

CONTINUED FROM A1

Portland Press Herald / Friday, October 19, 2018 AS

## CRIME

(Continued from Page A1)

tributed the increase of reported rapes to the #MeToo movement, which has spurred untold numbers of women to come forward and publicly describe their stories of pervasive sexual harassment and assault that has been underreported for generations.

"Since the #MeToo movement was reignited a year ago, more people have felt compelled to tell their stories than ever before," said Cara Courchesne, communications director at the Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault.

"The annual crime in Maine numbers are important, and they represent significant trauma perpetrated against Mainers," she said. "And yet, we know this is barely the tip of the iceberg."

### CLEARANCE RATE REMAINS STEADY

The rate at which police agencies charged people accused of rape or closed the cases through other means — generally referred to as a clearance rate — remained almost steady between 2016 and 2017, at 36.4 percent and 35.2 percent, respectively.

Overall, 484 rapes were reported last year, but police cataloged 36 reported rapes or

attempted rapes as unsubstantiated, meaning nearly 93 percent of the total reported rapes were credible enough to be law enforcement to pursue.

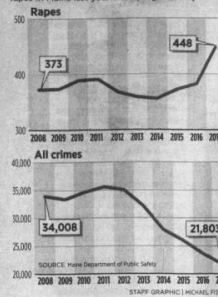
The government's definition of rape has been updated to reflect a modern understanding of the crime. Before 2013, the FBI called the offense "forcible rape" and defined it as "the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will," excluding the possibility that men could be victims.

The current definition discards "forcible" and provides a more encompassing, gender-neutral definition as penetration of another person by any object or body part without consent of the victim.

The Maine School of Public Service, working with data gathered from a Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault survey, estimated that 14,000 Mainers are victims of sexual assault annually, in line with national research by the Department of Justice that shows sexual assault is estimated

### Crime in Maine

Crime data released Thursday show that although overall crime has declined dramatically statewide in recent years, the number of reported rapes in Maine last year was up significantly.



to be the most underreported violent crime. Other categories of crime that increased in the latest data were simple assault and motor vehi-

cle thefts, both of which nudged 2.2 percent higher than the previous year.

Murders also increased, from 18 in 2016 to 21 last year, a nearly 17 percent jump, according to a summary of the new numbers.

Overall, however, year-over-year, crime in Maine is down nearly 47 percent in the last six years, and Maine remains among the safest states in the nation.

Among New England states, Maine continues to have the lowest per-capita crime rate in New England, according to the national data, a success that the state's top public safety official said was the product of years of collaboration and hard work.

"The positive numbers are a team effort by law enforcement, prosecutors, the courts and advocacy groups," Public Safety Commis-

sioner John Morris said in a statement announcing the new numbers. "Six years of decreasing crime stats in Maine is unprecedented. However, drugs

are still connected to much of the state's crime."

### IN RURAL AREAS, 9.7% FEWER CRIMES

All other categories of crime decreased in 2017, both in cities and rural areas.

There were double-digit reductions in burglary (18.9 percent lower than in 2016), aggravated assault (12.7 percent), domestic violence assaults (10.6 percent) and arson (35 percent).

The overall decline was more prevalent in rural areas, where police and sheriff's departments saw 9.3 percent fewer crimes. In cities and towns, there were 7.9 percent fewer crimes than in 2016.

Only Franklin, Sagadahoc and Androscoggin counties saw increases in their crime rate from last year.

The largest of those increases was in Sagadahoc, where the crime rate jumped nearly 11 percent from 2016.

The statistics are tabulated annually and are reported to the FBI as part of the Uniform Crime Reporting program, which has tracked criminal activity in more than 18,000 communities nationwide since 1930.

Matt Byrne can be contacted at 791-6313 or at mbyrne@pressherald.com. Twitter: MattByrnePHH

## NEGATIVE

(Continued from Page A1)

partisan rancor and outright lies," said Sen. Troy Jackson, D-Albany, the leader of the Senate's minority caucus.

Outside groups and parties have already spent or committed nearly \$7 million to the governor's race, not including the millions spent by the four candidates themselves. Millions more will be spent on legislative races in an election that will decide which party — or parties — will control the House and Senate when the next governor takes office in January.

And as ads and mailers accumulate, so do the allegations from both sides that those messages are replete with lies, distortions and inaccuracies.

### COMPLAINTS, CALL FOR HONESTY

On Thursday, Jackson and Assistant Senate Majority Leader Nate Libby, D-Levittown, held a news conference to blast political action committees formed or headed by opposition Republicans.

One of the complaints from Jackson and Libby was that the Republicans had circulated a mailer claiming that their Senate District 14 candidate, Matthew Stone, who is challenging incumbent state Sen. Shenna Bellows, D-Manchester, was born in Brunswick and grew up in Litchfield, which is currently located in neighboring Senate District 12.

Jackson and Libby also pointed to filers that imply a Democratic candidate voted against tax cuts when, in fact, the candidate has never served in the Legislature. They also said Republican filers inaccurately claimed a candidate was endorsed by the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine when, in reality, the organization did not endorse anyone in the race.

"What we have here is blatant inarguable lies," Jackson said. He called on outgoing Maine Senate President Michael Thibodeau, R-Winterport, to stand by a speech he made in the waning hours of the last legislative session about honesty. Thibodeau is the principal officer of the Maine Senate Republican PAC that has spent nearly \$130,000 this year.

So far, the Maine Republican Party Committee has

## CHECK THE FACTS

(Continued from Page A1)

THE LIE: Shenna Bellows has been bought and paid for by special interests to win her campaign.

THE TRUTH: Shenna Bellows is a Clean Elections candidate that is not taking any contributions to her in election race.

A sign from the Augusta news collective held by Democratic state Sen. Nate Libby and Troy Jackson seeks to rebut a claim that incumbent Sen. Shenna Bellows, D-Manchester, has been "bought and paid for by special interests" by noting she is a Clean Elections candidate not taking contributions in her race.

spent close to \$1 million this cycle, while the Maine Democratic State Committee has spent about \$1.8 million.

"Whether its chips, dips or the public payroll, double dipping is bad," the ad's narrator says. "And Janet Mills is the worst kind of double dipper. Along with her current, publicly funded, six-figure salary, Janet has taken a taxpayer-funded pension check as well as two paychecks, one job, all while running for governor."

"Double dipping," as critics like to call it, is both legal and relatively commonplace among public employees in Maine, especially in school systems.

Republican Gov. Paul LePage has repeatedly raised the "double dipper" issue in his attacks on what he sees as bloated administrative ranks in public schools.

In 2017, nearly 2,500 individuals working for the state, municipalities or public school systems received both a taxpayer-supported salary and pension payments, according to data from the Maine Public Employees Retirement System. The average pension payout for such employees is the vast majority of whom are school district administrators or teachers — was \$28,332 last year.

Mills earned \$119,658 as attorney general but also collected \$12,403 in pension from her years as the district attorney for Androscoggin, Franklin and Oxford counties. That placed Mills in the bottom 15 percent of all so-called "double dipper" in Maine that year, according to the Maine PERB pension data.

When Republicans took control of the Legislature in 2010 and elected a new attorney general, Mills began taking her pension afterward so she could continue receiving health insurance through the state retirement system. When she was re-elected attorney general in 2013, she was advised to continue withdrawing pension benefits to keep her health care coverage. The state no longer contributes to her pension fund because she is receiving payments.

"It's disappointing that Shawn Moody's allies would try to mislead Maine people when the truth is, like many Mainers, Janet receives a small Social Security benefit on behalf of her deceased husband and a small pension which she took in 2011 in order to keep her health insurance," spokesman Scott Ogden said in a prepared statement. "Then again,

we shouldn't be surprised at these shameful and disingenuous attacks given that Shawn Moody opposes health care in general, including expanding health care for more than 70,000 Maine people and railing against the Affordable Care Act — what's one more person to him?"

Moody, meanwhile, has been the target for weeks of negative ads that his campaign has assailed as false or misleading.

The highest-profile ad, which aired for several weeks in Maine, focuses on fundraising for schools and shows a video clip of Moody saying that schools are "overfunded."

The group behind the ad, a political action committee known as A Better Maine, received much of its funding from the Democratic Governors Association.

The sound bite is taken from a January 2018 forum hosted by the Associated General Contractors of Maine in which the moderator asked candidates for yes-or-no answers to the question, "Do you feel Maine's schools are adequately funded?"

They're "overfunded," Moody replied. "We need to get them to be more efficient and more effective."

Kevin Miller can be contacted at 791-6313 or at kmiller@mainetoday.com. Twitter: KevinMillerPHH

Scott Thibodeau can be contacted at 791-6330 or at sth@pressherald.com. Twitter: thibodag

THE RANELLO GROUP  
at RE/MAX Shoreline  
Selling Real Estate  
one client at a time.  
Tom & Julia Ranello  
(207) 838-1651  
honor@ranello.com

RE/MAX The Common at  
18 Middle Street  
Portland ME 04101

### THE RANELLO GROUP

(Continued from Page A1)

at RE/MAX Shoreline  
Selling Real Estate  
one client at a time.  
Tom & Julia Ranello  
(207) 838-1651  
honor@ranello.com

RE/MAX The Common at  
18 Middle Street  
Portland ME 04101

RE/MAX The Common at  
18 Middle Street  
Portland ME 04101

RE/MAX The Common at  
18 Middle Street  
Portland ME 04101

RE/MAX The Common at  
18 Middle Street  
Portland ME 04101

RE/MAX The Common at  
18 Middle Street  
Portland ME 04101

RE/MAX The Common at  
18 Middle Street  
Portland ME 04101

RE/MAX The Common at  
18 Middle Street  
Portland ME 04101

RE/MAX The Common at  
18 Middle Street  
Portland ME 04101

RE/MAX The Common at  
18 Middle Street  
Portland ME 04101

RE/MAX The Common at  
18 Middle Street  
Portland ME 04101

RE/MAX The Common at  
18 Middle Street  
Portland ME 04101

RE/MAX The Common at  
18 Middle Street  
Portland ME 04101

### SHAWN MOODY

(Continued from Page A1)

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

### SHAWN MOODY

(Continued from Page A1)

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

### SHAWN MOODY

(Continued from Page A1)

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

### SHAWN MOODY

(Continued from Page A1)

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

### SHAWN MOODY

(Continued from Page A1)

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

### SHAWN MOODY

(Continued from Page A1)

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

### SHAWN MOODY

(Continued from Page A1)

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham

Republican from Gorham