



MOUNTAIN MESSENGER

Direct Mailed Free Every Month to Homes in Avon, Phillips, Rangeley, Oquossoc, Eustis, the Plantations of Dallas and Sandy River

Volume 15 • Issue 41
July 3rd, 2026 • Week 2

Turner Publishing, Inc., PO Box 214, Turner, ME 04282-0214 • 207-225-2076 • Fax: 207-225-5333 • E-Mail: articles@turnerpublishing.net • advertising@turnerpublishing.net • turnerpublishing.net/news

Local students recognized in Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl Poster Contest

FARMINGTON – Students from two local elementary schools were recently recognized for participating in the National Garden Clubs' annual Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl Poster Contest, a long-running educational program that encourages children to explore wildfire prevention, conservation, and environmental stewardship through art.

The local contest effort was organized through a collaboration between Libby Kaut, past president of the Mt. Blue Area Garden Club and volunteer aide at Cape Cod Hill School, and art teacher Leah White of Cape Cod and WG Mallett elementary schools.

Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl Poster Contest has been sponsored nationally by National Garden Clubs, Inc. for decades in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters. The program encourages students to use creativity and artistic expression to promote environmental awareness and responsible care of forests and natural resources.

Kinsley P. of W.G. Mallett School earned first place in Maine and throughout the New England Region for second-grade entries with her Smokey Bear poster. Haley S. of Cape Cod Hill School earned first place in the state of Maine for fifth-grade entries.

A ceremony was held April 27 to recognize the many students who participated in the contest. Award certificates were presented to each child by Karen Rea, past president and Awards Chair of the



Garden Club Federation of Maine.

Two separate programs took place during the day. In the morning, second-grade students gathered to celebrate their artwork and learn more about wildfire prevention from a very special guest: Smokey Bear himself. Later that afternoon, fifth-grade students met outdoors with Forest Ranger Sergeant Lisa Byers of the Maine Forest Service. She spoke about the responsibilities of forest rangers and the importance of protecting Maine's forests and wildlands.



Submitted photos

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MAINE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY

July 12 – Concert at Norcross Point, Lynn Deeves Trio, 2-4 p.m., Norcross Point, Bowdoin St., Winthrop, FMI call 458-5485 or www.concertsat-norcrosspoint.com.

July 15 - RFA Annual Street Dance featuring Matt & the Barn Burners, 6-9 p.m., Pond Street, Rangeley, free.

July 18 – Falls Fire Co, Inc. Yard Sale, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Philbrick Park, Rt. 2 (Farmington Falls Road or 114 Philbrick Road, Farmington Falls, Entertainment by “Just Friends” will begin at 11:30 a.m., Chicken BBQ will begin at noon, FMI call Bob at 778-3156 or Junior at 778-2181 and leave a message.

July 19 - Concert at Norcross Point, Jim Sharkey: Irish Music, 2-4 p.m., Norcross Point, Bowdoin St., Winthrop, FMI call 458-5485 or www.concertsatnorcrosspoint.com.

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

SOUTH PARIS: South Paris Farmers’ Market, Thursdays 2-6 p.m., 9 Market Square in the parking

lot right next door to Oxford Hills Mercantile/Ollie & David’s.

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.

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: Farm-

ington Chess Club meets every Tuesday from 6-8 pm at the Parks and Rec Center, 127 Middle St., Farmington. All skill levels are welcome.

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) 778-2778.

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.

MADISON: Music Jams - Open Mic. 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month, 1-4 p.m. Masonic Hall, Madison.

RANGELEY: The Lakeside Contemporary Art Gallery’s spring/summer show, paintings by Ashton F. LeCraw, will run from May 29 - July 6th. All is welcome & artwork is available for purchase. LCAG is located at 2493 Maine Street, Rangeley & open Tues - Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. & during theatre show-

ing. <https://rangeleyarts.org/event/lcag-artist-reception-ashton-lecraw/> or call 207-864-5000.

RUMFORD: Old School Food Pantry, 115 Maine Avenue, Wednesdays from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., For more information or to help: (207) 364-4556 or email Shannon at rvhccglover@gmail.com

SKOWHEGAN: St. Anthony’s Soup Kitchen, 273 Water Street, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month and every Thursday, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information or to help: (207) 474-2039.

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.

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. 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: advertising@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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FITNESS CLASS SCHEDULE

monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
8-9AM Vital Mobility w/ Josh	8-9AM Total Body Strength w/ Brit	8-9AM Vital Mobility w/ Josh	8-9AM Total Body Strength w/ Brit	8-9AM Total Body Strength w/ Brit	9-10:15AM All Levels Yoga w/ Kristina
9-10AM Super Circuit w/ Hawk	9-10AM ALL LEVELS SPIN w/ Cyn	9-10AM Super Circuit w/ Hawk		9-10AM Super Circuit w/ Hawk	
10:15-10:45AM Functional Fitness w/ Hannah	10:15-11AM Chair Yoga w/ Hannah	10:15-10:45AM Functional Fitness w/ Hannah		10AM-11AM Gentle Yoga w/ Kyle	
11AM-12PM Water Aerobics w/ Diane	4-5PM Karate (Kids) w/ Dan	11AM-12PM Gentle Yoga w/ Kyle	5-6PM Karate (Kids) w/ Dan	11AM-12PM Water Aerobics w/ Diane	10AM-11AM Gentle Yoga w/ Kyle
11AM-12PM Gentle Yoga w/ Kyle	5-6PM Power Yoga w/ Hannah	3-6:30PM Jiu Jitsu w/ Shawn	6-7PM Karate (Teen/Adult) w/ Dan		



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SUMMER EVENTS

June 26th
Mardi Gras Summer Edition
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July 3rd
Annual Duck Race

July 4th
Stars & Stripes 5K
and Kids Fun Run

July 9th
Chodosh Memorial Golf
Tournament at Mingo Springs

For more info or to register for these events, visit www.rrhwp.org



@rangeleyhealthandwellness

RHW is a nonprofit community organization dedicated to promoting health, wellness, and quality of life in the Rangeley Lakes Region.

Through fitness programs, physical therapy, youth and senior activities, community partnerships, and educational initiatives, RHW serves residents and visitors of all ages. As a nonprofit, Rangeley Health & Wellness relies on grants, fundraising events, and charitable contributions to make wellness programs accessible to the entire community.



MAINE OUTDOORS *v. Paul Reynolds*

RANGELEY FLY FISHING FESTIVAL

Those outdoorsmen and women who have been there would rarely give you an argument if you contended that Rangeley, Maine is ground zero for those whose passion is to cast a long line on the Magalloway River or the Kennebago. So, it was fitting recently that the 5th annual White Nose Pete Fly Fishing Festival took place at the historic Rangeley Inn and Tavern.

Who the heck is White Nose Pete? It is a fish, a purely fictional big trout that, as the story goes, haunts the pocket waters of the fabled Rapid River, a real hook-jawed, fat-bellied slobberknocker! Legend holds that a few trout men have hooked him long enough to see his white nose, but never long enough to get him anywhere near the net.

Sponsored by the Rangeley Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce, the festival was a two-day affair with lots to see and do. And a great chance to get caught up with old friends and make some new ones. Friday night at the Inn, two well-known and unforgettable fly-fishing characters had their names added to the Fly-Fishing Legends Honor Board. The new inductees were Rangeley guide Herb Ellis and angler and artist Dave Tibbetts. Both men follow in the long shadows cast by such local and even national angling icons as Flyrod Crosby and Carrie Stevens, not to mention Herb Welch, Don Palmer, Ed Grant, Bud Wilcox and others.

Following the induction, a live auction was held, hosted by the always witty and sardonic Bill Pierce. A pile of money was raised from the donated items. My newest trout watercolor painting titled “Rapid River Runner,” which retailed for \$195.00 and sold for \$400. Also auctioned off were some marvelous prints by Dave Tibbetts and the late David Footer.

The festival kicked off Saturday morning in full force, despite a light drizzle. Many of the vendors set up their displays in the Inn while others were under tents outside.

For me, one of the most remarkable and eye-catching displays was a number of brook trout mounts by the late David Footer. Footer’s son was on hand to answer questions about the background of the impressive trout; many caught in Labrador or Quebec. Footer was a rare combination of superb taxidermist and fine artist. His trout under glass are alive like no other board mounted brookies you will ever see.

While a friend looked after my Northwoods Sporting Journal vending table, I took a break and sat in on a wonderful and informative slide presentation by guide and outdoor writer Bob Romano. Bob, an Italian from the Bronx, showed up in Rangeley to fish more than 40 years ago and never left the Western Mountains. He is as colorful as he is informed about Rangeley and its precious fishery.



Submitted photos

A Quebec brookie mounted by the late David Footer.



A large scale version of the fabled, elusive trout, White Nose Pete.

Romano surveyed area guides and asked them to name their favorite two flies. He also chatted about why these flies got top billing with the Rangeley fishing guides. As you might suspect, no two guides think alike when it comes to their go to flies. Angler/ historian Leslie Hilyard, for example, hoves to the Green Beauty and the Jitterbug.

What’s a Jitterbug? It was news to me. Sounds like a bass bug, but it is a serious trout fly, and sur-

prisingly it was tied and created by the boss lady herself, Carrie Stevens!

What I also learned was that a highly effective wet fly is the Hare’s Ear. Bob Romano swears by it. The only Hare’s Ear I ever used or heard of is the Hare’s Ear nymph, which is almost as popular as a Copper John.

Isaac Walton, or some other angling forebear, observed that angling is much like mathematics



Rangeley guide and outdoor writer Bob Romano and his wife Trish chatting with Mary at the Fly-Fishing Festival.

in that it can never be fully learnt. And as you know, if you fish that is part of the fun of it all. The Rangeley Lakes Region White Nose Pete Fly Fishing Festival is a gathering of more than just interesting and convivial souls. It is a treasure trove of the most seasoned and experienced anglers in Maine. And they will talk to you.

In 12 months, Rangeley will do it all over again.

Put it on your calendar. It is well worth the drive.

The author is editor of the Northwoods Sporting Journal. He is also a Maine Guide and host of a weekly radio program “Maine Outdoors” heard Sundays at 7 p.m. on The Voice of Maine News-Talk Network. He has authored three books. Online purchase information is available at www.sportingjournal.com, Outdoor Book

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Summer Seasonal Guide

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How to drive safely with a trailer in tow

Metro

Summer road trips create a sense of adventure during a popular time of year. That's especially true for those planning driving vacations. Seasoned road trippers know to expect the unexpected when taking to the open road, and the surprises that emerge during a summer road trip make such excursions even more memorable.

Many drivers will be hitching a trailer to their vehicles when taking to the open road for summer vacation. Trailers can be used to transport bicycles, boats, jet skis, kayaks, or even extra luggage. Driving with trailers can be tricky, but drivers can keep these safety strategies in mind when driving a vehicle with a trailer hitched to the back.

- Familiarize yourself with the trailer. Consumer Reports notes that travel trailers can sometimes weigh more and be even taller than the vehicle pulling them. That can make it challenging to drive safely with a trailer in tow. But practice

makes perfect, and drivers are urged to practice driving with a trailer in tow before they depart for a road trip. A large and empty parking lot can be a great place to get a feel for driving with a trailer hitched to the back of your vehicle.

- Practice turns. Turning when driving a car or truck with a trailer hitched to the back requires a different approach. Wide turns are necessary to reduce the likelihood that the trailer tires hit the curb.

- Consider using towing mirrors. Towing mirrors are specially designed side-view mirrors that extend beyond standard side-view mirrors to offer drivers wider visibility, which can be necessary when wide loads are attached to the back of a vehicle. Towing mirrors can make it safer to change lanes and drive in reverse when a trailer is attached to the back of a car or truck.

- Recognize trailers swing. Consumer Reports urges drivers to give constant consideration to the



Metro photo

swing of a trailer when turning. A trailer sometimes swings in the opposite direction when turning, which can increase the chances of hitting other vehicles, signs and even pedestrians. Carparts.com notes that the longer the distance between the rear wheels to the back bumper

of the trailer, the greater the tail might swing. Managing and calculating swing is one of the reasons why practicing before taking to the open road can be so helpful.

- Adjust the trailer brakes. Consumer Reports notes that many trailers have electric brakes, and these brakes can and should be adjusted depending on what's

being towed. When towing a heavy boat, the brakes should be set to use a lot of force. But brakes should be adjusted when towing lighter weight to avoid tires locking up and skidding.

- Use the tow/haul mode if your vehicle has one. Many modern vehicles, and particularly trucks, come with a tow/haul mode option. When en-

gaged, that system automatically adjusts the transmission when it senses a vehicle is going downhill. That takes some strain off the brakes and generally makes driving with a trailer in tow a lot safer.

These tips can make driving with a trailer in tow more comfortable. Additional tips are available at consumerreports.org and carparts.com.

Evergreen Golf Club Tip of the Week

I have spoken about this subject many times in the past, but it bears repeating. It's about "tension in the swing". One of the greatest descriptions I have heard was from the great Sam Snead. He once described his swing as being "oily". It's easy to know what he is talking about when you just think about that. Smooth, silky and oily. Also, it's important to be sure that your grip is kind of loose and sloppy, the difference is staggering. So, the next time you are practicing or playing, think oily, you will get it sooner than you think.

George Buck,
Evergreen Golf Club



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HPA receives \$1 million NBRC Grant for Sandy River Bridge Project



FARMINGTON - High Peaks Alliance is pleased to announce that the Sandy River Bridge project has received a \$1 million grant from the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC). The funding will help the project move forward toward construction bidding next spring, despite cost increases tied to survey discrepancies, inflation, and required consultations related to Atlantic salmon.

Bridge will provide a critical connection for the Whistle Stop Trail, extending safe pedestrian and snowmobile access into downtown Farmington. The project is designed to improve connectivity to jobs, health care, education, and tourism destinations while strengthening regional recreation and economic activity.

The Sandy River

draw 24,000 trail users annually, bringing an estimated \$766,000 in yearly local spending and supporting 11 jobs in the regional economy.

“We are grateful to NBRC for believing in this project and helping us keep it moving forward,” said Brent West. “This funding gives us the momentum we need to get the project to bid and lock in a final price.”

The project team is now working through



Submitted Photos



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Bob Barton
Westbrook

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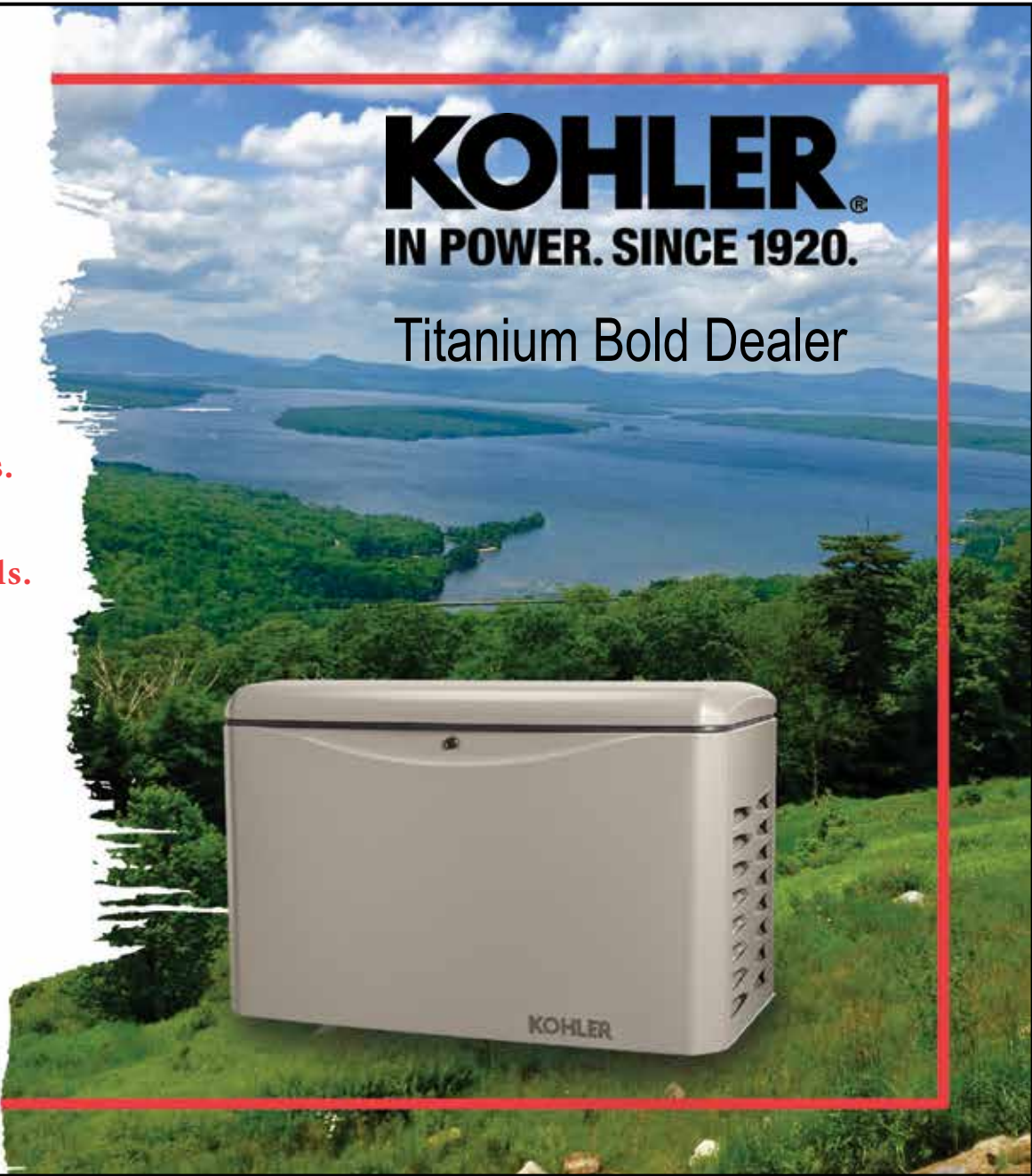
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