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Wishing well dedication event reminds Manchester students of 9/11 sacrifices

By Ed Pierce

In the aftermath of Sept. 11, 2001, Manchester School fourth-grade teacher Donna Morton wanted to help her students honor the sacrifices made by Americans on that fateful day while helping them grasp what had happened and inspiring them to help make the world better for every-

Morton had an idea and enlisted her students and several parents to create a wishing well for the school where children could hope for a peaceful future through kindness and love for one another. Built in just one afternoon, Morton's students got to hammer, sand, and paint the wishing well, and it received a prominent place in the school's front garden.

For more than two decades, on the anniversary of 9/11, Manchester students would form a circle around the wishing well, recite the Pledge of Allegiance, sing the "Star Spangled Banner," and place wishes into the well for the future. But last year during the reconfiguration of the parking lot and traffic pattern at the school, the front garden was removed, and the wishing well was found to be deteriorating



Retired Manchester School teacher Donna Morton, left, gathers with her former students and their parents in Windham to dedicate a Wishing Well that they created for hope and inspiration in the days following the terrorist attacks on America on Sept. 11, 2001. Now adults, Morton's former students and their parents restored the Wishing Well and thanked Windham police and firefighters attending a school ceremony for keeping the community safe. PHOTO BY ED PIERCE

Now retired from teaching, Morton was informed by a parent of one of her former students about the wishing well's condition and they decided to restore it and dedicate it at Manchester School for students this year on the anniversary of 9/11. She contacted some of her students from her 2001-2002 class and a few of their

parents still in the area to help. They gathered at Morton's home and set about to reconstruct the well.

Scott Gartsu was 9 on Sept. 11, 2001, and a student in Morton's fourth grade class. He wasn't at school that day as he was at home with a broken foot but recalls sitting on the living room floor of his home in Windham and crying watching the events unfold on television. He was part of the students who helped to build the original wishing well for his

"It was a group effort," he said. "My dad Todd was a carpenter, and I loved working with his tools. I re-→ see **DEDICATION** Page 11

Resident's legacy endures through 'Tia's Prom Project'

By Dina Mendros

Tatiana "Tia" Morrell of Windham is remembered by her friends and family as "uplifting," "generous" and "a bright light" in the lives of others. Tia was taken too young. She died in a moped accident in 2024, and she was only 28 years old.

Those who loved her don't want Tia to be forgotten and have decided to memorialize her through the creation of an initiative called Tia's Prom Project. Starting this year, the project will provide dresses to high school and middle school students in Cumberland County for prom, homecoming, or any other formal or semi-formal school events at no cost to the student.

Friends and family say that they wanted to find a way to remember Tia in a meaningful and lasting way because of the type of person she was.

"She was a very big person with a very big personality," Samantha Erickson said. "She was the type of person when she came into the room you knew she was there, and you would feel that she would radiate energy. Even when she left the room that energy just stuck with you and you just took it wherever you went for the remainder of the day."

Others agree and are happy to help with the project.

"She was just such a bright light in

all of our lives," Devon Jones said. "She would always make sure that everyone felt included and felt like they belonged. She would make sure people felt like they had a purpose and like they mattered."

Tia was "high spirited and very giving," her mother, Shelly Worthing, said. "She was always a light in the room as a child and always happy with a smile on her face."

The inspiration for remembering Tia through Tia's Prom Project stems from an event that took place when she was in just eighth grade. A new girl started school in Windham and Tia, her mother said, wanted to help the girl by buying her a dress to attend a semi-formal dance cruise that eighth grade students were attending at the end of the school year.

According to Worthing, the girl had a rough childhood



and would not likely be able to The late Tatiana 'Tia' Morrell of Windham attend the event if Tia hadn't attended many proms while a student at helped out. Worthing said that WHS. She was known for her unwavering her daughter was independent kindness and generosity toward her and determined and once she peers and now her friends and family decided she wanted to help the are honoring her by providing free prom student there was no stopping dresses to local students in an initiative called 'Tia's Prom Project.' SUBMITTED PHOTO → see TIA Page 10

Tia enlisted the assistance of her mother and together they bought a dress and on the day of the dance cruise, Worthing helped the new student with her hair and makeup.

"I remember (the student) having the night of her life at that dance," Erickson said. After that, people started talking to the girl and being nice to her. "They saw her as a person finally. It was just a huge turning point."

Worthing said that all of this is what has led to this new effort.

"Samantha (Erickson) was the one that remembered that story and that's what kind of started our project," Worthing said.

Worthing and Tia's friends have big plans for Tia's Prom Project. The initial plan was to have dresses donated and available for Cumberland County school proms in 2026. However, people have already started requesting dresses for homecoming dances which take place this month and in October.

While the dresses are limited, they

available for those who are interested. By next year's prom season, organizers say they are hoping to have several

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Imprudence on parade

I can't pinpoint exactly when it started, but sometime this summer my wife Nancy hooked me on watching YouTube videos of arrests from around the country captured on police bodycams.

It's a non-stop parade of lame excuses, driving while impaired, know-it-all college students and angry people who believe that they know more about law enforcement than the men and women working in the profession do.

There are drivers who try to evade arrest by pulling away from traffic stops and then taking officers on high-speed chases. There are some women frequently described in these videos as "Karens" who shout and scream and resist and obstruct being arrested.

I've seen arrest videos on YouTube from as recently as two weeks ago and some even have a former police officer who narrates or explains why an officer takes specific actions when investigating criminal offenses and situations.

Many of these videos share one thing in common – drivers suspected of drunk driving. Once pulled over, the investigating officer will ask a driver for his or her driver's license, vehicle registration and proof of insurance. Inevitably, the suspected driver will not have any of that and tells the officer that with slurred speech, glassy eyes or the inability to stand, let alone drive a motor vehicle.

Today in

1777 – The Battle of Saratoga in New York state is won by American soldiers during the Revolutionary War.

1796 – U.S. President George Washington's farewell address is published.

1876 – Melville R. Bissell of Grand Rapids, Michigan obtains a patent for the carpet sweeper.

1893 – New Zealand becomes the first nation to grant all women the right to vote.

1942 – The first advertisement to announce Little Golden Books appears in Publishers Weekly.

1952 – "The Adventures of Superman" television series starring George Reeves premieres in syndication in the United States.

1957 – The U.S. conducts its first underground nuclear test in the Nevada desert.

1984 - China and Britain complete a draft agreement transferring Hong Kong from British to Chinese rule by 1997.

Here is a sampling of some of my all-time bodycam arrest favorite videos that I have watched so far:

The owner of a self-serve car wash in Florida called police at 1 a.m. to report that a woman had been sitting in her SUV in the car wash parking lot since 7 p.m. and he found that behavior to be suspicious. Even though the car wash was open 24 hours, he thought she was using drugs there and asked police if they could investigate and get her to leave his property. He said he had video security footage of her being there that long.

Arriving at the scene, officers approached the woman's car, and she was speaking with someone on her cell phone and ignored them. They banged on her car window until she rolled it down and instructed them to stop and go away. When one of the officers asked what she was doing there and told her that the car wash owner wanted her to leave, she refused, saying she hadn't done anything wrong. She rolled up her window and ignored police asking for her identification and to get out of her car to talk to her.

Eventually, the police smashed her window and dragged her out of her car but before that happened she said she didn't believe the officers in uniform were real police. She demanded to speak to a supervisor and a sergeant and as she was being handcuffed, she repeatedly asked why she was being arrested. The officer told her she was arrested for trespassing because she did not leave when instructed to by police.

Another weird incident was caught on bodycam video in Florida and involved a van, a topless woman, a medical student from Jamaica and barking sounds coming from the van during the arrest. Apparently, a homeless woman who lived in her van had stopped to pick up the medical student who was hitchhiking. All the seats in the van had been removed except for the driver's seat. On the floor on the back of the van was a large mattress in which the woman had tied up the college student at gunpoint and made him lie there.

Officers had observed the woman speeding and swerving all over the roadway and chased her for miles. Her tires became flat when she ran over police stop sticks, but she kept right on going until one of her rims crumbled. She refused to get out of the van and started throwing mountains of trash out the van's passenger door. She allowed the college student to exit the van and then started making loud noises sounding like a barking dog and then a clucking chicken.

She eventually threw her gun out the window and tried to run away to escape but was wrestled to the ground by officers. She wasn't wearing a shirt and had to have a towel wrapped around her before being transported to jail for kidnapping, drunk driving, assault on a police officer and resisting arrest.

I'm always amazed at how much some of these suspects do not listen to basic commands. Even though they are told time and time again what they are being charged with, many say they've done nothing wrong and are not under arrest.

In yet another video, a fugitive from Vermont was living with seven other people in a Florida home. She had an outstanding warrant for theft and officers pulled her over for matching a woman who had stolen from a smoke shop a block away. When placed in handcuffs, she bolted and tried to run away but was captured. She told police she was seven months pregnant and started to cry and asked why she was being arrested. The woman denied having a warrant for her arrest and that she didn't want to have a baby in jail.

These videos are like watching a trainwreck, but you can't look away.

~ Ed Pierce

If you could describe yourself with any three adjectives, what would they be?

> "Kind, giving, cook." Julie Mallett

"Recently diagnosed with gout, I protested that gout was for old, fat, alcoholics - and I'm not an alcoholic! So, I'll say: Old, Fat, and Non-alcoholic."

– Francesco Paredon

"Happy, joyous, and free." - Bill Keller

"Generous, kind, cleaner." Miki Mayberry

"Service, Duty, Respect!" – William D. Reiner

"Accountable, fair, genuine." Kristen Day

> "Introspective faithful, studious." – Brian Butler

"I'm often described as welcoming, creative and down to earth. That about sums me up perfectly."

Anne Glotchshuk

"Practical. Analytical. Witty." – Dean A. Smalley

"Nature-loving, a hunter and a **fisherman."** – Benjamin Lee

> "Petite, clever, modest." - Deirdre Schulte

"How about extroverted, humorous, and energetic? I'm always working on something." Shelley O'Rourke

"Tall, blonde, and always comical!" - Chris Macklin

"Since I was little, my family has always told me I'm bright, I'm shy and I'm caring so I'll go with those three."

Mia Potenzio-Ransey

"Loud and messy and proud of who I am." - Isabella Mongon

"Honorable, dedicated to family, adaptable."

- Rick Seacroft

"Faithful, kind, and a lot of people say that I am truly an introvert."

– Sarah Singer-Miller

"Mysterious, subtle, yet always very interesting." David W. Tettley

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Council expresses concerns about new housing law

By Ed Pierce

STAFF WRITER

Expressing serious concerns about how the state is dealing with zoning reform and housing through new legislation set to take effect next year, members of the Windham Town Council have sent a letter to Maine's governor and state legislators asking for its repeal.

Signed by five town councilors, the letter says while L.D. 1829 "An Act to Build Housing for Maine Families" aims to increase available housing across the state. It also limits municipal control regarding growth.

"This week the council drafted and signed a letter to be sent to head legislators, local and in Augusta to state our displeasure toward LD 1829 which will remove town control on growth rates in growth zones," said Windham Town Councilor Bill Reiner.

LD 1829 was officially signed into law by Gov. Janet Mills in June. It is a follow-up to 2022's legislation LD 2003, which legalized accessory dwelling units (ADUs) statewide and launched a process of zoning reform across the state.

Among newly mandated requirements under LD 1829, Maine munic-

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ipalities may not require fire sprinklers for ADUs unless the structure contains three or more total units and municipalities must allow at least three dwelling units for use on any lot where residential use is permitted, and up to four units in designated growth areas or on lots served by both water and sewer.

Towns and cities will still be able to moderate the actual number of units allowed and set rules concerning lot size, density, frontage, and other dimensional requirements, but it also permits small-scale infill development, which adds density in communities that may not be wanted by residents.

Other LD 1829 changes specify that minimum lot sizes in areas with water and sewer are now capped at 5,000 square feet, removing what legislators say was outdated barriers to building more homes in walkable, connected places. The new law allows ADUs to be added to lots with existing multi-family housing, not just for single-family homes. It changes where ADUs can be built, and this could handicap municipalities in their ability to rein in expansive growth.

The law also mandates that ADUs

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must be allowed even if the owner doesn't live on the property and revises state subdivision laws, increasing the threshold from three to five units before triggering a subdivision review. This allows small-scale affordable housing developments to move forward without much municipal oversight.

Municipal changes to local ordinances adhering to LD 1829 must be in place by July 1, 2026 for city-council forms of government. Ordinance changes for towns such as Windham with a town-meeting form of government have until July 1, 2027 to revise local ordinances to comply with LD 1829.

Here is the text of the letter sent by Windham to the governor:

Dear Madam Governor,

The Windham Town Council would like to express its disagreement and disappointment with L.D. 1829, "An Act to Build Housing for Maine Families ... " legislation to increase housing density and remove local controls.

Windham understands the state legislature's directive and the need to take steps to address the state's estimated 84,000-unit housing shortfall. The Town amended our comprehen-

sive plan with the passing of LD 2003 to identify designated growth areas where housing would have fewer restrictions. The Town has issued an average of 130 housing units per year over the last 10 years. Windham already has well over 600 housing units in the pipeline with estimated completion dates ranging in the next one to three years. Most of this is to occur in growth areas. Windham is doing its part to solve the housing crisis while at the same time balancing the desires and needs of its citizens who want to retain areas of rural character. This law works against this goal in many ways.

We are also in the process of building a new \$50 million dollar wastewater treatment facility in our North Windham commercial area. This was a measure to alleviate excess nitrates and phosphates from entering our lakes and ponds and provide our commercial hub with the capacity to grow safely and sustainably. The projects in our Planning Board queue, including housing projects, could now be at risk with the implementation of the density requirements of LD 1829.

The council respectfully requests that the legislature consider amending or repealing LD 1829. <





Area cyclist prepares for another fundraising ride

By Ed Pierce

Bill Turner isn't someone who likes to sit on the sidelines but his active lifestyle of long-distance bike riding for charity was somewhat reduced following shoulder replacement surgery earlier this year,

Known as a tireless cycling advocate and one of the founders of the Sebago Lakes Region Fuller Center for Housing, Turner chose to stay closer to home this summer rather than hit the open road and traveling through faraway highways of America while fundraising for the organization. And even without logging thousands of miles on his cross-country treks, Turner has still managed to bring in a sizeable amount of pledges for the local Fuller Center chapter while at home recovering and only taking shorter rides.

"I am at \$7,750 toward my goal of \$10,000 for my local grass-roots volunteer chapter in Maine," Turner said. "To help us reach this goal during the month of September, my wife Lily and I will match all donations up to \$2,000."

Now he's back on his bicycle again and says that his bionic shoulders are working well. He's deciding where to

"The van is packed with a bicycle for a six-week adventure," Turner said.

That Turner is preparing to undertake yet another long cycling adventure is a testament to his determination and recuperative strength.

Back in 2021, he underwent a prostatectomy, a surgical procedure to remove his prostate gland, and is now living cancer free. A surgery in 2022 replaced his right shoulder and her went through another operation last winter.

"I had my left shoulder replaced and it is coming along fine, however I figured I should give my body a break this year from riding 1,000 miles in three weeks as I did in 2024," Turner said.

As an avid cyclist, Bill Turner rode for many years in the "Trek across Maine" with his children on behalf of

the American Lung Association.

"At some point in 2017, I decided to see if I could bike across the country," Turner said. "I began to look for trips and came across the Fuller Center Bike Adventure, and so I signed up for a trip from San Francisco to Santa Fe to see how my body would react. I am not used to asking people for money, but for such as good cause as the Fuller Center Bike Adventure, it seemed like the right thing to do."

Turner's original goal was to raise enough funds to help build one home in Haiti. However, two months after sending out an email to every contact he had on his mailing list, to invite people to give a donation; the amount raised was very close to his \$6,000 goal.

He chose to ride across the country with the Bike Adventure in 2018 and signed up to ride from Portland, Oregon, to Portland, Maine. Turner managed to ride the entire distance, and he also learned more about the national Fuller Center for Housing, a 501(c3) non-profit organization based out of Americus, Georgia. Its mission is to "promote collaborative

Bill Turner and his rescue dog Tucker have been fundraising for the Sebago Lakes Fuller Center for Housing from Maine this year. Bill had shoulder surgery last winter but expects to be back participating in long-distance bike rides for the organization soon. COURTESY PHOTO

> and innovative partnerships with individuals and organizations in an unrelenting quest to provide adequate shelter for all people in need worldwide."

> He thought that his church, Faith Lutheran Church in Windham, could become involved in a project locally to

→ see CYCLIST Page 10





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The Windham Eagle

Cumberland Fair honors legacy of Lyle Merrifield

The Cumberland County Fair will return for its 153rd year this month, bringing with it a full week of agricultural traditions, family fun, and a heartfelt tribute to one of its most dedicated leaders. From Sunday, Sept. 21 through Saturday, Sept. 27, the Cumberland fairgrounds will once again be filled with the sights, sounds, and flavors that have made this event a cornerstone of Maine's fall season. But this year, fair organizers and community members alike will pause to honor the late Lyle Merrifield, owner of Merrifield Farm in Gorham, whose vision and leadership helped shape the fair into what it is today.

Merrifield, who passed away in September 2024, served as the Cumberland Farmers Club president and was widely known as a tireless advocate for agriculture and rural traditions. His contributions to the fair are visible throughout the grounds, from the arenas and barns to the working exhibits that continue to draw families year after year. Organizers say Merrifield's fingerprints can be seen on nearly every corner of the fair, whether in the Blue Seal Show Arena, the Sugar House, or the pulling arenas that showcase the region's strongest draft horses and oxen.

"Lyle was more than just a leader of the fair," one longtime volunteer reflected. "He was a builder, a mentor, and a friend to everyone here. He dreamed big and he worked hard to make those dreams happen."

Those dreams often became tangible improvements. During his tenure, Merrifield oversaw the creation of new exhibition spaces, the addition of antique power displays, and the revitalization of working heritage demonstrations such as the sawmill and blacksmith shop. These additions not only preserved Maine's agricultural history but also gave visitors a chance to step back in time and experience the skills and traditions that shaped rural life.

For fairgoers in 2025, those demonstrations will take on new meaning. The blacksmiths hammering iron, the sugar house boiling down maple syrup, and the historic sawmill cutting fresh timber will serve not only as entertainment but also as a living tribute to Merrifield's passion for education and preservation. Organizers say that while Merrifield is deeply missed, his presence will continue to be felt in these traditions carried forward.

This year's fair promises to be a packed schedule of events that reflect both old and new. Each day will bring a mix of livestock shows, 4-H competitions, and pulling contests, alongside the midway rides and carnival games that younger visitors look forward to all year. The fan-favorite All-American Rodeo as well as the International Pulls return on Wednesday and Thursday nights, harness racing continues to be a staple attraction, while motorized events, live entertainment, and contests ranging from pie-baking to poutine-eating will keep crowds engaged throughout the week. For families, the popular "Bracelet Days" will once again offer unlimited rides for a single price on select weekdays, making the fair both affordable and accessible.

Yet amid the fried dough, Ferris Wheels, and grandstand cheering, there will be a quieter undercurrent of remembrance. Merrifield's leadership is remembered not only for the projects he championed but also for the way he brought people together. Those who worked alongside him recall his humor, generosity, and the way he encouraged others to take pride in their community and its traditions.

The Cumberland Fair has always been more than an agricultural showcase. It is a gathering place, a reunion of sorts for friends and neighbors, and a reminder of the importance of heritage. This year, as visitors stroll the grounds and take in the exhibits, many will do so with gratitude for the man whose steady hand helped guide the fair through decades of growth.

As the gates open Sept. 21, the community will celebrate not only the bounty of the harvest but also the enduring legacy of Lyle Merrifield. His vision lives on in the fair he helped shape, ensuring that future generations will continue to enjoy one of Maine's most cherished traditions.

FMI about the fair and see the schedule, visit cumberlandfair.com <





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WHS junior a recipient of Elmira College Key Award

By Ed Pierce

Elmira College recently announced this year's recipients of its prestigious annual Key Awards and one of those students attends Windham High School.

Corey Brackett of Raymond is a junior at WHS and was one of 831 students presented with Key Awards this year in 17 different states. The college says that it's a tradition that goes back to 1935 in honoring exceptional and outstanding students in their junior

year of high school or preparatory

"This award is given to students with the potential to excel academically, serve as leaders, and go on to enjoy success in life," said Charles Lindsay, the president of Elmira College. "We hope they will choose to make Elmira College their place."

Key Awards are sponsored by the Elmira College Alumni Association and recognize students for their high scholastic achievement, leadership, citizenship, and participation in extracurricular activities.

As a recipient of this year's Key Award, Brackett will receive an \$88,000 scholarship over a four-year period, or \$22,000 in scholarship funding per year, if she chooses to enroll at Elmira College upon graduation from high school.

If a Key Award winner is eligible for a merit scholarship of a greater value at the time of their admission to Elmira College, that schol- **The** Award. The student achievement,

ing Elmira College recipients. COURTESY PHOTO are also honored during a ceremony in the fall of their freshman year by the Elmira College Alumni Association and are presented with the Elmira College Key medallion at that time.

To qualify to apply for the award, each student must have a minimum academic grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, exhibit outstanding school and community leadership, and have a sincere interest in an ac-

Elmira College Key undergraduate and arship supersedes the Award recognizes high school graduate Elmira College Key juniors for high scholastic population leadership, from more than will still be recog- citizenship, and participation 20 states and nine nized as a Key Award in extracurricular activities. countries. winner at Elmira Windham High School's Corey Brackett has been announced Beta Kappa College Recipients attend- as one this year's Key Award and has been ranked

Elmira is a Phi a top college, na-

tionally, for student internships. The College is also home to the Center for Mark Twain Studies, one of four historically significant Twain heritage sites in the U.S., which attracts Twain scholars and educators from around the world for research on the famous literary icon. Proud of its history and tradition, the college is committed to the ideals of community service, and intellectual and individual growth. <





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perform on the Gazebo

11:15 a.m. Relay Races begin

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Antique Car Show featuring classic cars from the past Noon - 12:30 p.m. Windham Middle School Eighth Grade Orchestra performs **1** p.m.— Pie-Eating Contest

1:15 p.m. **Bobbing for Donuts Contest begins** 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Saco River Jazz Band performs 2:45 p.m. **Bowling Contest Winner announced** 3 p.m. Doors close

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The Windham Eagle

Windham lakefront resident receives LakeSmart Award

By Masha Yurkevich STAFF WRITER

The oblem During the summer months, Sebago Lake is a go-to for many local residents, but many do not know the work that goes into the homes surrounding the lake to keep it healthy and looking its best.

On Aug. 28, the home of Windham resident Jennifer Lotstein was rewarded with a LakeSmart award. Her home met LakeSmart standards, and she was recognized and given a placard for her hard work maintaining the property.

LakeSmart is a program that educates landowners about best practices to protect the lakes they live on. The goal is to reduce or eliminate erosion and stormwater runoff because it carries pollutants, including phosphorus, a primary driver of algae growth. Properties that are particularly lake-friendly receive the LakeSmart Award, with accompanying signs for display on the shoreline and the road.

Lotstein said she heard about LakeSmart through her neighbor, who suggested that Lotstein should schedule an evaluation to see how healthy her property is for the lake. Lotstein is a full-time resident of North Hampton, Massachusetts, and bought a home in Windham five years ago.

"LakeSmart evaluators explained to me that their evaluation is not a pass/fail, they just give you recommendations if there are things that you can do better," says Lotstein.

She was already doing many things to take care of the lake, such as preventing runoff, reducing lawn area, increasing native plant growth, and controlling erosion.

"We put in gutters on the side of the house which goes down to the lake, and we also had stones put in around our patio to help with drainage," says Lotstein. "I never really thought about our house being LakeSmart, we were just doing things that we knew were good for the property and for the lake. It was only after my neighbor told me about LakeSmart that I began to wonder if there is anything else we can be doing to help the lake."

Similar to many other aspects of our environment, the lake is very important to take care of.

"I would certainly recommend LakeSmart to other homes," says Lotstein. "Just like everything else, we need to take care of the lake and be aware of how humans can either protect or destroy the lake. To enjoy the lake in the future, we need to take care of it today."

Her efforts have drawn attention.

"Iennifer Lotstein is the second LakeSmart home we have recognized on Little Sebago since we started the program three seasons ago," says Layne Albert, a LakeSmart evaluator. He is also a board member of the Little Sebago Lake Association and chairperson of the watershed committee. "The LakeSmart evaluatoin is completly free; LakeSmart is a program that we administer under the watershed committee."

There are five overall categories that LakeSmart evaluators look for when evaluating a home, which are: Road, Driveway, and Parking Areas, Structures and Septic System, Lawn, Recreation Areas, and Footpaths; Shorefront and Beach, and Undeveloped Land. If a home being evaluated doesn't meet these LakeSmart standards and doesn't quality for an award, recommendations are still given to the homeowners, but there is no obligation to make changes.

Albert stresses the fact that the choice is completely up to the homeowners whether or not they will make any changes, and there is no revaluaers would like.

life," says Albert. "We want $\,$ Little Sebago Lake Association. Submitted Photo recognized properties to have the pride of knowing that they do their part in maintaining proper lakefront



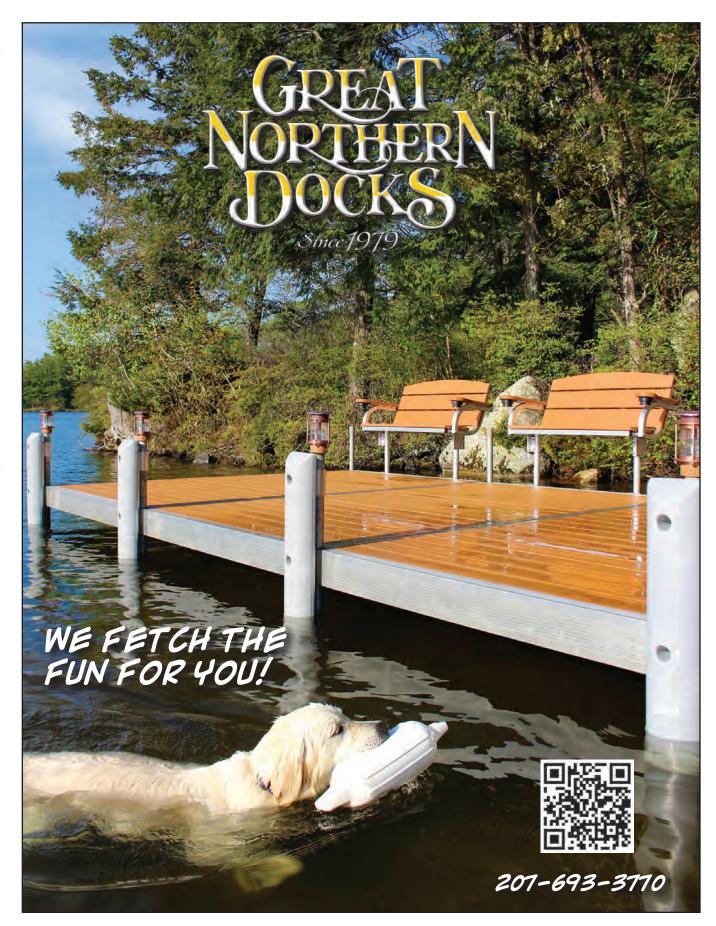
tion unless the homeown- Jennifer Lotstein is just the second property owner to LakeSmart to schedule receive a LakeSmart Award on Little Sebago Lake since an evaluation and see "We want to pro- the program was started three years ago. From left are how you can be helping mote the health of Maine Jennifer Lotstein, her husband Richard Lotstein and Layne our lakes." streams, lakes, and wild- Albert, a LakeSmart evaluator and board member of the

Interested owners can request a free property evaluation. The evaluation involves a volunteer walking your property with you, looking at different criteria that affect lake health. The evaluation report provides recommendations intended to make your property more lake-friendly by eliminating and preventing erosion or other pollution.

"There is always something landowners can do to reduce their impact on the lakes," says Albert. "We highly suggest reaching out to

LakeSmart is always looking for evaluators

and homes to evaluate. For more details regarding LakeSmart, visit their website at lake.me. <



Seven health behaviors for people in mid-life

► By Becky Longacre SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE

I was once chronically sick, overweight and highly anxious. I had chronic back pain all day every day and was flaring on and off with ulcerative colitis for many years.

Since my 20s, I started on the long journey of health and wellness. I was not interested in being a full time or (even a part time) patient. I was interested in healing pain, losing weight and calming my ulcerative colitis and anxiety.

There was a lot of trial and error, and as a nurse, I noticed over almost two decades of practice there were certain common denominators in patients that tended to get better after illnesses.

Now, keep in mind, there are times when you do everything right and you still get cancer or another terrible disease. But for many illnesses we treat in the hospital, I noticed a correlation between certain health behaviors and illness recovery.

Here they are in a nutshell:

1.) Hydration:

From assisting in temperature regulation to flushing out lactic acid from our muscles (so they are not sore) drinking enough water is critical to our health and wellness. It even

reduces brain fog! Unless you are fluid-restricted by your doctor, drink at least 1.5 liters of water daily if you are a woman and at least 2 liters of water daily if you are a man. Most people are walking around pretty dehydrated.

2.) Healthy food:

Due to limited space, I will not get into the specifics of a healthy diet plan, but according to the Mayo Clinic, diets that tend to include lean protein, fruits and vegetables and whole grains are associated with less disease than high fat, processed-carb diets. What is imperative for you to learn is: What diet or eating habits work for you? It is not a one size fits all. Aim to eat food with shorter ingredient lists and pay attention to serving sizes.

3.) Healthy Exercise:

Harvard Medical School states that a comprehensive exercise program including cardiovascular activity, resistance training, balance and stretching will increase your endurance, strength, range of motion, and agility. Aim for 30 minutes of various types of exercise most days of the week.

4.) Sunlight and fresh air:

When we get outside, the exposure to sunlight helps to stimulate us and wake us up during the day. This also helps us to sleep at night. Aim for at least 20 minutes of sunlight per day.

5.) Sleep and Meditation:

Most of the people I talk to are sleep deprived. I can't emphasize the importance that sleep has on our mental health, our hormones and our metabolism. Aim for eight hours per night.

6.) Community Connections:

People who have strong community connections experience less perceived stress. This means that out of 2 people experiencing the same level of stress, the person who has a stronger support network will experience less stress than the person who is feeling like they are alone. So, nurture your family, friends and community relationships! Go out and have fun once per week.

7.) Spirituality/Joy:

Take the word that resonates the most with you. Find a connection, an activity, an experience that is bigger than you, that gives you happiness, that connects you with others, that gives or receives love. This can be prayer for some and affirmations for others. Even praying or meditating 5 minutes per day has been shown to slow the brain down and increase relaxation

Have more questions about health wellness, weight loss and personal development? Ask away! I will address them in future articles. Until I hear directly from you, may you be happy and healthy.

This article was brought to you by Becky Longacre, a Nurse Coach for Health Transformers. If you have questions for her to cover in these columns send an email to: becky@healthtransformersmaine.com or call 207-400-7897.



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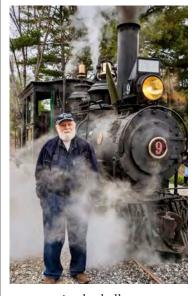
I hope you learned something from the article! Email your health and wellness questions to me & I will write an article to address them! becky@healthtransformersmaine.com

Learn more at: healthtransformersmaine.com or scan —



DALE W. BURNELL

1948-2025



Raymond – Dale W. Burnell "Mr. Dale," 77, a devoted husband, father, and beloved Papa, passed away peacefully after a courageous battle with ALS—exactly one year after his diagnosis.

Born in Portland on March 27, 1948, Dale was the son of Kenneth and Nona Burnell. He graduated from Portland High School in 1966 and married the love of his life, Marzie R. Parker, in October 1967. Together, they made their home in Raymond, where Dale became a cherished figure in the community.

In 1979, Dale began his long tenure as custodian at Jordan-Small School, a role he held with pride until his retirement in 2019. Generations of Raymond students knew and loved "Mr. Dale," whose

presence in the halls was a constant source of kindness and care. He also drove the school bus, further deepening his connection with local families.

Dale served with dedication on the Raymond Volunteer Fire Department, rising through the ranks to become Fire Chief. His commitment to public service extended beyond firefighting—after being treated for prostate cancer, he became an active member of the Dempsey Center's support group in Lewiston. He helped establish the Maine Coalition to Fight Prostate Cancer, serving as a volunteer counselor and advocate for others facing similar challenges.

A skilled woodworker, Dale often repurposed pallets into handcrafted items he donated to charity. He was rarely seen without his camera, capturing Maine's wildlife and scenic beauty with an artist's eye. Trains were another lifelong passion, sparking joy and curiosity throughout his life. His deep appreciation for tradition and community was also reflected in his decadeslong membership with the Danville Grange, where he was honored this May with a certificate recognizing 50 years of dedicated service.

Dale was predeceased by his parents and his sister. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Marzie; his children: Gina Maloney and her husband David of Standish, Tracey Small and her husband Bill of Bowdoinham, and Cory Burnell and his partner Jared Howard of Raymond; and his grandsons, David Jr. and Brandon of Standish.

A celebration of his life on Saturday, September 20th from 1–3pm at Danville Jct Grange #65, 15 Grange Street, Auburn.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Maine Coalition to Fight Prostate Cancer in Dale's name. www.mcfpc.org

JAMES "JD" CLIFTON DODGE

1960-2025



James "JD" Clifton Dodge, 65, passed away at home in Windham, Maine, on June 26, 2025. Born April 6, 1960, JD was always an adventurer who deeply cherished the natural world. He was a loving father and a genuinely affectionate and often heroic brother, uncle and friend. He had a passion for machines and spent countless hours jet skiing, snowmobiling, dirt biking, and tinkering with engines. JD was known for his uncanny ability to spot a four-leaf clover in any field. His capacity to love extended to many pets and he treasured his Border Collie Jäger, along

with his tuxedo cat, Sweetpea.

A graduate of Erskine Academy in China, Maine, JD proudly served in the U.S. Navy from 1978 to 1993, with service aboard the USS El Paso, USS Alexander Hamilton, and USS Henry M. Jackson. He served on the deep submergence vehicle Sea Cliff, including a dive to the Mariana Trench, and participated in offshore rescue missions. JD attended the Naval Nuclear Power School and later served as a Master Training Specialist and Curriculum Developer at the Trident Training Facility. After his military career, he operated Rhino Linings of Portland, Maine. JD was an active participant in the Maine Veterans Project, dedicating himself to recovery programs supporting veterans and their families.

JD is survived by his daughter Valerie Maxson and granddaughter Mabel Maxson of Westerly, Rhode Island; son Nicholas Leighton and his partner Madylan Briggs of Casco, Maine; sisters Cheryle Fasano (Peter) of Jefferson, Maine, Dorothy Dutcher of Deer Island, Oregon, Margaret Dodge of Los Angeles, California, and Abigail Howard (Matthew) of Fairfield, Maine; stepmother Cathy Dodge of Fairfield, Maine; cousins Susan Weimer of Manassas, Virginia and Bonnie Kuykendall of Tucson, Arizona; and many beloved nieces and nephews.

JD was the beloved only grandson of Clarence and Ruth Dodge of Boothbay Harbor, Maine, and was predeceased by his mother, Judy Fenton of Marysville, Washington, and father, Neil Dodge of China, Maine.

A military interment ceremony will be held at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, October 15, at Veterans Memorial Cemetery, 163 Mt. Vernon Road, Augusta, followed by a celebration of life at his boyhood home, 1287 Lakeview Drive, China, Maine.

Memorial donations may be made to Maine Veterans Project (maineveteransproject.org)

The Windham Eagle Page 9

Annual Public Safety Day event nearing in Windham

By Ed Pierce

STAFF WRITER

For those who have thought about what it would be like to serve as a fire-fighter, emergency medical technician or a police officer for the Town of Windham, the upcoming Public Safety Day will offer an in-depth and close-up look at the people, equipment, vehicles, and duties of local first responders.

The free event will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 29 at the Windham Public Safety Building, 375 Gray Road in Windham, and will be informative, enlightening and fun for everyone who attends.

According to organizers from the Windham Police Department and the Windham Fire/Rescue Department, Windham Public Safety Day is a great way for local residents and visitors to learn more about what it takes to keep the community safe and to show appreciation to the dedicated firefighters, EMTs, police officers and other community staff members and volunteers who put their lives on the line every single day in the line of duty protecting the town.

"This event will be filled with plenty of family activities and it's entirely free," officials said.

Among the wide range of activities, events will include Touch-a-Truck as participants will be able to sit in

the cab of a Windham fire truck or a Windham police cruiser or experience a police canine demonstration up close as a WPD handler shows how a trained police dog follows commands. There will also be fire extinguisher demonstrations by members of Windham Fire/Rescue teaching how to operate a fire extinguisher effectively and safely and a 911 Dispatch Simulator to show how public safety percy situations in Windham.

Participants will also have an opportunity to visit Central Maine Power's "Safety City" traveling electrical safety exhibit. The intent of "Safety City" is to give the public a better understanding of how to be safe around power lines and other structures. Set up like a real neighborhood, Safety City helps school children of all ages understand how to be safe around power lines and other structures and that no power line is safe to touch ever.

There will be raffles and giveaways and presentations about the dangers of distracted driving. Firefighters will demonstrate Hands-only CPR and information will be available about Windham's Animal Control Program.

"A bouncy house will be set up for



a 911 Dispatch Simulator to show how public safety personnel respond to emergency situations in Windham

The public is invited to attend the free Windham Public Safety Day which will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 29 at the Windham Public Safety ment and the vehicles that we Building, 375 Gray Road. PHOTO BY ED PIERCE

the kids, and we'll have hotdogs and chips for the public," officials said.

Participants will also find help-ful information about the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Program offered in Windham schools, and TRIAD, a cooperative partnership between law enforcement agencies, elder service providers, and seniors in our community. The primary mission of TRIAD is to reduce the criminal victimization of older citizens, enhance the delivery of law enforcement services, and improve the quality of life for seniors.

Windham Public Safety officials

say that this Public Safety Day is different from the National Night Out event held annually in August because this is just about Windham Public Safety.

"At Windham's Public Safety Day, you'll be able to meet and talk with police officers and firefighters and EMTs who serve the town and this community around the clock every day," the officials said. "You'll be able to review the capabilities of the equipment and the vehicles that we use every day and to see how

the department operate in person."

The event is open to everyone and is an excellent opportunity to take photographs, see the Windham Public Safety Building and to experience first-hand what it could be like to serve the community as a firefighter, EMT or police officer.

"Everyone who comes out will leave with a much greater sense and understanding the men and women who serve to keep Windham safe," officials said. "Windham Public Safety Day is not to be missed and will be a memorable time for all members of the family." <

Dolby, Blais & Segee Funeral Chapel

Lawrence (Larry) Gordius, 86



WINDHAM - Lawrence (Larry) Gordius, 86, of Windham, died on Sunday September 14, 2025. He was born in Mount Desert Island, on March 31, 1939, the son of Ronald and Gertrude (Brown) Gordius.

Larry grew up in the East Deering section of Portland and attended Portland Schools including Portland High School. Larry married Linda Merrill, his loving wife of over 55 years. He worked for several area machine shops and retired from GTE Sylvania, Standish, Maine. Larry loved spending time with his family, and he had a special bond

with his grandson, Joey. After retiring he worked numerous part-time jobs, but he particularly loved his work at True Value Hardware in Westbrook.

Larry was a member of Highland Lake United Church of Christ, in Westbrook. Larry, along with Linda, enjoyed skiing, golfing, gardening, woodworking, remodeling their homes, and traveling. Larry's proudest project was restoring his 1931 Dodge! Once they were both retired, they moved to North Fort Myers and lived in the Herons Glens community where they enjoyed all the amenities. Later, they returned to live in Windham.

Larry is survived by His Wife Linda, Daughters: Victoria (Steven) Moore, Bolivia North Carolina; Laurie (Ken) Janson, Saco, Maine, Grandchildren: Nicole Desjardins, Wells, Maine, Joseph Voccia, Saco, Maine, Great Grandchildren: Scarlet Desjardins, Carter Desjardins both of Wells, Maine, Lily Voccia, of So. Paris, Maine, Sister-In-Law Joleen (Lawrence) Guidi, Raymond, Maine and Tarpon Springs, Florida, Nieces: Sandra Marino, her partner Jan Howe, Bryant Pond, Maine, Theresa Marino, Ormond Beach, Florida, Kendalee Cressey, Windham, Melissa Finch, Limerick, Maine, Nephew: Gordon O Merrill 3rd., Portland, Maine. He was predeceased by; Parents: Gertrude Brown Gordius and Ronald E. Gordius, Siblings: Ronald Gordius, and Jeanette and husband Arnold Marino and Nephew: Derek Cressey.

The family wishes to thank Beacon Hospice Home Care for their outstanding care of Larry for the last several months.

A MEMORIAL SERVICE WILL BE HELD AT 10:00 AM, ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2025, AT DOLBY BLAIS AND SEGEE, 434 RIVER ROAD, WINDHAM.

In Lieu of Flowers, donations may be made to Maine Audubon Society in Falmouth, Maine or Highland Lake Church, United Church of Christ, 1303 Bridgton Road, Westbrook, Maine 0409.

Dolby, Blais & Segee Funeral Chapel

Bill Diamond, 80



WINDHAM - On August 31st, as the sun was setting, Bill Diamond, devoted Husband, Father and Papa passed away peacefully at his home in Windham, with his family by his side.

After his cancer diagnosis in June of 2024, this is a quote from a diary he kept. "My first thought was that I've had a great life of 80 years. A kid from a small dirt farm in West Gardiner, Maine, poor as poor gets. My father left just after I was born, so we lived with my grandfather on the small farm. Who would have guessed I'd have so many opportunities to reach some of the top elective offices in state

government."

Bill graduated from Gardiner H.S. in 1963 and went on to receive his B.S. in Education and Masters in Administration from Gorham State Teachers College. Bill was a teacher, principal and Superintendent in the Windham Schools for 20 years.

In 1972, Bill was awarded a Ford Foundation full year paid scholarship to study Politics and Education throughout the U.S. and Europe. This began his journey into the political world, winning a seat in the State Legislature in 1976. Bill was then elected to two more terms in the Maine House, and 5 terms in the Maine Senate. Also elected to 4 terms as Maine's Secretary of State from 1989-1997.

Bill co-founded six small businesses with his current business partner and good buddy Ray Roux. He was also Windham's Chamber of Commerce business person of the year.

Bill's involvement in his town and state were endless. He was an EMT on Windham's Rescue Unit from 1978-1982, 34 year sponsor of Windham's Little League Softball Team, Co-Founder of Windham Land Trust, Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Hospice of Southern Maine and on the board of MSSPA. He was especially proud of being the founder of "Walk a Mile in Their Shoes" in 2023.

Bill is survived by Jane (Estes), his wife and partner of 57 years. Daughters, Dr. Karyn Diamond and Kristin Dumont (J.P.) Proud "Papa" to Holly, Scarlett, Ella, Luke, Ava, Laila, Jesse, and Mya. Sisters Darlene McCormick (Earle) and Elizabeth Dore. And special Godson Paul Petersen. Bill was predeceased by his parents Elsie Emery and George Diamond.

He will be missed by all who knew him, and would say to you all "Happy Trails to you, until we meet again."

In lieu of flowers, please donate to a scholarship fund in Bill's name to Windham High School, 406 Gray Road Windham ME.

A FUNERAL SERVICE WILL BE HELD SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH AT 1 P.M. IN THE AUDITORIUM AT WINDHAM HIGH SCHOOL.

TIA Cont. from page 1

hundred dresses available for students to choose from. Eventually, Worthing said, they hope to work with property owners who have vacancies where they can house the dresses and students can browse and try them on.

Erickson said she hopes that girls will take pictures of themselves in the dresses and/or write a note about their experience wearing the dress on their special night which can be shared with other girls who wear it at a later event. In addition to taking donated dresses, they want to be able to provide accessories, so they are accepting donations of shoes, jewelry, makeup and other items.

"The idea really only came to life in May," Erickson said. "Even in the first year we just plan to get bigger and bigger with this. So yeah, you know, we've only just begun."

To find out more about Tia's Prom Project visit their Facebook page. To request dresses for homecoming, prom or other formal or semi-formal school events, send an email to Tiaspromproject@yahoo.com or call Samantha Erickson at 207-747-7308, Shelley Worthing at 207-232-1967 or Devon Jones at 207-310-8869.

Prom dresses to be donated can be dropped off at 8 Turning Leaf Drive in Windham; 585 Roosevelt Trail in Windham; 781 Edes Falls Road in Harrison; 780 Broadway St. in South Portland, or from 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Causeway Commons, 978 Roosevelt Trail in Naples; or call or email to arrange pick up. <



assist in keeping elderly homeowners and veterans in the Lakes Region safely in their homes.

Together with Windham resident Lorraine Glowczak, Turner developed a PowerPoint presentation and met with churches around Windham pitching them about the proposal. Six churches came on board and founded the Sebago Lakes Region Fuller Center for Housing with Faith Lutheran Church, the Unity Church for Spiritual Growth, the North Windham Union Church, Windham Hill United Church of Christ, Raymond Village Church and Saint Joseph's College of Maine joining to serve the towns of Windham, Raymond and Standish.

At the forefront of fundraising for the Sebago Lakes Region Fuller Center for Housing, Turner trains year-round and has a fat-tire bike with studded tires that he rides throughout the winter months with his pal, Tucker, a black 40-pound rescue dog that the Turners obtained from the Texas shelter.

"Bicycling has been an important part of my life for staying healthy at this point," he said. "The community has always helped our local riders accomplish their goals and help others throughout our country," Turner said.

As Turner plans his next long cycling trip for the Sebago Lakes Region Fuller Center for Housing, he is asking for donations to help him meet his 2025 fundraising goals.

"As noted on my fundraising web site, your donations go to our local chapter where we focus on assisting older folks and veterans to safely stay in their homes," he said. "In the climate of Maine that often means fixing rotting floors and entry steps, leaky roofs, and other failing building components."

To make a donation to Turner, visit his fundraising page https://my.fullercenterbikeadventure.org/williamturner or send a check donation payable to "The Fuller Center for Housing" with Turner's name in the memo line and mail them to Attn: Bike Adventure, The Fuller Center for Housing, PO Box 523, Americus, GA 31709.

To learn more about the Sebago Lakes Region Fuller Center for Housing, visit sebagofullerhousing.org <





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DEDICATION Cont. from page 1

member building it and all the kids coming together. The fact that the wishing well has been around this long is pretty cool."

Steve McFarland of Harrison was living in Windham on 9/11 and his son, Sam, was in Morton's class that year. They both attended the dedication event and not only helped to build the original well but also worked on the new one.

"It's neat to see all the kids out there involved," McFarland said. "It's nice that Donna Morton is keeping this tradition and reviving it. It's a testament to her and her connection to her students."

Speaking to current Manchester students, former students and a contingent of Windham police, firefighters and emergency medical technicians attending the dedication event for the well on Thursday, Sept. 11, Morton said 9/11 remains a special day for her.

"It's a reminder of the hard work of police and firemen who keep us safe every day," she said. "We want this wishing well to stand as a symbol of

She introduced Sara Conant, who was in Morton's fourth-grade class on Sept. 11, 2001, and helped to build the original well.

"Wishing wells throughout time have been a symbol of hope, gratitude and a bit of magic," Conant said. This well is no exception. On this day 24 years ago I was sitting in Mrs. Morton's fourth grade class when American history was forever altered by attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Anyone alive at the time knows where they were on that day and I was fortunate to be safely here."

She said that as a way to honor the first responders, victims, and their families and offer the school community hope, her class made the wishing well to stand forever as a symbol of hope and resilience.

"In one afternoon, we all pitched in with some of our parents, my dad included, to create this," Conant said. "But time isn't always kind and the well needed some love, so Mrs. Morton rescued it and tried contacting everyone in the class to help restore the well to the lasting symbol of hope, gratitude and magic it always was."

She said Morton's deep care for each of her students is what brought her to save the well and inspired her

"The magic of the well gave me a happy visit back to fourth grade that I am so thankful for," Conant said. "We hope you join us in making a wish in this special well brought back to its former glory through love and kindness."

Windham Police Captain Jason Burke told students that on 9/11 that firefighters, police officers and everyday people worked together to save lives and clean up the damage.

"This is a good reminder that violence is never the answer to a disagreement, a different opinion or a dislike for someone," Burke said. "Choosing to work together and talk through our problems is always the right choice. As you go through school, you'll be learning how to be a good citizen and a problem solver. You'll learn how to work with others even when you don't agree."

He said thinking about the events of Sept. 11 reminds us that the way we treat each other everyday matters.

"By being kind, understanding, and respectful to everyone, you can make the world a better place," Burke said. <

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TO APPLY



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- ~ Ability to play piano and/or organ;
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- ~ Preferred ability to play organ & piano.

Interested applicants should email their resume to: office-nwucc@ne.twcbc.com



Anglers overcome rain to compete in Togue Derby

By Bob Chapin
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE

The Sebago Lake Anglers' Association completed its 10th Annual Togue Derby at Point Sebago Resort on the weekend of Sept. 12 and 13 where 100 anglers, mostly from the local area, competed for honors and cash for two days of fishing on Sebago Lake.

The weather was nice on Saturday most of the day, but it got a little tougher later in the afternoon. Fortunately, the rain held off until about 3:40 p.m. Fishing on Sunday was a washout but a few brave souls suffered through the

rain, wind, and waves to compete.

In all, about 83 fish were recorded as caught during the 10th Annual Togue Derby at the official Weigh Station. The fish that fishermen did not want to take home went to a church supper and to the Maine Wildlife Park as food for the animals there.

One angler with early success was John Sailhamert who was an early registrant for the derby. He caught a togue that weighed 9.15 pounds and was 29 inches long. The fish was large enough to capture "Largest Fish on Saturday" honors and held up to become the

overall derby winner again this year.

The derby's "Smallest Togue" category to encourage fishermen to retain all Togue legally caught was captured by Dean Gower and it weighed just .17 lbs. and was 8.62 inches long.

Fishermen also received a drawing ticket for every legal Togue checked into the Togue Pool Lottery. This year, 6 tickets worth \$100 each were drawn to win prizes in a lottery.

New to the derby this year was a category for the most Pike caught by a single angler with prizes of \$1,000, \$750, and \$500 for first, second and third place. Most fishermen did not fish for pike or turn one in, which is an invasive fish in Sebago Lake. But one guy did, and his name is Devin Prue. On Saturday, Prue turned in six fish and three more on Sunday, some were as small as just 8 inches, but they counted as pike. The derby's second and third place prizes in the pike category went unclaimed.

Looking ahead to next year, if you would like to get in on the fun, excite-

ment, and prizes next year, come join us, the annual Togue Derby always takes place on the weekend after Labor Day.

This year's derby prizes were awarded as follows:

- John Sailhamert caught a fish weighing 9.15 pounds and measuring 29 inches and won \$1,000 and another \$100 in the derby's lottery.
- Brian Sullivan caught a fish weighing 7.65 pounds and measuring 26.5 inches and won \$750.
- John Lenane caught a fish weighing 7.39 pounds and measuring 29 inches and won \$300.
- Dean Gower caught the smallest togue weighing 0.17 pounds and measured 8.62 inches and won \$100.
- Devin Prue caught nine pike to win the derby's pike category and won \$1,000.
- Richard Sanborn, Ashley Gouin, Dean Gower and Rick Adams each won \$100 as derby lottery winners.

Stephen Pacific took home \$200 as a double derby lottery winner. <





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SAMSUNG



The Windham Eagle Page 13

Cornhole for a cause



Nine teams competed in the Mainely Veterinary Dentistry's first-ever Tooth Fairy Cornhole Tournament which took place Sunday, Sept. 14 at the Oxbow Beer Garden in Oxford. They successfully raised nearly \$3,000 to support their efforts of providing critical dental care for community pets in need, working police dogs and the Service Dog Strong organization. Owner of MVD Jennifer Keaten, second from left, organized the event as a special way to honor their beloved mascot, Bubbies, while making a real impact for pets in need. If you would like to make a donation to the Tooth Fairy Fund visit: mainelyvetdentistry.com SUBMITTED PHOTO







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"I highly recommend DIRFY Generators and Heat Pumps. If I had to rate them on a scale of 1 to 10, I would rate them a 10 without question. If I had to rate the individual phases (consultation thru installation), each phase would be a 10.

I have discovered thru the process that I would be adding money to my monthly budget. We are retired and on a fixed income. We didn't have the funds available to proceed with this without their help. That helped us to be able install the heat pump system with **no upfront money**, which was a huge help to us. Not only that, but it also removed the need to pay for our propane to heat for our house. The cost difference was substantial. We actually save so much, that between the monthly finance payment, and the cost of the electric bill, we actually had more money for the month. WE WILL BE SAVING ABOUT \$110 A MONTH (OVER \$1300/YEAR).

And the best part, from the time we signed the contract to **installation, less than a week**. They had a good sized crew here.

We were so impressed, we decided to put in a Heat Pump hot water heater. Again, no money upfront. The savings after the finance payment and the power bill amounted to about \$97/mo (\$1164/yr). That was A TOTAL SAVINGS OF ABOUT \$2500 A YEAR FOR THE HEAT PUMPS TO HEAT AND COOL AS WELL AS THE HOT WATER HEATER. It was like getting paid \$2500 a year to install these. (P.S. - I verified the figures from the *Efficiency Maine website)*

I am recommending to everyone I know to contact DIRFY Generators and Heat Pumps so that they can increase their spending money. This company is awesome. No wonder they are number one in New England!" ~ R&L W.



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November ballot order of state referendum questions set

The order of referendum questions on the November 2025 Referendum Election ballot has been determined through a public lottery held at the Maine Secretary of State's Office.

Under Maine law, referendum questions must be arranged in the following order: carry-over measures from a previous election; people's veto questions; initiated measures; bond issues; constitutional amendments; and other legislatively proposed referenda. Within each grouping, questions must be arranged in a random

order determined by a selection process conducted in public. All questions must be numbered sequentially.

Maine Secretary of State Shenna Bellows said that the questions and wording for this year's referendums will appear on the ballot as follows:

QUESTION 1: "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 pre-

paid 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?"

QUESTION 2: "Do you want to allow courts to temporarily prohibit a person from having dangerous weapons if law enforcement, family, or household members show that the person poses a significant danger of causing physical injury to themselves or others?"

For the Nov. 4, 2025 State Referendum and General municipal election, voters can now request absentee ballots online through the State of Maine's website. Ballots will be sent out once they are ready in October.

Absentee ballots may be requested in writing, by phone, online, or in person from the town clerk's office up to the Thursday before Election Day, without specifying a reason. However, if you are asking to receive your ballot by mail, please request it early

VOTE VOTE

enough to allow for postal mail delivery time – both to receive it and return it (two to five days each way).

To request an absentee ballot in Windham, call 207-892-

1900. To request an absentee ballot in Raymond, call 207-655-4742.

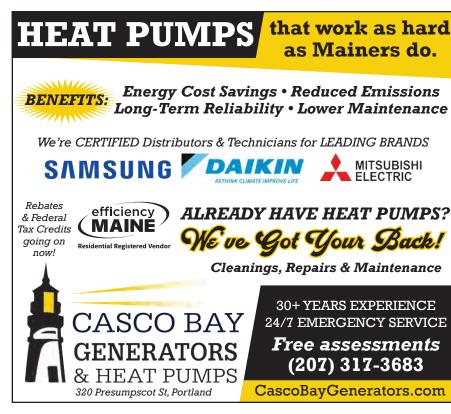
Ballots must be returned to the town clerk no later than 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Voters should be aware that their voter registration must match their current address when requesting an absentee ballot online. Make sure you update your voter registration information before requesting an absentee ballot

Every town and city in Maine needs citizens like you to help administer the election. Visit www.maineelectionworkers.org for more information about the qualifications, duties and benefits of helping your town at the polls on Election Day.

To sign up to serve as an election worker, please contact your town office and speak with the town clerk. <









Casco Public Library invites community to open house

The Casco Public Library is opening its doors in a special way from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 28 for a family-friendly event that combines good food, live music, and a chance to help shape the future of the library's outdoor spaces.

Guests can experience locally made treats from Kindred Farms, live music from local musician Lindsey Montana and activities for kids, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere. The highlight of the day will be an interactive workshop with permaculturist Scott Vlaun, beginning at 1 p.m. and wrapping up by 2:30 p.m. The workshop will guide participants in imagining new outdoor spaces around the library. Community members will have the chance to share their ideas and help shape designs for gardens, gathering areas, and peaceful places to read or reflect.

This open house is the first in a series planned by the library to share updates and gather input on an exciting building and landscaping project. A rendering of the proposed addition



The Casco Public Llbrary invites the community to attend their open house on Sunday, Sept. 28 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for food, live music, and fun activities for the whole family. COURTESY PHOTO

will be on display, giving everyone a clear picture of what's ahead.

The project will add a new 1,000-square-foot space designed for quiet study, co-working, and community use. Plans also include an enclosed courtyard for outdoor learning and relaxation, renovations to strengthen durability and energy efficiency, and improvements to make the building more accessible to all.

Outdoor spaces will be designed with input from the community to ensure they are welcoming, functional, and reflective of Casco's spirit.

"This project is about more than just bricks and mortar," said Casco Public Library Director Michelle Brenner. "It's about creating spaces where people of all ages can gather, learn, work, and connect. We want this Library to be a vibrant part of village life for decades to come."

Casco Public Library has been part of the community for nearly 75 years, growing from a closet in the junior high school to the welcoming building we know today. In recent years, library use has grown significantly – not only among children and families but also among adults looking for quiet space, remote work support, or opportunities to connect with others. The new addition and outdoor spaces are designed to meet those needs while preserving the library's friendly, home-like atmosphere.

The Sept. 28 open house is a chance for community members to enjoy food, music, and good company while also playing an important role in shaping the future of the library.

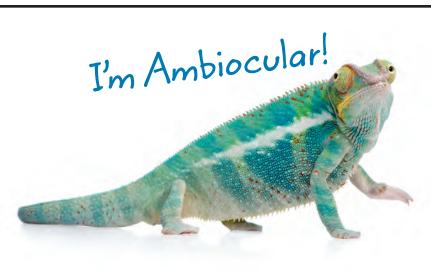
All are welcome, and no registration is required.

For more details, visit www.casco-publiclibrary.org, call 207-627-4541, or stop by during open hours at the library, located in the heart of Casco Village at 5 Leach Hill Road, just off Route 121. <









(Some critters get all the talent.)

Chameleons can change color, bag dinner with their tongues in 1/100th of a second, and move their eyes in opposite directions. Not to be confused with lazy eye—amblyopia—a condition that causes blurry vision. Approximately three percent of children under six have amblyopia. That's why it's important for infants to receive comprehensive eye examinations. Because what's cool in chameleons can lead to vision loss if untreated in people. GFVC: purveyors of fun facts and quality vision care.



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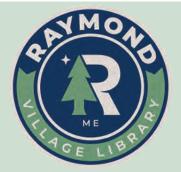
2025/26 TAX BILLS WILL BE MAILED OUT NEXT WEEK

TAX PAYMENTS First half of the payment due October 31, 2025

The tax rate has been set for 2025-2026 tax year.



The Town of Raymond has hired KRT Appraisal to perform a Cyclical Data Revaluation of all businesses for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. This Revaluation is for the **Personal Property Tax** and includes an interior inspection of every business to list all taxable items such as signage, furniture, machinery, and equipment used in the conduct of business. Personal Property is assessed April 1 of each year. If you own personal property located in Raymond on April 1, you are responsible for the annual taxes even if the business has moved locations or closed. Please inform the Assessing Office if your business is no longer in Raymond so that you are not taxed in error. All Personal Property is listed and assessed in accordance with the Maine General Laws Title 36 Chapter 105. Please keep in mind that if any Data Collector is denied entry to the premises, it will result in a less than accurate estimate. The Data Collectors from KRT Appraisal will have laminated badges and introductory letters explaining what the inspection entails. They will make at least two attempts to gain access and will be happy to set up an appointment at your convenience.



3 Meadow Road, Raymond • 207-655-4283 raymondvillagelibrary.org Follow us on Facebook

Open Sun-Mon: CLOSED Tues-Thurs: 9am-6pm | Sat-Sun: 9am-2pm

Historical Fiction Book Club Meet the Author Event

Friday, September 12 at 9:15am @Windham Public Library this month!

Featuring Stones in the Road by E. B Moore, a story about a young Amish boy ventures from Pennsylvania to California in this richly imagined historical novel from the author of An Unseemly Wife.

RVL Book Club

Wednesday, September 24th 5-6pm

Join RVL Book Club as we read and discuss The Berry Pickers by Amanda Peters – a story about a four-year-old Mi'kmaq girl goes missing from the blueberry fields of Maine, sparking a mystery that will haunt the survivors, unravel a family, and remain unsolved for nearly fifty years.

Puzzle Competition

Thursday, September 25th from 2-4pm Put your puzzle skills to the test! 5 teams of 3-4 people. MUST BE REGISTERED IN ADVANCE

PEONY SALE!

Saturday October 11th from 8-11am

Check out our Facebook event "Raymond Library Plant Sale - Maine" for some of the available and fragrant options! Peonies are sold bare root and perfect to plant in the fall!

Library Cardholder Passes

Raymond Village Library Card Holders have access to museums and attraction passes.

Visit our website for a list of available passes and call the library to reserve yours today!

Call the library for more information or to register for any of the events!



RANNI (I)MI

TOWN OF RAYMOND -



The fall story walk is back!!

Come down for a walk at Tassel Top Park and read A Very Big Fall by Emmy Kastner.



In this picture book destined to become a fall classic, life as a leaf is pretty sweet! This charming and reassuring picture book about finding joy in change will be returned to again and again.

Tassel Top Park is operating on Non-Peak Season schedule through October. Park hours are 9am-6pm. NO ADMITTANCE 1 HOUR BEFORE CLOSING

**Please note our Gatehouse and Snack Shack is fully staffed Memorial Day to Labor Day. Prior and after these holidays opening and closing times may vary. This is dependent upon staffing, number of patrons currently in the park, or the weather. PLEASE SEE THEIR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR ANY UPDATES



BLACKSMITH DEMOS

WATKINS BLACKSMITH SHOP

Come watch traditional blacksmithing in action with forging demo's nearly every weekend! Watch Lucas, Thor, Ethan, Taffy, & James forge their own creations & bring life back to the shop!

Also check out our Facebook page & our website for all upcoming events. raymondcascohistoricalsociety.org

Demo's at the shop from 12p-3p

09/20 – Lucas • 09/21 – Ethan $09/27 - Taffy \bullet 09/28 - James$



The UCan 5k race and Kids Fun Run made a triumphant return on September 6th, and we couldn't have asked for a better revival!

The day ended in true Raymond style splashing around on a water trampoline at Tassel Top Park! We have an incredible community, and we are already counting down the days until we get to do it again!

HUGE CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TOP FINISHERS:

Men's Division — 1st Gavin Lawler, 2nd Kyle Rhoads, 3rd Ryan Crowell **Women's Division** – 1st Eve Guy, 2nd Susan MacLean, 3rd Sukie Dean

ALSO, A THANKS TO OUR **AMAZING SPONSORS:**

Sebago Lake Boat Rentals, The Good Life Market, Fielding's Oil & Propane, Sabre Yachts, Hancock Lumber, & Crowell Construction



THE SEVEE EXPERIMENT - A FUN CONCERT!

Saturday, September 27th at 7pm at

The Hawthorne House - 40 Hawthorne Rd, Raymond

The music ranges from folk, country, and rock to pop, alternative & funk! Some bands we love & play: The Beatles, Jewel, Eagles, Garth Brooks, Sugarland, Martina McBride, John Mayer, Melissa Etheridge, R.E.M., Matchbox 20, and so many more!

Reserved tickets are recommended; space is limited. \$20 each. Adult beverages & snacks available. Donations are requested.

Questions? Email info@hawthorneassoc.com or call (603) 494-3246

ROADRUMMER

- SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



OPEN BURN PERMITS ARE REQUIRED IN MAINE!

Due to the continued dry conditions and wildfire danger, Maine Forest Service will shut down the online permit site when the danger level is too high. The site will stay offline until conditions improve and wildfire danger moves below HIGH. This is NOT a burn ban and does not include those recreational campfires which do not require a permit under state law.

VISIT MAINEFIREWEATHER.ORG DAILY TO CHECK THE FIRE STATUS



Located at: Raymond Village Community Church, 27 Main St

New! Play it Foward Gear Closet

Our new Community Gear Closet is here to help families share support one another to ensure every child has a chance to play, celebrate, and feel part of our community!

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

- Sports gear that is still in great shape
 - Gently used toys or games
- Holiday decorations to make spaces magical for kids
 If you are interested in donating to Play it Forward,
 please email: riley.silvia@raymondmaine.org

Together on the Trail All Ages Hiking Program - Thursday's!

Whether you're a seasoned hiker or just starting out, this program is perfect for individuals, families, and seniors looking for a refreshing weekly adventure. Each hike will be led by a Registered Maine Guide: Elena Glidden, and include time to enjoy the scenery, learn about the local environment, and connect with others. All hikes will be 1 to 2 miles at a gentle pace.

THURSDAYS, SEPT. 18 - NOV. 13 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Different local parks and trails each week All ages and fitness levels welcome!

Items suggested to bring: water, a snack, bug spray, sunscreen, sturdy walking shoes, and hiking pole. NO PETS.

Raymond Play & Grow – Tuesdays TUESDAYS, 9:00-11:00 AM at RVCC

Come join us for a morning filled with laughter, learning, & play! Designed for little ones ages 9 months to 4 years, this program is the perfect place for children to explore, make new friends, and spark their imaginations. With engaging activities, colorful play spaces, and endless opportunities for creativity, every

Tuesday becomes a new adventure.

Parents and caregivers stay with their children, sharing in the fun while enjoying quality time together. It's a wonderful way to connect, bond, and be part of your child's playful discoveries

Free for Raymond residents / \$2 for non-residents

For a full list of Parks & Rec offerings or to register, visit: raymond.recdesk.com/Community/Program

Town Clerk's Office Notices

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Meetings are held at the Broadcast Studio 423 Webbs Mills Road or via Zoom

September 30th at 7pm – Zoning Board of Appeals October 8th at 7pm – Planning Board October 14th at 6pm– Select Board Regular Meeting October 15th at 6:30pm – Budget-Finance Committee November 4th 7am-8pm – State Referendum Election

Agendas and Zoom links can be found on our website: raymondmaine.org and clicking on the CALENDAR tab.

Melanie Fernald, Town Clerk – named Maine's Rookie Clerk of the Year!

Maine Town & City Clerk's Association held their annual "Networking Day" where Town Clerk's gather from all over the State for education, recognition, and networking. The "Rookie" Clerk of the year award goes to someone who has been in the role for 5 years or less. The award is designed to recognize a new clerk who is doing an excellent job. Our very own Mel Fernald fits that description and more!

When Mel started in April 2024 the Town was in the middle of management changes and the Clerk's Office had been running short-staffed. Instead of getting overwhelmed and giving up, she got to work! With her unshakable work ethic and determination, she has been able to bring structure and trust to her team as well as our community and has proved she is exactly the person we needed for this role. We are so proud of Melanie for this well-deserved award.



Congratulations Melanie!



PART-TIME BUS DRIVER WANTED

The Town of Raymond is seeking a Bus Driver for the Recreation Department. This position is responsible for safely transporting passengers to and from recreational activities and events. This part-time, per diem position requires a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) and a commitment to ensuring the safety and comfort of passengers.

The successful candidate must have the ability get along with others in a professional manner and operate a passenger bus in a safe and courteous manner, adhering to all traffic laws and regulations.

The candidate must have a high school diploma program or equivalent, and a valid CDL Class B license with passenger endorsement with a clean driving record.

- Pay Range: \$20.00 to \$23.00 per hour -

Applications for Employment can be obtained by visiting the raymondmaine.org and clicking on 'employment' under the 'general information tab' or the Recreation Department at Town Hall. Completed applications should be sent to riley.silvia@raymondmaine.org.

To be considered for employment with the Town of Raymond applicants must complete the Town's Application for Employment.



SCAN HERE for application: -

POSITION OPEN UNTIL FILLED.

The Town of Raymond is an Equal Opportunity Employer

PeoplesChoice CU raises over \$7,800 to help end hunger

PeoplesChoice Credit Union recently concluded its annual Summer Sweepstakes benefitting the Maine Credit Union League's Campaign for Ending Hunger, raising a total of \$7,875.

The event, which was in its second year, brings a simple premise to participating members with its "Win Big, Do Good" messaging.

"Members can feel good about participating no matter what," said PeoplesChoice Credit Union CEO, Luke Labbe. "Not only do they have a chance to win a \$2,500 cash prize, but proceeds from the sweepstakes go directly to the fight to end hunger."

This year, PeoplesChoice member "Joe" from Wells was the big winner of the sweepstakes and even stated that he would use a portion of his

winnings to give back to one of his local food pantries.

"While these events are fun in nature, it truly shows that our members support the greater mission," Labbe said. "That is what makes events like this so special."

To date, PeoplesChoice has raised just over \$19,000 for the Campaign for Ending Hunger in 2025, which is an astounding 69% increase year-over-year. For more information on the campaign, visit the Community Outreach section on the Maine CUL's website at mainecul.org.

About PeoplesChoice Credit Union PeoplesChoice Credit Union, founded in 1963 is a not-for-profit financial cooperative serving over 20,000 members across southern, central, and northern Maine. With a



PeoplesChoice Credit Union CEO, Luke Labbe, left, and President, Adam Warfel, right, present Jennifer Burke, Vice President of Outreach & Strategic Initiatives for the Maine Credit Union League, with a check benefiting the Campaign for Ending Hunger after its recent Summer Sweepstakes. SUBMITTED PHOTO

strong commitment to personalized service, competitive rates, and community support, PeoplesChoice operates branches in Biddeford, Saco, Sanford, Wells, and a home loan office in Windham. <





HAVE A NON-PROFIT EVENT, PERSON OF INTEREST OR POSITIVE STORY IDEA?

Call Ed at 894-3500 or send an email to: ed@thewindhameagle.com





NCUA



The Windham Eagle Page 19



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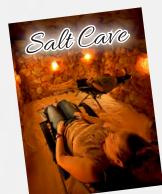
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INFRARED HALOSAUNA MASSAGE

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Submit letters by Tuesday at Noon to: editor@thewindhameagle.com or mail to: 585 Roosevelt Trail, Windham, 04062

Editor

Did you know that in the 2024 election, 58 percent, or 6,796 voters in Windham, utilized Absentee Voting to cast their ballot?

In the face of what seems obvious, Linda Morrell, Town Clerk, Windham states, "Absentee Voting is very popular."

This November, Mainers will be asked to weigh in on Question 1:

"Do you want to change Maine election laws to eliminate 2 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?"

Here in Maine, we all want elections to be secure. Reasonable people can

agree to disagree about Voter ID laws.

But as Shenna Bellows, Secretary of State contends, "Question 1 goes much further to eliminate and restrict absentee voting."

The proponents of Question 1 would like you to believe that this referendum will increase accountability in Maine election process. However, the Maine Town and City Clerk's Association President, Dwayne Young, states, "The changes in Question 1 are not needed."

With absentee voting so popular, especially here in Windham, it begs the question, why would we want to limit absentee voting?

I urge you to Vote No on Question 1.

~ Rosie Hartzler, Windham
Editor,

Question 1 on November's ballot makes no sense to me at all. For starters, it's worded in a way that would require specific IDs at the voting booth, which I find to be a bad idea in itself. But it goes far beyond that to burden voters who are elderly, disabled, those who are away for work, in the military, or at school. There are countless reasons why hundreds of thousands of Mainers across multiple parties use absentee ballots. And to date, there have been very few documented problems with the current system.

This proposal is another example of the fear mongering and unraveling of norms that the current administration in Washington wants to impose on our state. Let's remember that not one of the current president's accusations of significant voter fraud has been found to have any merit.

I hope readers join me in voting NO on Question 1.

~ Craig Messinger, Raymond **Editor.**

Bill Diamond, a diamond in Maine politics.

I was very saddened to hear that former State Senator Bill Diamond had died. Bill was a friend for many years and the perfect example of a true statesman in Maine politics.

Bill was one of those rare leaders who rose above partisan politics and posturing and reached across the aisle to try to reach consensus.

While Bill's accomplishments are too numerous to mention, his greatest accomplishment had to do with protecting Maine children by founding



Walk a Mile in Their Shoes. When Bill believed in an issue, he was tenacious, and people listened. Bill was always measured on issues. I can't begin to count how many times Bill was there for Maine's business community on politically charged issues.

He was a well-known moderate who didn't think twice about bucking his own party when it meant doing what he thought was best for the state. Bill was always there when the business community truly needed him on key issues that impacted employers around the state, protected Maine jobs and Maine's economy.

In an era when partisan politics has become the norm, Bill remains an example of what legislators should strive for: a balance. He will be missed, a diamond indeed.

~ Linda Caprara, Vice President of Advocacy Maine State Chamber of Commerce **Editor,**

With Question 1 on the ballot this November, we should think about the people this will impact. Who uses absentee voting? I bet you already know someone who does.

My sister and her husband mail in their ballots because he's an active-duty member of the military. They move every three years. If the system we have changes, they may not be able to vote.

My grandmother votes absentee. At 99 years old, she's still sharp enough to do the crossword every day, but she's in a wheelchair. Mail-in ballots save her an exhausting day at the polls, and the prepaid postage saves her a few pennies.

Question 1 would complicate the jobs of our hardworking town clerks, eliminate pre-paid postage on ballots, force my grandmother to request her ballot for each election, and make it more difficult, maybe impossible, for her to do so.

That's reason enough for me to vote No! ~ Briana Bizier, Raymond







DOESN'T HAPPEN BY ACCIDENT'

The graveyard shift

By Andy Young
STAFF COLUMNIST

One afternoon long ago my brother, several of my cousins and I were stuffed into a Ford Falcon station wagon. My uncle was at the wheel. None of us were wearing seatbelts, which was understandable, since at the time such items didn't exist, or if they did, they weren't standard equipment on Ford Falcon station wagons.

Part of the beauty of being a child passenger inside an automobile during the pre-seatbelt era was having the freedom of motion necessary to covertly poke, pinch, punch, and/or kick whichever sibling(s) and/or cousin(s) they felt like pestering at the time. Similarly, the target(s) of such provocations, who were also unrestrained physically, were free to maneuver themselves around the inside of the car in order to evade the bullying of older, more aggressive passengers or, if the opportunity presented itself, to launch a counterattack.

If you're worried this childhood recollection is going to end in some sort of horrific tragedy that could have been avoided had we only been wearing seatbelts, well, don't be. My uncle lived to a ripe old age, and most of the youthful passengers who were in the car that day are still alive, hoping to do likewise. But my most vivid recollection regarding that particular outing was my uncle, who was desperately attempting to calm his rambunctious passengers, asking (or probably shouting, just

so he could be heard) as we passed a graveyard, "How many people are dead in that cemetery?"

There was a pause. Then someone hesitantly chirped, "a hundred?" An older, slightly deeper voice scornfully retorted, "There must be at least a thousand in there." The rest of us began chiming in with various estimates, but my uncle, having successfully gotten our minds on something other than torturing one another, urged us to keep trying. We spent the rest of the ride venturing further guesses about exactly how many deceased individuals there actually were in that graveyard. When we arrived at



our destination my uncle finally revealed the precise number of people who were dead in that cemetery. The answer, of course, was "all of them."

I've been thinking more about cemeteries recently, since there are several of them along the route I've been taking to work lately. South Portland is home to at least

five graveyards, which seems like an awful lot for a place the size of Maine's fourth-largest city. But the truth is there are more people buried in just one of South Portland's boneyards, the 97-acre Forest City Cemetery (over 30,000, according to Portland's Department of Parks, Recreation, and Facilities, which oversees the place), than there are living, breathing citizens in the entire city (26,498, according to the 2020 census).

However, South Portland is hardly the only place in America with more dead residents than live ones. Take, for example, Colma, California, which lies on the San Francisco Peninsula. Founded as a necropolis (burial ground) in 1924, the 1.89 square mile unincorporated town is currently home to, per the 2020 census, just 1,507 extant human beings. However, it also houses more than 1.5 million dead folks, meaning that Colma's ratio of deceased inhabitants to living ones is somewhere around a thousand to one.

By utter coincidence, my current abode is located a mere mile from a burial ground that's been there, if one believes what's been etched into some of the older stones, for more than two centuries. Despite its age, though, I know for a fact the cemetery in my town is a truly high-quality one because, as my uncle would no doubt have gleefully pointed out, people are still dying to get into it. <





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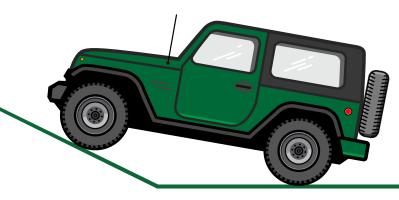
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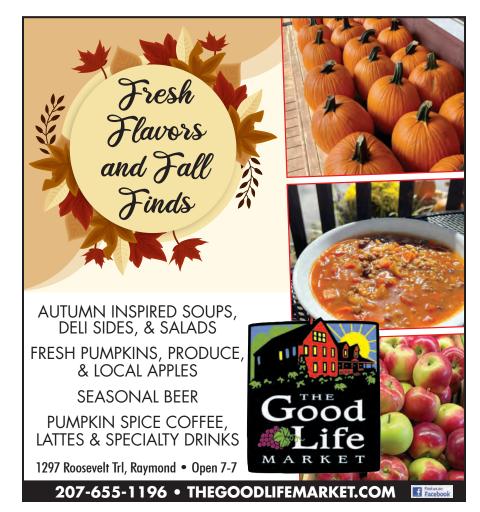


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SPORTS

WHS varsity football falls to Portland in waning minutes

By Matt Pascarella

STAFF WRITER

Windham varsity football wasn't going down against Portland without a fight in their season home opener at Windham High School on Friday, Sept. 12. The Eagles pretty much matched the Bulldogs touchdown-for-touchdown and led the game at halftime. Portland took the lead after the third quarter; but Windham answered and tied the game at 21 with 10 minutes remaining. Unfortunately, Portland scored late in the fourth quarter to edge out ahead and won, 28-21.

"The biggest thing I see is our improvement from last week," said Windham junior Parker Sperry, who had 104 rushing yards in the game. "We just got to put this game in the past and I think we've (taken) a big step since last week and we've got to work as hard as we've been working at practice and keep getting better. I think we definitely put up a battle against Portland. We got to all focus on our own job, and if we all focus on our own job we can come out with the 'W' next week. Effort went well; last week we had bad plays and hung our heads, this week we gave it everything we had and that's all we need to do to win."

In the first quarter, Portland had possession of the ball early, but Windham turned them over and took over on downs. The Eagles moved the ball up to a third and goal. Sperry ran the ball into the end zone to put Windham ahead, 6-0, after the extra point failed.

While Windham defense was strong, Portland scored before the end of the first quarter. Windham blocked the extra-point attempt, and the game







(L to R) Windham senior Ty Stahle, center, tackles an opponent during Windham varsity football's home opener against Portland at Windham High School on Friday, Sept. 12. Junior Parker Sperry runs toward the end zone. Sophomore Patrick Davenport keeps a close eye on the field as he moves toward the sidelines and heads to the goal line. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

was tied 6-6 after one quarter.

After Portland scored a touchdown in the second quarter, Windham sophomore Beckett Bragdon returned the kickoff all the way to the Eagles's 48-yard line. Sophomore quarterback Patrick Davenport, who had 74 passing yards in the game, then connected on a pass to junior Tegan Perkins. Sperry then took the handoff and raced 25 yards for a touchdown. Junior Luke Drottar caught the two-point conversion and Windham led 14-13 at the half.

"We have a lot of young guys out there, and these guys are taking big steps, learning more and more each week throughout practice," said Windham senior Ty Stahle. "You can see the improvement. We're all starting to figure out everything we can do and then come together as a team. This was a big game coming in and we've been destroyed by Portland before and I'm glad that we fought hard and didn't give up; I'm pleased with how we played."

Portland scored another TD in the third quarter, but Windham didn't let

that go unanswered.

On a first-and-goal in the fourth quarter, Davenport ran eight yards for a touchdown. The extra-point conversion was good, and the game was tied 21-21, with just 10 minutes remaining to be

played

With just a little over 2 minutes left, Portland found the end zone to break the tie and take the lead, 28-21.

"I thought we swarmed to the ball pretty well defensively," said Windham varsity football coach Matt Perkins. "Offensively we executed a lot better, guys made some good plays. We were right in the mix; I saw some really big improvements in our block-

ing and moved the ball pretty well. We could get better at the defensive-run game for sure. We had a turnover, shot ourselves in the foot a couple times and it caught up to us, but the kids played really well and we drastically improved." <



 $10\ minutes\ re\mbox{-}$ Sophomore Beckett Bragdon stops maining to be Portland's offense.

MARINEME OF ARRISMES



Jennifer Schwarz

Age: 15 **Team:** WHS varsity girls' soccer **Coach:** Deb Lebel

Parents' names: Tina and William

Reason for selection: Jenny has really worked on her game in the offseason to get better. She is not afraid to dive and make those diving saves. She has an incredible punt. Jenny has shown steady growth with every match in increased confidence. She's a really good

teammate. She's extremely positive and cheers on her teammates on and off the field. Jenny's commitment to learning and positive mindset are shining through, making her a dependable presence in goal. Jenny is pushing her teammate and goalkeeper Libby Hartwell to get better each day in practice. Coaches say WHS is really fortunate to have two keepers as talented as they both are.

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The Windham Eagle Page 23

Strong second half earns Windham girls' soccer a win

By Matt Pascarella

The WHS girls' soccer team significantly overpowered Sanford at Sanford on Saturday, Sept. 13. Windham led 1-0 going into the second half and really turned up the intensity. The Eagles scored four goals in the second half; two goals from senior Neve Ledbetter, one from junior Mackenzie Delewski and one from freshman Logan Curry and at the final whistle, Windham seized a 5-0 win over the Spartans.

"I think in the first half we came out a little slow and we were probably not mentally prepared," said Ledbetter. "In the second half we came out with more intensity, we worked harder, we played together more as a team and I feel like, overall, it was a better half for us mentally and physically. We played a lot better and showed ourselves in the second half."

Windham attempted multiple





(L to R) Windham senior Marley Jarvais keeps the ball away from Sanford during fender and struck to the a girls' varsity soccer match at Sanford High School on Saturday, Sept. 13. Senior Neve Ledbetter moves the ball toward the goal and past the goalie late in the first half. Freshman PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

shots at goal early on and their defense kept control of the pitch as Sanford had far fewer scoring opportunities.

On a direct kick late in the first half, Windham senior Marley Jar-

> vais passed to Ledbetter who kicked in into the Sanford net putting Windham on the scoreboard, 1-0.

"Marley's play was super creative," said Windham varsity girls' soccer coach Deb Lebel. "They did (the direct kick) indirectly, without us prompting. Once we made (Sanford's) keeper go on her side - we knew she could save all those high ones - so we had to start putting it on the ground. (Sanford's) keeper was extremely good and kept them in the game. We had some really nice shots. In the second half, we told them 'you got to pick up the intensity just a little bit more.'

(Sanford) to balls, winning balls in the air; not giving up on balls and played through and that's when we saw goals get to the back of the net."

The increased intensity made a big difference on Windham's side of the scoreboard. Delewski scored off a corner kick and a short time later, Ledbetter fired the ball from the side of the goal at just the right angle that it found its way to the back of the net.

With 23 minutes remaining Ledbetter scored again when she got out in front and fired the ball and sent it right past the Sanford goalie.

The Eagles' defense continued to make things hard for the Spartans and Windham's offensive attack did not let up the tiniest amount until the final whistle.

But before the match ended, Windham freshman Logan Curry scored her first varsity goal with just 38 seconds left.

"Maya (Dries) got the ball from a great pass and did a through ball right to me and I beat the decorner," said Curry. "It felt amazing, I like varsity and that means a lot to score.

Something that went well was playing the ball to each other and making passes and not just booting the ball. We need to work on pressuring the ball and making runs before the ball gets to the person you need to so we can make that run and potentially score."

Lebel said this is a great win because the team has traditionally struggled playing at Sanford. She said she hopes this gives the girls confidence to know things are coming together, and if they keep at it, they'll keep competing with good teams. <



Logan Curry prepares to score a goal in the And they did. (Windfinal 40 seconds of the match against Sanford. ham) started beating







BRIEFS

Decluttering and Transitioning

Jessie Graham, a life coach and consultant, will give a presentation from 1 to 3 p.m. Friday Sept. 19 at the Windham Public Library, 217 Windham Center Road, Windham about decluttering, organizing, and how to thoughtfully dispose of your possessions. Refreshments will be served. Participants may attend in-person or remotely by ZOOM, FMI, call 207-892-1908.

Bean Supper

American Legion Field-Allen Post 148 will host a traditional bean supper from 5 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 20 at the Windham Veterans Center, 35 Veterans Memorial Drive, Windham



to benefit the post's youth programs. The cost is \$10 and kids under 12 eat for free. FMI, call 207-892-1306.

Fall Equinox Concert

Vigorous Tenderness, a fall equinox concert, will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 22 at Bumbleroot Organic Farm, 196 Highland Cliff Road in Windham. Come and welcome fall with vibrant chamber music that connects new sounds, the environment, and the community. People of all ages are welcome, and this is a family-friendly event. Sliding scale donations are welcomed. Tickets will be available at the door for \$30 but attendees can pay based upon need. Cash and Venmo are accepted, and everything will go to the musicians and to sustaining future concerts. FMI, send an email to vigorous. tenderness@gmail.com

Book Club

The Raymond Village Library Book Club will meet from 5 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 24 at the library, 3 Meadow Road, to discuss the novel "The Berry Pickers" by Amanda Peters. FMI, call 207-655-4283.

Team Puzzle Competition

Love putting together jigsaw puzzles and winning prizes? Sign yourself or a group of friends up for the Raymond Village Library's puzzle contest on Thursday, Sept. 25. Up to five teams of three to four people will compete against each other to see which team can complete a 500-piece puzzle first. The winning team will receive a \$25 gift certificate for a local business, per member. If you have a team already formed, great! If you have part of a team and need more members, we can help with that. If you want to compete but don't have a team yet, the library can help with that too. Call 207-655-4283 to register.

Windham Historical Society

The Windham Historical Society continues to be available for inquiries and to visitors on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to noon while its 1833 historic brick building on Windham Center Road undergoes major restoration/renovation. A banner on the lawn directs visitors to the parking lot be-

tween the superintendent's building and the brick building and a flag on the yellow building on the Village Green indicates where to find the volunteers. An upcoming event is the annual "Harvest Festival on the Village Green" on Oct. 4. The festival features free events, entertainment, and activities to provide family fun for all members of the community. See ad on page 6 for event details or visit: windhamhistorical.org. FMI, call 207-892-1433.

Suicide Support Group

The Alternatives to Suicide Support Group meets at 2 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at the Lake Region Recovery Center, 2 Elm St., Bridgton. FMI, call 207-803-8707

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 Windham Public Library and is staffed by volunteers and open by appointment only. To schedule an appointment with a volunteer please call 207-894-5999 and leave a detailed message.

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF RAYMOND, MAINE

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS SITE WALK

Saturday, September 20, 2025 • 9:00 AM

You are hereby notified of the Raymond ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS Site Walk at the following location **Saturday, September 20th, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.** regarding the information on the following application:

APPLICANT: Teresa Ellis, Dennis Martin & Lisa Martin **LOCATION:** Map 78/Lot 62A Zone LRR 1

DESCRIPTION: Administrative Appeal of Permit issued July 22nd, 2025 to Sheena-Jo Randall and Jonathan Stickney for a 4 x 4 temporary platform with stairs to access Thomas Pond.

The site walk will commence at 9:00 a.m. on site

PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, September 30, 2025 • 7:00 PM

Broadcast Studio - 423 Webbs Mills Road and Via ZOOM

You are hereby notified that the Raymond Appeals Board will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday**, **September 30th**, **2025 at 7:00 p.m.** to hear information on the following application:

APPLICANT: Teresa Ellis, Dennis Martin & Lisa Martin **LOCATION:** Map 78/Lot 62A Zone LRR 1

DESCRIPTION: Administrative Appeal of Permit issued July 22nd, 2025 to Sheena-Jo Randall and Jonathan Stickney for a 4 x 4 temporary platform with stairs to access Thomas Pond.

The meeting will be streamed in real time from the local Government channel. This live stream is also hosted on YouTube (https://www.raymondmaine.org/content/live-video-streaming), so make sure your computer or router/firewall does not block YouTube content.

JOIN ZOOM MEETING

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82188775406?pwd= qxmlzt46F4tzKIdkpsbj3fi1Hja8MX.1 Meeting ID: 821 8877 5406 Passcode: 6zLVdE

ONE TAP MOBILE

Meeting ID: 821 8877 5406 Passcode: 6zLVdE

Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcCuxNQkD7

TOWN OF WINDHAM, MAINE PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Mon., September 22, 2025 • 6:00PM Town Hall, Council Chambers, 8 School Road

- Public hearing for #25-15 Chapter 120 Land Use § 120
 Article 12 Impact Fees, Sidewalks.

 Proposed amendments to rename the section;
 restructure current and future impact fee collection
 areas; and to update the Master Fee Schedule for
 consistency with Appendix E Methodology.
- Public hearing for #25-05 Smith Cemetery Expansion Tax Map: 12, Lots: 49-1, 49-2 & Tax Map: 46, Lot: 13A – Gray Road.
 Major site plan review for expansion with new plots, two niche walls, an equipment storage building, and new driveway.
- Public hearing for #25-18 250 Windham Center Road Condos Tax Map: 12; Lot: 52-A – Windham Center Road. Major subdivision & site plan review for a 6-unit residential condo development in 3 duplex buildings.
- #25-01 Dolley Farm Subdivision
 Tax Map: 5; Lot: 25 River Road.
 Major subdivision & site plan review for a 42-unit residential condominium development in 21 duplex buildings.
- #25-22 Franklin Drive Solar Development
 Tax Map: 18; Lots: 26-2-A02 and 26-2-A03 Franklin Drive.
 Major subdivision & site plan review for a large-scale ground-mounted solar energy system to power the residential development on adjacent property.
- #25-23 Roosevelt Trail Commercial
 Tax Map: 10A: Lot: 25A Roosevelt Trail

 Amended major site plan review for a contractor services building.

FMI go to windhamweb.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx or contact (207) 894-5960 ex. 2. Written comment may be submitted to the Board at PlanningBoard@windhammaine.us.

Please notify us if you need accessibility accommodations.

The Windham Eagle Page 25



Embracing autumn in Windham: A season of beauty and opportunity for homeowners

By Theresa Bouchard SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE



crisp and leaves blaze into shades of amber, crimson, and gold, fall in Windham is nothing short of spectacular. The familiar rhythm Theresa Bouchard

As the air turns

TS Staging & Design of back-to-school routines, Friday night football games, and cozy weekend traditions sets in as the landscape transforms. Autumn has a way of slowing us down, reminding us to enjoy the little things: the crunch of leaves underfoot, the scent of woodsmoke in the air, and the comfort of a home that shelters us from the brisk winds.

But fall isn't just a season for apple-picking and hayrides. It's also a season that holds unique opportunities for homeowners, sellers, and buyers in our community. In real estate, timing can be everything, and autumn offers a chance to see homes - and the housing market - from a fresh perspective.

The Warmth of Fall at Home

There's something about autumn that makes a house feel like a home. Whether it's the golden light streaming through kitchen windows in the late afternoon, or the sight of a harvest wreath on a front door, fall naturally enhances a property's appeal. A home in Windham surrounded by vibrant foliage can feel like something straight from a New England postcard.

Inside, the season highlights comfort. Crackling fireplaces, rustic wood accents, and cozy nooks seem all the more inviting this time of year. For sellers, this is an opportunity to lean into fall staging—using natural elements like pumpkins, gourds, and seasonal flowers to make a property feel warm and welcoming. Even simple touches, like a plaid throw on the sofa or the scent of apple cider simmering on the stove, can help buyers imagine themselves settling in.

Why Fall Can Be a Smart Time to

Buy or Sell

Spring is often seen as the traditional "busy season" in real estate but fall has its own advantages. Buyers who are active at this time of year tend to be more serious. They may be relocating for work, seeking a new home before the holidays, or motivated to move before the snow arrives. This often means fewer casual "lookers" and more qualified buyers ready to make

For sellers, this creates a more efficient process. Your home might not see the same level of foot traffic as in the spring but those who do visit are typically highly motivated. And let's not overlook how stunning a home can look in the fall—curb appeal soars when framed by trees dressed in fiery hues, and that visual advantage can make a listing stand out in online

Buyers, meanwhile, may benefit

from slightly less competition compared to the spring market. With fewer multiple-offer situations, there's often more room for negotiation on price or terms. Some sellers are also eager to close before the year ends, which can create opportunities for flexible deals. For those willing to move during the cooler months, fall can be a very strategic time to purchase.

Preparing Your Home for the

Fall is also a natural time for homeowners to think about maintenance and improvements. Preparing a house for winter is not just about comfort it's about preserving value. Cleaning gutters, checking heating systems, sealing drafts, and winterizing outdoor spaces are important tasks that help protect an investment.

For those thinking of selling, a little preparation goes a long way. A well-

→ see **REAL ESTATE** Page 28











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

AD-LIB GAG LAUGH SATIRE BOMB HEADLINER LINEUP SHOWCASE BOOKER HUMOR MICROPHONE SITCOM CALLBACK **SKETCH IMPROVISATION PARODY CAPPER JEST PERFORM SLAPSTICK** ENTENDRE **JOKE** ROUTINE **STORYLINE**

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRST

\mathbb{C} Ω

Solve the code to discover words related to candy. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 5 = T)

18 16 2 2 A.

Clue: Pleasing taste like honey

В. 5 25 15

Clue: Sharp to the taste

C. 25 15 18 6 **13**

Clue: Sweetener

15 2 25

Clue: Special reward

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

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14 15 16 17 18 20 23 29 33 38 42 43 44 46 50 51 55 65 67 68 69 70 **CLUES ACROSS** 1. Public broadcaster 41. High schoolers' test 42. Trauma center

4. The media

9. Manila hemp

14. Not just "play"

15. Trailblazing German historian 46. Italian Lake

16. Type of puzzle

17. Plant in the daisy family

18. Not young

20. Dennis is one

22. Revealed

23. But goodie

24. Absurd 28. Commercials

29. University of Dayton

30. Expression of annoyance

31. Stories

33. More critical

37. Of I

38. Time units (abbr.)

39. Arousing intense feeling

CLUES DOWN

1. The upper part of a duet

2. Carpenter's tool

3. Outrageous events 4. Procedures

5. Type of party

Answers: A. sweet

₽

tart

: C. sugar

D. treat

6. Between northeast and east

7. Sanskrit (abbr.)

8. NJ college __ Hall

9. Sharp mountain ridge

10. Observed something

remarkable 11. One who obeys

12. ___ de sac

13. Sign language

19. Predecessor to Protestantism

21. Right-hand man

anglicus: sweating sickness

25. People who proof

26. Israeli Defence Forces sergeant 62. Feline

27. Remains as is

31. Receptacle

32. Archers' tool

34. Gets up

35. Unit of energy

43. Astronomical period

51. State of consciousness

58. Stringed instrument

59. __ Kidman, actress

64. Ottoman military commander

68. Short musical composition

44. Fights

60. Orator

67. Cool!

69. Porticos

70. Not wet

49. Rhenium

50. Baseball stat

55. Some is dietary

65. Makes known

66. Type of font

36. Explains again

40. Pa's partner

41. Region bordering the sea

45. Type of acid

47. Lesotho capital

48. Gave a speech

52. Irregular as though nibbled away

53. Neither

54. Copyreads

56. Edward ___, British composer

57. Prepared

59. Launched Apollo

60. Relative biological

effectiveness (abbr.)

61. Protects from weather

63. Equal

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HOW TO SOLVE: Each row must contain the

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

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

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The Windham Eagle Page 27

PLEASE NOTE: THE BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT IS A PAID ADVERTISEMENT. TO HAVE YOUR BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTED CALL MELISSA: 207-894-3500

Maine has long been defined by its forests. Stretching across millions of acres, these woodlands not only fuel the state's economy but also shape its culture, wildlife, and sense of place. Today, however, Maine's forests are being called upon for another critical role: fighting climate change through carbon offsetting.

At the center of this effort is Renoster, a company that has just launched a forest carbon program called Apollo. They specialize in guiding landowners and organizations through the complex but vital process of forest carbon engagement. By pairing Maine's natural assets with innovative carbon market tools, Renoster is helping to ensure that the state's trees remain one of the most powerful defenses against rising greenhouse gases.

Forests naturally absorb carbon dioxide, locking it away in tree trunks, roots, soil, and long-lasting wood products. This process makes them one of the most effective "carbon sinks" on the planet. In Maine, where forests cover roughly 90 percent of the landscape, the scale of this carbon capture is immense. Without them, Maine's contribution to global emissions would be far higher.

Renoster emphasizes that keeping forests healthy and standing is just as important as planting new ones. Through carefully managed harvests, selective cutting, and conservation strategies, existing forests can continue to grow, absorb more carbon, and pro-



vide lasting climate benefits.

Carbon offsetting in forestry works by quantifying the amount of carbon stored and ensuring it is maintained or increased over time. Landowners who commit to climate-friendly management practices can generate carbon credits. These credits are then sold to companies or institutions seeking to balance out their emissions.

For many forest owners, particularly in rural parts of Maine, this provides a new revenue stream. Instead of relying solely on timber harvests, landowners can be financially rewarded for long-term stewardship. According to Renoster, this approach not only strengthens local economies but also aligns economic health with environmental health.

One of the challenges in the carbon market has been accessibility. Large timber companies have the resources to navigate the complicated process of carbon verification, monitoring, and reporting. Smaller landowners, who collectively own a significant share of Maine's forests, often find the cost and technical demands overwhelming. Thanks to Renoster's use of AI, LiDAR, and satellite data, they can generate high-quality credits at scale, with zero

upfront cost and a minimum land size of just 25 acres - bringing small landowners into the carbon market for the

While the primary goal is to offset emissions, the benefits of forest carbon projects extend far beyond climate. Carbon-focused forest management often improves habitat for wildlife, enhances water quality, prevents soil erosion, and sustains the scenic beauty that draws visitors to Maine.

"For generations, landowners in Maine have had two main ways to bring monetary value to their land—timber harvests or development. The Apollo program introduces a third option: forest carbon. It allows landowners to extend harvest timelines, grow larger and more valuable wood, and still generate income through stewardship. Growing big trees takes time, and the returns aren't immediate-but it's better for the earth, better for the industry, and better for Maine's forests. Apollo gives landowners a way to invest in longterm forest health while contributing to climate solutions. That's a powerful shift." —Ted Wright, Outreach Forest-

Renoster highlights these "co-benefits" as a crucial part of the story. Protecting a stand of mixed hardwoods, for example, may store significant carbon, but it also ensures that songbirds, moose, and countless other species retain the habitat they need. Likewise, healthy forests protect watersheds that communities depend on.

Maine's forests may feel far removed from global climate negotiations, but the reality is different. Every acre that stores more carbon contributes to worldwide climate goals. With companies like Renoster helping landowners navigate the carbon market, Maine is positioned to lead by example showing how rural economies, working forests, and climate solutions can coexist.

As demand for carbon offsets grows, the opportunity for Maine is clear. Forests that once primarily supported mills and lumberyards now carry a second role in stabilizing the climate. By aligning economic incentives with ecological stewardship, Renoster is helping Maine seize this moment.

For residents, the message is simple: Protecting forests is about more than preserving beauty. It's about ensuring that the state's greatest natural resource plays its full role in securing a livable future. And for the nation watching Maine's example, it's proof that solutions to climate change can be rooted in the very ground beneath

For more information and to see if your land is eligible call 207-358-9150, email: outreach@renoster.co or to learn more visit www.renoster.co <

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Do you own 25 or more acres? Have you had a commercial harvest in the past? We want to pay you to improve your forest's health and value! As a forest carbon offset company, we partner with landowners to enroll them in our Apollo program, ensuring sustainable growth, better forest management, and higher-value trees for the future.

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REAL ESTATE Cont. from page 25

kept yard with fallen leaves cleared, fresh seasonal décor on the porch, and a clean, cozy interior communicates care to potential buyers. Even small updates – like a fresh coat of paint or updated light fixtures – can pay off when showing a home in autumn.

A Season for Reflection and Future Plans

Beyond the immediate opportunities of buying or selling, autumn invites reflection. Just as we prepare our homes for winter, we can also step back and consider whether our current space still fits our needs. Do we want more room for growing families and holiday gatherings? Or perhaps it's time to downsize to a simpler,

more manageable home?

The fall season naturally pairs with these kinds of decisions. As the year winds down, many people set goals for the coming one, and housing is often part of that reflection. Real estate isn't just about square footage or market values—it's about aligning your home with the life you want to live.

Windham's Unique Autumn Charm

Here in Windham, we are fortunate to experience fall in its full glory. Our community blends the tranquility of natural surroundings with the convenience of nearby amenities, making it a desirable place to live year-round. The local lakes and trails take on a new beauty in the fall, drawing residents outdoors even as temperatures cool.

For buyers considering a move to Windham, the season offers a glimpse of what makes our town special: the small-town feel, the connection to nature, and the sense of community that thrives no matter what the weather.

For longtime residents, autumn is a chance to take pride in what we already have. Whether it's decorating the front porch with mums from a local farm stand or gathering firewood for the months ahead, this season reminds us of the deep connection between home and community.

Turning Over a New Leaf

As we sip cider, stack firewood, and admire Windham's autumn beauty, let's remember that fall is more than just a scenic backdrop. It is a season of opportunity—both in how we enjoy

our homes and in how we approach the real estate market. Whether you're considering buying, selling, or simply making your home more comfortable for the winter ahead, Fall is a perfect time to take action.

This article was brought to you by Theresa Bouchard of TS Staging and Design, located at 630 Roosevelt Trail, Unit 2, in Windham. If you're preparing to sell your home or simply planning a refresh, TS Staging and Design is here to help. They were this year's Eagle Choice Award winner for Interior Design/Home Staging. Its local home staging and interior design team would be delighted to assist with any project that comes your way. They welcome the opportunity to bring out the best in your home. Contact Theresa @ 207-400-9393. <

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