



---

## Maine Celebrates Two James Beard Award Finalists

### Description

On Tuesday, two chefs from Maine became finalists in the 2026 James Beard Awards. This national recognition is important as it highlights the talent in the restaurant industry.

Dana Street, who runs Fore Street, Scales, Standard Baking Co., and Street and Co. in Portland, is a finalist for the Outstanding Restaurateur award. Thomas Takashi Cooke, from Izakaya Minato in Portland, is a finalist for Best Chef: Northeast.

Cooke expressed appreciation for all restaurant owners, stating they all deserve recognition. He believes teamwork is crucial, saying that everyone puts in hard work to create great dishes. He wants people to understand that much effort goes into the restaurant's success.

Street, however, was not available for comment on his nomination. Last year was disappointing, as no Maine semifinalists reached the finalist stage for the first time in over a decade.

Night Moves Bread from South Portland was another semifinalist this year for Outstanding Bakery. Other regional semifinalists included Jeremy Broucek, Chris Gould, Sara Jenkins, and Jake Stevens, all competing for Best Chef: Northeast.

The winners will be announced at the James Beard Award ceremony on June 15 in Chicago. Cooke will miss this event because he is taking his son to see Japan play in the World Cup. Cooke sees this match as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and prioritises it over the awards ceremony.

---

### Vocabulary List:

1. **finalists** //ˈfaɪnəlɪsts// (noun): people chosen for the last part of a contest
2. **recognition** //ˌrɛkəgˈniʃən// (noun): public praise or notice for good work
3. **industry** //ˈɪndəstri// (noun): businesses that make or sell similar goods
4. **nomination** //ˌnɒməˈneɪʃən// (noun): official suggestion for someone to win or join
5. **semifinalist** //ˌsemɪˈfaɪnəlɪst// (noun): person who reaches the round before the final
6. **ceremony** //ˈsɛrəˌmoʊni// (noun): formal event to celebrate or announce something

### Comprehension Questions



---

## Multiple Choice

1. Who is a finalist for the Outstanding Restaurateur award?
  - Option: Thomas Takashi Cooke
  - Option: Dana Street
  - Option: Jeremy Broucek
  - Option: Sara Jenkins
  
2. When will the winners of the James Beard Awards be announced?
  - Option: June 14
  - Option: June 15
  - Option: June 16
  - Option: June 20
  
3. Which restaurant is Thomas Takashi Cooke associated with?
  - Option: Fore Street
  - Option: Izakaya Minato
  - Option: Street and Co.
  - Option: Standard Baking Co.
  
4. How long has it been since no Maine semifinalists reached the finalist stage?
  - Option: Five years
  - Option: One year
  - Option: Over a decade
  - Option: Two years
  
5. What is Cooke taking his son to see?
  - Option: A concert
  - Option: A football match
  - Option: The World Cup
  - Option: A movie
  
6. Night Moves Bread is a semifinalist for which category?
  - Option: Best Chef
  - Option: Outstanding Bakery
  - Option: Outstanding Restaurateur
  - Option: Best New Restaurant



---

### True-False

7. James Beard Awards are only recognized in Maine.
8. Cooke believes that teamwork is essential for restaurant success.
9. Dana Street was available for comment regarding his nomination.
10. All chefs deserve recognition according to Thomas Takashi Cooke.
11. The James Beard Award ceremony will take place in New York.
12. Cooke is prioritizing the awards ceremony over a World Cup match.

### Gap-Fill

13. Cooke stated that everyone puts in hard work to create great dishes at the restaurant, which is critical for success in the \_\_\_\_\_ industry.
14. Last year was disappointing as no Maine semifinalists reached the \_\_\_\_\_ stage for the first time in over a decade.
15. Cooke will miss the James Beard Award ceremony because he is taking his son to see \_\_\_\_\_ play in the World Cup.
16. Night Moves Bread from South Portland was a semifinalist for Outstanding \_\_\_\_\_ this year.
17. The winners of the James Beard Awards will be announced in Chicago on \_\_\_\_\_ 15.
18. Dana Street runs \_\_\_\_\_ Street, Scales, Standard Baking Co., and Street and Co.

### Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Dana Street 2. June 15 3. Izakaya Minato 4. Over a decade 5. The World Cup 6. Outstanding Bakery



**True-False:** 7. False 8. True 9. False 10. True 11. False 12. False

**Gap-Fill:** 13. restaurant 14. finalist 15. Japan 16. Bakery 17. June 18. Fore

## CATEGORY

1. Entertainment - LEVEL3

## POST TAG

1. B1
2. ESL learning
3. esl news
4. finalists
5. James Beard Award
6. Level 3
7. Maine

## Tags

1. B1
2. ESL learning
3. esl news
4. finalists
5. James Beard Award
6. Level 3
7. Maine

## Date Created

2026/04/02

## Author

aimeeyoung99

ESL-NEWS.COM