

Windham High graduate dazzles in leading role in new Broadway musical

By Ed Pierce

STAFF WRITER

Robyn Hurder is a shining example of someone who has worked hard to achieve her dreams and is now dazzling audiences in a starring turn in a hit Broadway musical in New York City.

Growing up in Windham, Hurder leads the cast of the new musical "Smash" that opened at the Imperial Theatre on April 10. It's a role that secures her place in Broadway history after years of performing in the cast of 22 Broadway shows and receiving a Tony Award nomination in 2020 for her part in "Moulin Rouge."

Hurder graduated in 2000 from Windham High School and is a former member of the Windham Chamber Singers and studied dance at the Maine State Ballet.

Her mother enrolled Robyn at age 7 in a dance studio in Scarborough. She says that she liked the tap and ballet lessons there but by age 8, she wanted out to spend time playing with her friends from school. Robyn's mother was adamant that she continue her training in dance, and when the dance studio added jazz dance that spring, her interest in choreography intensified.



When she saw the musical "CATS," Hurder says she figured out her life's expressed a desire to appear on Broadway stages as a young girl. PHOTOS BY MATTHEW MURPHY AND PAUL KOLNIK

path.

"I'm that girl - who saw 'CATS' and said, 'I'm gonna do that for a living." she told Dance Magazine in 2020.

Dr. Richard Nickerson, the director of the Windham Chamber Singers, said Hurder was a special talent. -> see BROADWAY Page 10

RSU 14 budget heads to voters on May 14

By Ed Pierce

STAFF WRITER

The RSU 14 Board of Directors have approved a budget for 2025-2026 of \$67,861,394 and the proposal now heads to voters in Windham and Raymond for approval on May 14.

During a meeting of the board on April 9, RSU 114 Superintendent of Schools Chris Howell said the budget represents a 12.75 percent increase over last year's budget, with a 6.4 percent increase stemming from the construction of the new Windham Raymond Middle School. Also driving up costs are increases in RSU's Regular Operating Expenses and a Pre-K expansion program. "This is an unusual budget this year, with a higher than typical increase due to the initial bonds for the new middle school and an expansion to our Pre-K programming," Howell said. "Both new projects are coupled with increased subsidies for the district. When examining the budget this year, it is best to look at the increase as being made up of three different parts." Howell said that first, the budget proposal contains a 5.6 percent increase in year-over-year expenses with the increase largely being driven by an increase in salaries and benefits contained within negotiated contracts.

"This increase, which is in line with proposed increases for other districts in our region, will result in compensation packages that are competitive and on average with other Cumberland County school districts," Howell said. "In addition to the increases covered in contracts, the increase is also being driven by increased costs for electricity, energy, equipment and supplies."

The second factor to slots which will result in



the proposed increase for this year will be reduced through an additional state subsidy and fund balance that will be used to reduce taxation."

The school district began working on the budget in early November. Howell said that each line of the budget was reviewed to look for any possible savings.

"Current enrollment numbers and projected enrollment numbers for every grade level were reviewed," he said. "Where from grade levels with lower enrollments to grade levels with higher numbers."

roughly a \$620,000 increase to the budget. Howell said \$510,000 of this increase will be offset by additional state subsidy specifically allocated for expanding Pre-K programs.

"The additional Pre-K placement slots will significantly reduce our current waiting list of students who are hoping to participate in the Pre-K program," he said.

According to Howell, a third factor in the budget proposal is the inclusion of the first bond payment for

posed budget is it in- Staff members and Superintendent of Schools Chris Howell cludes roughly a 1 percent at RSU 14's Administrative Offices in Windham helped increase for the addition of 59 Pre-K enrollment to formulate the school district's \$67,861,394 budget for 2025-2026 that will be voted upon by Windham and Raymond residents on May 14. PHOTO BY ED PIERCE

> the new middle school construction project resulting in nearly a 6 percent increase.

"Importantly, 90 percent of the cost of this first bond will be paid by additional subsidy from the State of Maine, significantly reducing the overall cost of the project for local taxpayers," he said. "The total of the three budget areas represents a 12.75 percent increase over the current year, but it does not represent a similar increase in taxation. Over half of

The budget proposal includes cutting a Day One teaching position and 3 ½ Ed Tech positions while adding

an education-PRSRT STD interpreter U.S. POSTAGE from Support PAID Services. Man-TIME4PUBLISHING chester School will cut a Grade www.TheWindhamEagle.co classroom Local -> see BUDGET **Postal Customer** Page 4

al



If I had to do it all over again, there would be quite a bit that I'd do differently if I was back in Catholic grade school again.

My father had been hospitalized for a broken leg after falling off a ladder while hanging outdoor Christmas lights on our house and when a priest came to visit him, he told him about me. With my birthday falling one day after the established date for public school kindergarten, my father thought I could excel in first grade instead of waiting a year to go to kindergarten, and the priest agreed and enrolled me at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School.

From the age of 3, I was reading books that were intended for students in Grade 3 and so when my First-Grade teacher, Sister Felicitis, started lessons to learn the ABCs, I was uninterested and bored. She passed on to other teachers at the school that I was a problem student, and it created a reputation for me there that followed me from year to year.

The school itself was on three levels and the stairwells were on each end of the building. You could climb the stairs up to the third level and look down at the people coming and going from the school entrances unobserved, unless someone happened to look up.

One day when I was in third grade, my friend Patrick O'Brien and I climbed to the third level before school started.



May 2 1670 – England's King Charles Il founds The Hudson Bay Company as a fur-trading business for North America.

1885 – "Good Housekeeping" magazine is published for the first time.

1902 – "A Trip to the Moon," the first science fiction film, is released.

1926 – Hindu women are granted the right to seek elected office in India.

1939 – Lou Gehrig of the New York Yankees sets a new major league baseball record by playing in his 2,130th consecutive game.

1941 – The Federal Communications Commission agrees to let regular scheduling of TV broadcasts by commercial TV stations begin on July 1, 1941.

1946 – Federal prisoners stage a revolt at California's Alcatraz Prison.

1969 – Ocean liner Queen Elizabeth 2 (QE2) makes its maiden voyage. He dared me to lob a gob of spit down from over the balcony to see how fast it would travel. Unfortunately for me, I did this while a nun who taught at the school was entering the building. The nuns were from the Sisters of Saint Joseph order and wore traditional black habits and a headdress with a flat top.

My gob landed on top of her headdress with a thud, and she immediately looked up and saw me. For my wrongful action, the principal assigned me a month's duty of raising the U.S. flag each morning at the school flagpole and lowering it after school every day. I also had to apologize to both the nun and my classmates for my thoughtless action.

In fifth grade, I was involved in another incident and my parents both had to attend a meeting with the principal. When the quarterly report cards were issued, I was given a C in math, and I knew that my mother would throw a fit seeing that grade. I never showed it to her or my father and paid my younger brother 25 cents to sign my mother's name acknowledging that she had seen the report card.

The nun teaching our class suspected the signature was a forgery because it was done in blue ink while all the previous report card signatures were in black ink. She asked if I had forged my mother's signature. I said no. With that, she turned me in for disciplinary action to the principal. The principal asked me repeatedly to admit that I was the one who forged my mother's name and since I physically did not do it, I denied it every time.

During the meeting with my parents in her office on a Saturday morning, she said I had lied time and time again to her about signing the report card. She painted a bleak future for me to my parents and insisted that unless I admitted that I had signed the report card, I was in danger of being expelled.

My father took me out in the hallway and asked me to be honest and tell him the truth. He asked if I had signed the report card, and I told him I had not done that. When he asked that if I hadn't signed my mother's name, who did? I explained to him that I had paid my brother a quarter to sign the report card, but the principal wanted me to admit to physically doing something I hadn't done.

We returned to the principal's office and revealed the facts. I told the principal that she had not asked me if someone else had signed the report card and if she had, I would have admitted that. She gave me a month's chore of sweeping the hallways after school and picking up litter on school grounds when I was done with that.

The next year I inadvertently broke a window while trying to unlatch it and even though it wasn't my fault, I was back on flagpole duty for a week as ordered by the principal. That same year I was given a classroom job of maintaining the classroom aquarium filled with tropical fish.

One Friday before a blizzard was supposed to hit the area, I bumped the fish

tank heater up what I thought was a just few degrees to try and keep the fish warm during the snowstorm. Back at school on Monday I was sickened to discover I had made a mistake, and the heater was set on high, and all the tropical fish had died.

My Catholic school experience is not something I fondly remember, but without it, I wouldn't be who I am today. < ~ *Ed Pierce*



If you won a free trip anywhere in the world but could only bring one person, who would you take, and where would you go?

"With my girlfriend to Iceland." – William D. Reiner

"Nashville with my wife." – Tommy Matthews

"Alaska with my husband." – Melissa Carter

"Bora Bora." – Katrina Kennedy

"I would go to Italy to see where my grandparents were born, and I guess I would bring my hubby." – Rose Tirrell Haigis

"I would take my wife to Salzburg, where I was born." – Rob Juergens

"I would go to Cancun Mexico and bring my best friend of 20 years." – Sandy Lowe

"I would go to Germany with my sister." – Renate Masse

"I would eat and look my way through Provence with my love of 50 years." – Julie Mallett

"Italy and I would take my husband." – Linda Jensen

"Me and my hubby to the Maldives." – Laura Fletcher

"My mom and I would go anywhere warm." – Carla Swann

"Spain to see the land of my ancestors." – Isabella Mongon

"Arizona. Always wanted to show my grandkids the OK Corral there." – Dean Smalley

"Thailand where they filmed The White Lotus and take my brother and his family." – Oscar F. Kellner

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Kelly Mank Publisher Kelly@TheWindhamEagle.com



Becky Knox Administrative Office@TheWindhamEagle.com Office hours: Wednesdays 8-2 Thursday 9am-Noon



Melissa Carter Sales Manager/Designer Melissa@TheWindhamEagle.com





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THIS WEEK'S STAFF WRITERS: Jolene Bailey, Kira Pilot, Matt Pascarella, Kendra Raymond, Masha Yurkevich, & Kaysa Jalbert



"Carnegie Hall in New York and I'd take my dad." – Mia Potenzio-Ransey

"Quebec with my BFF." – Anne Glotchshuk

"My cousin and I would go to Rome for two weeks to see the sights." – Sarah Singer-Miller

"Sturgis for Bike Week with my friends." – Mitchell B. Robinson



Council reviews warrant for Annual Town Meeting

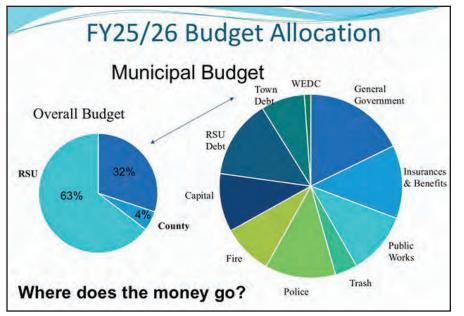
By Ed Pierce STAFF WRITER

Members of the Windham Town Council reviewed the Town Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting in June during a council meeting on Tuesday

evening. The Town Warrant contains municipal budget specifics for the coming year and will be voted upon by town residents at the Annual Town Meeting at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 14 at the Windham Town Hall Gym. Articles contained in the Town Warrant are detailed descriptions of town expenditures and each article is voted on separately at the Annual Town Meeting.

Prior to reviewing the Town Warrant, councilors received a briefing from Assistant Town Manager Bob Burns about the proposed budget that included budget figures from Cumberland County and RSU 14 should voters from Windham and Raymond approve the RSU 14 budget during a public meeting at Windham High School on May 14.

Including the county and RSU budgets, the overall Windham budget in the Town Warrant is \$50,582,989 which is a 7.26 percent increase from last year's \$46,991,715 budget, Burns



The proposed budget in the Windham Town Warrant for 2025-2026 is \$50,582,989, a 7.26 percent increase from last year's \$46,991,715 budget. The municipal portion is about 36 percent of the budget with Cumberland County and RSU 14 accounting for the rest. COURTESY PHOTO

said. Burns said if the proposed budget is approved, the mil rate for Windham would rise to 12.18, up 71 cents from the current mil rate of 11.47, or a 6.39 percent increase.

Cumberland County is proposing a 7.2 percent mil rate increase, while RSU 14's proposed budget asks for an

8.1 percent increase primarily driven by construction funding for the new Windham Raymond Middle School, he said.

According to Burns, under the new budget, taxes on a home with an assessed value of \$400,000 would rise \$80 a year, or \$6.67 per month.

Windham Town Manager Barry

Tibbetts said that despite the 71-cent increase, the 12.18 mil rate remains one of the lowest in the surrounding area of Maine.

He said the budget proposal was formulated using 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, longterm contracts, debt expenditures and wage adjustments.

Among items included in the proposed municipal budget are funds to add a part-time General Assistance employee in January, a projected Cost of Living increase for municipal employees of 3.5 percent, and funding for three 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 vacat-→ see MEETING Page 12



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BUDGET Cont. from page 1

Hofstra University recognizes Windham student

During National Student Employment Week, Hofstra University in Hempstead, New York is celebrating the impact and experiences of student workers across campus and in the surrounding community.

Through the student employment program - whether through Federal Work-Study or other opportunities - students are receiving more than just a paycheck. They're building transferable skills, gaining practical experience, forming meaningful professional relationships, and in many cases, they are engaging with the wider community.

Audrey Day of Windham is among the many student workers at Hofstra. She was the valedictorian of Windham High School's Class of 2022 and is studying forensic science and music at Hofstra University next year.

While attending WHS, Day was in the National Honor So-

ciety, Spanish Honor Society, TriM Music Honor Society, Girl Scouts of Maine, Science Olympiad, and Class Office. She also participated in the



Audrey Day of Windham was part of a group of student workers attending Hofstra University in New York who were recognized during National Student Employment Week for their impact across campus and in the surrounding community. FILE PHOTO

> District II Honors Music Festival and The Maine All State Music Festival on trumpet. The WHS volleyball team she played on reached the state

Chandler Funeral Home & Cremation Service Frederick L. Spector, 98



Raymond – Frederick L. Spector, age 98, passed away on Friday April 18, 2025, at his home with his wife by his side. He was born October 6, 1926, in Boston, MA, the son of the late Noah and Lena (Elman) Spector. He married Katrina Page in June of 2020.

Frederick proudly served our country during WWII. He entered the U.S. Army Air Force at the first opportunity in March of 1945. He served as a ground aircraft observer in France and Germany. He was honorably discharged in 1946 after suffering shrapnel wounds.

He graduated from Northeastern University in 1954 with a BS in electrical engineering. In 1959, he received his teaching certificate following his master's in education from Bridgewater State College in 1973.

Fred was a lifelong learner and teacher. His interests included Egyptology, WWII, as well as computer science. Fred was known for his gentle and kind nature. He was always ready to bring out the best in others with encouragement and patience.

At the age of 12 he learned to sail on the Charles River in Boston. This fostered a lifelong love of sailing. In fact, he continued his years sailing "Tootsie Too" up and down the coast from MA to ME among the best years of his life. He loved to travel and explore, enjoying road trips in the U.S. and abroad. He joined the Masons first serving in Mansfield, MA, and throughout Maine from 1963-2003.

Fred made his home in Mansfield and on Cape Cod, MA, before moving to Raymond, Maine in 1985.

semifinals during her sophomore year.

Supporting student employment is one of many ways Hofstra is advancing its commitment to student success, a key priority of the Hofstra 100 strategic plan. On-campus jobs help students integrate into the University community, while Federal Work-Study positions connect them with meaningful opportunities both on and off campus.

The Office of Student Employment plays a central role in supporting Hofstra's student workforce, which includes more than 1,100 students each year. Amanda Nastasi, manager of the Office of Student Employment, sees firsthand the impact these opportunities have on students' personal and professional growth. "One of the most gratifying parts of my role is meeting a student at the start of their job search and later welcoming them into the office for onboarding once they've secured a position," she said. "It's a privilege to play a small part in students' journeys, and to watch them grow through the student employment program."

Hofstra University's primary mission is to provide quality education to its students in an environment that encourages, nurtures, and supports learning. At Hofstra, new ideas take shape through collaboration, engagement, and interaction. Hofstra students create their success with small classes and dedicated faculty, alongside a beautiful campus, plus all the opportunities of New York City within easy reach. < teacher but add a Grade 4 classroom teacher. Raymond Elementary School will cut one classroom teaching position. Windham Primary School will cut one classroom teaching position but add a Pre-K teaching position and add a Pre-K Ed Tech. RSU 14 Technology will add 1 Grade Level of Computers. Overall, the school district will add a part-time assistant cook.

Howell said challenges in putting together this budget proposal included negotiated contracts; taking increasing valuations for Windham and Raymond into account; a reduction in the subsidy the district receives for economically disadvantaged students; and a new 1 percent salary tax to fund Maine's Paid Leave Act. Other budget considerations were inflation of goods for purchased services, increased energy costs for electricity and motor fuels and ongoing increases in costs for employee health insurance.

The 2024-2025 RSU 14 budget approved by voters was \$60,185,403.

Howell said that the 2025-2026 budget proposal is available for review by the community by visiting rsu14.org or by calling the district office at 207-892-1800.

The district will be holding a public budget meeting at 6:39 p.m. on Wednesday, May 14 in the Windham High School Auditorium. All registered voters in Windham and Raymond are welcome to attend. If voters approve the budget May 14, it will then head for approval by voters at Annual Town Meetings in Raymond on June 10 and Windham on June 14. <

Dolby, Blais & Segee Funeral Chapel Lynda M. Wilson



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Lynda M. Wilson, a longtime resident of Windham, Maine and the love of John's life, left his side and family quietly on April 24, 2025.

Lynda was born on January 8, 1949 in Northampton, MA. She was predeceased by her mother Anne Morin, her father Leo Morin, and her brother Thomas Morin.

Lynda met her husband John shortly after he returned from the service. On August 13, 1972 they were married in Easthampton, MA. Their love story continued for the next 53 years.

After graduating high school, she attended Holyoke Community College. Lynda always had a great love of animals, especially her cats. As a young child, when her parents said she could not have a cat, she secretly snuck kittens to her upstairs bedroom in a basket hung from a rope with the help of a friend.

Lynda was a lifelong lover of art and a talented artist of many mediums. She would often host many artist friends at her studio which was an old

He was predeceased by his loving parents; siblings Max, Brody, Sarah, Simon, Fannie and Joseph; his two sons Lawrence and Daniel; his wives Rachel and Sarah, his stepson Thomas.

He is survived by his wife Katrina Spector; a stepson Timothy; many step-children and step-grandchildren along with many extended family and friends.

The family will hold visitation on Saturday, May 3, 2025, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. with a service starting a 4:00 p.m. at the Oxford Hills Church of Christ 140 Paris Hill Rd, South Paris. Burial will take place in the future at the Southern Maine Veterans Cemetery with military honors. For those unable to attend, his service will be livestreamed on his obituary page. The family would like to thank the Veteran's Home-Based Primary Care and Andwell Hospice for the excellent care they provide to Fred. Arrangements are under the care of Chandler Funeral Home and Cremation Service 1037 Main St, Oxford. To make an online condolence please visit www.chandlerfunerals.com forge on her farm that she carefully renovated to its original construction. She was also a student of photography and enjoyed every opportunity to observe and capture many thought provoking images which were often instrumental in the creation of her paintings.

Survivors include her adoring husband of 53 years, John; her sister-inlaw Gail Morin of VT; her brother John Morin and his wife Darlene of Danville, NH; her niece Lyndsay MacArthur and her husband Brian of NH; and her nephew Joe Morin and his wife Mary of NH.

A celebration of Lynda's life will be held Tuesday, May 6, 2025 from 10:00 to 12:00 at Dolby Blais & Segee Windham Chapel, 434 River Road, Windham, Maine.

To share memories and condolences with the family please go to www.dolbyblaissegee.com. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Animal Refuge League of Greater Portland, Greater Androscoggin Humane Society, or a local Shelter of your choice.

Nangle bill to simplify Maine subscription cancellations

AUGUSTA – On April 24, State Senator Tim Nangle, D-Windham, introduced LD 1642, "An Act to Protect Maine Consumers by Simplifying Subscription Cancellations," to the Committee on Housing and Economic Development during a public hearing for the bill.

The bill aims to save Maine people money by simplifying the cancellation process for online subscription services.

"With all the new subscription services available online now, it's easy to fall into the trap of automatic renewal," Nangle said. "Whether it's a streaming service like Netflix or monthly grocery deliveries, it can be hard to keep track of it all – and even harder to cancel when needed. Mainers deserve to be able to opt out of subscriptions easily, quickly and without having to sit on a customer service line for hours on end. My bill aims to make this a reality."

Nangle's LD 1642 bill would amend the law regulating automatic subscription renewals to clarify the disclosure requirements for sellers offering such subscriptions and require a seller to obtain a consumer's express consent for automatic subscription renewal prior to enrollment through a check box, electronic signature or other affirmative action. The seller would also be required to provide the option for cancellation using the same method by which the consumer initially agreed to the subscription. The bill would further prohibit a seller from misrepresenting an automatic subscription offer in the marketing of such subscriptions.

The legislation also directs the Maine Attorney General to adopt rules for the enforcement of the law if passed and to bring forward necessary actions for violations of the law. If a seller is found liable, the bill stipulates that, in addition to damages authorized pursuant to the Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act, the seller is required to provide the consumer with a refund or credit for three times the unauthorized amounts billed or paid.

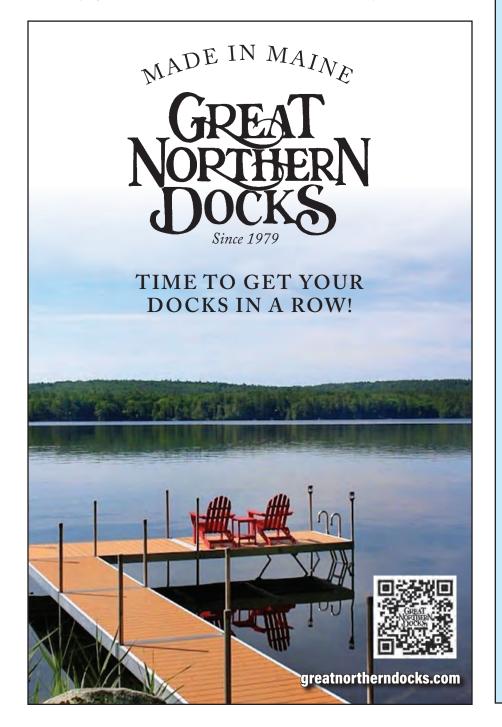
Nangle said that LD 1642 is supported by Maine Attorney General Aaron Frey.

As written, LD 1642 does not currently apply to memberships requiring in-person cancellation, such as gym memberships. However, Senator Nangle said that he intends to draft an amendment that would make the bill apply to such memberships.

If LD 1642 is enacted, it would only apply to subscriptions that are entered into or renewed on or after Jan. 1, 2026, giving businesses time to adapt to the new law.

The LD 1642 legislation now faces further action in committee.

Senator Nangle represents Maine State Senate District 26, which includes Casco, Frye Island, Raymond, Windham and part of Westbrook in Cumberland County. <



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THE ORIGINS OF MOTHER'S DAY: A SHORT HISTORY

Mother's Day, as celebrated today, has roots that stretch deep into history, but the modern holiday began

Page 6

in the early 20th century in the United States. While ancient cultures like the Greeks and Romans held festivals



honoring mother goddesses, and Christians celebrated "Mothering Sunday" in Europe, today's version owes its creation largely to one woman: Anna Jarvis.

Anna Jarvis began her campaign to establish a national Mother's Day in the U.S. in 1905, the year her own mother passed away. Her mother, → see MOM Page 7





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Ann Reeves Jarvis, had been a social activist who cared for wounded soldiers on both sides of the Civil War and organized "Mothers' Day Work Clubs" to promote health and hygiene. Anna sought to honor her mother's legacy and all mothers' sacrifices.

Thanks to Jarvis's determined efforts, Mother's Day was observed in various states by 1908, and in 1914, President Woodrow Wilson officially proclaimed the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day-a day to hon-

Ironically, Anna Jarvis later became one of the holiday's biggest critics. Upset by the commercialization of what she intended as a personal and heartfelt celebration, she spent the later part of her life campaigning against businesses profiting from Mother's Day.

Despite her protests, Mother's Day has grown into a major holiday celebrated worldwide, with many countries adopting their own dates and traditions to honor mothers and motherhood. At its heart, however,

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THE ROOKIE MAMA THE ADVENTURES OF MOTHERHOOD

ALL ALONG THE APPLE WATCHTOWER: A HOSTILE TAKEOVER

By Michelle Cote special to the windham eagle



Here's one to file away in the "I just can't make this stuff up" folder.

And boy, 13 years into this boy-mama life, that folder will soon be-

Michelle Cote, Columnist

cabinet.

come an entire file

Because every time I'm confident I know my cabinet of sons and the ways of this inner circle, it's in that moment my day quickly goes from a well-oiled "ah" to awry.

And here was a first, orchestrated by my last-born.

A recent Saturday morning began with all the makings of a rainy day with no sunshine in sight.

I'd just successfully hosted a teenage sleepover extravaganza for my oldest, and the morning that quickly followed included timely meal prep tasks, errands and so forth.

In a busy household with six kids for the moment – two of them pals – I quickly felt myself needing a moment to just take five.

Dave Brubeck would agree.

But alas, five became 20 minutes. I'd laid down on my bed, face-first, arms out, with full intention to rest a mere moment.

As I dozed, I felt my 4-year-old climb up and snuggle next to me a bit.

And that, my friends, is about all I remember.

Because precisely 20 minutes later, my husband exclaimed from the other room, "What does this text mean?"

Curious, I turned my head to see my littlest still perched atop my back, sitting up now, and tapping at my wrist.

He looked at me, smiled that impish, sweet grin, and sweetly exclaimed, "I made your man run."

My what now?

Then I froze.

Instinctively, I looked to my Apple Watch, where my littlest dude had somehow managed to click the "running person" icon and thus activated an outdoor run workout.

Time had elapsed; mileage had not, of course.

I was bleary-eyed, but my mind was spinning with other possibilities of what he could have accomplished in those few minutes.

And what had my husband just exclaimed about a text?

To my horror, I scrolled through

various text conversations to see my kiddo had done more than just make my "man run."

He had managed to "dislike" comments from friends and family with a thumbs-down icon and sent various emojis of taxicabs followed by autogenerated messages like "BRB" to a selection of group conversations.

I don't even know how to do any of that from my watch.

Fortunately, the recipients of these mysterious memoranda were kindred enough spirits that I didn't need to backtrack too much on my damage-control mission.

All it took was a "My 4-year-old took over my watch. I can't make this stuff up."

I sensed the understanding, sympathetic nods through their replies.

A 4-year-old's unwitting sabotage. But what big power the little guy

wielded, for 20 little minutes. And there's just no 90s-kid experience I can equate to such a thing, because we all lived the analog life. Only Penny from Inspector Gadget had a smart watch.

If you know, you know.

We're all just learning as we go and working to keep up with tech as quickly as our kiddos do.

And on this day, I learned there's no such "you've seen one, you've seen 'em all" approach to having a fourth little one. Because each of them is a different flavor, and each flavor certainly keeps me on my toes.

And as for today, folks, no harm done.

So, while I'm on my toes, I think I'll dance to some Dave Brubeck and just take five.

Columnist Michelle Cote lives in southern Maine with her husband and four sons, and enjoys camping, distance running, biking, gardening, road trips to new regions, arts and crafts, soccer, and singing to musical showtunes – often several or more at the same time! <

HOW TO KID-PROOF YOUR APPLE WATCH TO SAVE YOUR WATCH (AND SANITY)

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 - 2. Turn Off Wrist Detection: Disable it (Settings > Passcode > Wrist Detection)
 - if the watch isn't on your wrist.
- 3. Limit App Access: Use your iPhone's Screen Time settings
- (Settings > Screen Time > App Limits) to restrict certain apps or features.
- 4. Disable Access When Locked: Turn off Siri and Control Center access
- when the watch is locked (Settings > Passcode).
- 5. Remove Sensitive Apps: Uninstall or hide apps that aren't child-friendly.
- 6. Add a Protective Case: A rugged bumper case can guard against drops, scratches, etc.





Local woman assists in Hurricane Helene recovery effort

By Masha Yurkevich

While many of us may be thinking about taking a vacation, Diane Dunton Bruni decided to visit the area of Black Mountain, North Carolina with a team of 16 other people as part of the Fuller Center for Housing Disaster Rebuilders.

She returned with stories of people being trapped in basements, breaking holes in attics to climb on roofs and trying to stop water rushing in. Every week teams from around the country are giving hope to the most vulnerable by rebuilding their homes.

This part of the organization reaches out to areas hit by natural disasters and started when Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast region.

"Although I have been part of many cycling rides raising funds for the Fuller Center for Housing, this is the first time I spent a week with the Disaster Recovery Team," says Dunton Bruni. "A cycling friend of mine, Nancy Fish, pulled together a team from her church along with fellow cyclists to work in the area of Black Mountain. This area was hit so hard by Hurricane Helene. Three days of rain and then 12 inches more when the hurricane hit causing mudslides, raging creaks overflowing their banks and ultimately a loss of at least 100 lives."

Dunton Bruni was in North Carolina from April 12 through April 18 and was in a team that worked to rebuild three homes.

"I learned how to insulate a home, replace particle board and install vinyl siding. I met the homeowners and prayed with them," she says. "I met the young leaders - ours were James,

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Diane Dunton Bruni of Windham, in orange, spent one week in North Carolina with the Fuller Center Disaster Rebuilders to help residents there recover from Hurricane Helene. She was part of a group of 16 other volunteers who worked on rebuilding homes for families living there to move back into. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Caleb, and Jacob - who were only in their 20s and had five or six houses they were managing. This is under the direction of Tony and Aaron who head up the efforts in the area." The Fuller Center for Housing Disaster Rebuilders are working on 22 homes in the area.

"These are the most vulnerable people who do not have the resourc-

es to rebuild," says Dunton Bruni. "I painted, insulated a home, reframed windows and put up siding. Other than painting, I had never done the other tasks before, and I am not sure I want to do insulation again," she said.

The team was up by 6 a.m. each day, having breakfast and then sharing a devotion and information about their worksite.

"We were split up and at the worksites by 8 in the morning," says Dunton Bruni. "It was hard work, but we met the families whose homes were so badly damaged. We listened to their stories, and we gave them hope. One family crawled to their roof and stood on it as they watched their car port and cars swept away. Their home was completely damaged inside. The second home was again completely damaged; the owner tried to stop the raging waters flooding into her home to no avail. The third home was a man who lived in the basement and his sons lived above. When the waters came rushing in, the man was -> see HURRICANE Page 11



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TRACK Cont. from page 1

"There are some students that, from the moment you meet them, you know they are destined for greatness," Nickerson said. "Robyn was one of those students I knew that she could do whatever she set her mind to."

He said that Robyn was no different in high school than she is now and that's one of the things that makes her unique.

"She is as genuine a person as you will ever meet," Nickerson said. "She has a positive energy about her that lights up a room. She always worked incredibly hard yet never complained. She is the kind of person that everyone wants to be around because she always makes you feel like a better person. I remember her singing voice, but what really sticks out in my memory is her laugh. She truly loves life."

According to Nickerson, while Robyn is what he calls a triple threat for acting, singing, dancing, he believes that her greatest strength is her personality.

"She works in an industry that is extremely competitive, yet has remained positive," he said. "That's not to say that she hasn't had struggles. She hasn't let those struggles define her. It has been inspirational to watch her hard work be rewarded."

RSU 14 Superintendent of Schools Chris Howell had Hurder as a student when he taught Biology at WHS.



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"She was a fantastic student who worked really hard in my class to be successful in mastering the content," he said. "It has been exciting to follow her career over the years and see how far she has gone with her talents."

After graduating from WHS, Hurder attended the University of New Hampshire for two years before moving to New York City and auditioning for Broad-

way shows. In 2003, she landed a part in a national tour of "Starlight Express" and her professional career was off and running.

She was a member of the original Broadway cast of "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" in 2005. That was followed in order by parts in productions of "Spamalot," "The Wedding Singer," "Chicago," "Grease," and "A Chorus Line." During a tour of "A Chorus Line" Hurder married her castmate and Broadway actor Clyde Alves.

By 2010, Hurder was a veteran performer and appeared in 12 more productions over the next decade before originating the role of Nini in "Moulin Rouge" at the Al Hirschfield Theatre on Broadway in 2020. That performance earned Hurder her first Tony Award nomination for Best featured Actress in a Broadway Musical.

In her next role, she won a Chita Rivera Award for Dance and Choreography as Outstanding Dancer in a Broadway Show when she appeared as Neil Diamond's second wife, Marcia Murphey, in "A Beautiful Noise: The Neil Diamond Musical" in 2023.



May 2, 2025

Robyn Hurder sings on the Broadway stage. PHOTO BY MATTHEW MURPHY AND PAUL KOLNIK

She's also appeared in dramatic roles on television in such shows as "The Equalizer" and "Fosse/Verdon" and been interviewed on "CBS Sunday Morning with Jane Pauley," "The Jennifer Hudson Show," and "Late Show with David Letterman."

Now she is currently starring as Ivy Lynn, who plays actress Marilyn Monroe in the new Broadway show "'Smash."

The Broadway musical "Smash" with music by Marc Shaiman and lyrics by Shaiman and Scott Wittman is based on the 2012-2013 NBC television series "Smash" created by Theresa Rebeck. It includes songs from the TV series and original songs written for this new production. Like the television series, the musical follows the creation of a musical about the life of actress Marilyn Monroe.

Nickerson and his wife saw "Smash" last week and he said it is outstanding.

"Robyn's performance was unlike anything I've seen," he said. "Her performance filled me with an enormous amount of pride." <

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The Windham Eagle

HURRICANE Cont. from page 9

trapped; his sons had to break a window to get him out."

A street that the Fuller Center Disaster Recovery teams are working on is one in which every home was damaged.

"Markings for safety or lives lost

are still on the doors," says Dunton Bruni. "A car sits on the street full of mud. A hole is seen where a family broke through the attic. The waters rose to the eaves in this neighborhood."

During her time in North Carolina, the team and Dunton Bruni were close to finishing

two homes for families to move back into and started work on three others.

While the tasks were difficult, Dunton Bruni says that hearing the stories and seeing the tragedy of the area was more difficult.

"They need more help," she says. "Teams have been coming every week since September and there is still so much work."

Even through all the tragedy and disaster, Dunton Bruni still kept a positive view.

"The area is beautiful," she says. "Flowers are blooming, and the mountains remind me of our mountains. The people were amazing and the team I worked with connected

need hope."

deeply in God's work we were doing to serve others."

Disaster can hit at anytime and anywhere, says Dunton Bruni.

"We cannot forget the people who need us," she says. "They are survivors, but they need our help. They

> As Board Chair and President of the Sebago Lake Region Fuller Center for Housing, Dunton Bruni says that she is committed to keep serving others and giving them hope. She said the hurricane damage in North Carolina is sad but efforts to help the survivors

are inspiring.

Faith in Action

Sebago Lakes Region

Fuller Center for Housing

"I am exhausted, but I learned skills that I can use with our families here in Maine," Dunton Bruni said. "I feel blessed to have been physically and emotionally able to help these families and give them hope."

Dunton Bruni says you can support the local effort to help repair homes for seniors and veterans by visiting sebagofullerhousing.org.

For more details or if you are interested in working with the Fuller Center for Housing Disaster Rebuilders, visit the Fuller Center Disaster Rebuilders website at disaster-rebuilders.org, or contact Diane Dunton Bruni at prdunton@msn.com. <



or mail to: 585 Roosevelt Trail, Windham, ME 04062

Editor,

Raymond voters should have seen the Town notice on page 16 of your April 25 edition and be planning to attend in person or via Zoom the public hearing on May 13 at 6 p.m.

Before that day, we need to read the Town Warrant available on the Town website - keep your eyes peeled for the posting. The notice also says a second hearing is to be scheduled; these two replace the April 8 and May 3 hearings which were in your Road-Runner insert on March 21, but were postponed.

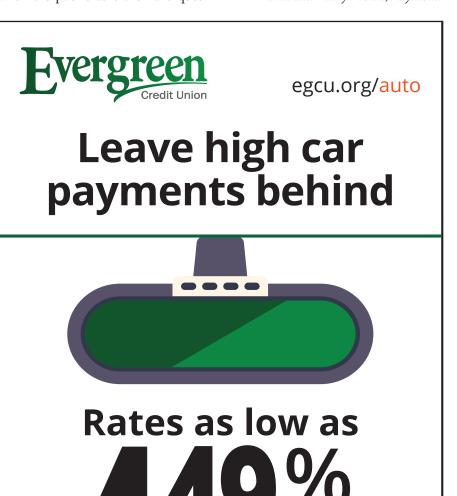
The Select Board has said these will be our chance not just to listen to a reading, but to ask questions and hear what our neighbors have to say about the warrant. These are the closest things the current board will offer in place of the in-person Town Meetings we always had up until the Covid shutdown. I've been on board meetings in person and via ZOOM, and our Broadcast Studio manager does a good job of running the system so that even remote viewers can speak.

Town government at its best in Maine is a group participation sport, when the public asks the hard questions, does their homework, and fully understands what they're voting on. The ballot sheet and the text of the warrant are only a summary of what the board chooses to present to the voters. The video of the April 8 Select Board meeting is a good example of well-informed citizens trying their best to participate as the rules allow, despite some strong resistance; I urge everyone to watch that video, if you only watch one. Trust me, real Town Meetings can actually be fun, and hearing from our neighbors is the best part.

Raymond as always will have interesting and complex warrant items to vote on, that will affect all of us. We also have some great new candidates for the Select Board including Kayla Gonzalez and Chris Hansen, very experienced in our town government, who will bring new openness, allow greater participation, and serve all the residents. Please chat with people you know (or would like to know better), learn what you can about the current state of affairs, the warrant articles, and these candidates, and make a date to vote on June 10.

~ David and Kathy Brown, Raymond

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Grade: 5 School: Manchester School
Teachers: Jennifer Breton, Megan King, and Deanna Blanchard
Favorite subject(s) in school: Art
Parents' names: Christine and Colin
Reason for selection: Acacia was chosen as Student of the Week because of her kindness, flexibility, and consistent work ethic. She has a heart of gold and treats everyone

with respect. Acacia comes to class daily with a smile and an eagerness to learn. She is a brilliant writer and quietly leads with her work. Her creativity extends to her artwork, as she is often seen drawing beautiful illustrations or creating with clay in class. She is exemplary for her ability, but even more for her desire to do her best. She challenges herself and leads by example. She is a sweet and respected classmate who deserves this recognition. Her gentle nature and commitment will take her far! She makes our days at Manchester School over brighter!







MEETING Cont. from page 3

ed as 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 the youth athletic fields at Gambo Park and to build a new public ice rink and playground by the new North Windham Fire Station.

Town Council Chair Jarrod Maxfield said that a misconception circulating on social media is that town taxes are paying for the sewer project underway in North Windham.

"The sewer is not in your taxes," Maxfield said.

Funding for that \$40.4 million project is derived from a combination of grant funding, a \$38.9 million award by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, a federal grant obtained by U.S. Senators Susan Collins and Angus King, and North Windham TIF funding supported by North Windham businesses.

Town Councilor David Nadeau said that of the budget that voters will ultimately be asked to approve during the Annual Town Meeting, just 36 percent of it is for the Town of



Windham with county and the RSU 14 budgets making up the rest.

In addition to reviewing the Town Warrant, councilors also unanimously approved appointments to town boards and committees at the meeting.

Councilors appointed Yvonne Myer as Chairman of the Voter Registration Appeals Board for a fouryear term to expire Aug. 15, 2029, and appointed Gary Lytle to the Board of Assessment Review for a three-year term to end Feb. 15, 2028.

Susan Marean was appointed to the Natural Resources Advisory Committee for a term to expire Aug. 15, 2028, and appointed Geoffrey Sparrow as an alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a three-year term to end Feb. 15, 2028. The council also appointed Peter Forbes to the Board of Assessment Review for a three-year term to end Feb. 15, 2028.

Many volunteer board and committees have vacancies and are seeking individuals to serve.

Open positions include four members for the Assessment Review Board; one position for the Human Services Advisory Committee; three positions on the Natural Resources Advisory Committee; one position on the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee; one on the Summerfest Committee; and one alternate seat on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Volunteers willing to serve are asked to apply at the Town Manager's Office at Windham Town Hall. <

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Corporators of Norway Bancorp, MHC will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, Auburn, Maine

Monday, May 5, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. for the following purposes:

- Social: 5:30-6:00 p.m.
- Business Meeting, Election of Directors and Corporators, and any other business which may properly come before the meeting: 6:00 p.m.



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BTI prepares for 'Jammin' for Mental Health' event

By Masha Yurkevich

As the calendar moves into the month of May, the Be The Influence (BTI) coalition is preparing to host the 3rd annual "Jammin' for Mental Health" event in recognition of Mental Health Awareness during the month of May.

This year's event will run from 5 to 7 p.m. on Monday, May 5 in the Windham High School Gymnasium.

Crystal Aldrich is the Project Coordinator for Be the Influence coalition and has been a part of "Jammin' for Mental Health" since it launched in collaboration with Maine Health Behavioral Health three years ago.

"Be the Influence Director, Patrice Leary-Forrey, Laurie Cavanaugh from Maine Health/Behavioral Health, and I do all the planning for and running of the event," says Aldrich.

"Jammin for Mental Health" began three years ago when Laurie Cavanaugh and then BTI Director, Laura Morris, collaborated and came up with the idea for this event for drawing attention to Mental Health through the Arts in a way that involved the community and brought it together.

"May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and the Windham School District Art show is usually the first week of May, so BTI reached out to the High School and asked if we could join them during their Art show," Aldrich said.

The purpose of the event is to bring attention and awareness to mental



health issues by using art as an outlet for improving your mental health.

Every year, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) chooses a theme for Mental Health Awareness month, and this year the theme is: In every story, there's strength. This theme highlights the resilience and diverse experiences that shape mental health journeys within our community. NAMI's campaign celebrates the power of storytelling to fuel connection, understanding, and hope for those navigating their own mental health path. More information about NAMI can be found at nami.org.

"This event is great for the whole family," said Aldrich. "There are so many art projects to do with kids, as well as adults. The music is fun, the BTI Youth group has many different projects in place that will keep the whole family having fun, young and old."

The "Jammin' for Mental Health" event will feature live music, vendors, resources, art projects, a photo booth, lots of door prizes, and wellness activities.

"This year we have some new vendors, as well as some from the past years," says Aldrich. "Come join us at the Windham High School Gymnasium for music, community resources fair and fun. Learn new skills on how to reduce stress and improve mental health through art and mindfulness. This is a free event open to the public and in partnership with RSU 14 Annual Art Show and Maine Health."

The community is strongly encouraged to attend.

"We try to focus on using art and music as a way to improve your mental health, and that makes it fun and creative," says Aldrich. "It has been a little different every year so far and just keeps getting better."

Be the Influence is a federal funded Drug Free Communities grant with a mission to reduce youth substance misuse through prevention education, community supports and harm reduction. It strives to build better health outcomes from positive experiences.

Aldrich said that she is very grateful for the MaineHealth/Behavioral Health team, and the BTI Youth group in their help with "Jammin' for Mental Health."

"This event would not be possible without the collaboration with the MaineHealth/Behavioral Health team, and the BTI Youth group," she says. "This year especially we have a great group of high school students so excited for this event and are looking forward to seeing it be a great success." <





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RTT participating in 2025 'Seen Through Horses' Campaign

Riding To The Top (RTT) in Windham will participate in Seen Through Horses 2025 - a nationwide public awareness and fundraising campaign promoting the mental health benefits of working with horses. See Through Horses is a peer-to-peer campaign that will run through the month of May and coincides with Mental Health Awareness Month, a time when conversations around mental health will be elevated around the country.

Mental health does not discriminate, and statistics show that one in five people in the U.S. will be affected by mental illness, with depression being the number one cause of disability worldwide. Two-thirds of people with mental illness never seek help, and of those who do, only about 50 percent find traditional talk therapy successful, according to the National Alliance on Mental illness (NAMI).

What staff and volunteers at Riding To The Top we have seen, however, is that experiential work with horses can bring about profound changes in people who struggle with mental health issues. This can be through direct ther-

apy services (Equine Assisted Psychotherapy), or can be through equine-assisted learning and therapeutic riding - services that are not direct mental health therapy, but can improve one's overall health and wellness by making connections with these powerful, sentient beings.

"We are thrilled to be part of this campaign that will bring awareness and as well as important funds to organizations who seek to improve access to equine-assisted services. Riding To The Top is a PATH International Premier Accredited Center, and while we do not provide direct mental health services, we witness daily the changes that happen when people and horses work together, from physical well-being to social-emotional connections and improved self-confidence, to overall enhanced mental health and wellness," said Sarah Bronson, RTT Executive Director. "Our volunteers also frequently comment on how much better they feel after working with our amazing equine partners. We are grateful to be part of the Seen Through Horses campaign."

Riding To The Top's mission is to enhance health and wellness through equine assisted services. As it joins the equine and mental health sectors around one message, shared together during the month of May, RTT encourages the public to help them spread awareness of our services.

You can support Riding To The Top leading up to and during the campaign, by visiting: sth2025.raiselysite.com/riding-to-the-top-therapeutic-riding-center and making a donation.

The Riding To The Top Therapeutic Riding Center (RTT) was founded in 1993. Located in Windham, RTT is the state's only PATH International Premier Accredited Center (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International) solely dedicated to equine-assisted services.

More than 250 participants are impacted annually, assisted by certified instructors, a herd of 16 horses and 100plus volunteers, all specially trained to assist with therapeutic riding, carriage driving, equine-assisted learning, and Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy services using equine movement. Riding To The Top is a community-based nonprofit, receives no federal or state funding and provides scholarships to more than 60 percent of its clients. For more information about RTT's client services, volunteering, or making a gift, visit www.ridingtothetop.org or call 207-892-2813.

Seen Through Horses is a peerto-peer campaign composed of individuals, nonprofits, mental health professionals, influencers, and businesses to increase awareness, public engagement, and raise funds to improve access to programs incorporating horses for mental health and personal growth. Horses can make a much-needed difference for the mental health challenges so many in our world face. Seen Through Horses aims to convene a community, empower nonprofits, and share stories of transformation to illustrate the positive impacts of incorporating horses into mental health services and programs.

The Seen Through Horses Campaign is made possible by Title Sponsor, Zoetis, and is produced by Horses for Mental Health. In addition, premier partners supporting the campaign also include The American Horse Council, American Psychological Association's Section on Human-Animal Interaction, Arenas For Change, Black in the Saddle, Equine Network, EQUUS Films & Arts, EQUUS Foundation, EQUUS Television Network, Horses & Humans Research Foundation, Institute for Human-Animal Connection, Natural Lifemanship, New Trails Learning Systems, PATH International, Polyvagal Equine Institute, Rescued Hearts, Rural Minds, Temple Grandin Equine Center, The HERD Institute, and US Equestrian.

As the organization galvanizes the equine and mental health sectors around one message, espoused at the same time, donation to support Seen Through Horses will be accepted from May 1 to May 31, 2025 at horsesformentalhealth.org/campaign. <







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— Page 15

Loon Echo Land Trust expands Hacker's Hill Preserve access

By Abby Wilson STAFF WRITER

Loon Echo Land Trust (LELT) is expanding gate hours at Hacker's Hill Preserve, located on Quaker Ridge Road in Casco. The gate opens Friday, May 2 for the 2025 season and will remain open through Oct. 31.

Hacker's Hill, known for its wideopen fields and stunning west-facing views, is a popular local destination for sunset watching, picnicking, walking, and kite flying. LELT, a nonprofit based in Bridgton, owns and manages the property.

From May 1 to Oct. 31, 2025, the gate will be open on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays. The gate will be closed on: Tuesdays, Thursdays, during inclement weather and on July 4. New for 2025 – Vehicle access is allowed from dawn to dusk, but night use is not permitted without prior written permission. Daytime pedestrian access is welcome when the gate is closed.

This change restores vehicle access to the top of the hill during sunset hours, which is something that had been limited in recent years due to staffing constraints. Last year, the gate closed at 5 p.m. on the days when it was open. The new hours bring back a popular way for visitors to enjoy evening views.

LELT staff now manage the gate, a job once done by a single, dedicated volunteer. Without another committed volunteer to step up, LELT adjusted gate hours last year so that opening and



Loon Echo Land Trust is expanding gate hours at Hacker's Hill Preserve, located on Quaker Ridge Road in Casco. The change restores vehicle access to the hill during sunset hours. SUBMITTED PHOTO

closing the gate could be managed by the organization's small staff. The dawn to dusk hours this year are aligned with policies at other LELT properties.

"Hacker's Hill means a lot to many people," said Matt Markot, LELT Executive Director. "We're putting a lot of trust in the community with this decision. The reason the gate was established, years before LELT's ownership of the property, was due to significant misuse back when Hacker Hall owned it."

The Hall family, who owned the hill for over 100 years, welcomed public access for much of that time. But the property required more time and resources than the family could sustain, leading to the 2012 sale to LELT after a major fundraising effort. Funding from the Town of Casco and Maine's Land for Maine's Future program helped protect the Hill from development while guaranteeing public access and conserving grassland and forest habitat.

LELT maintains the land's park-like feel through regular mowing, field haying, and upkeep of a pit toilet. The stewardship of Hacker's Hill, like much of LELT's conservation work in the Lake Region, relies on support from the community.

The new gate hours will be implemented on a trial basis, with modifications possible if issues or misuse arise.

"We'll see how this goes," said Markot. "We hope the community will continue to treat this special place with care so it can stay open in this way."

LELT hosts events at Hacker's Hill

throughout the summer, including free yoga classes, sunset concerts by local artists, and a screening of the Maine Outdoor Film Festival. More information on LELT events can be found at LELT.org/events or the Loon Echo Land Trust Facebook page.

All Hacker's Hill visitors are asked to adhere to the posted use guidelines.

Hacker's Hill Use Guidelines

• Open dawn to dusk; no camping or fires

• Motorized vehicles only on paved/ gravel roads and in parking areas

• Dogs must be on a leash, carry out all pet waste

• Commercial use by permission only (more info at LELT.org)

• Hunting is allowed (wear blaze orange in season)

• Night use for astrophotography by permission (email: info@lelt.org)

The gate is closed each winter from November through April. During that time, visitors can access the hill by walking up the road or using the snowmobile trail maintained by the Crooked River Snowmobile Club. <





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May through August 2025

VISIT OUR LOCAL PARKS & TRAILS THIS SUMMER:

★ DUNDEE PARK: Open May 24 – June 8 (weekend and Memorial Day only) from 9am-7pm Open daily starting June 9 – June 29 from 9am-7pm (Closed June 21 for Summerfest), June 30 - Aug. 17 from 8am-8pm, August 18-August 31 from 9am-7pm, Sept. 1 from 9am-5pm

★ Take a hike at Lowell Preserve or the East Windham Conservation Area; Picnic and playground time at Lippman Park; Bike or walk on the Mountain Division Trail; Be active on the courts or the skatepark at the Community Park.



All Windham parks and trails are carry in-carry out facilities. Please help us keep our parks clean by bringing your trash home with you!

COMMUNITY OFFERINGS:

★ WINDHAM SUMMERFEST – JUNE 21ST Go to WindhamSummerfest.com for a full list of events

- ★ EVENTS AT DUNDEE PARK Summer Concert Series, Movies in the Park, Trivia Nights, BINGO Nights, etc. Find a full calendar of events at: WindhamRecreation.com
- ★ SUMMER CONCERTS AT DUNDEE PARK Wednesdays in July from 6:30-8pm, free admission after 5pm 7/9: The Lynn Deeves Trio, 7/16: North River Music 7/23: Jack Fossett & 7/30: Jimmy Macisso RAIN DATES: 8/6 or 8/13

★ MRPA DISCOUNTED TICKETS Funtown Splashtown, Aquaboggan and York's Wild Kingdom Ticket sales begin mid-June

YOUTH & FAMILY P

- ★ MAINE BACKYARD CAMPO First 50 families to register will rece
- ★ SUMMER TRACK for Ages 5-Practices on Monday and Wednesday night Registration opens May 12th
- ★ ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS
 - Masterpiece Makers (Grades 1-.
 - Paddling Adventure (Grades 4-8
 - -Archery (Ages 11-13)
 - Swimming Lessons (Grades 1-5)
 - Feelin' Good Mileage Club (Gra
 - Intro to Horsemanship (Grades
- ***** YOUTH SPORTS CAMPS
 - Tennis Camp for Grades 1-8 Stay
 - Lacrosse Camp for grades 3-8 A
- ★ ADDITIONAL WEEKLY CAN
 - Bonus Camp for Grades 1-6 (for W
 - Lego Camp⁻ for Grades 1-6
 - Chess Wizards Camp for Grades
- Summer Monologue Program fo

OUTINGS PLANNEI

- ★ HARRASEEKET INN AFTERN
- ★ ALPACA FARM TOUR AND
- **★** COME FROM AWAY Ogunqui
- ★ A DAY AT THE BEACH Pine
- ★ SOMETHING ROTTEN Lyr
- ★ CABBAGE ISLAND Boothbay J

(No online ticket sales, must purchase in person at the Parks & Rec. office)

2025 SUMMER PHOTO CONTEST

Submit your favorite summer photos of family, nature, animals or Town of Windham photos All Photos Due by Sept. 5th See details & submit at: WindhamRecreation.com ★ GARDEN STROLL - at Pineland
 ★ GUYS AND DOLLS - Ogunquit F
 ★ SONGO RIVER QUEEN SCE
 ★ MAINE STATE AQUARIUM
 ★ CINDERELLA - Biddeford City The
 ★ COLBY COLLEGE OF ART +
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JPCOMING PROGRAMS/EVENTS

FMI & TO REGISTER, GO TO:

WindhamRecreation.com, call 892-1905, or visit us at Town Hall, 8 School Rd

NOTE: There are registration start & end dates for many of our programs.

Registration will be allowed after the registration deadline if space allows, however, a late fee may be applied.

ROGRAMS:

UT – July 11-13, 2025 ive a free campout kit! -14: Begins June 16th s, meets on Thursdays:





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y tuned for more details August 4-7

APS

Vindham Campers only)

5 K-6 r Ages 11-14



JOON TEA – Freeport May 7 PICNIC – W. Newfield May 20 it Playhouse May 28 Point Beach June 5 ric Music Theatre June 15

ADULT PROGRAMS:

- ★ ADULT PICK-UP BASKETBALL Monday & Tuesday nights 7-9:30pm from June 23 – Aug. 5 at Windham Town Hall Gym
- ★ BEGINNER PICKLEBALL LESSONS Saturday mornings 10:30-11:30am, Next session starts May 10 **Sessions also in June & August!** at Windham Community Park Please inquire for specific summer dates
- ★ COACHED PICKLEBALL PLAY Saturday afternoons 11:30am-12:30pm, Next session starts May 10 at Windham Community Park Please inquire for additional summer dates
- ★ CANDLEPIN BOWLING Tuesdays once a month from 10:30am-1pm, April 29, May 27, June 24, July 29, & August 26 at Westport Bowling
- ★ ADULT ARCHERY Saturdays July 12-August 2 from 1-2:30pm or 3-4:30pm at Lincoln Field
- ★ FITNESS FOUNDATION– Every Monday & Wednesday from 10-11am, Next session begins May 5 at Windham Town Hall Gym
- ★ WINDHAM WANDERERS HIKING CLUB Wednesday mornings at 10am

Check our website for dates locations, as they will vary.

- ★ FREE BINGO Mondays twice a month from 1-2:30pm May 5 & 19, June 2 & 16, July 7 & 21, August 4 & 18 at Windham Town Hall Gym
- ★ CRIBBAGE Every Thursday from May 1 August 28th from 1:30pm – 3:30pm at the Town Hall Council Chambers.

COMMUNITY EVENTS:

* SPRING LUNCHEON – Windham Town Hall Gym.May 12 ★ BBQ IN THE PARK – Dundee Park June 11





une 18

- d Farms July 2
- Playhouse July 9 NIC TOUR – July 16
- Boothbay Harbor July 23
- eatre August 3
- LUNCH August 6
- RE Boothbay August 20
- E HOUSE Bailey Island August 14



OTHER INFORMATION:

For the most up-to-date ways to learn about our programs, check our website, opt into our email notifications, request to receive our Senior newsletter by mail & follow us on Facebook.

Questions? Email us at: parks&recreation@windhammaine.us

WINDHAM FIREFIGHTERS INVEST FOR THE FUTURE THROUGH GENEROUS DONATION



The Windham Fire Department donated a retired fire truck to the Foster Tech Vocational Center Student Fire-EMS program at Mt. Blue High School in Farmington on Friday, April 18. The truck replaces a 1984



fire truck that had been previously donated to the vocational center. The students said they were very excited and proud to have a truck that is more current to study firefighting operations. Vocational programs like this are a great feeder program into careers in Fire Service. From the vocational programs students often go on to the fire science programs at Southern Maine Community College and Eastern Maine Community College and associated live-in programs, which Windham's Fire Department has participated in for the past 30 years. COURTESY PHOTO





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Solving a cold case reveals a new mystery

By Andy Young STAFF WRITER



Last summer my oldest child and I traveled up to Newfoundland, where we camped and hiked in Gros Morne National Park; Andy Young, Columnist trekked up to L'Anse

aux Meadows, a UNESCO World Heritage Site where Vikings established a settlement more than a millennium ago; and explored the town of Gander, which houses the airport where most of North America's airplanes were grounded in the days following the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001.

Our expedition was unforgettable for all the right reasons, save for one thing: the puzzling disappearance of a recently acquired family heirloom, the Yachats, Oregon (population 1,010) cloth tote I had purchased as a souvenir of a one-day visit to the picturesque Pacific Coast village a few summers ago.

I had taken it to Newfoundland not only for use as a handy, environmentally responsible shopping bag, but also so I could take a photo of it and myself overlooking the Atlantic Ocean and send it to the friend who, in addition to being the primary reason for a memorable luncheon in Yachats, is one of the town's 1,010 most prominent citizens. My son snapped the desired picture on a clear, sunny morning on a cliff at Cape Spear, North America's easternmost point. Mission Accomplished!

But then, tragedy struck. When I dropped my son and his gear off in Orono at the tail end of our journey, there was no trace of the Yachats bag anywhere. We tore through his belongings and mine but came up empty. Even the reassuring thought of my lost

tote being used by some ecologically conscientious Newfie was of little consolation.

The mysterious disappearance of an item that was attractive, practical and likely the only one of its kind in the state of Maine was distressing, but thanks to the passage of time and also to two special angels, each of whom went to the trouble of obtaining a brand new Yachats tote bag and sending it to me as a gift, the palpably paralyzing grief I felt began to slowly recede.

What brought the Yachats bag to



mind last week was my son's cat, who currently has permission to live in my previously animal-free residence for as long as my son does, but not a moment longer. Normally a healthy eater, Marina seemed a bit reluctant to consume her supper one night last week, and a closer inspection revealed why – a swarm of tiny food ants, the type that seem to show up at this time every year, were scurrying around her bowl of kitty food.

Clearly steps needed to be taken, so I decided to temporarily relocate the couch that was adjacent to the cat's food dish in an attempt to discover the source of the insect convention.

Thankfully there wasn't a swarm of ants (or any other vermin) beneath that couch, which clearly hadn't been moved in quite some time. There were, however, some dust curls, several sheets of poster board, and ... the original Yachats bag that had disappeared in Newfoundland last summer!

While unexpectedly solving this particular cold case is equal parts rewarding and delightful, I now have an even more baffling mystery on my hands: how did an inanimate object that wasn't anywhere to be found in my son's effects, my own luggage, or in our car when we returned from Canada last June end up reappearing in the dust beneath a couch 11 months after it had seemingly vanished forever?

I may never learn the answer to this newly discovered enigma. But it's nice knowing I now possess what are likely the only three Yachats tote bags in the state of Maine. <



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WHS varsity baseball falls to Biddeford in season opener

By Matt Pascarella STAFF WRITER

In the season opener. Windham varsity baseball took on Biddeford at Windham on Friday April 25 and while Windham was slow to swing the bat and didn't cross the plate, resulting in a 10-0 loss to the Tigers, there's plenty of time for improvement.

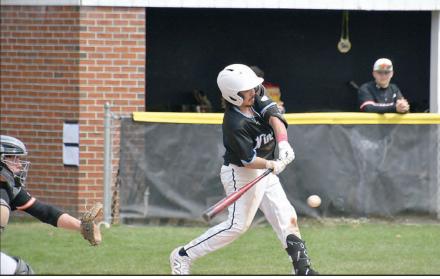
Senior Grant Coppi pitched four innings, had zero earned runs, one walk and six strikeouts. Senior Cayden McCartney pitched two innings, had one walk and one strikeout.

Windham varsity baseball coach Chris Doughty said these statistics tell him Biddeford scored one run that they earned. Windham made six errors and struck out 10 times, so 16 opportunities shifted in Biddeford's favor, and the Tigers took advantage of that.

"I know we'll shore up the defense," said Doughty. "We just lacked that big hit today; if you don't try, you're going to fail every time, we just got to get going. We're playing right now like we're afraid to fail, and we just need to play confidently. When you start making error clusters, that's when you get in trouble. You can't play baseball being afraid to fail, it's a game of failure. We don't want to be peaking in game one, we want to be peaking in game 12, 13, 14, 15 - that's when we want to be getting to our best baseball. We'll get there."

At the start of the game Windham sent three batters back to the dugout after two strikeouts and a fly out to shortstop was caught by Windham sophomore Alex Pastore.

McCartney singled and freshman





(L to R) Windham senior Josh Plummer bats against Biddeford during the prep baseball season opener on Friday, April 25. Freshman Mason Rulman runs to first base after getting his first varsity hit. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

Aiden Rinaldi walked. Unfortunately, they were left on base.

Biddeford scored one run in the second inning, to lead 1-0.

Windham kept after it. After a walk and senior Josh Plummer was hit by a pitch in the second inning, sophomore Mike Redlon singled.

In the bottom of the third inning, Windham freshman Mason Rulman notched his first varsity hit with a grounder to left center field.

"It felt good," said Rulman. "I put the work in, and it shows when I go up there and hit off a good pitcher pitching. Our pitchers were throwing strikes, they were letting the other hitters hit it right to our defense, we just need to make the plays. We did OK swinging the bat, but we need to do a



Windham senior Grant Coppi throws a strike. (Inset) Sophomore Mike Redlon makes a stellar catch in right field.

lot better. I feel like we could have a lot more communication. We could have beat them, we just need to lock in and not make errors."

By the fifth inning, Biddeford was up, 7-0. Redlon had a diving catch in right field. Windham was unable to catch Biddeford, and the game ended after six innings.

"Right now, we're stilling trying to figure out how to play as a team," said Coppi. "We're kind of playing scared; we got to focus on what we all want and that's to win, but we just got some things to figure out. We had a couple young kids step up and make great plays. It definitely got harder, but I think we did a good job of not hanging our heads. I think we got to play with more confidence and make less errors, swing the bat more and us pitchers got to pound the strike zone." <



Niyah Cummings

Age: 14 Team: Windham Middle School Softball Coach: Katherine Parsons

Parents' names: Kendra and Caleb Cummings **Reason for selection:** Niyah's positive and uplifting attitude is infectious. She is always the first one to say, "thank you," offers to carry-in or carry-out gear and does most things with a smile (even if sometimes

sarcastically). She is a far better player than she gives herself credit for. She is hard on herself; but that coincides with one of her coach's favorite things about her that she approaches everything with charisma and without a sense of ego. She has been working hard on all in-field positions and will see time on the mound this season as we continue to work on her speed and her number of pitches. When Niyah is around, you know it. She is a ray of sunshine, mixed with some well-used and respectful sarcasm. We all enjoy having her around; and you can tell that the players look up to her.



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Windham boys' tennis competes in an unprecedented match

By Matt Pascarella STAFF WRITER

Windham varsity boys' tennis played their second match of the regular season against Marshwood at Windham High School on Tuesday, April 29. Windham lost 5-0, but in this unique match four of the five sets were pushed to tiebreakers. Windham players gave their all and played with everything they had.

In the single match Windham junior Nolan McPhail won 6-3, lost 1-6 and lost 6-10 in the tiebreaker.

"I knew I could beat him the first set, I felt really good," said Windham singles player Nolan McPhail, who was recovering from being sick. "By the end of the first set, I was getting really tired and my stomach started hurting. And in the second set I just fell off and lost that one. By the end, I was trying to save my energy, because I knew we were going to tiebreaker; so, during the tiebreaker I was just trying to stay in there, but he outlasted me, it was still a good game, and it was really close. He got more aggressive, and I got more sluggish and that led to me losing, but I still feel I did well. The first-game nerves weren't there. I had the mindset where it was like 'I can win this,' but it's just not my day."

Windham senior Zach Noonan lost his first singles set 4-6, won 6-4 and then lost his tiebreaker 10-2.

Carter Mathieu lost 4-6 and 0-6 in his singles sets.

In the doubles matches, juniors Padrick McGuire and Nate Paulding lost 2-6 and won 6-1. They pushed their sets to a tiebreaker and left everything on the court but unfortunately lost 10-4.

"We pushed so hard during the second set," said McGuire. "We come into the tiebreaker trying to keep momentum, but going so hard in that second set kind of kills you; we're going to work toward it and we're better for it. I think they were a good team, they were definitely communicating, in the end they just pulled it through better than we did. We lost a little bit of the communication towards the end because of the exhaustion, and next time, we'll be ready."

Paulding said communication was a lot of it, they've known each other



(L to R) Windham junior Nolan McPhail returns a serve during a boys' tennis match against Marshwood at Windham High School on Tuesday, April 29. Junior Padrick McGuire gets to the ball in time. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

since like fourth grade; it's fun playing together. Once you get to the point of losing that first set, it can be really hard to come back, but it can also be really easy. That can help communication and help play. He said he was a little nervous going into the tiebreaker.

Tiebreakers kind of drain Paulding, sometimes it works out and sometimes it doesn't.

Windham seniors Brian Gilheany and Asher Knott lost their first doubles set 2-6, then won 6-7, then lost the tiebreaker 4-7.

"I've never lost a 5-0 match that was this close; four out of five going into a tiebreaker, it's crazy, I've never seen anything like it," said Windham varsity boys' tennis coach Garry Stone. "And in every case, our guys lost the first one but then won the second one - to me that's showing some grit. They didn't roll over, they faced some adversity, and they came back. I can't be upset with the end result because every kid out there gave everything they had. I'm actually very proud of them even though it looks like we got crushed, we all know that we didn't; it was very close." <

(Right top to bottom) Junior Nate Paulding leaps as he hits the ball back to his Marshwood opponent. Junior Carter Mathieu hits the ball over the net.









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HANDMADE GIFT PAYS TRIBUTE TO WINDHAM VETERANS OF VALOR



During the American legion Field-Allen Post 148 Veterans Coffee on April 9, a special tribute was held recognizing a dozen local veterans with Eagle Canes produced by the Post 148 Chaplain Gerald Beaulieu. Last October, Beaulieu started carving Eagle Cane heads and with the help of Post 148 member Arne DeFosse, who provided the cane sections from a local woodlot, they were able to



LEGAL NOTICE



RAYMOND PLANNING BOARD

AGENDA HYBRID WORKSHOP

BROADCAST STUDIO – 423 WEBBS MILLS ROAD At Broadcast Studio & Via Zoom

Wednesday, May 14th, 2025 • 7:00 p.m.

NOTICE – THERE WILL BE NO PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Roll Call

assemble the canes, and tailor them to the veteran's branch of service. During the tribute, the canes were presented to 11 veterans on behalf of their service to the nation. Receiving Eagle Canes from left are Morris Wright, Ted Deschambeault, Willie Goodman, Phil Perry, Gerald Beaulieu (presenter), Bob Chapin, Tom Theriault, David Tanguay, Waler Lamb, Phyllis Page, Arne DeFosse, and Phil Sweetsir. SUBMITTED PHOTO

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

TOWN OF RAYMOND, MAINE Board of Selectmen NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Tuesday, May 13, 2025 • 6:00PM

@ Broadcast Studio (423 Webbs Mills Rd, Raymond)
 & Via ZOOM

The Town of Raymond Select Board will hold a Public Hearing during their regular meeting on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 6:00pm on the articles to be included in the Town Warrant for the Town Meeting Election on June 10, 2025.

An additional meeting is being planned also, details will be posted on the Town's website at: www.raymondmaine.org when finalized.



2. Initial Discussions for drafting Ordinances for:

 a. Short Term Rentals
 b. Marijuana Issues

 3. Staff Communications and Updates
 4. Adjournment

JOIN ZOOM MEETING

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83135664520?pwd= WAETg8DXWx5qQCBT9Ib63Z6arPw2NU.1 Meeting ID: 831 3566 4520 Passcode: 2vnbW7

ONE TAP MOBILE

Meeting ID: 831 3566 4520 Passcode: 931005 Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/klv5hCIUR



Get your home ready for a busy Maine summer

By Lisa DiBiase SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE



There's something special about the way Maine comes alive in May. The trees bloom, the lakes sparkle, and you can see neigh-

- Lisa DiBiase, Broker/Owner Landing Real Estate borhoods start to come alive with backyard BBQs, open windows, and after a long winter and muddy spring, many of us can't wait to dust off the porch furniture and soak up the sun.

Before you dive into summer adventures, though, it's worth giving your home a little extra love. A few small maintenance projects now can help you make the most of the months ahead and avoid bigger (and more expensive!) headaches later.

A Little Work Now, A Lot More **Fun Later**

We all dream of stress-free summers, but small issues can sneak up on you if you're not prepared. A clogged gutter or faulty screen door might seem minor until a thunderstorm rolls through or the mosquitoes come out in full force.

Taking care of a few essentials early

gives you peace of mind and lets you spend more time on the golf course, enjoying boat rides, ice cream runs, and all the things that make summer in Maine unforgettable.

Outside: Protect and Refresh Your Home

• Gutters and Roof: Clear out any debris and check for loose shingles or leaks. Spring storms can cause hidden damage, and a quick inspection now can save you trouble later.

• Decks and Patios: Clean and seal surfaces to protect them from the sun and rain. Sprucing up your outdoor spaces also makes them more inviting to gather with family and friends.

• Windows and Screens: Swap out storm windows, wash the glass, and repair any screens. Fresh air is one of the best parts of the summer, don't let bugs crash the party!

Inside: Keep It Cool and Comfortable

• Air Conditioning and Fans: Make sure your systems are cleaned and serviced. Ceiling fans should rotate counterclockwise in the summer to create a cool breeze.

• Humidity Check: Basements in Maine can get damp in the summer.







Running a dehumidifier can help protect your home (and your health).

• Fresh Start: Pack away heavy winter gear, organize your entryways, and create space for flip-flops, beach bags, and sunscreen.

Make It a Season to Remember

Beyond the basics, now is a great time to think about what would make your summer even sweeter. Maybe it's planting a few new flowers, setting up a hammock in the backyard, or building that fire pit you've always

wanted. Small projects can add so much joy to everyday life and summer always flies by faster than we think.

Home is where some of the best summer memories are made, and a little preparation now will help you enjoy every minute of it. If you're starting to think bigger, maybe about a new backyard, a new neighborhood, or even a new view, Landing Real Estate is always here to help. No pressure, just friendly guidance when you need it most.

Here's to a happy, healthy, and sunshine-filled Maine summer ahead!

This article was brought to you by Lisa DiBiase, Broker/Co-Owner of Landing Real Estate. Lisa and her team proudly represent buyers and sellers across the Greater Portland, Lakes Region, and beyond. For all your real estate needs, contact Lisa at Lisa@LandingHomesMaine.com or *call 207-775-SOLD.* <

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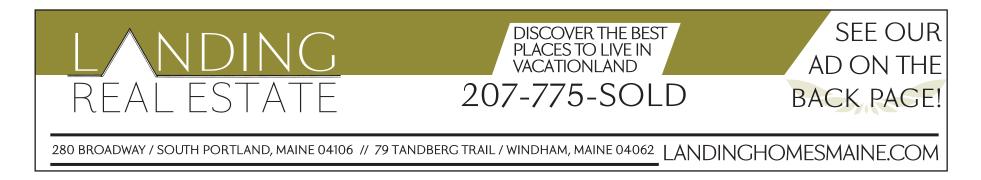
richardjvraux@gmail.com

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Lions Scholarship

The Windham Lions Club is a local service organization dedicated to improving the health and well-being of the community and supporting those in need through humanitarian work and service. It seeks to make our community a better place in which to live, in particular by supporting those with visual and or hearing impairments and diabetes, as well as food insecurity. The Windham Lions are awarding a scholarship(s) of \$1,000 to high school seniors who are Windham residents, including public, private and home-schooled students who are about to further their education in either an accredited technical program or in a 2- or 4-year college program. To request an application, email: WindhamLionsMe@gmail.com The deadline to apply is May 3.

Historical Fiction Book Club

At 1 p.m. on Thursday, May 8, the Historical Fiction Book Club will meet at the Raymond Village Library, 3 Meadow Road for a discussion of the book "A Gentleman in Moscow" by Amor Towles. Everyone is welcome. Call the library for more details or to request the book at 207-655-4283.

Crochet Club

Windham Public Library, 217 Windham Center Road, Windham, is hosting a Crochet Club from 4 to 5 p.m. on Wednesdays. Participants will learn the basic stitches and simple sewing techniques needed to create a stuffed animal. Each class will focus on building your skills. Space is limited to seven participants, so please sign up at the library's Help Desk or call 207-892-1908 Ext. 5.

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TRIAD meeting

The Windham, Gorham, Westbrook TRIAD is a partnership between the police, firefighters and seniors working together for the safety and security of seniors. The next TRIAD meeting will be held at 11 a.m. May 14 the Gorham Fire/Police Station. The guest speaker will be Marieta Atienza who will be speaking about her experiences with the Partners for World Health Organization. All are welcome. FMI, email: ritasmithme@gmail.com

Water Quality Monitoring

Every spring is the start of data collection season for the Presumpscot Regional Land Trust examining water quality throughout the region, and volunteers are always needed. Water quality monitoring volunteers must attend a training which is led by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and then collect water samples and data every other Saturday morning from mid-May through mid-September. To sign up, go to www.prlt.org/water-stewards-sign-up FMI, send an email to toby@prlt.org

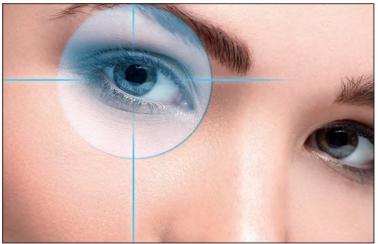
Sewing Donations

Donations are being collected for the St. Anthony Festival hosted by Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church being held in June. Kids and adult aprons, children's pillowcases, napkins, placemats, hanging towels, dishcloths, coasters, hair headbands and scrunchies, tote bags, and pet bandanas are sought. FMI, contact Carol at 207-650-1304.

Meals on Wheels

The Meals on Wheels program provides up to five meals for homebound participants. Volunteers and agency staff deliver meals four days a week. No deliveries are made on Wednesdays. Meals generally arrive between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. and are delivered either frozen or preheated based upon request. There is a suggested donation of \$3.50 per meal. This service is provided by the Southern Maine Agency on Aging. Call 1-800-400-6325 FMI.





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A unique shopping experience awaits those seeking elegance and sophistication in luxury designer handbags and accessories locally.

Owned and operated by Jasmine Keenan, a luxury design handbag expert, Vine Vintage Luxury Resale Boutique is at The Collective – alongside Eden Aesthetics and Blush & Brow – at 8 Turning Leaf Drive, Suite 4 in Windham. Her store not only sells authenticated luxury handbags, but it also provides restoration for handbags and accessories and brings affordable luxury, integrity, transparency and fashion to Maine.

"I provide a unique boutique shopping experience and access to luxury designer handbags and accessories, historically not available to purchase in person in Maine," Keenan said. "I also provide restoration services, including cleaning, touch ups, alterations, and small fixes for handbags and accessories. I specialize in 'vintage' luxury goods from the early 2000s, all the way back to the early 1980s. I have a unique knowledge of the style, design, history and manufacturing dates of each of the individual items, and the fashion houses that designed them. Customers also have the option to consign their own designer items and can request that I find specific items that they are looking for."

Vine Vintage is the only store of its kind in the area and since its launch a

Vine Vintage Luxury Resale Boutique

year ago, it has developed a loyal and devoted following.

"There are other resale companies that categorize themselves as 'thrift stores,' while I categorize my store as a "resale boutique," Keenan said. "Aside from the uniqueness of my store, what sets me apart the most is my pricing. While most pre-loved luxury handbags cost on average \$1,500, my average sale is under \$500. I'm able to provide affordable pricing by sourcing my inventory from close contacts that I have made in the industry over the years, as well as focusing on vintage pieces that need restoration services. Customers can feel confident that they are buying 100 percent authentic items, because I use a third-party company called Authentic Detective for each item. A certificate of authenticity is provided with each sale."

Because of Keenan's expertise and emphasis on providing exceptional customer service, pricing at Vine Vintage is among the lowest you can find locally and online for pre-loved designer handbags and accessories. She only sells genuine designer bags, and each one has been carefully chosen for the store in gently used vintage condition.

"Our bags are affordable in comparison to what is available new," Keenan said. "People who never thought they could afford it find that luxury handbags and accessories can be affordable, contrary to what they may believe."

With its convenient location in Windham, Vine Vintage offers customers many opportunities to view inventory not only in person, but also online and through social media.

"Because I have a website and online presence, I ship inventory all over the world," Keenan said. "All items are available for in-store pickup or shipping."

Vine Vintage Luxury Resale Boutique is a culmination of Keenan's love of vintage pieces, background in art, and previous business experience. Reviews posted online about Vine

Vintage are simply outstanding.

"Officially addicted. Prices and

quality are unmatched. Nothing like a finding that vintage bag you've been searching for – coupled with a super sweetheart business owner! Very communicative and quick and I am a repeat offender for life!" Emily Cooke

"Recently purchased a beautiful Burberry Boston bag in basically brandnew condition from Vine Vintage. Jasmine was kind enough to give me ideas and different options to customize the bag to my needs. The shipping was super quick and came packaged beautifully. The bag in person is even more perfect and a piece that I hope to pass down to my daughter one day. Thank you again!" ~ Jessica Campbell

"I recently purchased not one, not two, but three bags from Vine Vintage. I came to look at the stunning Gucci Diana tote and left with a YSL clutch converted to a crossbody and a Gucci shoulder tote. I cannot recommend Jasmine enough! I will absolutely be purchasing more bags from her in the future. It was such a great experience overall, and I truly can't believe how gorgeous all 3 of my bags are. I am now the proud owner of some stunning vintage goods that I can't wait to show off. 10/10 seller, product, experience, communication, and pricing!" ~ Erin Leigh

For more details about Vine Vintage Luxury Resale Boutique, visit vinevintagebagco.com or find them on Facebook and Instagram under Vine Vintage Bag Co. <

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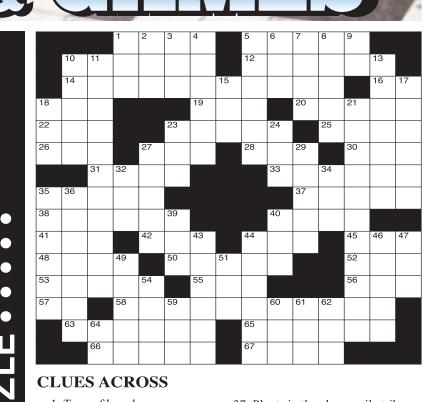
SPA

VACATION

WOMAN



GATHERING



1. Type of bread

- 5. Range of mountains
- 10. Ended

Δ

OSSWORD

- 12. Musical forms with a
- recurring theme
- 14. On the nature of being
- 16. Law enforcement agency 18. Australian flightless bird
- 19. Subway rodent
- 20. More dried-up
- - 22. A beaver might build one 23. Suggestive of the supernatural 55. Hit lightly
 - 25. Art ___, around 1920
 - 26. American rocker Snider
 - 27. Not or
 - 28. Earliest human: __-Magnon Man
 - 30. Firearm
 - 31. Tough outer skin of fruit
 - 33. Alternative form of a gene
 - 35. Low shrub some call "fat pork"

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Retired game show host Sajak 29. Ceramic jars
- 3. Israeli city ____ Aviv
- 4. Loved
- 5. A type of analyst
 - 6. Ad
 - 7. Gasteyer and de Armas are two 40. Inquire too closely
- 9. Opposite of yes
- 10. Diffuse clouds of gas
- 15. Freshwater fish
- 17. Remotely-manned flying objects
- 18. Doctor of Education
- 21. Renews
- 23. Not the start 24. Pitching stat

- 37. Plants in the chamomile tribe 38. Revolutionary War era spy
- 40. Portion of a book
- 41. Hoover's office
- 42. Title of respect
- 44. Tax collector
- 45. Cool!
- 48. Real estate
- 50. Boy's name
- 52. Airborne (abbr.)
- 53. Strongly recommends
- 56. Bar bill
- 57. Atomic #54
- 58. Devotes again
- 63. Fish sauce
- 65. French stock market
- 66. Things that consist of two
- elements or parts
- 67. Tense
- - 32. I (German)

 - 34. Something to toss on a fire 35. The process of flowing in
 - 36. A series of acts at a night club
 - 39. Egg of a louse

 - 43. Travelers
 - 44. Drink
 - 46. Behave in a way that degrades
 - 47. Electronic music style
 - 49. Northern Ireland city
 - 51. Upset
 - 54. Stiff structure resembling a hair
 - 59. Father
 - 60. North Atlantic fish
 - 61. 8th month (abbr.)
 - 62. Make an effort
 - 64. Commercial



- 2. Equal (prefix)

- 8. Ran without moving
- 11. Mentioning one by one
- 13. Instruments used to dilate
- 27. Small water buffaloes

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Clue: Giving someone creative feelings

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HOW TO SOLVE:

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LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS 5 2 4 8 1 9 3 2 6 1 8 9 5 7 4 4 9 5 3 6 7 8 1 2 6 7 94823 www 6 7 5 3 2 4 9 8 54 8 2317 9 6 4 1 2 78 3 5 6 9 1 9 7 5 3 6 4 2 8 4 3 8 9 6



Windham is making significant strides in ensuring residents of all ages and abilities can thrive. The town's Age-Friendly Windham (AFW) initiative, which began as a grassroots effort among community volunteers and town staff, has evolved into a fully established program dedicated to expanding services, fostering partnerships, and advocating for infrastructure improvements that enhance residents' quality of life.

Enhancing Emergency Preparedness

Following severe storms in December 2023 and April 2024, Windham officials recognized the urgent need to improve emergency preparedness, particularly for older adults vulnerable to prolonged power outages. Through its participation in the Community Connections (CC) project, AFW has taken proactive steps to address these concerns.

Led by Age-Friendly Coordinator and Community Connector Erica Bell-Watkins, the initiative has successfully brought together key town departments—including Police, Fire, and Communications—to develop a more age-friendly and resource-conscious emergency response plan.

As part of this effort, AFW conducted a comprehensive emergency preparedness survey in late 2024, receiving over 150 responses from community members. The findings

Age-Friendly Windham

WINDHAM STRENGTHENS COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS THROUGH AGE-FRIENDLY INITIATIVES

are shaping new strategies, including the distribution of 100 emergency preparedness "Go-Bags" this spring. These bags will contain essential items such as battery-operated radios

batteries, first aid kits, water purification tablets, hand sanitizer, and secure document bags. Additionally, AFW has created an Emergency Preparedness Guide to help residents respond confidently in crisis situations.

Expanding Services and Strengthening Partnerships

Beyond emergency preparedness, Windham has leveraged the CC project to expand key community services, including:

• Increased Transportation Access: In 2024, Windham's transportation service provided over 200 rides to



60 clients for medical appointments and social activities. AFW is now working to double ridership and ensure more residents can access reliable transportation.

• Bridging the Digital Divide: In partnership with the Windham Public Library and the National Digital Equity Center, AFW launched *Techno Wednesdays*, a series of digital literacy workshops covering cyber fraud prevention, telehealth navigation, email basics, and device assistance.

• Community Meals and Educational Programs: The Nourish Your Body and Mind series offers opportunities for residents to gather, learn, and connect. Past sessions have covered topics such as housing solutions, winter preparedness, and local resources, with support from organizations like the Southern Maine Agency on Aging, AARP, and Maine Housing. Boosting Community Awareness

and Future Growth

One of the biggest successes of the CC project has been expanding community awareness of AFW's programs. Bell-Watkins has focused on outreach and collaboration, ensuring that residents are well-informed about available services. "Since launching the Community Connections pilot in September, I've been able to dedicate more time to outreach and building partnerships," said Bell-Watkins. "As a result, more people know about AFW's programs and resources, and that's a huge step forward."

Looking ahead, Windham is committed to securing long-term funding for these critical programs. A key milestone in this effort was Bell-Watkins' appointment to the Ad Hoc Middle School Repurposing Committee, highlighting the town's recognition of the importance of age-friendly services. Additionally, the Community Connect pilot will continue to financially support the position in partnership with the town, ensuring that Windham's efforts to foster a more connected and resilient community will continue well into the future.

For more info. on Age-Friendly Windham and upcoming initiatives, visit www.agefriendlywindham.org or contact Erica Bell-Watkins at 207-892-4649. <





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