

Open University Day at UMaine, celebrating 150th anniversary, set for Oct. 17



Cover art for Stephen King's audio book, "Drunken Fireworks," narrated by Tim Sample.

The University of Maine's yearlong celebration of its 150th anniversary continues with Open University Day on Saturday, Oct. 17, held in conjunction with Homecoming, and Family and Friends Weekend. A list of all public events throughout the weekend, Oct. 16-18, including athletics events, art exhibits, planetarium shows, performances and receptions is available online. "We're extending an invitation to people throughout Maine to join us for these three days of events campuswide," says Dana Humphrey, chair of UMaine's Anniversary Implementation Committee. "This will be a wonderful opportunity to learn about the state's flagship university and how its teaching, research and economic development, and outreach efforts benefit all of Maine."

Open University Day features public tours of UMaine's world-class laboratories, performances, exhibits and program presentations at nearly 30 campus venues. Visitors can pick up free Open University passports and maps at one of six information booths on campus that day. Passports will be stamped at each venue visited; prizes will be drawn from those passports with the most stamps. Saturday also will be highlighted by Homecoming tailgating at 12:30 p.m. and UMaine football vs. Yale at 3:30 p.m., and Family and Friends Weekend Lobster Bake at noon. The Homecoming Craft Fair and Marketplace featuring more than 200 artists, crafters and artisans will be held in the Field House, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; 10 a.m.-4

p.m. Sunday. In addition, the legacy of Vincent Hartgen will be celebrated Saturday with the 1:30 p.m. dedication of the drawing studios named in his honor in the Wyeth Family Studio Art Center, Stewart Commons. Hartgen was a professor in the UMaine Department of Art from 1946-82, and curated the University art collection. Saturday night at 7, Maine humorist Tim Sample will offer An Evening of "Drunken Fireworks" in 100 D.P. Corbett Business Building. Sample, who narrated Stephen King's recently released audiobook, "Drunken Fireworks," will read passages of the short story, and reflect on his career and his collaboration with King, who called the recording of the audiobook as a "wild ride." A book signing will follow the event. Oct. 16 will feature a 150th anniversary lecture by historian Edward Baptist of Cornell University, speaking on "How to Save American Higher Education from Its Saviors: The Morrill Act and What It Can Teach Us Today." The 3:15 p.m. lecture in Minsky Recital Hall will be followed by a reception in Fogler Library. Oct. 18, there will be a Family and Friends Weekend Jazz Brunch, set for 9:30-11 a.m., in Wells Conference Center. Ticket information can be found online. For more information about UMaine's 150th anniversary events, visit umaine.edu/150th, or email umaine150@umaine.edu.

Justice for the River blends rock, hip hop, social issues



PHOTO COURTESY JUSTICE FOR THE RIVER

Justice for the River is a rock-funk-hip hop band that is comprised of musicians (left to right) bassist Lawton Mann, drummer Jason Mitchell, frontman Nick Bear and guitarist Eric Green. They are pictured here playing at the Camden Opera House last year.

BY EMILY BURNHAM OF THE WEEKLY STAFF After initially getting together as a one-time-only band to play at the first-ever Justice for the River event in the fall of 2013, Bangor area musicians Eric Green, Jason Mitchell, Nick Bear and Lawton Mann decided that the music they were making was too good to stop. In fact, they chose their name — Justice for the River — from the event that spawned their music in the first place. Two years later, Justice for the River has played gigs every couple months through eastern Maine, playing a blend of rock, blues, funk and hip hop. Guitarist Green, well-known to Maine music fans as both a solo blues player and frontman with his band, the Eric Green Party, says he's been told they sound a little bit like a modern-day Rage

Against the Machine. "It blends all the things we do, because I'm the blues and funk guy, and Nick is a rapper, and Lawton is the rocker, and Jason is just a beast on the drums," said Green. "Honestly, part of the reason I wanted to do this was just to have the chance to play with Jason, because he's such an insanely great drummer. It's like having a giant boulder on stage." All four bandmates are of Native descent, with Green, Bear and Mitchell all proud members of the Penobscot Nation, and Mann of partial Mohawk descent. To that end, their music reflects the shared struggle of Native people, and in particular, the fight to reclaim their water rights on the Penobscot River in Maine. "The whole reason we got together was to do something about this

whole issue. I'm not the type to protest or stand in a picket line, but I can help in other ways," said Green. "We can say a lot through our music and our lyrics." While Justice for the River does not have any gigs scheduled for the immediate future, they have played a number of well-received shows at the Boomhouse in Old Town, Happy Acres in Alton and the Camden Opera House. "That's the beauty of it — it's no pressure, we just play when we can and we have a great time doing it," said Green. "But when we do it's kind of this really special thing. It's a really important issue and it means a lot to all of us." Green is also mixing a recording of a live show the band played in September. For more information, like Justice for the River on Facebook.

800-pound 'Peanut,' grown at Bangor Community Garden

BY NOK-NOI HAUGER BDN STAFF

When the "pumpkin momma" and her farmer boyfriend drove over to the Bangor Community Garden on Saturday they carried along a 503.4 pound yellow pumpkin in the back of their truck that attracted quite a bit of attention. "Everyone was like 'Cool pumpkin' and giving us the thumbs up and I'm like, 'That's the baby,'" Sarah Whitty said after arriving at the garden on Essex Street, now in its fifth season offering a place for the community to grow vegetables and other plants. Whitty and Dale Hartt, one of Maine's mixed martial arts pioneers and former Ultimate Fighting Championship fighter, went to the garden to pick up another pumpkin that is nearly twice as large, an estimated 800-pound orange gourd nicknamed Peanut. Whitty planted the seeds on May 1 and the massive pumpkin is heading down to the Damariscotta Pumpkinfest and Regatta, and may be made into a boat for the pumpkinboat regatta on Oct. 12. The couple got the Atlantic Giant Pumpkin seeds from an 1,695 pound pumpkin that last year set the state record. "I had to shovel the snow off the ground," Whitty said of the planting. The area around the plants also was covered and heated for the first month to provide the seeds the best possible start, she said. The couple grew three massive pumpkins this year, the 503.4 pounder in the back of their truck that was showcased at the Common Ground Fair and an 1,100-pounder that went to a contest in New Hampshire. The third seed, Peanut, was transplanted in the Bangor Community Garden, and the couple plans to donate its seeds to the Master Gardeners program of Penobscot County, a part of the University of Maine Co-



BDN PHOTO BY NOK-NOI RICKER

Local volunteer Byron Hale, left, and another man help local growers, Sarah Whitty and Dale Hartt of Bangor, pictured on the right, lift an estimated 800-pound pumpkin, nicknamed "Peanut," to take down to the Damariscotta Pumpkinfest and Regatta.

operative Extension. Byron Hale, a local angler, and volunteer at the garden said that many in the community helped to water the pumpkin and watched and recorded its growth over the last couple of months. The garden is located at the former Navy Reserve Center at 402 Essex St. that closed in 2003. The first community garden was planted in 2011 and it now has 79 beds out back and 68 raised beds in the front. On Saturday, Hale and his grandchildren measured the massive vegetable, which had a circumference of 154 inches. "I started out with a 60-inch [measuring] tape. That didn't last long," Hale joked. Garden coordinator Kate Garland, a horticulturist for UMaine's Cooperative Extension, said many of the local gardeners enjoyed watching "peanut" and helping the plant grow. "Peanut has been a fun addition to the garden," she said in an email. "Her presence has helped bring members together for a common cause — watering, hand-picking pests, measuring and cheering her on throughout the season." Hartt, whose first Ultimate Fighting victory came when he broke the leg of his opponent in the second round of his UFC Fight Night 16 bout in 2008, said he is really looking forward to the regatta, especially since he couldn't fit into the pumpkin they brought last year and wasn't able to participate.



BDN PHOTO BY NOK-NOI RICKER

Sarah Whitty and Dale Hartt sit on a massive 800-pound pumpkin that was started by them but transplanted to the Bangor Community Garden on Essex Street and is heading to the Damariscotta Pumpkinfest and Regatta.