



MOUNTAIN MESSENGER

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Carrabassett Valley Academy (CVA) sends seven athletes to compete at the 2024 Toyota U.S. Mogul Freestyle Championship

CARRABASSETT VALLEY — Carrabassett Valley Academy (CVA) proudly announces that seven of its Freestyle Moguls athletes have

been selected to compete at the prestigious 2024 Toyota U.S. Mogul Freestyle Championship. The event is scheduled for March 22nd to March 24th at Waterville Valley Resort in New Hampshire. These athletes have qualified for both Mogul and Dual Mogul events, showcasing their exceptional skill and dedication to their sport.

The Toyota U.S. Mogul Freestyle Championship is an invite-only competition, featuring the top 60 male and female Moguls athletes in the nation, including members of the U.S. Mogul Ski Team.



Chase Littlefield Junior Nationals 2023

This event serves as the pinnacle of Mogul skiing in the United States, where athletes vie for National titles in their discipline. To have seven athletes from CVA receive invitations for both Moguls and Dual Moguls events is a remarkable achievement and a testament to the program's strength and caliber.

Coach Nate McKenzie expressed his pride in the

team's accomplishments, stating, "I'm amazed by our whole team this year. Having a small team of eleven athletes, I'm so proud to have four females and three males representing CVA at U.S. Nationals." The dedication and hard work of these athletes, along with the guidance and support of Coach McKenzie, have propelled them to this prestigious stage of competition.

The seven athletes se-

Submitted photos

Jack Egan Junior Nationals 2023

lected to represent CVA at the 2024 Toyota U.S. Mogul Freestyle Championship are:

Women:

Kenadie Dickey, Class of 2026, Belgrade, ME

Kennedy Hicks, Class of 2025, from Carrabassett Valley, ME

Natalee McKenzie,

Class of 2024, from Kingfield, ME

Celia Rose, Class of 2027, from Kingfield, ME

Men:

Jack Egan, Class of 2025, from Kingfield, ME

Gabe Landry, Class of 2026, from Carrabassett Valley, ME

Chase Littlefield, Class of 2024, from Yarmouth, ME

All seven athletes hail from the state of Maine, with four of them attending Franklin County Public Schools before joining the CVA program. For further information about the athletes or to request an interview, please use the contact information below.

MOUNTAIN MESSENGER

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PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

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Caryn's Property of the Week



RANGELEY NORTH - Rangeley's newest neighborhood! Nicely wooded 1.42 acre parcel offers elevated mountain and field views. Property has been surveyed, soils tested, UG power available at the road. Easy snowmobile trail access from your door. Great spot for your get away or fulltime home, just off the beaten path and yet minutes to town amenities. Saddleback, 4-season adventures. \$135,000

Caryn Dreyfuss Broker

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Seasonal Guide

If you would like to be in this special section contact your sales rep directly, call the office at

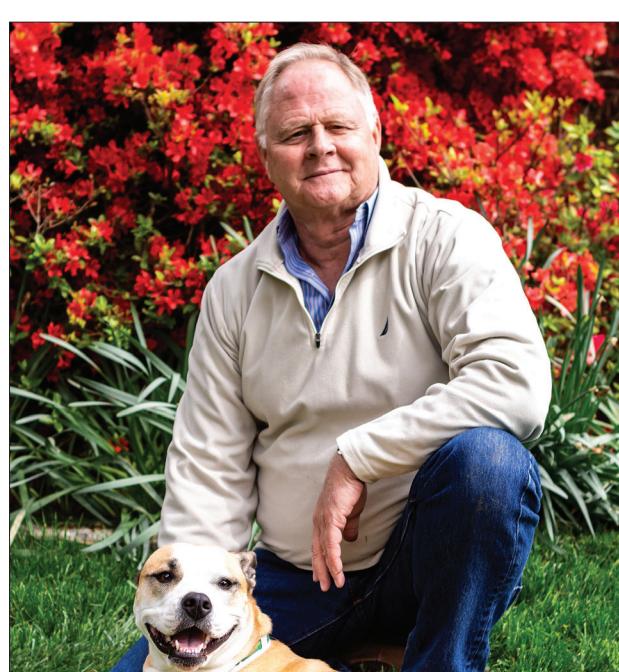
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"Yard Your Way" This Spring

Alexandria, VA — The TurfMutt Foundation, which is celebrating 15 years this year of advocating for the care and use of yards, parks and other green spaces, encourages homeowners to put their own spin on their personal outdoor space this spring by adopting a "yard your way" attitude.

The act of "backyarding," which is the act of using our yards, parks and other green spaces for activities typically associated with our indoor life such as dining, working, entertaining and more, has gained much traction in recent years. Now, with spring just around the corner, the Foundation encourages people to ratchet up their backyard activities by identifying their personal style and personality.

"Your yard isn't just for aesthetics," reminds Kris Kiser, President and CEO



Submitted photo

of the TurfMutt Foundation, "It's purposeful and contributes to our and the planet's well-being. We encourage you to design your space that shows off your sense of

style and supports what is important to your family."

Here are six ideas to "yard your way" this spring:

- Business in the front

(yard) & party in the back. If you live in a neighborhood with strict homeowner's association regulations, you may feel hemmed in by what you can do in the public-facing areas of your yard. But you can use the backyard to really highlight your style, whether it's cozy and family-friendly or modern and sleek.

- Sensible & sustainable.

What you choose to plant in your yard can affect climate change on a micro level, and eco-conscious homeowners know selecting native plants is good for the environment. They are more resilient, require less water and promote biodiversity. BONUS: they are also easier to maintain.

- Budget backyarding. Your yard is full of cost-saving measures that budget-conscious families

can take. Skip the fancy restaurant and dine alfresco on your patio. Host a family movie night on a blanket of backyard grass. Or consider trading a pricy weekend getaway for a backyard staycation.

- Biodiverse digs.

Human-made and synthetic environments have changed the landscape, so pollinators and wildlife rely on our yards and community green spaces to bring equilibrium to the ecosystem. Planting for these local critters can turn your backyard into a private nature preserve.

- DIY...or don't.

If you are a weekend warrior who relishes DIY projects, taking care of your yard yourself can be an excellent choice. But there is no shame in your backyard game if you outsource yard work so you

can spend your time outside just enjoying your yard. You could also have a landscaping crew do the basic mowing and maintenance so you can spend your time enjoying gardening or just enjoying it.

- Park it.

Community greenspace and neighborhood parks make it possible to "yard your way" even if you don't have an outdoor space to call your own. Want to sit under a shade tree and read? A community park often offers these kinds of resting spots. Want to do a little hiking but not travel hours out of town? An urban trail system is an excellent opportunity to hoof it close to home. You can even stake a claim to your own patch of nature and try your hand at growing things through community gardening programs.

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207-CALL-JOE



MAINE NEWS CALENDAR

APRIL

April 16 — Rain Gardens Presentation, 5:30-7:00 p.m., Mt. Blue Area Garden Club, Trinity United Methodist Church, Farmington, event is free and open to the public.

April 21 — Vernal Pool Explorations, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Smith Bridge Preserve, 577 Allen Hill Road, Norway, learn to identify vernal pool species: wood frogs, spotted salamanders, and the elusive fairy shrimp with our partners at Lakes Environmental Association, free, registration required.

April 27 — Earth Day Event, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, 294 Crosby Brook Rd., Unity, Tasks include raking, garden bed prep.

12 p.m., Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, 294 Crosby Brook Rd., Unity, Tasks include raking, garden bed prep.

April 27 — Earth Day Event, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, 294 Crosby Brook Rd., Unity, Volunteer to help clean, for more info call 207-568-4142.

April 27 — Annual Topsham Train Show, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Mount Ararat High School, \$5 per person and children under 12 are free, will have meet and greet at 12:30 pm and 1:30 pm for everyone to participate.

Shop of Horrors Gould Academy 7:30 p.m., Bingham Auditorium. Two shows! One on Thursday, one on Friday. Online watching is available. Check the web site: www.gouldacademy.org/current-parents/gould-end-of-year-2024.

Events for the Maine News Calendar should be received two weeks before the event in order to be considered for publication. Please

refer to our deadline chart at this link for specific publication deadlines: www.turnerpublishing.net/pdf/Deadlines.pdf. Email your event information to articles@turnerpublishing.net and include: Date of event; name of event; time of event; venue location; town; contact phone number. Late submissions may not be published. Emailed events are processed faster.

MAY

May 23 & 24 — Little

MAINE NEWS PAGE

If you are hosting a free community event and would like it added to our calendar, please email your details to: mainenews@turnerpublishing.net and include: Date of event; name of event; time of event; venue location; town; contact phone number. Late submissions may not be published. Emailed events are processed faster. Our Maine Events calendar page is FREE for free community events. Church, library and school event news is free on this page. If you are a business and/or charging admission/fee, there is a charge for a display ad on these pages. Email: mainenews@turnerpublishing.net. Call 207-225-2076 for pre-payment options. Events for the Maine Events Calendar should be received two weeks before the event in order to be considered for publication. Please refer to our deadline chart at this link for specific publication deadlines: www.turnerpublishing.net/pdf/Deadlines.pdf

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**Starting April 29, 2024
the Rangeley Town Office
WILL BE OPEN
MONDAY – THURSDAY,
7AM TO 5PM
CLOSED ON FRIDAYS**

MARCH MENU 2024 - RANGELEY TOWNSHOOE MEAL SITE

14 School Street, Rangeley (across from the Fire Barn/Town Office complex) 864-3986

M	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mashed Choc	4/3 Spaghetti w/ Meatballs Garlic Sticks Cherry Jello with Topping	4/4 Baked Ham Baked Potato Veggie Van Cake w/ Choc Frost	4/5 Clam Chowder Biscuit/Crackers Lemon Cake
<u>CLOSED</u>	4/10 American Chop Suey Garlic Sticks Éclair Cake	4/11 Pot Roast Mashed Potato w/ Gravy Veggie Choc Cake / P.B. Frost	4/12 Baked Haddock Baked Potato/Rice Pilaf Veggie Vanilla Pudding
4/15 Shepherd's Pie Butterscotch Pudding with Topping	4/16 Italian Sub Chips Butterscotch Cookies	4/17 Chicken Alfredo w/ Egg Noodles Garlic Sticks Chocolate Chip Cookies	4/18 Roast Pork Mashed Potato w/ Gravy Veggie Spice Cake
4/22 Tomato Bisque w/ Grilled Cheese Sandwich Peanut Butter Cookies	4/23 Meatball Sub Chips Molasses Cookies	4/24 Baked Stuffed Shells Garlic Sticks Peaches	4/25 Roast Turkey w/ all the Fixings Pears
			4/26 Baked Haddock Baked Potato/Rice Pilaf Veggie Lemon Pudding

DONATION for meal is \$8.00.

NOTE: ALL MEALS ARE HOMEMADE – SODIUM REDUCED MENU.

ALL MEALS ARE SERVED WITH VEGETABLE, BEVERAGE & DESSERT.

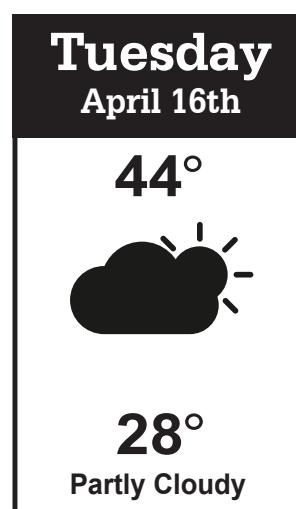
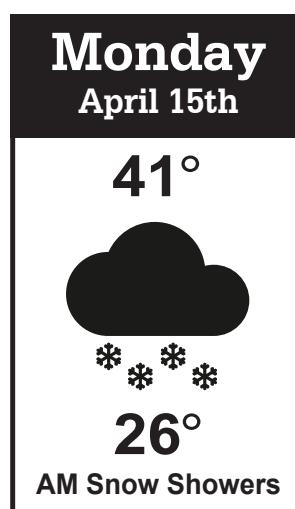
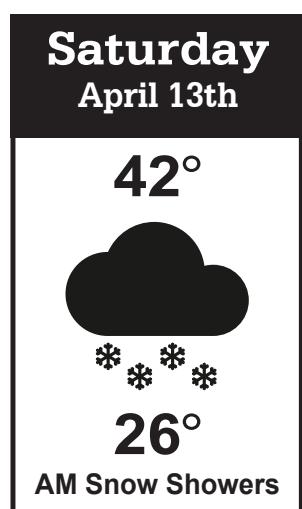
MEALS ARE SERVED FROM 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM • MENU IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

PLEASE CALL IN DELIVERIES BEFORE 10:00 AM • 864-3986

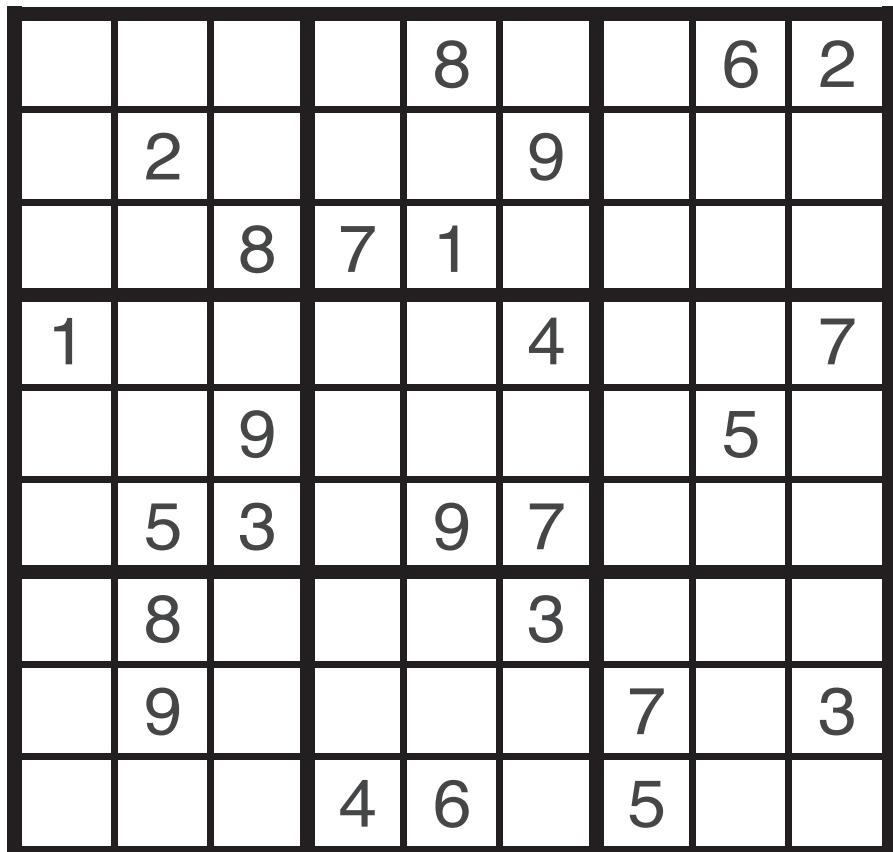
WEATHER FORECAST

April 12th – April 17th

Forecast from www.weather.com

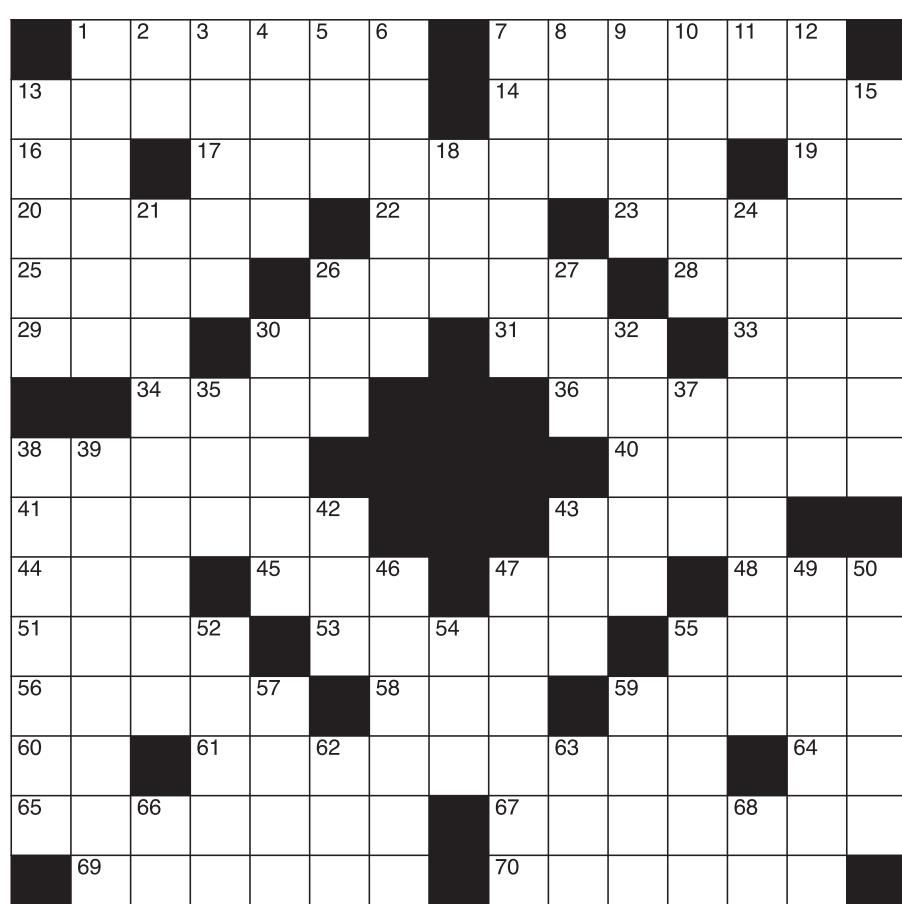


Sudoku



Level: Advanced

Crossword



Crossword and Sudoku Answer on Page 12

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Island nation
- 2. Tear
- 3. Platforms
- 4. Project plan
- 5. French fishing port
- 6. Not out
- 7. South Dakota
- 8. Ornamental saddle covering
- 9. A driver's license is one
- 10. Military policeman
- 11. Latin term for charity
- 12. Rechristens
- 13. Objects from an earlier time
- 14. Garland
- 15. Hindu male religious teachers
- 16. Ornamental stone
- 17. South Dakota
- 18. Oakland's baseball team
- 19. Military policeman
- 20. Latin term for charity
- 21. Garland
- 22. Rechristens
- 23. Objects from an earlier time
- 24. Hindu male religious teachers
- 25. Ornamental saddle covering
- 26. South Dakota
- 27. Oakland's baseball team
- 28. Military policeman
- 29. Garland
- 30. Rechristens
- 31. Objects from an earlier time
- 32. Hindu male religious teachers
- 33. Ornamental saddle covering
- 34. Garland
- 35. Rechristens
- 36. Objects from an earlier time
- 37. Hindu male religious teachers
- 38. Ornamental saddle covering
- 39. Garland
- 40. Rechristens
- 41. Objects from an earlier time
- 42. Hindu male religious teachers
- 43. Ornamental saddle covering
- 44. Garland
- 45. Rechristens
- 46. Objects from an earlier time
- 47. Hindu male religious teachers
- 48. Ornamental saddle covering
- 49. Garland
- 50. Rechristens
- 51. Objects from an earlier time
- 52. Hindu male religious teachers
- 53. Ornamental saddle covering
- 54. Garland
- 55. Rechristens
- 56. Objects from an earlier time
- 57. Hindu male religious teachers
- 58. Ornamental saddle covering
- 59. Garland
- 60. Rechristens
- 61. Objects from an earlier time
- 62. Hindu male religious teachers
- 63. Ornamental saddle covering
- 64. Garland
- 65. Rechristens
- 66. Objects from an earlier time
- 67. Hindu male religious teachers
- 68. Ornamental saddle covering
- 69. Garland
- 70. Rechristens

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Used as a weapon
- 2. Yukon Territory
- 3. Makes a map of
- 4. An established ceremony prescribed by a religion
- 5. Unnilhexium
- 6. Merchant
- 7. Playing the field
- 8. Folk singer DiFranco
- 9. Something to scratch
- 10. Mexican agave
- 11. Equal to one quintillion bytes
- 12. Session
- 13. North American people
- 14. Appropriate
- 15. Dash
- 16. Twitch
- 17. Swiss river
- 18. Data file with computer animations
- 19. City in S. Korea
- 20. Particular region
- 21. They have eyes
- 22. "The Great Lake State"
- 23. Self-immolation by fire ritual
- 24. Private school in New York
- 25. Political action committee
- 26. A way to fashion
- 27. Email reply
- 28. "The Great Lake State"
- 29. "The Great Lake State"
- 30. Gradually disappeared
- 31. Ancient Frankish law code
- 32. Popular pickup truck
- 33. Buzzing insect
- 34. Deal illegally
- 35. Lying in the same plane
- 36. Obstruct
- 37. Related
- 38. Challenge aggressively
- 39. Nocturnal hooved animals
- 40. Bird's nests
- 41. Forays
- 42. B. de Mille, filmmaker
- 43. Title of respect
- 44. One-time name of Vietnam
- 45. Self-immolation by fire ritual
- 46. Private school in New York
- 47. Political action committee
- 48. A way to fashion
- 49. Email reply
- 50. "The Great Lake State"
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- 68. Political action committee
- 69. A way to fashion
- 70. Email reply

Franklin Savings Bank awards grant to the Beth Brunswick Memorial Fund



Submitted photo

RANGELEY — Franklin Savings Bank (FSB) has generously awarded a \$50,000.00 grant to the Beth Brunswick Memorial Fund (BBMF) in support of the Rangeley Child Care Center project. FSB recognizes the critical importance of additional, consistent and affordable childcare. This project, upon completion, will assist families with their childcare needs and businesses struggling to recruit and retain additional workers.

The BBMF board has worked diligently over the last

18 months to put in place a plan to build and facilitate additional childcare slots for the Rangeley Community. While funding is still being sought, this grant will assist in many ways. "It provides funding to help us reach our financial goal, it shows business support to other grantors who are being solicited, and it will in the long-term assist families who wish to get back into the workforce," states Leeanna Wilbur, Treasurer of the BBMF.

Grants like this, along with contributions from the business community, are instrumental when other Foundations and Grantors are solicited. With this generous pledge, Franklin Savings Bank has demonstrated its dedication to the welfare of the Rangeley community. A strong foundation of community support is critical to the success of this new program. Anyone wishing to show their support may donate along with a letter of support to: BBMF P O Box 7038 Rangeley Maine 04970.



Last month phony ad winners! Thank you to our phony ad sponsor The Shed

February Phony Ad Winners

Auburn Highlights: Clarence Rawding
Midcoast Beacon: Michael Dmochowski
Country Courier: Warren Bachelder
Country Connection: Claire Dionne
Franklin Focus: Jesse Madden
Good News Gazette: George Davis
Kennebec Current: Patty Ellis
Lewiston Leader: Doris Welding
Lisbon Ledger: Mary Bishop
Lake Region Reader S: Jill Sansouci
Lake Region Reader N: Gerald Webster
Moose Prints: Sandy Drew
Oxford Hills Observer: Linda Richardson
Somerset Express: Darlene Brown
Two Cent Times: Shawn Knox
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Mountain Messenger: Mary Hembrow
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Do you read our paper online at www.turnerpublishing.net? Yes or No _____

Nominations Sought for Bicknell Award for Birding Conservation



Birders on Saddleback, looking for Bicknell Thrush with Guide Steve Hale

Submitted photo

RANGELEY - The 6th Rangeley Birding Festival (RBF), to be held June 7-9, will announce and present the John Bicknell Award for Conservation and Birding. The award honors the legacy of Bicknell, a Rangeley resi-

dent who led the effort to get sanctuary designation on the Mingo Springs golf course and has been recognized for environmental stewardship by Audubon International.

The Bicknell Award publicly acknowledges those in-

dividuals who have worked to further birding and conserve bird habitats in Maine. This award recognizes those who have labored mainly behind the scenes and have been overlooked and unacknowledged for their con-

tributions. It is presented to no more than one recipient yearly (unless we recognize a collaborative effort by two or more people).

Nominations are due by May 1 each year. The Rangeley Birding Festival

core team (minimum of five members) will review nominations and choose a winner by consensus, if possible, or by vote, by May 10 each year. The award will be presented at the annual Rangeley Birding Festival in June

in Rangeley, ME.

To learn more about the nomination process, visit RangeleyBirdingFestival.com or contact Amanda Laliberte at alaliberte@rlht.org.

PUBLIC NOTICE TOWN OF RANGELEY PLANNING BOARD

PUBLIC HEARING SUBDIVISION DEVELOPMENT

Hilltop Heights

Tax Map 008, Lot 018-A-1 & 18-B

**Town Office
April 24, 2024
6:00 PM**

REGULAR MEETING TO FOLLOW

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/98586998964>
Meeting ID: 985 8699 8964
Call In: 1-929-205-6099

In accordance with the Town's Remote Participation Policy (found at townofrangeley.com), Zoom is only available to the public if one or more of the Board members cannot attend in person, but will be participating remotely

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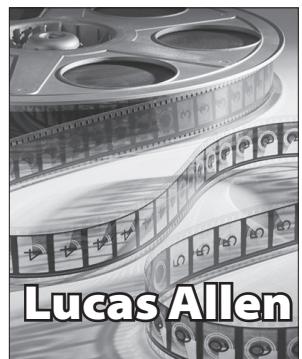
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MEMBER FDIC

MOVIE REVIEW

Dune: Part Two



(Warner Bros. Pictures/
Legendary Pictures)

Fans of Frank Herbert's epic sci-fi novel were on cloud nine back in 2021 when the new big-screen version of Dune made it to theaters with astounding fanfare. Director Denis Villeneuve put a lot of passion and vision into his new interpretation and the result is both a box-office hit and a multi-Academy Award winner. Since the first film adapted the book's first half,

Dune: Part Two continues where it left off. Villeneuve and crew return to finish the job along with new faces in the cast and as stated before, make the 1984 David Lynch version look like a student film by comparison.

On the sandy dunes of Arrakis, Paul (Timothée Chalamet) and his mother Lady Jessica (Rebecca Ferguson) have joined up with Chani (Zendaya) and the rest of the Fremen soldiers. However, their leader Stilgar (Javier Bardem) still believes the young man could be their messiah, who will free them from the terrifying rule of Emperor Shaddam IV (Christopher Walken) and the spice production. While his mother becomes the new Reverend Mother for the Fremen, Paul goes through a series of tests to prove his worth as their possible

prophet including learning to ride a sandworm.

Meanwhile, Baron Harkonnen (Stellan Skarsgård) grows increasingly frustrated with his nephew Rabban (Dave Bautista) failing to locate and exterminate the Fremen. So, he finds new prospects in his other nephew Feyd-Rautha (Austin Butler), who's a psychopathic warrior willing to lead his family back to the top. Upon reuniting with Gurney (Josh Brolin), who's been in hiding as a spice smuggler, Paul will ultimately have to choose how he wants to fulfill his destiny.

After some opening narration by the emperor's daughter Princess Irulan (Florence Pugh), the viewer is dropped right back into this universe and will immediately feel accustomed to the characters. In fact,

characterizations become more vital than in the first part with each of the main characters getting more development as the movie goes on. Whether or not you've read the book, you'll feel surprised by the clever plot twists these characters find along with interesting hints at what the next movie will show.

Honestly, the first part has more interesting world-building that gets you easily more acquainted with this universe after years of watching Star Wars over and over. With this film, it gets a little more into the political and religious allegory that would overwrought some dramatic scenes. However, it maintains the epic grand scale with action-packed battle scenes that it becomes less of an issue.

As expected, the Os-

car-winning team from the previous film returned bigger and better than ever with moments of unforgettable imagery gracing the screen. Besides the beautiful sandy dunes, the cinematography looks gorgeous highlighted by a black-and-white scene in the Harkonnen arena, the makeup and costumes are well done, and the effects

remain highly top-notch. If these elements don't get you back into the theater, then nothing will.

As far as returning actors go, Chalamet gets better this time around, while Zendaya is simply fine, especially in her scenes with her leading man. Ferguson becomes powerful in her facial expressions that suit her character's growth as does Bardem being more believable than ever. While their roles remain limited, Brolin,

Skarsgård, and Bautista are just as great as ever. Among the new faces, Butler gets to stretch more by going nuts and having a blast doing so. The rest of the cast is good, though Walken looks woefully miscast as the evil Emperor when it could've been played by any gruff-looking old actor like Harrison Ford.

No matter what's being said, Dune: Part Two is sure to make both fans of the book as well as non-fans very happy. It completes the classic story and Villeneuve's grand vision with amazing ferocity that you have to see to believe in the magic of movies again.

THE MOVIE'S RATING: PG-13 (for sequences of strong violence, some suggestive material, and brief strong language)

THE CRITIC'S RATING: 3.75 Stars (Out of Four)

OQUOSSOC GOOD NEWS

Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust

RANGELEY — RLHT announces that esteemed colleague, Amanda Laliberte, will be bidding farewell to the team as she embarks on a new journey. Amanda has been an integral part of the team for the past ten years and has played a pivotal role in directing both program development and communications. She has decided to explore a new opportunity as Director of Community Engagement with the High Peaks Alliance.

Over the past ten years, Amanda's energy, enthusiasm and expertise have helped transform RLHT. She directed the EcoVenture summer youth camp, introducing hundreds of young people to the natural world and outdoor skills. She was



A Laliberte, Cat's Eye Photography

her tenure, she initiated the Rangeley Lakes National Scenic Byway Ambassador program, which won a national award in 2023. From the onset, she has had a passion for protecting the region's waters, organizing volunteers for Invasive Plant Patrols, water quality monitoring, the regional loon count and directing the

Courtesy Boat Inspection program. Amanda has also continued her work with young people, collaborating with the Rangeley Lakes Regional School on environmental science projects and outdoor skills.

As RLHT's scope of influence has grown, Amanda has professionalized communications and branding, de-

signing countless brochures, newsletters, maps, annual appeals, web pages and keeping systems and technologies running smoothly in the background. She has also volunteered behind the scenes for other nonprofits in the community, including the Outdoor Heritage Museum, WRGY Radio, Rangeley Health & Wellness, and the Rangeley Area Ski Club.

Each of us is more than the sum of our achievements. Though these words focus on Amanda's many accomplishments, RLHT would like to close by acknowledging her passion for making a creative difference in the world and her dedication to the people she works with.

Please join us in thanking Amanda for her service to RLHT and the community.

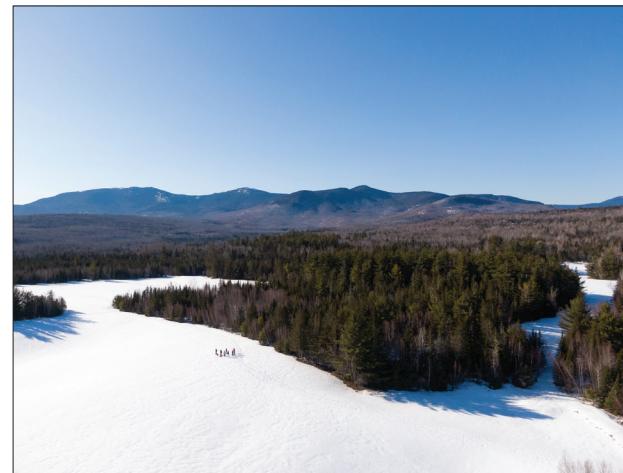
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Solar eclipse viewing at Perham Stream Birding Trail

MADRID — Want to view the eclipse without the crowds? Join High Peaks Alliance on April 8th from 1:30 to 4 pm at our breathtakingly beautiful Perham Stream Birding Trail, 554 East Madrid Road, Madrid. Open to the public, watch the moon cast its shadow as it passes between the sun and the earth, blocking the sun's light. This rare event is a truly phenomenal event to experience, and the Perham Stream Birding Trail is an ideal place to view it. Protective glasses are necessary to view the eclipse. Current supporters of HPA will receive complimentary eclipse glasses. Otherwise, glasses are available for purchase but please email ahead to reserve them.

This property is off the beaten path and requires driving down a dirt road. Parking along the road will be possible as the parking area fills. There is space in a field near the parking lot but for those who wish



Submitted photo

to get the best experience, there is a short walk to our back fields which will offer the best experience. Please bring any food or water you may want and a portable chair. This is spring in Maine so wear appropriate shoes and attire. Please pack out everything you bring.

Contact Brent West at (207) 491-2750 or brent@highpeaksalliance.org with any questions.

Directions: From Farmington, take ME Route 4

North to Phillips and turn right at the junction of Route 4 and 142. At the stop sign, turn left. Stay on Route 142 leaving Phillips and drive 2.5 miles, turning left onto the East Madrid Road at the Manzer sign. Continue 4.7 miles straight on East Madrid Road. The birding trail kiosk and parking are just beyond the small bridge crossing the Perham Stream, on the left side of the road, across from the white farmhouse (553 East Madrid Road).



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Join the Rangeley Lakes Region Light's Out Event

RANGELEY — Join the Rangeley Lakes Region for a county-wide "Light's Out!" event on April 6, from 8:00 – 10:00 PM. Light's Out! is one of many during International Dark Sky Week hosted by Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust (RLHT) as part of a campaign to increase the public knowledge of light pollution, its impacts, and how to prevent it.

"We're asking homeowners to set a reminder to turn off all outside lights," said Dark Sky Community Certification Coordinator Linda Dexter. "Businesses are encouraged to turn off lighted signs and spotlights, anything that is not essential. Take it a step further and shut off your inside lights, then step outside and take in the night sky."

Kyle Haley Photography will document the event from the air before, during, and after.

Dexter asks you to think about these four things:

1. Do you need to light up your yard at night? Use lights only where necessary for safety. If you like the aesthetics of exterior lighting, please limit the



A 2003 electrical blackout in the Northeast of the U.S. affected 55 million people. It also showed us what we're missing in our normally light polluted environments. Credit: Todd Carlson

time they are on. Use a timer or turn them off when you go to bed. After 10:00, who is going to see them?

2. Do you inadvertently leave lights on inside the garage or unoccupied rooms in your house? Turn off the lights unless you are in the room. Save money on your electric bill, save energy that needs to be produced, and keep the stars bright simultaneously.

3. How often do you look up at the night sky? Look up! 80% of the people in North America can-

not see the Milky Way. We are lucky to live in an area where we always see it. Let's keep it that way!

4. Look at your outside lights. Are they shielded and angled downward? Be aware of where your lights are pointing. Most spotlights are angled too high. Too high an angle throws light into your neighbor's yard or the street, which hinders drivers' vision.

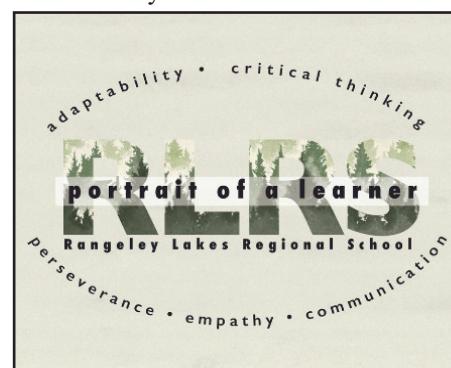
Interested in International Dark Sky Week and other solar eclipse events? Visit RangeleyEclipse.com to learn more.

Shadow of the Sun Festival



like never before! And guess what? This will be your last chance to view a solar eclipse

in its totality from the United States for the next 23 years, so let's make it count!



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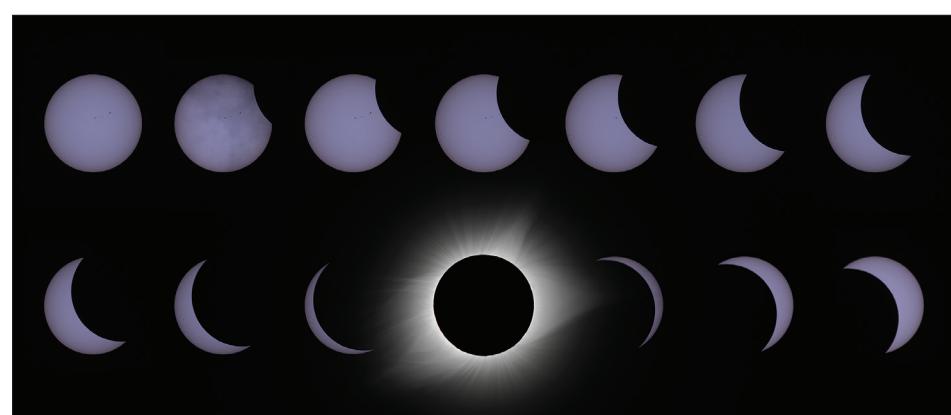
**Join the Mountain Messenger Community
Directory Page Call 207-225-2076**

Tips for the solar eclipse

RANGELEY — Although most of North and Central America will witness a partial solar eclipse, a fortunate fraction of people residing in the path of totality will be able to witness a total solar eclipse. And luckily for the Rangeley Region, it happens to be located on that path!

Eclipses occur when the Earth or moon obscures the sun's light, casting a shadow onto the other. During a total solar eclipse, the moon covers the sun entirely from certain viewpoints. In these locations, the sunlight fades, and if the weather is clear, stars or planets may become visible. Totality can last anywhere from one to about three and a half minutes.

With Mud Season upon us, finding a vantage point for optimal viewing can



Submitted photo

be tricky, but the Rangeley region has many open spaces that offer a view of the open sky!

To best enjoy your experience, read the below tips before venturing out for this historical event:

- It's mud season here in western Maine. Most designated campgrounds, seasonal roads, and even some hiking trails are closed and impassable.

While it may feel harmless, don't let your actions affect other's approaching recreation and traditional logging season.

- Neither cell phone nor GPS coverage should be relied upon for your sole navigation source. The Maine Atlas and Gazetteer is a great tool, but remember, the "woods" roads are mud and largely privately owned. We urge you to

stay on well-established roads for your safety.

- The ice quickly disappears off the lakes and should be considered unsafe for foot and paw traffic!
- Bears are on the move! Be cognizant of your outdoor activities, including proper storage of perishables!
- Never view the sun with the naked eye or via unfiltered devices, such as

binoculars or telescopes. Creating eclipse-viewing devices, such as a pinhole camera, can be used to view the eclipse's shadow on the ground and not the actual eclipse in the sky. You can easily find directions on the internet for making your own!

- RLHT's Cupsuptic Lake Park and Campground do not open until mid-May. Therefore, camping at the campground proper or any wilderness site on Cupsuptic Lake or Cupsuptic River is unavailable. This also includes any of RLHT's trails or trailheads. There are no exceptions to the

protection of natural resources.

- There are public restrooms in both Rangeley and Oquossoc!

- Please practice Leave No Trace principles and clean up after yourself!

- We LOVE dogs, but we want to remind you that not everyone does!

Your dog MUST be within your control at ALL times, and you MUST clean up after them! Let's work together to ensure they are always invited onto RLHT and public lands!

For more Rangeley region information, please visit www.RangeleyEclipse.com.

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James Eastlack
Broker

Extension Homemakers partners with Janet's Jammies to sew hundreds of pajamas for children in need



Photos courtesy University of Maine Cooperative Extension. Betty Robshaw (Hancock County), Rita Fortin (Somerset County), and Mary Soper (Hancock County) package pajamas for delivery to local children.



Extension Homemakers State Director Lisa Fishman delivers pajamas to Nicole Cooley, Development Director of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Kennebec County.



For the second year in a row, University of Maine Cooperative Extension Homemakers across the state partnered with non-profit Janet's Jammies to make hundreds of pajamas for children in need. Volunteers from Homemaker clubs in Aroostook, Cumberland, Franklin, Hancock and Somerset Counties turned piles of donated fabric into 260 pairs of flannel pajama bottoms.

A red heart is sewn onto each pair of pajamas to symbolize the love that went into every stitch. United Way in several Maine counties helped to identify families in need and then distributed the colorful pajamas with matching tee shirts to kids from ages 2 to 6.

Ladd, said, "I think Janet would be in tears knowing that so many children have been blessed by the work of the Homemakers to assemble and distribute so many sets of pajamas in her name."

"This has been such a fun project to work on," said Diane Parent of the Caribou Homemakers group in Aroostook County. "We're all working together across the state for the same goal."

Lisa Fishman, State Coordinator of Maine Extension Homemakers, agreed. "Whether the work was being done in Farmington, or Bucksport, or Madison, everyone had the same goal: to get warm pajamas out to kids who needed them most."

United Way representa-

tives across the state were thrilled to receive the pajamas, with several branches staying open beyond normal business hours to receive them. The director of the Boys and Girls Club of Augusta called to request additional pajamas to make sure they could meet the needs in their area.

Janet's Jammies was established as a nonprofit in 2021 in honor of Janet Brzozowski, an avid seamstress who loved sewing clothes for others. The organization was founded on Janet's philosophy "to delight in

the detail, to stitch care in every garment, and to wrap ourselves in the love of our family."

The Maine Extension Homemakers are already stitching pajamas for the next distribution, scheduled for November. This time around, Janet's Jammies is creating larger-sized patterns to accommodate older youth. The organization is also requesting donations of clean flannel material. If you have extra material you'd like to donate, con-

tact Extension Homemakers State Coordinator Lisa Fishman at lisa.fishman@maine.edu.

The Extension Homemakers of Maine is a community-based organization comprised of caring and industrious individuals across the state. More than half of Maine counties have active chapters. Every year, Extension Homemakers take on a statewide project with the purpose of learning something new, serving others, and benefiting communities.

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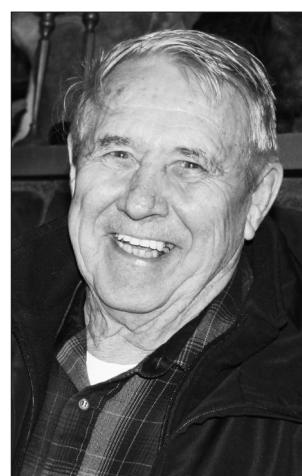


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Holman Day Ferguson 1935- 2024



Holman Day Ferguson, long time resident of Sandy River Plantation, Maine passed away peacefully on February 27, 2024. He had suffered on one level or another from Dementia, for 20+ years.

Holman was born in Rangeley, Maine on May 31, 1935, the fifth of 7 children born to Nathalie Oakes Hunton and Harold Mayberry Ferguson. The family moved to Sandy River Plantation, ME, where Holman then raised his family. Holman's siblings & parents have long passed from this Earth. His brother Bill married Betty Myshall; sister Mary married Walt Sundberg; sister Joyce married John Ninos; brother Dick ; brother Craig married Kathy Moura; and sister Susan died within months after birth. There are numerous children and grandchildren from the

original Ferguson Clan of 7, living all over the US.

In 1952 Holman at age 17, married his lifelong friend Wanda Bernice Ellis age 20. They were married for 71+ years, creating a happy home life for their family, in Sandy River Plantation, ME. Today, all their children & partners still live/work on the

same family land. Holman and Wanda had five children. Son Robbie died at childbirth; daughter Lisa married Barry Brackett; daughter Heidi; daughter Leslie married Paul Packard; and son Michael married Julie Peaslee. Heidi blessed the family with two granddaughters Tala & Alyssa Ferguson, and Alyssa's husband Eric Churchill, all live together in Steep Falls, Maine.

Friends & Family please gather to celebrate the life of Holman Day Ferguson. Held on Saturday May 11, 2024, at the Farmhouse Inn Event Barn, located at 2057 Main Street, Rangeley, Maine. The celebration is from Noon to 3:00 pm. There will be snacks, then a BBQ & desserts will be served around 1:00 pm (coffee, tea, juice & water).

Then a slide show, accompanied by fun family stories.

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Critter Chatter - Is it really hibernation?

by Jayne Winters

At several recent visits with Don Cote at Duck Pond Wildlife rehab, I couldn't help but notice that the resident chipmunk has seemed more "chipper" (pun intended) than usual. Despite his rehab stint in the living room, I suspect his natural internal clock is nudging him about the warmer weather, signaling him to become more active, seek food, prepare for nesting and maybe even find a mate.

We all know that hibernation is the time of year when some animals pack it up for the winter and instead of moving south, hunker down to snooze until spring. Survival depends upon their ability to decrease their body temperature, as well as their heart, respiratory and metabolic rates. I was surprised to learn there are only three true hibernators in Maine: little brown bats, whose heart rate drops from 1,000 beats per minute to five; groundhogs, who spend the winter in a den located below the frost line and above the water table, dropping its body temperature to 38°; and meadow jumping mice, who spend only two weeks fattening up and won't wake to eat or drink until spring.

Other species that can reduce their body temperature and metabolic rate during the winter are not considered true hibernators because they rouse easily and can become active during warm periods. This semi-hibernation is called 'torpor' and Maine critters that utilize this behavior include black bears, skunks, raccoons and reptiles. Reptiles are considered cold-blooded because they can't produce their own body heat - their temperature is controlled by their environment. When the cooler days of fall arrive, they go into a dormant period called "brumation" [I'd never heard of this!], during which they can survive long periods without eating, but still need to drink to prevent dehydration.

Back to the chip-



Submitted photos

munks: At around 40°F, they start gathering nuts, seeds, twigs, and other items in those cute little cheek pouches, moving large quantities of food into their burrow storage rooms called 'caches.' They're always busy, gathering up to 165 acorns per day! An enormous amount of food can be held in their cheek pouches, which can stretch to three times the size of the head. Within just two days, a chipmunk will have collected enough food to last through the whole winter. Research indicates those that who



follow normal hibernation procedures have a winter survival rate of about 87%, while those who remain active because of warm winter weather are almost certain to die by spring.

I've noticed a couple of Chippies in our yard the past few days and I'm sure the little guy at Duck Pond will be happy to be released back into the wild where he can start filling

those cheeks!

Don and his volunteers appreciate and thank the other rehabbers who continue to generously accept critter transfers from Duck Pond. Please check the following websites to see if there is one near you: <https://www.mainevetmed.org/wildlife-rehabilitation> or <https://www.mainegov/ifw/fish-wildlife/wildlife/living-with-wildlife/>

[orphaned-injured-wildlife/index.html](#) - Donald Cote operates Duck Pond Wildlife Care Center on Rte. 3 in Vassalboro. It is a non-profit state permitted rehab facility which is supported by its own resources and outside donations. Mailing address: 1787 North Belfast Ave., Vassalboro ME 04989 TEL: (207) 445-4326. Please note the previous e-mail address is no longer monitored.



CLASS SCHEDULE

(Subject to change. Call 864-3055 or stop in for the most up to date information.)

Check out our schedule or check our website for class descriptions and prices.

MONDAY

- 9am-10am Ski Prep with Hawk
- 10:15am-10:45am Functional Fitness with Hannah
- 11am-12-Water Aerobics with Diane
- 5-6pm- Power Yoga with Hannah

TUESDAY

- 8-9am Total Body Strength with Brit
- 10:15-11am-Chair yoga with Hannah

WEDNESDAY

- 9am-10am Ski Prep with Hawk
- 10:15am-10:45am Functional Fitness with Hannah
- 3-530pm – Jiu Jitsu with Shawn

THURSDAY

- 8-9am Total Body Strength with Brit
- 5-6pm- Karate (kids) with Dan
- 6-7pm Karate (teen, adults) with Dan

FRIDAY

- 8-9am Spin with Cyndy
- 9am-10am Ski Prep with Hawk
- 11am-12-Water Aerobics with Diane

Noon member drop ins \$12



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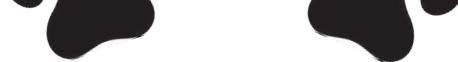
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There are four differences between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?

A**B**

Answers: 1. Dog rolling in grass 2. Flower in blue flower pot 3. Missing plant on cart 4. Tree has an extra branch

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HISTORY

- **1803:** THOUSANDS OF METEOR FRAGMENTS FALL FROM THE SKIES OF L'AIGLE, FRANCE. THIS CONVINCES SCIENTISTS THAT METEORS EXIST.

- **1900:** FIRES CONSUME THE CANADIAN CITIES OF OTTAWA AND HULL, DESTROYING THEM IN 12 HOURS.

- **1954:** THE FIRST CLINICAL TRIALS OF JONAS SALK'S POLIO VACCINE BEGIN.

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Mow

SPANISH: Cortar

ITALIAN: Falciare

FRENCH: Tondre

GERMAN: Mähen

Did You Know?

CENTRE COURT AT WIMBLEDON IN ENGLAND IS THE MOST EXPENSIVE LAWN IN THE WORLD. THIS TENNIS COURT REQUIRES A LOT OF UPKEEP.

GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: GARDEN GNOME

New Word

LAWN

an area of short, mown grass in a yard

THE HEALTHY GEEZER



Fred Cecitti

Q. I'm getting pain in my right leg and my doctor says it's sciatica. Could you write one of your columns about this?

Sciatica is pain that runs down the sciatic nerve from your lower spine to your buttock and down the back of your leg. Age-related changes in the spine are a common cause of sciatica.

Other sciatica symptoms include numbness, muscle

weakness, a burning sensation and tingling. In rare cases, there is a loss of bladder or bowel control. Usually, only one side of your body experiences sciatica.

Most of the time, sciatica goes away within a few weeks of rest. If it doesn't go away, see a doctor. About 85 percent of patients with sciatica get better over time without surgery.

Sciatica is caused by damage to the sciatic nerve, which is the longest nerve in the body. This nerve controls the muscles of the back of the knee and lower leg and provides sensation to the back of the thigh, part of the lower leg and the sole of the foot.

A common cause of sci-

atica is a herniated disk—also known as a ruptured or slipped disk. Disks are pads of cartilage that cushion the vertebrae in your spine. If a disk ruptures, it can press against a nerve root in your spine causing pain.

Other causes of sciatica include:

Trauma. A blow to your spine can injure nerve roots.

- Tumors. As they grow, tumors can compress the spinal cord or the nerve roots.

- Stenosis. If sections of the spinal canal narrows, there can be pressure on the spinal cord.

- Piriformis syndrome. The piriformis muscle runs from your lower spine to each thighbone. This mus-

cle can put pressure on the sciatic nerve.

- Spondylolisthesis. This occurs when one vertebra slips slightly forward over another vertebra and pinches the sciatic nerve. This condition is often caused by degenerative disk disease.

Cigarettes are bad for your back. Smoking increases your risk of developing sciatica by blocking the body's ability to deliver nutrients to the disks of the lower back.

Get emergency treatment for sciatica if: you have sudden, severe pain in your lower back or leg; numbness or muscle weakness in your leg; pain following a violent injury, or you have trouble controlling your bowels or

bladder.

There are many ways to treat sciatica including injections, pain-relieving drugs, muscle relaxants, hot or cold packs, physical therapy and surgery.

To avoid sciatica, you should:

- Exercise regularly
- Sit with good posture and lumbar support

- Take frequent breaks if you work at a desk

- Adjust your car seat so that your knees and hips are level and you aren't overreaching for the pedals.

- If you stand for long periods, rest one foot on a stool. (Bar rails were invented to reduce back discomfort.)

- When lifting, bend your knees, not your back. Lift with your legs.

- Carry objects close to your body.

- Don't reach and lift objects; pull them close to you first. Remember this tip when emptying a car trunk.

- Sleep on a good mattress; if you wake up with back pain, you need a new one.

END

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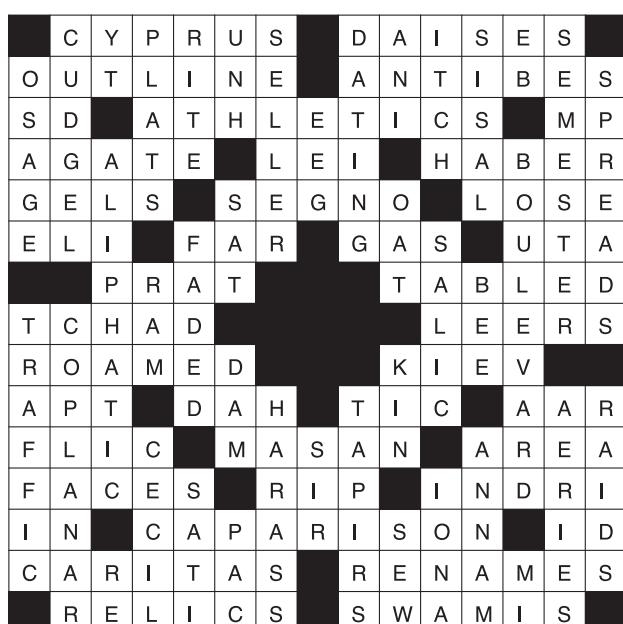
2023 by Fred Cicetti

Sudoku Puzzle Answer Puzzle on page 11

9	7	4	3	8	5	1	6	2
5	2	1	6	4	9	3	7	8
6	3	8	7	1	2	4	9	5
1	6	2	8	5	4	9	3	7
7	4	9	2	3	6	8	5	1
8	5	3	1	9	7	2	4	6
2	8	5	9	7	3	6	1	4
4	9	6	5	2	1	7	8	3
3	1	7	4	6	8	5	2	9

Everyone's talking about the Mountain Messenger! Call today at 225-2076 and see how direct mail can work for your business!

Crossword Puzzle Answer Puzzle on page 11



Scam Alert Bulletin Board



Fraud Watch Network

Let It Go...to Voicemail

When it comes to combatting scams, we all have the same superpower. The single most effective way to avoid scam calls is to let your answering machine or voicemail screen calls for you. It's a power we all have, but unfortunately, it's not a power we all use.

Federal Trade Commission data from last year show that the telephone was the source for more than a third of reported scams. Reported losses

were nearly \$700 million, with a median loss of \$1,200. That's a lot of phone fraud. Thanks to criminals, we can't rely on Caller ID, so our best defense is letting calls go to the machine. This gives you the opportunity to listen to messages with intent, and with time to consider its validity.

So don't forget that YOU have a superpower, one that can protect you from the IRS scam, or the Medicare scam, or the grandparent scam, or dozens of other impostor scams – by letting them go to voicemail.

Be a fraud fighter! If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam.

The AARP Fraud Watch Network is a free resource for all. Learn how to proactively spot scams or get guidance if you've been targeted. Visit www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork or call our dedicated helpline to speak to a fraud specialist at 1-877-908-3360.

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*Visit www.wrgy.org for the most recent updates to the program

Hours	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
4-7 am							
7-8 am							
8-9							
9-10							
10-11			Ron Hoar Oldies Hour (50s/60s; 70s/80s)				
11-12							
12-1pm							
1-2							
2-3							
3-4							
4-5							
5-6							
6-7							
7-8	Big Picture Science	Int'l Americana	Folk Alley1	Living On Earth	Fur Piece Ranch	Planetary Radio Bioneers	Philosophy Talk
8-9	Reveal	Old Time Radio	Old Time Radio	WRGY Presents	Wood songs	Paul Ingles Good Songs	Victrola Show
9-10	With Good Reason	Ozark Highlands Radio	Golden Oldie Hour	Singer Songwriter	Singer Song	Indie Informant	Alternative Music Hour 2
10-11	Classic Rock Hour	Country Music Hour	Singer Songwriter	Alternative Music Hour	Alt Music	Dance Music Hour	Classic Rock Hour 2
11-12				Classic Jazz			
12am - 4am					Late Night Rock		

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HELP WANTED SALE/MARKETING CONSULTANT

Ready for some fun? Do you enjoy being a part of your community, spreading Good News, being creative and helping businesses grow? Then this job is for you!

JOB DESCRIPTION:

Work from home office or company office. Base plus commissions on sales. This position is customer service and community focused and is responsible for generating advertising sales. You will be connecting with advertisers, businesses and the community via phone, email, Zoom, and in-person. Prospecting sales opportunities and selling print, digital ads, and direct mail flyers is the primary function of this position. Primary territory is Maine. Being involved and knowing the community is very important to the success of this position. The perfect candidate for this position must have a winning attitude and be competitive by nature and have the strong desire to help grow and nurture businesses and community. Knowledge of direct mail marketing and digital marketing is helpful. Must have 5 years sales experience, preferably in advertising or media. Must have a working knowledge of computer software programs such as Microsoft Office, social media platforms and database systems. Must be organized and detailed. Must have a home computer or laptop, printer, cell phone and a dependable car and a valid driver's license. Opportunities for Sales Management is a natural progression for this position and anyone with sales and marketing skills in the media world should apply. We are an EOE. Full benefits included.

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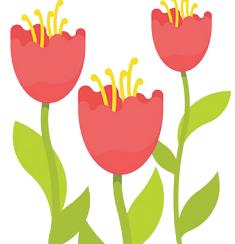
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Writer/Photographer:

Bill Van Tassel

Administration:

Brett Bannister



The state of local news -excerpt from American Journalism Project

Communities across the United States lack sources of trusted information about what's happening around them. Local news is our most trusted source of information about the world around us. It provides a shared understanding of what's happening in our city halls, schools, and businesses. Local news connects us to our community and to our neighbors and it uplifts voices that would otherwise go unheard.

Local news demands accountability from community, business, and governmental bodies. It forces decision-making structures to operate within the public's view. Local news lends us agency, empowering us with the knowledge we need

to make informed decisions about issues critical to our daily lives.

But local news is disappearing.

From 2000 to 2018, weekday newspaper circulation fell from 55.8 million households to an estimated 28.6 million. From 2000 to 2020, the newspaper industry's advertising revenue fell by an estimated 80%.

Broken models

For the last 150 years, we've relied on ad revenue, a market transaction, to support a public good. Advertising once accounted for 80% of newspapers' revenue. In the past 20

years, that revenue stream has fallen by 80%. The economics that supported the news industry for most of the twentieth century are no longer viable. Of the commercial newspapers that still exist, most have been forced by revenue losses to cut resources so dramatically that they struggle to provide any civic value to communities.

Ghost newspapers

More than half of those remaining newspapers are owned by financial institutions whose cost-cutting strategies have stripped newsrooms of the resources necessary to produce consistent, original reporting on basic information. People who live in communities

that still have a local newspaper may also effectively be living in news deserts.

The rise of misinformation

In the absence of trusted news sources, we see targeted disinformation campaigns, including efforts to spread misinformation through social networks and websites masquerading as news brands.

Dependency on national news sources that are removed from everyday life

Without a trusted local alternative, individuals have no choice but to turn to the echo chamber of national news outlets and social me-

dia for information. Local stories, when they are told by these institutions, become cherry-picked anecdotes that build on national tensions. They're used to engage a national audience rather than to inform a local one.

Excerpt from American Journalism Project at <https://www.theajp.org/why-local-news/>

We at Turner Publishing continue to send out local community news and good news only. Our plight and goal are simple. Keep readers of the local communities they reside in informed of good things that are happening around them. And we do it FREE

by sending their local community publications to them once a month. So when you support Turner Publishing and put your business ads in one of our 22 local community newspapers in Central and Western Maine you not only get great exposure in your community but you also can feel good that you and your business are supporting local community news and a vehicle (Turner Publishing) that distributes this news to mailboxes in your community. Call us today at 207-225-2076 to find out how you can support local community news and get a badge on all your ads that says so as well as other perks to bolster your business name.

BBB Scam Alert: Watch out for SAT prep scams

For parents of high school students, SAT and ACT scores are a huge deal. With college admissions and scholarships on the line, paying for tutors and test prep materials may be worth the price. But watch out for con artists eager to take advantage of this. Scammers – with access to kids' names and school information – are tricking parents into paying for bogus SAT and ACT prep materials.

How the scam works

You get an unsolicited call from a person claiming to be

from the College Board, the company responsible for the PSAT, SAT, and AP tests, or another educational organization. The caller claims to be confirming your address, so they can send test prep materials, such as books, CDs, or videos, that your child requested at school.

It seems so believable! Several people reported to BBB Scam Tracker that the caller even had their child's name, phone number, address, school information, and/or the date and location of their child's scheduled test.

Of course, there's a catch.

The caller needs you to pay a deposit, sometimes several hundred dollars, for the materials. They claim it will be refunded when the materials are returned after a set number of days. Unfortunately, if you provide your address and credit card details, the materials will never arrive, and your deposit will never be refunded. Scammers now have your credit card number and other personal information.

In a recent BBB Scam Tracker report, a consumer shared, "Caller, Carson, stated my son had requested SAT prep materials through College Board student services. He had my address, my son's name, date and location of the SAT test my son is scheduled to take. The caller stated they needed

parental permission prior to sending documents and that I needed to give him a credit card number for collateral.

"We would be sent the college SAT prep materials; the materials would be free of charge for 30 days and we would need to return the materials in the envelope provided and my card wouldn't be charged. The caller stated they send email reminders prior to the return deadline and will send shipping confirmation once the material package is mailed out. My card was charged \$249.95 instantly."

Another consumer shared on BBB Scam Tracker, "I received a call from Brad [redacted] with College Prep Tutors. It stated that my daughter (knew her name) had requested ACT

- Double-check with your child.** If scammers say they are calling because of a service your child requested, tell them you need to check with your child first and hang up. Make sure their claims are legitimate before you call back or accept a return call. Don't send any money or make a payment if there is any doubt about the call. The same is true for emergency scams.

- Understand the College Board's practices.** The College Board will never ask you for bank or credit card information over the phone or via email. If a caller suggests otherwise, hang up. Learn more about the College Board's policies.

- Always be wary of unsolicited callers.** If someone calls unexpectedly asking for payment, always research their organization before you share personal information or agree to receive services or products. Look up the business they claim to represent at BBB.org. Search the name along with the words "scam" or "complaint" to find out if others had negative experiences. Check BBB Scam Tracker to see if anyone else has filed a report about the company.



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Blue Vue Plants

I am writing this on the first of February, and you are now reading it in April. I can tell you I am EXCITED for Spring, and I know I have 3 more months! But starting this article and finding a few photos just crank me up another notch to think of all the lovely plants coming plus the ones that are in the snowbanks just waiting for Spring. I want to write this article on 4 major plant groups (that have many varieties within the family). But before that – let's talk about the early Spring. The Thu/Fri of Memorial Day weekend my big delivery truck arrives with annuals, veggies, herbs and HANGING BASKETS. I remember May Baskets in May – choosing them from the lady who sold them next to my grammar school. Off to the store for lots of great penny candy and then to your best friend to “hang” it and run through the fields and woods until they caught you! Those May baskets were works of art – and then the great



Bartzella itoh yellow peony



Ripening blueberries



Sensation lilac



Primrose lilac



Congo lilac

candy treats. That is what my hanging baskets remind me of! They are breathtaking and need no candy to enhance them. I have 80 13" hangers @\$29.97 and 60 11" hangers for \$21.97. I probably will have some 10" hangers coming in early June. Of course, veggies, herbs and annuals are on that truck also! Check for the coupon in this paper for pricing.

However, the main thrust of this article is Fruit Trees, Blueberries, Peonies and Lilacs. All Fruit Trees are

\$25.97 – and I have the following coming in in mid-March. Reliance & Contender Peach, Montmorency Cherry Tree, Red Delicious, Wolf River, Ambrosia, Cortland and Macintosh Apple trees, plus 20 Snow Fountain Weeping Cherry for beautiful landscaping effects. No photos of those. Check out <https://www.facebook.com/bluevueWeld/> for an “early” sale on these – probably 2nd week of April on a Saturday a.m.

I have over 15 varieties of peonies all for \$12.97 each – EXCEPT for the Bartzella

Itoh Yellow Peony which is just under \$25.00. I planted 18 different varieties of peonies this past Fall along a large rock barrier. I can hardly wait to see them come up this Spring.

Bartzella Itoh Yellow Peony

Next are the Blueberries – I love them best when picked full of sunshine. The warm sweet flavor cannot be beat. Several varieties for our area. All \$9.97. Some plants are on the small size, but they grow fast. I also have Haskaps – google about them. They are another great fruit. I also have

other fruit-bearing shrubs as well as strawberries.

Finally, the Lilacs – remember, lilacs, peonies, blueberries and fruit trees all typically live well over 50 years! These plants are ones that will stick by you and be beautiful in their own time each year. I am just featuring the following 3 photos – Congo, Primrose and Sensation – but have many more gorgeous ones.

Think about having these (and other) beauties blooming in your yard – and all priced at \$12.97 each!

That is not all – I have hundreds of varieties of perennials and thousands of plants. No plant I sell is over \$30. You could buy 2 blueberries, 3 peonies, 3 lilacs and a fruit tree for around \$125.00. Try to match those prices. I am known for my pricing, the variety and the quality of my plants. You can even buy some of my premium potting soil (bring your own 5-gallon bucket and spade - \$5.00 per bucket). Come on over – the opening is May 1st officially, but often open a few days earlier (depending on the snowbanks). That is Blue Vue Plants, 586 West Side Road, Weld, ME

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