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SCAN TO READ ALL OUR PAPERS FREE ONLINE.

Special fireworks in Rangeley area this year

By Bill Van Tassell

RANGELEY - During the 8th day of April 2024, there were thousands of eyes on the skies in the Rangeley, Maine area. I was there myself in the town's Lakeside park to witness and photograph that wonderful and complete Solar Eclipse; a rare, once-in-a- lifetime astronomical occurrence.

This July 3rd there will again be thousands of eyes looking toward the sky. This time for an amazing Independence Day Fireworks display. For sure, it would be hard to match the viewing of a total Solar Eclipse. Putting that aside, that is not the intent of the initiators of the Fireworks that have been planned. The event is to celebrate our nation's 250th anniversary with a unique, large, and visually spectacular experience for everyone.

Two local businessmen, Craig Sargent and Chris Farmer, have been working on the Independence Day event for two years, planning something special for this July. The duo brings a wide range of skills to manage this celebration, includ-

ing leadership in the areas of insurance, real estate, consulting, financial advising, and business ownership.

The annual Rangeley fireworks have been traditionally organized by the Rangeley Town Administration. Some years ago, Sargent and Farmer presented their plans for the 2026 celebration to the Town Manager and Board of Selectpersons. Acquainted with Sargent and Farmer's success in other ventures, as well as their community service, Town Manager Joe Roach and the Selectmen granted the men much control of this year's event. With the administration's approval came full cooperation from Rangeley's Police, Fire & Rescue, Highway and Parks, Game Warden, and the FAA. This was needed (FAA) as some of the fireworks will reach a much higher altitude than normal.

Sargent notes that some of the fireworks in the display have rarely been used in Maine. They will go nearly twice as high as the normal 250 to 275 feet, reaching heights of 500-600 feet. Everyone around the area



Bill Van Tassell Photo

will be able to see them. Also helping the experience of the viewers is this: the launch will take place from several barges out on the lake. Steve Marson of Central Maine Pyrotechnics has been hired to present the display.

There will also be another night display in Oquossoc on July 2. Farmer and Sargent both agree that this town on

the north side of the lake has been a significant financial contributor to the Rangeley Region in many community events. Craig Sargent noted," This is the first time, that we know of, that professional fireworks will be shot off in Oquossoc."

Total donations, beyond the amounts that the towns of Rangely and adjoining Plantations normally appro-

priate, there is approximately \$100,000 of additional fundraising that will cover the cost of the entire event. Along with the expense of the high-level Pyrotechnics this year, additional monies will be allocated for the barges on the lake, donations to senior student and teacher groups who assist with the

Fireworks
→ Page 2

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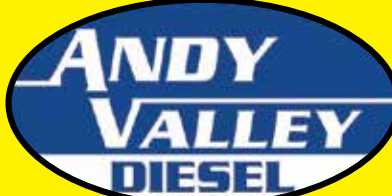
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Funny Things Kids Say
Turner Publishing, Inc.

P.O. Box 214, Turner, Maine 04282
Or email: FunnyThingsKidsSay@turnerpublishing.net

Previously ran in June of 2017

When Lillie was six years old we were talking about what she wanted to be when she grew up.
She thought about it and then replied, “A boat. I want to be a big boat when I grow up.”
I was stunned and trying to not laugh when I explained why

she couldn’t be a boat, ever. – *Pauline and Lillie, of Auburn.*

As a three-year-old, our grandson Isaac, who is now 21, had spent many a summer day enjoying the beach and water at the family camp at a lake. Nana and Grampa decided to take Isaac to camp on a winter day to check it out.

We parked and walked the 100 yards to the camp. When we got there, the first thing Isaac said was, “Hey, where did all the water go?”
Of course, we knew the lake would be frozen and covered with snow, but he being young, didn’t.
– *Clint of Anson.*

Fireworks
Page 1

parking and movement of the many visitors that will attend. Local radio station WRGY will be providing patriotic music throughout

the day.
Fireworks will commence each night at 9:20. There will be free parking, and at the July 3rd event in Rangeley there will be shuttle buses to take spectators to Rangeley Town Park to view the display.

The organizers and surrounding communities encourage the reader to consider going to Oquossoc on July 2 and/or Rangeley on July 3 to experience a fireworks display that is normally seen in Maine’s larger cities like Bangor and Portland.



Did you know?

Some people may not be familiar with the term and what it means. A semiquincentennial is the 250th anniversary of something. It breaks down to half of a “quincentennial” which is 500 years. Synonyms may include sestercentennial, biseculcentennial or quartermillennial. Each term refers to a period of 250 years. It’s a rather large word for a simple meaning, but people are bound to hear more of it as 2026 goes on and Independence Day is celebrated on July 4.



PET
Spotlight



Royal-Luv and River-Blu

Submitted by Kathy Ross, Greenwood

Send us your favorite Pet Picture and your pet may be in the next edition.

Email them to: petspotlight@turnerpublishing.net
Include your name, your pet's name and the town you live in.





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MAINE CALENDAR

2026 JUNE

June 13 - A New Biography of Governor Ken Curtis, 7 p.m., Leeds Community Church, Presentation by Douglas Rooks, FMI at [tklt.org/upcomingevents](mailto:advertising@turnerpublishing.net).

June 27 - Rangeley Region Guides & Sportsmen's Association Annual Kids Fishing Derby, 8 a.m. registration, prize awards at 11:30 a.m., RRGSA Clubhouse Campus Trout Pond, Oquossoc, children ages 15 and under are welcome to fish in a fun, family-friendly setting, with equipment, bait, prizes, and food provided.

June 27 - Summer Reading Program, "Plant a seed, read" kick-off, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Treat Memorial Library, 56 Main Street, Livermore Falls, all ages welcome, enchanted garden carnival, games and treats.

June 30 - Visit from Chewonki, 1:30 p.m., 56 Main Street, Livermore Falls, they'll be bringing Maine Mammals for us to meet and learn about.

JULY

July 11 - Lake Anasagunticook Association Yard Sale, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (no early birds please), Canton Boat Launch at 5 Staples Hill Road in Canton, rain or shine. If you want to donate to the yard sale, the Association will accept them on the day of the sale from 7-9 a.m.

July 26 — Leavitt Institute Class of 1963 will observe the 63rd class reunion on July 26, 2026 at the home of Dale Talbot. Come and get acquainted again with our classmates (family). It will be a great time. Contact Dale at 207-251-5788 or Marion at 207-946-5579.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

2026 MUSIC FOR MAVIS Tuesdays at the Gazebo 98 Matthews Way, Turner



- June 16..... Chicks with Sticks
- June 23..... Backwoods Road Band
- June 30..... Bobby Colwell Trio
- July 4..... Continental Shakedown
- July 7..... Back Cat Road Band
- July 14..... Moosehedz
- July 21..... The Fossils
- July 28..... Smith Collaboration
- August 4..... The Terry Swett Band
- August 11..... Denny Breau
- August 18. Bonnie and the Practical Cats
- August 25..... Dirty McCurdy
- September 1..... Hot Damn
- September 8..... Pam Weeks

TURNER: At Turner Public Library Stay & Play is on Wednesdays from 9:30-10:30 a.m., Story Hour is at 10:30 a.m., and Silent Book Club is from 4-6 p.m. on Thursdays.

LIVERMORE FALLS: Craft Circle, Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m., Treat Memorial Library, 56 Main St., Livermore Falls, bring your own project or learn along with us, craft group for all ages, FMI call 207-897-3631.

AUBURN: Weekly Chess Club, every Wednesday, 4-6 p.m., Auburn Public Library, all levels and ages welcome; FMI call Joe Kaper 207-274-8463.

LOCKE MILLS: Greenwood Farmer's Market

every other Friday during the winter, starting on October 3rd, 270 Main St., Rt. 26, Locke Mills, next door to the Greenwood Post Office, FMI Brian and Suzanne Dunham 207-665-2967.

BETHEL: Storytime at Bethel Library, every Wednesday at 10 a.m., 6 Broad Street, Bethel, FMI (207) 824-2520.

OQUOSSOC: Rangeley Region Skeet and Trap Association (RRS&TA) announces its 2025 shooting schedule, welcoming members and visitors to experience clay shooting sports, Wednesday: Trap and Skeet starting at 4:00 p.m., Thursday: Sporting Clays and Skeet starting at 4:00 p.m., Saturday: Five Stand

and Skeet starting at 10:00 a.m., Sunday: Trap and Skeet starting at 1:00 p.m.

GILEAD: Gilead Historical Society open every Saturday 12 – 3 p.m., 14 Depot St., Gilead, FMI call (207) 836-2987.

RUMFORD: Celebrate Recovery meetings, every Thursday and Sunday at 6:30 p.m., Larry Labonte Recovery Center, 412 Waldo St., Rumford, free, FMI contact Justin Teixeira at 207-393-7205 or Erika Teixeira at 207-418-7777.

BETHEL: Every Wednesday, Story time at the Bethel Library, 5 Broad Street, Bethel, 10 – 11 a.m.

LIVERMORE FALLS: Craft Circle, 5:30 p.m., Treat Memorial Library, 56 Main St., Livermore Falls, bring your own project or learn along with us, this is a craft group for all ages, FMI call (207) 897-3631.

LIVERMORE FALLS: Ernie Steward from Spruce Mountain Adult Education visit the library to help our patrons with their technology needs, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., Treat Memorial Library, 56 Main St., Livermore Falls, sign up by calling (207) 897-3631.

FARMINGTON: Nami Farmington Family Support Group, for family and friends of people living with a mental illness, 3rd Monday of each month, 6:30-8 p.m., Maine Health Franklin Hospital, 111 Franklin Health Commons, Farmington, Contact Louise (207) 592-9933 or Kathy (207) 318-1075

FARMINGTON: Farmington chess club meets every Thursday morning at the Parks and Rec Center, 127 Middle St., Farmington, from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

FARMINGTON: St. Joseph Nutrition Center, corner of Quebec and Middle Street (across from St. Joseph Church) A "Blessing Box" in front of the building. More information or to help out: (207)

MAINE CALENDAR PAGE

If you are hosting a free community event and would like it added to our calendar, please email your details to: advertising@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. If you are a business and/or charging admission/fee, there is a small charge for a display ad on these pages. Email: advertising@turnerpublishing.net. Call 207-225-2076 for prepayment options. Events for the Maine Events Calendar should be received three 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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JAY: St. Rose of Lima Food Assistance, 1 Church Street (Parish Hall) A "Blessing Box" faces the street in front of the building. More information or to help out: (207) 897-2173.

JAY: St. Rose of Lima Community Meals, 1 Church Street (Parish Hall), Community meals offered on the first and third Saturdays of the month from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. For more information or to help: (207) 897-2173.

FARMINGTON: Farmington Grange has WWW, Wednesday Welcome and Warm Up, First and third Wednesdays, November thru April. Everyone is welcome, 10-2, coffee sweets, light lunch, social time, projects, games and puzzles. Grange Hall is located at 124 Bridge Street, West Farmington. For more information call Bonnie Clark 207-778-1416

FARMINGTON: Nine-ish- NA Meetings (In Person), 9:15-10:30 a.m., Franklin Memorial Hospital,

111 Franklin Health Commons, Farmington.

Food Addicts Meetings
FREE - Food addicts in recovery meetings: Tues Zoom and phone, Thurs phone and Sun in person. foodaddicts.org FMI call 441-8002 or 623-1924.

CANCELLATIONS
None listed.
POSTPONEMENTS
None listed.

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: <https://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.

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What’s the Difference?

Find the four differences between the two pictures.

A

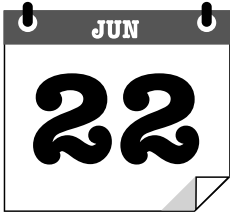


B



Answers: 1. Extra fireworks burst on left 2. Missing building back right 3. Missing light on building at front right 4. Extra building on skyline

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1812: France declares war on Russia, starting Napoleon’s invasion.

1911: George V and Mary of Teck are crowned King and Queen of the United Kingdom.

1986: Diego Maradona scores the famous “Hand of God” goal in the World Cup.

Holiday FACT:



In 2026, the United States will celebrate this big and exciting event on July 4.

Answer: 250th anniversary

NEW WORD

IGNITE

to catch fire or to cause to catch fire

How they say that in...

English: Pop
Spanish: Pum
Italian: Scoppio
French: Bruit
German: Knall

Did You Know?

Modern fireworks use metallic salts for color and can reach temperatures 15 times hotter than boiling water.



Get the PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Fireworks

F

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 MOVIE REVIEW *by Lucas Allen*
OBSESSION

(Focus Features-Blumhouse)

Love can make you do crazy things sometimes, especially when it involves the supernatural. Produced independently for under a million dollars, “Obsession” made a splash at last year’s Toronto International Film Festival, and now it is being released by a major distributor, along with the low-budget horror titans at Blumhouse, to an unsuspecting early summer crowd. The movie also marks the writing and directing debut of YouTube filmmaker Curry Barker, following in the wake of Markiplier’s “Iron Lung.”

Bear (Michael Johnston) is a young man hopelessly in love with his friend Nikki (Inde Navarrette) for a long while, even though he could not muster up the courage to tell her that. His buddy Ian (Cooper Tomlinson) keeps telling him not to tell her that, or else ruin their friendship and as partners in their weekly trivia night. One night, Bear buys a novelty toy called the One Wish Willow that could grant a single wish to anyone after breaking it in two. After making a wish that Nikki loves him more than anything else, she suddenly becomes his girlfriend and the two of them are now living in his house.

At first, it is a seemingly normal relationship until Nikki gradually develops an alternate personality that becomes increasingly uncontrollable. It gets worse when Bear finds out that his co-worker Sarah (Megan Lawless) may have feelings for him as well, putting him in a far more difficult

dilemma. When Nikki’s behavior starts to turn violent, he begins to regret his wish and tries to find a way to reverse it.

This movie can be described as an extreme version of a Twilight Zone episode with its own monkey paw-esque plot, like “The Man in the Bottle” or “The Chaser.” In this case, it is more about the wish of fulfillment of love and what happens when it gets slowly wrong before it gets both dangerous and twisted. When it does, it results in a shockingly bleak third act when there is simply no easy way out of it and people will die in such bloody fashion. The whole movie also becomes a reverse Fatal Attraction right down to someone’s pet receiving quite a horrific fate of its own.

The movie does create a certain sense of dread with the director using ambient-style filmmaking, and it works effectively. Light and shadows help to convey the unease of tension that surrounds the characters. By contrast, there are moments of horror and black comedy stemming from the possessed Nikki, or “Freaky Nikki” she is becoming throughout. The character goes back and forth between being a happy and perky beauty and being a spoiled and petulant child like a deranged Jekyll and Hyde.

However, it can also create a debate among audiences on how Bear is portrayed as a villainous controller or a victim of his own wish. For all we could understand, he is just so lovelorn that he never considered the consequences of what the wish has given him until it starts to get worse

for him. Still, thinking about these things makes the film more interesting to watch and talk about, especially as a cautionary tale for the real world.

One thing that will stick with you long after the end credits is Navarrette’s insanely amazing performance and how she managed to make a wicked showcase. In this current era of memorable horror characters, Freaky Nikki is certainly top tier among them and could be one of the year’s most talked about. Johnston handles the morally gray areas of his character with ease, as well as acting surprisingly realistic to the horror he has hilariously caused. There is also an appearance by funnyman Andy Richter as a music shop manager, which feels like pretty random casting when it could have been played by any character actor they could find off the street.

“Obsession” is both shockingly dark and utterly hilarious while managing to balance those different tones in entertainingly equal measure. No matter how you feel about the characters or the plot, it still stands as a majorly different kind of experience worth seeing, especially with a group of friends.

THE MOVIE’S RATING: R (for strong bloody violence, grisly images, sexual content, pervasive language, and brief graphic nudity)

THE CRITIC’S RATING: 3.5 Stars (Out of Four)



THE HEALTHY GEEZER *Fred Cicetti*
STROKE – CONSTIPATION – ELDER ABUSE

Q. What are the most common symptoms of a stroke?

The most common stroke symptoms include: sudden numbness, weakness, or paralysis of the face, arm or leg — usually on one side of the body; trouble talking or understanding; sudden blurred, double or decreased vision; dizziness, loss of balance or coordination; a sudden headache with a stiff neck, facial pain, pain between the eyes, vomiting or altered consciousness; confusion, or problems with memory, spatial orientation or perception.

During a stroke, brain cells are deprived of oxygen and nutrients. They begin to die. The earlier a stroke is treated, the better the results.

In the USA, stroke is one of the top 10 leading causes of death. It is the leading cause of adult disability.

Your doctor has many diagnostic tools for stroke. Among these are: physical exam, blood tests, carotid ultrasonography to check the carotid arteries in your neck, arteriography to view arteries in your brain, a computerized tomography (CT) scan of the neck and brain, a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the brain, among others.

Q. How bad does it have to be before you can say you’re constipated?

The clinical definition of constipation is any two of the following symptoms

for at least 12 weeks (not necessarily consecutive) in the previous year: straining during bowel movements, lumpy or hard stool, sensation of obstruction or incomplete evacuation, fewer than three bowel movements per week.

Those reporting constipation most often are women and adults age 65 and over. Constipation is one of the most common gastrointestinal complaints in the United States

Common causes of constipation include insufficient intake of fiber and liquids, lack of exercise, medications, older age and abuse of laxatives.

Many seniors eat a low-fiber diet that causes constipation. Some lose interest in eating and choose convenience foods low in fiber. Others have difficulties chewing or swallowing; this leads them to eat soft processed foods low in fiber. Aging may affect bowel regularity because a slower metabolism results in less intestinal activity and muscle tone.

Some medications can cause constipation. They include pain medications (especially narcotics), antacids that contain aluminum and calcium, blood pressure medications (calcium channel blockers), antiparkinson drugs, antispasmodics, antidepressants, iron supplements, diuretics and anti-convulsants.

Q. Are there telltale signs that an older person is being

abused?

If you’re concerned an older adult might need help, these are symptoms to look for:

- Physical injury such as a bruise, cut, burn, rope mark, sprain or broken bone;
- Refusal of the caregiver to allow you to visit the older person alone.
- Indications of dehydration, malnourishment, weight loss and poor hygiene.
- Negative behavior such as agitation, withdrawal, expressions of fear or apathy.
- Unexplained changes in finances.

Recently, the U.S. Administration on Aging found that more than a half-million people over the age of 60 are abused or neglected each year. About 90 percent of the abusers are related to the victims.

What is elder abuse? It can take a variety of forms: physical, sexual, emotional and financial. The neglect of an older person also is within the umbrella of elder abuse.

All 50 states have elder-abuse prevention laws and have set up reporting systems. Adult Protective Services (APS) agencies investigate reports of suspected elder abuse. To report on elder abuse, call the Eldercare Locator at 1-800-677-1116.

Rotary supports local summer camps



Camp Susan Curtis Director Terry Mulke receives a donation. The club is grateful to the community for supporting its fundraisers to make such contributions possible.



University of Maine 4-H Summer Camp Director Reid Johnson (left) accepts a check from Rotarian Kevin Finley.



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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 numbers 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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Seasonal Guide

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Decorating for America’s 250th Anniversary

Metro

Each year on July 4, many Americans are in a celebratory mood as they prepare for all the fanfare involved with Independence Day festivities. But Independence Day 2026 stands to be extra special since it marks America’s 250th birthday. Towns, cities and the entire country will be planning much more extravagant July 4 celebrations in 2026.

People who want to get in on the America 250 action may want to begin thinking about how they are going to make their homes and businesses more festive.

- Bunting and banners: Bunting and banners are tra-

ditional patriotic decorations. They traditionally are red, white and blue and can be hung from porches, fences and railings.

- American flags: Many homes and businesses already display the flag, but this is the perfect opportunity to do so for those who want to exhibit their pride in America. Be sure to treat the flag with respect and review the official United States Flag Code, which mandates that the flag never touches the ground and is illuminated if flown at night. When hanging against a wall or window, the blue union must be at the top left.
- Specialty signs: Many municipalities are getting in on the America 250 action and will organize specialty parades and parties. People can check with local government offices to see if lawn signs will be available. If so, they can be displayed in front of homes or retail stores.
- Tablescapes: Themed America 250 tablecloths can be used for backyard parties and picnics. Centerpieces of mason jars filled with mini flags and birth-

day number candles spelling out 250 are another fun idea.

- Cozy accents: Both homeowners and store owners can incorporate cozy accents like wooden blocks or patriotic table runners that display the 1776-2026 theme. Throw pillows and blankets featuring stars and stripes tossed over an antique rocking chair on a porch or near an entryway is a great way to offer a touch of Americana.
- Lights: Twinkling holiday lights in red ,white and blue can be hung around windows and doors, or wrapped around trees in the yard for festive appeal.

Communities may identify specific decorating goals, like entire streets featuring paper lanterns, or America 250 flags on telephone poles. Residents can participate in such plans where possible.



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Health & Wellness





Stay safe with proper food preparation this summer

There are important food safety rules to follow when enjoying summertime barbecues. One simple guideline is the “two-hour rule.” When temperatures are between 70°F and 90°F, food should not sit out for more than two hours. If temperatures rise above 90°F, limit outdoor exposure to just one hour.

It is especially important to take extra precautions when handling food during summer outings. Although the season may feel slow to start, Maine will soon be enjoying warm days in the 80s. Foods such as meat, poultry, seafood, eggs, and other perishable items require special attention as temperatures rise.

Warm outdoor conditions create the perfect environment for bacteria and other pathogens to multiply rapidly, increasing the risk of foodborne illness. Below are some helpful tips to reduce that risk and keep your summer gatherings safe:

1. Marinate Safely: Always marinate meats such as steak or chicken in the refrigerator—never at room temperature. Keep meat cold while marinating, and do not reuse marinade that has come into contact with raw meat. If you want to baste or re-marinate while grilling, use a fresh sauce.

2. Wash Hands: Thoroughly Wash your hands before, during, and after food preparation. Remove jewelry such as rings that can trap bacteria. Use warm water and antibacterial soap, scrubbing for at least 15 seconds (longer is better). Rinse and dry hands completely before handling food or utensils and wash again immediately after handling raw foods.

3. Keep Hair Secured: Tie back hair and avoid loose items that could come into contact with food during preparation.

4. Preheat the Grill: Always start with a hot grill. Preheat your grill or coal for at least 20 minutes before cooking. High heat helps reduce the risk of bacteria lingering on cooking surfaces.

Enjoy Summer. PLAY IT SAFE.

Follow the Two-Hour Rule

When food sits out at room temperature, bacteria can grow fast. Don't let it sit out too long!

70°F – 90°F

2 HOURS

Food should not sit out for more than TWO HOURS.

ABOVE 90°F

1 HOUR

Limit outdoor exposure to just ONE HOUR.

Warm weather speeds up bacteria. Handle food with care to prevent foodborne illness.



HELPFUL TIPS FOR A SAFE AND HEALTHY SUMMER

KEEP IT COLD

Refrigerate perishable foods promptly. Keep cold foods at 40°F or below.

COOK IT RIGHT

Cook foods to the safe internal temperature. Use a food thermometer.

CLEAN HANDS & SURFACES

Wash hands often and clean surfaces and utensils.

SEPARATE RAW & READY

Keep raw meat, poultry, seafood, and eggs separate from ready-to-eat foods.

WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT

If food has been out too long, it's safer to toss it than risk it.

A little extra care goes a long way. Stay safe. Enjoy your summer!

5. Cook to Proper Temperatures: Use a food thermometer to ensure meats are cooked to safe internal temperatures:

- Ground beef (hamburgers): 160°F
- Steaks and roasts: 145°F (medium rare) to 160°F (medium)
- Poultry: 165°F
- Pork: 145°F (with a rest time) or 160°F depending on

preference. Fish should be opaque and flake easily when done.

6. Avoid Cross-Contamination: Never use the same plate for cooked food that is used for raw meat. Always use clean plates and utensils when serving, and serve food hot to prevent bacterial growth.

7. Use Coolers Properly: When camping or traveling,

store beverages and perishable foods in separate coolers. Beverage coolers are opened more often, which reduces the internal temperature. Keep coolers packed with ice, full when possible, and out of direct sunlight. If traveling more than an hour from the grocery store, use a cooler to safely transport perishable items home.

Resources If you have questions about food safety, contact: • U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Meat and Poultry Hotline: 1-888-674-6854 (TTY 1-800-256-7072) • Food safety information: www.foodsafety.gov

By following these simple steps, you can help ensure your summer meals are both enjoyable and safe for everyone.

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Mexico High School Class of 1968 held reunion dinner



Submitted photo

On May 27, 2026, almost 30 classmates and spouses enjoyed fellowship at the Lure Restaurant. What a fantastic time! Remember MHS Class of 68 “Once A Pinto, always a Pinto!”



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2026 Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Maine



Rumford Police Department Facebook Photo

Leg 12 from Rumford to Dixfield took place: Runners from Rumford PD include SRO Douglas Maifeld, Ofc Kier Simmons, Sgt Robert Haseltine, Ofc. Breagh Macaulay, Sgt James Bernard and his wife Erin, Maine State Police Trooper Nick Young, Sam Benson, two Mountain Valley High School students; Brixton Merrill and Rylee Windover; additionally Aaron Tucker, Liz Moreau, Benjamin Blanchard and Bernadette Racine also joined and supported the cause.



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Rangeley Region Guides & Sportsmen’s Association hosts Annual Kids Fishing Derby

OQUOSSOC – The Rangeley Region Guides & Sportsmen’s Association (RRGSA) invites families to the Annual Kids Fishing Derby, a fun, free event for young anglers ages 15 and under. The derby will take place on Saturday, June 27, at the RRGSA Clubhouse Campus Trout Pond, 41 Old Skiway Rd, Oquossoc, ME 04964.

Registration begins at 8:00 AM, with fishing starting shortly after. The morning of friendly competition ends at 11:15 AM, followed by prize awards at 11:30 AM. All children are welcome, from first-time casters to seasoned young anglers, and the event is free for all kids.

Held at the stocked trout pond behind the Clubhouse, the derby offers a perfect setting for children to practice

their fishing skills, enjoy the outdoors, and experience the thrill of the catch.

RRGSA provides equipment, bait, prizes, and food, including hot dogs and drinks served on-site. A limited number of loaner rods are available on a first-come, first-served basis for those who need them. Trophies and prizes are awarded for various categories.

“We’re proud to keep this tradition alive for the next generation of anglers,” said Sonny Pierce, RRGSA president. “The Kids Fishing Derby is a celebration of family, community, and the sporting heritage Rangeley is famous for.”

Pets are not allowed at this event.

For more information or to view RRGSA’s upcoming programs, visit rrgsa.org or contact the RRGSA



Submitted photo
On May 27, 2026, almost 30 classmates and spouses enjoyed fellowship at the Lure Restaurant. What a fantastic time! Remember MHS Class of 68 “Once A Pinto, always a Pinto!”

Safe Boating Starts With You - Early season boating safety reminders

Days like today are a not-so-subtle reminder that summer boating season is just around the corner.

But warm air doesn’t mean warm water. Across Maine, water temperatures remain dangerously cold—even on the hottest spring and early summer days—and that mismatch can turn a fun outing into a life-threatening situation in minutes.

Boating safely and being prepared isn’t just a recommendation; it is an essential responsibility. A few simple precautions can make all the difference for you, your passengers, and everyone sharing the water. Before you launch, here are some important reminders to help ensure your adventure is fun and memorable—for all the right reasons:

- Always wear a life jacket. If you think you will have time to put it on after you are in the water, think again.
- Stay alert and be aware of others on the water.
- Operate your boat at a

safe and reasonable speed for your surroundings. You are responsible for your wake.

- Slow to headway speed within 200 feet of shorelines, marinas, and anchorages. “Headway speed” means the slowest speed at which it is still possible to maintain steering and control of the watercraft.
- Never drink and drive!
- Check the weather

before leaving shore and carefully observe changing weather.

- Always wear an engine cutoff switch.
- Watch out for wildlife.
- Become familiar with the water body. Look at a map for depths and potential hazards. Lake associations, Maine guides, and local wardens can be a great resource.

- Bring plenty of water to stay hydrated and wear a hat and sunscreen to avoid over-exposure to the sun.
- Always tell someone where you are going, and when you will be back. Before you go, view all of Maine’s boating laws at mefishwildlife.com/laws

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Hammond Lumber Company announces \$100,000 donation to support victims and families impacted by Searsmont explosion

BELGRADE – Following the tragic fire and explosion in Searsmont, Hammond Lumber Company (Hammond) is announcing a \$100,000 donation to support the victims and families impacted by this heartbreaking event. The contribution will be made directly to the Maine Strong Memorial Foundation to help provide financial assistance, resources, and ongoing support to those affected. Robbins Lumber, a longtime valued supplier partner of Hammond Lumber Company, has deep roots in the state, and this tragedy has been deeply felt across Maine’s lumber industry.

“As a Maine company, our communities are like family to us, and tragedies like this are felt deeply by all of us,” said Mike Hammond, president and CEO of Ham-

mond Lumber Company. “Robbins Lumber has been a valued partner of ours for many years, and from one family business to another, our hearts are with everyone impacted by this tragedy. We are keeping the victims, their families, employees, first responders, and the entire community in our thoughts. On behalf of our company and employees, we hope this donation helps provide comfort, resources, and meaningful support to the individuals and families affected as they navigate the difficult road ahead.”

Hammond’s donation to the Maine Strong Memorial Foundation will provide direct financial support to the individuals injured in the tragedy and the families of those who lost their lives. The Maine Strong Memorial Foundation has launched

a dedicated relief campaign to support those most directly impacted by the fire and explosion. The organization is working closely with the Town of Searsmont and official community representatives to help ensure that 100% of donations are distributed directly to confirmed victims and their immediate families. Funds raised will help assist with medical expenses, recovery and rehabilitation needs, funeral costs, lost income, and other unforeseen hardships families may face in the weeks and months ahead.

Hammond Lumber Company believes strongly in supporting its communities during times of hardship and recognizes the importance of standing together in moments like these. The donation to the Maine Strong Memorial Foundation will assist efforts



focused on recovery, support services, and helping those directly affected move forward. Hammond will continue to assist where possible and stand alongside those affected in the days and months ahead.

Hammond also extends its deepest gratitude to the fire departments whose courage, professionalism, and rapid response were critical during this tragedy, along with the emergency responders, med-

ical personnel, law enforcement officers, and community members who demonstrated extraordinary compassion, strength, and dedication in the face of an incredibly difficult situation.

STUDENT NEWS

Clark University senior Julia Head, of Bethel, part of research team examining potential impacts of megaport on Peruvian Amazon berlands’ Dean’s List for Spring 2026

Worcester, MA — As she nears the end of her undergraduate years at Clark, environmental science major Julia Head ‘26, M.S./GIS ‘27, has begun checking off her to-do list. It includes completing research papers for her classes in the School of Climate, Environment, and Society; tackling an honors thesis and final project for her yearlong Human-Environment Research Observatory (HERO) Fellowship; participating in rehearsals and performances for the student Variant Dance Troupe; and firming up her post-Commencement plans, including Clark’s 4+1 Accelerated Master’s Degree program in Geographic Information Science (GIS) next fall.

And then there is one more task: finishing 10 GIS-based maps to be released worldwide as part of a multinational, multi-institutional research project examining the potential impacts of a Chinese “megaport” on the Peruvian Amazon.

“I feel a huge responsibility,” Head says. “I’m very honored to be on this project.”

Led by Sustainability and Social Justice professor and principal investigator Denise Humphreys Bebbington, the project involves a team of researchers from Clark and Peru. It is funded by a two-year, \$920,000 grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

Lucien Beardsley named to Cumberlands’ Dean’s List for Spring 2026

Williamsburg, KY -- In recognition of academic performance, the Office of Academic Affairs at University of the Cumberlands has named Lucien Beardsley, of Gorham, to the Dean’s List for the spring 2026 semester.

To be eligible for the Dean’s List, students must be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours (a full course load), maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.50 for the semester, and be in good academic standing.

SNHU announces Spring 2026 Dean’s List

Manchester, NH -- It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Spring 2026 Dean’s List. The spring term runs from January to May.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean’s List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

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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,



Joshua Tibbetts

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 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.

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K	A	K	I	S		E	T	A		A	L	A	E		
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E	L	A	I	N	E	T	P	A		I	T	E	M		
					E	L	I	M	I	N	A	T	E	S	
B	R	A	G	G	E	R		A	C	N	E	D			
M	U	N	D	A	N	E		N	E	E					
W	E	D	E	L							M	E	M	O	S
					E	B	B		E	B	O	N	I	T	E
			B	A	S	E	R		C	A	M	E	R	O	N
			L	I	T	E	R	A	T	U	R	E			
B	O	A	T		A	S	H		E	T	C	H	E	D	
A	B	L	E		T	H	E		D	E	L	E	T	E	
B	A	Y	S		E	L	M			R	E	R	U	N	
E	R	S	T		D	Y	E			F	L	I	T		

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

D	U	C	V	V	S	E	M	T	F	M	V	F	G	H	G	I	P	F	Y	
B	V	B	C	A	N	Y	O	N	R	D	A	E	H	L	I	A	R	T	T	
W	D	N	A	L	R	E	T	N	I	H	O	Y	S	C	M	I	R	L	W	
A	R	A	A	Y	N	R	E	T	R	V	A	L	L	E	Y	Y	S	C	A	
A	H	I	U	L	D	F	E	F	Y	R	T	N	U	O	C	K	C	A	B	
U	H	P	D	M	P	K	N	E	T	U	E	W	O	O	D	L	A	N	D	
C	A	P	F	U	G	C	D	C	I	S	A	L	P	I	N	E	E	V	S	E
S	A	M	Y	I	E	T	B	M	G	K	G	D	V	A	Y	I	G	F	G	
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M	D	M	C	A	L	R	U	H	V	O	E	V	E	L	R	P	F	I	P	
F	V	E	M	W	D	G	K	Y	D	F	B	N	E	R	V	I	B	H	O	
F	E	R	L	O	T	L	E	M	E	A	D	O	W	I	R	L	N	I	G	F
P	U	S	U	L	T	S	A	B	B	I	L	I	H	V	G	O	K	R	K	
U	A	E	T	A	L	P	K	A	B	T	K	B	L	N	A	R	O	B	N	
F	D	I	D	Y	L	F	G	T	T	E	R	R	A	I	N	R	E	K	M	
M	E	P	I	N	D	C	U	N	V	I	V	R	M	G	E	A	M	S	E	A
E	W	I	L	D	E	R	N	E	S	S	E	G	B	H	H	U	V	O	N	
S	R	A	Y	M	H	U	L	M	B	V	V	T	S	Y	O	E	S	I	E	
A	E	C	A	R	G	N	E	L	O	R	V	C	G	L	A	C	T	E	R	

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Lewiston Leader: Sandy Jalbert
Lisbon Ledger: Rita Levasseur
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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



Submitted Photo
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.

will include an on-location pregame show, in-depth interviews with coaches and players, and additional sto-

rytelling 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 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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