

Sun Journal

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ADVOCATES SEEK RIVER UPGRADE

Effort to classify Androscoggin as Class B cites economic boost it could bring

BY ANDREW RICE
SUN JOURNAL

LEWISTON — Local river advocates believe the water quality of the lower Androscoggin River has deserved a “B” rating for quite some time now. Yet, it remains a Class C, according to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

As the state conducts its triennial review of water quality assignments throughout the state, representatives from Grow L+A and the Androscoggin River Watershed Council are pursuing an upgrade, which they argue can result in “economic and quality of life benefits.”

The City Council on Tuesday

will host a workshop on the issue. Peter Rubins, chairman of Grow L+A’s river working group, is set to fill in city officials on the details.

According to a memo from Rubins, the group is hoping a section of the river from the Great Falls to Merrymeeting Bay near Topsham will be reclassified, based on a number of criteria that he says the section of the river has consistently met.

State law stipulates that when the quality of any classified water exceeds the minimum standards of the next highest classification, that higher water quality must be maintained and protected.



ANDREE KEHN/SUN JOURNAL

John Knapp and Monica Strobel of Bowdoin stand on the viewing platform Thursday afternoon at the Great Falls recreation area in Auburn as the Androscoggin River roars past.

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ELECTION 2020

Stakes high in Michigan primary

State boosted Sanders in 2016, and could now revive or tank senator

BY WILL WEISSERT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT — Bernie Sanders proved his 2016 presidential bid was serious with an upset victory in Michigan powered by his opposition to free trade and appeal among working-class voters. Four years later, the same state could either revive the Vermont senator’s campaign or relegate him to the role of protest candidate.

Michigan and five other states hold presidential contests today at a critical point in the Democratic race.

Former Vice President Joe Biden is looking to quash Sanders’ hopes and cement his own front-runner status just a week after resurrecting his beleaguered White House bid with a delegate victory on Super Tuesday. He played up his underdog story on Monday as he campaigned across Michigan, reflecting on his stutter as a child and the deaths of his first wife and young daughter.

And Biden wasn’t alone. The former vice president courted the state’s influential African American voters alongside the two most prominent black candidates previously in the 2020 race, Kamala Harris and Cory Booker, who endorsed Biden in recent days as part of a broader consolidation of support among party leaders.

Sanders is in an urgent fight to turn things around as the primary calendar quickly shifts to other states that could favor Biden and narrow his path to the nomination. The senator countered the parade of Democratic firepower lining up behind Biden by securing the endorsement of the Rev. Jesse Jackson and deploying Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., on his behalf.

Having devoted several days to Michigan, the Vermont senator spent the eve of Tuesday’s primaries in Missouri, where he downplayed questions about electability and insisted that the “energy and excitement” of his supporters made him the strongest Democrat to run against President Donald Trump this fall.

Today marks the first time voters will weigh in on the Democratic contest since it effectively narrowed to a two-person race between Sanders and Biden.



Joseph Biden



Bernie Sanders



Donald Trump

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Seeing the world through stained glass



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Above: Butterflies, stained glass and other works by visiting artists fill Maine Art Glass’ Butterfly & Insect Museum at 51 Main St. in Lisbon Falls.

Right: Jim Nutting, owner of Maine Art Glass in Lisbon Falls, works Monday morning on a stained-glass window for a home in Brunswick. He and his African grey parrot, Polla, whistle while Nutting works at his studio. Among his projects, Nutting is repairing the windows at the Bates College chapel in Lewiston. The studio, which includes the museum, is downstairs at the former Ss. Cyril & Methodius Church, and is open to visitors and for classes.



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CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

More Mainers tested as state virus lab opens

CDC not releasing testing details

BY RANDY BILLINGS
PORTLAND PRESS HERALD

Maine still has no confirmed cases of coronavirus, but its lab has been authorized by federal authorities to begin conducting in-state testing, rather than sending the samples to a federal laboratory in Atlanta.

“Fewer than 100 individuals in Maine” have met the criteria for testing, “though that figure is fluid and constantly changing,” the Maine Center for Disease Control & Prevention said in a news release Monday afternoon.

Prior to Monday, officials would say only that about 12 to 18 people either had been tested or were currently being tested.

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Stocks see worst day since '08

Dow down 7.8% amid virus fears as trading halts for first time in decades

BY STAN CHOE
AND ALEX VEIGA
AP BUSINESS WRITERS

Stocks took their worst one-day beating on Wall Street since the global financial crisis of 2008 as a collapse in oil prices Monday combined with mounting alarm over what the coronavirus could do to the world economy.

The staggering losses, including a 7.8% tumble in the Dow Jones Industrial Average, immediately raised fears that a recession might be on the way in the U.S. and that the record-breaking 11-year bull market on Wall Street may be coming to an abrupt end in a way no one even imagined just a few months ago.

The drop was so sharp that it triggered the first automatic halt in trading in more than



ASSOCIATED PRESS

A screen above the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on Monday shows the closing number for the Dow Jones Industrial Average, which sank 7.8%, its steepest drop since the financial crisis of 2008.

two decades. European stock indexes likewise registered their heaviest losses since the darkest days of the 2008 meltdown and are now in a bear market.

Together, the sell-offs reflected growing anxiety over the potential global economic damage from the coronavirus, which has

infected more than 110,000 people worldwide and killed about 4,000 while prompting factory shutdowns, travel bans, closings of schools and stores, and cancellations of conventions and celebrations big and small.

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