

Can you find Coop?



Coop is hiding somewhere in this publication...

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See details on the Kids' corner page.

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OUTDOOR WOOD AND WOOD PELLET BOILERS

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P W E R

See page 1



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Gray Blueberry Festival success



Bill Van Tassel photos

The August 6 Gray Wild Blueberry Fest attracted a large crowd. Awaiting them were all sorts of activities and over 60 vendors of all sorts, including blueberry-related fun foods.

By Bill Van Tassel

My work with Turner Publishing has, over twenty-four years, allowed me to cover town festivals and agricultural fairs throughout much of Central Maine. This summer (2025), I attended my second Wild Blueberry Festival in Gray. Though the annual event is still held on the ample grounds near the town hall, it has grown in its offerings and popularity.

With this growth has come the interest and enthusiasm of townspeople and their

neighbors in the surrounding communities. Helping to get a handle on the Festival's growth and keeping it enjoyable, safe, and functioning efficiently are the dozens of volunteers. Along with the town's employees, there was a list of thirty-four groups throughout the gray area that were stationed throughout the festive area, as well as the parking areas.

Again, having experienced many of these types of events, I was hugely impressed with the organization and smooth

running of the all-day event. From local students and members of the American Legion working the parking area, to others from various community and church groups, the many aspects of the festival moved along with few hiccups.

This year's event featured sixty-two artisans, crafters, musicians, and authors. The Food Court had fifteen trucks or booths, while the Farmer's Market sported nine table/tents. Many of the foregoing concerns were related to



Gray Assistant Director of Recreation, Nellie Levier, putting a dragon on the face of Jamison Brookes of Gray. Face Painting was one of the many activities for young attendees at the Blueberry Fest.

wild blueberries in a variety of forms like juice, ice cream, crisps, snow cones, muffins, etc. Windham's Tavern Farms was selling pints of frozen berries near the entrance to the fair.

The festival even had a Spelling Bee in Newbegin Hall, that doubled as a Cooling Sta-

tion. There was a short fun run for the youngest children and a pie eating contest. The event organizers even thought of a Lost and Found station/tent.

Turner Publishing sends KUDOS to all of those who helped with Gray's Blueberry Festival.

More photos on the back

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Funny Things Kids Say!

Share the funniest thing your kid or grandchild said this week!

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Previously ran in 2018.

My mother and stepfather took my family and I to Disney World. While we were there, my mom noticed her husband and granddaughter, who was 5 years old at the time, were having a great time together. She said, “You two are two peas in a pod!”

Later, I took my daughter to the bathroom to wash her hands and she said, “Gramma is right! Grampa and I are two

peas in a can!” – *Irene Archer in Augusta.*

This happened while visiting Bar Harbor with my grandchildren. A woman walking by complimented my granddaughter, who was 6 years old, on her “beautiful red hair.” After thanking her, my granddaughter said, “My brother (4 years old) has red hair, too, but his is curly! My mom has red hair, too, but she dyes hers!” – *Judy Sanborn of Rumford.*

Submit this form with your Funniest Thing Kids Say conversation and we will publish in an upcoming issue.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone: _____

Funny Things Kids Say
Turner Publishing, Inc.

P.O. Box 214, Turner, Maine 04282
Or email: FunnyThingsKidsSay@turnerpublishing.net



When: August 23, 2025

Time: 10:00 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Where: The Mechanic Falls Church of the Nazarene
5 Oak Street, Mechanic Falls

Free, Free, Free

Where: Mechanic Falls Church of the Nazarene
5 Oak
Mechanic Falls, ME 04256
When: September 13th, 2025 @ 5pm

Morning Fellowship 11:30 am. Worship 12 pm
Wednesday Bible Study 6 pm

Coleslaw & Homemade Mac & Cheese

Evening Prayer Meeting 7 pm

B.B.Q. Chicken

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MAINE CALENDAR

AUGUST

August 22 — KindKids Concert & Tie-Dye Party, 6 p.m., Turner Public Library, rsvp required to tie-dye, 207-225-2030.

August 22 — Lobster Bake, 4-6 p.m., Harvell-Bishop Arnold Trail Post 7865, 58 Preble Ave., Madison, hosted by Sons of the American Legion, Squadron 39, \$20-1 Lobster, \$30 Twin Lobsters, \$20 for Pre-Ordered only for Steak – Contact Mark 207-858-3855.

August 22 — Children’s Chalk Art Contest “Color Our World,” 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Rangeley Public Library, 7 Lake Street, Rangeley; registration at the library.

August 23 — Bridgton Senior Games Table Tennis Tournament, Bridgton Town Hall, Bridgton, register at <https://www.maineseniorgames.org> or call 207-370-8076.

August 23 — Dueling Pianos, 7 p.m., Franco Center, 46 Cedar Street, Lewiston, FMI call (207) 689-2000.

August 24 — Reeds Mill church (“Church in the Wildwood”) annual Old Home Sunday, potluck picnic at noon, worship service at 1:00 p.m., 995 Reeds Mill Road, Madrid, FMI – call 639-2713 or visitreedsmillchurch.org.

August 26 — Music for Mavis at the Gazebo, Smith Collaboration, 6:00-7:30 p.m., 96 Mathews Way, off RT 117, Turner Center, bring a chair, bring a blanket, FMI 754-0954.

August 27 — Mr. Drew and his Animals Too, 5:30 p.m., Callahan Hall, Lewiston Public Library, 200 Lisbon Street, Lewiston, free; no registration required.

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 2 — Music for Mavis at the Gazebo, Black Cat, 6:00-7:30 p.m., 96 Mathews Way, off RT 117, Turner Center, bring a chair, bring a blanket, FMI 754-0954.

Sept. 4 — WMHS Business Meeting, 6-8 p.m., 107 Main Street, Winthrop, Zoom available: winthrop-mainehistorical@gmail.com.

Sept. 5-7 — Litchfield Fair, 44 Plains Rd., Litchfield.

Sept. 8 — Regency

Costume workshop, 4 p.m., Lewiston Public Library, 200 Lisbon Street, Lewiston, prepare for October’s Regency Ball, basics of early 19th century fashion and how to thrift, sew, and DIY your period-inspired look, FMI contact Regan Flieg at 207-513-3004 ext. 3506 or rflieg@lewistonmaine.gov.

Sept. 9 — Music for Mavis at the Gazebo, Pam Weeks, 6:00-7:30 p.m., 96 Mathews Way, off RT 117, Turner Center, bring a chair, bring a blanket, FMI 754-0954.

Sept. 10-13 — Oxford Fair, 66 Pottle Rd., Oxford

Sept. 11 — Hillandaler Snowmobile Club History, 6-8 p.m., 107 Main Street, Winthrop.

Sept. 12 — “Hope Rising” series, 7 p.m., Senator Inn & Spa, Augusta, topic “Change is Coming,” free admission, FMI call (207) 582-2116.

Sept. 12 & 13 — Hooray for Hollywood, 7:30 p.m., Franco Center, 46 Cedar St., Lewiston, Doors & cash bar open at 6:30 p.m., reserve seats at 207-689-2000.

Sept. 14 — United Parish Concert featuring Novel Jazz, 3 p.m., United Parish Church, 77 Main St., Harrison.

Sept. 14-20 — Farmington Fair, 292 High St., Farmington.

Sept. 16 — Music for Mavis at the Gazebo, Dirty McGurdy, 6:00-7:30 p.m., 96 Mathews Way, off RT 117, Turner Center, bring a chair, bring a blanket, FMI 754-0954.

Sept. 16 — Trolling for Maine’s trout and salmon: The good, the bad and the ugly, 6-8 p.m., Sea Dog Brewing Company, 1 Bowdoin Mill Island, Topsham, members and non members welcome, free event, dinner and drinks may be purchased.

Sept. 17 — KHS presenter Mac Smith, Navy veteran of the first Gulf War, former reporter for The Bar Harbor Times, 6:30 p.m., South Parish Congregational Church, 9 Church Street, Augusta, FMI call KHS Executive Director Scott Wood at 622-7718.

Sept. 20 — Adam G. Gatchell Memorial Mud Run, Gates 8 a.m., trucks hit the mud 10:30 a.m., 456 River Rd. Mexico, \$10 admission, \$1000 prize fastest

truck/\$250 fastest ATV.

Sept. 22 — Learn How to Make Jam, 5-7 p.m., Lewiston Public Library, 200 Lisbon St., Lewiston, free, registration required at 513-3135 or LPLReference@gmail.com.

Sept. 23 — Music for Mavis at the Gazebo, Hot Damn, 6:00-7:30 p.m., 96 Mathews Way, off RT 117, Turner Center, bring a chair, bring a blanket, FMI 754-0954.

Sept. 27 — Manchester Community Church Baked Bean Supper, free and open to the public, 4:30-6:00 p.m., 21 Readfield Road, Manchester.

Sept. 27—Oct. 5 — Fryeburg Fair, 1154 Main St., Fryeburg

Sept. 30 —Music for Mavis at the Gazebo, The Mill Town Road Show, 6:00-7:30 p.m., 96 Mathews Way, off RT 117, Turner Center, bring a chair, bring a blanket, FMI 754-0954.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

TURNER: Outdoor Story Hour, August 6, 13 and 20, 10 a.m., Turner Public Library, FMI 207-225-2030.

AUBURN: Weekly Chess Club, every Wednesday, 4-6 p.m., Auburn Public Library, all levels and ages welcome; FMI call Joe Kaper 207-274-8463.

LEWISTON: Lewiston Farmers’ Market “Third Thursdays”, June through September 4- 7 p.m., 75 Lincoln St., Lewiston.

TURNER: Silent Book Auction, every Thursday from 4-6 p.m., Turner Public Library, 98 Mathews Way, Turner, (207) 225-2030.

TURNER: Story Hour, every Wednesday at 10 a.m., Turner Public Library, 98 Mathews Way, Turner, (207) 225-2030.

LEWISTON: Lewiston Farmers’ Market summer hours Sundays 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., 75 Lincoln Street (on the green), Lewiston. Also, the market will be open on third Thursdays of the month (from June to September), 4:00-7:00 p.m.

NORWAY: Craft & Chat at the Cancer Resource Center, Mondays 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., drop in and explore your creative side and meet

new friends at the same time, all supplies are provided, no pre-registration is required.

NORWAY: Chair Yoga at the Cancer Resource Center, Thursdays 1:00 – 2:00 p.m., chair yoga can help improve core strength and balance, promote better breathing techniques, increase flexibility and help reduce stress, call the Cancer Resource Center to register at 890-0329.

NORWAY: Women’s Support Group and Coffee Hour, meets the third Wednesday of every month from 10:30 to 12:00 noon at the Cancer Resource Center, 199 Main St, Norway, no registration needed, FMI call Kelsey at the Center at (207) 890-0205.

NORWAY: Men’s Rally Group meets the third Friday of each month from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., Cancer Resource Center, 199 Main St, Norway, no registration needed, FMI call Nel Bernard at 207-312-9955 or Vance Jordan at 207-583-2975. *Note: new day of week and time.

NORWAY: Wellness Share at Center for Healing Arts, 2nd Saturday of each month, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 180 Main St., Norway, free event offering Reflexology, Massage, and more, FMI call Charlotte LaBelle – 207-890-2177.

NORWAY: Drum Circle at Center for Healing Arts, 4th Saturday of each month, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., 180 Main St., Norway, free event, drums available for use, FMI call Dan Gravel 207-604-0323 or Nel Bernard 207-312-9955.

MECHANIC FALLS: Mechanic Falls Church of the Nazarene. Sundays: Fellowship 11:30, Morning Worship 12:00 p.m. Wednesdays: Bible Study 6:00 p.m., Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m.

BRIDGTON: 1-4 Sunday, Community Ping Pong Program, \$1 to participate, open to all Town Hall, 26 North High St.

BRIDGTON: Al-Anon, 4-5p.m. Thursday, Lakes Region Recovery Center, 2 Elm Street, Bridgton, 207-803-8707.

BRIDGTON: Narcotics Anonymous, 7-8 p.m. Friday, Lakes Region Recovery Center, 2 Elm Street, Bridgton, 207-803-8707.

BRIDGTON: Women

MAINE CALENDAR PAGE

If you are hosting a free community event and would like it added to our calendar, please email your details to: advertising@turnerpublishing.net and include: Date of event; name of event; time of event; venue location; town; contact phone number. Late submissions may not be published. Emailed events are processed faster. Our Maine Events calendar page is FREE for free community events. Church, library and school event news is free on this page. If you are a business and/or charging admission/fee, there is a charge for a display ad on these pages. Email: advertising@turnerpublishing.net. Call 207-225-2076 for pre-payment options. Events for the Maine Events Calendar should be received two weeks before the event in order to be considered for publication. Please refer to our deadline chart at this link for specific publication deadlines: www.turnerpublishing.net/pdf/Deadlines.pdf

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For Sobriety, 11a.m.-12 p.m. Thursday, Lakes Region Recovery Center, 2 Elm Street, Bridgton, 207-803-8707.

NORWAY: Serenity Seekers Al-Anon newcomers meeting 6:15-6:45 p.m. followed by Regular Meeting 6:45-7:45 p.m. at The Hills Recovery Center, 15 Tannery Street, Norway, ME. Every Thursday. FMI serenityseekersnorway@gmail.com

NORWAY: Mindful Yoga at Roberts Farm Preserve Roberts Farm Preserve, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m., 58 Roberts Rd., Norway.

ONGOING:

GRAY: One-on-one with Community Connector, 1-3 p.m., Gray Library, 5 Hancock St., Gray, FMI call Cindy Slocum 207-572-2594 or Lori Fowler 207-572-6493.

NEW GLOUCESTER: Coffee Hour, Tuesdays, 9-11 a.m., New Gloucester Congregational Church, 19 Gloucester Hill Rd., New Gloucester, FMI call Cindy Slocum 207-572-2594 or Lori Fowler 207-572-6493.

NEW GLOUCESTER: Community Cafe Lunch,

11:30 a.m., New Gloucester Congregational Church, 19 Gloucester Hill Rd., New Gloucester, FMI call Cindy Slocum 207-572-2594 or Lori Fowler 207-572-6493.

NEW GLOUCESTER: One-on-one with Community Connector, 9-11 a.m., New Gloucester Library, 379 Intervale Road, New Gloucester, FMI call Cindy Slocum 207-572-2594 or Lori Fowler 207-572-6493.

CANCELLATIONS
None listed.
POSTPONEMENTS
None listed.

Events for the Maine News Calendar should be received two weeks before the event in order to be considered for publication. Please refer to our deadline chart at this link for specific publication deadlines: <https://www.turnerpublishing.net/pdf/Deadlines.pdf>. Email your event information to articles@turnerpublishing.net and include: Date of event; name of event; time of event; venue location; town; contact phone number. Late submissions may not be published. Emailed events are processed faster.

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What's the Difference?

Find the four differences between the two pictures.

A

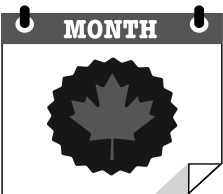


B



Answers: Guinea pig on rug 2. Missing shapes on book cover 3. Child standing in background 4. Missing stars on wall

CANADA



HISTORY

1981

Quebec's French-language sign law goes into effect.

NEW WORD SYLLABUS

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Book FACT:

In English-speaking countries, the works of this playwright are widely studied in school.

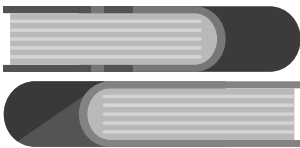
Answer: William Shakespeare

How they say that in...

English: Locker
Spanish: Taquilla
Italian: Armadietto
French: Casier
German: Schließfach

Did You Know?

The University of New Brunswick and the University of King's College are the oldest in Canada, opening in 1785 and 1789, respectively.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: School bus

Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21		22				23				
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52	53	54				55				56		57	58	59
60					61				62		63			
64					65						66			
67					68						69			

CLUES ACROSS
1. Mongolian politician
5. Coconut palms
10. Rounded knob
14. Japanese city
15. Covers in soft material
16. Walk around
17. Ancient region in Syria
18. French painter
19. Grandmother
20. Cow part
22. Rocky peak
23. Secret plan
24. Sings to one’s lover
27. More (Spanish)
30. Father
31. Chinese philosophical principle
32. Hat
35. In agreement
37. A person’s brother or sister
38. Evil spirit
39. Monetary units
40. Partner to cheese
41. About Sun
42. A place to dance
43. Performer — Lo Green
44. Beach accessory
45. Recipe measurement (abbr.)
46. Partly digested food
47. Pooch
48. Honorific title

added to family name
49. Salts
52. Lichens genus
55. Lowest point of a ridge
56. Type of sword
60. Albanian language
61. Gold measurement
63. Italian seaport
64. Longtime late night host
65. Extremely angry
66. U. of Miami mascot
67. Mid-month day
68. Omitted from printed matter
69. Upper body part

CLUES DOWN
1. Two-toed sloth
2. Cooking ingredient
3. Iranian city
4. Publicly outs
5. Steep-sided hollow
6. Spoke
7. General law or rule
8. Extravagantly theatrical
9. Very fast airplane
10. Arm bones
11. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
12. ___ fide: legitimate
13. Gemstone
21. Counsels
23. Top exec
25. Cool!

26. Touch lightly
27. Extract money via taxation
28. Dyes
29. Cloying sweetness
32. Soft drinks
33. Capital of Guam
34. Chemical compound
36. The bill in a restaurant
37. Car mechanics group
38. Late comedian Newhart
40. Health care for the aged
41. Wise individuals
43. A passage with access only at one end
44. Trim
46. Former OSS
47. The upper surface of the mouth
49. Edible lily bulbs
50. Type of reef
51. Vaccine developer
52. Mottled citrus fruit
53. A place to store lawn tools
54. Rare goose native to Hawaii
57. Hollywood pig
58. Musician Clapton
59. Take a chance
61. Spanish soldier
62. Mark Wahlberg comedy

Famous Birthdays



- AUGUST 17**
Austin Butler, Actor (34)
- AUGUST 18**
Andy Samberg, Actor (47)
- AUGUST 19**
John Stamos, Actor (62)
- AUGUST 20**
Demi Lovato, Singer (33)

- AUGUST 21**
Hayden Panettiere, Actress (36)
- AUGUST 22**
Dua Lipa, Singer (30)
- AUGUST 23**
Shelley Long, Actress (76)

Sudoku

4							6	3
			1					5
1		2				7		
		9		8		2		
	4		3		9			
				4			8	
							3	
6	1				5			
2	8			3		5	1	

Level: Advanced

Horoscopes

- ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20**
This week you are unstoppable, Aries. Your confidence will be shining brightly for all to see, and the right people are bound to take notice. Expect to tackle some projects.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, small comforts will bring big happiness to you this week. Plus, your natural charm will draw others in. A surprise in your home life will make your heart soar. Enjoy the moments.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, your words will be magical this week whether you’re pitching ideas or chatting with friends. There’s not much you can’t say that people will not hear and take to heart.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, this week you may be building something meaningful, whether it is in love or work. All of the steps you are currently taking will help establish security and happiness in your life.
- LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23**
Your creativity is on fire right now, Leo. People are drawn to your warmth and charisma. This is a great time to start something new or share a talent with others.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22
Something that felt out of place begins to align perfectly right now, Virgo. You might be tapping into your inner wisdom, and it’s guiding you toward some much-needed success.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, new connections will be coming your way, meaning that you may have different avenues for social connections. Get out and meet people as much as you can.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22
Your drive is unmatched right now, Scorpio. Whatever goals you have established you are pushing through faster than would seem possible. Stay focused, but celebrate your progress.
- SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21**
Adventure is calling, Sagittarius. You might be planning a trip or diving into a new study subject. This week a fire will be lit and your optimism is contagious.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, a breakthrough in your life may be brewing. You are increasingly making smart choices that can offer long-term dividends. Stay open and trust the process.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18
Connections with others are a primary focus for you this week, Aquarius. Whether you are exploring love, friendship or new business opportunities, fresh energy comes into play .

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20
You are in your element this week, Pisces. A creative idea or unexpected kindness makes the week extra special. Focus on some self-care and keep giving off positive vibes.

MINOT COMMUNITY NEWS CORNER

August 2025



It is hard to believe that we are in our final month of summer. A reminder that school is scheduled to start back up on August 28th. Another reminder is that roadwork will continue on Marston Hill Road through the month, with paving scheduled for later in the month or early September. Please watch for our road crews and children at school bus stops.

At their July 21, 2025 meeting, the Board of Selectmen approved the FY2025 Tax Commitment. This resulted in a mill rate of \$11.55/\$1,000 property valuation and is a \$0.40 (+3.59%) increase from FY2024. The appropriations included:

County Taxes: \$412,703 (+14.02%)
Municipal Appropriations: \$2,451,588 (+8.63%)
Education Appropriations: \$2,864,291 (+6.89%)
Overlay: \$54,046.69

These appropriations were offset with \$1,635,207. This includes \$86,994 from the RSU Assessment Reserve that was created for overpayment of the July to December 2024 education payments, that were assessed in last year’s commitment. These funds also include:

Estimated excise taxes: \$750,000.00
Carryforwards and Reserve funds: \$140,549.74
Local Road Assistance Program (LRAP) Funds: \$75,196.00
Use of Undesignated Fund Balance: \$250,000.00

Tax bills are due December 15, 2025, but partial payments are accepted year-round. A portal for online payments can be found on the Town’s website until the tax due date. If you have any questions about your tax bill, feel free to reach out to the Town Office staff, who can review your account to determine if you qualify for any exemptions or rebates, or refer you to John E. O’Donnell & Associates, the Assessors’ Agent, for further assistance.

Every year, the Board of Selectmen and staff work hard to create a budget that will not exceed the pace of growth for the town, while ensuring that we can provide essential services and be proactive about the needs of the residents. This process is public and posted on the Town’s website, and the final budget is approved by a vote of the public on the first Saturday in March. We are always looking for people to serve on the Budget Committee, to help with that process and provide feedback. As always, you can reach out to the Town Administrator to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about the budget or tax commitment.

Rethinking Preventative Care: Why Inclusion of Hearing is Essential

Hearing health is all too often overlooked in routine healthcare, but audiologists like Dr. Joshua Huppert, Clinical Director of Audiology at Andwell Health Partners, are encouraging people to take a more proactive role in monitoring their hearing—especially as they age.

“Hearing impacts so much more than just communication, it actually plays a role in our cognitive function, social connection, and emotional well-being,” says Dr. Huppert. “Because hearing loss tends to progress gradually, many individuals aren’t aware their hearing has changed until it’s already affecting their daily lives.”

According to the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD), more than 48 million Americans experience some degree of hearing loss. Left unaddressed, hearing loss has been associated with increased risks of cognitive decline, social withdrawal, mental fatigue,



and overall reduced quality of life.

Dr. Huppert encourages adults, particularly those over 50, to consider hearing evaluation if they experience any of the following:

- Difficulty understanding speech or navigating conversation, particularly in noisy environments
 - Frequently asking others to repeat themselves
 - Increasing the volume on the television, radio, or when listening to music
 - Experiencing ringing or buzzing in the ears (tinnitus)
- As an advisory, coverage for hearing evaluations can vary based on insurance plans and medical necessity. As such, individuals are advised to check their benefits or speak with their primary care provider or medical care team to more fully understand how a referral might be made. www.andwell.org/audiology
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They may demand immediate payment using gift cards, wire transfers, or mobile payment apps. Real utility companies don’t threaten immediate shutoff without notice, and they don’t demand unusual forms of payment. If you receive a threat like this, contact your utility company directly using the number from your bill—not the one the caller gives you.

Learn how to spot and avoid scams with AARP Fraud Watch Network™. Suspect a scam? Call our free Helpline at 877-908-3360 and talk to one of our fraud specialists about what to do next. Need a scam prevention speaker for your group? Click the link to fill out our online form or send an email to me@aarp.org.



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Bill Van Tassel photos



Events by Dina celebrates Grand Opening



Submitted photo

Local event visionary Dina Thomas marked the grand opening of her first storefront, drawing a crowd of supporters, vendors, and creatives. Located in Livermore Falls, the space showcases hand-picked gifts, décor, and a new in-house service: Screen Printing, a custom printing studio for event



signage, merchandise, and personalized goods. With this launch, Dina blends her event expertise with design, offering a one-stop shop for stylish celebrations or hands-on workshops. The store is now open and is already becoming a hub for the community. Events can be found at www.eventsbydina.shop.





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Summer

SEASONAL GUIDE

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Tips to tend a garden in late summer

Metro
As summer winds down, long stretches of sunlight are dwindling and cooler temperatures are on the horizon. Gardening enthusiasts may wonder how they can manage their backyard gardens as the peak growing season comes to a close.
People may not be eager to do much in their gardens come August, particularly because the air may be hot and the dew point high. And spending the final days of summer at the beach or in the pool may take priority. However, late summer is a great time to focus on certain tasks.

Deadheading
Many plants look better with the wilted flowers removed. Furthermore, some plants, such as with lilies and roses, will benefit from having spent blooms removed so that no unnecessary energy is drawn away from the roots or bulbs. Research your plants and learn which can benefit from some

late-summer deadheading to keep them thriving.

Weeding
Weeds can become problematic if they're allowed to grow unabated. Routinely go into the garden and cull the weeds.

Keep an eye open for pests
According to Garden Smart, caterpillars and beetles may be chewing on garden plants by late summer, and aphids still may be problematic. Handpick insects off of vegetables and ornamental flowers, or use safe sprays for treating these issues.

Plant cool weather vegetables
Many plants will grow well when planted in late summer, according to Homesteading Family. Some such plants include turnips, beets, carrots, kale, chard, mustard greens, and peas. You can begin turning your summer garden, or a

portion of it, into a fall and winter garden.

Consider succession planting
Growing vegetables like beans or peas may be more successful if you try succession planting. This involves sowing new seeds every seven to 10 days to extend the harvest.

Harvesting what's ready
Pick vegetables that are ready to eat, and remove any plants that have reached the end of their growing cycle.

Convert planter boxes and containers
This is a good time to start changing over summer annuals in containers and planter boxes to those that do well in fall, such as mums, asters, pansies, and goldenrod.
There's plenty of work to be done in the garden come the end of summer.

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Health & WELLNESS

YOUR HEALTH, MIND & BODY CONNECTION

Beat and enjoy the August heat

You can enjoy the August hot sunny days while also being careful of heat exhaustion or other heat related issues. To stay cool and alert, focus on wearing loose light-colored clothes outdoors and try not to overexert yourself in extreme heat. Pay attention to air quality while outdoors running, jogging, biking and doing strenuous outdoor activities. If you have underlying conditions such as asthma and heart disease you are better off staying inside in a cool environment until the air quality improves. It is so important to check in on your neighbors and loved ones who are vulnerable to the heat, such as the elderly or disabled individuals or those with health issues.

Other ways to stay cool are listed below:

- Seek cool environments: Look for shaded areas if outside doing summer activities. Bring an umbrella if on the beach. Maybe choose a shaded wooded area instead of road running if going for a jog or walk. During the hottest parts of the day, between 10am-2pm, staying inside with air conditioning is an option.
- If outside exercising, bring a cool wet towel to put around your neck to keep your body temperature down. Also, if you are feeling dizzy, put ice or cold water on the back of your neck to cool your body.
- Taking cool frequent showers will also help keep body temps down.
- Always stay hydrated even if you are not thirsty you should sip water all day long.
- Caffeine and alcohol both can dehydrate you, so you



istock photo

- are better off avoiding these things on very humid days or limiting your intake.
- Never leave people or animals in the car even if the windows are cracked. Cars can heat up rapidly. A/C is needed in a parked car when the days are extremely hot and mildly hot with people or animals in them.
 - Finally, symptoms of heat stroke or heat exhaustion can include dizziness, disorientation, not sweating at all, faint-

ing, vomiting or cramps. Get familiar with the signs and symptoms of heat stroke and heat exhaustion so you can help yourself and help others. If any of the above signs are present, seek medical attention.

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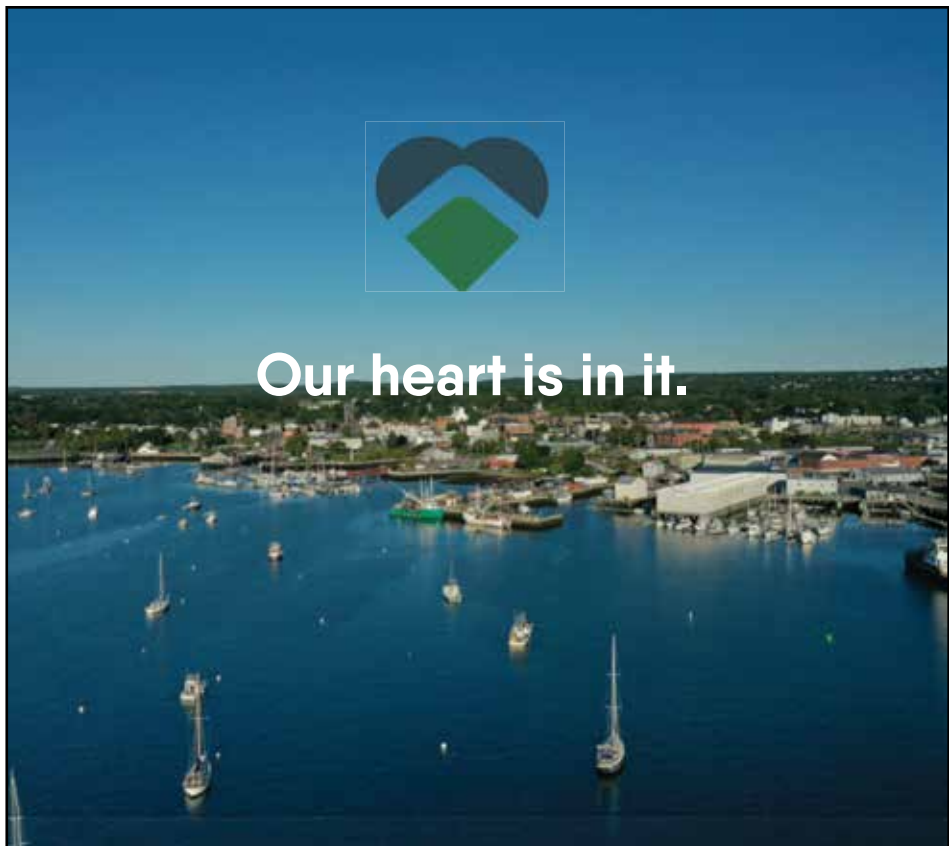


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USAF



Submitted photo
Cody Gosselin recently enlisted in the United States Air Force, leaving a small farm town in Maine to start a new chapter of his life in aircraft engine maintenance. Coming from a background where working with his hands and fixing machinery was part of daily life, he is excited to apply those skills to a mission that matters. It is a big step away from the quiet routines of his life prior to service, but he is proud to represent Maine and ready to take on the challenges ahead with integrity, service, and excellence.



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STUDENT NEWS

Jane Lipp of New Gloucester awarded degree from UA

Tuscaloosa, AL — Jane Lipp of New Gloucester has received the following degree(s) from The University of Alabama: Bachelor of Science in Human Environmental Sciences. UA awarded over 6,000 degrees during its spring commencement ceremonies.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute announces Spring 2025 Dean’s List

Worcester, MA — A total of 2,331 undergraduate students at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) were named to the university’s spring 2025 Dean’s List. The criteria for the WPI Dean’s List differ from that of most other universities as WPI does not compute a grade point average (GPA). Instead, WPI students are named to the Dean’s List based on the amount of work completed at the A level in courses and hands-on projects. The following students were named to the Dean’s List for Spring 2025: Connor Cyr from Minot, class of 2028, majoring in Civil Engineering
Noah Cyr from Minot, class of 2026, majoring in Data Science

Anna Cote graduates from Bates College

Lewiston, ME — Anna Cote of New Gloucester graduated from Bates College in Lewiston, Maine with a major in Biochemistry. Cote graduates as a member of the College Key, an honor reserved for students who have exhibited outstanding character, academic excellence, campus and community service, as well as leadership and future promise. Cote was also granted the Bates Senior Scholar Award, an honor bestowed upon graduating seniors who have participated in varsity sports for four years and have maintained a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or above.

Poland Regional High School
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Honors

Ava Banaitis, Sydney Beauparlant, Maddison Bosse, Gregory Bouchard-Diaz, Kayli Boutwell, Kaydence Bowie, Madelyn Boyd, Raelle Brooks, Emily Bustamante, Payton Campbell, Hailey Caron, Reagan Cooper, Derek Coughlin, Zinnia Cyr, Colby Dolley, Connor Dumont, Brandon Durant, Nicholas Estes, Molly Grenier, Bella Hartman, Jacob Jamo, Meghan Komanetsky, Alivia Lemieux, Owen Leonard, Isabella Lizotte, Deleayni MacEachen, Kairi Marshall, Mia Mastrogiacomo, Grayson Noyes, Jonathan Plummer, Avannah

Poulin, Sara Raby, Sawyer Ramsdell, Nicholas Smith, Emily Stanford, Nathaniel Stowe, Camden Welch and Anna Winslow.

10th Grade
High Honors

David Crump, Charlotte Grenier, Skye Loring-Dymond, Molly Stowell and Caelea Theriault.

Honors

Tucker Bailey, Aiden Bean, Garrett Beaucage, Graceyn Camire, Dylan Cobb, Gabriella Cooper, Abigail Coughlin, Eli Culleton, Cameron Cunningham, Liam Davis, Delilah Farrington, Sage Gardner, Macey Harris, Davis Hill, Noah Hussey, Nicholas Jamo, Thomas Juergens, Landen Levesque, Juno Levy, Gabriella McAlister, Gage McBean, Kaiah McGarry, Elianna Morello, Isaac Mullen, Isabella Patenaude, Brooklin Pratt, Autumn Purington, Payton Rose, Alivia Rubino, Olivia Snowman, Keiralyn Tapley, Jayce Thompson, Mataeya

Washington and Shawn West.

11th Grade
High Honors

Brayden Brown and Ashley Strout.

Honors

Elsa Andersson Maher, Max Benton, Faith Bustamante, Jenna Caron, Cohen Demuth, Harper Doyle, Madyson Eskuri, Brenna Galipeau-El-dridge, Kaylee Hudson, Ryan Kelly, Murphy Lyman, Tucker Nelson, Ava Ouellette, Hailey Rousseau, Rianna St. Pierre, William Stanford, Maleah Stretton-Dupont and Leia Turcotte.

12th Grade
High Honors

Hunter Gagnon

Honors

Emma Adamson, Olivia Austin, Emma Culleton, Ayla Dyer, Ian Eugley, Arianna Gammon, Jason Garneau, Emma Jones, Elise Landry, Breck Langevin, Oliver Olson, Makayla Potvin, Lise Poublan, Olivia Rioux, Grace Robertson, Samuel Russell, Cameron Tufts and Mabel Tyler.

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MOVIE REVIEW *by Lucas Allen*

I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER (2025)

(Columbia Pictures)

Released during the teen slasher revival boom of the late-90s/early-2000s that started with *Scream* in 1996, 1997's "I Know What You Did Last Summer" took a serious approach in its concept of karma and revenge, and quickly developed a fan following. After two terrible sequels (one theatrical, the other direct-to-video) and a short-lived streaming series, the franchise looks to be revived with a long-awaited legacy sequel, predictably enough, under the original title. Writer and director Jennifer Kaytin Robinson was given the task of honoring the franchise's legacy with a new story and characters though one wishes the original writer Kevin Williamson was more involved.

During one fourth of July weekend, Ava (Chase Sui Wonders) returns to her hometown of Southport to reunite with her high school best friend Danica (Madelyn Cline), who's getting married to Teddy (Tyriq Withers), the son of the town's real-estate owner Grant (Billy Campbell). After the engagement party, the three of them, along with Ava's old crush Milo (Jonah Hauer-King) and social outcast Stevie (Sarah Pidgeon), take a drive to watch the fireworks. However, one of them inadvertently causes a truck to crash off the road leading the five of them to make a pact to never tell anybody about it. On the next fourth of July weekend, some of them reunite for Danica's

bridal shower with her new fiancé Wyatt (Joshua Orpin) when she receives a mysterious card with the message bearing the film's title.

At first, they suspected Teddy, who's still not over the engagement being called off only to realize that they're being stalked by a killer dressed like an old fisherman with a hook. With the town police unable to help, they find help from Stevie's boss Ray (Freddie Prinze Jr.) and college professor Julie (Jennifer Love Hewitt), who both survived a similar experience in the same town nearly three decades before.

Let's just cut to the chase; this movie is wildly mediocre. Whatever they were trying to do to make a good movie is completely botched in its execution, and it's not that surprising. All they did was remake the first film and try to cover it up as something new, but the transparency is painfully obvious.

The screenplay is also painfully clunky, with the plot moving on autopilot with so many predictable results. Not to mention, the so-called "main characters" are written like they're still teenagers in high school. Plus, the whole "cover up" subplot goes nowhere, making the police department more corrupt than the mayor from "Jaws" feel pointless.

If you're expecting any interesting twists, you'll likely be disappointed and maybe even enraged. One of the last twists will likely anger fans of the other movies though it was bold of

the filmmakers to try something that's pretty out of left field. Another disappointing thing about the film is its lack of any genuine scares when they resorted to such cliché like a fake out or have the killer just stand behind the victim. This sort of thing will provoke more laughs than screams and certainly not the good kind of laughter.

The young actors are actually not too bad, even though some of them are written so annoyingly stock that it's almost aggravating. The only actors worth mentioning include Wonders doing her best in her "good girl" role, while Cline plays it pretty bimbo-ish at times but also sympathetic enough. Both Hewitt and Prinze Jr. prove to be a welcome return though the former is sadly underutilized while the latter is more substantial in a really good performance. There are also some interesting surprise cameos to boot mainly for the fans if you still care about this sort of thing.

2025's "I Know What You Did Last Summer" is the kind of legacy sequel that should've stayed buried along with the killer's victims. A blatant cash-grab in every way. Heaven forbid they decide to reboot *Urban Legend* next.

THE MOVIE'S RATING: R (for bloody horror violence, language throughout, some sexual content, and brief drug use)

THE CRITIC'S RATING: 2 Stars (Out of Four)

MAINE OUTDOORS *v. Paul Reynolds*

MAKING FIRE THE OLD WAY

How would you like to learn a skill that was practiced by your ancestors during the Neolithic era more than 5,000 years ago, and uses the same basic materials?

A bow drill is the oldest known human invention for starting a fire by friction. Many years ago, as a Boy Scout, I tried unsuccessfully to start a fire with a bow drill, and, sad to say, wound up using a Bic lighter to get a campfire going.

The good news is that last month at the Puckerbrush Primitive Gathering at the Pleasant River Fish & Game Conservation Association, I had a redemptive moment with the bow drill. Thanks to the patient tutoring and step-by-step instruction of Tim Beal, it all came together for me in a soul-satisfying, smoking ember that finally ignited and shot out a red flame from the tinder "bird's nest."

Beal, who is a timber framer, farmer and blueberry grower from Whiting, knows his craft, not only with a bow drill, but with patient and focused instruction. Starting a fire with mere friction is not quite as easy as it sounds. There are a lot of parts: the spindle, the hearth board, the bearing block, the bow and the string.

As Beal emphasizes, methodical preparation is half the battle. Good tinder is the key, and can be derived from a variety of sources. As for the bow drill itself, he says cedar or balsam fir is the best. He lubricates the top of the spindle and makes sure that the burn end of the spindle is carved into a blunt point. Using the bow drill, which rotates the spindle back and forth in the hearth board, he first makes a burn hole in the hearth board. Then he cuts a pie-shaped opening in the side of the burn hole, which allows the smoking embers from the friction drilling to be



Photo by Larry Balken

The author learning to start a fire with a primitive bow drill at the Puckerbrush gathering recently in Columbia Falls. Tim Beal, from Whiting, taught Reynolds the finer points of bow drilling, an ancient fire-starting method that dates back 5,000 years.

dropped from the hole onto a dry surface. That surface can be a piece of thick bark used as the base for the smoking embers. Once the smoking embers have been separated from the hole, it's simply a case of gently adding some dry shredded punk wood beside the smoking ember and, eventually the tinder-loaded "bird's nest." A little light puffing on the whole lashup and voila! You have fire.

The other primitive method of fire starting, along with the friction process, is called "percussion starting," which involves striking flint over tinder. Otzi, the 5,000-year-old hunter found frozen in the Alps a while back, was not carrying a bow drill. He was a percussion guy who carried flint and pyrite. (Pyrite is another name for a mineral called "fool's gold.") The mountain man may have been primitive, but he knew enough to coddle his precious fire source. Experts determined that he actually transported smoking embers in a leather pouch as he wandered about changing camp sites.

Of course, it is one thing to start a bow-drill fire under ideal conditions. Quite another if you are, say, the doomed trapper in Jack London's classic short story "To Build A Fire." London's character got a life-saving fire blazing at 50 below zero, only to have it smothered out by a lump of snow falling from an overhanging branch.

When it comes to survival, whether it was the Ice Man of 5,000-years-ago, the Klondike trapper of the 1800s or a lost hunter or hiker in the 21st century, the capacity to start a fire was and will continue to be often the difference between life and death.

The author is editor of the *Northwoods Sporting Journal*. He is also a *Maine Guide* and host of a weekly radio program, "Maine Outdoors," heard Sundays at 7 p.m. on *The Voice of Maine News-Talk Network*. He has authored three books. Online purchase information is available at www.sportingjournal.com.

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We were told 100% of the chips used for the newsprint come from waste streams of other processes, such as the waste from lumber mills. Our newsprint producers also have a process to ensure that all fiber supplies come from forests that are managed for sustainability and comply with forest management principles.

The chips go through a thermo-mechanical pulp-making process, which involves a combination of steam and mechanical force to break the chips into a "slurry" of water and fibers. Giant machines work the chips into a mixture that is mostly water. This mixture is then sent to a process to brighten the paper.

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THE HEALTHY GEEZER *Fred Cicetti*

DOES THE PLAGUE STILL EXIST?

Q. Does the plague still exist?

In the 1300s, the Black Death, as plague was called, killed about one-third of the people in Europe. A combination of antibiotics and improved living conditions have made plague rare today.

Plague is found throughout the world, except for Australia. The greatest number of human plague infections occurs in African countries. However, the largest concentration of infected animals is in the United States and in the former Soviet Union.

An average of 5 to 15

cases occur each year in the western United States. These cases are usually scattered in rural areas; they are caused by bites primarily from infected prairie dogs.

Plague was first introduced into the United States in 1900 by rat-infested steamships that had sailed from affected areas. Epidemics occurred in port cities.

The last urban plague epidemic in the United States occurred in Los Angeles from 1924 through 1925. Plague then spread from urban rats to rural rodent species and became en-

trenched in many areas of the western United States.

Plague is often mentioned as a bioterrorism weapon along with anthrax, smallpox and botulism. A bioweapon carrying plague is possible because the bacterium that causes plague occurs in nature and could be isolated and grown in quantity in a laboratory.

Plague bacteria could be sprayed through the air, infecting anyone who inhales it. In this scenario, antibiotics would treat the plague effectively if they were used soon after infection.

National and state public health officials have large

supplies of drugs needed in the event of a bioterrorism attack.

Plague is an infection caused by the bacterium *Yersinia pestis*. The bacteria are found mainly in rats and their resident fleas. Rat or flea bites spread plague.

There are three forms of plague: bubonic, septicemic and pneumonic.

Bubonic inflames the tonsils, adenoids, spleen and thymus. It induces fever, aches, chills, fatigue and tender lymph glands. Bubonic plague is the most common type in humans but is rarely spread from person to person.

Septicemic, in which bacteria multiply in the blood, causes fever, chills, shock, bleeding, abdominal pain, diarrhea, vomiting, and death of tissue in fingers, toes and nose.

Pneumonic plague occurs when bacteria enters the lungs and cause pneumonia. This can be spread between people. It kills faster than the other forms of plague. This form of the disease is the one that is feared by security officials. Symptoms include fever, nausea, vomiting, weakness, chest pain, difficulty breathing and a bloody cough.

No efficient vaccine against plague is currently available. New plague vaccines are in development but are not expected to be commercially available in the immediate future.

With prompt treatment, the overall fatality rate from plague is less than 15 percent. Without treatment, mortality rates can be as high as 60 percent for bubonic plague and 100 percent for pneumonic plague. Death can occur within days after symptoms appear.

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Hammond Lumber Company to acquire Ware-Butler Building Supply

BELGRADE — Hammond Lumber Company (Hammond) is proud to announce its plans to acquire Ware-Butler Building Supply (Ware-Butler). The acquisition will expand Hammond’s retail footprint from 22 to 34 locations throughout Maine and New Hampshire, further strengthening its ability to serve communities across the region. The acquisition will officially close on July 31, 2025.

The transaction includes 15 Ware-Butler retail locations in Maine: Corinth, Dixfield, Dover-Foxcroft, Gorham, Greenville, Kingfield, Livermore Falls, Madison (Rt 201), Madison (Main Street), Mexico, Orrington, Palmyra, Stillwater (Old Town), Waterville, and West Enfield. Hammond Lumber Company will consolidate the

Dixfield, Greenville, and Orrington locations into nearby Hammond branches to optimize resources and better serve local customers. All Ware-Butler employees will be offered continued employment and welcomed into Hammond Lumber Company’s operations, including relocation to nearby branches where applicable, as part of a smooth integration process.

Also included in the acquisition are Ware-Butler’s wall panel manufacturing facility in Stillwater and two metal roofing production lines under the Peak Metals brand, located in Stillwater and Palmyra. These assets will expand Hammond’s in-house manufacturing capabilities, particularly for framing packages and custom roofing systems, aligning with customer demand

for high-quality, prefabricated building components.

With this acquisition, Hammond solidifies its position as one of the largest independent building material retailers in the Northeast. The company will employ over 1,200 people from Maine and New Hampshire and is projected to generate more than \$550 million in annual sales.

“This is a meaningful opportunity to continue a legacy shaped by trust and long-standing relationships,” said Mike Hammond, President and CEO of Hammond Lumber Company. “In the months ahead,

we’ll be focused on listening, learning, and supporting the people and communities who have built these businesses.”

“We have a deep respect for Hammond Lumber Company and the values they stand for,” said Jason and Chris Brochu, Co-Presidents of Pleasant River Lumber. “This was a thoughtful and deliberate decision, and we’re confident that Hammond is the right long-term steward for the Ware-Butler team, its customers, and the communities they serve. We look forward to seeing the continued success of the

company under their leadership.”

Ware-Butler Building Supply was founded in 1925 and acquired by Pleasant River Lumber in 2020. Ware-Butler grew rapidly under Pleasant River Lumber’s ownership through acquisitions including Crescent Lumber, Phinney Lumber, Jordan Lumber, Campbell’s Building Supply, Puia Building Supply, Twin Rivers Building Supply, Webber Hardware, Morrell’s Hardware, and Thompson’s Hardware.

Pleasant River Lumber will continue to operate its two spruce sawmills in Do-

ver-Foxcroft and Enfield. The sale does not include Pleasant River Lumber’s two sawmills, AA Brochu Inc., Moosehead Cedar Log Homes, and the Woodsmith’s Cabinetry manufacturing facility—all of which will continue to be operated independently by Pleasant River Lumber.

Anchor Peabody Advisory Services represented Hammond Lumber Company as the buy-side advisor. Cafa Corporate Finance represented Ware-Butler Building Supply as the sell-side advisor in the transaction.

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NAMI Maine 1-800-465-5767

Frontline Helpline 1-866-676-7500

National Distress Hotline 1-800-985-5990

Maine 211 (Maine Support Services) Dial 211

Maine Sexual Assault Helpline at 1-800-871-7741

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C I L A S S I F I E D S

LEGAL NOTICE

PETITION FOR A PARDON
STATE OF MAINE

Augusta, October 16, 2025

Notice is hereby given that a Petition for a Pardon for Keith D. Kroesser who was convicted of the crime Aggravated Assault (B) CR-89-209, is now pending before the Governor and a hearing will be conducted on Thursday October 16, 2025 at 9 A.M. Please visit the following link for Hearing details: <https://www.maine.gov/corrections/pardonboard>


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Gray Blueberry Festival



Bill Van Tassel Photo
Maggie and Fran Holnaider (Right) of Poland, Maine stopped by the Tavern Hill Farm booth at the Gray Wild Blueberry Fest on August 9. On the left is her granddaughter and friend who surprised them.



Bill Van Tassel Photo
Dozens of Gray Blueberry Fest visitors were walking around enjoying little dishes of Blueberry Crisp purchased at Field's Fields food truck. Blueberry ice cream, muffins, juice, etc. were also being tasted.



Morning greeters.

Vinnie Palange photo



Family posing with Lil Blue.

Lacy Antonson photo



Youth Pie Eating Contest.

Kyle Hadniak photo

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