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August 22, 2025

Portland Press Herald

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Maine oyster farmer's Senate bid makes national splash



Graham Platner, of Sullivan, says he's a different type of candidate who is well-positioned to connect with everyday working people. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

A political newcomer and former Marine from Hancock County, 40-year-old Graham Platner joins a field of a half-dozen little-known Democrats hoping to unseat Republican Sen. Susan Collins in 2026.

By **RACHEL OHM**
Staff Writer

It took less than 24 hours for Hancock County oyster farmer Graham Platner to go from political unknown to national progressive darling. Since Platner announced Tuesday that he would challenge five-term incumbent Susan Collins for her U.S. Senate seat, his campaign has generated significant attention from national media and online influencers. Some

conservatives have already branded him "Maine's Mamdani," a reference to the New York City mayoral candidate Zohran Mamdani, who surprised many by winning a Democratic primary two months ago. "This is far beyond anything I could have imagined," Platner said in an interview Thursday. "So many people have been reacting positively to a message of, frankly, things I've been saying to my

wife and friends for years." Platner, 40, is among a half dozen Democrats running to unseat Collins, none of whom is well known. But unlike the others, his campaign has racked up attention quickly. The New York Times, Politico, NBC News, MSNBC and Fox News all covered Platner's campaign launch Tuesday and the buzz about him on social media has been substantial.

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"National media attention doesn't decide elections — Mainers do."

JORDAN WOOD
Bristol Democrat who's also seeking to challenge Susan Collins next year

TODAY'S ALMANAC

August 22, 2025

Today is the 234th day of 2025. There are 131 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Aug. 22, 1851, the schooner America outraced more than a dozen British vessels off the English coast to win a trophy that came to be known as the America's Cup.

Also on this date:

In 1791, the Haitian Revolution began as enslaved people of Saint-Domingue rose up against French colonizers.

In 1910, Japan annexed Korea, which remained under Japanese control until the end of World War II.

In 1922, Irish revolutionary Michael Collins was shot to death, apparently by Irish Republican Army members opposed to the Anglo-Irish Treaty that Collins had co-signed.

In 1972, John Wojtowicz and Salvatore Naturile took seven employees hostage at a Chase Manhattan Bank branch in Brooklyn, New York, during a botched robbery; the siege, which ended with Wojtowicz's arrest and Naturile's killing by the FBI, inspired the 1975 movie "Dog Day Afternoon."

In 1992, on the second day of the Ruby Ridge siege in Idaho, an FBI sharpshooter killed Vicki Weaver, the wife of white separatist Randy Weaver.

In 2007, A Black Hawk helicopter crashed in Iraq, killing all 14 U.S. soldiers aboard.

Today's Birthdays:

Author Annie Proulx is 90. Baseball Hall of Famer Carl Yastrzemski is 86. Pro Football Hall of Fame coach Bill Parcells is 84. Writer-producer David Chase is 80. Retired CBS newsmen Steve Kroft is 80. International Swimming Hall of Famer Diana Nyad is 76. Baseball Hall of Famer Paul Molitor is 69. Rock guitarist Vernon Reid is 67. Country singer Collin Raye is 65. Rock singer Roland Orzabal (Tears For Fears) is 64. Singer Tori Amos is 62. International Tennis Hall of Famer Mats Wilander is 61. Rapper GZA/The Genius is 59. Actor Ty Burrell is 58. Celebrity chef Giada De Laurentiis is 55. Actor Rick Yune is 54. Singer Howie Dorrough (Backstreet Boys) is 52. Comedian-actor Kristen Wiig is 52.



City Councilor Kate Sykes, right, speaks with demonstrators Thursday in front of City Hall in Portland. Protesters decried the city council's decision to accept federal grant money, despite the funding being tied to mandates to cooperate with immigration authorities. (GREGORY REC/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

Portland protesters object to ICE mandate in jetport grants

After the City Council met behind closed doors to discuss the arrangement Wednesday night, the mayor says the city may not be required to cooperate with immigration enforcement,

By **GRACE BENNINGHOFF**
Staff Writer

PORTLAND — City officials plan to sign a federal grant agreement that mandates cooperation with Immigrations and Customs Enforcement because the city's lawyers believe Portland will not be required to work with the agency, Mayor Mark Dion said during

a news conference Thursday afternoon hours after protesters had gathered at City Hall to demand answers about the decision.

Dion said the grant agreement will be signed Friday, two days after the council called an emergency workshop to discuss new terms that tied the funding to cooperation with immigration

authorities.

At that meeting Wednesday night — which was held almost entirely out of public view — Dion said the council "reached a consensus" to move forward with accepting the grant for upgrades at the Portland International Jetport.

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Appeals court tosses civil fraud penalty in Trump case

Upholding a finding that he fraudulently exaggerated his wealth for decades, the ruling spares the president from a potential half-billion-dollar fine.

By **JENNIFER PELTZ**
and **MICHAEL R. SISAK**
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A New York appeals court on Thursday threw out President Donald Trump's massive financial penalty while narrowly upholding a judge's finding that he engaged in fraud by exaggerating his wealth for decades. The ruling spares Trump from a potential half-billion-dollar fine but bans him and his two eldest sons from serving in corporate leadership for a few years.

Trump, in a social media post, claimed "total victory" in the case, which stemmed from a civil lawsuit brought by New York Attorney General Letitia James.

"I greatly respect the fact that the Court had the Courage to throw out this unlawful and disgraceful Decision that was hurting Business all throughout New York State," the Republican wrote.

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Maine Trust for Local News

Killed in crash, owner of Gray brewery remembered as 'everybody's biggest fan'

Stacy Strattard, 64, who co-owned Birchwood Brewing, was hit and killed by a car Saturday.

By **MORGAN WOMACK**
Staff Writer

GRAY — The memory of Stacy Strattard lives on everywhere at Birchwood Brewing.

From the soft chatter of people huddled around the bar, cupping glasses of beer and sharing stories about her, to friends stopping by

with cards and floral arrangements. Sunflowers, Strattard's favorite, brighten the dimly lit room.

Strattard, 64, was hit and killed by a car in New Gloucester on Saturday. On Thursday at the brewery, where Strattard was a

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A framed photograph of Stacy Strattard has a place of honor at Birchwood Brewing in Gray, where she was co-owner. "She was like everybody's mom," her daughter, Katie Maschino, said. (DEREK DAVIS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

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