

Spring arrives at local mountains

The temperatures soared to record highs at Maine ski areas over the weekend. The higher you rode on the lifts, the warmer it got. Skiers and riders shed heavy winter garments for shorts



Inside the OUTSIDE

by Dan Cassidy

and T-shirts before noon as the thermometer rose to near 80 degrees at both Sugarloaf and Saddleback Mountains.

50-plus years at Sugarloaf

A group of skiers celebrated their first 50 plus years of skiing at the Sugarloaf Mountain. Amanda Winter Murray and John Chapman organized the get-together as more than 80 skiers met at the Sugarloaf Inn for a luncheon, hosted by the Ski Museum of Maine.

John Christie, president of the Ski Museum of Maine was master of ceremonies. Local



Natalie and Tim Terry, of Waterville and Sugarloaf Mountain, were on hand for the first Sugarloaf celebration of skiers who began skiing in the 1950s. Natalie began skiing at Sugarloaf before a road was built. She used to 'skin' up from Route 27 with Amos Winter in 1949. Tim began skiing in 1951.

Photo by Dan Cassidy

Waterville skiers Natalie and Tim Terry were on hand for the event. "I started skiing in 1949," Natalie said. "I used to 'skin' up with Amos Winter from Route 27 to ski the mountain."

Tim Terry said that he began skiing at Sugarloaf in 1951.

Stub Taylor, head of the ski patrol for many years said that between he and Pat Murphy, they had 111 years of skiing at Sugarloaf.

Saddleback Mountain honors Roger Page

Roger and Patsy Page were honored at Saddleback Mountain on Saturday. Roger Page is a past general manager at the mountain and owner of a local business in Rangeley. His wife Patsy ran the ski shop.

John Christie was master of ceremonies at the get-together held in the Swig-and-Smelt Lounge. He recognized the Pages for their devotion to skiing and their support of the community of Rangeley.

A charcoal portrait of Roger Page, painted by Emma Christensen, a senior at Rangeley High School was presented.

Not many ski days left ... Ski and ride safely and don't forget to wear a helmet.

Successful basketball teams



The AAU 7th and 8th grade from Winslow Junior High won a tournament championship in Old Town in March. Front row, from left to right, Taylor Roy, Josh Kervin, David Grant, Trevor Lovely, Connor Wildes. Back, assistant coaches Brad Grant and Bob Chenard, Bobby Chenard, Harrison Clark, Justin Kervin, Justin Martin, Nason Lanphier, Dakota Herman, Dylan Hapworth and coach Dan Wildes.

Contributed photo



The Winslow 5th grade girls team recently took second place at the Lawrence Hoops Classic. Front row, from left to right, Sarah Stevens, Courtney Pomeroy, Bethanie Lovely and Cassie Demers. Back, Coach Mark LeClair, Heather Kervin, Aleise Pecoy, Ciara LeClair, Desiree Koenig and Coach Marsha Demers.

Photo by Nicole Pecoy

Cheer for your favorites at Waterville Battle of the Badges fundraiser

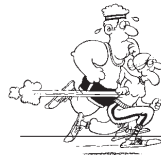
Local police and firefighters are getting ready to battle it out, on the court, for the annual Battle of the Badges Benefit Basketball Game.

The game is scheduled to take place Saturday, April 17, at 6:30 p.m., at the Alford Youth Center on North Street in Waterville. Doors open at 6 p.m.

At stake is bragging rights and possession of the Battle Cup Trophy for a full year. Can the Firefighters hold on to it or will

the Police be able to win it from them? Come cheer for your favorite team - it is sure to be fun for the whole family.

Tickets are \$5, kids 10 and under are free, and are available now at The Alford Youth Center and the South End Teen Center; and at the door the night of the event. All proceeds benefit youth programs offered at the South End Teen Center in Waterville. For more information call 207-313-0704.



Senior Corner

If doctor recommends surgery, check to see if he/she is a surgery center owner

If your doctor is recommending surgery, you may want to see if he or she owns an interest in the surgery center where the operation is to be performed. When doctors become invested in an outpatient surgery center, they perform on average twice as many surgeries as doctors with no such financial stake, according to a new study from the University of Michigan Health System.

"Our data suggest that physician behavior changes after investment in an outpatient facility. Through what some have labeled the 'triple dip,' physician owners of surgery centers not only collect a professional fee for the services provided, but also share in their facility's profits and the increased value of their investment. This creates a potential conflict of interest," says study author John Hollingsworth, M.D., M.S., a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar at the U-M Medical School.

"To the extent that owners are motivated by profit, one potential explanation for our findings is that these physicians may be lowering their thresholds for treating patients with these common outpatient procedures," Hollingsworth adds.

The study looked at all patients in Florida who underwent one of five common outpatient procedures: carpal tunnel release, cataract excision, colonoscopy, knee arthroscopy and myringotomy with tympanostomy tube placement (a procedure to insert tubes in the ear).

The researchers determined which doctors were owners of a surgery center. They then compared surgery use among owners in two time periods—before and after they acquired ownership—with that of physicians who remained non-owners.

The findings include:

Owners operated on an average of twice as many patients as non-owners.

While caseloads increased overall between the earlier and later time periods for all physicians, the increases were more rapid and dramatic among owners.

The number of surgery centers has increased nearly 50 percent over the last decade, largely driven by the investment of physicians, who had a stake in 83 percent of these facilities. For doctors, investment may give them more control over their practice environment, from scheduling cases to purchasing surgical equipment. For patients, these centers often have shorter wait times than hospitals and may provide more amenities.

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