

Maine Mobile BIOLAB ignites JSMS students interest in high-tech science

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

Creativity may just be the secret sauce to unlocking interest in science, technology, engineering, and math, and if that's the case, Jordan-Small Middle School students received a hefty dose of it last Friday when the Maine Mobile Biolab paid a visit to the Raymond school.

The Maine Mobile BIOLAB is part of Educate Maine's larger strategy to connect students and educators with career pathways within the life sciences sector and develop a larger and career ready workforce in Maine through educational investments. This high-tech mobile laboratory brings scientific tools and techniques right to the schools it visits, allowing students access to experiences far beyond what many schools can provide.

The curriculum features laboratory activities appropriate for a variety of classes ranging from sample testing and data analysis to basic chemistry and environmental science. All BIOLAB activities are focused on problem-based learning with real-world applications that align with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and Maine Learning Results and include common bioscience techniques

such as DNA extraction and agarose gel electrophoresis, and relevant themes such as aquaculture, bioengineering, and forestry.

Each Maine Mobile BIOLAB activity goes beyond textbook learning and offers students a firsthand look at the world of bioscience and the multitude of career possibilities in the field.

Kellie Ouellette, a Science and Math teacher at Jordan-Small Middle School, said the BIOLAB visit was an exceptional method to spark interest in STEM-related fields among her students.

"The Maine Mobile BIOLAB brought in a series of high-tech laboratory experiences for students to participate in that we just do not have the materials or resources to carry out in a small school," she said. "They brought all of the equipment and had well-designed lab experiences that gave the students hands-on experience with water testing for pH and turbidity, with connections to ecosystem health."



The Maine Mobile BIOLAB visited Jordan-Small Middle School in Raymond last week and students were able to participate in laboratory activities and a variety of classes ranging from sample testing and data analysis to basic chemistry and environmental science. COURTESY PHOTO

Ouellette said another lab that JSMS students were able to participate in was called "Where Did the Sugar Go?" and was an exploration of how sugar travels through the human body, and how diabetes can interfere with that process.

At another station, students ran

tests on simulated blood to determine which patient was the diabetic patient, and they were then tasked with designing a meal plan that would work based on the units of insulin the person had brought with them.

The Maine Mobile BIOLAB ap-
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Windham Public Works director settles into role

By Masha Yurkevich
STAFF WRITER

From snow and mud to potholes and street sweeping, being the Windham Public Works Director is no easy task, but Brian Morin has dedicated himself to the work.

Morin grew up in Sanford and moved to Windham in 2013. He is married to his wife, Sherri, and together they have four children and 10 grandchildren.

"Prior to coming to Windham Public Works, I worked for William Arthur in Kennebunk for 20 years, where I was the Facilities and Safety Supervisor, I was laid off in 2013," says Morin. "I started at Windham Public Works as a custodian and because of my experience at my previous employer, I was promoted to the position of Building and Grounds Manager for the Town of Windham where I worked for 10 years. I was promoted to the position of Interim Public Works Director in August 2024. I was officially named Windham Public Works Director in November 2024."

As the town's Director of Public Works, Morin is responsible for overseeing the operations of the Highway Department, Buildings and Grounds, the Fleet Mechanics and anything pertaining to the roadways.

"I also manage the budget for Pub-



Windham Public Works Director Brian Morin assumed his duties leading the department last fall and takes a lot of pride in Windham and works hard to make sure he is serving the people in the community properly. PHOTO BY JENNIFER LEGERE

lic Works and serve on various committees," he says.

Morin takes a lot of pride in a job well done and truly enjoys working to improve the community he lives in. One of the more challenging aspects of this position is not being able to make everyone happy.

"There are always going to be people; residents and employees that

don't agree with your decisions" says Morin. "All you can do is ensure your decisions have the greater good in mind."

He says that Windham Public Works is fortunate to have a great group of employees that have the town's best interests at heart.

"Regarding equipment, we currently have reliable equipment; however, it is not to say there is not room for some improvement and upgrades over the next few years," says Morin. "As the community grows, the equipment in our department will need to keep up with that growth. We are fortunate to have a beautiful, new facility that houses Public Works as well as the RSU 14 bus garage."

Windham is growing at a rapid rate, with lots of new developments and roads along with apartment and condominium complexes.

"An increase in population will create more traffic on our roads and ultimately more wear and tear on our town roads," Morin says. "The Public Works Department is ready to address these issues as they arise."

The biggest challenge that Public Works is facing right now, that could also be found true at many other places, is employing CDL drivers, Morin said.

"We have been understaffed in recent months, however, we just regis-

tered to be able to train CDL drivers," he said. "So going forward, we will be able to bring on employees that do not have a CDL and train them on the job to help them obtain their CDL license."

This is a huge step in moving forward to combat staffing issues. It can also hopefully help potential applicants, where they would normally have to pay to attend driving school to obtain a CDL license.

"This winter, our crew did a great job considering the staffing challenges," Morin says. "In addition to that, the Town of Windham has a lot of road miles to cover on each plow route. They had a couple of storms that dragged out over two days that had the crews on the clock for 24 hours at a time. It can take a toll on people to get the job done."

Morin says that there are a lot of town buildings, properties and cemeteries that need maintenance.

"As town roads are added and as our infrastructure grows, we need to think about how Public Works changes with it," he said.

According to Morin, coming into the spring
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INSIGHT

A flattened treasure hunt

In the 1950s Johnny Carson used to host a television game show called “Who Do You Trust?” and I was thinking about that program recently when I drove to Kittery to have some old baseball cards appraised by a prominent antiques business.

For some years now I have been working on collecting every baseball card issued in 1960 by the Topps Chewing Gum Company. I’ve been a baseball card collector since 1964 but didn’t start working on my 1960 set until about 12 years ago.

There are a total of 572 cards issued in the 1960 Topps set and several years ago I completed acquiring all the cards when I purchased a Mickey Mantle card for \$350 on eBay. Mickey Mantle’s 1960 card is deemed as the most highly valuable card in the entire set although Carl Yastrzemski’s rookie card, and other Hall of Famers such as Henry Aaron, Willie Mays, and Sandy Koufax fetch a large sum too.

About a month ago I saw an ad on Facebook saying an antique business would be appraising collections and so I signed up to see how much the cards would be worth.

I keep my cards in a three-ring binder in plastic sleeves and the majority of my 1960s are in Excellent to Near Mint condition. I know this because many of these cards were purchased through a reputable card shop in Ohio and none of them arrived in less than Excellent condition. Cards are professionally graded by the sharpness of the corners, creases in the card-board, paper loss, writing on the cards, photo centering and coloring.

Today in HISTORY

APRIL 18

1775 – American revolutionaries Paul Revere, William Dawes and Samuel Prescott ride through the towns of Massachusetts giving warning that British troops are mobilizing.

1853 – The first train in Asia begins operations running between Bombay and Tanna in India.

1906 – San Francisco, California is struck by an earthquake with heavy loss of life.

1924 – Simon and Schuster, Inc. publishes the first “Crossword Puzzle Book.”

1934 – The first laundromat opens in Fort Worth, Texas.

1938 – Superman makes his debut when he appears in the first issue of Action Comics.

1949 – The Republic of Ireland is established.

1954 – Colonel Gamal Abdel Nasser seizes power in Egypt.

1978 – The U.S. Senate approves the transfer of the Panama Canal to Panama on Dec. 31, 1999.

Inspirational Quote of the Week

“Achieving success is a challenge but so is struggling so you may as well choose success.” – Rob Liano

When I was just starting out in baseball card collecting, I’d add cards in less-than-ideal conditions, and after a while I discovered that a card’s condition is crucial to its overall value. Through the years, I have upgraded and replaced many cards in my sets, and such is the case with this 1960 collection.

When I showed the cards to the appraiser, his expression was priceless. He looked at each page in the binder with amazement at the condition of the common cards and told me I had done a good job in assembling the complete set.

However, when he extracted the Carl Yastrzemski and Mickey Mantle cards, he informed me that both these cards were slightly creased, detracting from the overall value of my 1960 set. I had purchased both of those cards on eBay and never noticed the tiny creases on each card at the time.

The appraiser asked me how much I thought my set was worth and I told him I thought it was probably in the range of \$5,000. Last summer, I had taken the cards to a professional grader at a card show in Old Orchard Beach and he estimated it to be about \$8,000 but I did think that was greatly exaggerating their value and he only glanced through the binder quickly.

This new appraiser said it was his opinion that my 1960 cards were nice, but he recommended that I have the most valuable cards in the set graded, including the Mantle, Yastrzemski, Mays, Aaron, Koufax and Willie McCovey cards.

He showed me on his iPhone that some complete 1960 baseball card sets in Excellent to Near Condition are selling for between \$3,500 to \$5,500 at most. He thought that if I did have four or five of the Hall of Fame player cards from the set professionally graded by a nationally recognized grading company and permanently encased in plastic slabs, that I could boost my set’s overall value.

Driving home from that appraisal, I was sort of shocked and disappointed. I had envisioned that the appraiser would be impressed and would make me a decent offer for them, and I would accept and use the money to help pay for my wife and I to take a trip to England.

Now that I’ve had a few days to think about it, and hearing one appraiser tell me my cards are worth \$8,000 and another suggesting \$3,500, I’m inclined to take the advice of the second appraiser. That will mean I will have to purchase new 1960 Carl Yastrzemski and Mickey Mantle cards and those will not be inexpensive.

The average going price for a 1960 Carl Yastrzemski graded card in excellent condition on eBay is \$300 and a decent 1960 Mickey Mantle graded card in excellent condition is \$750. It’s probably better for me to purchase these two cards graded and slabbed than take another chance on cheaper deals of ungraded cards.

And once I do acquire those Yastrzemski and Mantle cards for my set, I will still have to pay a grading fee and send off my 1960 Roberto Clemente, Koufax, Mays, Aaron or McCovey cards for assessment and hope they do not get lost in the mail or damaged in the return shipment from the grading source.

When I was a kid growing up in the 1960s, I never liked the Yankees so I would often take Mickey Mantle cards and pin them to the spokes of my bike to make a flapping noise as I pedaled along. If I knew then what I know now, that surely wouldn’t happen. <

~ Ed Pierce

ON THE SPOT

If you had to narrow it down to just one, what’s your go-to karaoke song?

“Livin’ on a prayer - Bon Jovi.”
– Caryn Bicknell

•

“Respect.” – Julie Mallett

•

“There’s a tear in my beer.”
– Frank Moulton

•

“Tequila.” – Darrell Janoushek

•

“Sweet Caroline!”
– Austin Mowrer

•

“Wannabe by the Spice Girls.”
– Deirdre Schulte

•

“My Way. Frank Sinatra.”
– Anne Glotchshuk

•

“The Shoop Shoop Song (It’s In His Kiss).”
– Mia Potenzio-Ransey

•

“Like A Prayer - Madonna.”
– Louise V. Snider

•

“Chris Stapleton’s White Horse.” – Isabella Mongon

•

“Let It Go from Frozen or Heart Attack by Demi Lovato.”
– Lois Fuller

•

“Since U Been Gone – Kelly Clarkson or sometimes I choose Girls Just Want To Have Fun by Cyndi Lauper.”
– Lollie Gomez Nunez

•

“Anything by Journey like Faithfully or Any Way You Want It. Depending upon my mood even I’ll be All Right Without You.” – Dean Smalley

•

“Ring of Fire.”
– Mitchell B. Robinson

•

“Crazy by Patsy Cline.”
– Chris Macklin

•

“Usher’s Nice and Slow.”
– Jerry Greene

•

“Watermelon Moonshine. I love Lainey Wilson songs and usually sing along when they come on the radio too.”
– Audrey Marmol

•

“My all-time favorite to sing for karaoke is Sukiyaki but sometimes if I’m singing with a friend we’ll go for Crimson and Clover.” – Jude Orestes-Sanchez

•

“That Don’t Impress Me Much.” – Sarah Singer-Miller

•

“Redneck Woman.” – Liz Gilde

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Lions Club honors volunteer work of Windham resident

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

When Evelyn Brissette’s husband passed away from lung cancer in 2016, she decided that she had more time on her hands to do some of the things that would make her happy and be able to help others. She joined the Windham Lions Club, and that decision has led Brissette to be awarded the highest form of recognition possible for a Lions Club member.

The Windham Lions Club presented Brissette with the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award during its April meeting for her humanitarian qualities such as compassion, concern, and generosity to the Windham community. The award is named after the original founder, secretary and treasurer of Lions International who established the organization to improve health and well-being, strengthen communities and support those in need through humanitarian services and grants that impact lives locally and globally, and encourage peace and international understanding.

Brissette served as president of the Windham Lions Club for several years and created the club’s Adopt-A-Family program that provides Christmas gifts to families in need in the Wind-

ham Community. She also has participated in community meals and the RSU 14 Backpack Program and volunteers for the Windham Parks and Recreation Department and at senior citizen luncheons. She’s active in the Lions Club’s eyeglass screening, Touch-A-Truck, the Windham Lions Annual Craft Fair, Stuff the Bus, and many other community activities.

“I saw an article in The Windham Eagle, I think that first summer, that the town was looking for volunteers to give out lunches to the children at Dundee Park,” Brissette said. “I thought I can do that and totally enjoyed it. When they stopped distributing food at the park but did it at the middle school one summer with parents picking up a much larger quantity of food, I joined to help there. I heard about the weekly backpack program, so I joined our Tuesday morning group of fellow volunteers at least four or five years ago at this point. We started at Windham Primary School and have been at Windham Middle School for several years now. During COVID when the children were home, I made home food deliveries.”

She joined the Windham Lions Club in 2019 after being invited by

longtime friends Gene and Patty Tanquay.

“I have always enjoyed doing whatever I can to make life as good as possible for others,” Brissette said. “The Windham Lions Club has given me the opportunities that I needed to get out there and do even more.”

Receiving this award means a lot to Brissette.

“I did not do what I have done for the past several years to be rewarded but just to help others in need,” she said. “I feel very fortunate that my family and children have never gone without. We were never rich, but we always managed. Knowing how hard some families have it today really concerns me when the children’s needs are not met, especially when it comes to food.”

Originally from Portland, Brissette and her husband moved to Windham in 2012.

“We needed a more accessible home with one floor living only,” she said. “Stairs are not my friends anymore. As much as my husband liked to keep busy, he had to cut back on keeping up with our big, older home. Moving to Windham was the best move we could have made, especially since I became a widow a few

years afterward. I have met wonderful people through the Windham Lions Club and the businesses, and others that I have established relationships with while organizing our Lions Club events. I also enjoy working with the Parks and Recreation Department as a volunteer and participating in their events.”

Working at Shaw’s Supermarkets for 29 1/2 years, Brissette spent the majority of her career in the Payroll and Human Resources departments and she helped to organize in-store United Way fundraising drives and was a United Way Loan Executive twice.

“When I left Shaw’s, I became a companion/caregiver with Home Partners for 12 years, a job I truly enjoyed,” Brissette said. “At 73 years young I thought I finally deserved to spend more time to pursue other interests as well. As it happened, I left Home Partners and joined the Windham Lions Club that same year.”

According to Brissette, besides organizing United Way campaigns in the Shaw’s store, she was occasionally asked to solicit volunteers to donate blood for Red Cross blood drives.

“The personnel and training co-

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420

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➔ SCIENCE *Cont. from page 1*

proach emphasizes the practices of science and engineering, building the critical thinking and problem-solving abilities that are vital for success in STEM fields. In addition to learning new skills in a hands-on environment, participants gain a holistic understanding of the bioscience industry and opportunities available to them.

The biolab curriculum was co-developed with input from Maine bioscience employers and industry stakeholders. Public school teachers also provided feedback to inform the program through an educator survey. The Maine Mobile BIOLAB launched last spring with an initial focus on grades 5 to 8 and the entire program is available at no cost to schools.

Across America and in Maine, employment in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) occupations has grown substantially in the past 35 years, rising from 9.7 million in 1990 to 17.3 million this year, according to research compiled by the U.S. Labor Department.

Having a STEM-related degree can also boost potential earnings as students explore potential careers. Statistics show that the average STEM worker earns \$54,745 annually while a non-STEM worker typically earns \$40,505.

The Life Sciences field happens to be one of the fastest growing industries in Maine and in the past five years, high-paying bioscience jobs in Maine have risen by 42 percent. With more STEM graduates, it is expected that in the future Maine could become

a busy biotech hub, so the mobile lab might foster more interest among students who had not previously considered these types of careers.

“The novelty of having lab sessions in a giant RV with four large lab stations was fun,” Ouellette said. “In class we are following up on the labs we completed by looking at the data collected and continuing our learning.”

She said that the Maine Mobile BIOLAB’s “Where Did the Sugar Go? connects well with material her students were studying such as human body systems and structures and the functions of cells, tissues, and organs. We also can connect it to photosynthesis and respiration, and other chemical processes that occur in the cells of organisms.”

The BIOLAB is an initiative of Educate Maine which believes that all Maine people must have access to a high-quality education that provides them with the knowledge, skills, and dispositions required for career and economic success. It is committed to addressing inequities across the state and believes that the mobile lab will increase access and decrease barriers and create unique experiences for middle school students in Maine. Educate Maine champions career readiness by increasing the educational attainment of Maine residents, enabling all students to succeed in postsecondary education and in the workplace. As a business-led education advocacy organization, Educate Maine also administers four signature programs with key partners: Maine Teacher of the Year Program, Project>Login, Education Leaders Experience, and Maine Career Catalyst. <

Town of Raymond property tax revaluations ongoing

By Kendra Raymond
STAFF WRITER

The Town of Raymond is currently conducting property tax revaluations and anticipating a steady process while asking for cooperation from residents as they move through the process, which should wrap up during the summer of 2026.

KRT Appraisal of Haverhill, Massachusetts has been contracted to collect data by making a site visit to each property in the Town of Raymond. Employees will measure buildings on each property and perform a quick interior inspection, which allows for accurate determinations of value.

Raymond Assessors Agent Curt Lebel says that things are going smoothly so far. His role is to implement the program as the town moves through the steps.

“Right now, probably for the next five months or so we will be in the data collection phase,” he said. “KRT staff will be visiting every property in town measuring every house through the summer into the fall.”

With over 4,000 properties to visit, Lebel said that KRT staff are focused on working area by area. If property owners are not at home, a letter will be sent to schedule a return visit.

Lebel says that obtaining solid information on each property will allow the town to build a valuation model for the appraisal process. Currently, KRT staff members are visiting homes in the Mill and Main Street neighbor-

hoods as well as the first part of Webbs Mills Road.

KRT continues to send out batches of post cards for various neighborhoods. Once you receive a card, you can plan on a visit within the next 60 days. KRT employees are working through a methodical process street by street. Unfortunately, homeowners are not able to pre-schedule appointments. If the property owner is not home, a letter will be sent requesting an interior inspection appointment.

Property owners can be reassured that KRT personnel will clearly identify themselves with name badges and signage on their vehicle, Lebel said. They will also present a letter from the Raymond Contract Assessor and Raymond’s Town Manager.

So far, Lebel says that the data collection has been sporadic, but residents are becoming more aware of the visits.

“Overall, residents know what is going on. Most of our feedback will be later in the process,” he said. “Right now, like a lot of towns, our average assessment is 40 to 50 percent of the market value. Valuations can double but there could be a corresponding decrease in the tax rate.”

The KRT Appraisal in Raymond website provides the following FAQs:

What is a Full Revaluation?

The Town of Raymond has hired KRT Appraisal (KRT) to complete a Full Revaluation. According to Maine

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Saturday, June 21st

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The Edgar Allen Poe Escape Room - \$1,400	Vista Cruisers Band - \$1000
Phil Smith Roaming Magician - \$1,000	The Silver Circus - \$1,000
Summerfest Parade - \$1,000	PortaPotties/Wash Stations - \$990
Summerfest Tie Dye Shirts - \$750	Chairs, Tables & Benches - \$600
Tents - \$500	Photographer - \$500
Fireworks Cleanup - \$400	ATM Machine - \$150
Community and Individual Donations	



WindhamSummerfest.com

Earth Day activities show concern for environment

By Elle Curtis
STAFF WRITER

With Earth Day approaching on April 22, it's a day when the community comes together through engaging activities to raise awareness and demonstrate support for the environment.

To help preserve the natural environment, ensure safe passage for outdoor enthusiasts, and help maintain the overall quality of the ecosystem, the newly founded JAR Co. Eco team will be doing their first clean-up on Earth Day at 9 a.m. Tuesday, April 22 and again at 2 p.m. that same day. Participants will be cleaning the side of Route 302 and the trail that leads up to Storm Drive.

"Clean-ups provide a tangible way for residents to come together and work toward a common objective," said JAR Co store manager Maci Libby. "Seeing the positive impact of a clean-up brings pride and develops a sense of belonging."

Through its clean-up activity, JAR Co. strives to lead by example by prioritizing environmental sustainability and making small changes with hopes of leaving a lasting impact.

"We hope to foster social bonds, encourage participation, promote environmental awareness, and increase a sense of pride in our community," said Libby.

Community engagement supports both short and long-term efforts to protect the environment in addition to providing an opportunity for individuals with a passion for the



Earth Day is Tuesday, April 22. Do your part to cleanup our earth with things like picking up trash on the side of the roads in the stretch in front of your yard or driveway. If we all band together with small efforts it can lead to big impacts overall. COURTESY PHOTO

outdoors to come together and get younger members of the community excited about Earth Day.

This year Windham Primary School had a team of First Grade classes reach out to EcoMaine and coordinated a visit from them to the school to talk about the importance of caring for our planet and discuss with students the differences between recyclables and trash. Later this spring, WPS First Grade teacher Crystal Turner plans to take her students on a nature walk on the trails behind the school to enjoy the beautiful nature that surrounds us.

Engaging in new and unique activities assists in growing the interest

to learn. After a previous clean-up around Windham Primary last year, students were eager to take part in the project again this year.

Through reading stories like "If Polar Bears Disappeared" and "Give Bees a Chance," WPS Second Grade teacher Evanthia Daukopulos said that she strives to encourage and foster the love of all living and breathing things. In her classroom, plants and animals are talked about, prompting discussions about activities students can complete in the community and best practices at home to reduce, reuse, and recycle. On Earth Day, students will talk about what it means to make compost, how greenhouse gases warm the planet and how this affects our ecosystems.

"We have discussions around the idea "it only takes one person," said

Daukopulos. "The idea here is it takes one person to spread the message, practice the steps, and prolong our communities. Then that one person gives another person the knowledge and resources to combat climate change, then soon, many 'one' of us, becomes a whole community."

She said there is much positivity to be seen in how students want to learn and want to help protect this extraordinary planet we call home as they explore the effects of just one location or population, and how that then in turn affects other populations from around the world.

Earth Day is a day to raise global awareness on environmental issues while bringing the community together to make changes through opportunities to learn about and appreciate our planet, Daukopulos said. <

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STEM Summer Camp

Get ready for an unforgettable summer at the MSSM STEM Summer Camp! Hosted by one of the top-ranked high schools in the nation, this hands-on camp in Limestone, Maine lets curious minds explore everything from robotics and rocketry to coding, chemistry, and beyond. Whether your child dreams of building a robot or launching a weather balloon, MSSM is where big ideas take off. Spots fill fast and some weeks already have waiting lists, secure your place today!

Campers take three hands-on STEM classes each morning, head out on field trips in the afternoon, and wrap up each day with classic summer camp fun-think campfires, games, and more. Discovery Week (ages 10–12) is all about "Fun with STEM," introducing younger campers to exciting experiments and creative challenges.

Theme Weeks (ages 12–14) dive deeper into big ideas:

Space Week: Rockets, astronomy, the space race, and orbital physics

Earth Week: Sustainable energy, chemistry, solar science, and digital mapping

Tech Week: Programming, 3D printing, engineering, and game design



MSSM Summer Camp
Maine School of Science and Mathematics

www.MSSM.org/summer



Windham Public Works sets dates for leaf disposal site

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

After a long and dreary winter of removing ice from the driveway and shoveling snow from sidewalks, Windham residents are now taking a long look at their yards and once again collecting leaves and brush that may have built up on their property since last fall.

This week Windham’s Department of Public Works has announced the window of availability and hours for dropping off leaves and brush for disposal after spring residential clean-ups. The Windham Leaf and Brush Disposal Site will be open starting at 7 a.m. Saturday, April 19 and will close for the season at 6 p.m. Sunday, May 11.

The site will be open only for the disposal of leaves and brush and is located at the very end of Enterprise Drive off Route 302 behind the self-storage building in North Windham.

Windham DPW officials ask that residents dropping off items for disposal separate leaves from brush and

place them in the appropriate areas where the marked and posted signs indicate.

For those transporting leaves to the site in paper or plastic bags, DPW requests that the leaves be removed from the bags and the bags taken back home for proper disposal. They also ask that residents not take any brush or branches larger than 12 inches in diameter to the site for disposal. Grass clippings are allowed but large heavy tree stumps are not.

As a reminder, residents are not allowed to dump garbage, metal trash, used televisions or appliances at the town’s Leaf and Brush Disposal Site.

Windham DPW reminds town residents that leaves are not collected at the curb by the town, and bags of leaves should not be placed in recycling bins for collection.

Typically, about 400 to 500 yards in cubic feet of leaves and unwanted brush are collected each spring at the town disposal site every year during the spring season.

To use the service, load up your vehicle and take it to the site, which is



The Windham Leaf and Brush Disposal Site will be open starting at 7 a.m. Saturday, April 19 and will close for the season at 6 p.m. Sunday, May 11. The facility is at the end of Enterprise Drive off Route 302 behind the self-storage building in North Windham. COURTESY PHOTO

located behind the self-storage units on Enterprise Drive to the left. It will be open 24/7 to town residents.

While Windham’s Public Works department once handled both spring and fall brush disposal services, the town now is assisted in this bi-annual collection by R.J Grondin and Sons, a

family-owned construction company.

Larry Grondin, vice president of Grondin and Sons, said that it was a “good fit” to offer the town assistance with brush disposal.

“After we helped with Public Works’ new building, the initial plan was to just help out while construction was taking place,” he said. “Though we settled on us taking over with the brush disposal entirely since they no longer had the room for it. It’s worked out so far for us both and we like working with them.”

All materials gathered during the spring and fall brush seasons are given new life through Grondin and Sons.

Instead of burning the leaves and brush like residents in the past once would, Grondin and Sons instead repurpose the organic materials. The leaves are composted, and wood-based materials go toward creating heating materials.

Grondin said it’s great knowing that the leaves and brush gathered are repurposed rather than sent to a waste facility. The disposed materials gain a new purpose, and it also provides residents with a local site place to self-dispose of leaves and brush free of charge.

For further details about Windham’s Leaf and Brush Disposal Site, call the Windham Public Works Department at 207-892-1909 or visit www.windhammaine.us. <



Direct primary care, which you may see abbreviated as DPC, is a [subscription-based model for delivering primary care to patients](#). It's been around for about a decade, but it's only started gaining traction over the last few years. Now it's quickly becoming one of the hottest trends in primary care. Julie and Bob Bailey are the newest to bring this practice to the Windham area.

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DIRECTOR Cont. from page 1

and summer months, Windham will have about three or four new staff members on the highway crew and a new Buildings Tech for Buildings and Grounds.

“We will be trying to train them for their CDL licenses while completing all the usual spring and summer tasks like sweeping the roads, ditching and culvert work, prepping for paving projects, erosion control, overseeing basin cleaning and road striping and at the same time acclimating new employees to their upcoming plow routes,” he said. “Thoughts of winter are never too far off our radar.”

He emphasized that Windham Public Works does its best to maintain the safety and integrity of our roads.

“I, personally, take a lot of pride in our town and do my best every day to make sure we are serving the people in our community,” says Morin. <

Musicians team up to perform spring concerts at WHS

By Jolene Bailey
STAFF WRITER

There’s an old saying that when you create an orchestra you are building better citizens for the community. In RSU 14, music educators believe that when students play music, it allows a part of their artistic mind to express itself, key to helping provide balance to students intellectually, spiritually, and emotionally.

This spring, Windham Middle School musicians will team up with younger Manchester School musicians to perform two concerts together at the Windham High School Performing Arts Center next month. One concert will be performed with band students and the other with orchestra students.

According to Morgan Riley, WMS Band, Orchestra and Music teacher, this year’s concert will be a combined effort with fifth- through eighth-grade students performing so that students and parents from younger grade levels can be recognized for the dedication that all student-musicians put in throughout the years

“They like sharing all the hard work they’ve put into perfecting the concert songs,” Riley said. “It’s great to see so much support for student-musicians. Sometimes their whole extended families attend to hear the students.”

Riley says that in school music classes, the option of playing a musical instrument becomes available as early as in fifth grade at Manchester School. To showcase the student-musicians work before they enter high school courses, RSU 14 offers spring concerts to showcase student knowledge, talent



Windham Middle School's Eighth Grade Orchestra rehearses a musical composition while preparing for its upcoming annual Spring Concert with student musicians from Manchester School at Windham High School's Performing Arts Center. PHOTO BY MORGAN RILEY

and the musical skills that they learned over the course of one school year.

Granted the students in older grade levels have more years of experience and perform at a greater level, but Riley said all of the grade levels team up to collaborate and perform on the final song of this year’s concert.

Music teachers at both schools have been having students rehearse for this concert since January. During the rehearsals, students learn the music selections and prepare to give the best possible performances.

“We play for part of the class individually, but most of the class plays together as an ensemble,” Riley said. “In every class we move forward on our concert music and Method Book, where students learn new notes, rhythms, scales and musical markings.”

Among selections to be performed for this year’s concert are “Banana Boat Song,” a Jamaican folk song made famous by Harry Bellafonte in the movie “Beetlejuice,” two spring-

themed songs called “Spring” by Randall Standridge, and “After the Rain” by Matt Neufeld, which is a song with audience participation.

The student-musicians will also perform “Handclap,” a pop song made famous by Fitz and the Tantrums, and WMS eighth graders will perform “Blinding Lights,” a popular song originally performed by The Weeknd.

The WMS Sixth Grade Orchestra will perform songs ranging from the Beethoven tune, “Ode to Joy,” to an exciting piece by Richard Meyer called “Dragonhunter.”

Riley says that the older WMS orchestra students will perform an upbeat song by Soon Hee Newbold called “Storm,” and they will also perform a beautiful slow piece that stretches their ability to play differing dynam-

ics called “Colorful Sunrise” by Jukiko Nishimura, as well as Lady Gaga’s hit “Poker Face.” The WMS Eighth Grade Orchestra will present the theme song from the Disney Movie “Beauty and the Beast” during the concerts.

“I like making audio recordings of the ensembles and playing them back to the students,” Riley said. “They listen critically for things they are doing well and what we need to improve, and we work on those things. That self-assessment skill is essential for musicians. In the end, they always improve and feel proud of their accomplishments.”

She said that the middle school students are excited to perform with their younger counterparts from Manchester School and encouraging and inspiring the next generation of musicians in the school district.

“Young people often look up to older people due to the accumulated wisdom, life experiences, and established social roles that older individuals possess, offering guidance and perspective,” Riley said. “The magic of music can bring a community together and spark untold passions.”

The WMS/Manchester Spring Band Concert will be held on Tuesday, May 20 and the WMS/Manchester Spring Orchestra Concert is scheduled for Wednesday, May 21 with both concerts beginning at 6:30 p.m. each night in the WHS Performing Arts Center. <

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Windham continues 2025-2026 budgeting process

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

Members of the Windham Town Council will review 2025-2026 proposed budget subtraction and additions during a meeting on April 23 and then listen to public comments about the budget during a public hearing on May 13.

Windham Town Manager Barry Tibbetts and Assistant Town Manager Bob Burns presented the budget proposal to town councilors in February. It estimated a town budgetary increase of 5.26 percent with budget figures from RSU 14 and Cumberland County still being formulated.

Burns told councilors that town revenues for the next year are expected to be \$18,224,864 which is up slightly from 2024-2025's

\$18,083,104 and an overall increase of 0.78 percent.

"We're projecting stable and increasing revenues for Windham," Burns said.

According to Burns, town expenses will rise in 2025-2026 if this proposed budget is adopted by about 5.23 percent, going from \$33,497,270 to \$35,248,462.

He said that town overlay and TIF funding will remain the same as the previous town budget, leaving the overall estimated Windham Town Budget at \$48,601,147. That's a 3.4 percent increase from 2024-2025's \$46,991,715.

"We feel this budget fairly and accurately meets the needs of the town," Burns said.

Tibbetts said the annual budget

proposal is calculated based upon many different factors and influences, including slightly increased projected revenues, the town's general operating budget and fixed expenses, insurance costs, contractual obligations, energy costs, debt expenditures and personnel changes.

Fixed expenses for the town included in the budget proposal take into account insurance costs, employee healthcare, contractual obligations for municipal organizations, long-term contracts, debt expenditures and wage adjustments.

Barring any significant changes to the proposed budget, Windham's mil rate for tax purposes will rise from \$11.47 to \$11.74 which Tibbetts and Burns say is among the lowest of towns in Cumberland County.

Among items included in the proposed budget are funding to add a part-time General Assistance employee, a projected Cost of Living increase for municipal employees of 3.5 percent, and funding three potential projects including a new North Fire Station on Franklin Drive behind Hannaford Supermarket and across from Home Depot, renovation work to turn the current Windham Middle School into a community center for the town when it is vacated when construction is completed on the new Windham Raymond Middle School in 2027, and \$1.5 million for acquiring land from Portland Water District for expansion of youth athletic fields at Gambo Park and building a new public ice rink and playground by the new North Windham Fire Station.

The existing North Windham Fire Station on Route 302 is more than five decades old, and has experienced electrical issues, heating and cooling problems, and insufficient crew space, as the building was not designed to accommodate round-the-clock fire department staffing. The new location would be much easier and safer for firefighters when answering calls for assistance.

The proposed budget also would include a four-year incremental bond for construction of the new Windham Raymond Middle School, the purchase of new radio equipment for first responders, creation of a pocket park at Forbes Lane, purchasing two new snowplow trucks, a new dump truck, and a digital sign for the Windham Central Fire Station. Other expenditures included in the proposed budget are \$960,000 for continued roadwork and street maintenance, and \$1,466,110 for town building and facilities improvements.

The budget proposal was reviewed by the town's Finance Committee in March and was discussed again by town councilors on Tuesday evening. The council will hold a public hearing about the budget proposal on May 13 and final voting for the budget will be conducted during Windham's annual Town Meeting scheduled for on Saturday, June 14. <

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Nangle: Giving residents a fair shot at owning their communities

► **By Senator Tim Nangle**
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE



In the 1950s, my father bought a mobile home park in Danvers, Massachusetts. He didn't do it to get rich; he did it to build a life and a community.

— Sen. Tim Nangle

For decades, he kept that park running with a simple philosophy: treat people fairly. He fixed things himself, unclogging toilets and crawling under trailers on cold winter days. Sometimes he worked throughout the night to wrap heat tape around frozen pipes. If a tenant was late on rent, he worked with them. He took care of his tenants, and they appreciated that. When my father passed away, my siblings and I took over running the park and we did our best to carry my father's approach forward.

A few years ago, everything changed. We started getting unsolicited offers from private equity firms with deep pockets and little interest in the people who lived in the park. Their goal was simple — buy the park, raise rent and extract as much profit as possible.

Thankfully, Massachusetts has a strong law on its books that gives residents the right to match an outside offer and buy the park themselves. That law gave our residents a fighting chance and they took it. They organized, secured financing and made a competitive offer. Today, they own



the park and it's thriving under their ownership.

Their story could have ended very differently, though. And here in Maine, it too often does. That's why I've introduced LD 1145, "An Act to Protect Residents Living in Mobile Home Parks."

Mobile home parks are some of our last truly affordable housing options in Maine. But in recent years, they've become a favorite target of out-of-state investors looking to make a quick profit. These firms often raise rents, enforce strict eviction policies and skimp on maintenance. And because our current laws don't do enough to protect residents, their actions can go unchecked.

LD 1145 strengthens protections for park residents by:

- Requiring park owners to notify residents when they plan to sell.
- Giving residents 90 days to organize and make a purchase offer.
- Creating a clear right of first refusal so they can match any outside offer.
- Ensuring that if a park is being shut down or redeveloped, residents get 90 days' notice and help relocating, paid for by the park owner.

We've already seen signs that Main-

ers are ready and willing to step up. During the public hearing on this bill, Nora Gosselin from the Cooperative Development Institute shared that under Maine's current statute, residents in nine different communities have already organized and submitted competitive purchase offers — sometimes offering more than what corporate buyers had on the table. But six of those offers were rejected. As Nora put it, "The law needs to be strengthened into a Right of First Refusal to build upon an effective model, in an environment with so many aggressive, deep-pocketed, out-of-state corporations, amid an affordable housing crisis."

LD 1145 isn't radical. It's fair. It's practical. And it's proven. This bill gives residents the chance to hold on to the homes and communities

they've built not just for now, but for generations to come.

The bill is currently being considered by the Legislature's Housing and Economic Development Committee. If you agree that Mainers deserve a fair shot at owning their communities, I urge you to contact the committee and your local legislators. Let them know that you support LD 1145.

You can contact all members of the Housing and Economic Development Committee by sending an email to HED@legislature.maine.gov. To find your representative, visit legislature.maine.gov/house. <

The opinions in this column are those of the author. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions or views of The Windham Eagle newspaper ownership or its staff.

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➔ **REVALUATIONS** *Cont. from page 4*

Revenue Service, "Revaluation" means the development of new property valuations by a firm through the introduction of new grading and pricing schedules, the updating of existing grading and pricing schedules, or the maintenance of an existing valuation system.

A “Full Revaluation” includes measuring and listing all properties to verify existing assessment data. The end goal is for assessments to be adjusted to reflect market value as of April 1, 2026. This creates equity and ensures a fair distribution of the tax burden across all property owners. The last Revaluation was implemented in 2005.

Stages of a Full Revaluation

KRT will be updating existing grading and pricing schedules for property valuations and maintaining the existing valuation system by performing a Full Revaluation of assessment values. To accomplish this, KRT will complete five phases: (1) Data Collection, (2) Sales Review and Validation, (3) Market Analysis/Valuation, (4) Field Review, and (5) Informal Hearings. During these phases, many tasks will be completed to ensure the Full Revaluation is successful. Below is a general outline and explanation of each phase of the project.

Phase 1: Data Collection

The first phase, Data Collection of all property, began in February 2025. During this phase “Data Collectors”

go to each property in the Town to measure the exterior of each building and attempt to inspect the interior if the owner is available at the time of the visit. These Data Collectors note the buildings' location, size, age, quality of construction, improvements, topography, utilities, and numerous other characteristics both inside and out. They may also ask the homeowner a few questions regarding the property. To confirm that a home was inspected, the homeowner is asked to sign a data collection form. The data collected is subject to verification by the Town Assessor and a KRT Supervisor. KRT Field Representatives will carry Picture IDs, Municipal Letters of Introduction, and have their vehicles listed with both the Assessor's Office and the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department.

Prior to starting the data collection in your area, a postcard will be mailed to each property as notification that the property will be visited in the next few weeks. Data Collectors will arrive at your property unannounced shortly after the postcard is mailed and ring the bell and knock on the door. If someone is home, they will explain who they are, with their KRT badge visible, and ask for an interior and exterior inspection. Due to the large volume of properties to be inspected, we are unable to conduct this portion of the project on a pre-scheduled appointment basis.

If no one is home, they will assume it is ok to measure the outside of the

building and proceed to do so. A letter will be mailed out towards the end of the project (early spring of 2026) asking for a phone call to schedule an appointment for an interior inspection. The visit from KRT should not take more than 15 minutes from start to finish. Data Collectors will not visit a property posted “No Trespassing.” Posted properties will receive a letter asking for permission to visit the property at a scheduled time convenient for everyone.

Phase 2: Sales Review and Validation

During this phase, KRT appraisers will field review each property that sold between April 1, 2024, and March 31, 2026, to verify the information on the property record card for data accuracy. The appraiser will make notes regarding the property location, size, condition, quality of construction, and numerous other characteristics that may affect value. The goal is to gain a clear understanding of what sold and for what price. In conjunction with the Assessing Office, KRT will begin the process of qualifying sales as “arm’s length”. Only sales with market exposure between a willing buyer and willing seller (in other words, an “arm’s length” sale) will be used in the analysis.

Phase 3: Market Analysis/Valuation

A variety of resources are used to analyze the real estate market. KRT will be analyzing property sales that occurred between April 1, 2024, and March 31, 2026, to determine which market factors influenced property values. KRT will gather and use information from Maine Multiple Listing Service (MLS), property managers, developers, and local real estate professionals. Once all the data is collected and reviewed for accuracy, the appraiser will determine land values and delineate neighborhoods, which rate the desirability of locations throughout the town as determined by actual market activity.

During this phase, individual characteristics of the buildings are analyzed using information gathered in both Phases 1 and 2. Each property is compared to other comparable properties with similar characteristics. Then the market values of the improvements are added to the land value that was previously determined. This value is the final estimate for each parcel of property, building and land.

Valuation is done using one of the

three recognized appraisal methods: Cost Approach, Income Approach and Sales Comparable Approach. Mass appraisal uses a market adjusted cost approach to generate assessments. The income approach will be used for all income producing property and will be reconciled with the market adjusted cost approach.

Phase 4: Field Review

Field Review is the method of checking and re-checking both the values that have been determined and the accuracy of the data used. During this phase, properties are viewed in the field by experienced appraisers to ensure that the appraisal methodology established from the sale properties is consistently applied to the entire population of properties within the town.

Phase 5: Informal Hearings

Once the Field Review is completed and the values are approved by the Assessor's Office, a notice stating the proposed value will be mailed to each property owner. The goal is for this phase to be completed in July of 2026. At that time anyone with questions concerning the revaluation process or the value established for their property will have an opportunity to meet with a member of KRT's staff. After the five phases are completed, all data, files and records used in the revaluation will be turned over to the Assessor's Office for retention.

Lebel explained the logic behind the property valuations.

“The goals in Maine property valuations are used to apportion property taxes. The total tax includes schools, town, and county budget,” he said. “The values determine who pays what share. Over time, old models become less accurate. The new model better fits the current sales market,” he said. “Some folks will see no change, but some may see increases depending on how the market sees the property. It’s the appropriate sharing of tax with more fairness to distribute it.”

Raymond residents with questions are welcome to contact Lebel at 207-655-4742 to discuss the process.

To keep up to date on the current neighborhoods where data is being collected, or to learn more, visit the KRT website at: www.krtappraisal.com/dist/raymond

Visit the Town of Raymond website for additional information or to view the current map at www.raymondmaine.org <

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College Roundup

Kylee Amer; Samantha Bell; Brayden Cassidy; Heather Chase; Kendyl Cocco; Tyler Collins; Anna Crispin; Erika Darling; Chloe Fitts; Julia Gelston; Devin Gendron; Sarah Hamill; Lana Harding; Kaylee Himes; Gregory Hoar; Amie Huijon; Arthur Intwari; Beau Kennard; Raelyn Knowles; Evert Krikken; Samantha LeClair; Grace Lund; Amos Manzi; Connor Moreau; Karen Muhirwa; Gabe Ouellette; Emma Parsons; Abby Patenaude; Marshall Payne; Lake Peterson; Dylan Phillips; Alec Raccone; Aurora Raymond; Lauren Reynolds; Jessica Salazar; Carter Santos; Michelle Stinchfield; Abbigail Tedesco-Finlay; Payton Thorpe; Renata Valente; David Wasun; Michael Wong; and Israel Yoko, all of Windham, have been named to the Dean's List for academic excellence during the Fall 2024 semester at Southern Maine Community College.

Connor Daigle; Zachary Doyer; Cassia Flores Silva; Patrick Furey; and Lucas Littlefield, all of Raymond, have been named to the Dean's List for academic excellence during the Fall 2024 semester at Southern Maine Community College.

Greta Paulding of Windham has been named to the Dean's List with Distinction for the fall 2024 semester at Grove City College.

Aiden Benish; Lauren DeLuca; Ri-

ley Hennessy-Maguire; Logan Hirning; Tyler Johnsen; Kaiden Leech; Elizabeth Levesque; Nathan Mendes; Emma Morrison; Jude Morrison; Abbey Thornton; all of Windham, have been named to the Dean's List for academic honors at the University of Maine Orono for the Fall 2024 semester.

Chloe Borkush; Molly Cochrane; Baxter Engelman; and Cady Kluck, all of Raymond, have been named to the Dean's List for academic honors at the University of Maine Orono for the Fall 2024 semester.

Hannah Woznicki of Windham has been named to the President's List for highest academic distinction at the University of Maine Augusta for the Fall 2024 semester.

Briley Smart of Windham has been named to the Dean's List for outstanding academic performance at the University of Maine Augusta for the Fall 2024 semester.

Penny Lavalley, Katherine Lydon and Jolie Sebatware, all of Windham, have been named to the Dean's List for academic excellence at the University of Maine Fort Kent for the Fall 2024 semester.

Ashley Bell of Raymond has been named to the President's List for highest academic distinction at Husson University for the Fall 2024 semester. <

LIONS Cont. from page 3

ordinators would sometimes set up a little competition between ourselves and other stores to see who could convince the most associates to donate blood," she said. "One year I convinced and really begged 40 associates to donate. That was one out of every three or four of the associates in my store, including me. I have no shame for a good cause. Our store ended up having the most associates that donated blood. The joke in the store afterwards was to watch out if you see Evelyn coming. She will be asking you for either your money or your blood."

The Windham Lions Club was formed in 1969 and is a small but active group of service-minded men and women who want to make Wind-

ham a better place to live by serving the community in a variety of ways. It is part of the world's largest and most active service club organization, Lions Club International.



Evelyn Brissette of Windham was presented the Melvin Jones Award by the Windham Lions Club for her humanitarian efforts and devotion to the community. It's the highest honor that a Lions Club member can receive. From left are Gene Tanguay, Windham Lions President Camille Swander, Evelyn Brissette, and Patricia Tanguay. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Windham Lions Club members work with their fellow Lions in more than 170 counties and geographical areas to seek out and help the needy in their own communities, their country, and the world.

The Windham Lions Club meetings are held at the Windham Hill United Church of Christ, 140 Windham Center Road in Windham Maine on the first Wednesday of each month.

For more details about the Windham Lions Club send an email to windhamlionsme@gmail.com or visit <http://sites.google.com/site/windhamlionsclubmaine/announcements> <



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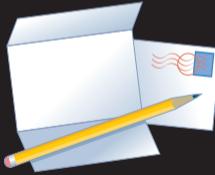


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We will be **CLOSED** on Easter Sunday, April 20th, so that our employees can enjoy the day with family and friends.



LETTER
to the editor

Editor,

In response to State Rep. Barbara Bagshaw’s letter of opinion under “Special to the Windham Eagle” dated March 14, I found her comments very disturbing as to why Maine schools are failing as she notes from the NAEP report that shows Math and English assessments are low for students tested in Fourth and Eighth grades.

Her opinion on the reason why is not based on a rational truth. The students are not testing poorly because of too much emphasis on “social-emotional learning and gender studies” nor her comment that Maine is prioritizing “illegal aliens” over Maine citizens.

Reasons why students are not doing well on standardized testing vary including lack of motivation, burn-out, test anxiety, teaching methods, testing environment, socio-economic disparities including poor nutrition, housing, poverty, lack of sleep, absent caregivers, biased questions, too much screen time, crowded classrooms, in-

effective teachers and administration, lack of diagnosed learning disabilities and programming.

Ms. Bagshaw’s statement that accuses Maine school boards of being run by “left leaning” law firms is ridiculous.

Playing politics as an excuse for students’ poor testing grades is typical scapegoating to draw attention away from real problems. The 2024 School Choice Summit in Utah that Ms. Bagshaw cites does not represent the country as a whole nor the state of Maine.

There is an ongoing debate whether school choice leads to better public schools. It is the continued rhetoric of “us against them” mentality that is causing our country to pit neighbor against neighbor. I am writing this because of the current violent behavior that is occurring nationally when someone voices an opinion that doesn’t agree with their own.

~ Jennifer Lotstein, Windham

Southern Maine Nurse Honor Guard



Members of the Southern Maine Nurse Honor Guard are dedicated to honoring nurses who have devoted their lives to the nursing profession and supported their fellow nurses. The organization’s purpose is to provide comfort, support, and empathy to the families and friends of fallen nurses. Members from the Lakes Region from left are nurses Karen Harding, Ann Kulovitz, Jill Rollins, Elaine Drew, Nancy Murphy and Lois Hardy. The Nurse Honor Guard offers services during their wakes and funerals, as well as bedside services for nurses nearing the end of life. During the service, a Nurse Honor Guard member will light a lamp, place a white rose at the memorial of the deceased nurse, and read the Florence Nightingale Tribute and poem. Colleagues of the nurse attending the funeral are invited to stand during the roll call. The ceremony can be scheduled at any time the family requests during the service. If you are a nurse interested in joining, find them on Facebook at Southern Maine Nurse Honor Guard. For further details, send an email to SouthernMaineNurseHonorGuard@gmail.com. SUBMITTED PHOTO

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Bureau of Motor Vehicles to start to issue new Pine Tree license plates in May

AUGUSTA – Starting May 1, the Maine Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) will introduce a new state license plate design, the Pine Tree Plate, impacting the majority of Maine residents.

“The Chickadee plates are in rough shape given their age, so we’re excited to roll out the first new standard license plate design in over 25 years starting May 1,” said Maine Secretary of State Shenna Bellows. “Mainers have design options – a classic design or a new Pine Tree plate – and they can make their choice online, in person, or by mail depending on what’s best for them.”

The current standard issue plate, the Chickadee license plate, has been in circulation for over 25 years.

In 2023, the law was amended requiring the BMV to issue a replacement to all Chickadee plates. These are the two new license plate designs: one with a Pine Tree and the North Star accompanying a blue identification number and letter combination, and one classic plain design that retains the blue identification number and letter combination but removes the Pine Tree and North Star.

“The new Pine Tree license plate is a symbol of Maine’s natural beauty and our heritage as the Pine Tree State,” said Maine Deputy Secretary for the BMV Cathie Curtis. “At the BMV, we’re looking forward to the new plates, and we’re committed to making the process for the customer as easy and efficient as possible.”

From May 2025 to April 2026 when an individual renews their chickadee plate registration, they will receive a new plate with a new identification number free of charge. The Pine Tree license plate will replace all standard issue license plate classes, while the “No Tree” is only available to the passenger car (PC) class license plates.

Reserving Your Current Chickadee License Plate Number

Anyone who would like to keep their current license plate number for any reason may do so for a fee of \$25. Those with vanity, low-digit and out-of-rotation Chickadee license plates must reserve their current plate number if they wish to maintain it, and the \$25 fee applies.

There are four convenient ways to reserve a Chickadee license plate number right now:

Online Reservation: Visit the official reservation page at maine.gov/online/reservemyplate.

Rapid Renewal: Reserve your plate when renewing your registration online at maine.gov/online/bmv/rapid-renewal.

In-Person Assistance: Visit your local BMV branch. Schedule an appointment through bit.ly/MaineBMVappointments.

Mail-in Form: Complete a license plate reservation form (PDF) and mail it to the BMV at 29 House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0029. <



Evergreen CU raises more than \$43K to fight hunger in Maine

According to Evergreen Credit Union, it successfully raised \$43,570.63 for the Maine Credit Unions’ Campaign for Ending Hunger in 2024.

Most of the funds were raised during Evergreen Credit Union’s annual disc golf tournament held at Pineland Farms in New Gloucester in October 2024. This event brought together members of the community, credit union employees, and disc golf enthusiasts for a day of friendly competition and philanthropy.

“Raising money for the Campaign for Ending Hunger is incredibly important to us,” said Jason Lindstrom, Evergreen Credit Union’s President/CEO. “By collaborating with credit unions across Maine, we can make a significant impact in the fight against food insecurity. We are grateful to our members and the community for their continued support.”

The Maine Credit Unions’ Campaign for Ending Hunger is a statewide initiative aimed at eradicating food insecurity in Maine through collaborative efforts among credit unions. Since its inception in 1990, the campaign has contributed more than \$14.9 million to end hunger in the state and collaboratively among participating state credit unions was able to raise \$1.3 million for food pantries in Maine in 2024 with 100 percent of all funds collected during the campaign by supporting organizations in Maine dedicated to fighting



Emma Pierce and Catie Scribner from Evergreen Credit Union present \$5,000 to the South Portland Food Cupboard raised as part of the Maine Credit Unions’ Campaign for Ending Hunger in 2024. SUBMITTED PHOTO

food insecurity.

Evergreen Credit Union officials say that they are donating funds that they raised for the campaign to the Windham Food Pantry, Harrison Food Bank, South Portland Food Cupboard, Crosswalk Community Outreach in Naples, and the Food Pantry at the Barbara Bush Children’s Hospital at Maine Medical Center in Portland.

As Maine’s fifth-largest credit union with over \$580 million in assets, Evergreen Credit Union provides exceptional banking services to its members while supporting the local community.

For more info and details about Evergreen Credit Union and its initiatives, visit egcu.org/community. <

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Town of Windham 2025

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Social Justice League observes Women’s History Month

By Jolene Bailey
STAFF WRITER

It’s said that education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world and it’s something that members of Windham High School’s Social Justice League Club took to heart in celebrating Women’s History Month in March.

The WHS Social Justice League Club was created as a place where students can be connected to the community with resources to educate and advocate for social change. The mission of this club is to aid students in learning how to use their voices to make changes in their community.

Throughout the month of March, student participants focused mainly on women and their struggles for social justice over the years.

“I think it is important to celebrate

women’s history because in many spaces the accomplishments of women are diminished or sometimes not even presented,” said Tianna Burton, faculty advisor for the WHS Social Justice League Club. “Various fields of study focus on the contributions of men for example Albert Einstein, Issac Newton, Nicola Tesla, Charles Dickinson, Shakespeare, Picasso, Michaelangelo, etc. But there are equally impressive discoveries and contributions to the fields of science, math, English, art and more made by women.”

During another one of the club’s meetings in March, WHS students shared stories and quotes from famous women in history. Different club members shared their inspiring quotes by women over the daily morning announcements during advisory.

This had helped depict students how



to invite them to celebrate the accomplishments of all members of the community. Meetings are held during the school’s PRIDE block and occasionally after school in WHS Room 209.

“My favorite memory about being the club’s advisor is how it started. It was illuminating to watch a student realize her goal and find success with the help of her peers,” Burton said. “I had never started a club or organization before this and supporting this intrinsically motivated student as she connected with various students, staff, and administration to make her dream a reality was truly inspiring. I also love watching as the students taught each other and later staff in an effort to make positive changes in their school. Students also created a workshop and presented at the New England Youth Identity Summit for over 50 different schools.”

Originally, the WHS Social Justice League was created by a female student at the school years ago. She, among many other club leaders in the school district, felt the need to contribute in creating a lasting, positive organization to help her community.

The WHS’ Social Justice League group focuses on issues of climate, wealth disparity, and the rights of marginalized groups including but not limited to, women, people with disabilities, Black people, and members of the LGBTQ+ community.

“I most look forward to the group meeting those original goals of our student founder, to growing our numbers, and to continue finding positive ways to contribute not only to our school community but also to society at large,” Burton said. “The imbalance of what students are taught leaves them with the understanding that the greats in every field are men. While there have been many exceptional males in history, there have always been women there, sometimes working behind the scenes, making equivalently exciting and extraordinary discoveries. There have been many contributions by women that I have learned about as an adult that I wish I had known when I was younger.”

This is the fourth year that the WHS Social Justice League has continued as a club to help advocate for the importance of using student voices to learn how to voice what they want and what is right. It teaches kids to be lifelong learners, and this group helps to really take that value to heart.

“Not only that, but they also stress the importance of sharing what they learn with others as well as attending beach clean-ups, the March For Our Lives, climate conferences, and other activities to bring social injustice to light and work to right it,” said Burton. <

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Simple ways to celebrate Earth Day on April 22 and every day

Earth Day, celebrated annually on April 22, is the perfect opportunity for families to come together and show their love for the planet. But caring for the Earth doesn't have to stop after one day—families can build eco-friendly habits into their daily lives and teach younger generations the value of sustainability. Here are some ways to make a positive impact all year long.

1. Plant Something Together: Whether it's a tree, flowers, or a backyard vegetable garden, planting is one of the most hands-on ways to connect with nature. Families can visit a local nursery to pick out native plants or vegetables that thrive in their region. Kids especially love digging in the dirt and watching their plants grow over time, making this an ongoing activity that reinforces patience, care, and environmental awareness.

2. Go on a Nature Walk or Clean-Up: A family hike or walk in a local park is a great way to appreciate the beauty of nature while also encouraging physical activity. Bring along gloves and bags to pick up litter as you go, turning the outing into a mini Earth Day clean-up. Make it fun by turning it into a scavenger hunt for types of leaves, birds, or insects.

3. Reduce, Reuse, and Upcycle: Earth Day is a great time to take a look at what your family consumes and tosses away. Challenge everyone to find household items they can reuse or repurpose—turn old jars into planters, make bird feeders from milk cartons,

or create art from recycled materials. It's a fun and creative way to reduce waste and inspire mindful habits.

4. Learn About Sustainability Together: Choose an Earth Day-themed book, documentary, or even a short video to watch as a family. Afterward, have a conversation about what you learned and what changes you can make at home. Knowledge builds action, and educating kids in a family-friendly, age-appropriate way helps build lasting awareness.

5. Practice Green Habits Daily: Even small changes can make a big difference. Commit to shopping locally to save the Earth from harmful emissions. You can also commit to turning off lights when you leave a room, taking shorter showers, bringing reusable bags when shopping, and recycling correctly. Make it a game or chart progress over time—kids love seeing their actions have results!

6. Support Eco-Friendly Businesses: Visit local farmers' markets, shop second-hand, or choose products made with sustainable practices. Talk with your kids about why these choices matter, helping them understand how their everyday actions can support a healthier planet.

By celebrating Earth Day as a family and embracing eco-conscious habits year-round, you can foster a strong connection to nature and instill a sense of responsibility that lasts a lifetime. Every little effort counts, especially when done together. <



William Stewart



Grade: Fifth Grade
School: Windham Christian Academy
Teacher: Mrs. Hagerstrom
Favorite Subject: Math
Parent's names: Megan and Jordan Stewart
Reason for selection: Will is a solid student who is a leader in the class. Will's favorite subject is math. He is careful with his work, and always turns in a quality product. He is kind and compassionate, always there to help a classmate in need. He is first to volunteer when a chore needs to be done. This year he played on the school basketball team and enjoyed the experience. When not at school, Will enjoys spending time with his family, playing video games with friends and playing outside.

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Applications due no later than April 30, 2025



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YOUTH PROGRAMS:
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MONDAYS 5P-6PM AT RVCC, GRADES K-8
Join our volunteer coaches to learn the game of chess. Connect with friends who enjoy the same game or play with new opponents!

Mad Science!

WEDNESDAYS (APRIL 2-MAY 28TH) 5PM-6PM AT RVCC
In this program, kids explore a variety of introductory topics in engineering, physics and chemistry as they learn how science can be applied in everyday life. They learn about concepts like bridge construction, the forces of flight, how air pressure can be used to move things, and more! At the end of every class, they take home an educational toy that extends the learning experience!

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CHALLENGER CAMPS FOR AGES 2-14
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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11TH FROM 6-7:30P AT RVCC
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This event is free of charge. Prizes - Snacks - Fun


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REGISTRATION STILL OPEN
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(Following the school schedule)
at Jordan Small Middle School
Grab your sneakers, bring your A-game & get ready for some high-energy, small-sided soccer!

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To register for any programs/ events or to see a list of all open registrations, please visit:
Raymond.recdesk.com





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EASTER THIS SATURDAY

Breakfast 8-9:30am

\$10 each

1443 Roosevelt Trail at Raymond Public Safety Building

This event is a fundraiser put on by Raymond Fire Local 5278


Upcoming ELECTION DETAILS

Tuesday, June 10th, 2025 from 7am-8pm
Jordan Small Middle School Gym, 23 Webbs Mills Rd, Raymond

VOTING ON:

- ★ **Municipal Election of Officers:**
 - Select Board – Budget-Finance Committee – RSU #14 Board of Directors
- ★ **Annual Town Meeting Warrant via secret ballot**
- ★ **RSU #14 Budget Validation & whether to continue voting to validate the RSU#14 annual budget**

Sample Ballots and notices will be posted on raymondmaine.org as available
Accepting requests for absentee ballots now through June 5th.
In-person absentee voting will begin at the Town Office when the ballots are received from the printers (approximately May 13th)



Gray-New Gloucester-Raymond
SPRING 2025

Little League Registration is Open!

T-BALL (\$80) CO-ED FOR PLAYERS AGES 4-6.
Games & practices last about 1 hour running from approx. April 29 - June 10.

COACH PITCH A (\$80) CO-ED FOR PLAYERS AGES 5-6
Games & practices last about 1 hour running from approx. April 29 - June 10.


PLAYER PITCH AA (\$140)
SOFTBALL & BASEBALL DIVISIONS FOR PLAYERS AGES 7-8.
Games & practices last about 1.5-2 hours running from approx. April 24 - June 14.

MINORS AAA (\$140)
SOFTBALL & BASEBALL DIVISIONS FOR PLAYERS AGES 9-10.
Games & practices last about 1.5-2 hours running from approx. April 24 - June 14.

MAJORS (\$140)
SOFTBALL & BASEBALL DIVISIONS FOR PLAYERS AGES 11-12.
Games & practices last about 1.5-2.5 hours running from approx. April 24 - June 14.

JUNIORS & SENIORS (\$150)
SOFTBALL & BASEBALL DIVISIONS FOR PLAYERS 13-16.
Games & practices usually start in June after the school season ends.

**Our league offers Scholarship Assistance for players in need.*
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ROADRUNNER

ND – APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER

EVENTS


DAY, APRIL 19



Egg Hunt
10:00am

Free Event at Raymond Elementary School
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Raymond Village Library

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Hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays from 9:00am-6:00pm
Fridays & Saturdays from 9:00am-2:00pm
NOTE: closed Saturday, April 19 in observance of Patriots' Day

Book Club
April 30th from 5-6pm – The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store by American writer James McBride
This book was released in 2023 to critical success. The novel tells the story of Black and Jewish residents of the Chicken Hill neighborhood of Pottstown, Pennsylvania, in the 1920s and '30s.

Historical Fiction Book Club
May 8th at 1pm – A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles
In 1922, Count Alexander Rostov is deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal, and is sentenced to house arrest in the Metropol, a grand hotel across the street from the Kremlin. Rostov, an indomitable man of erudition and wit, has never worked a day in his life, and must now live in an attic room while some of the most tumultuous decades in Russian history are unfolding outside the hotel's doors. Unexpectedly, his reduced circumstances provide him entry into a much larger world of emotional discovery.


Raymond Reads!
A new community-wide reading series! We picked 3 new titles by Maine authors and will be giving out free copies to patrons of the Chickadee Consortium – while supplies last. Stop by RVL to get the first book: *The Savage Noble Death of Babs Dionne* by Ron Currie.

Book Talk & Signing
May 29th at 6pm with Ron Currie
He will be on site to discuss *The Savage Noble Death of Babs Dionne*

Weekly Programming:
Bridge Club – Tuesdays 9am-noon
Evening Book Group – Last Tuesday of the month
Preschool Storytime – Wednesdays at 10:30am
Baby Storytime – Thursdays at 10:30am


Anytime Drop-in Table Activities:
A variety of art, crafts, Legos, & block stations are available in the children's room throughout the week.

PROPERTY TAX PAYMENTS
ARE DUE BY 4/30/2025!



TAX PAYMENTS FOR
THE SECOND HALF
of Fiscal Year
2024/2025 taxes
are due by
April 30th, 2025.

*Interest charges at 8.5% annum will be applied after the April 30th deadline on balances due. Please contact the Tax Collector with any questions at 207-655-4742 x 122




Raymond
Property
Revaluation

This project includes the inspection and market valuation of all property within the town as of April 1, 2026.

KRT Appraisal has been contracted by the Town of Raymond to complete a full town-wide revaluation. This project is required to more fairly distribute Raymond's property tax obligations & because the town's current assessment methodology is 20 years old and falling out of compliance with state standards.

The Assessing Office is currently, NOT scheduling appointments for site visits. In these early phases, KRT will be going door to door with street lists. If the property owner is unavailable a note will be left with instructions on the next follow-up attempts.

FMI or questions contact the Town Assessor at 655-4742 or visit: [KRT Appraisal \[krtappraisal.com/dist/raymond.html\]\(https://krtappraisal.com/dist/raymond.html\) and \[www.raymondmaine.org/town-office/assessing\]\(https://www.raymondmaine.org/town-office/assessing\)](https://krtappraisal.com/dist/raymond.html)

KRT Appraisal

PROCESS UPDATES

KRT Property Appraisal has ramped up their staff for Raymond. The Data Collectors are out in full force attempting to capture and correct any information that doesn't match the current Property Tax Record Card. There are no assessments given during this phase of the project. The representative is there to measure, capture bedroom/bathroom counts, and confirm materials used (hardwood, laminate, granite, etc).

COMMON QUESTIONS:

1. Do I have to let KRT Appraisal staff into my home? The short answer is...no. It is entirely up to the property owner who they wish to let into their home. The Town is requesting your full cooperation with this project to make it as accurate and fair as possible. KRT staff act as an agent for the Town of Raymond and are professionally trained to inspect property and note aspects of a properties construction and condition to be used later in the reval process.

2. What happens if I refuse to let them in? To ensure an accurate assessment of your property, it is to your advantage to allow the assessment personnel inside. Without this step of the process, KRT and the Town will be forced to estimate the unseen components of the property. By denying access for an inspection, you may jeopardize your ability to appeal your assessment later.

3. I want to make an appointment, why do they just show up? During this phase, KRT staff are trying to capture as much information as possible, as efficiently as possible. There are nearly 4,000 properties to inspect during this project and the first push is to hit as many homes as possible which is done by working of the tax maps and going street to street.

4. What happens if I am not home? KRT staff will walk around the property to capture outside measurements of houses, garages, decks, sheds, etc. In the Spring of 2026 residents will be mailed a letter with the proposed new assessment. At that time, KRT will request property owners to contact them if there are questions on the new assessment. An "Informal Hearing" meeting will be scheduled to discuss your valuation prior to the finalization of assessments.

Windham company to be featured in ‘In With the Old’ TV series

A Windham company specializing in reclaimed lumber and flooring, Rousseau Reclaimed Lumber & Flooring, will be featured in an upcoming episode of the Magnolia TV Network’s “In With the Old” debuting at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 26 and streaming on Discovery+ and Max.

The episode is titled “Hamlet on the Hudson” and shows the results of the makeover of a 1910 Germantown, New York Hudson Valley farmhouse owned by entertainment personalities Amanda Pays and Corbin Bernsen that sits on eight acres of farmland dating back to before the Revolutionary War.

Rousseau Reclaimed Lumber & Flooring provided flooring that was reclaimed from the roof sheathing of a Northern Maine clothespin factory and beams from an 1800s barn. Although both buildings have been torn down and their sites redeveloped, the centuries-old materials have found a new life in the Germantown home of Pays and Bernsen.

John Rousseau has owned Reclaimed Lumber & Flooring for



Rousseau Reclaimed Lumber & Flooring of Windham will be featured in an upcoming episode of the Magnolia TV Network’s ‘In With the Old’ and details the results of the makeover of a 1910 Germantown, New York Hudson Valley farmhouse owned by entertainment personalities Amanda Pays and Corbin Bernsen on eight acres of farmland dating back to before the Revolutionary War. The Windham company provided flooring that was reclaimed from the roof sheathing of a Northern Maine clothespin factory and beams from an 1800s barn.. SUBMITTED PHOTO

30 years and is one of the region’s foremost experts on turning salvage wood into useful products such as

flooring, structural and aesthetic elements for homes and businesses, according to a press release. His business reclaims salvaged and antique lumber turning it into flooring, timbers, millwork and job-ready lumber

for architects, contractors, designers and homeowners throughout the Northeastern U.S.

The Bernsens have refurbished over 30 homes in New York and California while each of them had successful acting and entertainment careers. They recognized the value of reaching out to Rousseau in providing a unique product for their home.

The “Hamlet on the Hudson” segment of “In With the Old” will air on the Magnolia Network on Spectrum channels 97 and 161, DIRECTV channel 230, and DISH Network channel 111. It will be available for streaming on Discovery+ and Max.

The Magnolia Network is an American cable network owned by Warner Bros., Discovery and Chip and Joanna Gaines. It broadcasts personality-based lifestyle programs related to topics such as home construction, renovation, and cuisine.

“In With the Old” is a Magnolia Network series that launched in 2021 and highlights designers, builders and old-home enthusiasts across America who re-imagine and transform abandoned structures by preserving their historical integrity while giving them new purpose. <

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Town of Windham Annual Educational Scholarship

The Town of Windham, Maine is offering three \$1,500 scholarships to Windham, Maine residents wishing to pursue educational opportunities.

This scholarship would support someone pursuing education at a university/college, 2-year college/technical school, or a trade school.

All applicants must submit a completed application including a high school transcript, and a one-page document indicating your future educational and career objectives and why you feel you deserve this scholarship.

For an application & submission details please scan here or visit:
www.windhammaine.us/769/
Town-Annual-Educational-Scholarship

MUST APPLY BY APRIL 30TH

Maine Legislature enacts Highway Budget to fund state roads and bridges

The Maine Legislature has recently enacted a two-year Highway Fund Budget with unanimous support.

The budget, LD 274, appropriates funding to agencies responsible for the maintenance of the state's transportation system, including the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Secretary of State's Office. It went into effect immediately after being signed by Maine Gov. Janet Mills late last month.

The main function of the Highway Fund Budget is to support the projects outlined in the Department of Transportation's three-year work plan, which sets a strategy for the upkeep of Maine's roads, bridges and other transportation infrastructure.

The budget helps the Department fulfill its mission of supporting “economic opportunity and quality of life by responsibly providing our customers with the safest and most reliable transportation system possible.”

“Maine’s roads and bridges are the foundation of everyday life – people travel them to get to work or visit family, they carry the food that stocks our grocery stores and they connect our

vast, beautiful state,” said Senate Chair of the Transportation Committee, Sen. Tim Nangle, D-Windham. “Keeping our transportation infrastructure in good repair is one of the most important responsibilities of government. I was proud to lead the effort to craft this year’s transportation budget, and I am glad the Legislature has taken action to ensure we keep this basic, yet fundamental, commitment to Maine people.”

Other legislators agree.

“This unanimous, two-year transportation budget demonstrates our commitment as a state to investing in the safety of Maine people and improving the quality of life for all who live and visit here,” said House Chair of the Transportation Committee, Rep. Lydia Crafts, D-Newcastle. “It will provide important funding to repair infrastructure like state roads, maintain and replace bridges, support public transit, and clear roads of snow and ice in the winter. Through this budget, state government is delivering on one of its core responsibilities to Mainers, and I’m proud of all the work the committee did to make it happen.” <

Detecting Oral Masses in Cats and Dogs: Why Early Diagnosis Matters

Oral tumors are, unfortunately, a common concern in both cats and dogs. These masses can range from benign growths to aggressive cancers — and the earlier they’re found, the better the outcome. At Mainly Veterinary Dentistry, our use of Cone Beam CT technology during routine COHATs (Comprehensive Oral Health Assessment and Treatments) has significantly improved our ability to treat and diagnose and sometimes detect oral and other head masses in their earliest stages, when treatment is more effective and less invasive.

WHY EARLY DETECTION IS CRUCIAL

Routine dental exams are about more than just preventing tartar and periodontal disease — they're often the only way to discover hidden masses in the mouth. Since pets don't typically allow a full oral exam while awake, many tumors go unnoticed until they grow large enough to cause discomfort or visible symptoms.

That's where routine annual or biannual COHATS and Cone Beam CT come in. This advanced imaging tool allows us to create detailed 3D scans of your pet's skull, uncovering tumors or abnormalities that may not show up on traditional x-rays. When paired with a thorough oral exam under anesthesia during a COHAT, Cone Beam CT helps us identify small masses or other problems early, sometimes before they become visible to the naked eye.

TYPES OF ORAL MASSES IN PETS

Both cats and dogs can develop oral masses — some benign, others malignant, and some non-cancerous altogether (such as inflamed tissue). Unfortunately, there's no way to determine the nature of a mass just by looking at it. That's why we recommend surgical sampling and histopathology for a definitive diagnosis.

COMMON ORAL MASSES IN DOGS

- **Peripheral Odontogenic Fibroma:** One of the most common benign tumors in dogs, this mass typically forms near the periodontal ligament. Some are small and easily removed, while others may require removal of the associated tooth to prevent recurrence.

- **Acanthomatous Ameloblastoma:** Another benign tumor, but more aggressive. These often invade the surrounding bone, requiring 1 cm surgical margins for successful removal. Cone Beam CT helps us assess how deeply these masses invade the bone, improving surgical planning and outcomes.

- **Melanoma:** The most common malignant oral tumor in dogs, melanomas can vary in appearance and behavior. They often spread to lymph nodes and require wider surgical margins (2 cm). Cone Beam CT is especially valuable here, helping detect early bone involvement or lymph node changes.

COMMON ORAL MASSES IN CATS

- Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC): The most common oral tumor in cats, SCC is highly invasive and difficult to treat once advanced. It accounts for up to 80% of feline oral cancers. Early detection is key — but due to the small size of the feline oral cavity, it's often too late by the time symptoms appear.

Routine regular dentistry paired with Cone Beam CT could increase the chance of detecting this cancer early, giving cats a better chance at treatment options. Once a cat is symptomatic for this severely painful disease it is often too late.

DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT

When it comes to oral masses, timing makes all the difference. That's why we recommend annual or biannual COHATs for all cats and dogs — not only to keep teeth clean, but to identify issues like tumors, fractured teeth, and bone loss before they become severe.

At Mainely Veterinary Dentistry, we include Cone Beam CT imaging as part of our advanced diagnostic process. This gives us a clearer, more accurate view of your pet's oral and facial structures, allowing us to detect hidden tumors, determine surgical margins, and create the most effective treatment plan possible.

If your pet has not had a COHAT recently — or if you’ve noticed anything unusual in their mouth — don’t wait. Early diagnosis leads to better outcomes and more treatment options.

FACT: Early detection is key

↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓

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How Easter eggs, egg hunts, baskets and the Easter Bunny became Easter traditions among families

Easter is one of the most widely celebrated holidays around the world, marked by a rich blend of religious significance and festive family traditions. While at its heart Easter commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ, many of the activities we associate with the holiday—like dyeing eggs, hunting for them, filling Easter baskets, and welcoming the Easter Bunny—have surprisingly diverse origins. These beloved customs didn’t appear all at once, but gradually evolved from ancient springtime rituals, folklore, and cultural traditions that found their way into celebrations over centuries.

One of the most iconic Easter sym-

bol is the egg. Today, children eagerly search for brightly colored eggs hidden in gardens and parks, but long before plastic eggs were filled with candy, real eggs carried deep meaning. In many ancient cultures, eggs symbolized new life and fertility, particularly during the spring—a time of rebirth and renewal in nature. As Christianity spread across Europe, early Christians adopted the egg as a representation of resurrection and the promise of new life through Christ. It became customary to eat eggs at Easter, especially since they were traditionally forbidden during Lent. When Lent ended, enjoying eggs became part of the celebration.

The act of decorating eggs also has ancient roots. In early Christian communities, especially in the Middle East, eggs were dyed red to symbolize the blood of Christ. Over time, this practice expanded throughout Europe and took on creative variations. People began using natural dyes made from plants and spices to create vibrant colors. Eventually, egg dyeing became a beloved Easter tradition, not just for its symbolism but also for the joy and creativity it brings to families. Today, dyeing eggs is a fun and artistic way for children and adults to prepare for the holiday together.

Alongside eggs came another curious addition to the Easter story: the Easter Bunny. While there’s no mention of a bunny in biblical Easter stories, the rabbit has long been a symbol of fertility and spring in folklore. The version we know today is largely inspired by a German legend about the "Osterhase," a magical hare who laid colorful eggs for good children to find. German immigrants brought this tale to America in the 1700s, and over time, the tradition evolved. The hare became a bunny, the eggs became candy-filled, and children began waking up on Easter morning to baskets full of treats left by this mysterious, generous visitor.

The tradition of Easter baskets also has its roots in this early German folklore. Children would prepare nests for the "Osterhase" to fill with eggs, often using hats or bonnets lined with grass.

As the tradition evolved in the U.S., those nests transformed into woven baskets, and the goodies expanded to include chocolates, small toys, and gifts. The basket itself became symbolic of abundance and blessing—echoing the themes of spring and renewal—and gradually became a centerpiece of the modern Easter morning celebration. Today, Easter baskets are not only a delight for children, but also a way for families to share love and joy during the holiday.

From there, the Easter egg hunt naturally followed. Inspired by the story of the Easter Bunny hiding eggs for children, families began organizing egg hunts—first in small home gardens and eventually as large community events. These hunts became an exciting way for kids to explore, laugh, and celebrate the holiday, often turning into cherished yearly traditions. Whether hosted by churches, schools, or families in their own backyards, Easter egg hunts remain one of the most joyful and anticipated parts of the holiday.

Together, these customs—dyeing eggs, egg hunts, Easter baskets, and the Easter Bunny—have become a meaningful and playful part of how Easter is celebrated today. They reflect a unique blend of ancient symbolism, cultural storytelling, and seasonal joy. While the spiritual roots of Easter remain central for many, these traditions help bring families together in a spirit of wonder, creativity, and renewal.

In the end, that’s what Easter is all about: a celebration of life, hope, and new beginnings—whether through quiet reflection, vibrant eggs, or a bunny’s playful surprise. <



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NOTICE OF STAFF REVIEW

You are hereby notified that the Raymond Code Enforcement Officer and Contract Town Planner are conducting a Site Plan Staff Review on the following matter:

APPLICANT: True North Builders LLC

LOCATION: Road Name TBD – off Mountain Road
MAP 15, LOT 81A; ZONE R

DESCRIPTION: Construction of a Backlot Driveway

Copy of the submitted application is available for review at the Town Office (401 Webbs Mills Road) by appointment during regular business hours. Please call 207-655-4742 x134 to schedule an appointment.
Documents are also on the Town’s website.

You have until May 18th, 2025 to respond with any objections or concerns about this project.

You may email your comments to the Raymond Planning and Zoning Administrative Assistant at sandy.fredricks@raymondmaine.org.

The end of an era?

By Andy Young
STAFF WRITER



- Andy Young, Columnist

The 100-year agreement designating the bunny as Easter’s official animal has just expired. Until recently it was assumed the continuation of the adorable cottontail’s reign as the holiday’s trademark was a mere formality.

However, determined digging by attorneys skilled in trademark law has revealed the 1925 contract included a clause allowing, after a century has gone by, a one-time opportunity for either of the involved parties to “opt out” of the agreement.

Bunny fans are concerned, and with reason. Easter’s original owners sold the holiday to a consortium of greeting card conglomerates, chocolatiers, and plush toy manufacturers in the late 1970s, and hammering out a new deal with a cartel consisting of a bunch of corporate CEOs is a lot different than negotiating with a genial pope and the Vatican.

Easter has become a multi-billion-dollar industry, and there’s no shortage of groups and/or individuals wanting a piece of it. Those trying to get Easter to re-up with the bunny have their work cut out for them. The competition is fierce, as plenty of animals are vying for what is a potential gold mine, not to mention a public relations bonanza.

“Who says bunnies are cuter than squirrels, chipmunks, or hedgehogs?” asks Avaricious Q. Farquhar, an attorney representing a variety of small animals.

American Avian Association president Harold Rapacious called bunnies “Yesterday’s news,” dismissively adding, “they’ve had their day.” The



AAA represents groups advocating for both the Easter Parrot and the Easter Dove.

Adds Nestor Skroobawl, public relations director for a group touting the Easter Eagle, “When’s the last time a bunny laid any eggs, let alone the Easter kind?”

Ching-Ching Yeah, spokesperson for the Easter Panda Association declares, “The ugliest panda is infinitely more adorable than the cutest bunny.”

“What have rabbits ever done besides rob Mr. McGregor’s garden?” asks Conrad Eurograbber, head of a group hoping a lovable, drooling service animal, the Easter St. Bernard, will gallop in with a basket of Easter eggs each April and become the holiday’s future logo.

“It’s high time Easter ends their unholy alliance with these unseemly creatures!” huffs Eunice Priggish, who has campaigned for the Easter bunny’s excommunication ever since “Bunnies” became an integral part of the Playboy empire in 1960.

Attacks on the Easter Bunny aren’t limited to the Northern Hemisphere. “You call those hops?” scoffs Laughlin Downunder, spokesperson for an Australian group bidding to replace the Easter Bunny with the Easter Kangaroo. “Compared to one of our

‘roos, bunnies don’t hop; they limp!”

Individuals or groups pushing to replace the bunny include proponents of the Easter Elephant, the Easter Tiger, the Easter Flamingo, the Easter Weasel, the Easter Jellyfish, and the Easter Giraffe, among others. “Sure, we’re a longshot,”

says Spiros Noncomposmentis, who represents a group trying to install an unlikely holiday animal. “But if we don’t point out the attractiveness of the Easter Jackal, who will?”

Says one industry insider: “Those rabbit people have the toughest job this side of selling pork in Saudi Ara-

bia.” The Easter Bunny’s spokesperson, Virtuous D. Fender, vigorously defends her client. “Rabbits in general and the Easter Bunny in particular are inherent parts of society. Who’d watch a movie called ‘Who Framed Roger Raccoon?’” she asks rhetorically. “And seriously, could Bugs Beaver have dominated Elmer Fudd and Yosemite Sam? Buck teeth aren’t everything; long ears matter, too.”

Ms. Fender admits, though, that with billions of Easter industry dollars at stake, she and her leporine clients are facing an uphill battle.

“There’s no question it’s dog-eat-dog out there,” she says of the current competition for official Easter animal status.

She’d better hope it’s not jackal-eat-bunny. <





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Windham boys' lacrosse team avoids shutout in scrimmage

By Matt Pascarella
STAFF WRITER

The Windham High varsity boys' lacrosse team suited up for a pre-season scrimmage against Yarmouth, but came out on the wrong end, falling 16-2 against Yarmouth on Monday, April 14 at Yarmouth High School.

Yarmouth came out very strong in the scrimmage and scored several goals in the first half. The Eagles kept at it, and scored twice in the second half, but it wasn't enough against Yarmouth.

Windham plays its first regular season boys' lacrosse game on Thursday, April 17 against Scarborough.

"We just got to move on and not fixate on this loss," said Windham sophomore Luke Drottar. "We have a lot of potential; a lot of these guys are pretty good. I think we'll bounce back. I think just more preparation and practice will help a lot. On the offensive side I think we swung the ball pretty well, on the defensive side we definitely slid our feet a lot better than our last scrimmage."

Yarmouth came out strong and scored five goals in the first quarter. Windham still had plenty of time and kept their heads up early in the game.

While Windham remained intense, Yarmouth's offense kept on the attack. Windham took several shots at goal but Yarmouth led at halftime, 12-0.

"I think we've got to get after it man down, man up, cutting toward the ball," said Windham sophomore Tegan Perkins. "For defense, we got to be more talking and for our second slide, we just got to pitch it and have that all day and be really physical in slides. I think the game started to fall



(L to R) Windham junior Mason Arbour is first to the ball during a boys' prep lacrosse scrimmage against Yarmouth at Yarmouth High on Monday, April 14. Senior Lukas Hammond looks to pass. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

when we started getting chippy, when kids would drop a ball or make a bad pass and just put their heads down. I think our quick passes were really good and our first slide was mostly there every time; our right and left were there every time. We had a few guys who were super physical and always there and a couple guys who were just super loud, and it helped to have our goalie really loud. Caden Valle stepped up in goal."

In the second half, Drottar intercepted a Yarmouth pass and scored.

Windham continued to take shots at the Yarmouth goalie, which resulted in freshman Sean Lebel scoring late in the fourth quarter.

"We got to play within the rules of the game," said Windham varsity boys' lacrosse coach Peter Small. "We were playing 'chippy' (overly aggressive) beyond the rules of the game. I want us to play aggressive but within

the rules of the game. As we started to get frustrated, we started to play chippy and get outside our head and stopped playing the way we think and know we should play. Our skill level is there; our foot movement on defense was pretty good, at times our sticks were really good; on the offensive side we can move in position, and we can move the ball really well."

Small said that this loss shows everyone from coaches down to players needs to lock in. As they started to put

pieces together of people who haven't played together, communication needs to happen more.

He said the WHS team's eyes are wider open now to the pace at which the game needs to be played. According to Small, they need to put those pieces together and move in a concerted 10 guys on the field entering the regular season.

Their next home game for Windham is at 6:45 p.m. Tuesday, April 29 against Biddeford. <



Freshman Sean Lebel fires a shot at goal and score.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Lauren Nickel

Age: 14 **Team:** WMS Swim Team
Coach: Anne Fougere
Parents' names: Katie and Ben Nickel
Reason for selection: Lauren has been a standout on this team and her leadership qualities set her apart. She has taken on many tough opponents' lineups, swimming backstroke, butterfly, and freestyle without hesitation. She can be found encouraging her teammates during the swim meets and in practices with enthusiasm and energy. As an eighth grader, she has grown drastically over the years and her positive attitude and commitment make her a role model to others on the team and a true leader on the deck. During the team's last meet of the season, Lauren played an important role in having a successful meet as a team and fought hard to be in the top eight for each of her races.

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Windham Middle School gears up for spring sports season

By Matt Pascarella
STAFF WRITER

Windham Middle School began preparing for its spring sports season on Monday, April 14. The Middle School season begins on Monday, May 5 and teams are ready to compete.

BASEBALL
This season, Windham Middle School welcomes a new baseball coach, Charlie Reiniger, a 2024 Cheverus graduate.

“My goals are helping develop them into better baseball players, that’s key for the varsity program,” said Reiniger. “The other thing that’s key for these seventh and eighth graders is helping them develop into good young men. They already have an outstanding attitude, every single one of these guys wants to be here; everybody that made the team was making the play and that shows their dedication to baseball, they’ve been working over the winter.”

Reiniger has coached junior varsity soccer for South Portland, varsity basketball for Cheverus, seventh grade Cape Elizabeth baseball and was looking for a change. He is excited for the upcoming season.

“We have a very talented team,” said eighth grader Ryan Manning. “We just need to focus on the game that’s ahead of us and don’t focus on anything else; skill-wise, this is a very talented group of young men.”

According to Reiniger, it’s a team game, but individualized. Baseball is a game of mistakes, and you coach through the mistakes. He wants to make them better baseball players and develop them as a team.

SOFTBALL
Katherine Parsons is also a first-year coach for Windham Middle School’s softball team.

She said one of her goals is to assess the player’s abilities and continue the process of building their arsenal of skills, along with instilling a deeper love for the game, that will carry them into being able to play at the next level.

“My philosophy is that we are people first; and that our team should be our softball family,” said Parsons. “I think the most important thing is to recognize that you have to meet kids where they are. I hope the kids continue to hone their skills, develop an even bigger love of the game, and appreciate them for what they bring to



(L to R) Eighth grader Ryan Manning plays catch during a Windham Middle School baseball practice on Monday, April 14. The WMS team has started practicing for their upcoming season and have a strong team of solid players returning for its first game at Windham High School on Monday, May 5. Eighth grader Layla Pinto catches the ball during a WMS softball practice. The team also opens the season at WHS on Monday, May 5. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

the table, both on the field, and off the field.”

Parsons’ love of softball sparked an interest in more in-depth parts of the game. She was a writer for the website “Fansided,” where she followed players in the minor leagues and assessed the likelihood of them advancing their careers.

“I just want us to have fun,” said eighth grader Audrey Libby. “We gained a lot of seventh graders which is helpful. We have a lot of people who really love to play softball, so it should be fun with all of us together.”

OUTDOOR TRACK AND FIELD
Windham eighth grader Lila Miller has a goal of beating her personal record in the mile run. She says participating in outdoor track helps her build up her endurance for other sports, along with making new friends.

“For some of these kids, this is an introduction,” said WMS boys’ outdoor track and field coach Aaron Talon. “They’re getting a taste of what there is to offer for the outdoor track experience.”

Middle school track offers three different events kids can choose from on a meet day. Participating at the middle school level gives them a nice overview of what’s available if they choose to continue at the high school level.

“My goal for every season is to make sure our athletes are having a great time,” said WMS girls’ outdoor track and field coach Jason Lanoie. “It’s not about winning every event; it’s about the athletes achieving their personal best.”

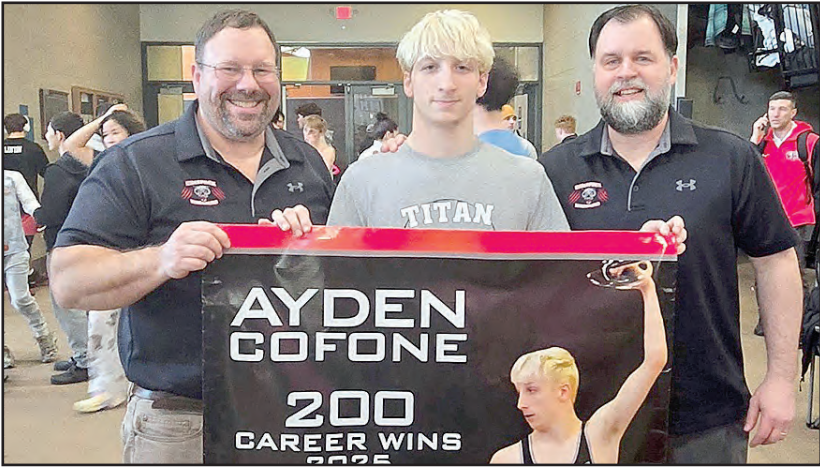
Lanoie wants all his athletes to try new events and push their boundaries. Trying something new may lead to a different experience for their track career when they get to high school.

Both Talon and Lanoie say that they want WMS athletes to be prepared for the next level, to compete at the best of their ability and be part of a team that they’re proud of. <



Right, top to bottom: Sixth grader Elena Kostopoulos leaps over the hurdles as she practices for the upcoming middle school outdoor track and field season which begins Monday, May 5. WMS sixth grader Lucien Kri practices for the long jump.

Master of the mat



Windham High School senior Ayden Cofone became the first prep wrestler from his school to rack up 200 victories in his career during the New England Championships held in Rhode Island in March. Celebrating his monumental achievement are Windham/Gray New-Gloucester/Westbrook Wolfpack assistant coach Nick Buckley, left, Ayden Cofone and Wolfpack head coach John Nicholas. Cofone won his third Maine state prep wrestling title in four years in February in Lewiston and may go down in history as one of the greatest wrestlers from Windham High School ever. PHOTO BY JACQUELYNE COFONE

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PUZZLES & GAMES

GET SEWING WORD SEARCH

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

ANCHOR
APPLIQUE
BASTE
BIAS
BOBBIN
BODICE

BUTTONHOLE
CASING
DART
FACING
FOLD
GRAIN

HEM
LENGTH
MACHINE
NOTCH
PATTERN
PINS

PLEAT
SEAM
SELVEDGE
STITCHING
TACK
TENSION

⊕ ** ☐ ☺ ✂ ~ ☾ ☯ ✧ ✨ ✖ ✂ ✚ ✎ ✨ ▲ ☾ ✨ ☿ ✨ ☼ ☾ ☿ ☯ ☯

CRYPTO FUN

☐ ☾ ☯ ✨ ☿ ✎ ~ ✨ ✚

Solve the code to discover words related to pet sitting.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 10 = R)

A. 26 22 10 4 12 2 9 4 10
Clue: Babysitter

B. 6 21 6 6 8
Clue: Young dog

C. 16 14 22 10 13 2 7 12
Clue: Overnight animal care

D. 1 10 22 9 4 24
Clue: Vacationing

Answers: A. caregiver B. puppy C. boarding D. travel

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

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



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	
11					12					13	14
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	45
48				49				50	51		
52			53				54				
55		56				57				58	
59					60	61				62	
			63							64	

CLUES ACROSS

CLUES DOWN

1. Birds
5. Quills
11. Coniferous tree
12. Type of vessels
16. Used for baking or drying
17. Promotion of product or service
18. Many wombs
19. "On the Waterfront" actor
24. Air conditioning
25. Heart condition
26. Curved shapes
27. The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet
28. Let it stand
29. Famous actor
30. Mated
31. High and low are types of these
33. Marsupial
34. African nation (Fr.)

37. Huge
38. Mountainous area in Puerto Rico
39. Crooked
42. Canadian law enforcers (abbr.)
43. Neat and smart in appearance
44. Intent
48. Reptile genus
49. A way to make full
50. Merchant
52. Michigan
53. Manifesting approval
55. Melancholic music
57. Massachusetts
58. Membrane of the cornea
59. Calendar month
62. Exam
63. Commission
64. Old English letters

HOW TO SOLVE:

Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9; each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9; and each set of 3 by 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

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

SUDOKU

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



Current housing crisis 2025

► **By Matthew Trudel**
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE



— Matt Trudel, Five Star Realty

I personally would not consider this market a “crisis,” but many people are arguing that side of the conversation. I hear what they are saying, and I do not deny that a lot of the current numbers leave many folks feeling dim about the future. I just do not consider this a true “crisis.”

We do still have a shortage of inventory, although inventory is up from last year. Yes, interest rates are still elevated, and people are just having a hard time digesting the idea of having a 6.5 percent or 6.75 percent interest rate when we were looking at 4 percent or lower just a few years ago. The real issue is that younger adults, whether single or married, are having a very difficult time affording a home because of current market values.

The current median home price in Maine is \$390,200. That is a new record for Maine, beating out the median price that was set in 2023 about \$360,000.

I have been working with a few younger buyers looking to purchase their first home. I am helping them navigate this market which is moving quickly and not showing signs of

slowing down. Both of these clients have done all the right things. They have paid their bills on time, established good credit with scores over 700, and have a solid savings account to cover a down payment and pay their closing costs.

They are spot on ready to go and are willing and able to pull the trigger and purchase a new home. The problem is affording to purchase that \$400,000 home on a single income. Fitting that payment with taxes and insurance into a person’s budget stretches it and could break it. Even with two incomes it can be very tight.

Yes, there are lower-priced homes in certain towns on the outskirts of Cumberland County. To reach those you are looking at a 45 minute to an hour commute if you work in Portland or South Portland. We have also looked at multi-family home options, which in my opinion is almost always a great way to start with your first home. It not only helps you with your mortgage payment and costs, but it will also continually provide you with income down the road and potentially be the start of your real estate portfolio. However, the question remains. How we overcome this issue with buyers being priced out of the market in certain areas?

Inventory is not going to increase greatly this year. With interest rates in the low to mid 6 percent range, potential sellers who bought or re-

financed three to five years ago and have 3 percent interest rates are just holding tight and not selling. They are just looking at the current market values and interest rates of over 6 percent, and they are asking themselves, where am I going to move to, and why double my mortgage payment?

New construction prices are just going up higher, so there is no relief coming with that market. Are there other options out there for buyers who want to be at or under a \$375,000 purchase price and under a 45-minute commute? I believe there are options out there for those who have some flexibility in location and time-frame to close on a property.

Five Star Realty is working closely with Primary Residential Mortgage (located here in Windham) and a few investors to find some of these solutions.

Here are a couple of the options we have in the works. I will lay out the general idea of what some of these options are, and you can decide if this concept might work for you.

New construction options at 100 percent financing for VA loans for

our veterans. These include both modular and manufactured homes.

There are also programs for Maine State Housing First Time Homebuyer new construction loans with little money down. You don’t have to be a first-time home buyer to qualify for these construction loans.

There are some FHA options, and the seller/builder can provide some closing costs. And, there are some fantastic modular and manufactured home options that are going to be market changing for some people to get into a home that is affordable. This is a very real potential solution for many buyers.

Anyone who would like to learn a little more about these options and how they might help you can call me directly anytime. You can also call Terry Robinson or Stephen Jordan over at PRMI to learn more. It’s simply a phone call to learn a little bit more about what your options are as buyers.

This article was written by Matthew Trudel, Owner of Five Star Realty, 32 Tandberg Trail in Windham. For your real estate needs call 207-939-6971. <

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NONPROFIT SPOTLIGHT

Children in Maine are aware that summer never lasts as long as they wish, but there is a way for them to make the most of the season by attending a legendary camp in Raymond where they can experience adventure in a positive, safe, and encouraging setting.

Gander Brook Christian Camp provides kids 8 to 18 with a rustic camping experience whether it's overnight or during the day where they can make lifelong friendships, strengthen their faith and simply to enjoy what it is like to be a child.

Owned and operated by the Churches of Christ in New England, Gander Brook Christian Camp is located at the corner of Ledge Hill Road and North Raymond Road and sits on 222 acres as well as additional waterfront property on Raymond Pond. Sessions are during the day Monday through Friday or overnight from Saturday to Saturday. Sessions run weekly from the last week of June through the first week of August.

Steve Mezzapelle of Gander Brook Christian Camp first came to the camp at age 8 and attended every year until he was 18 and even returned as a camp counselor for several summers when he was in college. He currently serves on the camp's Board of Directors.

"It made such a huge impact on my life," he said. "This is a hidden gem nobody knows about. Gander Brook is the reason why I fell in love with Maine



Gander Brook Christian Camp

and the reason I wanted to move here. It had that great of a positive impact on my life."

The camp has been operating in Raymond since 1959 and is guided by a Board of Directors from around New England. It is staffed by two directors, a staff of 16 to 20 camp counselors and an activities director. Volunteers staff the kitchen, the camp canteen and camp laundry, and there are also merit badge instructors, nurses, and Bible instructors. Camp counselors change each year and are recruited from the leading Christian colleges across America. The two camp directors have been with the camp for more than two decades.

The camp is non-denominational, affordable, and open to all children. Overnight campers bunk in cabins with kids their own age for their week-long stay and their daily schedule includes, meals, Bible classes, earning merit badges such as outdoor cooking, archery, ropes course, tie dyeing,

New this year, Gander Brook Christian Camp is offering day camps Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. for children ages 6-13. Visit www.GanderBrook.org for more info. and to sign up.

sign language and more plus afternoon sports and swimming/kayaking, cabin challenge games and evening activities such as skit nights, Crazy Olympics, scavenger hunts, nature classes, bonfires, and cookouts. Day campers between the ages of 6 and 13 experience all the daytime activities and receive breakfast and lunch every day.

"We wanted more kids to experience Gander Brook, so we opened it up this year for both day campers and overnight campers," Mezzapelle said. "Day campers can sign up on a week-by-week basis or for throughout the summer."

Gander Brook provides campers with a good, healthy, faith-based environment away from the chaotic stresses that can often surround children. No electronic devices are allowed, so it's a great place for kids to unplug and connect with people and nature and to just have fun. For many campers, lifelong friendships are forged, and those

friendships and the people associated with Gander Brook Christian Camp are what make this camp special.

Mezzapelle said that campers find encouragement and an environment which makes everyone feel special and respected like they are family.

The Gander Brook Christian Camp site itself is one of Maine's historic properties. On the site, the Wilson Hotel and Spring Company, with its centerpiece inn known as "The Wilson" was built in 1890. The Noraco Inn was built on the site in 1929 on the berms seen in the Wilson Hotel pictures, and which still surrounds the lodge today at Gander Brook. When the inn closed around 1950, the property was vacant for nine years. The Churches of Christ in New England saw a need for summer camping and organized a Board of Directors which purchased the 200-acre property in 1959 and has been operating a summer camp program each summer since then.

"This is such a beautiful place, and we want the community to know about it and for young people to experience it for themselves," Mezzapelle said.

Openings for children are currently available at Gander Book Christian Camp for this summer.

For more details about Gander Brook Christian Camp or to sign up, visit www.ganderbrook.org or find them on Facebook and Instagram under Gander Brook Christian Camp. <



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FOR AGES 6-13

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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

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Melissa Gadbois, owner, is a Literacy Specialist and a Certified Dyslexia Practitioner and has been teaching in Southern Maine for 17 years.

“I started tutoring in the evenings and in the summers in 2016,” she said. “In 2020, I began teaching lessons virtually to my students at school and realized that it was engaging, and I was seeing real progress. I opened it up to tutoring remotely that summer, and there was a lot of interest. As far as I know, I am one of the few educators in the state who holds both Literacy Specialist and Certified Dyslexia Practitioner titles. Because of this, I’m able to use a wide variety of tools and knowledge to help determine comprehensive plans to support our students.”

In 2022, Gadbois added an additional tutor, Jamie Vaillancourt, who graduated from Saint Joseph’s College with an elementary education degree and a concentration in special education. She teaches kindergarten during the school year and has additional certification in a phonics curriculum called LETRS (Language Essentials



Reading Remotely Tutoring Services

for Teachers of Reading and Spelling). Last summer, Gadbois added a third tutor, Sheri Woolverton, a retired K-3 South Portland teacher, to the team to keep up with scheduling demands.

“As a Certified Dyslexia Practitioner, I’m able to directly provide Orton-Gillingham lessons to students, which is a type of tutoring that many families are looking for, especially for children with a diagnosed or perceived learning disability. Although I cannot provide direct tutoring to all the students who sign up for our services, I provide both tutors with materials for initial assessments and help analyze the results and make instructional plans for the summer. Families typically sign up for one or two lessons per week, and we work hard to maximize the lesson time we have with our students. This summer, we will surpass 100 students who have received our tutoring services since my business went remote, including many repeat students and families.”

What sets Reading Remotely Tutoring Services apart is that, in being virtual, they can work with children anywhere there is Wi-Fi.

“Over the past few summers, I’ve worked with students who live in different states and time zones, and with local students when they are on vacation,” Gadbois said. “Since most lessons are just 30 to 45 minutes, they are easy to fit into your summer schedule, and you don’t have to miss out on too much summer fun. We also offer flexibility and have customized schedules to account for availability around summer camp schedules.”

According to Gadbois, some families are wary of trying remote tutoring but quickly realize the quality of instruction is not negatively impacted when it’s delivered through the screen.

“In fact, I’ve noticed that students are typically more engaged during our remote lessons than they are during in-person lessons,” she said. “Lessons are paced in a way that is motivating, and they typically end with a game. Throughout the entire 30 to 45 minutes, students are equally engaged and challenged, so that they can feel confident and capable.”

As a K-2 Literacy Specialist during the school year, Gadbois sees firsthand the impact that summer regression has

on students and it’s something that impacts all students, to varying degrees.

“Research has shown that students lose about 20 percent of their reading gains from a school year over the summer, and teachers are needing to spend the first month or two of the new school year helping students catch up to where they were the previous spring,” she said. “Summer tutoring can help in not only preventing this ‘summer slide,’ but also can help improve students’ abilities so they start the year stronger than ever. Whether it is increased confidence and engagement in reading, improved phonics and spelling skills, or smoother reading fluency, parents are consistently pleased with the impact of our lessons.”

Gadbois knows what it’s like to want to make the most of Maine summers. Growing up on Sebago Lake in Windham, she has always spent her summers with family and friends at the lake, where her parents still reside. “By providing remote tutoring lessons, I’m able to help families prioritize their child’s learning without needing to sacrifice the summer memories that are equally as important. I’m grateful for the opportunity to help prepare students for the new school year in a way that is as manageable as it is beneficial.”

To learn more about Reading Remotely Tutoring Services, visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/readingremotely

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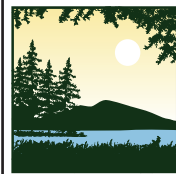
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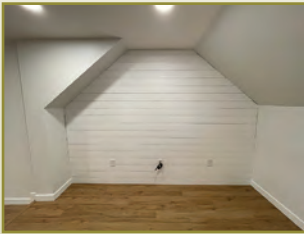
12 KOSSUTH ST, BIDDEFORD – LISTED AT \$633,000
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UNDER CONTRACT! 12 PILGRIM LANE, WINDHAM – \$425,000



MATT DIBIASE

Designated Broker / Owner

207-653-0376

MATT@LANDINGHOMESMAINE.COM

2 bed • 1.5 bath • 1,464 sq. ft. • .32 acres

Deeded access to Highland Lake and great space to entertain! Nice open concept kitchen/living area with access to large outdoor deck. Downstairs has a finished basement with a wet bar and additional half bath.
Spacious fenced in backyard with fire pit.

UNDER CONTRACT! 5 SHEVENELL COURT, BIDDEFORD – \$449,900



LISA DIBIASE
Broker / Owner

207-653-0823

LISA@LANDINGHOMESMAINE.COM



Great investment - 2 Bed, 1 Bath Duplex

This property presents a fantastic opportunity for both investors and first-time homebuyers! Property features private decks that overlook the fenced-in backyard, off-street parking for 3-4 vehicles and great rental history. Close to downtown Biddeford with easy access to amenities and public transportation.

CALL TODAY AND WORK WITH OUR AWARD-WINNING TEAM!



MATT DIBIASE



LISA DIBIASE