

## The yeas and nays.

# Here's how Maine's congressional delegation voted this week

TARGETED NEWS SERVICE

### Senate votes

WASHINGTON — Here's a look at how area members of Congress voted over the previous week.

Along with roll call votes, the Senate this week passed the Rural Community Hospital Demonstration Extension Act, to extend for five years the Medicare rural community hospital demonstration program; and passed the Fiscal Year 2016 Department of Veterans Affairs Seismic Safety and Construction Authorization Act, to authorize the VA to carry out seismic retrofits and other construction projects at medical facilities.

There were no key votes in the House this week.

**Senate vote 1**  
**MINNESOTA DISTRICT JUDGE:** The Senate has confirmed the nomination of Wilhelmina Marie Wright to serve as a U.S. District Judge for the Minnesota district. Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minnesota, cited Wright's 15 years of experience as a judge in Minnesota's state courts, and praised Wright's dedication to fairness and impartiality in the judicial system. Klobuchar added that confirming Wright would help resolve a backlog of nearly 6,000 cases before the district court by filling a long-standing vacancy on the court. No nomination opponents



Collins

spoke on the Senate floor. The vote, on Jan. 19, was 58 yeas to 36 nays. Both Sens. Susan Collins, R-Maine, and Angus King, I-Maine, were among the yea votes.

### Senate vote 2

**VETTING SYRIAN, IRAQI REFUGEES:** The Senate has rejected a cloture motion to end debate on the American Safe Act, sponsored by Rep. Michael T. McCaul, R-Texas. The bill would require the FBI to conduct background investigations of Iraqi and Syrian refugees seeking to



King

be admitted to the U.S. and require FBI confirmation that a refugee is not a security threat in order to admit the refugee. A supporter of ending debate, Sen. John Thune, R-South Dakota, cited signs that terrorists could use the cover of refugee status to carry out attacks in the U.S., making the vetting stipulation necessary to address the security risk. An opponent, Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Illinois, called the vetting requirement "an effort to stop any Syrian refugee

from coming to the United States" and prevent desperate families from escaping a war. The vote, on Jan. 20, was 55 yeas to 43 nays, with a three-fifths majority required to end debate. Collins gave a yea vote, and King gave a nay vote.

### Senate vote 3

**REGULATING U.S. WATERWAYS:** The Senate has rejected a cloture motion to end debate on President Barack Obama's veto of a resolution, sponsored by Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, stating congressional disapproval of the Army Corps of Engineers and Environmental Protection Agency rule defining "waters of the United States" and voiding the rule. Ernst

called the rule "a regulatory power grab that harms our farmers, ranchers, small businesses, manufacturers and homebuilders" by exerting excessive federal control of the use of local waterways. An opponent of ending debate, Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin, D-Maryland, said the rule was not as extensive as its opponents claimed, and it would improve water quality, wetlands protection, and provide regulatory clarity for agriculture and other industries. The vote, on Jan. 21, was 52 yeas to 40 nays, with a three-fifths majority required to end debate. Collins and King were both among the nay votes.

## 'Flying boat' maker lands in Brunswick

BY DARREN FISHELL  
 BDN STAFF

PORTLAND — The designer of an amphibious, folding-wing plane designed to access hard-to-reach fishing holes or marinas and boathouses announced it will build a prototype of the craft at the former Navy air base at Brunswick Landing.

The Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority said Friday that MVP Aero announced its decision at the U.S. Sport Aviation Expo in Sebring, Florida.

The company will be a tenant at TechPlace, a business incubator at the former Navy base, according to MRRRA spokesman Ben Sturtevant.

MVP Aero said it has solved engineering problems to bring down the weight of the airplane by using composite materials. It has put scale models in the air and tested its hull designs in water tanks and is now focused on putting together a full-scale prototype.

Paul Richards, MVP's director of business development, said the company picked the former Navy base



MIDCOAST REGIONAL REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The Minnesota-based aircraft company MVP Aero announced it plans to build and test at Brunswick Landing a prototype of an amphibious aircraft it designed.

because of its advanced airport facilities near the Androscoggin River and Casco Bay for testing the flying boat; local expertise both in composites and boatbuilding; and the ability to build the full prototype in the TechPlace building.

Richards said the company is about three to four years away from manufacturing the plane for sale. With that, the company's still not decided where it would manu-

facture sale models, but Richards said Brunswick Landing could work.

"We're not in the position to make absolute commitments by any means, but there are a lot of good reasons why the area makes an awful lot of sense," Richards said.

The company, founded in 2011, is based in Minnesota, according to its website. Development of the plane has been supported primarily through private financing

and its founders hold an 85 percent stake in the company.

Richards said MVP hopes to create a new niche in the recreational aviation market, by extending the vehicle's value "beyond just transportation."

When the plane lands at or near a destination on the water, he said, "it continues to be a part of the adventure."

## Base reuse, BIW reshaping Bath, Brunswick area

BY DARREN FISHELL  
 BDN STAFF

PORTLAND — Development at Brunswick Landing, contract possibilities for Bath Iron Works and the outcome of a major hospital merger will play major roles in how the Bath-Brunswick area develops in 2016, according to a local real estate agent.

Donald Spann, co-owner of the Topsham-based RE/MAX, said development at the former Brunswick Naval Air Station supported about 805 jobs by the end of 2015 and would continue to lead the region's development news in the coming year.

In a presentation Thursday to commercial real estate professionals at the Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland, Spann said that a significant amount of development in southern midcoast Maine has been at the former Navy base, where senior housing developers and investors have moved in to acquire property.

Spann said Brunswick Landing, the name affixed to

the former Navy base after it closed and became available for civilian reuse in 2011, has made up "a significant amount" of the activity in the region and will continue to do so. The Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority still owns more than half of the property, with the Navy owning the next largest portion at the former base and another former Navy site in Topsham.

Spann identified evolving regional trends to watch in retail, medical and residential markets.

The market has not yet felt effects of the merger of Mid Coast Hospital and the bankrupt Parkview Adventist Medical Center, Spann said, and that could create a more active market for additional medical office space.

In retail, he said vacancies at the Cook's Corner shopping center in Brunswick and nearby Merry-meeting Plaza could lead to some battles between those centers and the Topsham Fair Mall retail complex.

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## Welcome, Bill!

Katahdin Trust is pleased to announce that Bill Lucy has joined our business banking team as Senior Vice President, Commercial Services.

An Orono native, Bill brings 35 years of experience in banking to his role at Katahdin Trust. As a member of the senior management team, Bill will be responsible for business lending and development in the greater Bangor area.

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