Preservation group urges high court to **suspend White House ballroom** project / **A2**

$4.25
Wednesday, August 19, 2026

Portland Press Herald

WEATHER: **Mostly cloudy High 76°** Details, B4

pressherald.com

Trump's 50% Canada tariffs take effect Wednesday

While last-minute talks continued late Tuesday, select businesses and consumers were poised to bear the costs of new trade levies.

A warehouse worker restocks at Hammond Lumber in Portland in 2017. Maine's forest products industry could be hard hit by new tariffs. (DEREK DAVIS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

By ETHAN HORTON
Staff Writer

New tariffs on some Canadian imports were expected to go into effect Wednesday in the newest installment of the trade conflict between the Trump administration and Canada, with Maine caught in the middle.

While not all imports from Maine's northern neighbor will be hit with the new 50% tax, some affected goods could impact the state's forest products industry. Plus, the tariffs will likely fuel economic uncertainty that experts say could fissure long-established cross-border ties.

The new duties, issued by President Donald Trump last month under an unused provision of the Great Depression-era Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act, were framed in three tariff proclamations as retaliating for Canada's unfair trade practices on cars, dairy and alcohol. About $20 billion worth of annual Canadian imports to the U.S. would be affected.

Unlike previous tariffs imposed under the second Trump administration, these duties are aimed at specific Canadian goods — not all imports.

The tariffs include several kinds of plywood, finished paper products and chemical wood pulp — a primary component in paper manufacturing, one of Maine's most prominent cross-border industries. Also included are cars, dairy products, wine, beer, some machinery, hockey equipment, cement, furniture and dozens of other products.

Not included: energy and fisheries — two of Maine's biggest Canadian import categories.

Please see **TARIFFS,** Page A5

TODAY'S ALMANAC

August 19, 2026

Today is the 231st day of 2026. There are 134 days left in the year.

Today in History:

On Aug. 19, 2010, the last American combat brigade exited Iraq, seven years and five months after a U.S.-led invasion marked the beginning of the Iraq War.

Also on this date:

In 1692, four men and one woman were hanged after being convicted of witchcraft at Salem in the Province of Massachusetts Bay; the story of one of the men, John Proctor, inspired Arthur Miller's play "The Crucible."

In 1812, the USS Constitution defeated the British frigate HMS Guerriere off Nova Scotia during the War of 1812, earning the nickname "Old Ironsides."

In 1814, during the War of 1812, British forces landed at Benedict, Maryland, with the objective of capturing Washington, D.C.

In 1854, 31 U.S. soldiers were killed after one of the soldiers fatally shot Brule Lakota Chief Conquering Bear, sparking the First Sioux War.

Today's Birthdays: Former tennis player & coach Renee Richards is 92. Actor Jill St. John is 86. Author Jack Canfield is 82. Rock singer Ian Gillan (Deep Purple) is 81. Former President Bill Clinton is 80. Actor Jim Carter ("Downton Abbey") is 78. Rock bassist John Deacon (Queen) is 76. Actor-director Jonathan Frakes is 74. Actor Peter Gallagher is 71. Actor Adam Arkin is 70. Football Hall of Famer Anthony Munoz is 68. Musician Ivan Neville is 67. Football Hall of Famer Morten Andersen is 66. Actor John Stamos is 63. Actor Kyra Sedgwick is 61. Country singer Lee Ann Womack is 59. Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella is 59. Country singer Clay Walker is 57. Olympic gold medal tennis player Mary Joe Fernandez is 55. Actor Erika Christensen is 44. Actor Melissa Fumero is 44.

INDEX

Advice/TV C5
Business C1
Classified C3
Comics C4
Crossword C4
Deaths B3
Horoscope C5
Local & State B1
Opinion A4
Public Notices C3
Scoreboard D2
Sports D1
World/Nation A2-3

Volume 165, Number 49
PPH DAILY
0 29346 33100 5

© Copyright 2026
Maine Trust for Local News

Meet the Mainer who introduced baseball to Japan

Horace Wilson, a Gorham native who taught America's pastime to Japanese students in the 1870s, is being honored during this week's hometown youth tournament and at Sunday's Portland Sea Dogs game.

By RAY ROUTHIER
Staff Writer

GORHAM — Theo Balcomb was 12 when she learned her family's farm was part of Japanese history.

Her dad was milking the cows when a group of serious Japanese baseball men arrived one summer day in 2000. The group included a newspaper reporter, a historian and a translator. They wanted to meet the descendants of Horace Wilson, who left the farm to fight in the Civil War — and who brought baseball to Japan in the 1870s, showing the game to students when he was working there as a teacher.

"It was shocking. To have this contingency of formal folks from Japan coming here, out in the middle of nowhere, felt very odd," said Balcomb, now 39 and a senior editor at The Atlantic. "We love having people over. This was just different."

The visitors invited Balcomb and her family to come to Japan and help them promote Wilson as a founding father of Japanese baseball. Balcomb and several family members visited the country, met with dignitaries and toured ballparks. In 2003, Wilson was inducted into the Japanese Baseball Hall of Fame. Now, Balcomb is part of a group of people working to share Wilson's story with a wider audience at home.

Please see **BASEBALL,** Page A6

AT TOP: A commemorative plaque was given to Horace Wilson's descendants when they visited Japan early in this century.

ABOVE: Scott Balcomb throws a baseball to his grandson, Arthur Freeze, 2, at their family farm in Gorham. Wilson, their ancestor, is recognized for bringing baseball to Japan. (PHOTOS BY DEREK DAVIS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

Megadonor from Illinois spent big in Maine politics, but came up empty

Dick Uihlein and his conservative PAC backed a losing gubernatorial candidate and a ballot initiative that sputtered.

Maine Matters 2026

By BILLY KOBIN
Staff Writer

A billionaire CEO from Illinois gave gobs of cash to back a conservative candidate and a transgender athlete referendum in Maine this election cycle. The donations did not lead to success.

Dick Uihlein and a political group he funds gave nearly $6 million in total to back Republican gubernatorial candidate Garrett Mason,

Please see **UIHLEIN,** Page A5

Petition signatures for a referendum to ban transgender women and girls in school sports are delivered to Augusta in February. Signatures deemed invalid doomed the ballot effort. (RICH ABRAHAMSON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER)

Project Home nonprofit receives $1.5M donation to help single mothers

The anonymous gift will allow the Portland-based agency to expand beyond southern Maine, aiding an estimated 300 low-income moms and 600 kids.

By HANNAH LaCLAIRE
Staff Writer

The news was a shock to Peace Mutesi. It was also a dream come true.

Mutesi has spent the last three years working with low-income single mothers in Project Home's Trust Program, which aims to help them gain financial security.

The program has steadily grown over the last few years, but there's been so much need in the community that they've barely scratched the surface.

Now, a surprise $1.47 million donation from an anonymous benefactor will allow the Portland-based nonprofit to more than double its reach.

"It was an answer to all the dreams we've been having for the program," said Mutesi, Project

Please see **HOME,** Page A6