline fees & policies may vary. Contact your supplier & ticketing airline for more information; for baggage fees & other details, see www.flybags.com. Rates involving round trip air transportation for travel dates or from gateways other than those advertised may differ. Not responsible for errors or omissions. Your local AAA club acts as an agent for Pleasant Holidays®. CST 1010202-80. To learn how we collect and use your information, visit the privacy link at AAA.com. ©2020 Auto Club Services, LLC. All Rights Reserved.

In 1954, Hurricane Hazel made landfall on the Carolina coast as a Category 4 storm; Hazel was blamed for some 1,000 deaths in the Caribbean, 95 in the U.S. and 81 in Canada.

In 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed a bill creating the U.S. Department of Transportation. The revolutionary Black Panther Party was founded by Huey Newton and Bobby Seale in Oakland, California.

In 1969, peace demonstrators staged activities across the country as part of a "moratorium" against the Vietnam War.

In 1976, in the first debate of its kind between vice-presidential nominees, Democrat Walter F. Mondale and Republican Bob Dole faced off in Houston.

In 1991, despite sexual harassment allegations by Anita Hill, the Senate narrowly confirmed the nomination of Clarence Thomas to the U.S. Supreme Court, 52-48.

In 2001, Bethlehem Steel Corp. filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

In 2003, eleven people were killed when a Staten Island ferry slammed into a maintenance pier. (The ferry's pilot, who'd blacked out at the controls, later pleaded guilty to eleven counts of manslaughter.)

In 2017, actress and activist Alyssa Milano tweeted that women who had been sexually harassed or assaulted should write "Me too" as a status; within hours, tens of thousands had taken up the #MeToo hashtag (using a phrase that had been introduced 10 years earlier by social activist Tarana Burke.)

Ten years ago: The Obama administration reported that the federal deficit had hit a near-record \$1.3 trillion for the just-completed budget year. Workers hugged, cheered and set off fireworks as a huge drill broke through a last stretch of rock deep in the Swiss Alps for construction of the 35.4-mile Gotthard Base Tunnel; the railway tunnel would go into operation in 2016.

BDN AND THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAILY POLL RESULTS

Yesterday we asked
Have you experienced side effects from COVID-19?
— Based on 42* responses online

Yes, I experienced long-term side effects. **24%**
No, I recovered quickly. **7%**
No, I have not had COVID-19. **69%**

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