

# Fourth of July celebrations

Although rain is predicted for most of Maine this weekend, officials at the National Weather Service in Caribou said on Friday that a dry, sunny Fourth of July is in the forecast.

Mark Bloomer, meteorologist at the weather service in Caribou, said Friday that Independence Day in Maine is likely to be in the high 70s in both Caribou and the Bangor area, but slightly cooler in Down East Maine.

The balmy weather will come after rain forecast over the weekend, said Bloomer. He said that Saturday is projected to have showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 5 p.m., with a high near 73. Sunday was projected to be mostly cloudy with a high near 70.

## EVENT LISTINGS:

**AUGUSTA** — Big bash: parade, 4 p.m., departing from Maine State House; fireworks, 9:15 p.m. riverfront Augusta Mill Park. 626-2350 or KVCC, 623-4559.

**BANGOR** — Independence Day celebration: Pancake breakfast, 6-10 a.m., Brewer Auditorium; Parade from Brewer to Bangor, 11 a.m.; festivities including free concert and fireworks over the Penobscot, 2-9:30 p.m., Bangor Waterfront.

**BAR HARBOR** — Blueberry pancake breakfast, 6-10 a.m., MDI Rotary Club, Bar Harbor Athletic Field, Park Street; Island Arts Association craft fair-marketplace, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., YMCA, 21 Park St.; Independence Day Parade, 10 a.m., from Main Street to Cottage Street to Eden Street to Mt. Desert Street to Ledgellaw Avenue; Seafood Festival, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., MDI Rotary Club, Bar Harbor Athletic Field; free concert series, 3:30-9 p.m., Agamont Park; free Bar Harbor Town Band concert, 7:30-8:30 p.m.; fireworks over Frenchman Bay, 9:15 p.m.

**BLUE HILL** — Flash in the Pans street dance, 7:30-9 p.m., Blue Hill Town Park. Benefits Blue Hill Historical Society and Peace Ridge Sanctuary. Flashinthepans.org.

**BROOKS** — Fireworks as part of Brooks Bicentennial Celebration, 9 p.m., Community Park. Rain date, Tuesday, July 5.

**BRUNSWICK** — 4th of July Games on the Town Mall, 10-11:30 a.m. Free to children of all ages. Water, popsicles, oranges and juice provided. Relay games, three-legged races, pie-eating contest, wheelbarrow races, sack races, watermelon-eating contest, ribbon awards. Peggy Siegle, Brunswick Rotary, 729-1348.

**CAMDEN** — Independence Day celebration, 2-9 p.m., Harbor Park Amphitheatre. Music by the Sea concert with Mes Amis

acoustic, gypsy jazz, 2 p.m.; Casco Bay Wind Symphony, 3:30 p.m.; Roosevelt Dime, rhythm and blues, 5 p.m.; David Dodson and The Lowdown featuring Jon and Rachel Nicolas, folk, rock, blues and country, 7:45 p.m. Fireworks over the harbor, 9 p.m. Camden Rotary, 236-3440 or Penobscot Bay Regional Chamber of Commerce, 236-4404.

**DEER ISLE-STONINGTON** — Independence Day celebration activities: parade, community band, color guard, Stonington Six road races, fish pier events, live entertainment, fireworks at dusk. Deer Isle-Stonington Chamber of Commerce, 348-6124.

**DEXTER** — Fireworks, dusk Sunday, July 3, Dexter High School football field, rain date, Tuesday, July 5; parade, 9:30 a.m. Monday, July 4; boat parade, 11 a.m. Monday, July 4.

**EASTPORT** — July Fourth celebration with events scheduled on Saturday, July 2, (day after Canada Day, with its own fireworks on Deer Island Point Park in New Brunswick, Friday, July 1). including Grand Independence Parade, concerts at Overlook Park, greasy pole and water sports, antique car show, contests and games for all ages with prizes, fireworks over the bay. Fireworks rain date, Tuesday, July 5.

**FREEPORT** — Parade on Main Street and free David Mallett and Mallett Brothers Band concert, Discovery Park; fireworks, 9 p.m., 6 Snow Road by Freeport snow dump site. Fireworks rain date, Tuesday, July 5.

**GREENVILLE** — Independence Day games, crafts, food vendors and parade, East Cove of Moosewood Lake; fireworks, 9 p.m. Sunday, July 3, midway between DIF&W Building and Forestry Building. Rain date, Tuesday, July 5.

**HOULTON** — Midnight Madness, 9 a.m.-midnight Saturday, July 2, Market Square. Music, craft fair in Monument Park, family activities, fireworks at Riverfront Park on banks of Meduxnekeag River, 9:30 p.m. Fireworks display, Monday, July 4.

**JACKMAN** — Fireworks, 9 p.m., field behind town office, 369 Main St.

**JONESPORT-BEALS** — Moosabec Summer Fest, activities through July 2. Fireworks, 9 p.m. Saturday, July 2, Perio Point on the A.C. Inc. property. Fireworks rain date, Sunday, July 3.

**LEWISTON-AUBURN** — Liberty Festival, with bands, entertainment and food vendors, Great Falls Plaza in Auburn

and Veteran's Park in Lewiston. Fireworks finale, West Pitch Park, Auburn. info@libertyfestival.org.

**LIMESTONE** — Fireworks, 9 p.m., Cavendish Farms potato field, Pond View Street. Rain date, Tuesday, July 5.

**MILLINOCKET** — 4th of July Celebration, Veteran's Park: DJ Frank Manzo spinning tunes, beginning at 10 a.m.; parade starting at Northem Shopping Plaza, 11 a.m.; pie and cookie sale sponsored by Friends of Millinocket Library; free watermelon; food vendors; dancing at the bandstand, 6 p.m.; fireworks, 9 p.m., Stearns High School. Rain date for fireworks, Tuesday, July 5. Katahdin Area Chamber of Commerce, 723-4443.

**OAKLAND** — Fireworks, 9 p.m., from float in Camp Manitou cove. Rain date, Tuesday, July 5.

**PORTLAND** — Maine Historical Society Fourth of July activities: public reading of Declaration of Independence by former state Rep. Herb Adams, noon, in front of Wadsworth-Longfellow House; free lemonade, cookies and souvenir flags available. Walking tours of route of Great Portland Fire of 1866, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Tours of Wadsworth-Longfellow House, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Tours, \$15, \$12 seniors and students, \$3 age 6 to 17; free to age 5 and under. Register with Visitor Services Manager John Babin, 774-1822, ext. 212.

**RANGELEY** — Independence Day celebration, Sunday, July 3, Rangeley Lakeside Park: children's parade, 10 a.m.; duck race on Haley Pond, 10:30 a.m.; parade, 11 a.m.; fireworks at dusk. Music, food, live entertainment, games, activities for children, demonstrations. Also, Rangeley Lakes Chamber of Commerce silent auction, chamber office.

**SEARSPORT** — Parade, 11 a.m.; rowboat races, Hamilton Wharf; fireworks, 9 p.m., Mosman Park. Harriet, town office, 548-6372; fireworks, Dick Desmarais, 548-2868.

**SEARSPORT** — Annual auction, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday, July 4, Searsport United Methodist Church. Knitted and crocheted items, other handcrafts and homemade foods. Hamburgers and hot dogs.

**SOUTHWEST HARBOR** — Fireworks launched

from Acadia Fuel Barge, Monday, July 4. Rain date, Saturday, July 9. 244-9264.

**THOMASTON** — "The Music Man" by Watts Hall Community Players, 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, July 2 and 3; Friday and Saturday, July 8 and 9, Watts Hall. Tickets available at the door, 6-7 p.m., no reserved seating, ticket reservations, 354-0615. Schedule for July 4: pancake breakfast, 7 a.m., Masonic Temple, Main Street; Kids One Mile Fun Race, 8 a.m.; 5K Firecracker Race, 8:30 a.m., signup, 7-8 a.m., Beechwood Street in front of old Water Dog-Billy's Tavern, or runinrace.com/Firecracker/index.html; parade staging, 8:30 a.m., Dwight Street near town cemetery; "Hometown Proud-Hometown Talent" parade, 11 a.m., starting from cemetery on Main Street and disbanding on Booker Street; craft tent, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., behind Masonic Temple building; pet show, 9:15 a.m., behind Thomaston Business Block in front of Lura Libby School; noon, Fourth of July opening ceremony with introductions of dignitaries and announcement of parade prize winners; food, face painting, souvenirs, drinks, bounce houses, giant bubbles, noon until fireworks; chicken barbecue, noon, behind business block; hot-dog eating contest, 1 p.m.; Cod Adams Memorial Horseshoe Tournament, Lura Libby School field, 1 p.m.; The Scolded Dogs band, 12:30-4 p.m.; Animal House band, 5-9 p.m.; fireworks, 9:15 p.m.; purchases of glow jewelry and participation in some of booth activities benefit next year's event.

**WEST FORKS** — Fireworks, 9 p.m. Saturday, July 2, camp turnaround area where Dead River and Kennebec River meet. Rain date, Sunday, July 3.

**WINSLOW** — The Fourth of July Celebration, Saturday through Monday, July 2-4. Fireworks display over Fort Halifax Park, 9 p.m. Monday.

**WINTHROP** — July Fourth celebration at Norcross Point. Fireworks at dusk. 377-8020.

# Haskell

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Old age, said the vet. What do you want me to do? This time, we opted for a chest X-ray, which showed two good-sized tumors in her lung, an enlarged heart and fluid in the chest wall. We looked at each other and knew the time had arrived, with nothing to be gained by delay. She died quietly in our arms, and though we wept, it was a joy to see her at ease and at peace.

So, now, there is no dog here. We miss Lucy's convivial presence in the house, her companionship when we're working in the yard, her grumbling at the cats, her snoozy snoring at night. We miss taking her for walks and her warm, musty smell after a swim. We miss it all.

And yet, we're not in any hurry to round up a replacement for this dear dog, to fill the new quietness in our lives. We recognize that owning a dog entails a thousand large and small responsibilities, compromises and

costs. From training and exercising to vet bills and kenneling, from scooping up poop and vacuuming up balls of hair to always carrying extra water and parking in the shade — a myriad tasks and considerations attend the privilege of living with a dog. They become second nature, but in reality, they use up a lot of psychic space and energy.

At 68 and nearly 62, with retirement on the horizon and travel on our minds, and Douglas and I wonder if being unencumbered by a dog isn't, perhaps, a good thing, a liberating thing. And so, with some sadness, we have put away the dog beds, the dog brushes and the basket of toys, donated the half-bag of chow to the shelter and begun to imagine ourselves as non-dog-owners.

At six weeks out, it still feels strange and a little lonely. I'll let you know how it goes.

Meg Haskell writes about life as a baby boomer at [livingitforward.bangordailynews.com](http://livingitforward.bangordailynews.com).

# Curves

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attached to the house in anticipation of dumping the oil into the new tank once installed the next day.

Night came and we closed the garage doors without giving it a thought.

The fumes from the oil permeated our old farmhouse and eventually reached our upstairs bedroom, where they gathered and stayed. The smell woke us up. After determining what had happened, we decided we could not sleep in the house until we aired it out.

Jim and I dressed in warm clothes, collected the dogs and sat on the patio swing on the deck while we aired out the house. At 3 a.m., the house still reeked of oil, so we dug out a couple of warm blankets and settled in on the deck, watching our breath hang in the cool night air and trying to catch a few ZZZZZZZS.

We almost succeeded with our nap, but it began to rain — and then pour.

Jim and I really did have a collective warped sense of humor. The ridiculousness of our situation totally struck us between the eyes and we laughed. Two educated fools huddled and shivering together under blankets on the back deck at 3 a.m. in the pouring rain because we were too stupid to leave the garage door open to vent fumes in the first place.

We laughed until tears rolled down our cheeks.

We often spoke of that night as one of our most cherished memories. And even though I have changed the furniture and added my grill to the deck, I still have the sense of that patio swing where Jim and I spent hours together.

Our time in each other's company gave the deck its own personality. And I think that was the whole problem with the deck after Jim died: It lacked personality. It became a foreign place. Totally unrecognizable to me. Shrouded in deafening silence.

But as I've been making peace with my memories and my life without Jim, I've managed to reclaim the deck as my own space. I take comfort in the many memories its strong posts support — posts that Jim secured in the ground himself — and in the place of peace and rest it is now for me.

I don't know when my attitude about my deck changed, but I do know that my recent Sunday morning there felt as natural as could be, and I look forward to more of them.

As a longtime employee of the Bangor Daily News, Julie Harris has served many roles over the years, but she now has her dream job as community editor. She lives in Hermon with her four Brittany dogs: Sassy, Bullet, Thistle and Quincy, who keep her busy in various dog sports. She was widowed at age 51 when her husband, Jim, died of pancreatic cancer. Follow her blog at [curves.bangordailynews.com](http://curves.bangordailynews.com).

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