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Another successful lobster fundraising event by RVRC



Submitted Photo

Club President, Dave Duguay and Chairperson of this event thanking Sammy Patel Co-Owner of Mountain Valley Variety Store.

MEXICO - On Monday, May 17, 2026, the River Valley Rotary Club held another successful Lobster Luncheon Fundraising event! This event is usually done twice a year to replace monies used for sponsoring scholarships for students from each of the three schools in the area (Dirigo High, Mountain Valley High, and Region 9 School of Technology).

The River Valley Rotary Club sends out a special thank you to Mountain Valley Variety Store for donating the Chicken Salad and some supplies, and Hannaford's Rumford Store for donating the hundreds of Frankfort Rolls. Without their support, this fundraising event would not be successful.

Then there are all the fellow Rotarians who volunteer their many hours of service starting at 7:00 a.m., preparing and then delivering the lunch bags

with either a lobster salad roll or chicken salad roll, along with a bag of chips, a homemade brownie and a soft drink.



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MAINE OUTDOORS

v. Paul Reynolds

A SPECIAL BREED

Sooner or later, most career Game Wardens place themselves in harm's way in the line of duty. The same can be said for Game Warden pilots, perhaps more so. Maine Warden Pilots often are called upon to assist, from the air, in coordinated ground searches for missing persons. More often than not, the weather is nasty, and warden pilots find themselves up there under the "scud" in what flyers sometimes call "high pucker" conditions.

Recently, on May 12th at 11:45 in the morning in a Cessna 185F, a Maine Game Warden Pilot Joshua Tibbetts, 50, flying in relatively fair weather, lost control of his aircraft and crashed near Schoolhouse Pond north of Farmington. Tibbetts did not survive. He was not the first Game Warden Pilot to die in the line of duty. Other Maine Warden Pilots were involved in fatal crashes in 1956, 1972 and 2011. In 1956, Warden Pilot George Townsend was killed in a plane crash at Maranacook Lake. Later, in 1972 at the same lake, Warden Pilot Dick Varney drowned when his helicopter crashed into the lake. Former Chief Warden Pilot Jack McPhee was killed in 2003 when his personal Super Cub crashed up north.

Although Tibbetts was not flying under the worst conditions faced by so many Warden Pilots, he was seen by an eyewitness maneuvering low in excessively gusty winds. Not a good situation for even the most experienced

bush flyer. According to his logbooks, Tibbetts was flying out of his base at Eagle Lake and was aerial stocking fish in waters near the crash site. He was promoted to Warden Pilot in 2023.

The irony is that many a Game Warden Pilot, in the act of spotting a missing person and saving a life, have done so under the very worst flying conditions. Case in point:

On December 4th a few years ago, Game Warden Pilot Dan Dufault found himself in exactly those kinds of deteriorating flying conditions. It was windy and snowing that morning when the parents of 11-year-old Dylan Butler and 3-year-old Madison Richardson reported the kids were missing. The missing youngsters were eventually spotted by pilot Dufault from the air. Amid the swirling snow squall, the kids were seen floating down the Kennebec River five hours after they were reported missing. They were eventually rescued and hospitalized with hypothermia.

Dufault didn't have to fly. Conditions were almost impossible with poor visibility and a low overcast. In cases like this, it is the warden pilot's call. He knows the risks and nobody, including his bosses, ever second guesses a warden pilot's decision to stay on the ground in weather that can kill the most skilled bush flyer. In all probability, Dufault's willingness to take the calculated risk and search for the kids, while flying his Cessna under the



Joshua Tibbetts

scud at treetop level, is the reason they are alive today. With falling temperatures, time was of the essence.

Without question, in the eyes of these kids and their parents, Dan Dufault is a very special guy. They will not soon forget him and his courage and skill. Dufault is one in a long line of Maine Game Warden Pilots who have served Maine citizens with courage, dedication and uncommon airmanship.

Maine's first Game Warden Pilot was Bill Turgeon. In 1937, Warden Turgeon flew an airplane belonging to the then Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Stobie. The airplane was a Gull-Wing Stinson. There have been about 20 game warden pilots during the nearly 70 years that the Maine Warden Service has had flying game wardens. The

names that I have found

are: Bill Turgeon, Bob Bacon, George Later, Gary Dumond, Malcom Maheu, Andy Stinson, Dick Varney, George Townsend, Eben Perry, Jack McPhee, Dana Toothaker, Gary Dumond, Jim Welsh, Alan Ryder, Roger Wolverton, Jason Bou-chard, Charlie Later, Dan DuFault and Durwood Humphrey. There was a warden pilot nicknamed "Windy," and there may be a few that I have missed.

As far as we know, nobody is keeping track of just how many lives have been saved over the years as a direct or indirect effort of Maine's Game Warden Pilots.

If you were the parent of a missing child, the wife of a lost hunter, or the son

of an elderly person who walked off into the woods, there would be comfort in knowing that the Warden Service Rescue Unit is using every tool at its disposal- including Game Warden Pilots.

Warden Pilot Tibbetts, who perished on May 12th in his aircraft in the woods near Schoolhouse Pond, and all of the Maine Game Warden Pilots before him, are all a special breed. We appreciate their sacrifice.

The author is editor of the Northwoods Sporting Journal. He is also a Maine Guide, co-host of a weekly radio program "Maine Outdoors" heard Sundays at 7 p.m. on The Voice of Maine News-Talk Network.

Evergreen Golf Club

Tip of the Week

Shaping the height of golf shots is how every advanced player adjusts when playing in different conditions. For example, when it is windy (nearly all the time in Florida) you must be able to adjust ball flight. One easy way is to move the ball to the front of your stance when trying to hit it higher. Alternatively, moving it back in your stance will lower the ball flight. Another way to hit it higher is to lower your back shoulder to change your spine angle. Leveling your shoulders will help you to hit it lower. I hope these tips can help you on a day when the wind picks up or when you are trying to shape a shot.



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Second Op-Ed from Dan Rhodes + Invitation to Walk with Us at Shiloh Unexpected Solace at Shiloh Pond

FARMINGTON - The first time I visited Shiloh Pond, I did not know its conservation history. It was just a recommendation for a place to go, something new to do on a bright and beautiful summer morning. It does have a history, of course: linked to both the Town of Kingfield and the High Peaks Alliance. If you have not been yet, it is well worth an excursion.

We visited for the first time last June. After parking next to a gate blocking further vehicle access, we got out and made our way on foot to the water (having tragically forgotten to bring bug spray, an itchy mistake I've not since repeated). The walk is short, maybe ten or fifteen minutes down the forested trail if you, like me, have a little kid in tow. But when you get there, just past the stashed canoes and the "Fly Fishing Only" signs, you spill out of the woods onto the

narrow banks of the pond itself.

Frogs and fry fled as we dipped our toes in the shallows, while a gentle breeze tousled the surface of the clear water. If you chance upon this place on a day when no one else is there, I hope the stillness and the scenery also strike you. Pines and boulders close ranks to ring the water's edge in a way that is almost protective and, in misty morning light, hauntingly beautiful.

Except for the stashed canoes and the trail, there's no real sign of human presence here. Paddling the pond's perimeter didn't take long, but long enough for the kind of quiet I love so much to make its presence felt through the utter absence of modern distraction. To the west, a few peaks, smaller in the foreground, taller beyond, crowd the horizon to give the place unexpected gravitas.

I can't quite articulate



exactly what about Shiloh Pond struck me so much. Maybe it was the juxtaposition of absolute tranquility with its stone's throw proximity to town. Maybe it was its primitive, wholly undeveloped atmosphere (fair warning—there are no bathrooms!). But when I'm there, the "why" seems less important than



Submitted photo

the mere act of presence in this place where simply being is solace.

Maybe to some it is just a pond. But I am grateful to the Town of Kingfield and the High Peaks Alliance for working together to ensure that it has been preserved for us to enjoy. Shiloh Pond, and other

places like it, do something else important: they stand as a powerful proof of concept for collaborative conservation. The High Peaks Alliance recognizes that land access conversations must be conducted transparently, and they must honestly account for the interests

of all relevant stakeholders, including town governments, landowners, and land users. In a more lasting sense, the existing framework ensures Shiloh Pond will endure as it has for millennia, save for the changing of the seasons and the footprints we leave on the beach.

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Maine Shrine Lobster Bowl Classic announces partnership with Maine Public

LEWISTON - The Maine Shrine Lobster Bowl Classic has announced a new partnership with Maine Public to broadcast the 2026 Maine Shrine Lobster Bowl Classic on July 18, 2026, from Don Roux Field in Lewiston, Maine.

Under the agreement, Maine Public will provide live television and online broadcasting for the game on July 18, 2026. Maine Public will have the official broadcast rights and sponsorship inventory for the annual all-star football game, expanding visibility for one of the state’s most celebrated traditions while increasing awareness and fundraising efforts for Shriners Children’s.

The partnership will feature a full television broadcast along with live streaming coverage, allowing audiences both in Maine and across the country to tune in. The enhanced production will include an on-location pregame show, in-depth interviews with coaches and players, and additional storytelling elements designed to highlight the athletes and the mission behind the game.

“This is a tremendous partnership for our efforts to raise awareness and funds for Shriners Children’s,” said Joe Hersom, president



Pictured: Joe Hersom, President of the Maine Shrine Lobster Bowl Classic and Rob Kennedy, broadcaster for the Maine Shrine Lobster Bowl Classic on Maine Public.

of the Maine Shrine Lobster Bowl Classic. “We are so proud of the accomplishments of the participants in the game and want to showcase their talents and effort on the field, but also in their charitable fundraising. Maine Public is going to be a great partner for us

to provide statewide coverage, plus expand our reach and secure more sponsorship opportunities because of their longstanding reputation for broadcasting Maine high school sports. We’re really excited to put together a tremendous product and broadcast that will

leave a lasting legacy for everyone involved.” Maine Public, which has a longstanding tradition of broadcasting high school sports across the state, will bring its experienced production team and expanded capabilities to the event, including new broadcast

enhancements and digital distribution. On-air talent for the broadcast will include Rob Kennedy providing the play-by-play along with color commentator Rob Munzing and field reporter Jack Webb.

“This partnership with the Maine Shrine Lobster

Bowl Classic is a great opportunity for Maine Public to continue our coverage of high school sports in Maine as one of the longest standing traditions in the state. This game provides an opportunity for Maine Public to secure sponsors who want to support the game and Shriners Children’s Hospitals. This truly is more than just a game, and we’re excited to be able to provide coverage for the Maine Shrine Lobster Bowl Classic. We are looking forward to the broadcast and highlighting the participants for all their achievements,” said Cory Morrissey, Marketing Lead at Maine Public.

The Maine Shrine Lobster Bowl Classic is one of Maine’s premier high school football events, bringing together top graduating seniors from across the state. Each year, the game raises thousands of dollars for Shriners Children’s. Players, cheerleaders and coaches raise funds by reaching out to family, friends and businesses to support the game and raise money for a great cause. Last year, the Maine Shrine Lobster Bowl Classic donated \$125,000 to the two hospitals in Boston and Springfield, Mass. To learn more, visit MaineShrineLobsterBowl.com.

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General Dynamics Bath Iron Works celebrates start of fabrication for J. William Middendorf

BATH – General Dynamics Bath Iron Works celebrated the start of fabrication of the future USS J. William Middendorf (DDG 138) today, May 19 at the shipyard’s Structural Fabrication Facility in Brunswick.

DDG 138 is the 47th of its class built at Bath Iron Works and the sixth Flight III Arleigh Burke destroyer to start construction at the Maine shipyard. Advancements in radar and combat systems make Flight III Arleigh Burkes the most technologically advanced surface combatants in the



world.

Frances Middendorf, daughter of the namesake and a sponsor of DDG 138, activated the burning machine to cut the first steel for the ship.

Charles F. Krugh, president of Bath Iron Works, said construction of this ship, the

latest in the Arleigh Burke class, will benefit from the accumulated skill and wisdom of thousands of talented shipbuilders.

“This ship’s construction will incorporate many improvement strategies recommended by our shipbuilders – pro-



Submitted Photos

cesses and practices that are designed to deliver DDG 138 as soon as possible to the U.S. Navy while maintaining our reputation for Bath-built quality. Our nation needs this ship to perform exactly as expected when called upon.”

The ship is named for the late J. William Middendorf, who served his country as a Navy officer, Secretary of the Navy,

Ambassador to the Netherlands, Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States and U.S. Representative to the European Union. In addition to the J. William Middendorf, Bath Iron Works currently has under construction the Flight IIA Arleigh Burke-class destroyer Patrick Gallagher (DDG 127) as well as the Flight III destroyers Louis H. Wilson

Jr. (DDG 126), William Charette (DDG 130), Quentin Walsh (DDG 132), John E. Kilmer (DDG 134) and Richard G. Lugar (DDG 136).

General Dynamics is a global aerospace and defense company that offers a broad portfolio of products and services in business aviation; ship construction and repair; land combat vehicles, weapons systems and munitions; and technology products and services. More information about General Dynamics Bath Iron Works, a business unit of General Dynamics (NYSE: GD), can be found at gdbiw.com. Information about General Dynamics is available at www.gd.com.

Scam Alert Bulletin Board



Steer Clear of Traffic Violation Scams

After toll road scams spread last summer, a new version is surging—texts claiming you owe money for a traffic or parking violation.

These messages often include an official-looking notice offering a court date or a small fine (around \$6), with a QR code for immediate payment to avoid penalties. They may mention your location or use fake case num-

bers to appear legitimate and create a sense of urgency.

If an unexpected message like this sparks strong emotions and demands urgency, treat it as a potential scam. Report the message as spam and avoid responding, clicking links or scanning QR codes. If you think the claim may be real, contact the court or agency directly using trusted contact information.

Learn how to spot and avoid scams with AARP Fraud Watch Network™. Suspect a scam? Call our free helpline at 877-908-3360 and talk to one of our fraud specialists about what to do next.

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Bob Barton
Westbrook

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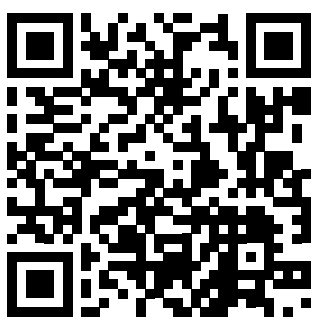
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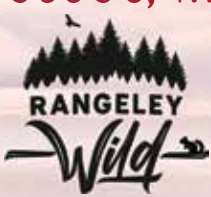
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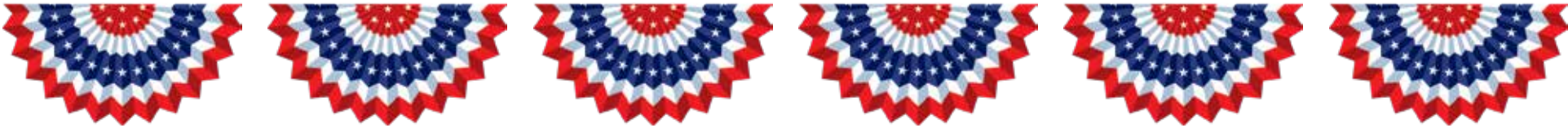
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