

# Here's why I love the Pokemon Go craze

My name is John. I'm 51 years old. I don't live in my mother's basement — heck, I'm even married, and have three great step-children, two dogs and a cat.

And I love Pokemon Go.

Unless you've spent the last two weeks camping in T8, R16 (look it up ... it's officially the middle of nowhere), you've likely heard about the Pokemon Go phenomenon.

If you're not sure what I'm talking about, welcome back from T8, R16! Hope you had a great time!

Those pedestrians you've seen walking around with their phones held out in front of them? Rest assured, they're not zombies. Well, most of them aren't. They're just playing Pokemon Go. They're capturing Pokemon. Or they're stopping at Poke-stops, where they can pick up some cool loot.

Pokemon Go is a bit of a scav-



JOHN HOLYOKE

enger hunt, based on real-world GPS technology.

And it might change the way you look at your interactions with family members. Honest. It happened to me.

For the record, I was hesitant to download the app and join the zombies — oops ... not zombies ... “players” — who were wandering around town at all hours of the day. My main reason: I thought I was too old for such foolishness.

Stepson Mackie, 15, was first to leap into the growing phenomenon, on the day of the app's

launch. That wasn't surprising, as he's been a Pokemon master for years. Eventually, his brother, 13-year-old Gordon, joined in. My wife, Karen, began playing a bit, too. Georgia, also 13, steps in and catches Pokemon when her mom is driving.

A few times, I served as Mackie's personal Pokemon Uber driver, shuttling him between the Pokestop-rich environments of Bangor's waterfront and the University of Maine. Getting to spend some time around him was great, and (sadly) not that common. He's

15, after all, approximately the same age that the term “quality time with family” ceases to exist.

On Saturday, despite my initial misgivings, I decided to join the masses and play along.

This wasn't a decision I took lightly. On different social media, and even in my workplace, I've heard many bash the game, which they dismiss as a time-wasting fad.

I was beginning to see things differently. My thought: If the kids are into it, and they want to

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## Musician says fans will love the energy

Rob Thomas to play in Bangor next week

BY SARAH WALKER CARON  
BDN STAFF

When you're a Grammy Award-winning songwriter whose rock band's debut album was certified as 12x platinum and you also have a thriving solo career, there's a lot to love about your career. For Rob Thomas, the aforementioned musician, it's hard to choose which part is the best.

“It's a tossup for me between that moment when you write a song. It's a very solemn moment. It's you and you alone. It's like you're in a vacuum,” Thomas said. “Then you go out and play it.”

He loves live performances, too, because the energy of the crowd and how they react to the music is special.

But one thing is certain: Studio time isn't a favorite.

And that's OK — especially because he loves playing live shows like the one planned for next week, here in Bangor, Maine.

Thomas and co-headliners Counting Crows will be playing at Darling's Waterfront Pavilion at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 3. He'll be performing some old favorites and new stuff from his latest solo album, “The Great Unknown,” which was released in August 2015.

The co-headlining tour kicked off last week in West Palm Beach, Florida. And when Thomas traveled south from his New York home, he had someone special along for the ride.

“My son [Maison] jumped on the [tour] bus in New York, and we took the ride from New York to Florida,” Thomas said.

At 18, Maison is a musician, too. This fall, he's heading to Berklee College of Music in Boston — coincidentally, Boston is also the tour stop right before Bangor. Although his son has toured with him before, Thomas says having his son on the bus only gets better as he ages.

“Now, every tour he comes out on, it's more fun,” Thomas said.

This tour will wrap up in Nashville, Tennessee, on Sept. 30. Along the way, Thomas and Counting Crows will play a number of iconic spots, including New York venues Nikon at Jones Beach Theater and Bethel Woods Center for the Arts — site of the original Woodstock festival.

So, how do venues like Bethel Woods compare to newer venues like Darling's Waterfront Pavilion?

“I think the musician in all of us gets really excited about playing at these historic venues,” Thomas said. They make the music.

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## Catch a Movie Under the Stars



MICKY BEDELL | BDN

River City Cinema's “Summer of Love,” outdoor film series will screen its last film for 2016, “You've Got Mail,” Friday. The film begins when it gets dark, usually between 8:30 and 9 p.m. This is the 13th season of the Cinema Under the Stars Summer Film Series. River City Cinema, a non-profit arts organization, aims to bring diverse films to the region and educate the community about the art and history of film and cinema. The film series is sponsored by Bangor Federal Credit Union and is free and open to the public. A rain date has been set for Aug. 5.

## Harry Potter, wizarding fun in Bangor

Downtown businesses to help celebrate release of new book this weekend

BY CRYSTAL SANDS  
SPECIAL TO THE BDN

Over the past few months, I've written about everything from chickens to children to recipes. I've yet to write about books, and books are a very important part of who I am as a person and a mom.

Even though I'm no longer a full-time professor, I still teach part-time, and I think, maybe because I've been teaching writing since I was 22 years old, I'll al-

ways consider myself a literacy teacher. It's just a part of who I am, and I don't think that will ever change.

So it seems like it's about time I wrote about books. I have so many plans to write about books, but it seems like chickens and kiddos always take precedent in my mind when I sit down to write. Well, not anymore.

Harry Potter inspires me! This weekend, on July 31, a new Harry Potter book will be re-

leased, “Harry Potter and the Cursed Child.” And, chances are, somewhere near you, there are going to be parties and celebrations in honor of this important release.

Here's why I think you should take some time to celebrate this book, especially if you're a parent: We need to make a big deal out of books!

I taught college freshmen for a long time, and it would break my heart to learn how many students

had never read a single book for fun — or had never read a single book at all, opting for Cliff's Notes or online summaries when assigned reading in high school. These students were always the students who struggled most with both their reading and their writing, and I would always worry that, somehow, these students had missed an opportunity in their lives. Not only does reading improve your writing skills, it can

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## ‘Comedy of Errors’ uneven but satisfying Shakespeare

BY JUDY HARRISON  
BDN STAFF

Two sets of twins, separated at birth

In fair Ephe-  
sus, where we lay  
our scene,  
Scamper through the streets  
creating mirth

Until truth's unraveled as all  
careen.

It may not be as poetic as the  
prologue to “Romeo and Juliet,”

### THEATER REVIEW

but it's a fair plot summary of William Shakespeare's “The Comedy of Errors.”

The bard's first comedy and shortest play is this summer's offering from Ten Bucks Theatre Company.

It opened last Thursday at Indian Trail Park in Brewer and continues there this week before moving to Fort Knox in Prospect next week. The play is full of mistaken identities and miscommuni-

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RON LISNET | TEN BUCKS THEATRE COMPANY

Nathan Roach as Antipholus of Syracuse (left) clashes with a merchant played by Katrina Dresser as Adam Cousins as Dromio of Syracuse and Moira Beale as Angelina take cover in Ten Bucks Theatre Company's production of “The Comedy of Errors.”