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2026 Dempsey Challenge



by Bill Van Tassel
LEWISTON - Lewiston, Auburn, and surrounding areas experienced the eighteenth holding of the Dempsey Challenge on September 19. Since its inception in 2008 the popular event has been held in Lewiston's Payne/Simard Park, formerly Railroad Park that borders the Androscoggin River. The annual Fall event was the brainchild of local television and movie star Patrick Dempsey. Dempsey spent his early years in Lewiston, Turner, and Buckfield, attending schools in Turner, Buckfield and Saint Dominic in Auburn.

He started the Challenge as a fundraiser for the Dempsey Center for Cancer Care and Support after his mother's cancer was diagnosed. With additional offices in Portland and Westbrook, the main site is at Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston. The Center offers a variety of support and strategies for cancer patients and their families.

The early Dempsey Challenge happenings featured several biking events from 25 to 100 miles for touring bike enthusiasts. Participants could enter the chal-

lenge by getting financial sponsorship, either individually or with a team. The starting and finishing point was in Simard/Payne Park, where other activities were available for the curious spectators. Running, walking and children's events were also held for non-biking fundraisers.

Patrick himself participated in the biking events doing the 50-miler in the first Challenge, finishing the distance along with a few of his professional biker acquaintances. He always made himself available to the people gathered in Payne/Simard Park for conversation and photographs. Dempsey annually led an Honor/Survivor Walk around the perimeter of the park as well as giving his opening and closing comments to everyone in

attendance.

There have been some minor changes to the overall event. It has been condensed into a one-day occurrence, with a special awards ceremony and dinner the evening before to thank the major fundraisers. The biking distances are now 64, 50 and 25 miles, along with 5-K and 10-K running events. The Challenge remains a large crowd draw for both the fundraising participants as well as the curious visitors.

This year's Dempsey Challenge nearly met its \$2 million goal. Since 2008 the Challenge has raised over \$20 million. This money is used for services such as counseling, support groups, nutrition and finance classes, and wellness programs. The overall event also involves the work of many



Turner Publishing reporter Bill Van Tassel (Left) and his former sixth-grade student (1976) Patrick Dempsey meet again at the September 15 Dempsey Challenge in Lewiston.

willing volunteers.

Reporter's Note: I took part in the first Dempsey Challenge 50-mile bike ride, in addition to covering the event as a reporter. I did so for two reasons. One: I had

lost my young wife to cancer in 2006 and trained for the ride in her honor. Two: I got to know Patrick well, as he was a sixth-grade student of mine at Turner Elementary School in 1975-76.



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Me and my seven year old brother were walking down the road and I saw a lime. I said, “can I touch it?” and he said “Hailes don’t touch it, it might have “lime disease”. -Hailes, Lambert, Augusta



MOVIE REVIEW

by Lucas Allen

PRIMETIME

(A24)

Cable TV went through a different kind of zeitgeist with the reality TV boom of the 2000’s. One of those popular shows is depicted in the new drama “Primetime,” about that great chase for fame and fortune for some involved. The film’s director is Lance Oppenheim, and the writer is Ajon Singh, who adapted it from an article titled “Tonight on Dateline, This Man Will Die” written by Luke Dittrich.

Working for Dateline NBC, journalist Chris Hansen (Robert Pattinson) and his producing partner Andie (Merritt Wever) create a series for the network called “To Catch a Predator,” where they catch pedophiles in the act by setting them up with their supposed “victims” they met online, but played by young adult actors. As the show becomes an instant hit, a young actor named Dan (Skyler Gisondo) auditions to play the decoy, and he soon joins Andie with consulting activist Xavier (Matthew Maher) and another decoy actor named Del (Phoebe Bridgers). Though his first experience with a target (former child star Jonathan Lipnicki in a revealing cameo) was unexpected, Hansen encourages him to shine in his role.

Meanwhile, Hansen faces a moral crisis when his extramarital affair is spotted by the paparazzi just when his marriage to his wife Mary (Anna Faris) is already falling apart. Not to mention, doing the show has him vying for some bigger fish to catch for the sake of ratings

since the show is playing opposite ABC’s juggernaut “Lost.” He soon finds what he is looking for when his team finds an online chat linked to a Texas district attorney (Alex Winter) and gets help from the local sheriff (Bokeem Woodbine) in a sting operation, but at what cost?

This is not the kind of movie that tries to tell its true story faithfully with only a few embellishments, but it instead tells its story differently without trying to bore the viewer. In fact, that is what makes it a fascinating film to watch when it is more about Hansen’s detachment from reality chasing that goal he wanted. Not only that, but it also shows how that kind of self-imposed need to succeed can have a negative consequence on those around him.

The movie also focuses on Dan’s unpredictable journey of his own. His struggle to understand the world he has dropped himself in is actually very relatable and well-written. Anyone who has ever landed a dream job or dealt with an increasingly difficult boss can identify with the young character.

Surprisingly, the whole story plays out like an arthouse psychological thriller with its dream-like atmosphere and suspense. A good majority of the film comes from Hansen’s perspective as we watch his growing paranoia, and selfish behavior consumes him to the point his moral compass shifts away from him. Throughout this nearly two-hour film, we are witnessing the mental descent

of an ambitious personality, but we are also seeing an interesting contrast between him and Dan as they each find their breaking point during the last act. Whether or not you would agree with the way it unfolds, it’s still a brilliant exercise in ambition and insanity that only a dark Hollywood tale can be told.

Along with his supporting role in last summer’s The Odyssey, Pattinson is certainly heading for Oscar glory, especially with his excellent portrayal of Hansen. His sense of urgency and maddening expressions in his facial language enhances his very layered performance. Extra attention also goes to Gisondo for giving us different sides of his character throughout his whole arc plus Wever for finding something deeper with her character’s own morality. The smaller actors also deserve some notice for adding more to the story’s depth between Woodbine’s Texan humor and Winter’s underlying moodiness.

While it’s sure to divide audiences, Primetime explodes with such intensity about the consequences of fame and exploitation. Give it a chance, and maybe you’ll find something out of it the next time you watch your favorite reality TV program.

THE MOVIE’S RATING: R (for disturbing sexual material, graphic nudity, some violent content, and language)

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

MAINE CALENDAR

Oct. 3 & 4 - Maine Craft Weekend, statewide, event invites the public to plan a route on this free, self-guided craft artist open studio tour to discover the people, places, and stories behind Maine’s unique craft communities. More Information: Visit www.MaineCraftWeekend.org for a complete list of participating artists, event details, and the interactive map.

Oct. 4-11 - Fryeburg Fair, 1154 Main St., Fryeburg.
Oct 17 - Roast Pork Supper, 4:30-6:30 p.m., BQMC on Rt 219 in Turner, sponsored by the North Turner Union Presbyterian Church, Cost by donation.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

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.

GRAY/ NEW GLOUCESTER: Meet friends and neighbors, chat one-on-one with the GNG Community Connectors, every Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 11 a.m., New Gloucester Community Building (behind town hall) or 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Gray Library, large meeting room in the basement.

SABATTUS: Looking for local senior citizens interested in restarting a Senior Citizens group, if interested, please email Jon at jmsab23@aol.com.

WINTHROP: Winthrop Food Pantry, Thursday pick-up 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. and 2nd & 4th Thursdays 5 p.m.-6:30 p.m., 10 Cross Rd., Winthrop, FMI call Sherie Knowlan, Director (207)377-3332 or winthropfoodpantry.org. Curb-side pick-up of shelf-stable food.

WINTHROP: Winthrop Hot Meal Kitchen, Monday - Thursday hot meal pickup 11:00 a.m., St. Francis Xavier Church, 20 Lake St., Winthrop. Contact: Steve Dodge (207)620-0488. Meal deliv-

ery to Winthrop & Wayne residents. Cooks, helpers, donations, or Hannaford Gift Cards are appreciated.

WAYNE: 30 Mile River Snowmobile Club meetings are on the first Monday of the month, meet at the Ladd Center in Wayne at 6:00 p.m., RSVP on Facebook page each month so we can have a count for pizza, salad and dessert at each meeting, sharing the cost of the pizza.

WAYNE: Tot Time at the Ladd Center is a relaxed, informal playgroup every Monday morning from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m., parents must stay with their children, and everyone is welcome, FMI call Ladd Center Director, Adam Brooks 685-4616.

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.

TURNER: Silent Book Auction, every Thursday from 4-6 p.m., Turner Public Library, 98 Matthews Way, Turner, (207) 225-2030.

TURNER: Story Hour, every Wednesday at 10 a.m., Turner Public Library, 98 Matthews Way, Turner, (207) 225-2030.

WAYNE: Cary Library Book Sale, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., 3rd Saturday every month, Williams House, 14 Old Winthrop Road, Wayne, FMI call 685-3612 or visit our website <https://www.cary-memorial.lib.me.us>.

HARRISON: Men’s Breakfast, second Thursday morning 8-9 a.m., United Parish Congregational Church of Harrison and North Bridgton, 77 Main St., Harrison, FMI call 207-583-4840 or email info@unitedparishucc.org.

BRIDGTON: Chair Yoga Mondays and Fridays 10 -11 a.m., taught by Susan Kane, this class is open to all cancer patients and can

easily be modified to anyone’s ability level, you do not need to register in advance, Bridgton Community Center, 15 Depot Street, Bridgton.

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.

AUGUSTA: AL-ANON meeting, Sunday evenings, 5 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Church, 69 Winthrop Street, Augusta, both in person and on Zoom (for Zoom info please refer to maineafg.org)

LEWISTON: Renewal Addiction Ministry. Applying biblical truth to the root of addiction. Every Friday 630pm. 89 Birch Street Lewiston @The Root Cellar. Alex Theriault 207-274-1570

LEWISTON: Maker Mondays at Lewiston Public Library, March 2, 16, April 6 and May 18, Couture Room, Lewiston Public Library, 200 Lisbon St., Lewiston, ages 18 and up, beginners welcome, FMI contact 207-513-3134 or lpccirc@lewistonmaine.gov.

LEWISTON: Renewal Addiction Ministry, every Friday 6:30 p.m., Calvary Chapel Lewiston, 777 Main Street, FMI Alex Theriault 207-274-1570.

LEWISTON: Sadie’s Fiber Arts Club, every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, 3:30 p.m., Lewiston Public Library’s Children’s Department, 200 Lisbon Street at the corner of Pine Street, Lewiston, FMI at

513-3133 or LPLKids@lewistonmaine.gov.

LIVERMORE FALLS: Story Time, Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m., Treat Memorial Library, 56 Main St., Livermore Falls, favorite picture books, sing-a-longs, and other activities, any questions or for more information, please call the library at 897-3631.

MONMOUTH: Friends of Cumston Public Library book sale, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. third Saturday of the month, lower level, Cumston Hall, 796 Main St., Friends of Cumston Library on Facebook.

SKOWHEGAN: Al-Anon, hybrid meeting, 7-8:00 p.m. every Tuesday, Skowhegan Federated Church, Island Avenue, 1-800-498-1844, www.maineafg.org.

FAIRFIELD: Victor Grange monthly meeting, second Monday of the month, 5:30 potluck, 6 p.m. meeting, all welcome.

WINTHROP: Winthrop Maine Historical Society, first Thursday of month, 6-8 p.m., Winthrop History and Heritage Center, 107 Main St., 207-395-5199, winthrop-mainehistorical@gmail.com.

BRIDGTON: 1-4 Sunday, Community Ping Pong Program, \$1 to participate, open to all Town Hall, 26 North High St.

BRIDGTON: Al-Anon, 4-5p.m. Thursday, Lakes Region Recovery Center, 2 Elm Street, Bridgton, 207-803-8707.

NORWAY: Serenity Seekers Al-Anon newcomers meeting 6:15-6:45 p.m. followed by Regular Meeting 6:45-7:45 p.m. at The Hills Recovery Center, 15 Tannery Street, Norway, ME. Every Thursday. FMI serenityseekersnorway@gmail.com

SABATTUS: Weekly Group Runs, every Wednes-

day, 6 p.m., Mixer’s parking lot, FMI, check out the Sabattus Rec Club Running Program Facebook page, or email running@sabattusrec.com.

GARDINER: Maine-ly Harmony women’s barbershop chorus rehearsals, Wednesday evenings, 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the Highland Avenue United Methodist Church, 31 Highland Avenue, Gardiner, women of all ages are welcome to enjoy singing with this very welcoming women’s chorus.

ONGOING:

GRAY: One-on-one with Community Connector, 1-3 p.m., Gray Library, 5 Hancock St., Gray, FMI call Cindy Slocum 207-572-2594 or Lori Fowler 207-572-6493.

NEW GLOUCESTER: Coffee Hour, Tuesdays, 9-11 a.m., New Gloucester Congregational Church, 19 Gloucester Hill Rd., New Gloucester, FMI call Cindy Slocum 207-572-2594 or Lori Fowler 207-572-6493.

NEW GLOUCESTER: Community Cafe Lunch, 11:30 a.m., New Gloucester Congregational Church, 19 Gloucester Hill Rd., New Gloucester, FMI call Cindy Slocum 207-572-2594 or Lori Fowler 207-572-6493.

NEW GLOUCESTER: One-on-one with Community Connector, 9-11 a.m., New Gloucester Library, 379 Intervale Road, New Gloucester, FMI call Cindy Slocum 207-572-2594 or Lori Fowler 207-572-6493.

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.

WATERVILLE: Central Maine Square Dance club offering beginner lessons, every Tuesday 6:30-8:00 p.m., George Mitchell School Dutton St., Waterville, cost is \$5.00 per lesson, FMI call Bob at 447-0094.

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.

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 prepayment 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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MAINE OUTDOORS *v. Paul Reynolds*

THE SALMON PARADOX



On the Kenai, with the help of a wonderful fishing guide, I caught and boated a 63 lb. King Salmon. Diane, my late wife, caught a 33-pounder, too.

In all my years of fishing, two fly fishing adventures stand out in my memory like no others: catching salmon that ran into rivers from the sea. These rivers were far removed from each other; one was the fabled Kenai River in Alaska and the other the equally fabled Upsalquitch River in New Brunswick.

For sport angling, it was a heady time. The 1990s, before the sea-run salmon were in a seeming struggle for survival.

On the Kenai, with the help of a wonderful fishing guide, I caught and boated a 63 lb. King Salmon. Diane, my late wife, caught a 33-pounder, too. During that same decade, I was fortunate enough to fish the Canadian Upsalquitch River where, again with the help of a guide, I beached an 18 lb. fresh run Atlantic Salmon.

Both angling experiences were, as the cliché

goes, “about as good as it gets.” Don’t get me wrong. Fly fishing for Maine brookies on a remote trout pond during a Green Drake hatch is angling nirvana, yes, but a singing reel with a dancing Atlantic trying to shake of a Rusty Rat is an adrenaline rush of the first order!

Today, both the Atlantic salmon run in the Canadian Maritimes and the King salmon runs in Alaska are just not what they were back then. Biologically, they are in trouble. Alaska hasn’t banned King salmon sport fishing statewide, but some of its most important King salmon rivers are now closed, and the Yukon River system is under an extraordinary rebuilding program extending at least through 2030.

On the New Brunswick Rivers, the salmon situation is a mixed bag. On the Miramichi River, which is arguably the most well-known, juvenile Atlantic salmon of all age classes in the four principal Miramichi watershed rivers have declined significantly over the past 12 years. That river is in



Photo by Fred Hurley

The author and his late wife, Diane, with their day’s catch on the fabled Kenai River.

trouble, and today the fishing is in stark contrast to what it was in the days when my Dad salmon fished with the famous Red Sox hitter Ted Williams and came home with salmon for

the freezer and lots of snapshots for the family album.

Fishing wise, there is somewhat of a paradox on the New Brunswick Rivers. The fishing statistics can look pretty

good while the salmon population is biologically in trouble. That’s because catch-per-unit-effort in a handful of premium pools doesn’t tell us how many salmon the entire river sys-

tem can produce.

In chatting recently with a friend, who fishes the Restigouche River, the salmon angling this past June was, according to his report, “pretty darn good.” One of his fish was a 25-pound fresh run Atlantic, which, of course, he promptly released. (Fishing there is strictly catch and release).

One stretch of the Restigouche produced an estimated 160 salmon from 94 rod-days, or 1.7 salmon per rod-day. Anglers recorded 127 grilse and 33 large salmon there.

Most experts agree that, however perplexing, the sea run salmon picture is a survival mystery that is grounded more on what is going on at sea rather than in the rivers themselves. Components of the sea-survival equation include warming waters, commercial harvest, predation and a host of other factors.

The author is editor of the *Northwoods Sporting Journal*. He is also a *Maine Guide* and writes a weekly outdoors column for a number of Maine newspapers.

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Civil Air Patrol Maine Wing remember September 11, 2001

GREENVILLE - Civil Air Patrol Maine Wing joined communities across the nation marking the 25th anniversary of September 11, 2001. On Saturday, September 12, at the International Seaplane Fly-In in Greenville, our members participated in a formal presentation of the colors, the National Anthem, a moment of silence, a coordinated American flag waving observance, accompanied by a Missing Man Formation flyover in support of Wreaths Across America's 25th anniversary September 11 remembrance initiative.

Members of the Auburn-Lewiston Composite Squadron participated in the event. Cadet Captain Summit Woodcock of Livermore served as the Cadet Commander for this event. Cadet Lt Col Scout Woodcock of Livermore served as a Flight Line Safety Officer. She also led the flag folding and presentation to Gary Norris, Veteran and President of the International Seaplane Fly-In.



Submitted photo
also participated in flag-waving ceremony.

Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Emilee Blake of Greene, Cadet Staff Sergeants Dameon Pepin and Kaz Suzuki of Auburn and Cadet Senior Airman Caden Richard of Leeds

Steel Magnolias opens The Public Theatre's 36th Season!

The Public Theatre opens its 36th season with the beloved comedy Steel Magnolias playing Oct 23-Nov 8. Filled to the brim with humor, heart and hairdos, this timeless comedy celebrates the lives and friendship of six, sassy, southern women who gather weekly in their local hair salon to navigate the joys and challenges of life together. Artistic Director Janet Mitch-

ko says, "I believe this heartfelt comedy is timeless because of the way it truthfully celebrates the strength, humor, friendship, and resilience of women and the remarkable ways they show up for each other. I guarantee that every woman will recognize a part of herself or someone they love onstage. Grab your best friend and GO!"

If you like Steel Magnolias, you'll love A

Wicked Good Time! (Nov 13-15) "Maine's funniest Woman" Susan Poulin, returns to The Public Theatre as Ida Le Clair, in her hilarious new show celebrating her friendship and adventures with her gal pals, (the Women Who Run with the Moose) and the Man-iacs who love them. Laughter burns calories, so come and indulge! In December, a holiday tradition continues with

A Christmas Carol (Dec 11-13). A Wicked Good Time and A Christmas Carol are sold separately from Subscriptions.

Subscriptions are now on sale for the 2026-27 Season. Subscriptions include Steel Magnolias, Darker the Night Brighter the Stars (Jan 22-31) an amusing, heartfelt and timely look at the lives of young adults in Northern Maine, Primary Trust (Mar 12-21)

a quirky, moving and uplifting play about the importance of making friends, and The Fiancé (Apr 30 – May 9) a delightfully funny and touching new comedy about love, loss and hope in 3 generations of single

women. A Subscription costs \$160 and includes a FREE Bonus Ticket (\$42 value).

Read more and buy Subscriptions and tickets to any show at ThePublicTheatre.org or call 782-3200.

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Metro

Fall is an ideal time to enjoy the great outdoors. With crisp air, vibrant foliage and trails that might be a little less crowded, fall is a great time to lace up the hiking boots and see the sights.

According to the Outdoor Industry Association, hiking participation has surged to a record 63.4 million Americans. “Core hikers” hit the trails more than 13 times a year, and fall is a prime time to hike. Travel research from sources like HomeToGo note that interest in travel rises each year in fall, when vacationers prioritize destinations near forests, foliage and trails.

Taking to the outdoors come fall involves some planning to ensure these excursions are successful.

- Select the right timing. Foliage is characterized by peak and non-peak times of the year. Peak foliage will start at high elevations and northern latitudes before traveling southward. When planning hikes, scour tourism boards or national reports to sync trips with the prime windows to see amazing colors.

- Choose the right trails. Hikers can prioritize trails with diverse tree canopy species. Hardwoods like sugar maples, oaks and birches yield deep reds, golds and oranges. Trails that loop around lakes will offer vivid reflections, while ridgelines can provide panoramic vistas.

- Keep daylight in mind. There are fewer hours of sunlight come the fall, so hikers should plan accordingly. Everyone will want to make it back to the trailhead before the sun sets and the temperature drops.



Metro photo

- Dress for variable weather. Fall weather can be temperamental, shifting from frosty mornings to warm, sunny afternoons. Layering clothing is the best way to maintain comfort. The hiking experts at Bearfoot Theory suggest a base layer of wool fabric to wick sweat away from the skin. A middle layer of fleece or a lightweight down jacket will insulate without adding unnecessary bulk. Finally, a windproof, waterproof shell will guard against rain or high winds. Hikers should pack a warm hat, extra socks and gloves, even if the forecast predicts mild weather.

- Be prepared with supplies. Certain gear can make hiking safer. A headlamp and ex-

tra batteries; trekking poles and slip-resistant boots; a portable power bank to charge a phone; and an insulated flask are some particularly useful items to bring along.

- Bring a map of the trail. Fallen leaves can obscure trail markers and other landmarks. A downloaded offline map or a paper map will help hikers navigate even if they lose signal or get turned around on the trails.

Fall hikes are some of the most beautiful, and entire days can be built around hiking this time of year. Be mindful of wildlife and stick firmly to paths to protect the natural landscape.

Scam Alert Bulletin Board



Lock Down Your Data: Cybersecurity Awareness Month

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, a good reminder that we can make it harder for criminals to steal our personal information or take over our accounts.

Scam messages often include a link or an attachment that perpetrators use to introduce malware onto your device or send you

to a site that will seek to collect login or payment information.

Protect all online accounts with strong, unique passwords (strongly consider using a password manager) and turn on multifactor authentication when available. Also, keep your device software updated – the updates often include important security fixes.

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THE HEALTHY GEEZER *Fred Cicetti*

CAN YOU GET BRAIN CANCER FROM USING A CELL PHONE?

Q. Can you get brain cancer from using a cell phone?

Comprehensive research, including large-scale international studies commissioned by health organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), indicates that cell phones do not cause brain tumors.

There have been about 30 studies into cell phone use and tumors. These studies have produced similar results. In most studies, patients with brain tumors do not report more cell phone use. Most studies do not show higher risks of brain tumors with increasing cell phone use.

In 2024, WHO analyzed 63 studies spanning decades of data. The researchers concluded there is no link between mobile phone use and brain cancer. The Danish Cohort Study tracked more than 350,000 phone subscribers. The COSMOS study tracked more than 260,000 participants. Neither found an elevated risk of brain tumors among mobile phone users.

The type of radiation cell phones emit--radio frequency or RF--is unlike the radiation that

can cause cancer. The only established biological effect of RF radiation on the human body is minor surface heating.

The RF waves given off by cell phones don't have enough energy to damage DNA, the nucleic acid that carries genetic information in cells. Because of this, many scientists believe that cell phones aren't able to cause cancer. Most studies done in the lab have supported this theory.

Another indication that no cancer link exists is that cell phone usage grew exponentially over the past few decades, but rates of brain cancers remained stable over the same time frame.

While current scientific evidence shows no danger to health, individuals who prefer to minimize RF exposure can use speakerphones or hands-free headsets, texting instead of calling, and not pressing their phones against their heads for extended periods.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) have developed guidelines that limit the amount of radio frequency energy that cell phones are allowed to give off.

The RF exposure from cell phones is measured in the Specific Absorption Rate (SAR). The SAR measures the amount of energy absorbed by the body. The SAR permitted in the United States is 1.6 watts per kilogram (1.6 W/kg). According to the FCC, this amount is much lower than the level shown to cause any changes in laboratory animals.

Every cell phone manufacturer is required to report the RF exposure of each of its phone models to the FCC.

There have been other health concerns about cell phone use. For example, there is a concern that RF waves from cell phones might interfere with medical devices such as heart pacemakers.

According to the FDA, cell phones should not pose a major risk for the vast majority of pacemaker wearers. However, people with pacemakers may want to take some simple precautions to help ensure that their cell phones don't cause a problem, such as not putting the phone in a shirt pocket close to the pacemaker.

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Thank you for reading and thank you for your support in this transition.

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We were told 100% of the chips used for the newsprint come from waste streams of other processes, such as the waste from lumber mills. Our newsprint producers also have a process to ensure that all fiber supplies come from forests that are managed for sustainability and comply with forest management principles.

The chips go through a thermo-mechanical pulp-making process, which involves a combination of steam and

mechanical force to break the chips into a "slurry" of water and fibers. Giant machines work the chips into a mixture that is mostly water. This mixture is then sent to a process to brighten the paper.

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