

# Extensive four-day search leads to ‘miracle’ dog rescue by professionals in Raymond

By Ed Pierce  
STAFF WRITER

Rob Russell and Carmen Brothers aren’t superheroes, but it would be tough to convince Dawn Elwell of Raymond otherwise.

Elwell was desperate to find her lost dog Pearl, who had escaped from a groomer in Raymond and had disappeared on April 30. After four days of searching for Pearl and running out of hope, Elwell hired Russell’s 2A TAC Air Ops Drone Services of Barrington, New Hampshire to see if he could do something to help.

He is a former police officer and U.S. Army infantryman who was wounded in combat in Afghanistan. He now owns a drone equipped with thermal technology that can be used in searches for missing people and pets. Russell holds a FAA Part 7 Commercial Drone License, and he launched his business several years ago with a desire to assist people in searches and inspire them to not give up when all appears hopeless.

“I realized I was on to something nobody else was doing in New England,” he said. “Our fees are based on hours flown and distance driven.”

Russell contacted Brothers of Professional Pet Trackers of Virginia to



(Left) Rob Russell of 2A TAC Air OPS Drone Services, Carmen Brothers of Professional Pet Trackers, and Finley the tracking dog helped to find Pearl, a 2-year-old dog who became lost in Raymond earlier this month. (Above) The state-of-the-art thermal imaging tracking drone is ready to launch. COURTESY PHOTO

assist in the search for Pearl, and she brought along her almost 2-year-old black lab named K9 Finley whom Brothers had trained and has been working on cases with her since December.

“While I was aware of Rob and his company 2A TAC Air Ops Drone

Services, we did not meet or work together until March 2025 for a Yorkie named Leo that was lost in Greenville, Maine,” Brother said. “Throughout the search for Leo, we found that his drone abilities paired with my tracking dogs provided a larger, more complete picture to lost pet owners. What

the drone may be unable to see or pick up, if an animal is under something or has left the area entirely, a tracking dog would be able to pick up on and pinpoint the location an animal may be hiding in. Or at the bare minimum, a tracking dog can give you a

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# School nutritionists honor WPS cook as ‘Maine School Nutrition Employee of the Year’ for 2025

By Masha Yurkevich  
STAFF WRITER

Cheyenne Trynor, the cook at Windham Primary School has been honored as the “School Nutrition Employee of the Year” for the state of Maine and for the Northeast Region by the School Nutrition Association.

This is the third year that Trynor has been working for RSU 14 and the Windham Raymond School Nutrition Program. Prior to being hired as the cook for WPS for the 2022-2023 school year, she was employed in food service at local restaurants around the Windham and Portland area from a young age.

“As the cook, I prepare the recipes or foods needed for the main meal each day, as well as prepare and organize any alternative meal accommodations for students with food allergies or dietary restrictions,” Trynor said.

The employee of the year award is given to members of the School Nutrition Association who are currently employed in a school food service program in a non-managerial role. Nominations for the award are judged based on several factors such as customer service skills, creativity, commitment to professional development, dedication to school nutrition



Cheyenne Trynor, a cook at Windham Primary School, has been awarded the 2025 School Nutrition Employee of the Year Award for the state of Maine and the Northeast Region by the School Nutrition Association. SUBMITTED PHOTO

and if they currently hold a School Nutrition Association (SNA) certificate. Each state winner advances to judging for a regional winner.

“I was nominated because of the work I have put in, not only to master-batch cooking so that each of our six lunch periods can have fresh food from scratch, but also the amount of trust I have built with local parents of students with food allergies and the bond with those students,” said Trynor.

She says that she finds new ways to encourage children to try new foods and menu items by using fun posters, stickers and decorating the kitchen with fruit, veggie and food themed squishmallows to engage with the students.

“I have also completed culinary skills trainings during the summer, hold Servsafe certifications including additional ones for food allergies, and have done a number of other trainings while earning my

SNA certificate,” Trynor said.

This award consists of not only local recognition at the state level for Trynor’s achievements and work, but

also nationally with the SNA in an award ceremony, published online and in the SNA magazine later this summer.

“I was completely surprised when I received a phone call from SNA letting me know that not only had I been chosen as the state winner, but also the regional winner for the Northeast,” said Trynor. “I was honored to receive this award and felt grateful to my coworkers who had seen my hard work and dedication and thought of nominating me for it.”

As a parent of four children, Trynor embraced the school nutrition opportunity and committed to learning all that she could about the guidelines and regulations that school nutrition programs are required to follow and continually sought out learning opportunities such as ServSafe Allergy training and a week-long Culinary Skills for School Nutrition Professionals, says Jeanne Reilly, Director of School Nutrition for RSU 14.

“She received this award based on

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INSIGHT

Long lost secrets

I recently listened to a podcast about how to speak with your parents about their past and why it is important to learn about their lives and pass it down to future generations in your family.

In my case, both of my parents are deceased, but they did tell me a great deal about how they grew up and their experiences during World War II while they were still alive.

I found out quite a bit about my mother just by being a snoop as a child. Once when my parents were shopping on a Friday night, I discovered a bonanza of information I hadn't previously known by exploring a kitchen cupboard that contained our family's cups and glasses when I was 8 and in third grade.

Opening the cupboard door to get a glass for a drink of water, I looked up at the top shelf and noticed some papers there. Curiosity got the better of me and I climbed up onto the kitchen counter and was just tall enough to be able to pull the papers down off their lofty shelf.

Sitting on the kitchen counter, I looked through the documents, which were my mother's divorce papers from her first husband. To that point, I did not know that my mother had been married before, and that she was divorced before meeting and marrying my father. The papers were sent to her by an attorney and the listed reason for the judge to grant the divorce was on the grounds of physical and mental cruelty. And in what was a bombshell revelation to me, the judge had ordered that my mother's ex-husband was to pay her child support of \$10 per month.

Today in HISTORY

MAY 16

1817 – Steamboat service in the Mississippi River begins.

1866 – The U.S. Congress authorizes the first 5-cent piece to be minted.

1914 – The American Horseshoe Pitchers Association is formed in Kansas City.

1929 – The first Academy Awards ceremony is held in Hollywood, California.

1946 – The musical “Annie Get Your Gun” opens on Broadway.

1960 – Hughes Research Lab in California demonstrates the first working laser.

1963 – Following 22 orbits of Earth, U.S. astronaut Gordon Cooper splashes down safely in the final flight of Project Mercury for NASA.

1965 – Canned Spaghetti-O’s are sold for the first time.

1975 – Japanese climber Junko Tabei becomes the first woman to reach the summit of Mount Everest.

1992 – The space shuttle Endeavour lands safely after its maiden voyage.

I carefully returned the papers to the top shelf where I had found them, climbed down from the kitchen counter and began to process what I had just learned. As it turned out, my older sister was my half-sister, and it now made sense to me as to why her last name was different from mine.

The more I thought about it, the story about how my parents had first met that my father had told me became clearer. While working his way through college to obtain a degree in mechanical engineering, he worked at night as a private detective. He told me he had been assigned by the agency he worked for to investigate a case for my mother. They met, and he asked her to go to a square dance with him. Not long after they got married.

Years later I discovered that the case my father had investigated for my mother involved her ex-husband and his claim that he couldn't afford child support for several months because he wasn't working. She hired my father to verify if that was true. My father found out that he was working at night at a manufacturing plant and my mother then reported the details and his employer to the court.

My sister got married when I was 12 and I made the mistake of asking my mother if my sister's father was coming to the wedding. She wanted to know how I knew that, and I explained how I had discovered her divorce papers years before. As I expected, she got mad and told me to stay out of her personal things.

A conversation I had when I was 16 with my father also revealed a story about him that I didn't know. It seems when he was a teenager, he and a friend had purchased a pack of cigarettes, and they were caught smoking behind a barn on my grandparents' farm.

To teach my father a lesson about smoking, my grandfather took him to the barn and proceeded to have him smoke a box of Dutch Masters cigars one by one until the box was empty. The experience made my father sick, and he ended up being admitted to the hospital for nicotine poisoning. After that, he said he never again had any desire to smoke.

Neither my mother nor my father drank alcohol, and I came to understand why they didn't decades later. I read a newspaper article from 1924 regarding my maternal grandfather getting drunk and then striking my maternal grandmother with a stick breaking her wrist after she threatened him with scissors with my mother watching as it happened.

My father also told me about an embarrassing incident during the Great Depression in which my paternal grandfather was out somewhere drinking when it started to snow. He became drunk, took off all his clothes and went running down the street naked. The police were called, and they soon found him, wrapped him in a blanket and returned him to my grandparents' front door in front of my grandmother, my father and his siblings.

The incident shamed him so much that my father said that he took a week off from school to avoid being teased by classmates about it. He grew up avoiding alcohol and I can't ever recall seeing him with a drink in his hand during my lifetime.

No matter what someone's past experiences might be, they can offer an invaluable glimpse into the person they are now. < ~ Ed Pierce

ON THE SPOT

Of all the great comedians, who's your favorite of all time?

"George Carlin."

– David Warchol

"Norm MacDonald."

– Christopher Bowker

"Tied between George Carlin and Steven Wright."

– William D. Reiner

"Jim Carey back in the day."

– Julie Mallett

"Red Skelton."

– Ruthie Jackson

"Robin Williams."

– Crystal Aldrich

"Jonathan Winters for sure."

– Stephen Signor

"Jerry Seinfeld."

– Jeri Brem

"Bill Engvall."

– Pat Ouellette

"Tim Conway, laugh so hard at his stuff my sides hurt."

– Tommy Matthews

"Without a doubt Rodney Dangerfield."

– Mia Potenzio-Ransey

"This is a toss-up for me between Chris Rock or Richard Pryor."

– Sarah Singer-Miller

"The late great Sam Kinison."

– Mitchell B. Robinson

"Steve Martin or Flip Wilson."

– David D. McCoombs

"Watching Andy Kaufman gets me every time."

– Dean A. Smalley

"Jerry Lewis."

– Anne Glotchshuk

"I prefer some of the newer one such as John Mulaney, Bill Burr and Matt Rife."

– Chris Macklin

"A lot to list but I'd start with Eddie Murphy and Dave Chappelle."

– Audrey Marmol

"Louis C.K."

– Ron Dewitt

"There are a lot that make me laugh but certainly the late Chris Farley is on the top of my list. I also like John Belushi, Jim Carey, and Will Ferrell."

– Melissa Carter

"Steve Carrell or Martin Lawrence."

– Susie Ingraham

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EDITORIAL POLICY

The Windham Eagle newspaper has a mission to be a positive and solutions based newspaper. As a positive and solutions-based newspaper, we are committed to providing our readers with accurate, informative, and constructive news and information that uplifts and inspires. We recognize that certain content may not align with our mission and values, and therefore reserve the right to not publish certain types of content. For complete details about submissions and our letters policy, visit thewindhameagle.com/Information.pdf



# Southpaw Meat Market employee cherishes Community Service Award from Raymond Fire and Rescue

By Kendra Raymond  
STAFF WRITER

Southpaw Meat Market and Packing Company in Raymond knows a thing or two about community involvement. Owner Nichole Sargent was the recipient of the Caring about Lives in Maine Award in 2024 presented by the National Alliance on Mental Illness for her work around suicide awareness and prevention. Now it's her daughter Devon Sargent's turn.

Southpaw Meat Market is once again in the spotlight, receiving the 2025 Chief Reginald Brown Community Service Award from the Raymond Fire and Rescue Department. The remarkable 24-year-old received the accolade for her generosity and kindness, and deep dedication to community outreach.

In announcing the award recently in a social media post, Southpaw Meat Market said, "We are thrilled to share with you that thanks to Devon's remarkable compassion, Southpaw received a Community Service Award from Raymond Fire and Rescue. She and Ruckus (the dog) bring treats, cinnamon rolls, and meals to



The Raymond Fire and Rescue Department has presented the 2025 Chief Reginald Brown Community Service Award to Devon Sargent for her kindness and dedication to community outreach. From left are Raymond Deputy Fire Chief Lee O'Connor, Devon Sargent, and Raymond Firefighter and EMT Dustin Carroll. SUBMITTED PHOTO

nourish them. I'm sure she offers sarcasm and laughter too! We are beyond proud of Devon!"

Devon Sargent said that her blue heeler Ruckus goes everywhere with her and often accompanies her on the deliveries.

"He is kind of a mascot, especially at our plaza in Raymond," she said.

The Chief Reginald Brown Community Service Award was established around 2005. It is given to someone who goes above and beyond to contribute to the Fire and Rescue Department. Chief Brown served the department and donated the land on which the current fire department building is located.

Raymond Deputy Fire Chief Lee O'Connor is proud of the program.

"Every year Raymond Fire Department recognizes a citizen who helps out in the littlest or biggest way," he said. O'Connor says he appreciates Sargent's sense of using the butchering products for greater good.

"Devon has taken the initiative to help out our EMS training program by donating bone marrow and organs," he said. "(Our trainees) can develop their respiratory training, learning how to intubate the lungs and just how little air it actually takes," said O'Connor.

Aside from the practical usage of the donated products, Sargent doesn't forget the other members of the Raymond Fire and Rescue Department, delivering delicious baked goods, pasta salad, meals, and stews to firefighters.

"She really takes care of us bringing food and checking in on everyone," said O'Connor. "She is always asking if there is anything we need."

Members of the department are also loyal customers at Southpaw, which is celebrating its grand reopening this week following some extensive renovations.

→ see AWARD Page 8



## Town of Windham Memorial Day 2025

### Schedule of Events May 17<sup>th</sup> thru 26<sup>th</sup>

- ★ **Sat. May 17<sup>th</sup> @ 9am – MEMORIAL DAY PREPS**

**Placement of Flags on Veteran Graves at Arlington and Smith Cemeteries**

COMMUNITY & LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS WELCOME TO ASSIST!

Arlington Cemetery is located at: 718-720 Roosevelt Trail  
Smith Cemetery is located at: 513 Gray Road
- ★ **Mon., May 26<sup>th</sup> @ 8:45am – MEMORIAL DAY PARADE**

Starts at Windham Town Hall, 8 School Road

**Entries welcome to honor our Veterans** \*\*Contact Dave

★ **Mon. May 26<sup>th</sup> @ approx. 10am (10 min after end of Parade)**

**MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY at Windham High Flagpole**

Guest Speaker: Lee Humisten, Founder & Curator of the Maine Military Museum

★ **Mon. May 26<sup>th</sup> @ Noon – OPEN HOUSE/MEMORIAL GARDEN CEREMONY & BENCH DEDICATION TO WALTER BRALEY at Windham Veterans Center\***

**Picnic luncheon to follow – open to the community**

\*Windham Veterans Center is located at 35 Veterans Memorial Drive (behind Hannaford)



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\*\*Dave Tanguay: 207-892-1306 • dtanguay46@aol.com



Pam Whynot: 207-892-4720

# Windham preparing for Memorial Day

► **By David Tanguay**  
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE

Memorial Day conjures up interesting memories. For some reason I remember Dr Sidney Branson of South Windham, the school doctor, that gave us shots when we were growing up in Windham. A more recent, but still distant memory was of Dr. Branson in his World War II Army uniform as the Grand Marshall of the Memorial Day Parade in Windham.

I was fresh out of retirement from the U.S. Navy and put on my uniform to join in the celebration. When meeting him again, he looked smaller, and frail. I recall other parades with Don Rogers and Wayne Rogers, and, after Wayne’s passing, Don as the Grand Marshall riding in Gary Plummer’s red 1965 Mustang convertible. Later still, South Windham’s Bob Miele, followed by World War II P-51 pilot Carroll McDonald as the Grand Marshall in the red Mustang. Oh, what memories.

For the 2025 Memorial Day parade on Monday, May 26, the Grand Marshall will be Korean War veteran Don Swander, a longtime supporter of the veterans’ local community and who served for many years as the president of the Windham Veterans Association.

The Memorial Day parade in the past was a town-sponsored celebration of our veterans with dozens of entries from the Windham High School marching band in full uniform to a bevy of antique tractors and other antique vehicles, floats honoring veterans, military vehicles, Shriners with their mini-cars, area team mas-



**Tom Theriault, the commander of American Legion Post 148 in Windham, welcomes those attending last year’s Memorial Day observance at WHS. This year’s activities include a Memorial Day parade, an observance and a picnic lunch at the Windham Veterans Center.** PHOTO BY ED PIERCE

cots, local and state politicians walking in unity, the town’s Public Works vehicles and Windham Fire Trucks all decorated in Red, White-and Blue banners and flags. Then there were the veterans, some still fitting in their uniforms, others in civilian garb, but all marching proud behind the American Legion colors and Old Glory.

The Memorial Day parade over the past few years has been more modest with maybe two dozen floats and entries. Many previous supporters now have entries in the Summerfest parade and other celebrations.

But the Memorial Day activities, although more modest, still recognize the sacrifice of our fallen Windham veterans with a parade, a ceremony and the placement of flags on the graves in local cemeteries of our departed. We still remember.

There are opportunities for the community to join the American Le-

gion Field-Allen Post 148 and the Town of Windham to honor our lost comrades.

On Saturday, May 17 at Arlington Cemetery and Smith Cemetery, local veterans will start at 9 a.m. to place flags on the graves of our veterans. Community groups and the public are welcome to join in this simple remembrance.

Those wishing to join in the Windham Memorial Day parade as a walking unit or with a vehicle or float may do so by contacting the parade coordinator at 207-892-1306. The parade will depart at 9 a.m. on Monday, May 26 leaving from the Windham Town Hall, continuing down Windham Center Road, turning onto Gray Road and ending at the WHS’s lower parking lot.

Following the parade there will be a Memorial Day Ceremony at the Flagpole and Town’s Veteran Memorial with this year’s guest speaker, Lee Humiston, the funder and curator to the Maine Military Museum in South Portland. During the ceremony there will be the traditional tolling of the bell for each of the Windham veterans who have passed this year followed by a ceremonial burning of the flags removed from the veteran’s graves and a wreath ceremony, rifle salute and taps.

At noon, at the Windham Veterans Center there will be a ceremony in the Memorial Garden to dedicate a granite bench in memory of our beloved Korean War veteran, Walter Braley, who passed last year. Following the dedication there will be the traditional wreath-laying ceremony and rifle salute. The community is welcome at an open house and picnic luncheon at the Windham Veterans Center, 35 Veterans Memorial Drive in Windham, sponsored by the Legion Family.

Please join the American Legion as we honor our town’s heroes at one or more of the scheduled Memorial Day events this year. <

→ **COOK** Cont. from page 1

her dedication to kids with allergies and religious food restrictions/requirements – she goes out of her way to create delicious meals for kids with allergies for both lunch and breakfast, gluten/dairy safe pizza, meatballs, breakfast sandwiches, meatless chili, to name a few.” Reilly said. “Through her commitment to ensuring that students are fed safe and delicious food, she’s created a trust with the parents and a bond with the students so that they feel comfortable and safe to enjoy the school lunch program. She always seeks creative ways to incorporate healthy foods that kids will enjoy.”

Reilly said that WPS students love Trynor, and she is sure to always engage with them during breakfast and lunch. She adds small touches that make a difference. For example, Reilly said that the cook has taken advantage of the free marketing posters and stickers available from the USDA website and the kids love the stickers that they receive when they try a new veggie or food.

“Trynor has gone out of her way to educate herself and gain knowledge in many aspects of school nutrition,” said Reilly. “From Food Safety, Food Allergy Safety and Culinary Skills for School Meals, she is always seeking to improve the safety of our kitchen for food handling and for kids with allergies and she shares that knowledge with our staff to make it an overall safer kitchen. She also shares her insight and experience with others throughout the district and nationally on social media forums. Everything that Trynor does shows a commitment to feeding and nourishing our kids with healthy and delicious foods.”

For her outstanding efforts, Trynor will be recognized at Maine School Nutrition Association’s Annual Conference in August in South Portland and her award was presented during a virtual ceremony conducted by the School Nutrition Association on April 30. She also received a \$50 check that accompanies the award for winners recognized at the regional level. <



## MEET OUR NEIGHBORS Event!

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Hosted at Erik's Church - 824 Roosevelt Trail, Windham

**LIVE MUSIC | FOOD | RAFFLES**

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For more info contact Shawn Googins  
Call 207-332-7865 or email, shawn@landinghomesmaine.com

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# Lighthouse Jubilees grateful for gospel music career

By Ed Pierce  
STAFF WRITER

A chance meeting at the Bangor Civic Center in 1996 has led to a longtime musical partnership between a local singing duo called the Lighthouse Jubilees.

Angie Guillette of Windham and Pat McLellan of Westbrook teamed up to sing harmony driven Gaiter-style gospel music, along with Oldies tunes and Christmas classics, and it's taken them to perform at concert halls in Tennessee, Washington, D.C., throughout New England and in Canada. During their heyday, the singers were performing between 30 to 32 shows a month and drawing rave reviews for their authenticity and beautifully arranged vocals.

Their first performance came on Aug. 3, 1996 at Gorham House retirement community, earning them \$20 each, and since then, Guillette and McLellan made regular appearances

for 20 years on Portland television's Channel 5 and have become favorites at public events, conventions, and among residents at nursing homes in Maine.



Angie Guillette of Windham, left, and Pat McLellan of Buxton make up the Lighthouse Jubilees singing group and have been performing Gospel, Oldies and Christmas classics at events for more than 30 years. PHOTO BY ED PIERCE

McLellan met her future husband Dana in 1966 in Westbrook and her father worked with Dana's father. They married and have two daughters, three granddaughters, and two great-grandchildren.

She has a three-octave voice but had never sung professionally before she met Angie at a TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) convention in Bangor. They quickly became fast friends


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→ RESCUE

Cont. from page 1

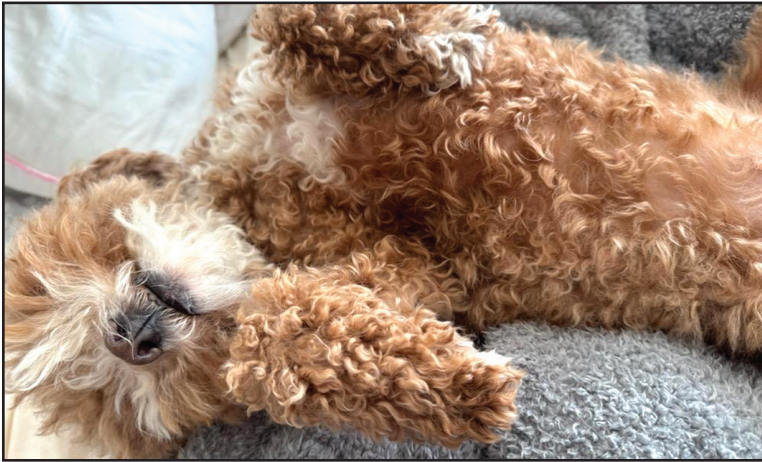
direction of travel which will allow a more thorough action plan to be put in place and may even help determine a new area for the drone to cover.”

She has been helping reunite lost pets for roughly 15 years.

“I volunteered for a rescue, City Dogs Rescue in Washington, D.C., and they lost a dog,” Brother said. “I was assisting in search efforts such as flyers, community outreach, and eventually brought in a K9 tracker to assist in locating Maddie. Once Maddie was located, I continued to serve as one of their two lost dog coordinators. In 2015 I began volunteering with a non-profit based in Baltimore, Maryland where I was able to learn more about utilizing K9 tracking dogs to locate lost pets. Roughly one year later I was approached by National Geographic Wild and offered a featured role in their upcoming docuseries, Trackers, however I would have to quit my fulltime job in Human Resources and commit to filming full-time. I knew this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, so accepted their offer, and never went back to Human Resources after that.”

The search for Pearl presented unique challenges to both 2A TAC Air Ops Drone Services and Professional Pet Trackers.

“When Pearl initially went missing there were many people out searching and calling for her which while that is people’s first instinct to do, it actually hinders the search,” Brothers said. “When dogs go missing, they go into what is known as flight mode, meaning that everything and everyone is predatory. Their animal instincts kick in and their goal is food, water, and staying away from perceived threats, which can unfortunately even apply to their owners. While at home they typically come running when called, in flight



mode all they hear is a loud noise and that can scare them out of the area even further. The community wanted to help, which is amazing, but we had to redirect their efforts into a productive task, such as hanging flyers rather than driving around and actively searching for Pearl.”

Russell said that initial efforts to find Pearl revealed that she kept coming back to an area in Raymond with foot traffic.

“We needed the dog to settle down and get comfortable, but she kept running into people creating a higher state of anxiety for her,” he said.

“Reuniting Pearl with Dawn was truly a team effort,” Brother said. “Dawn had done everything we recommended and then some. She had flyers posted in the community, she was working on actively maintaining feeding stations and following up on all sightings. Between her dedication, K9 Finley giving us the area that Pearl was hiding in, Rob giving us the eyes in the sky ensuring that we were not missing anything, and Jess Jackson with Lake Region Animal Control providing boots on the ground trapping support, we knew it was only a matter of time until Pearl was safe at home.”

Russell said during their extensive search they had to figure out where Pearl was bedding down and hiding.

Pearl was ultimately recovered

roughly 18 hours after they finished the tracking activities, and the drone was landed.

“While Pearl was not physically recovered while on the actual track, she was recovered directly on K9 Finley’s track,” Brothers said.

Both Brothers and Russell say finding Pearl was a team effort and they thanked Jackson for her help, Maine Lost Dog Recovery and the community for their assistance.”

“No one person is the hero here, we were all just cogs in the wheel,” Russell said. “The bottom line for me is if I’m part of the team involved in a rescue, it’s one of the best feelings in the world, and it’s amazing and it’s why we do this.”

Brothers said that every successful reunion with a lost pet is different, but each one brings a deep sense of purpose and gratitude for her.

“Seeing the moment of reunion – when a scared, tired pet is reunited back into the arms of their family – is something that never gets old,” she said. “It is like watching a miracle unfold right in front of you, you can literally feel the heartbreak turn into joy and it is amazing to know you were a part of that story.”

Elwell said she could not be more



Pearl is happy to be home in Raymond with her mom Dawn Elwell after being found by Rob Russell of 2A TAC Air OPS Drone Services, Carmen Brothers of Professional Pet Trackers and Finley the tracking dog. COURTESY PHOTO

appreciative for Russell and Brothers and K9 Finley’s work in bringing Pearl back home.

“This was probably one of the most distraught and scared I have been in my whole life,” she said. “I was lucky to have Carmen as well as 2A TAC Air Ops Drone Services recommended to me. Carmen, Finley and Rob never faltered from compassion, reassurance and more so skill and knowledge.”

On Sunday, May 4, she received a phone call informing her that Pearl had been found in a trap laying on Elwell’s sweatshirt.

“That feeling was something I had dreamt about for the longest five days of my life,” she said. “I do not believe I could have done this without this team of experts.”

To see photos of the search for Pearl, visit 2A TAC Air Ops Drone Services on Facebook. <

I'm Ambiocular!



(Some critters get all the talent.)

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# Two on Raymond ballot for RSU 14 school board seat

By Dina Mendros  
STAFF WRITER

Susan Accardi and Diana Froisland, both of Raymond, will face off for the RSU 14 Board of Directors vacancy on June 10.

The position is a three-year term. Candidates told The Windham Eagle what they think about student test scores, Title IX, and their thoughts on other important issues facing the school district.

Susan Accardi, 76, is divorced and has two adult children. She is a retired BSN registered nurse and served as a school nurse with RSU 14. She has served on the Raymond Budget-Finance Committee for two terms, on various short-term town committees, as a ballot clerk and sits on the board of the Friends of the Raymond Village Library.

Regarding student test scores, Accardi said, “Tests are one of many indicators of student progress. Indicators for poor performance are many, some not within the power of schools to address. Chronic absenteeism is one of the best-known indicators of school performance. Schools need resourced staff for early identification followed by intervention and an appropriate learning environment to fully support these children.”

RSU 14 follows all federal and state laws regarding Title IX and has school policies addressing those laws,



Susan Accardi, left, and Diana Froisland, right, will be on the Raymond ballot for the vacancy for the RSU 14 Board of Directors. The position is a three-year term. In-person voting will be held June 10 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Jordan-Small Middle School. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Accardi said.

One of the most important issues facing the district, she said, is keeping politics out of schools.

In addition, she said, “we need to remind ourselves how lucky we are to be here. Our Grade 5 to 8 students in both communities will be attending a new school in a couple of years. We all want our students to get the high-quality education they need and deserve in a safe, respectful environment. That is my commitment.”

Diana Froisland, 60, is married and has two grown children. She attended Gordon College and graduat-



ed from the University of Southern Maine with a double major in Economics and Business Administration. She and her husband co-own Northeast Property Management. She has volunteered with the Raymond Recreation Department as a ski instructor, and is a regular election worker, serving two terms on the RSU 14 Board of Directors from 2012 to 2018.

To improve test scores, Froisland said, “we need to take an honest assessment of current curriculum to determine which programs provide

the best outcomes and seek alternative approaches that would help improve student achievement.”

“Title IX was established to provide equal opportunities for girls in public education,” she said. “We need to implement the law as written and passed by the Federal government.”

“It is alarming that Maine schools are continually increasing costs while simultaneously providing declining results,” Froisland said about what she thinks needs to be addressed. “Students and taxpayers deserve better since over 70 percent of our property tax bill funds public education. I will focus on improving academic outcomes and fiscal responsibility and returning the focus back to providing opportunities for our students to be competent and productive citizens.”

In-person voting is to take place from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. June 10 at the Jordan-Small Middle School gym at 423 Webbs Mill Road in Raymond.

Absentee ballots are available now at the town office. <



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AWARD

Cont. from page 3

“They are always coming into the market looking for marinated meats, special cuts, or whatever they are planning. We always make sure to take care of them,” said Devon Sargent.

She was honored at a banquet recently where she received a plaque and challenge coin for going above and beyond to serve her community.

“I never expect to get anything out of all things I do,” she said. I was really surprised. Just making sure everyone is OK is one of the best honors there are.”

Wise beyond her years, Devon Sargent gives credit to her mom for instilling a deep sense of giving back to the community.

“It feels good to be recognized for doing good,” she said. “I wish more people did caring things in today’s world. This is a community and if we can feed or take care of others, that’s I what I want to do.”

Sargent’s empathy, sense of giving, and wisdom are qualities that will serve her well in her personal and professional life.

“Food connects everyone. A full belly goes a long way,” she said. “People that serve the town make the town go around.”



Ruckus the dog often accompanies Devon Sargent of Southpaw Meat Market on her trips to the Raymond Fire Department.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Firefighters agree. “We love hearing from our community and giving back when there is a great opportunity. There are so many good folks in our community. We would love to recognize them all, but this one really stood out,” said O’Connor. “It is awesome to see a young person so dedicated to giving back to their community. Devon really shows up – it’s impressive.” <

## Secretary of State issues final wording on referendum question

AUGUSTA – Maine Secretary of State Shenna Bellows has announced the final wording of a referendum question for the November 2025 ballot.

The wording of the citizens’ initiative question entitled “An Act to Require an Individual to Present Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting” will be:

“Do you want to change Maine election laws to eliminate two days of absentee voting, prohibit requests for absentee ballots by phone or family members, end ongoing absentee voter status for seniors and people with disabilities, ban prepaid postage on absentee ballot return envelopes, limit the number of drop boxes, require voters to show certain photo ID before voting, and make other changes to our elections?”

The full text of the proposed bill is available for viewing on the Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions’ Citizens’ Initiatives webpage, along with proponent information.

Secretary Bellows said that her office received a total of 318 comments on the proposed ballot question during the 30-day public comment period, which was open March 12 through April 11. These comments, from individuals and organizations throughout

the state, were taken into consideration to draft the final language of each ballot question.

The initiative went to the Maine Legislature for consideration on March 14, per the provisions of the Maine Constitution. As the Legislature adjourned the First Regular Session on March 21 without enacting the underlying legislation as written, the initiative will appear on the statewide ballot in November 2025.

The Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions will be creating a Citizens’ Guide to the 2025 Election in the coming months, and all registered voters in the state are encouraged to read it to inform themselves of the details of the bills.

In addition to the citizens’ initiative question, the November General Election ballot will include local candidate races as well as bond issues and other referenda questions that the Maine Legislature chose to send to the voters.

All statewide ballot questions and details about the November 2025 election will be included at [www.maine.gov/sos/elections-voting/upcoming-elections](http://www.maine.gov/sos/elections-voting/upcoming-elections). Info about voter registration and finding your polling place can be found on at: [www.maine.gov/sos/elections-voting/information-about-voting](http://www.maine.gov/sos/elections-voting/information-about-voting) <

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# Candidates vie for seats on Raymond Board of Selectmen

By Dina Mendros  
STAFF WRITER

Raymond residents will choose two new Board of Selectmen on June 10. Those on the June ballot for the three-year terms include Mark Meister, Christopher Hanson, Kaela Gonzalez and Frederick Miller.

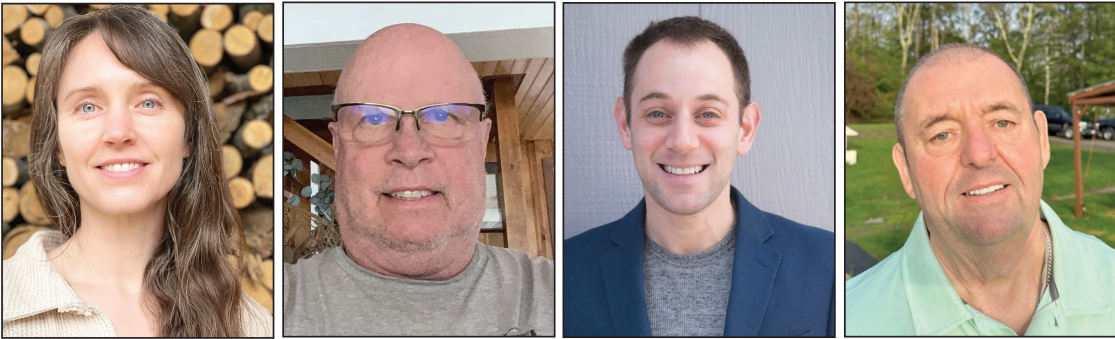
Candidates share their thoughts on whether the town needs a new Public Works building; what they think about building solar farms; whether the in-person style of town meeting should be brought back; and what they think are other important issues to the town.

Mark Meister, 40, is married with two young children. He is a consulting executive at IBM Consulting. He graduated with a degree in Business Administration from The Ohio State University. He has also served on non-profit and community boards.

Meister said he believes whether to build a new Public Works building “should be based on clear need and long-term value ... with community input and fiscal responsibility guiding every step.”

Solar farm proposals, Meister said, should be evaluated on “a case-by-case basis, balancing zoning rules, environmental impact, community benefit, and landowner rights.”

Meister said he “respects the tradition of in-person town meetings but believes Raymond should explore modern options that allow more residents to participate.” He said he “supports continued investment in education” and responsible development. He also said “protecting



Four candidates are on the ballot in June for Raymond Board of Selectmen. From left, Kaela Gonzalez, Christopher Hanson, Mark Meister, and Frederick Miller. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Raymond’s lakes, ponds, and rivers” is important, as is government efficiency and increased engagement between residents and government.

Christopher Hanson, 69, is married with two children. Hanson is the code enforcement officer for the town. He graduated from the University of Maine Orono. He is a member of the town’s Budget-Finance Committee.

“I believe the town needs a new Public Works building and would support it after the Public Works Garage Oversight Committee reports back to the Board of Selectmen,” Hanson said.

“I think solar farms are beneficial ... in certain areas of town,” he said.

Hanson said he favors in-person town meetings that “bring the community together and build community spirit.”

Some of Hanson’s other concerns about what the town should be focusing on concern “climate change and working on resiliency” along with “protecting our lakes and environment.” “Creating more commercial businesses and empowering the tax base” were

other concerns, as well as “providing the citizens with the best services while keeping taxes under control.”

Gonzalez, 42, is married with three young children. She is a program coordinator with the city of Portland and has a degree in Health Science. She has served on various town committees including the town’s most recent Comprehensive Plan Committee.

“I look forward to seeing the work that comes out of the Public Works Garage Oversight Committee,” Gonzalez said regarding a new Public Works building, noting residents voted against a proposal last year.

She said she considered the matter of solar farms “settled with an ordinance amendment in August 2024.”

Gonzalez said she thinks the current way of voting and providing two public hearings before the June vote, allows people to ask questions but having more time to vote “increases accessibility.”

Important issues she sees facing Raymond include short-term rentals, a housing shortage, building communi-

ty, offering programming for all ages, and “increasing services while keeping an eye on the tax rate.”

Miller, 67, is married, with two adult children. He is the owner of Miller Flooring LLC and went to trade school after high school. He is on the town Zoning Board of Appeals.

About a new Public Works building, Miller said “if it is needed, and the town has a location and if the budget makes sense, then my answer is yes.”

Regarding solar farms, he said, “I would want to make sure that they would not affect our water/wetland areas,” whether there would be storage power issues and what would be cost or the return value to the Raymond residents.”

Miller said residents should be asked about whether to revive in-person town meetings.

Regarding other issues he thinks are important to the town, Miller said, committees should “work together as a team,” there should be a better process “for residents to make suggestions,” and “town employees need to communicate and work together as a team.”

In-person voting is to take place from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. June 10 at the Jordan-Small Middle School gym at 423 Webbs Mill Road in Raymond.

Absentee ballots are available now at the town office. <

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**GOSPEL** *Cont. from page 5*

and soon discovered that their voices blended perfectly, and they each were devout Christians and loved gospel music.

It led to them forming the “Lighthouse Jubilees” and embarking upon a career as a singing group.

“It’s really like a marriage,” Guillette said. “We’ve found that it’s not my way or your way, it’s God’s way.”

Through the years, they have performed with musician James Rogers, who has opened many shows for Dolly Parton. The Lighthouse Jubilees have also recorded and released seven CDs including four featuring gospel song, two of “Golden Oldies” and one of Christmas music.

Both Guillette and McLellan say that their favorite song to perform as the “Lighthouse Jubilees” is “Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy,” a tune first made popular in 1941 by the Andrews Sisters.

“We love that song and many of the other gospel songs we sing because these are songs that many people of our age know well and relate to,” Guillette said. “Many people in retirement communities and nursing

homes of our age attended church growing up and because of our love of Christ, we want to share this music with them to enjoy.”

That popularity has fueled a lengthy career for the Lighthouse Jubilees.

“I think people just like the way that we do our songs,” McLellan said. “We are blessed to be able to do that.”

Because of her higher singing range, McLellan usually takes the lead on songs such as “Surrounded by Angels,” while Guillette’s two-octave range works well on “Climb Every Mountain” from “The Sound of Music.”

Each of their performances average around 21 songs per setlist, sometimes longer, depending upon the scheduled length of their concert.

For the first 25 years of their musical partnership, the Lighthouse Jubilees were in demand and traveling extensively to perform, but that slowed some when Guillette sustained a broken leg in 2019 and mobility issues persisted. The COVID-19 pandemic also curtailed some of their bookings for shows.

Now the duo typically sings at between eight and 10 shows a month and they usually are at locations in

Maine closer to home. They recently performed at the Maine Veterans Home in Scarborough and the Windham Veterans Center. This Tuesday they will sing during a show at the Chapman House in Auburn.

In what was a highlight of their career, the Lighthouse Jubilees were presented with a Portland Media Center gold record in 2024 that is inscribed “for excellence in music that makes people happy.” It’s a tribute both Guillette and McLellan appreciate greatly.

“God has been with us the whole

way,” Guillette said. “We would also like to thank so many people who have helped us reach this point in our career.”

But neither Guillette nor McLellan want to give up singing.

“We may not do as many shows as in years past, but we’re always looking for places and venues to perform,” McLellan said. “It is our privilege to entertain and it’s what God wants us to do.”

To learn more about the Lighthouse Jubilees, find them on Facebook. <




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Robb Cotiaux of Sebago Trout Unlimited was the guest speaker during a recent meeting of the Sebago Lake Rotary Club. He spoke about the many projects that they work on to benefit the health of Sebago Lake and surrounding brooks and rivers, while keeping the public informed about salmon and other fish and species impacted in those waters. Sebago Lake Rotary Club Past President Robin Mullins, left, presented Cotiaux of Sebago Trout Unlimited with a check for \$1,400 from the Rotary Club to further help their work in our region. To learn more about the many projects that Sebago Trout Unlimited previously and are currently working on visit <https://byheavyedition.com/work> SUBMITTED PHOTO



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# Local Windham High teacher and author releases new novel which offers hopeful message for young adults

By Elle Curtis  
STAFF WRITER

Adina King, a Windham High School English teacher and author is celebrating the release of her novel “The House No One Sees.”

It is a contemporary Young Adult novel with surrealist elements written in alternating prose and verse. The inspiration for the book began with rage, but ended with love, according to the author.

King received a Master of Fine Arts degree in writing for children and young adults from the Vermont College of Fine Arts, where she studied with authors A.M. Jenkins and Shelley Tanka among others, but made sure to make time for her other passions as well. What was at first all about the idea of rollerblading quickly became a serious sport for King, who traveled all over New England under the rollerblading name of Schrödinger’s Catfight.

“The House No One Sees” is the story of Penelope Ross, a girl who must walk through her past to save her present. Forced to confront her mother’s opioid addiction to mend her fractured story, Penny wanders between present and past, prose and verse, unsure if her childhood home is guiding her out or leading her further into its memory maze.

The novel’s inspiration began as rage poetry after King stumbled upon a news article about a former student who had died from an overdose. It had



Windham High School English teacher Adina King shows a copy of her new novel “The House No One Sees” during a publishing event last fall. She will be at Sherman’s Maine Coast Book Shop in Windham for a signing on May 24 from 1 to 3 p.m. COURTESY PHOTO

been years since they’d seen each other, but that didn’t change their connection.

“About a week after this article, I was stopped at a traffic light staring at a house on a corner. I’d sat at that intersection more times than I could count, but this was the first time I’d noticed the house, its windows cracked, paint

peeling, and perched too close to the road,” King said. “I thought about how houses are a shelter. Houses are memories. Houses can be places to hide. When the house spoke in my mind, I knew its voice; when it came to life in Penny’s story, it was both familiar and strange. Because of this, the parallel between the structure of the house and Penny’s emotional arc made me walk through some of my own parallels -- a journey that further connected me to both Penelope and the house.”

At first, the book was pure poetry. King felt as if the poems were all over the place, voice-wise.

Determined to add a structure to the story for which the poems could fit, King decided to add the house as a larger metaphor. However, it still felt as if something was missing, and that was the main character, Penelope’s reality. This is where prose came in.

“Prose allowed me to craft parallel timelines that would show Penny’s path to healing. When the poems finally caught up to the prose at the end, Penelope had discovered her way out, allowing the surreal to join the tangi-

ble,” said King.

The writing process though came with pressure and struggle.

“I had to marathon write Penny’s story in order to protect my own mental health,” she said. “This meant I could only work when I had time to sprint from exposition to conclusion. It was difficult to walk in Penny’s shoes.”

But King didn’t let the challenges interfere with the messages she strives to convey through her novel. Throughout the writing process, a particular scene stuck with King.

“Without giving away too much, it was the basement scene where Penelope is searching for the thing she’d buried. It was such a strong metaphor for life, for trauma,” she said. “It was like I was there with Penny, digging at that dirt basement floor with my hands, trying to save a childhood symbol of hope.”

King says “The House No One Sees” aims to create a space that readers can feel is theirs.

“I hope my readers take what they need and leave behind what they don’t,” she said. “There are many ways to feel like a house no one sees, but there is always light. It’s okay to walk through yourself to find yourself. It’s okay if it’s messy. Keep going. Be the light.”

King will be doing a book signing for “The House No One Sees” from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 24 at Sherman’s Maine Coast Book Shop in Windham. <

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# Review boating laws to stay safe on the water this season

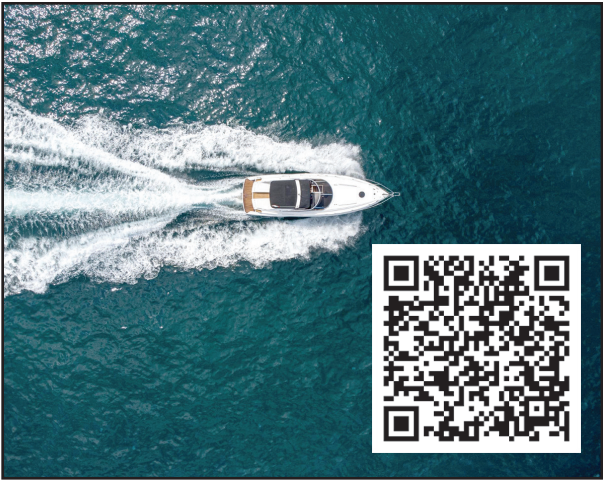
By Dina Mendros  
STAFF WRITER

Whether power boating on Sebago Lake, Maine’s second largest and deepest lake, kayaking on Crystal Lake in Gray, canoeing on Raymond’s Crescent Lake or sailing on Trickey Pond in Naples, following the state’s rules and regulations is all important to making the most of having a safe and fun-filled adventure on Maine’s waterways.

To ensure a safe boating experience, the state has enacted laws, rules and regulations that need to be followed when boating in all Maine lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, and 3 nautical miles offshore. One measure to ensure safe boating that went into effect last year requires young boaters to take a boating safety class. In addition, a booklet on boating laws and responsibilities can be found online on the state website at: [www.maine.gov/ifw](http://www.maine.gov/ifw) or scan the qr code on this page to review the PDF file.

Here are some of the highlights. Avoiding drinking and making sure to wear a life jacket are key to safe boating. Not following those two rules are the leading causes of accidents and fatalities on the water according to “The Boater’s Guide to Maine Boating Laws and Responsibilities.”

In addition, he said, one life jacket per person on board is required, and



they should be worn; and for children under 10 and those on a personal watercraft, like a jet ski, wearing a life jacket is required. “Recent year averages show that 90 percent of drowning victims were not wearing a life jacket,” Lt. Jason Luce, of the IFW region A Gray headquarters, said.

Wearing an engine cut off switch is also a good idea to ensure safety, Luce said. This switch, which is tethered to the operator’s wrist, is used to stop an engine if the watercraft operator goes overboard. For those operating a personal watercraft, using an engine cut off switch is required.

Before heading out, make sure your watercraft is registered, fueled up, in good running order and that weather

conditions are favorable. Follow the weight and number of people aboard capacities, make sure that your watercraft is clean and free from debris in order to protect Maine waters from invasive species and pollution, and provide a float plan to a relative or friend that includes the registration number and description of the watercraft, your route and planned departure and return times, as well the name and number with an emergency contact of those aboard.

To familiarize yourself with boating rules, people are encouraged to take a boater safety course. As of Jan. 1, 2024, the course became a requirement in Maine for anyone born after Jan. 1, 1999 who wants to operate a motorboat with a 25-horsepower engine or greater or is operating a personal watercraft. The course can be taken in person or online. To find out more, go to the website: [maine.gov/ifw/programs-resources/educational-programs/safety-courses/boating-safety.html](http://maine.gov/ifw/programs-resources/educational-programs/safety-courses/boating-safety.html).

In addition to taking a boater safety course, a person born after Jan. 1, 1999, is also required to be at least 16 years of age to operate a personal watercraft in the state or to supervise a person under 12 years of age who is operating a motorboat.

According to Luce, a few simple reminders can keep you and your passengers safe:

- Stay alert and be aware of others on the water.
- Always operate your boat at a safe and reasonable speed for your surroundings.
- Never drink and drive!
- Check the weather before leaving shore and be aware of ever-changing

weather conditions.

- Always wear an engine cut-off switch.
- Become familiar with the water body. Look at a map for depths and any potential hazards.
- Bring plenty of water to stay hydrated and wear a hat and sunscreen to avoid overexposure to the sun.
- Always tell someone where you are going, and when you plan to be back.

Maine law requires each person on board to have a properly fitting U.S. Coast Guard-approved serviceable life jacket. Also, boats longer than 16 feet must have a throwable PFD. The Maine Warden Service recommends that everyone wear his or her lifejackets while on the water.

- If your boat has any enclosed compartments or a false floor, you must carry a Coast Guard approved fire extinguisher. Make sure it is charged and accessible.
- Always test your lights before the boat leaves the dock and carry extra batteries.
- Keep emergency supplies on board in a floating pouch complete with maps, flares, and a first aid kit.
- And make sure you have an anchor and can properly use it.

In addition to the rules and responsibilities, Lt. Luce emphasizes that “being courteous” to other boaters and property owners is of the utmost importance.

“Unlike a paved road, there’s no center line,” he said. “There’s no fog line. So, you’ve got to be courteous, and you’ve got to pay attention to everything going on around you and be respectful of property owners, shoreline owners and other boaters.”

To stay up to date on new boater laws or for other information, call 207-287-8000 or visit [www.maine.gov/ifw/fishing-boating/boating/index.html](http://www.maine.gov/ifw/fishing-boating/boating/index.html)

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# Maine Audubon testifies at public hearing regarding bill promoting responsible outdoor lighting

AUGUSTA – Maine Audubon Advocacy Director Francesca “Ches” Gundrum testified Monday in support of curbing artificial light pollution in front of the Maine Legislature’s State and Local Government Committee.

The committee was holding a public hearing on LD 1934, An Act to Promote Responsible Outdoor Lighting. LD 1934 would require that new or replacement lighting installed using public funds or on public property meets standards that prevent light pollution, and it obligates municipalities to adopt local ordinances.

Wasteful and unnecessary artificial lighting can produce demonstrable effects on the behavior and population ecology of wildlife, including migratory birds. Like humans, animals and plants live by a rhythm that is attuned to our planet’s 24-hour lightness and darkness cycle, Gundrum said. Similar what humans feel when their circadian rhythms are disrupted, such as when they change time zones and during daylight savings time, Maine wildlife also can experience a disorientation of time when there is too much artificial light at night.

This “disorientation” has population-level impacts and can be easily avoided.

“Light pollution is contributing to insect decline, causing migrating birds to wander off course, and making it harder for breeding amphibians

to complete their life cycles,” Gundrum said. By requiring public buildings and towns to embrace responsible lighting standards, this legislation will help protect Maine’s famously dark skies.”

According to information compiled by the National Wildlife Federation, just like roads and fences, artificial light can create barriers that fragment habitats for wildlife.

Many slow-flying bats, for example – including little brown, mouse-eared and long-eared bats – tend to avoid feeding in or even passing through illuminated areas because it exposes them to a range of predators such as owls and other birds of prey.

Light shining on or close to the roosts of many light-sensitive animals also delay their emergence at dusk, when the insects they eat are the most abundant. Sometimes, artificial light will cause bats to abandon their roosts or become entombed in them, starving to death as they wait for darkness that never comes.

Even large predators which may roam freely through developed areas, often are stopped short by lights at night.

Artificial lights also can be a fatal lure to wildlife, such as for sea turtle hatchlings. On beaches adjacent to roads and buildings, many emerging hatchlings head inland toward artificial lights instead of the ocean.

Wildlife researchers have docu-



The Maine Audubon is advocating for conscientious lighting measures on public property and using public funds due to the negative impact it has on many wild animals including bats. The artificial bright lighting disrupts their natural behaviors which in turn can be endangering their lives. COURTESY PHOTO

mented similar attractions and subsequent disorientation stemming from artificial light among migratory songbirds. Many will circle brightly lit buildings throughout the night, leading to exhaustion and depletion of the energy stores they need for their journeys. Worse, birds often collide with lighted structures. Studies have shown that artificial nocturnal light also interferes with a migrating songbird’s ability to use natural polarized light from the sky to calibrate its internal compass.

If adopted by legislators, LD 1934 would require that outdoor lighting installed or replaced after Oct. 1, 2026 comply with certain standards, including standards established by

the American National Standards Institute and the Illuminating Engineering Society, intended to reduce the amount of unnecessary light emitted.

The bill includes exemptions for certain types of lighting such as outdoor sports lighting, temporary lighting and required emergency lighting. It directs certain departments to adopt rules to implement the requirements of this bill. The bill also

directs each municipality in the state to adopt a local ordinance to promote compliance with the provisions of this bill and allows a municipality to adopt ordinances that are more strict than those required by this bill.

About Maine Audubon: Since 1843, Maine Audubon has worked to conserve Maine wildlife and wildlife habitat by engaging people in education, conservation, and action. The oldest and largest Maine-based conservation organization, Maine Audubon has eight public centers and sanctuaries across the state, seven chapters, and 30,000 members, volunteers, and supporters, and connects with more than 250,000 people annually. Learn more about the work they do at: [maineaudubon.org](http://maineaudubon.org) <



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# Windham library purchases study pod using grant funds

By Kira Pilot  
STAFF WRITER

A new study pod purchased with grant money awarded to the Windham Public Library by the Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG) has been installed and is available for community members who need space to conduct a private call or hold a meeting.

The Cumberland County Digital Equity Stipend Award aims to provide funding to libraries, tribal organizations, and nonprofit organizations in Cumberland County for programs that increase digital literacy, provide access to devices, and promote online safety.

Library Director Jennifer Alvino Wood says of the council’s mission, “We’ve been thinking of ways we can promote the use of technology to help

people in their everyday lives and make sure we’re getting that access out to all different types of groups – veterans, older adults, new English language learners, students - whoever in our community needs digital access.”

The \$5,000 grant was used in its entirety for the purchase of the new pod, Alvino-Wood said.

The remainder of the funding needed was generously donated by the family of Barbara Kelley, a former Reference and Technology Librarian who worked at the library prior to her passing in February of last year. Her husband, Bill Barton, brought in a gifted check to the library and was present the day the pod was delivered in March. The pod will be named in honor of Kelley.

Alvino-Wood describes Kelley as someone who “loved to promote

digital access, was such a great teacher, had so much patience, and a lovely attitude when helping our patrons learn to use the computer.”

The library already has two designated study rooms that can accommodate groups of up to four people at a time. The rooms are equipped with a computer and whiteboard and can be reserved for up to two hours by calling or emailing the library. It is the policy of the library to make available its meeting rooms and study pod to citizens and groups throughout the community for non-commercial purposes free of charge.

If anything comes up at the last minute, a person may also simply stop by the library and check for availability. The rooms see frequent use and Alvino-Wood said that the library is excited to additionally provide the new pod.

By contrast, the new study pod is portable and can accommodate one person having a private conversation. It features both a light and a table for a device. Once the door is closed, the pod is completely soundproof.



Windham Public Library has purchased a new study pod available for community members who need space to conduct a private call or hold a meeting thanks to a grant from the Cumberland County Digital Equity Stipend Award. SUBMITTED PHOTO

According to Alvino-Wood, the study pod can be reserved and booked in the same way as the library’s study rooms, by calling or emailing, or simply stopping by and inquiring about its availability.

Both the meeting rooms and the study pod may be reserved free of charge and are available for use during scheduled library hours. Guidelines for usage can be viewed on the Windham Public Library’s website at [www.windham.lib.me.us/meeting-room](http://www.windham.lib.me.us/meeting-room).

For further details, Ray Marcotte, the Reference Librarian responsible for booking these resources, can be reached 207-892-1908, ext. 5. <

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# Tips for managing ticks while outdoors

► **By Staci Warren**  
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE

May is one of my favorite months. Weekends are filled with fly fishing, turkey hunting, and finding fiddleheads and more mushrooms in the outdoors, and with all those adventures it also means ticks.

According to the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick Lab, May is peak season for deer ticks. Sitting in hardwoods turkey hunting means you're going to get ticks on you, but that doesn't mean you have to get bit. Since ticks are here to stay, we have to learn how to deal with them. The old saying, "the best defense is a good offense" couldn't be truer when it comes to ticks.

Each season, in addition to my turkey hunting clothing and gear, I designate two pairs of jeans, socks, shoes/boots and t-shirts as my adventure gear that get treated with permethrin. Hang the garments outside and with plenty of ventilation to avoid inhalation, give them a good spray and leave to dry. Cover the entire garment but concentrate on the neckline and hem of the shirt, and the waistline and ankles of the pants. The treatment lasts for six weeks of sun exposure, or 6 washings. The manufacturer recommends storing out of sunlight to preserve the treatment. It's important to know that you only treat clothing and gear with permethrin and never spray it on your skin. Be sure to keep permethrin away from cats as it can be lethal. I would advise keeping permethrin away from dogs and children as well. This means not only keeping treated clothing stored in a plastic bag once it has dried, but also where animals and children cannot access it.

In addition to permethrin, a good deet or picaridin spray used on exposed skin is essential, not just for ticks, but all the other biting insects out there. According to Consumer Reports, "products containing 25 to 30 percent deet or 20 percent picaridin typically provide at least several hours of protection, and any more than that and you're increasing your exposure without improving the repellency." It's recommended that you wash insect repellent off once indoors, or at least before bedtime.

I often find ticks at my ankles, my waist and my neck. To reduce the chances of getting bitten, I do the following:

- Once dressed, wrap pant legs snugly around ankles and pull socks over pants.
- Wear boots at least shin height so that pants stay tucked in socks.
- Layer clothing. I wear a tank top under my T-shirt. The tank is tucked in, and the treated t-shirt untucked.
- Wear long hair in a braid or bun if possible. I have found that a loose ponytail allows for hitchhikers more easily.

If you are in and out of your vehicle throughout the day, do a quick tick check before climbing back in. At the end of the day, a tick check is necessary. Just like muddy boots, leave your tick clothes at the door. Check clothing over before putting them into a gear bag for the next use, or place in

the washing machine if it's time for a wash. Inspect for ticks, paying attention to hairline, arm pits, back of legs, and the groin area. For those with long hair, I recommend brushing your hair and really feeling over the scalp for hidden ticks. If possible, use the buddy system and have someone help you check since it's easy to miss tiny ticks.

Remember to keep your pets treated and to check them before letting them onto furniture or onto your bed. On more than one occasion, I've found a tick on my dog's face or I've awoke with a tick on me that wasn't there before I went to bed.

If you do find a tick attached, remove it as soon as possible; the longer a tick stays attached, the greater the risk is for developing Lyme disease or one of a number of conditions no one wants. If you develop a rash or ring around the bite area, or feel ill, call your doctor to see if you need treatment.

A regimen of prevention will reduce



May is male turkey hunting season in Maine and also an active time for ticks. Columnist Staci Warren, above, provides tips she uses to keep getting bit at bay. SUBMITTED PHOTO

your chances of getting bitten and will ease your concerns when it's time to get out there. There are too many adventures to be had and I'm not about to let ticks take away my time in the outdoors. Just remember, it won't be long before blackflies, midges, mosquitoes, horse flies, bees, hornets and brown-tail moths are here, so what's a little tick?

Columnist Staci Warren provides a unique woman's perspective and col-

umn on the outdoors every month. She is a freelance writer whose blog, *My Mainely Girl Adventures*, is about a woman hunting, fishing, trapping, foraging and living in the Maine outdoors. She's an active member and board member of the New England Outdoor Writers Association and is a monthly columnist and feature writer for *The Maine Sportsman Magazine*. In her free time, she enjoys mentoring women hunters and trappers. <

## Finn Hamilton

**Grade:** 7 **School:** Windham Middle School  
**Teacher:** Mrs. Berry  
**Parents' names:** Scott and Izabela  
**Reason for Selection:** Finn Hamilton is the kind of student who makes our school a better place every day. He is polite, respectful, and consistently kind to both students and teachers. Whether he's in the classroom, at recess, or at track practice, Finn leads by example. In class, Finn works hard to stay on top of his assignments and always turns his work in on time. He brings a great sense of humor that makes others laugh, but never at the expense of anyone else. If a teacher asks him to focus, he listens right away and gets back to work without complaint. Finn also stands out for the way he treats others. He says "please" and "thank you," helps classmates with questions – especially in band class, where he plays the trumpet – and supports his peers without needing to be asked. Outside at break, especially during competitive games like football, Finn keeps his cool and encourages others to do the same, helping create a positive and fun environment. He's also a talented athlete, with a best shotput throw of 26.4 feet, and he brings the same great attitude to track that he shows in the classroom. Finn enjoys school because he loves to learn and values the time he spends with his friends. For all these reasons – his kindness, dedication, respectfulness, and leadership – Finn Hamilton truly deserves to be recognized.

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**Absentee ballots are available from May 13 through June 5.**

Voter Registration is conducted at the Town Office during regular business hours or at the polls on Election Day. New Raymond voters, or current Raymond voters with address or name changes, are encouraged to register to vote before Election Day, to avoid waiting in line twice on Election Day.

*Questions should be directed to the Clerk’s Office staff by phone (655-4742 x124), by email*

*(town.office@raymondmaine.org), or in person.*

**Updated with sample ballots and information as it becomes available at: raymondmaine.org**



### CLEAN + DRAIN + DRY YOUR BOAT AFTER EVERY WATERBODY EVERY TIME!

*Milfoil season is upon us again! We will be working closely with Maine biologists from DEP, Divers from New England Milfoil, and Raymond Waterways on the removal of variable-leaf milfoil again this season.*

*It is the responsibility of all residents and tourists using Sebago Lake, especially with watercrafts, to help mitigate the spread of invasive aquatic species. The smallest fragment on a boat is all it takes for this species to start growing. Milfoil in Sebago poses an ongoing threat to native species, the economy, recreation, and human health and safety. It forms dense mats that block sunlight and starves aquatic life of oxygen. These mats often crowd out native vegetation which provide food, shelter, and nesting areas for fish and other wildlife.*

**The removal of milfoil is costly, time consuming, and Sebago will likely never be completely free of this invasive plant but with a few simple steps you can help mitigate the spread!**

**CLEAN** off visible aquatic plants, animals, and mud from all equipment before leaving water access.

- Rinse equipment & boat hulls (with high pressure, hot water when possible).
- Rinse interior compartments of boats with low pressure, hot water (120°F).
- Flush motor with hot water (120°F) for 2 minutes (or follow owner’s manual).

**DRAIN** motor, bilge, live well, and other water containing devices before leaving water access.

**DRY** everything for at least five days OR wipe with a towel before reuse.

**For ANGLERS, the add’l step of DISPOSE is recommended:** DISPOSE of unwanted bait, worms, & fish parts in the trash. When keeping live bait, drain bait container & replace with spring or dechlorinated tap water. Never dump live fish or other organisms from one water body into another.



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• DAILY RATES RESIDENTS:

*Children 3-12 and Seniors 65+ - \$2 ~ Ages 13-64 - \$5*

• DAILY NON-RESIDENT RATES:

*Children 3-12 and Seniors 65+ - \$4 ~ Ages 13-64 - \$*

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### Raymond Reads!

**A NEW COMMUNITY-WIDE READING SERIES!**

We picked 3 new titles by Maine authors and will be giving out free copies to patrons of the Chickadee Consortium – while supplies last.

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*The Savage Noble Death of Babs Dionne* by Ron Currie and take part in a special reading program with your neighbors!

### BOOK TALK & SIGNING

**May 29th at 6pm with Ron Currie**

He will be on site to discuss *The Savage Noble Death of Babs Dionne*

**BE ON THE LOOKOUT** for news about our 2nd book & author...

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**Saturday, June 7th from 7am to 11am**

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any seedlings or cuttings (perennials or annuals).**

They may be dropped off at the library prior to the sale.

*Whether you are providing plants or buying plants,  
we really appreciate your support of the library!*



### Weekly Programming:

**Bridge Club – Tuesdays 9am-noon**

**Evening Book Group – Last Tuesday of the month**

**Preschool Storytime – Wednesdays at 10:30am**

**Baby Storytime – Thursdays at 10:30am**

### Anytime Drop-in Table Activities:

A variety of art, crafts, Legos, & block stations are available in the children’s room throughout the week.



# Far more than just a foodie city

By Andy Young  
STAFF WRITER



- Andy Young, Columnist

West Virginia, Vermont, Delaware, Wyoming and Maine are the only U.S. states that don't have a city of at least 100,000 residents within their borders. That bit of trivia makes the naming of Maine's Portland as (according to tripadvisor.com's "Travelers' Choice Awards Best of the Best" America's 8th-best destination for food even more impressive.

I wasn't one of those polled by tripadvisor.com, but after checking out their roster of the 10 top-rated restaurants in the Portland area, I can understand why. I've only heard of two of the places listed, and have eaten at

just one of them, Becky's Diner. For what it's worth, if I'm remembering the right place, I'd give Becky four stars.

Being ranked amongst the nation's top "foodie" cities is no small feat for a community of Portland's size. Other metropolises in the Top 10 include New York, Boston, and New Orleans. That a place of under 70,000 residents can rank above world-renowned cities like San Francisco, Chicago and Philadelphia is nothing short of remarkable. Maine's grandest municipality isn't even the nation's largest Portland; in fact, its current population (68,408, at the 2020 census) is closer to that of Portland, Texas (20,383) than it is to Portland, Oregon's (652,503).

There's no reason for Maine's Portland to have a population-related inferiority complex, though. Its number of residents is greater than the combined populations of the Portlands located in Texas, Tennessee (11,486), Connecticut (9384), Indiana (6320), New York (4366), Michigan (3796), North Dakota (578), Pennsylvania (494), and Arkansas (430). No population numbers were available for the unincorporated Portlands in Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Ohio, Missouri and Kansas.



Sudden thought: am I the only one who's wondering if Portland, Kansas is a fictitious place invented by some Wikipedia prankster? Sure, Kansas has plenty of land, but where would they put a port?

It's tough determining exactly where Maine's largest city's population stands nationally, although it's definitely somewhere in the top 1,000. According to Reddit.com, which cites the 2020 census as its source, Portland stands 563rd, 44 people ahead of Franklin, New Jersey, but trailing Palo Alto, California by 164 residents. However, gist@github.com has Portland 524th, 15 souls shy of Bossier City, Louisiana, but 21 more than St. Cloud, Minnesota. Both agree, though, that what people around here see as an urban megalopolis is far less populated than burgs such as Killeen,

Texas; Murfreesboro, Tennessee; Avondale, Arizona; Racine, Wisconsin; Billings, Montana; and Layton, Utah, to name just a half-dozen places that can only dream of being considered for some sort of culinary-related award from organizations like tripadvisor.com's "Travelers' Choice Awards Best of the Best."

There's no need for Portlanders to feel inadequate just because the population of Maine's largest city is a mere 10.48 percent of Portland, Oregon's. Our Portland has nearly seven times the population of Portland, Victoria, Australia, which isn't just that nation's biggest Portland; it's the largest one on the entire continent as well! South Africa's Portland, a neighborhood located in the Mitchell's Plain area within the city of Cape Town, has fewer than 25,000 residents, and Portland, New Zealand is home to just 483 inhabitants. That's even fewer than New Portland, Maine, a Somerset County town of 765. And as for the two Portlands in Jamaica and the one in Ireland, well, they're so minuscule that they don't even list their populations.

But when it comes to all things culinary in the five American states without a city of over 100,000, Maine's Portland stands tall. Need proof? Try finding a tripadvsior.com list of the ten best eateries in Charleston, West Virginia; Burlington, Vermont; Wilmington, Delaware; or Cheyenne, Wyoming! <

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Graduating from high school is a major life achievement and deserves to be celebrated in a meaningful and memorable way. Whether you're planning a party for your child, a family member, or yourself, the key to a smooth and fun celebration is staying organized, especially during the crucial final month before the big day. From party themes and guest lists to food and decorations, here's how to plan the perfect graduation celebration with a clear timeline for the last four weeks.

Before the final month, it's best to take care of some high-level decisions. Ideally, by the time you're four weeks away, you should have already:

- Set a budget
- Picked a date and time
- Chosen a location (home, rented venue, park, etc.)
- Created a guest list
- Chosen a theme or party style
- Sent out invitations (digital or printed)

## Four Weeks Before: Finalize Details and Start Shopping

- **Confirm RSVPs:** Reach out to invitees who haven't responded yet. This will help you finalize numbers for food and seating.
- **Plan the Menu:** Decide whether you'll cook, order catering, or hire a food truck. Consider dietary restrictions and include a mix of options.
- **Start Shopping:** Purchase or or-



- **Entertainment:** If you haven't booked a DJ or photographer, it's time to create a playlist and gather speakers or games.

- **Memory Table or Display:** Collect photos, trophies, yearbooks, or other memorabilia to showcase the graduate's journey.

- This is a good week to get organized with checklists and assign any help you'll need from family or friends.

- **Create or Order Decorations:** If you're making a photo board or printing banners, this is the week to get it done. You can also design centerpieces, signage, or posters featuring school colors or graduation quotes.

- **Plan Seating and Layout:** Sketch a layout of tables, food stations, and entertainment areas. Think about flow and how guests will move through the space.
- **Order Cake or Desserts:** Bakeries often book up during graduation sea-

- **Create a Schedule:** Map out the party's flow—when guests will arrive, when food will be served, when (if any) speeches or slide-shows will happen.

- **Print Photos and Slideshows:** Print any pictures for displays or finalize a slideshow to run on a loop.

- **Plan a Toast or Speech:** If the graduate or a parent plans to say a few words, now's the time to write and rehearse.
- **Follow Up with Vendors:** Call or email to confirm any bookings (caterers, rentals, photographers).
- **Prepare Favors:** Assemble any thank-you gifts for guests—custom keychains, candy jars, or photo keep.
- **This is also a great time to buy non-perishable food or drinks and confirm how much ice, cooler space, and trash bins you'll need.**

- **Clean and Prep Venue:** Whether it's your backyard or a rented hall, make sure the space is clean, mowed, and ready for set-up.

- Food Prep: For homemade food, make a cooking timeline or prep anything that can be frozen ahead of time.
- Decorations: Begin assembling

- Checklist for Party Day: Make a list of what needs to be done on the day of the party—assign tasks like setting up tables, greeting guests, and handling trash.

- **Decorate:** Set up as much as you can the day before, including tables, chairs, banners, and signage.

- **Pick Up Orders:** Collect the cake, food trays, and any rented items.
- **Cool Drinks:** Chill beverages and stock coolers with ice.
- **Set Up Activities:** Prepare games, set up the photo booth, and check sound systems or speakers.

- Greet guests with a smile and make sure the graduate feels special.

- Snap lots of photos and encourage guests to write messages in a guestbook or on a photo mat.
- Keep food and drinks stocked and make announcements if there's a speech or slideshow.

At the end, send guests home with favors and thank them for being part of the celebration.

Graduation parties don't need to be extravagant to be meaningful—they just need to reflect the graduate's personality and achievements. By breaking down your tasks over the last month, you'll stay organized, reduce stress, and host a celebration that honors years of hard work. Whether it's a backyard cookout or a formal event, with thoughtful planning, your celebration will be enjoyable and memorable. <

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A blue and white service truck for Atlantic Heating Co. The tank is white with a blue band across the middle. On the blue band, the company logo (a red 'A' with a white 'H' inside) is on the left. To its right, the text 'ATLANTIC HEATING Co.' is written in white, with 'ATLANTIC' and 'HEATING' in a larger font than 'Co.'. Below this, in smaller white text, are the phrases 'Complies in Efficiency Oil, Gas & LP Heating Systems', '24 Hour Emergency Service', and 'Annual Cleaning'. To the right of this text, the phone number '797-7218' is printed in large red digits. The truck is parked on a paved surface with green trees in the background.

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SPORTS

# WHS softball squashes Portland/Deering in shutout game

By Matt Pascarella  
STAFF WRITER

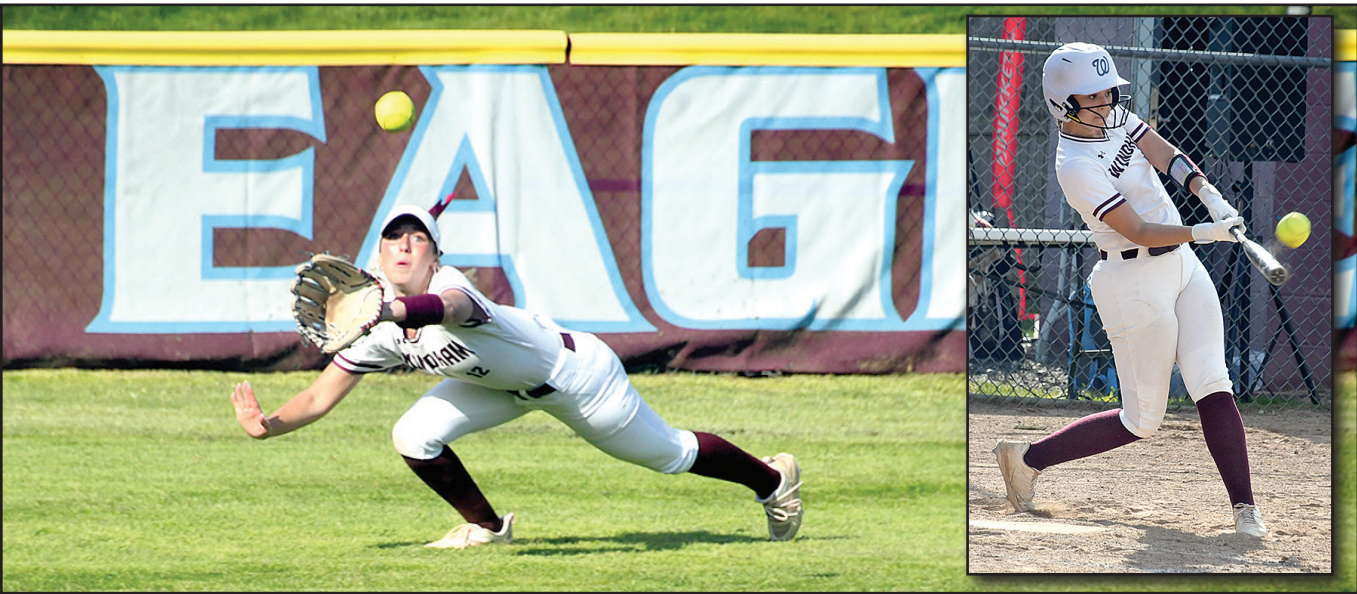
Windham softball played Portland/Deering at Windham on Tuesday, May 13 and the Lady Eagles enjoyed an extremely strong start as they scored 10 runs in the first inning. They did not let up until the last Lady Eagle crossed the plate for a notable 15-0 win.

“It was a little nerve-racking but exciting,” said Windham senior Lydia Marden who got her first varsity start in the circle; she had five strikeouts, let up one hit with no walks or errors. “I was really excited for this game; I got more confident as the innings went on, I started throwing a little harder and mixing pitches more. I feel like our pre-game energy was good. I think we need to talk a little more in the field, but in the dugout, we’ve been talking a lot and supporting each other. Nola’s catch in the outfield was amazing and everyone was super hyped for that. We’re going to continue to carry that energy through playoffs.”

Windham had a powerhouse first inning with junior Addison Caiazzo who singled on a bunt, then senior Stella Jarvis crushed the ball to center field. Senior Kennedy Kimball walked and after junior Oakley McLeod singled, Caiazzo scored.

From that point on, it was a revolving door of hits and Windham crossing home plate. Marden singled and courtesy runner sophomore Evelyn Anderson scored. Junior Lacie Higgins singled and McLeod scored.

Seven more runners crossed the plate before the end of the inning. Windham defense wasn’t letting



Windham junior Nola Bryant keeps her eyes on the ball as she goes in for a diving catch and makes it during a prep softball game against Portland/Deering on Tuesday, May 13. (Inset) Junior Jezabelle Pinto connects for a hit.. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

any runs, or many Portland/Deering hits in throughout the game. They sent three consecutive batters back to the dugout in the second inning.

In the third inning, Windham sophomore Sarah Smyth bunted and reached first base on an error. Sophomore Abhilasha Jain walked.

Windham junior Jezabelle Pinto singled; junior Lacie Higgins singled. Smyth and Jain scored. Higgins scored on a wild pitch; Windham led 14-0.

In the top of the fourth inning junior Nola Bryant made an incredible diving catch from center field.

“With the diving catches, that was my second one of the year, it’s me just wanting to have my pitcher’s backs and give them less hits in a game,” said Bryant. “It really makes the whole



(L to R) Senior Lydia Marden throwing strikes during her first time starting a varsity softball. Junior Addison Caiazzo bunts.

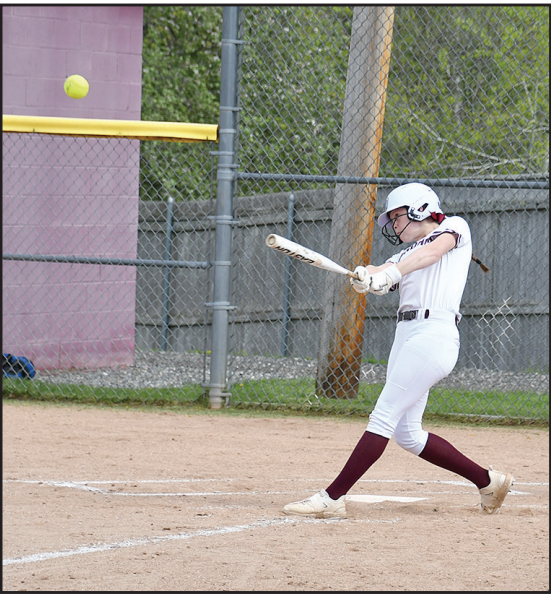
team hyped up when I make those catches; I love having my team’s back and making those plays. We were motivated to come in and win today; We started high, and we kept it up at a high the whole game. I think that we could definitely sit back on pitches – that needs improvement – wait a little bit longer with the slower pitching. What we did well was cheering our teammates on with the successes, we had our pitcher’s back really well and made all of the routine plays, I think that was very good.”

Marden crossed the plate in the fourth inning to end the game.

“I really challenged my batters to see how much of a disciplined batter they can be,” said Windham varsity softball coach Darcey Gardiner. “Can they stay back on their legs long enough, can they let that ball travel deeper in the zone, or are we going to be swinging out of our shoes trying to hit homers and swinging way early? I was really proud to see the adjustments they made from one pitcher yesterday (against Cheverus) to another pitcher today. All five seniors started today, and they

have come into this year with this is all business. You had Lydia Marden getting her first varsity start out there in the circle; to see her teammates pump her up, that is everything you can ask and more. The score doesn’t show it, but for her to keep her composure not only in the circle but also up to bat, she was absolutely phenomenal today.”

Gardiner said it was nice to see both under and upperclassmen supporting each other and keeping the energy up throughout the game. <




Senior Chloe Edwards bats.

## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



### Cole Heanssler

**Age:** 17  
**Team:** Windham High School boys’ lacrosse  
**Coach:** Peter Small  
**Parents’ names:** Nikki and Pete Heanssler  
**Reason for selection:** Cole Heanssler has improved himself on the field and off the field; he was always a quality-character person. What he’s done in the off season to get faster, to get stronger, to study the game – he is one of our best offensive players, one of our defensive players, I find it hard to take him off the field because of what he does at both ends of the field right now. He works hard every single practice, it’s one thing to say he’s the best player, it’s more so what he did to become one of the best players on this field. He lifts his teammates up when he sees somebody that’s despondent ... he’s really quick to lift them back up. He hits the gym every single morning, he runs a ton, he watches film, I know I’ve seen him at wall-ball – that dedication to just day-to-day to get yourself better has made a difference.



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# WHS unified bocce displays excellent efforts, sportsmanship

By Matt Pascarella  
STAFF WRITER

Halfway through the season, Windham’s varsity unified team traveled to Gray New-Gloucester High School where they took on the Patriots on Monday, May 12. Windham showed a great deal of sportsmanship and both teams cheered for their opponents.

Despite a 2-0 loss the Eagles showed that the game of bocce is more about making friends, having fun and improving at a game that you enjoy playing, rather than winning.

“I think they did really well today,” said Windham varsity unified bocce head coach Kendall Dolan. “They were really excited, and they were taking pointers from the other team which is just really nice to see two different schools working together; a really great game.”

In bocce, one team throws a small white ball called the pallina, and the goal is to throw larger balls, called bocce, to get as close to the pallina as possible. Only the team closest to the pallina scores points. This match consisted of two 20-minute games with the winner being whoever has the most points when time is up.

Although the score is kept, the object of the unified bocce game is more geared toward having fun and being part of a team.

Everyone on the Windham team, including junior Mary Jean, junior Zachary O’Brion, freshman Tristan Stanley, senior Colby Schmid, junior Jack Shirley and senior TJ McAllister displayed good throws and there was a lot of laughing and high-fiving with both teams cheering each other on.

Schmid said one of the things that went well during the game was teamwork. He said both teams showed great sportsmanship. Schmid said if the team had maybe focused more it might have ended differently for



Windham senior Colby Schmid gives his bocce ball an elevated throw during a Unified bocce game on Monday, May 12. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

Windham. The season has been going well.

In the first game, Gray New-Gloucester took an early lead and stayed ahead to win that game, 9-2. In the second game, Windham stayed strong, but Gray New-Gloucester won 11-0.

O’Brion said things went well and he had fun. He wasn’t happy with the


loss, but he said WHS will try and beat Gray New-Gloucester the next time they play them.

“We have a really good group this year,” said Windham varsity unified bocce assistant coach Connor McNeill. “Honestly, our team is super flexible, and they are really good about going with the plan whatever it is – one thing that’s hard about bocce is

sometimes we don’t know how many players the other team is going to have – so they have to adjust to playing for a different school or playing with a different group that they may not be used to playing with. They are always willing to do whatever we need. In terms of improvement, the more we play the better we’ll go, and Gray New-Gloucester is just really good.” <




(L to R) Junior Mary Jean throws her bocce with force. Junior Zachary O’Brion keeps his focus on the pallina as he makes a strong throw. Freshman Tristan Stanley keeps his bocce throw low to the ground.




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BRIEFS

Chess Club

Anyone interested in chess or wants to learn how to play is encouraged to participate in the Chess Club, held from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 17 at the Windham Public Library, 217 Windham Center Road. All ages and abilities are welcome. FMI, call the Library Help Desk at 207-892-1908, Ext. 5 or send an email to rmarcotte@windhammaine.us.

Hiking Presentation

Windham Public Library, 217 Windham Center Road, is hosting a slideshow presentation by Rand Clark about hiking on the Pacific Crest Trail. His presentation is free and runs from 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 21 at the library. FMI, call 207-892-1908.

Blood Drive

The American Red Cross will be conducting a Blood Drive from noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday, May 21 at the Windham Veterans Center, 35 Veterans Memorial Drive, Windham. To make an appointment to donate blood, call 1-800-733-2767.

Loan Closet

The Windham Loan Closet provides area residents with wheelchairs and other equipment for medical and physical needs by loan at no charge. The Loan Closet is located on Windham Center Road next to the public library and is staffed by volunteers and open by appointment only. To sched-

ule an appointment call 207-894-5999 and leave a detailed message.

Sewing Donations

Donations are being sought for the St. Anthony Festival hosted by Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in June. Kids and adult aprons, 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.

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](http://www.prlt.org/water-stewards-sign-up) FMI, send an email to [toby@prlt.org](mailto:toby@prlt.org)

Meals on Wheels

The SMAA Meals on Wheels program provides up to five meals for homebound participants each week. No deliveries are made on Wednesdays. There is a suggested donation of \$3.50 per meal. Call 1-800-400-6325 for more information. <

Symbols of Freedom



Members of American Legion Field-Allen Post 148 in Windham gathered on May 7 to unpack and assemble more than 90 American flags to be displayed on utility poles to commemorate Memorial Day in Windham. The Legion's flag program turns 20 this year and was started in 2005 by then-Post 148 Commander Don McCormick and David Tanguay to show Americanism pride in the Town. What started with about 50 flags in North and South Windham grew to 100 flags the following year, saturating the highways and byways of Windham. Up until 2023, the flags were placed by our legion veterans climbing on ladders to install the flags. This process became a safety issue with increased traffic and the Town of Windham interceded and offered the use of a bucket truck that they rented to do the job. The Town of Windham purchases the flags on a tri-annual replacement cycle, while the legion post continues to maintain and store the flags during the off season. SUBMITTED PHOTO



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# Maine Emergency Management Agency encourages action during National Hurricane Preparedness Week

AUGUSTA – This is National Hurricane Preparedness Week, and the purpose of this designation is for residents and business owners along the east coast of the United States to take actions that will prepare them for the Atlantic Hurricane Season which occurs annually June 1 through Nov. 30.

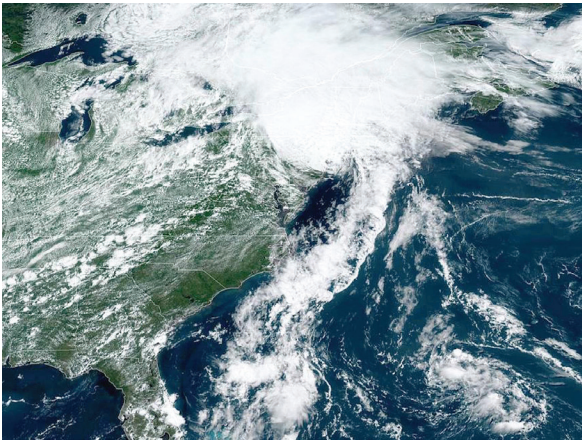
In coordination with National Hurricane Preparedness Week, the Maine Emergency Management Agency encourages everyone to take inventory of existing supplies in their homes and vehicles, replace or update any expired materials, obtain supplies that are essential in the event of a hurricane, and discuss emergency plans with household members.

“When any storm with strong winds

hits Maine, the real danger is trees toppling onto buildings, cars, and powerlines,” said MEMA Director Pete Rogers. “Our power grid is especially vulnerable, and any damage could ripple through our state. Maine residents need to make plans well ahead of any storm to prepare for long power outages.”

**Know Your Risk:**

- Hurricanes are not just a coastal problem. Their impacts can be felt hundreds of miles inland, and significant impacts can occur without it being a major hurricane.
- Coastal Maine could experience storm surge, strong winds, and rip currents. Inland flooding may occur, and tornadoes can form because of these storms.



Hurricane Isaias bears down on New England in 2020. Downgraded to a tropical storm by the time it reached Maine, it unleashed 45 mph winds in the Sebago Lake region, snapping tree limbs, causing power outages and beaching six boats moored offshore. COURTESY OF NOAA

**Discuss Emergency Plans with household members:**

- Decide how you will leave and where you will go if you are advised to evacuate.

- Identify several places you could go such as a friend’s home in another town or a hotel. Choose destinations in different directions so that you have options during an emergency.
  - If needed, identify a place to stay that will accept pets. Some emergency shelters only allow service animals.
  - Identify the nearest evacuation shelters.
  - Who will you contact to let them know you are safe? How will you communicate with them if your cell phone is dead, or the cell tower is down?
  - Be familiar with alternate routes and other means of transportation out of your area.
  - Come up with a family/household plan to stay in touch in case you become separated.
  - Assemble supplies that are ready for evacuation. Prepare a “go-bag” you can carry when you evacuate on foot or public transportation and supplies for traveling longer distances in a car.
- Home Supplies and Preparations:**
- One gallon of water per person per day to last for 3 days. Don’t forget about pets!
  - Non-perishable food that does not require cooking, and a manual can opener.
  - Medications.
  - Keep a small amount of cash at home in a safe place. ATMs and credit cards may not work during a disaster when you need to purchase necessary supplies, fuel, or food.
  - Gather financial and critical personal, household, and medical information.
  - Store important documents either in a safety deposit box, an external drive, or on the cloud to make it easy to access during a disaster.
  - Review your insurance policy.
  - Homeowners insurance does not typically cover flooding, so you may need to purchase flood insurance from the National Flood Insurance Program.

**Vehicle Preparedness:**

- Keep a full tank of gas if an evacuation seems likely. Gas stations may be closed during emergencies and unable to pump gas during power outages. Plan to take one car per family to reduce congestion and delay.
- Keep an emergency kit in your car. Some supplies include jumper cables, flares, cell phone charger, blanket, map, snacks and bottled water.
- If you do not have a car, plan how you will leave if needed. Decide with family, friends, or your local emergency management office to see what resources may be available.

Additional preparedness and safety information is available at [www.MainePrepares.com](http://www.MainePrepares.com) or visit MEMA on Facebook, X, and Nextdoor. <

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REAL ESTATE & Home

Homeowner's guide to summer home maintenance

► **Compiled by Jonathan Priest**  
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE



— Jonathan Priest

Fixing, cleaning and maintaining a home while it's warm and dry is like shopping for winter holidays in July. It pays to get it done early – before bad weather can cause emergencies.

**GUTTERS:** Giving a home extra attention when the weather is good can help homeowners avoid emergencies – like a waterfall in the basement – months later, says Dan DiClerico, a home expert for a national online home renovation website. From his decades of working in the home-repair industry, DiClerico knows homeowners should always be planning ahead. “I compare it to Christmas shopping in July,” DiClerico says: getting it done ahead of time is a good idea. If the gutter system, including gutter guards, downspouts and gutter extensions, is working properly, water will flow through and out at least five feet away from the house.

Start with a visual inspection of the whole system and look for these signs of wear or damage, suggests Kevin Chang, cofounder of a San Francisco Bay Area company that provides year-round home maintenance to roughly 200 homes.

- Pieces that are loose, corroded or pulling away from the house.
- Signs of ground erosion. If the

grass has washed away beneath the roof edge, for example, it may indicate that water is splashing down because the gutter system isn't effective.

- Leaves, twigs and other debris in the gutters.
- Spray water onto the roof to make sure it funnels into the gutter and downspouts. Overflows or slow flow could be signs of obstruction.

Make repairs as needed and clear out debris. (Professional cleaning costs roughly \$150, but pricing will vary depending on location and other factors.) Even with gutter guards, debris, silt, mud and mold can still build up, and Chang recommends a thorough cleaning every five years.

**ROOF:** Summer is a good time for homeowners to inspect roofs, inside and outside, to help avoid emergency repairs later. Roofs are generally low maintenance, DiClerico says, but when they need repairs, he recommends calling a professional. DiClerico says binoculars can help homeowners do a visual inspection from ground level, before heading into the attic, and he recommends paying attention to these common signs of roof problems.

- Missing or loose shingles
- Seams where two sections come together, and to flashing, seals around windows, chimneys and openings.

Inside, check for missing insulation in the attic, and signs of moisture like discoloration or mold in the attic or on ceilings, which could indicate the roof is not watertight.

**DECK:** Every year, DiClerico hears

stories of decks collapsing during the year's first big cookout. Although most people are gathering in smaller groups this summer, he recommends a thorough annual deck inspection, regardless of how much it is used.

- Inspect the deck for mold, mildew, popped screws and loose boards. Pay close attention to the place where the deck meets the house, the railings and the stairs.
- Jump around and give railings a firm shake. Any softness and wobbling could be signs it needs repairs.
- Scrub the deck once per year.
- Clear sealants often need to be applied annually; opaque solid stains may only need to be applied every three to five years. Semi-transparent stains should be reapplied every two or three years, DiClerico says. How do you tell if it's time to reseal the deck? DiClerico suggests sprinkling water on the boards. If it beads up, it's good; if it soaks in, time to reseal.

**PAINT:** A strong coat of paint can be good protection against winter leaks. But too much heat makes it

hard for new paint to cure, so exterior paint projects are best done at the beginning or end of the summer, when temperatures and humidity are lower, says DiClerico. His additional painting recommendations:

- The ideal temperature for painting outside is between 50 and 90 degrees.
- Don't skimp on sanding, scraping, filling and other prep work. They're the key to a paint job that lasts.

If you're not painting, wash the outside of the house with soapy water and a sturdy bristle brush, he advises. Use a pressure washer sparingly; in DiClerico's opinion the gentler option is preferable. Pressure-washing a roof can damage shingles, he warns. A spray-on roof cleaner will take care of mold or mildew.

*This article has been brought to you by staysafe.org and Farmers Insurance agent Jonathan Priest, with an office at 57 Tandberg Trail, Suite 7 in Windham; We know a thing or two because we've seen a thing or two! Call him at 207-893-8184 or send him an email at jpriest1@farmersagent.com <*

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# PUZZLES & GAMES

D	B	J	K	G	A	D	V	A	N	C	E	Y	R	E	G	A	M	I	J
P	I	M	E	L	L	E	A	G	N	H	M	G	N	I	L	L	E	P	S
A	V	D	H	R	E	T	T	I	G	W	T	S	O	H	G	O	W	F	G
R	S	K	O	B	T	O	U	B	R	B	S	H	T	R	R	B	O	I	U
A	C	V	W	O	O	U	D	I	A	J	E	N	I	L	D	A	E	D	V
G	N	O	I	C	C	K	G	O	R	T	N	I	K	P	H	F	O	T	P
R	A	F	R	J	R	J	C	J	A	N	A	L	O	G	Y	P	K	A	C
A	H	M	A	G	A	K	T	V	G	T	N	E	M	N	G	S	S	T	P
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AUTHOR	CONNOTATION	GHOSTWRITER	OUTLINE
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BIOGRAPHY	DEADLINE	IMAGERY	PLAGIARISM
BOOKS	DRAFT	INTRODUCTION	PREMISE
BYLINE	EDIT	JARGON	SPELLING



# CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to renaissance faïres.  
Each number corresponds to a letter.  
(Hint: **20 = S**)

**A. 17 5 20 14 22 12 19 20**  
Clue: Dress up clothes

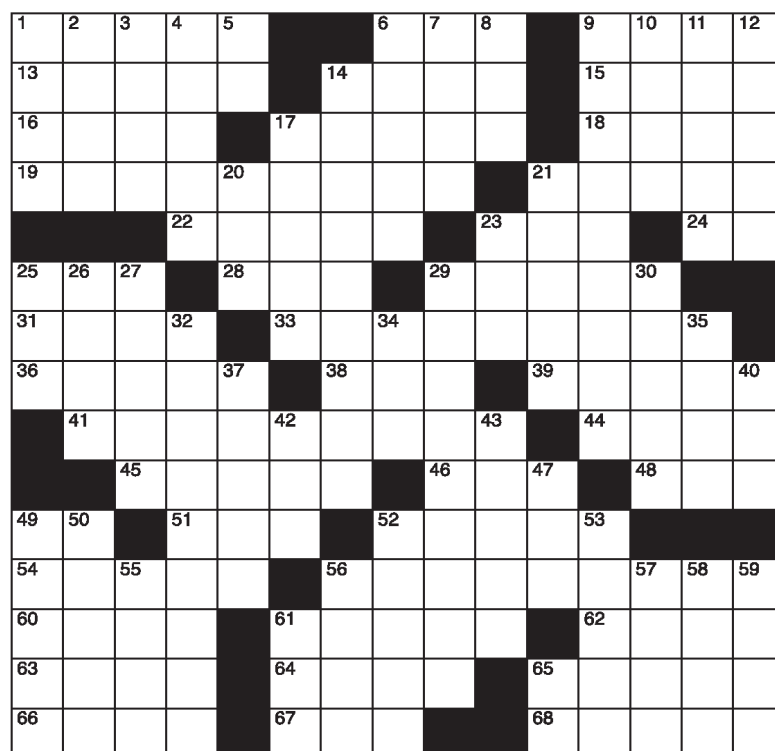
**B.**     **25   24   20   14   5   18   15**  
*Clue: Past events*

**C. 13 19 20 14 24 10 9 3**  
Clue: Celebration event

**D. 9 12 22 20 19**  
*Clue: Provid enjoyment*

Answers: A. costumes B. history C. festival D. amusement

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



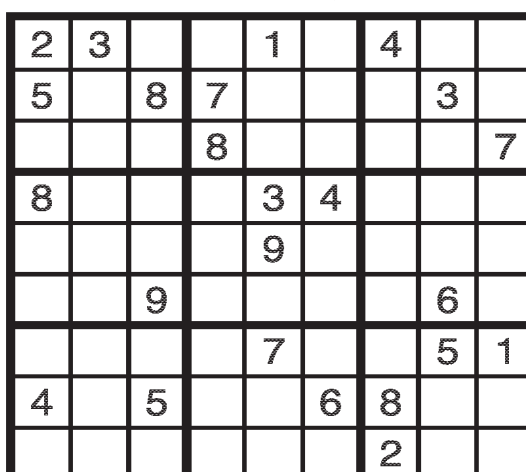
1. Pottery brand
6. Contemporary hit radio
9. Tatouhou
13. Modeled
14. Whale ship captain
15. On \_ \_ with
16. Dirty fossil fuel
17. The same
18. Wealthy
19. Actress Baranski
21. Bangladesh's capital, old
22. Gross receipts
23. Runs PCs
24. Yukon Territory
25. Angry
28. Have the ability to
29. City of light
31. Person from U.K. (abbr.)
33. Helper
36. Walking steps
38. Cablegram (abbr.)
39. Slang for famous person
41. Skin cancers
44. Body fluids
45. More dry
46. Roman seven
48. Actress Farrow
49. 1st Lady of Song's initials
51. Disorderly crowd
52. Less in spanish
54. Br. broad valleys
56. Good Wife's Julianna
60. Expression of annoyance
61. Blocks
62. 4840 square yards
63. The culminating point
64. Hit an unreturned serve
65. Excessively fat
66. Scorch the surface of
67. Dekaliter
68. Ruhr River city

1. Prevents harm to young
2. Children's tale bear
3. Eskers
4. Small food stores
5. \_\_, denotes past
6. Mentums
7. Gadoid fish
8. Rainbow effect
9. Live in or on hosts
10. Long narrative poem
11. Informal term for tobacco (Br.)
12. One who has attained nirvana
14. One who estranges
17. Collection of maps
20. Pouchlike structure
21. Simple column
23. Constitution Hall org.
25. Apple notebook computer
26. Biblical Syria
27. Cuts into small pieces
29. Talked profusely
30. Hawthorne's city
32. Takes readings from other distant instruments
34. 13th Hebrew letter
35. Filippo \_\_, Saint
37. Gulf of, in the Aegean
40. Bleat
42. A bird's beak
43. Performs a song
47. Note of hand
49. Icelandic poems
50. Ludicrous, empty show
52. Peter Pan illustrator Attwell
53. Broad, flat stones
55. Tibetan Buddhist teacher
56. Mire and mud
57. Frozen drinks
58. Irish Gaelic
59. Viewed with the eyes
61. Blackguard
65. Olde English

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

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

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Located in Windham, Elemental Electric is owned by Brandon Bagley and is Southern Maine’s residential electrician, offering efficient residential electrical and generator expertise in the Lakes Region and surrounding towns.

“We truly care about the work we perform for fellow residents of our local community,” Bagley said. “Our reviews and recommendations across social media platforms show it. From service upgrades, standby generator installs and service, to service calls and new construction, there is no job that is too big or too small for us to handle in house.”

Elemental Electric is fully licensed and specializes in residential electrical, providing service calls, whole home rewiring, troubleshooting, wiring for additions and renovations, interior and exterior lighting, pools and hot tubs, service upgrades, and backup generator installations.

All work is performed in a positive manner and dedicated to saving their clients’ money and resolving challenging problems. They take the time to cultivate relationships with clients through honesty, transparency and communication.

“Aside from our relentless positivity, we’re known for our generator installs,” Bagley said. “April 2024’s storm showed everyone in the Lakes Region



how important their power is to them, and we stepped up our game to take on these installs in their entirety. We’ve also gone as far as to get our state gas licenses to be able to handle standby generator installations in their entirety in house.”

Elemental Electric is prepared to tackle any job and to take a step forward efficiently. It has added a 16-foot box truck to help them better serve clients.

“We’ve recently deployed a mobile working supply house into our fleet to best handle add-ons to work that we are performing when onsite at a client’s home,” Bagley said. “Where other companies require the scheduling of a return trip for unprepped stock on a scheduled visit; that will be a rare setback for us moving forward as we now bring the supply house to your doorstep. We’re all about efficiency.”

The Elemental Electric company has been in business since 2023 and just took on employee Matthew Kelley,



**Elemental Electric is equipped with the skills, tools and supplies needed to get the job done fast and efficiently.** SUBMITTED PHOTO

who will be sitting for his electrical license in the coming weeks.

“I’m excited to see him grow in this business as much as I have and am proud to have built a platform for him to grow on, and to be able to hone his craft before launching his own outfit in Saco.” Bagley said.

As company owner, Bagley himself has been involved with various businesses since 2010.

“Motorcycles, vinyl lettering, auto detailing, watchmaking, generator repair, it’s been a fun 15 years of forging my way to find my calling and Elemental Electric has been a blast growing,” he said. “It’s been a fun ride these last two years on my own in the electrical business and I look forward to growing in this community alongside others that choose to take on the self-employment path.”

Feedback from local community members about Elemental Electric has been fantastic, Bagley said.

“It shows through our Google reviews, and the recommendations we receive on social media when others are looking for electricians,” he said. “We hold every recommendation to heart and are happy that others enjoy our services enough to recommend us to their family, friends and other community residents.”

*“Excellent experience from start to finish. We had a standby generator installed. Brandon was very professional and super friendly. During our install, he found an issue with our underground utility line and brought it to our attention immediately. We feel lucky that we hired someone with integrity, as I’m sure some contractors would have ignored the issue to save time and aggravation. This could potentially have created a fire in our house if it had not been fixed. I feel his prices were very fair for the quality of work he provides. We look forward to working with Elemental again for future projects!” ~ Derek Lombard, Above & Beyond Cleaning*

*“Brandon assisted us with the wiring of an install of a new lighting fixture in our bathroom. His honest and timely service were much appreciated. He was honest and very experienced. This is the type of electrician our communities need. Thank you for your professional, honest service.” ~ Hannah Rodriguez*

To learn more about Elemental Electric, call 207-370-2551, visit [www.elementalelectric.com](http://www.elementalelectric.com) and find them on Facebook under Elemental Electric. <

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# LANDING REAL ESTATE

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## COMING SOON! 106 MITCHELL RD, CASCO - \$629,000



3 bed • 2.5 bath  
1,824 sq. ft. • 1.73 acres  
Custom built in 2022 with beautiful finishes throughout. Second floor laundry and large bonus room.



FOR A PRIVATE SHOWING CONTACT STACI DILL, ASSOCIATE BROKER • 207-590-7644 • STACI@LANDINGHOMESMAINE.COM

### OPEN HOUSE - SAT, 5/17, 9-11AM

15 CASTINE AVE, PORTLAND  
3 bed • 1 bath • 1,200 sq. ft.



LISTED AT \$450,000

UNDER  
CONTRACT!



15 ASHLEIGH  
LANE, STANDISH  
LIST PRICE  
\$138,000



JULIA LEIGHTON  
Associate Broker  
207-899-8041

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UNDER  
CONTRACT!



4 BOULDER DR,  
AUBURN  
LIST PRICE  
\$419,000

UNDER  
CONTRACT!



41 HANNAH DR,  
GORHAM  
LIST PRICE  
\$425,000



LISA DIBIASE  
Broker / Owner

207-653-0823

LISA@LANDINGHOMESMAINE.COM



### JUST SOLD!

49 BARNFIELD LANE,  
GORHAM  
SOLD FOR  
\$1,291,500

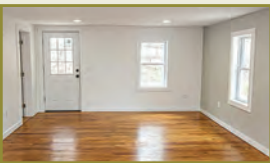
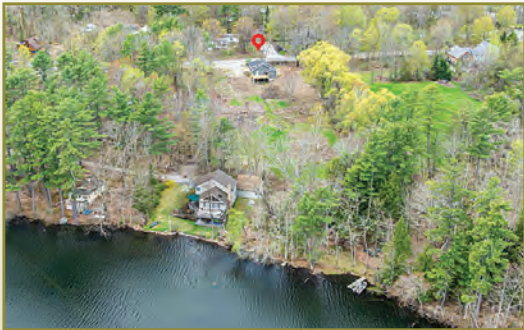


5 bed • 4 bath • 4,317 sq. ft. • 1.89 acres

Space, privacy, and a flexible floor plan in sought-after Gorham location. Custom eat-in kitchen with an oversized center island opens to the living room boasting 2 level ceilings and a stone fireplace with access to a screened-in porch. Above the attached three-car garage is an 864 sq. ft. in-law apartment. Heated in-ground pool, expansive patio, and fully equipped pool house great for entertaining and summer relaxation.

### UNDER CONTRACT!

893 MEADOW RD, CASCO - PRICED AT \$379,500



3 bed • 2 bath • 1,390 sq. ft. • 1.21 acres

Completely renovated on over an acre. Close to Parker Pond and Pleasant Lake!



MATT DIBIASE

Designated Broker / Owner

207-653-0376

MATT@LANDINGHOMESMAINE.COM



MATT DIBIASE



LISA DIBIASE