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The Country Courier

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The Country Courier

Solar eclipse worth the trip



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NEW ENGLAND SCHOOL OF METALWORK
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By Bill Van Tassel

It would be a safe guess to say that all those people, from Southern Maine, the rest of New England and beyond, who made the drive to the Rangeley Lakes Region for the ultimate view of the April 8 Solar Eclipse, would say, "It was worth the trip."

Only the experience of this incredible event could mollify those who had to endure the halting and frustrating traffic jams getting there and returning home. Whether your home was in



While waiting for their solar eclipse moments, these Bates College professors had a nice table set for their pre-eclipse lunch. Around them was a mass of hundreds of excited tourists gathered in Rangeley's Lakeside Park for this unique April 8 event.



Bill Van Tassel photos

The April 8 solar eclipse in Rangeley, just coming out of totality around 3:30 in the afternoon. Photo taken with hand-held Pentax camera and Tamron telephoto lens. The full totality of the moon's blockage of the sun lasted about 2.5 minutes.



L to R: Adrian Tucker from Turner, Pat McCluskey of Peru and Sue Tymozcko of Lewiston taking a look at the moon's progress in blocking the sun's light during April 8 full solar eclipse in Rangeley. The very active trio are all retired educators.

Lewiston/Auburn, Southern Maine or below the 45th parallel, drivers had to deal with miles of unusually heavy traffic, very heavy for these parts.

My seventy-five-mile trip from Turner to Oquossoc took only 1 and 1/2 hours, though you had to slow to a crawl when passing the various Scenic Lookouts which were overflowing to the narrow roadsides with vehicles and tailgating parties. Returning home after the Eclipse show was a different story.

After 4 p.m. the main roads from Rangeley and Oquossoc, Routes 17 (to 108) and 4 were nearly bumper to bumper for miles. Where 108 and 4 meet in Livermore, the confluence of vehicles created a new single line that ranged from two to five miles in length. So, my return trip was nearly double the 1 and 1/2 hours.

But, yes, though I didn't handle my drive-home at-

Eclipse
 → Page 5

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Troop 187 members



Submitted photo

March 30th at BQMC at the Parents of Scout Troop 187's Pancake Breakfast fundraiser.

by Alexander Chavez and Jack Gauthier

TURNER — Boy Scouts was founded by Robert Baden-Powell in 1910. The Boy Scouts' work began in Great Britain by Robert Baden-Powell in 1908 and was brought to America in

1910. Robert Baden-Powell wrote a book called "Scouting for Boys" which was made for making knots, cooking, building structures, and first aid.

Scouting was originally for young men, starting at the age of 10 and no old-

er than 18. Anybody older than 18 can become Junior Assistant Scoutmaster. Now Scouting is for young men and women.

Scouting is an awesome adventure! You can learn how to cook, start a fire, use a knife properly, how to give

to others, and more!

Our Troop does a lot of community service for others and works towards rank advancement, camping, and merit badges. The Eagle Rank is the highest in Scouting and only 6% of Scouts earn it. Eagle Rank is

very difficult to earn, and it will take years to obtain but it is totally worth it because it is good for college, job applications, and military service.

If you would like to join Troop 187 or would like to learn more, meet us at Boofy

Quimby Memorial Center in Turner on Mondays at 6:30 PM.

You can find more information at Pinetreecouncil.org in Abanaki District or call our Scoutmaster, Rob Quick, at (207) 330-9657.

Joe Bornstein's 20TH Annual
ARRIVE ALIVE
CREATIVE CONTEST

Seniors, choose a direction.

First place winners receive a new laptop computer, second and third place winners a new iPad, and all entrants receive fun prizes from Joe.

The deadline for this year's contest is May 3, 2024.
Be creative. ENTER TODAY!

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ESSAYS
ANIMATIONS
SONGS
SCULPTURES
BOARD GAMES
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POEMS
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MAINE CALENDAR

APRIL

April 26-28 — Lakeside Dance Academy Annual Spring Dance Concert, 7-8:30 p.m., RFA Lakeside Theater, tickets on sale April 15 at Barn Doors & Burlap on Main Street during their regular business hours, 45 dancers from preschoolers to Seniors, FMI call Rangeley Lakes Chamber of commerce at (207) 864-5571.

April 27 — Rural Community Action Ministry Auction 4 Action, 4:30 p.m. to live auction end, Boofy Quimby Memorial Center, 96 Howes Corner Rd., Turner, for more info call 207-524-5095.

April 27 — Earth Day Workday, Spring Cleanup at MOFGA's Common Ground Education Center, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, 294 Crosby Brook Rd., Unity, Tasks include raking, garden bed prep.

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

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

April 27 — Saturday Night Church Supper, 5 p.m., First Congregational Church of Gray at the Parish House, 5 Brown Street, Gray, handicapped accessible, menu includes: variety of casseroles & salads, baked pea beans, red hot dogs, breads, assortment of desserts & beverages, meals are single-sized and are \$10.00 each, please pay at the door.

MAY

May 2 — Woodland Wonderplay, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Shepard's Farm Preserve, 121 Crockett Ridge Rd., Norway, nature exploration & play, Educator Lisa Henderson will guide little ones and their caregivers, geared towards 3-5-year-olds, older and younger siblings welcome, free, registration required, <http://norwaymaine.com>.

May 3 — Little Keepsakes: My Little Sunshine Tote Bags in honor of Mother's Day, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., Lewiston Public Library Children's Department, 200 Lisbon Street, Lewiston, caregivers will be able to create a personalized keepsake tote bag using the handprints of their young children, for more information about our programs please contact the Lewiston Public Library's Children's Department at 207-513-3133 or by email: LPLKids@lewistonmaine.gov.

May 4 — Student Art Show, 1-3 p.m., Leeds Community Church, 123 Church Hill Road, Leeds, all area students from elementary to high school are invited, and

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SDA Church - 106 Weston Rd, Turner, ME

encouraged, to participate, theme is "Renewal" judging will be completed, and ribbons and cash prizes will be awarded that afternoon at 2:30 p.m., entries are limited to 2 per student and must be received no later than May 1, for more information, please email Iva.Damon@msad52.org.

May 4 — "Where Maine Reads," Maine author Buddy Doyle's new book, 10 a.m., Community Reading Room, Lithgow Library, 45 Winthrop Street, Augusta, book features photos of 50 Mainers in places where they read or would love to read, reception with light refreshments, program is free and open to all, for more information please call the library at (207) 626-2415 or visit our website at www.lithgowlibrary.org.

May 4 — Shred-a-thon, 8 a.m.-noon, Food City, Bridgton, downsizing, decluttering, clearing out a home, closing an office, rain-or-shine, drive-through, no appointments are needed, documents can be boxed or bagged, you do not have to remove clips or file hangers—everything gets shredded! Certificates of Destruction are available on request. Suggested donation is \$18.00 per box (bankers' box - 15 x 12 x 10 inches).

May 4 — Greater Freeport Community Chorus Spring concert, "I Dream a World," 7 p.m., North Yarmouth Congregational Church, May 5, at 3:00 p.m. at Brunswick United Methodist Church, admission at the door is \$10 for adults, and free for children under 18, no online or presale tickets.

May 4 — Last Sheaf Building Materials Exchange. Sat. May 4, 8am-2pm. New and used discount building materials (Greater discounts for low-income home owners). Come join us for free:

- Coffee and donuts
- Activities for the children
- Lunch starting at 11am 102 Lisbon Street, Lisbon, ME. 207-407-4002.

May 7 — Winthrop Area Handbell Ringers, 6:30 p.m., Community Meeting Room, Lithgow Library, 45 Winthrop Street, Augusta, performing a variety of music, including selections from "The Sound of Music," a piece called "Marche Militaire," "Deep River" and more, concert is free, but reservations are required, please call the Library at 626-2415 to reserve your spot.

May 11 — Hall-Dale Taiko Drumming Performance, 10 a.m., Community Meeting Room, Lithgow Library, 45 Winthrop Street, Augusta,

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free & open to all but you must reserve a seat by calling the library at (207) 626-2415.

May 11 — 37th Annual Spring Bird Walk, 7:30 a.m., Roberts Farm Preserve, 58 Roberts Rd., Norway, help us identify year-round residents and spring migratory species and learn about how we track migratory species with MOTUS*. Free. Registration required, (207) 739-2124.

May 14 — Telstar High School Spring Concert, 6:00 p.m., Come hear our children make joyful noises! Telstar High School, 284 Walkers Mills Rd., Bethel. 207-824-2136.

May 16 — Nomad Trail Series: May-October, 6 p.m., Farm to Town Trailhead, Water Street, Norway, monthly 4.2 mile race series, register for one (\$10/ \$15 on site) or for all six (\$50) races. Register: www.runsignup.com.

May 16 — "Passion and Nostalgia" - ScheckMate Concert, 6:30 p.m., Community Meeting Room, Lithgow Library, 45 Winthrop Street, Augusta, features pieces that express deep passion, sometimes inward-looking and soft, sometimes exuberant and powerful, concert is free, but reservations are required, call the library at 626-2415 to reserve your spot.

May 18 — Skowhegan Class of 1963 will be meeting for breakfast, Good & Plenty Restaurant on Lakewood Road, Rte. 201, any questions call 858-0946.

May 18 — Plant Sale, 8 a.m., Gardiner Library Association, 152 Water St., Gardiner, all types of plants are welcome- natives, cuttings, seedlings, divided perennials, herbs, and vegetables, plants need to be healthy, and pest-free. No invasive species, plants must be in pots and labeled, will sell for \$1, \$3, \$5 and \$10, all proceeds from sale will go to Gardiner Library Association for maintaining building and garden, deliver plants to the Library on Friday May 17th between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. (or before 7:30 a.m. on May 18th), any questions please contact John Woytowicz at 207-592-0692 or Kathy Brown at 443-739-6458.

May 18 — Spring Sale at the Congregational Church of East Sumner, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 50 Main Street, Rte. 219, Sumner, plants, breakfast sandwiches and beanhole bean lunch, baked goods, frozen chicken pot pies, raffle items, book sale, crafters, FMI: Cyndy 388-2667.

May 19 — Mahoosuc Community Band Spring Concert, 4 p.m., Bingham Auditorium, Gould Academy, band plays with Gould students during this school

year, conducted by Jim McLaughlin. Donations are accepted at the door to defray the cost of music. FMI contact Scott Hynek (hynek@roadrunner.com).

May 19 — North Pond Paddle, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., North Pond boat launch, Round the Pond Rd., Norway, bird watch while canoeing/kayaking through a magnificent bog, bring water, boat, & PFDs, free, registration required, <http://norwaymaine.com>.

May 23 — Maine Dragon Boat Club informational program, 6:30-8:00 p.m., Norway Memorial Library, 258 Main Street, Norway, call 207-743-5309 for more information or visit www.norwaymemorallibrary.org.

May 23 — Lost Art of Tea Leaf Reading Workshop, 6 p.m., Community Meeting Room, Lithgow Library, 45 Winthrop Street, Augusta, bring your own cup to this workshop, we will provide the tea and hot water, registration is required, visit the Reference Desk to register or call 626-2415.

May 23 & 24 — Little Shop of Horrors Gould Academy 7:30 p.m., Bingham Auditorium. Two shows! One on Thursday, one on Friday. Online watching is available. Check the web site: <https://www.gouldacademy.org/current-parents/gould-end-of-year-2024>.

JUNE

June 1 — National Trails Day Work Party, 9 a.m., Twin Bridges Preserve, Route 117, Otisfield, join us for a morning of re-blazing and signing the trails, wear work gloves & boots, bring water & bug spray, free, registration required, <http://norwaymaine.com>.

June 20 — Supporting Native Pollinators, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., McLaughlin Garden, 97 Main Street, South Paris, join local environmental organizations as they host U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biologist Hannah Mullally who will talk about the breadth of Maine's native pollinators, their importance in the ecosystem and food supply, and how individuals can support them using native plants in creating pollinator habitat, free, registration required, <http://norwaymaine.com>.

June 20 — Nomad Trail Series: May-October, 6 p.m., Farm to Town Trailhead, Water Street, Norway, monthly 3.1 mile race series, register for one (\$10/ \$15 on site) or for all six (\$50) races, register: www.runsignup.com.

June 21 — Longest Day Paddle, 5 p.m., public boat launch area on Crockett Ridge Rd., Norway, enjoy the summer solstice as we paddle on Lake Pennessewassee, bring water, boat, & PFDs, free, registration required, <http://norwaymaine.com>.

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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MONTHLY MEETINGS

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.

TURNER: "Music for Mavis" Cabin Fever Concert Series, January through April, on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 - 8:00 pm., Turner Universalist Church, concert will be upstairs in the beautiful stained-glass worship room, right across from the Gazebo on Rt 117, Turner.

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.

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

BELGRADE: Belgrade Historical Society, 6-8

p.m., second Monday of the month, Belgrade Town Office, 900 Augusta Road, public is welcome, 617-548-3569 or dilib56@aol.com.

SABATTUS: Weekly Group Runs, every Wednesday, 6 p.m., Mixer's parking lot, FMI, check out the Sabattus Rec Club Running Program Facebook page, or email running@sabattusrec.com.

ONGOING:

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.

BRIDGTON — Ping Pong at Bridgton Town Hall every Sunday from 1-4PM. It is great exercise, it is fun, and it is free! Bring a friend.

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.

Coop stuffy winner for March: Ramona Grover, Mason TWP

Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21		22					23			
			24		25					26				
27	28	29		30				31				32	33	34
35			36				37				38			
39					40					41				
42				43				44						
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52	53	54				55				56		57	58	59
60					61					62		63		
64					65							66		
67					68							69		

CLUES ACROSS

- Excessively theatrical actors
- Footwear
- A way to disfigure
- Exchange rate
- Hawaiian wreaths
- North-central Indian city
- Bungle
- Extremely angry
- A short note of what's owed
- Criminal organization
- Mimic
- Try to grab
- U.S.-born individuals
- Some are covert
- Order of the British Empire
- Don't know when yet
- Payment (abbr.)
- Winged angelic being
- Variety of Chinese
- A way to be anxious
- Famed wrestler Hulk
- Partner to cheese
- Slang for sergeant
- Canadian flyers
- Actress Ryan
- Highly unpleasant vapor
- Body part
- Halfway
- Cool!
- Consume
- Salts

CLUES DOWN

- "Mad Men" leading man
- Water (Spanish)
- Annoy
- Bulgarian capital
- Japanese title
- Capital of Zimbabwe
- Giraffe
- A mixture of substances
- Midway between south and southeast
- Staffs
- Turkish title
- Type of acid
- Thin, flat strip of wood
- Russian river
- Ribonucleic acid
- Partner to flow
- Airborne (abbr.)
- Upper bract of a floret of grass
- Housepet
- Cavalry-sword
- Symbol of a nation
- Frocks
- Used to carry food
- Portuguese folk song
- Sharp mountain ridge
- Ireland
- Where golfers begin
- Greek mythological sorceress
- Fluid suspensions
- Earthy pigment
- Genus of earless seals
- Housepet
- "Key to the Highway" bluesman
- By or in itself
- Hot fluid below the earth's surface
- Partner to trick
- British Air Aces
- Ammunition
- Supervises flying
- Health care for the aged
- Flanks
- Millimeters
- Where wrestlers perform
- Not around
- Flightless bird
- Bell-shaped flowers of the lily family
- Expressed concern for
- Satisfies
- Flew off!
- Wings
- Load a ship
- Vigor
- British title
- Whiskeys
- ___ Adams: founding father
- Body of water

Famous Birthdays

- APRIL 21
James McAvoy, Actor (45)
- APRIL 22
Jeffrey Dean Morgan, Actor (58)
- APRIL 23
Gigi Hadid, Model (29)
- APRIL 24
Kelly Clarkson, Singer (42)

- APRIL 25
Al Pacino, Actor (84)
- APRIL 26
Kevin James, Comic (59)
- APRIL 27
Darren Barnet, Actor (33)

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Horoscopes

- ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20**
You can get your spark back with some help from friends, Aries. You may have been struggling in one form or another, but others can provide the perspective needed.
- TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21**
Taurus, you are a dependable rock and that comes with a lot of responsibility. Sometimes you may feel overwhelmed, and in those instances feel free to delegate some tasks.
- GEMINI - May 22/June 21**
Too much joking around may strike a nerve of someone close to you, Gemini. Feel out every situation before you start communicating in such a laid back and jovial way.
- CANCER - June 22/July 22**
Cancer, like it or not, you have to stand by a promise or a commitment you made to someone, even if you no longer feel like doing so. Once it is finished, you can go your separate ways.

- LEO - July 23/Aug 23**
Leo, if others have underestimated you or written you off in the past, you will have an opportunity to prove them wrong this week, even if you already know the truth.
- VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22**
Your keen eye for detail has you pointing out a mistake that may have cost someone a lot of money, Virgo. Your reward could be a promotion or another commendation.
- LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23**
Making room for your needs right now is challenging as others seem to require all of the attention, Libra. You will have a chance to balance the scales soon enough.
- SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22**
Right now you may be reluctant to commit or comment on an issue that is affecting some in your circle, Scorpio. You can get involved once you dig further and do your own research.

- SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21**
Sagittarius, when you hang out with friends, you may be tempted to spend more than is in your budget at the moment. Set a limit, and perhaps leave your credit cards at home.
- CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20**
Capricorn, you are ready to move forward, but others in your orbit may be holding you back. Know when to cut loose and do things according to your bigger vision.
- AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18**
Thinking about all of the things in your life that may not be going to plan could have you feeling down, Aquarius. Flip the perspective and start focusing on the right things.
- PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20**
Pisces, you are known for being a dreamer, but right now you have to come down from the clouds and develop a solid plan of action. There will be time for fanciful ideas later.

Snowstorm delays Maple Sunday



AUBURN — Owner of Locomotive Treehouse Sugarhouse, Dan Giguere, explains to Kendra Caruso (center) the Maple Syrup evaporation process. The tours at the Auburn business were postponed a week due to the March 30-31 snowstorm. A long cue of visitors waited outside the train-engine structure for an enthusiastic tour.



A celebration of resilience and community spirit

LEWISTON — Back in 2021, Samantha and Justin Juray opened Just-In-Time Recreation with a mission to bring joy and laughter to the community. However, tragedy struck on Oct. 25, 2023, when a devastating event shook the very foundation

of their dream. Despite the challenges, the Jurays found solace in the unwavering support of the community. Join the Jurays, the City of Lewiston and the Lewiston-Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce for their triumphant reopening

of Just-In-Time Fri., May 3, 2024, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Let us come together to honor the memories and create new ones filled with laughter and happiness. RSVP now at aamores@lewiston-maine.gov to be a part of this inspiring journey forward!

Sen. Hickman welcomes Monmouth Academy Boys Basketball Team to the State House



Sen. Craig Hickman (left) and the Monmouth Academy Boys Basketball Team.

Submitted photo

AUGUSTA — On Thursday, March 28, Sen. Craig Hickman of Winthrop welcomed the Monmouth Academy Boys Basketball Team to the Senate Chamber to be recognized for their recent Championship win. The

Mustangs brought home the Academy's first-ever Class C State Championship in basketball.

"I am beyond proud of these tenacious and well-mannered young men," said Sen. Hickman.

"I am grateful to have been able to be a part of this historic moment and to have had the opportunity to present a legislative sentiment for their hard-fought season."

Legislative sentiments

are presented to individuals or groups who are exemplary figures within their community. Celebrating team accomplishments like this introduces students to their state senator and the legislature.

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Eclipse

Page 1

titude as well as I should have, it was most definite-

ly worth it to witness a full Solar Eclipse. The crowd in Rangeley began filling the Lakeside Park early that Monday morning, though the moon would not start

gradually blocking the sunlight until after lunch. We all had time to test our special safety glasses; one fellow was walking around wearing a welder's mask. I

guess he had done some research.

As the sun's fullness began to get diminished by the encroaching moon, lunch-time foods were packed

away and more eyewear, some highly creative, began to appear on everyone's face. It was fun to watch the little children who, unaware of the rare moment's signif-

icance, reacted with their nervous energy, simply happy to be doing what all the adults were doing.

It was a beautiful, cloudless day in Rangeley, Maine.



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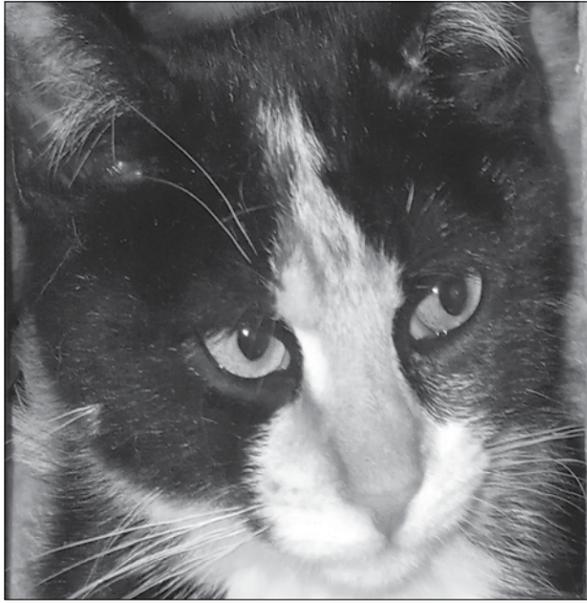
Mother's Day fundraiser for Tommy's Feral Feline Friends

SABATTUS — Tommy's Feral Feline Friends is putting out a call for bakers and baked goods for its Mother's Day Bake Sale and Bottle Drive Fundraiser, which will be held May 10th.

Baked goods, bottle donations and financial donations will help the nonprofit organization continue to save the lives of the forgotten cats both in feral colonies and the ones that cross our paths every day. Tommy's has been on a mission to help save animals' lives, and with the help and support of the community, Tommy's Feral Feline Friends can continue this critical mission.

On December 17th, 2023, Tommy's Feral Feline Friends were devastated by the tropical storm. Most of the sanctuaries were in ruins, the hardest hit they have ever taken over the years. A few sanctuaries have possibilities for repairs, but this is costly. Many of the sanctuaries were taken by water, and a lot were submerged under water leaving them in ruins. Trees demolished the sanctuaries leaving the forest in heavy debris, and any attempt to reach their remaining shelters has been a huge challenge. They are hoping the communities can help with donations for us to restore the cat's Magical Forest Kingdom.

Tommy's is a no-kill rescue site that takes in abandoned and abused cats, gives them medical care, and provides safe



Submitted photo
Cat rescued in the forest on the night of Dec. 17, 2023.

shelter for them to live.

The cats who live in colonies continue to be resilient despite adversity. Norm Blais of Tommy's, said "Tommy's provides medical and personal care for cats, including removal of tumors to repairing wounds; cancer treatment; annual checkups; special diet foods (homemade); dispensing daily medication, whether injections and or fluids with regular medication; dental care; emergency care; hospice care; special needs care; care for disabled kitties (mentally, physically, emotionally) and homeopathic care."

Tommy's has experienced a significant struggle because of the lack of funding. So many cats are ill, requiring medical treatment, often extensive hospital care, with the elements causing devastation to the colonies and recovery from our loss from a fire. A successful event will help Tommy's continue doing what they do best - save lives.

The event will be from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday, May 10, at Sabattus Regional Credit Union, 2 Middle Road, Sabattus, ME. Donations may also be sent to Tommy's Feral Feline Friends, P. O. Box 274, Greene, Maine 04236 or to PayPal at <https://www.tommysferalfelinefriends.com> for more information, contact Tommy's at normblais39@yahoo.com.

STUDENT NEWS

Endicott College announces local Dean's List students

Beverly, MA — Endicott College, the first college in the U.S. to require internships of its students, is pleased to announce its Fall 2023 Dean's List students. To qualify for the Dean's

List, a student must obtain a minimum grade average of 3.5, receive no letter grade below "C," have no withdrawal grades, and be enrolled in 12 credits for the semester.

The following students have met these requirements:

Turner
Austin Poulin, Business Management, son of Larna Poulin and Glenn Poulin

Buckfield Junior/Senior High School 2023 - 2024 Honor Roll Trimester Two

High Honors — Grade 12 — Mya Austin, Grade 11 — Brittany Carrier, Jonas Culleton, Noah Smith, Annabelle Thone, Grade 10 — Gunnar Hicks, Gaven Parsons, Grade 9 — Grace Lebida, Grade 7 — Evelyn Bryant, Kayleigh Levesque, Daisy Vining, Honor Roll - Grade 12 — Dylan Bickford, Nolan Breton, Braden Cousineau, Brogan Hutchinson, Brayden Jack, Jacob Jasper, Nolan Keene, Leon Landry, Justin Lucas, Summer Nelson, Selena Paula-Hernandez, Caylie Principe, Hailey Savage,

Grade 11 — Benjamin "Saylor" Bourassa, Zoe Chu, Carmen Crockett, Cayden Durgin, David Folsom, Myia Gombos, Seamus Keough, Jaylene Ladoceour, Cori Merrill, Cody Monto, Andrew Smith, Madison Wallace, Gabriel White, Grade 10 — Chloe Bennett, Bobby Bernier, Alyssa Breton, Camryn Brickel, Benjamin Burgess, Sarae DeVoe, Ethan Dutil, Christian Esparza, Neil Haylock, Sara McLeish, Blake Muller, Harmony Nelson, Grade 9 — Ava Carsley, Xander Herrick, Kyleigh McAlis-

ter, Nevaeh Mitchell, Stone Philbrick, Breydan Ridlon, Mackenzi Spear, Sophie St. Pierre, Grade 8 — Jolene Campbell, Nya Cousineau, Bodin Gray, Connor Haley, Taylor Harvey, Brodie Lavoie, Addison Morris, Anthony Principe, Kamryn Spencer, Lillian Tiftt, Savannah Rose Warren, Avery Zielinski, Grade 7 —Haleigh Campbell, Michael Cerrato, Bryce Champagne, Alyssa Farrar, Ava Farthing, Adam Hill, Jackson Hooper, Giovanni Paula-Hernandez, Gabriel Spencer, Evan St. Pierre.

Local students named to Bates College Fall 2023 Dean's List

Lewiston, ME — More than 590 students were named to the Dean's List at Bates College for Fall 2023. This honor is earned by students with a 3.92-grade point

average or higher. The following local students were named to the dean's list:

Ava Petrin of Leeds is majoring in Politics and minoring in Japanese.

Iris Petrin of Leeds is still considering a major.

Ed Zuis of Monmouth is majoring in Biological Chemistry and Mathematics.

Maine Principal Award

MONMOUTH — Zeke Delorme, a senior at Monmouth Academy, has been selected to receive the 2024 Principal's Award.

The award, sponsored by the Maine Principals' Association, is given in recognition of a high school senior's academic achievement and citizenship.

"Zeke's contributions to Monmouth Academy are numerous and impactful," said Principal Erik Gray. "He's an excellent student, a leader among his peers, and he embodies our core val-



Zeke Delorme

ues. Zeke is very deserving of this recognition."

Zeke, other award winners, and school administrators will attend an Honors Luncheon in Brewer in early April. The Honors

Luncheon recognizes these outstanding students with an individual plaque and awards ten \$1,000 scholarships in the names of former Maine principals and MPA Executive Directors Horace O. McGowan, Richard W. Tyler, and Richard A. Durost.

The Principal's Award is presented in more than 100 Maine public and private high schools by member principals of the MPA, the professional association representing Maine's school administrators.

MSAD/RSU 52 scholarship applications available locally and online

TURNER — Applications for the Bonney, Kilgore, Edgcomb-Knight, Christia Young, Carl Prince and The Chenard Family Funds are currently available at Leavitt Area High School and the Turner Town Office. Forms for the Edgcomb-Knight, Christia Young, Carl Prince and The Chenard Family Funds are also available at the Greene Town Office and the Leeds Town Office. In addition, all five forms are available for downloading on the Leavitt Area High School website, under Guidance/

Leavitt Institute Trustees.

The Bonney Fund is open to Turner residents and not limited to Leavitt graduates. Applicants may be high school students, undergraduate students, graduate students, or adults returning to school. Approximately 60 awards are made annually. The Kilgore is awarded each year to one Leavitt graduating senior who must also be a Turner resident. The Edgcomb-Knight award is made to one Leavitt graduate per year, with no residency requirement. The Christia

Young Fund is open to Leavitt graduating seniors who have attended all four years at Leavitt. The Carl Prince Fund is awarded to a graduating senior from Leavitt Area High School. The Chenard Family Scholarship is open to graduating seniors from Leavitt Area High School.

The deadline for applications is July 15, 2024.

Questions may be directed to the Leavitt Area Guidance Office (225-5267), Mary Briggs (225-3724) or Kelly Angell (754-0185).

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Troop 454 Leeds doesn't let mother nature stop cookie sale



David Hinkley photos



TURNER — Despite heavy rain and cool temperatures, Girlscout Troop 454 Leeds, held it's Cookie Booth Sale April 12th at Turner Publishing.

What happens when the kids at Leeds Central School read 1,000 books?



MSAD 52 photo
Leeds Central School Principal Shannon Bartash honored her promise to kiss Pete the piglet after the school met her challenge of reading 1,000 books within 14 school days before April vacation.

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Seasonal Guide

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Safety tips ahead of your Memorial Day barbecue

Metro
Memorial Day weekend marks the unofficial start of summer for millions of people across the country. Backyard barbecues are a staple of Memorial Day weekend, and such informal gatherings contribute much to the laid back vibe of this beloved three-day weekend. Backyard barbecues may be all about food and fun, but it's important that hosts take measures to ensure such soirees are safe as well. By employing the fol-

lowing measures, hosts can ensure their Memorial Day barbecues are safe for all in attendance.
• Place the grill in a safe location. The National Fire Protection Association urges hosts to place their grills a safe distance away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves or overhanging branches. The NFPA also notes no grill should be placed within 10 feet of any structure, including a home.
• Check propane tanks for leaks prior to using the grill. Memorial Day may be the first time many people use their grill since the previous summer or fall. The NFPA recommends propane grill users check their tanks for leaks prior to using the grill for the first time. This inspection is simple. Apply a light solution of soap and water to the hose. The NFPA notes a propane leak will release bubbles. The smell test

also can reveal a leak, as a strong odor of gas can indicate a leak. In such instances, close the tank valve and turn off the grill. If the leak stops, have the grill serviced by a professional. If the leak persists, call the fire department. The NFPA urges hosts who detect an odor of gas while cooking to get away from the grill immediately and call the fire department. Do not move the grill in such instances.
• Man the grill at all times. An unattended grill poses a significant safety hazard. Whether you're using a propane grill, a charcoal grill, a smoker, or a hybrid, make sure an adult is keeping an eye on the grill at all times.
• Purchase long-handled cooking tools. The American Red Cross notes that long-handled cooking tools are designed to keep chefs safe. Such tools ensure cooks' hands and arms do not have to be directly over



Metro photo

flames, which can periodically flare up and pose a safety hazard.
• Ensure children are supervised when swimming. The grill is not the only safety threat that may be present at Memorial Day barbecues.

Hosts who will open their pools or provide inflatable pools for children should make sure kids are supervised when in or around the water at all times. Before allowing kids in a pool, hosts should confirm their swimming abilities and insist kids who cannot swim or only recently learned to swim wear

inflatables or life jackets to reduce drowning risk.
Memorial Day weekend is a festive time at many households. By emphasizing backyard barbecue safety strategies, hosts can ensure everyone has a great time and gets home safe this Memorial Day weekend.

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Avoiding leg cramps:

Have you ever woken up in the middle of the night with a muscle cramp in your leg? We know these as charley horses, and they most commonly occur in your calf or hamstring but can happen in any muscle in your body. They feel like a big knot in your muscle, can be incredibly painful and may happen unexpectedly. They usually last for 30 seconds to minutes. Straightening your leg or standing up on a cold floor may help get rid of the cramp in your leg if it catches you by surprise in the middle of the night. Grabbing it, pounding it, or rubbing it will do little good and may even cause you more pain or damage after the charley horse disappears so please take caution with that.

Why do cramps happen:

Leg and muscle cramps happen due to an imbalance in electrolytes or loss of body fluids. Too little potassium, calcium or magnesium in the diet

can cause leg and muscle cramps. Some medicines often prescribed for high blood pressure can cause increased urination, which may drain the body of these minerals and lead to muscle cramps. Sickness, which involves vomiting or diarrhea, can deplete the body of fluids and minerals, and overindulging in alcoholic beverages, which rob the body of fluids and minerals, can increase leg cramps.

Other reasons why muscle and leg cramps happen could be over-exercising or working a muscle too hard or in an unusual unfamiliar manner. In some cases, blood flow is an issue whereas narrowing of the arteries that bring blood to the legs can cause a cramping pain in the legs and feet during exercise and cease when exercise stops. A more serious reason for leg cramps is nerve compression, where pressure on the nerves in the spine creates cramping. This leg pain usually gets worse with walking. Walking bent slightly forward, such as when pushing a shopping cart, might ease cramping.

Most muscle cramps are not usually harmful but they are often painful. Self-care measures like properly hydrating, eating nutritious foods, and stretching after exercise can prevent and treat most muscle cramps and charley horses.

When to see a doctor:

Muscle cramps usually



Metro photo

go away on their own. They do not usually need medical care. However, see a health care provider for cramps that: Do not go away, cause severe discomfort, have leg swelling, redness, or skin changes, or come with muscle weakness. If these muscle cramps happen daily or very often and do not get better with self-care practices such as nutrition adjustments and hydrating methods, it is time to consult your physician.

Factors that might increase the risk of muscle cramps include:

Age, unfortunately. As we age we lose muscle mass so even some of the little tasks create stress on the muscles and cause cramping. Extreme sweating increases the risk of cramping due to mineral loss. Being overweight can create muscle cramps due to muscle strain. Pregnancy and some health issues such as diabetes or thyroid

issues can increase the risk of muscle cramps as well due to changes in the body's fluid balance.

Steps to help prevent and decrease muscle cramps:

Hydrate daily. Muscles need fluids to work well. Drink liquids during heavy activities and throughout the day. Water or other liquids without caffeine or alcohol are recommended. If you are involved in heavy activity as part of your daily routine or if you are an athlete training long hours it is not a bad idea to include a high-quality electrolyte drink in your hydration plan. These high-quality drinks or powders should include Water, Sodium, Potassium, Chloride, Calcium, Magnesium, Phosphate, Bicarbonate.

Eat food high in potassium and magnesium to replace mineral loss. Some of my favorite foods high

in potassium and magnesium are bananas, raisins, prunes, avocados, nuts, and seeds such as pumpkin seeds, Brazil nuts and almonds, green leafy vegetables, potatoes with skins on them, legumes like chick peas, tofu, salmon and fatty fish, molasses, oysters, okra, artichokes, and HEMP.

Stretch your muscles daily. It is a good idea to stretch in the morning upon rising gently and before going to bed at night. Stretching during and after exercise is always necessary. Light exercise, such as riding a stationary bicycle for a few minutes or going for a gentle walk before bedtime, also may help prevent cramps while you sleep.

As always I hope these health tips help you enjoy a cramp-free Spring.

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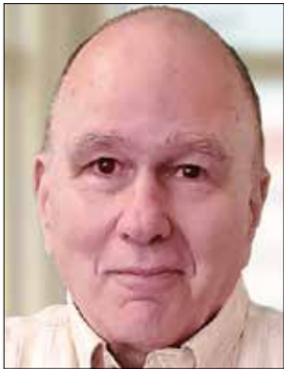


David Hinkley photo

April 9th, the Greene, Turner and Leeds Elementary choirs sang together at Leavitt High School. They were directed by Ellen Stevens (TES), Jordan Caverly (GCS) and Melissa Newcomb (LCS).

A FEW WORDS by: John Governale

Polar, the Titanic Bear



John Governale

In 1911, Frederic and Daisy Spedden—along with their young son, Douglas, the boy’s nanny, Elizabeth Burns, and Mrs. Spedden’s maid, Helen Wilson—went on a vacation to Europe. After visiting such places as Algiers, Monte Carlo, Cannes, and Paris, the Speddens were ready to return to the United States. In April 1912, the group boarded the

RMS Titanic in Cherbourg, France for the trip home. They were booked for the first class.

At 11:40 p.m. on April 14th, the Titanic collided with an iceberg. Not long after that, Douglas’s nanny—whom he called “Mud-die Boons” because he had trouble saying her name—awakened the boy and told him that they were taking a “trip to see the stars.”

The Speddens and their servants made their way to Lifeboat 3 on the starboard side. Mr. Spedden was not allowed to board at first, but once all the women and children in the area were safely in the boat, the men were allowed on.

The lifeboats were designed to hold 65 people. At 1:00 a.m., boat No. 3

was lowered with only 32 aboard, including 11 crew members. Later that morning, the people in Lifeboat 3 were rescued by the ship Carpathia.

The next year, 1913, Daisy Spedden wrote and illustrated a book that she gave her son, Douglas, for Christmas. It was called “My Story” and described—from the point of view of Douglas’s toy stuffed bear that he had named Polar—the family’s European travels, the sinking of the Titanic, and the family’s rescue.

Three years after surviving the Titanic disaster, the Speddens were in Maine for a vacation at their summer home at Grindstone Neck, near Winter Harbor.

The Winter Harbor column of the Bangor Daily

News dated August 10, 1915 reports:

“... A sad accident occurred Friday at about 6 p.m. The 11-year-old son of F. O. Spedden was fatally injured while attempting to pick up a tennis ball in front of the Thompson cottage, on the main street. Just after he emerged from a thick shrubbery which is close to one side of the street, he collided with an automobile.

“Because of the suddenness of the entrance and the small distance, the driver, Foster Harrington, was unable to avoid a collision. The boy was picked up unconscious and carried to his home by the driver. He regained consciousness the next day, but Saturday night grew worse and died Sunday morning.”

Let’s now jump ahead 75 years to the early 1990s. A fellow named Leighton H. Coleman III was looking through a trunk in his grandfather’s barn and found diaries and photo albums that had belonged to his great-grand aunt, Daisy Spedden. He also found the sole copy of the book that Daisy had written for her son.

In 1994, the book was published by Little, Brown and Company under the title “Polar, the Titanic Bear.” It is illustrated by Laurie McGaw and has an introduction by Leighton H. Coleman III.

Visit polarthetitanicbear.com to learn more. Also, you can find readings of the book on YouTube. There is a good one by Nancy Batliner.

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MOVIE REVIEW

Godzilla X Kong: The New Empire



(Warner Bros. Pictures/ Legendary Pictures)

With Godzilla celebrating his 70th anniversary and fresh off his very first Oscar (in Visual Effects no less) for *Godzilla: Minus One*, the King of the Monsters also celebrates ten years as part of the *Monsterverse*. Who would've thought that he would make a more successful leap to American screens than his 1998 counterpart and then bring much of his kaiju crew (along with King Kong) for the ride? *Godzilla X Kong: The New Empire* follows up

on 2021's *Godzilla vs. Kong* by teaming up the former foes against another powerful enemy. That movie's director, Adam Wingard, also returns to the director's chair to create a real rollercoaster ride of a film.

As *Godzilla* continues to keep the planet Earth in check from all the invading monsters, Kong feels more at home in the surreal, psychedelic Hollow Earth. Just then, strange signals come from inside the hidden world and no one at Monarch can figure them out, not even scientist Dr. Ilene (Rebecca Hall). However, her adopted daughter Jia (Kaylee Hottle) has visions of those signals and fears something bad will happen to her friend Kong. Soon enough, the two of them are joined by Ilene's ex-boyfriend and veterinarian Trapper (Dan Stevens) and podcaster Bernie (Brian

Tyree Henry) to travel down to the Hollow Earth to investigate. Meanwhile, *Godzilla* is seen traversing around Europe in search of special energy to fuel him up.

While all that is happening, Kong suddenly finds another part of the underground world called the Subterranean Earth, where he meets a little orangutan and a more hostile ape colony. Part of this strange new passageway is ruled over by the evil Scar King, looking to seek revenge on *Godzilla* who had imprisoned him. Once the forces of the Titans collide in another battle, the human heroes will need help from an ancient tribe called Iwi to keep both of their worlds from being destroyed.

Unlike the previous *Monsterverse* films that were able to find the right tonal balance, this one leans more towards

the lighter, funnier side of its entertainment. It's more reminiscent of the late 60s/early 70s era of *Godzilla* films, where the plots become too fantastical, the humans break it all down in exposition, and the result can be considered too cheesy for any casual viewer. The only thing missing here would be something more ridiculous for the Big G to do like dancing on the moon or doing an impossibly high drop kick. Still, it's not a terrible thing if you're willing to turn off your brain for two hours and enjoy the fun.

Granted, the plot is your standard "save the world from a powerful threat" story with *Godzilla* merely being a supporting player. Kong's a bigger star here with the main human characters becoming pivotal to the plot rather than being meat shields. When the giant ape enters the sub-

terranean world, it becomes kaiju Planet of the Apes (even if the effects aren't as good as the recent trilogy) and it helps to enhance the fantastical experience it was going for. As per usual in the third act, we're treated to a true rumble to the finish between the Titans that extends from the underground world to Rio De Janeiro with a surprise guest appearance that longtime fans will be happy to see.

The only real downside of the whole film is its villain. Yes, the Scar King does look menacing and is a good match for Kong to battle. However, he's undermined by his constant use of his spinal whipcord, which has a crystal tip to control another monster, the ice breathing Shimo, and too many attempts to get it to follow his command. Perhaps the filmmakers could've come up with a

more acceptable and terrifying villain on this side of the legendary King Ghidorah.

There's not much to say about the human actors except they all do their jobs well. Stevens makes an interesting addition as this universe's Star-Lord with his classic rock mixtape and his scenes with Henry are the funniest parts. Hall and Hottle share some emotionally packed scenes that work fine and add to the human element.

While not the best in the *Monsterverse* series, *Godzilla X Kong: The New Empire* is still a fun ride and a worthwhile big-screen experience. Hopefully there's some room for improvement in the next film.

THE MOVIE'S RATING: PG-13 (for creature violence and action)

THE CRITIC'S RATING: 3.25 Stars (Out of Four)

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

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

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

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

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

HAVE YOU FOUND COOP?

CLT's Spring Awakening

AUBURN — The Community Little Theatre production of "Spring Awakening" will open on Friday, April 5th at Community Little Theatre, located at 30 Academy St., Auburn.

Performances will be held at 7:30 p.m. on April 5, 6, 7, 11, and 12; and at 2 p.m. on April 8, 13, and 14.

It is 1891 in Germany and a group of young teenagers are beginning their journey from adolescence to adulthood. The teenagers begin to face new challenges, and realities such as the exploration of their own sexuality, passing on to the next grade, and adults betraying and failing them.

"Spring Awakening" is based on the 1891 work of the same name written by dramatist Frank Wedekind. Turned into an angst rock musical with music by Duncan Sheik and book and lyrics by Stephen Sater, "Spring Awakening" made its Broadway debut in 2006, with leads Wendla and Melchior portrayed by Lea Michelle and Jonathan Groff respectively. Since its 2006 Broadway run, the show was revived in both West End and on Broadway in 2015 with a notable cast made up of both deaf and hearing actors. In 2022, HBO premiered a documentary titled "Spring Awakening: Those You've Known" chronicling the show's 15-year, one-night-only reunion that took place in November 2021. The story "Spring Awakening" tells is a cautionary tale of what happens when adults are distrusting of youth, and the importance of communication, patience, and understanding between adults and

children.

The cast assembled for this show includes CLT veterans and several new faces. CLT veteran Jason Pelletier as all of the Adult Male roles including Headmaster Knochenbruch, and Herr Stiefel; Abram Dwyer as the troubled Mortiz Stiefel; Mackenzie Richard as Ilse Neumann, a young girl who has escaped from her home; Ansley Watson as the young and innocent Thea; Megan Walz as free-spirited Anna; Bluee Brewster as the overly-confident Hanschen Rilow; Archer Slater as the energetic Georg Zirschnitz; Edward Angelo as the shy Otto; and Elise Christie as all of the Adult Woman roles including Melchior's mother, and Fraulein Knuppeldick, the stern teacher. Newcomers to the CLT stage include Julia Badaraco as the innocent and curious Wendla Bergmann; Savage Bloomer as rebellious and intelligent Melchior Gabor; Mikayla Jane as the strong and kind Martha Bessell; and Anthony Delorme as the sweet, naive Ernst Robel.

Becca Tinkham, director of "Spring Awakening" has been assisted by an experienced crew led by assistant director Sophia Wood, stage manager Brandon Chaloux, music director Paul Caron, and producer Germaine Robinson. Set construction was led by Gregory Lambert, costumes led by Sophia Wood, Mackenzie Richard, and Max Button, lighting design by Danny Gay, hair and makeup led by Amanda Robinson, and properties done by Brandon Chaloux. Headshots for the show were done by DNA Photography. Photos for the show



The full cast in a scene from CLT's production of "Spring Awakening."

Sophia Wood photos



From left to right: Mikayla Jane as Martha; Mackenzie Richard as Ilse; Julia Badaraco as Wendla; Ansley Watson as Thea; and Megan Walz as Anna rehearse a scene from CLT's production of "Spring Awakening."

were taken by Sophia Wood. CONTENT & TRIGGER WARNING (RATED R): Spring Awakening contains Content and Trigger Warn-

ings due to mentions of verbal, physical, and sexual abuse, mental illness, abortion, death, and depictions of suicide and sexual con-

tent. Ticket prices (including all fees) are \$25 for adults, \$22 for seniors and students, and \$17 for children ages 13

and under. Tickets may also be purchased at the door. Tickets are available online at laclt.com or by calling 207-783-0958

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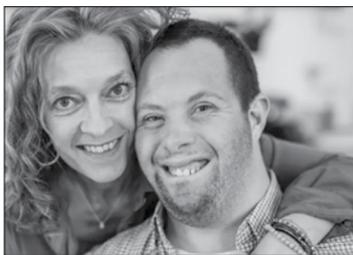
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FEATURE COLUMN

Maine's Hunting Legacy: A Victory



V. Paul Reynolds

On November 3, 2021, Maine voters approved a historic state constitutional amendment that established a constitutional Right to Food. Not unexpectedly, a debate ensued about the word "harvest," which is used in the language of the new amendment.

The debate focused on the question: Does the constitutional word "harvest" include recreational hunt-

ing? Obviously, those of us in the hunting community, who place great value on our hunting legacy in Maine, and our right to hunt, assumed that, yes, Maine now has within its state constitution a proviso that does safeguard hunting. A number of other states have in the past few years taken action to embed a similar right to hunt in their state constitutions: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, and Kansas. Florida voters will vote on such a provision this year. In Vermont, the right to hunt has been included in its state constitution since 1777.

But all is not gold that glitters. In an effort to thwart a legal effort by a Readfield couple to use the Right to Food amendment to overturn Maine's ban on Sunday

hunting, the state of Maine argued that, in fact, the new amendment did not grant constitutional protection to hunting in our state!

Although the Maine Supreme Judicial Court ruled against the Readfield couple and held that the Sunday hunting ban was not contrary to the amendment, the court, to its credit, held that, indeed, the amendment DOES protect legal hunting. In other words, the hunting community was right: for purposes of the constitutional amendment, as voted by Maine citizens in the 2021 referendum, the constitutional word "harvest" does include hunting.

If you are a hunter, or if you simply agree that hunting is a worthy legacy, this decision by the Maine High

Court is a landmark ruling! Break out the champagne and take the time to thank the Readfield couple, Virginia and Joel Parker, without whose valiant efforts, the unanswered legal question would have lingered.

The Parkers fought hard to defeat the Sunday hunting ban, and Maine remains one of only two states in the country to close hunting on Sunday. If the past is prologue, we have not heard the last of this issue, which crops up almost annually in the legislative halls of Augusta.

No doubt the Parkers are disappointed by the court decision, but, whether they foresaw this silver lining or not, they left a mark and made a difference, even in defeat.

In the context of this court decision, which partly rebukes the state's position that hunting was not protected by the Food Amendment, a tangential question remains unaddressed or unanswered. Since Parker's suit challenged the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife's Sunday hunting ban, and since the high court ruled that the Right to Food amendment does not protect illegal hunting, why wasn't this the narrower focus of the state's legal argument? Apparently, the state adopted a sweeping legal offense and sought to uphold the Sunday hunting ban by arguing that the constitutional word "harvest" does not include hunting at all.

Wittingly or unwittingly, the state attorney general

and our fisheries and wildlife folks were party to a legal position that could have opened a Pandora's box and left our hunting legacy with no constitutional safeguards whatsoever. Unless we are missing something, the state was so eager to protect the Sunday hunting ban that it was willing to expose the constitutional protection of hunting to a stunning defeat.

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.

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Garret Carver
Brett Bannister

Inside Sales

Jessica Mason

Advertising/Marketing

George McGregor
Jodi Cornelio
Brett Bannister
Jacob Wall
Kathlene Clarke

Reporter/Writer

Bill Van Tassel

Proofreaders

Jared Wood
Robin Robertson

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Four sisters



Submitted photo
Pictured L-R are Christine Hinkley, 91, of Turner, Beryl Robinson, 93, of Auburn, Geraldine (Dena) Jewell, 90, of Buckfield, Esther Robinson, 94, of Auburn. The four sisters are the daughters of the late Milton and Verlie Warren of Buckfield. They grew up on the family farm in Buckfield along with 10 siblings.

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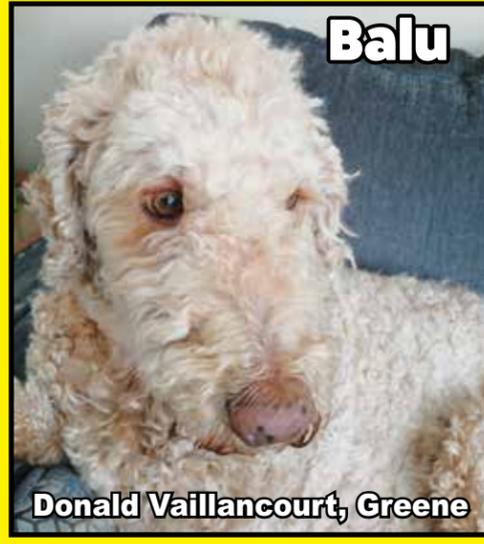
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Blue Vue Plants

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



Bartzella Itoh yellow peony

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

However, the main thrust of this article is Fruit Trees, Blueberries, Peonies and Lilacs. All Fruit Trees are \$25.97 – and I have the following coming in in mid-



Ripening blueberries

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

I have over 15 varieties of peonies all for \$12.97 each – EXCEPT for the Bartzella Itoh Yellow Peony which is just under \$25.00. I plant-



Sensation lilac

ed 18 different varieties of peonies this past Fall along a large rock barrier. I can hardly wait to see them come up this Spring.

Bartzella Itoh Yellow Peony

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



Primrose lilac

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

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

That is not all – I have hundreds of varieties of perennials and thousands of plants. No plant I sell is over



Congo lilac

\$30. You could buy 2 blueberries, 3 peonies, 3 lilacs and a fruit tree for around \$125.00. Try to match those prices. I am known for my pricing, the variety and the quality of my plants. You can even buy some of my premium potting soil (bring your own 5-gallon bucket and spade - \$5.00 per bucket). Come on over – the opening is May 1st officially, but often open a few days earlier (depending on the snowbanks). That is Blue Vue Plants, 586 West Side Road, Weld, ME.

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