



STACIE SCOTT | COLORADO SPRINGS GAZETTE | TNS

Democrats make their pick in a straw poll for Hillary Clinton during the Democratic caucus at Coronado High School in Colorado Springs, Colorado, on Tuesday.

Caucusing with the Kardashians

It is caucus weekend in Maine.

It is a time when people flood Facebook with calls about "civic duty," declarations that a person cannot complain if they don't participate, and the bi-annual expression of a dream about mandatory voting laws. However, we also see the numerous late-night comedy skits



MICHAEL CIANCHETTE

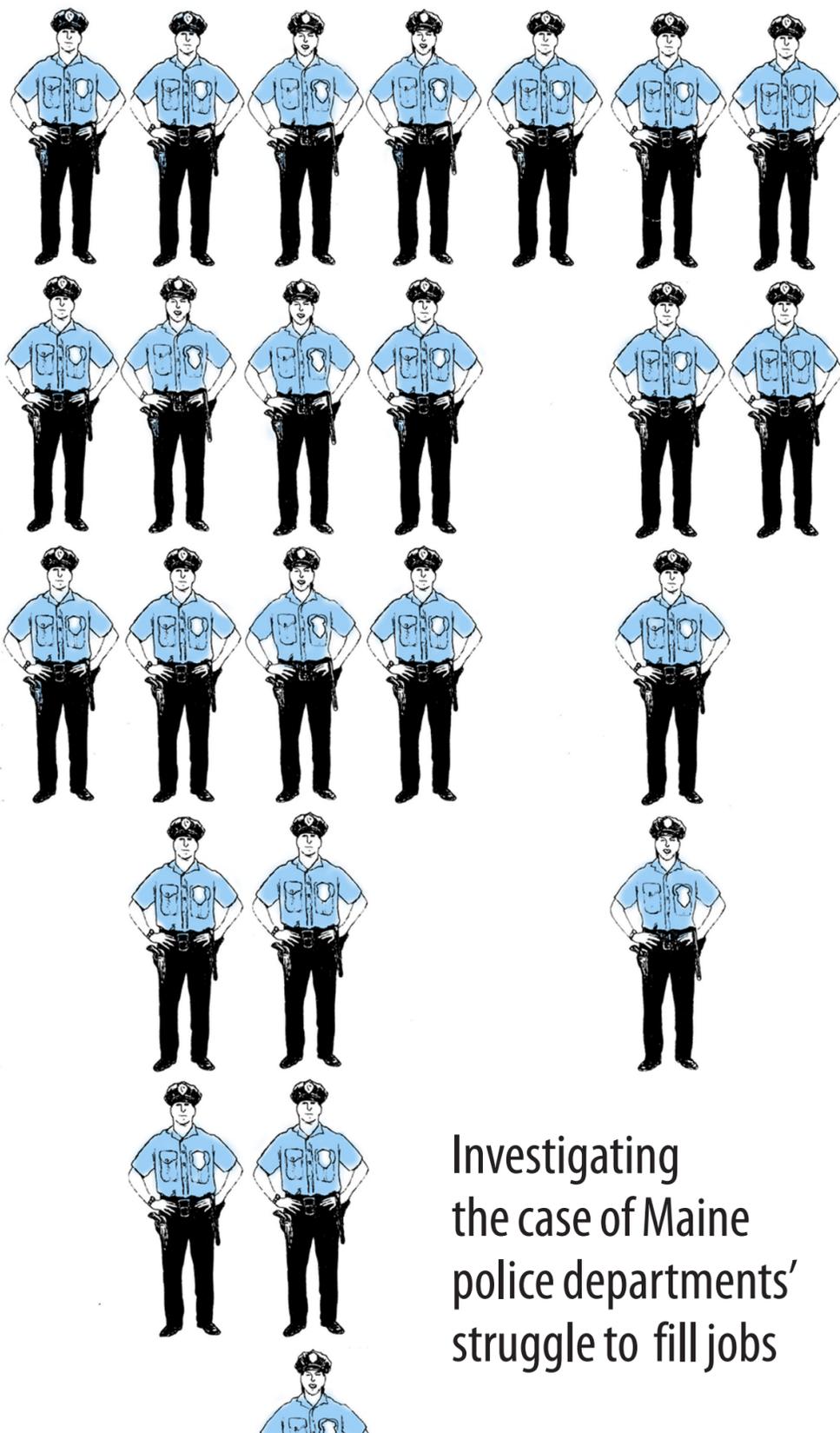
where people-on-the-street can barely name the three branches of government, yet they can draw the Kardashian family tree on demand. Their vote counts as much as yours.

This brings together part of the paradox that is America. Voting is simultaneously a patriotic endeavor and a punchline. We cherish the ability, as a people, to select a leader of the most powerful armed force the world has ever known while being astounded at how ill-informed parts of the electorate are.

So, while many will encourage you to make sure you get out to caucus sites this weekend, I'll offer an alternative view: if you are acting on emotion and how candidates make you feel, please stay home. If you have considered your options, informed your opinion, and fairly weighed alternatives, then go and make your choice known.

This is not a plea for a specific candidate or even a particular party. People can come to different decisions based upon their knowledge, values and experience — we should respect that. But those decisions need to be considered and arrived at through a reasoned process. If the appeal of a candidate is merely the way they make you feel, you owe your country more.

Many campaigns in this election are advancing emotional narratives. That is understandable; an emotional connection creates passion and intensity. There are legitimate issues about which voters are rightly emotional, whether angry or anxious. ISIS and economic prosperity — or
See Cianchette, Page D3



Investigating the case of Maine police departments' struggle to fill jobs

GEORGE DANBY | BDN

In hot pursuit of recruits

BY CHRISTOPHER BURNS
BDN STAFF

Law enforcement agencies in the midcoast and Washington County have made news recently because they're having an increasingly hard time finding qualified candidates to fill vacancies. The same goes for police forces in the state's largest cities and throughout much of the country: A shrinking pool of candidates has made recruitment more difficult than in the past.

"Law enforcement across the board have for some time seen a decline in people applying for positions," Portland Police Chief Michael Sauschuck said.

There are several factors that have led to the recruitment difficulties departments face, including federal jobs created by the war on terror, military deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, economic pressures facing millennials saddled with mounting debt and higher demands placed on prospective officers, according to a 2010 RAND study.

Much of what is known about the recruitment troubles, however, is largely anecdotal.

Some law enforcement officials, such as Robert Schwartz, executive director of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association, have pointed to the national anti-police sentiment over police-involved killings in Ferguson, Missouri, and New York as a factor that has made police work less attractive.

Others, such as Sauschuck, doubt that the furor has significantly hampered recruitment efforts, pointing to changing work preferences and the grinding lifestyle of the profession as more likely factors.

Although a lack of data makes it hard to say with any certainty what factors are responsible for the trend, law enforcement officials agree that the police work is less attractive today.

"When I first started in law enforcement, you'd see hundreds of applicants for openings. It was difficult to get a job. But those days are gone."

BANGOR POLICE LT. BOB BISHOP

Economic pressure

Nearly four in five departments nationally reported that a shortage of qualified candidates has made filling vacancies difficult, according to the RAND study. The Bangor Police Department is among those seeing fewer people line up to join the force.

Bangor police are in the process of hiring for five vacancies, and the openings have attracted 30 candidates, said Bangor police

Lt. Bob Bishop. A decade earlier, Bishop said, these vacancies would have attracted as many as two or three times the number of candidates.

"When I first started in law enforcement, you'd see hundreds of applicants for openings. It was difficult to get a job. But those days are gone," Bishop said.

There are more than 40 vacant law enforcement and public safety positions across Maine advertised with the Maine Criminal Justice Academy, some of which have been open since last spring.

Bishop said that many potential candidates interested in law enforcement work are drawn to other departments within the state and nation that offer higher pay. Starting pay for a Bangor police officer with a high school education and no prior experience is about \$35,000 per year; in Portland, starting pay is about \$41,000.

The average pay for a police or sheriff's patrol officer in Maine is \$59,560.

For millennials who are more highly educated and debt-saddled than previous generations, a career in law enforcement isn't as financially attractive as they face pressure to find well-paying jobs to pay off college debt. That pressure is strong for Maine college graduates who have the sixth

See Police, Page D3



GEORGE DANBY | BDN

Can feds make Apple unlock your iPhone?

Maine senators think Congress should decide

BY CHRISTOPHER BURNS
BDN STAFF

Apple and the FBI are embroiled in a fight over whether the federal government can compel the technology company to hack the iPhone used by one of the San Bernardino terrorists. Maine's senators Tuesday waded into the debate over encryption.

Sens. Susan Collins and Angus King announced they are co-sponsoring legislation to create a National Commission on Security and Technology Challenges. The 16-member digital security commission would clarify when law enforcement can access people's data on encrypted devices.

Apple argues that once it breaks the encryption on the iPhone, it would set a legal precedent that would enable the government to routinely conscript companies to grant access to customer data. The FBI has ar-

gued that encryption has effectively turned iPhones into "warrant-free spaces" that hamper criminal investigations.

"The issues of 'going dark' and preserving personal privacy are ones that we simply must grapple with today and for the future," Collins said Tuesday afternoon on the Senate floor.

If Congress approves the commission — which Apple supports — lawmakers would, among other tasks, recommend revisions to procedures for obtaining warrants to compel technology companies to assist investigators in accessing the data of alleged criminals and terrorists without duly harming Americans' right to privacy.

"We don't want to compromise national security, but we also don't want to compromise personal security," King said on the Senate floor.

See Apple, Page D3