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# **Annual Harvest Festival blends family** activities with historical significance

#### By Ed Pierce

As the season changes to autumn and crisp fall temperatures arrive in the Lakes Region of Maine, Village Green in Windham Center will be alive with the sights, sounds and flavors of fall during the annual Harvest Festival hosted by the Windham Historical Society on Saturday, Oct. 4.

The event runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Village Green, 234 Windham Center Road in Windham and is jampacked with fun, activities and something for everyone.

"It really is a family-focused day where people can have fun while learning a bit about Windham's very rich history," said Haley Pal of the Windham Historical Society.

Among things to do this year are to view an antique car show with Model Ts and Model As, take a tour of Community Booths sponsored by Age-Friendly Windham, Windham Parks and Recreation and the Windham Public Library.

Pal said for children there will be old-fashioned relay races including a potato sack race, an eggs on a spoon race, and a three-legged race. Kids will be able to guess how many candy



Windham Town Clerk Linda Morrell oversees last year's Pie Eating Contest at the Harvest Festival, sponsored by the Windham Historical Society in Windham. Fresh pies await this year's contestants on Saturday at Village Green in Windham Center. COURTESY PHOTO

corns are in a jar, participate in a coloring contest and bob for donuts.

Both adults and kids can take part

in the Harvest Festival's annual Pie Eating Contest, which is among the event's most popular activities year in and year out.

Participants can also compete for see FESTIVAL Page 4

## Town of Raymond searching once again for new Town Manager after Crocker resigns

#### By Ed Pierce

STAFF WRITER

For the fourth time in 20 months, the Town of Raymond is seeking a Town Manager following the resignation of Joseph Crocker last week.

Crocker, 37, had formerly served the town as Parks and Recreation Director, and was appointed to the Town Manager position in May succeeding Sue Look, who resigned in March. The Raymond Select Board had then tapped Crocker to serve as the interim Town Manager until a permanent replacement could be hired.

Look had served as Raymond Town Clerk before succeeding longtime Town Manager Don Willard in January 2024 upon his retirement. Willard had been Raymond's Town Manager for 23 years until he became ill, and while recovering chose to retire from the Town Manager role. Willard was elected in June 2024 to serve on the town's Budget and Finance Committee for a three-year

Originally from Saco, Crocker attended high school at Thornton Academy and then went on to earn a bachelor's degree in exercise science from Saint Joseph's College of Maine. He later earned an MBA in



Raymond Town Manager Joseph Crocker, who has served in that position first as interim manager since March and then as permanent town manager since May, has resigned and the town will undertake a new search to find a replacement. SUBMITTED PHOTO

sports and recreation management from New England College. Prior to coming to work for the Town of Raymond, Crocker worked in parks and

recreation for Saco, Auburn, Kennebunk and Lewiston. In 2020, Crocker was hired to lead Raymond's fledgling Parks and Recreation Department as director.

Crocker was hired for the Town Manager position after a competitive recruiting and hiring process conducted by HR Maine Consulting, LLC. All told, there were 46 applicants for the town position. manager Nine of those candidates participated in a rigorous essay and pre-screening process, with four candidates moving forward in the panel interview process, consisting of the Raymond Select Board Chair, Vice-Chair, a community member,

town department heads, a Town Manager from another community, and Betsy Oulton from HR Maine -> see MANAGER

His contract was for three years at an annual salary of \$100,000.

Raymond Select Board Chair Denis Morse posted on the town's website on Monday that he and all the Select Board members placed "high value" on Crocker as a town employee and that following his resignation, Morse asked him to remain as a town employee "and be a part of our ongoing work to devise a transition plan that included being mentored by an interim town manager."

Before that could happen, rumors nd misinformation began to swirl about Crocker's departure, Morse said. He says this caused strife, anxiety and discomfort directed at other town employees as well as members of the Select Board.

According to Morse, this behavior, including some public comments made about the situation from former elected town officials "is the op-

posite of civil discourse and would be unconscionable even if this situation happened to be conten-

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# Repaying a simple gesture of kindness

On the day after Labor Day in September 1966, I walked through the doors of Carlton Webster Junior High School in Henrietta, New York and into an entirely different life.

I was in a new school, and it was a new experience for me attending a public school, after I had completed seven grades at a Catholic school in a neighboring town. But at my new school, I didn't know anyone, didn't know the teachers or have one friend. I was starting over at age 12 in eighth grade and wary about how I would fit in there.

In my Physical Education class, we started out the school year doing exercises in the gymnasium. I looked around and observed how lacking I was in athletic talent compared to my classmates. Many were showing the ability to stand out on the football field, and as wrestlers, and future baseball stars, but at less than 5 feet in height at that point and weighing all of 90 pounds, I just wasn't in their league.

After one week of school, I had not made any friends, was very shy, and my lack of coordination made me the last student chosen for volleyball or softball teams during gym class. I was frequently bullied or harassed by larger, and stronger students and it didn't do wonders for my self-esteem.

One afternoon after gym class, I sat on a bench in the locker room and just felt totally dejected at my situation. But a class-

mate that I didn't know walked over to me, put his hand on my shoulder and told me to cheer up and that things would be OK. His name was Jim Quetschenbach Today in and his kind words made me feel like things might improve after all.

Jim Quetschenbach was everything I wasn't, so his kind gesture that day took me by surprise. He was tall, good looking and excelled at many sports for Carlton Webster Junior High.

As the school year unfolded, he was right. I slowly made friends in my new surroundings and although I didn't improve significantly as an athlete, I focused on academics and started to develop a talent for writing. One of my teachers asked if I could create a school newspaper and serve as its editor.

As we completed junior high and moved on to Rush Henrietta High School, Jim Quetschenbach was one of the most well-liked students in our class. As a sophomore, we elected Jim as vice president of our class, and he showcased his athletic abilities throughout his high school career as a member of the varsity football, basketball and baseball teams, including throwing a no-hitter once.

After graduating from high school in 1971, Jim became a registered nurse and went on to serve for 15 years in the U.S. Air Force as a flight nurse and captain, riding aboard helicopters in Vietnam to provide medical treatment to wounded American soldiers. He was following his father, who had served in the Army Air Corps during World War II. Later, he also coached 15-year-old Little League players to the New York State championship and has worked in organ donation and transplantation for many years.

Several years ago, my wife and I were at a flea market in Scarborough, Maine. I was there looking for used record albums but stumbled across a vendor selling old magazines. He had stacks of 1950s Life and National Geographic magazines, along with other literature. Looking over his tables, I spotted a 1971 Section V New York State Basketball Championship Tournament Program laying there on one of the stacks. I opened it and saw a roster of my high school team from that year and recognized the name of Jim Quetschenbach in it.

For 50 cents, I took the program home and then made sure I took it with me last week as my wife and I drove over to Rochester, New York for a gathering of Rush Henrietta High School Class of 1971 alumni.

During a picnic on Friday afternoon, I sat down with Jim Quetschenbach and his wife, Peggy, who had traveled to Rochester for the event from their home in North Carolina. I asked Jim if his parents had gone to the basketball championship tournament games in 1971 and he said yes. I asked him if they had purchased a program and he said he didn't know. I then asked him if they had given him a program from the games or if he had a program from that year and he answered no.

I then presented Jim, a father of three and grandfather of six, with the program I had discovered at the flea market. Tears welled up in his eyes and he leaned over, gave me a big hug and thanked me for doing such a thing for him.

Inspirational Quote of the Week

"Change is made of choices, and choices are made of **character."** – Amanda Gorman

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It may have been sheer luck that I found that program that day, but I would like to think otherwise and believe that the universe placed it there for me to find and repay the act of kindness that Jim had shown to me almost 60 years ago. It's true that every act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted. < ~ Ed Pierce

Around the house, what are some of the top items that you need to work on this fall?

> "Inside – keeping the basement uncluttered, a constant battle!"

Rob Juergens

"Finish painting Anna's bedroom and organize summer gear in the basement (which won't happen as it is hunting season)." - William D. Reiner

"Organizing my craft room." Julie Mallet

"One can never winterize enough." – Tommy Matthews

"Moving and stacking **firewood."** – Hannah Bannon

"Selling my house!" - Denis MacDonald Levasseur

"Making some ham and bean soup and freezing it for the winter months." - Anne Glotchshuk

"Pruning trees and mulching the flower beds."

- Chris Macklin

"Not much because we just had a new roof put on and our truck needs new brakes."

Mia Potenzio-Ransey

"Picking up acorns in the back yard." – Louise V. Snider

"Cleaning out the gutters and my husband wants to aerate our lawn." – Isabella Mongon

> "Raking up leaves." - Deirdre Schulte

"A new mailbox, trimming some overhanging trees, and canning a bushel of pears."

Lois Fuller

"We have to replace a broken basement window."

- Lollie Gomez Nunez

"Buying a new furnace." – Sarah Singer-Miller

"Installing new insulation around attic." - Dean Smalley

"Fixing my garage door so it shuts completely."

- Mitchell B. Robinson

"Redwood staining the back porch before it snows this year." - Tawny Lamabe-Punto



**OCTOBER 3** 

1863 – U.S. President

Abraham Lincoln declares

that the last Thursday of

November will be recognized

as Thanksgiving Day.

1913 – Federal income tax

is signed into law by U.S.

President Woodrow Wilson.

1922 – Rebecca L. Felton is

the first woman to hold office

of U.S. Senator following her

appointment by Gov. Thomas

W. Hardwick of Georgia.

1955 – ABC-Television airs

the very first episode of "The Mickey Mouse Club."

1957 – The Soviet Union

launches Sputnik 1, the world's

first artificial satellite, marking

the start of the space age.

1988 - The U.S. Space

Shuttle Discovery lands safely

after a four-day mission

and is the first American

shuttle mission since

the Challenger disaster two

years earlier.

1995 - Former NFL running

back, broadcaster, and actor

O.J. Simpson is found not

guilty of the murder of Nicole

Simpson and Ron Goldman in

Los Angeles, California.

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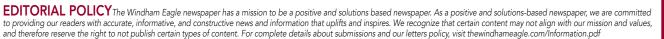




Dina Mendros, Kira Pilot, Matt Pascarella, Kendra Raymond, Erin Rose, & Lorraine Glowczak



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The Windham Eagle Page 3



## Raymond town clerk wins 'Rookie of the Year' award

## By Dina Mendros

Melanie Fernald has only been town clerk in Raymond for a little over a year, but town employees and her town clerk peers agree that she has made a difference. Last month, she was recognized for her hard work

she was recognized for her hard work when she received the 2025 Town Clerk Rookie of the Year award from the Maine Town and City Clerks' Association.

Fernald was hired as Raymond's town clerk in April 2024. Prior to that she was the Westbrook deputy clerk for four years, a position she was promoted to after being the town's assistant town clerk and administrative assistant for two years. She also worked as a legal assistant for Cumberland County's criminal prosecution offices.

"I was completely surprised by the award," she said in an email. "To me, it's a really nice recognition of the hard work I've been putting in."

The qualifications for the award are that a town or city clerk nominated be in the profession for no more than five years, be a member in good standing of the Maine Town and City Clerks' Association and has not pre-



Raymond Town Clerk Melanie Fernald displays her 2025 Maine Town Clerk Rookie of the Year plaque that she was awarded last month during the Maine Town and City Clerks' Association Annual Business Meeting in Bangor. Fernald has served as Raymond Town Clerk since April 1, 2024. SUBMITTED PHOTO

viously received the award.

Raymond Town Manager Joseph Crocker said the town's Finance Director Brenda Fox-Howard nominated Fernald for the award. She was nominated, he said, because of her dedication to the town of Raymond and her work as a town clerk.

"She has dedicated herself to the

field and to the Maine Town and City Clerks' Association," Crocker said. "I can attest to Melanie's passion for being a town clerk and a great asset for our community."

The Maine Town and City Clerks' Association, which gives out the award, presented it at its Annual Business Meeting on Sept. 10 at Jeff's

Catering in Bangor. Members of Fernald's family and town representatives attended the event to help her celebrate.

"I couldn't be happier for her (in receiving the award) and offer words of wisdom and answer questions anytime I can help," veteran Sanford City Clerk Susan Cote said. She said that Fernald is a 2024 graduate of the New England Municipal Clerks' Institute, which is "an intensive program that assists clerks in developing and maintaining the high level of administrative expertise needed for success in the ever-changing role of day-to-day operations in a municipal clerk's office and also to aid the clerk in acquiring necessary new skills and knowledge to excel and thrive in their position."

The position of town clerk in communities throughout Maine and across the county encompasses many different roles and is often in the front line for residents dealing with their municipality's government. The Raymond Town Clerk's Office is no different, and as the town clerk, Fernald and her staff have a wide variety of responsibilities. They administer town

→ see **AWARD** Page 7





prizes in Pumpkin Bowling, and the entire family can join a Scavenger Hunt to locate one or two clues in each Windham Historical Society buildings that are situated on the grounds of Village Green. Pal says that members of the Windham Parks and Recreation Department have partnered with the historical society in helping to stage all the games at this year's Harvest Festival.

There will be a Vendor Fair at the festival where a variety of crafters and other vendors will be selling goods they have made.

"Among the makers, we have a potter, a jewelry maker, a woodworker, and a doggie treat company," Pal said. "There is a rock artist, a sign-maker, a card/paper product maker, a woman specializing in wreaths and wind chimes, and one who makes sewn products."

One of the vendor booths will be reserved for Maine Authors Publishing and three authors are scheduled to be on hand to meet the public and discuss their books including Dr. Nancy Creighton Collins ("The Perfectly Impatient Potter"), Edith Netter ("The House of Schumannstrasse 7"), and

Kathy Eliscu ("Brain Tumor: A Love Story."

"Friends Church will also have a booth filled with nostalgic favorites like baked goods, pickles, relishes, jam, jellies, handsewn products, and more," Pal said.

The festival will have a White Elephant Sale featuring gently used items such as housewares, jewelry, and holiday decorations up for sale and food will be available all day long.

"We will be cooking and selling burgers and hot dogs," Pal said. "This year, Poppies Kettle Corn will be on hand as well with snacks and we also will have a dessert table where we're selling cookies for just \$1 each."

Musical Entertainment in the morning will have the Lakes Region Strummers performing. The Stummers are a ukelele group who play casual, feel-good tunes that invite folks to gather, tap their toes, and enjoy the moment.

At noon, the Windham Middle School Eighth Grade Orchestra will take the stage under the direction of WMS Orchestra and Band Teacher Morgan Riley. Band members earned the highest rating of "Superior" in competition at the Trills & Thrills Music Festival in Nashua, New Hampshire in June.

During the afternoon, the Saco River Jazz Band, a group of volunteer musicians, will perform classic tunes from the "Big Band Era," of the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s and sure to please all who attend the festival.

Tours of Historic Buildings located on grounds will be conducted by Windham Historical Society members and

will showcase The Old Grocery Store displaying authentic rural mercantile of the late 19th century, The Village School, a one-room schoolhouse with the historical society's schoolmarm, Miss Hawkes (Paula Sparks) doing lessons, and The Hearse House where an old horse-drawn town hearse is housed. There will also be tours available for The Windham Center Library and The South Windham Library and Railroad Museum.

"The Windham Historical Society's Blacksmith Shop is not quite finished inside, but our resident blacksmith, Sam Simonson, will be doing demonstrations at the festival," Pal said.

Festival participants will also be able to visit and tour the Old Town House which once served as Windham's Town Hall.

"People can step in and take a look at the renovations done to date there," Pal said.



the Village Green WMS's Eighth Grade Band performs during last year's Harvest Festival. The band is returning to play at this year's festival and is scheduled for noon on Saturday, Oct. 4. COURTESY PHOTO

Currently the historical society is organizing a capital campaign to seek donations for further renovation work on the Old Town House, which was not only Windham's original Town Hall, but also served as a school for many years, and is now the historical society's headquarters building.

The Old Town House building was remodeled about 60 years ago to address cosmetic and structural issues with the building. At that time, a raised floor system was installed with a wood-framed suspended ceiling and wall paneling. It covered up some issues with the building things up but didn't fit the ambiance of an 1833 structure. Planned renovation work will restore the original 19th century structure and create a building consistent with that era.

In the event of rain, the Harvest Festival will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 5. <





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Saturday, October 4 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Rain date: Sunday, October 5

The Windham Historical Society Village Green

> 234 Windham Center Road For information: 892-1433 www.windhamhistorical.org

## HERE'S WHAT'S IN STORE:

10 a.m. - Doors Open Vendor Fair & White Elephant Sale begin, Village Buildings open for tours, Food Booths open

10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Pumpkin Bowling Contest begins. Children are invited to bowl for a prize. 10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. The Lakes Region Strummers 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 Page 5

# Challenging 3rd annual Pleasant Mountain Race to benefit Loon Echo Land Trust tests runners' resilience

## By Ed Pierce

Dozens of runners lined up on Sunday, Sept. 28 to tackle a challenging obstacle by competing in the 3rd annual Pleasant Mountain Race sponsored by the Loon Echo Land Trust.

The event is not your typical road race as runners leave behind paved city streets for rugged mountain terrain. Despite its intense physicality, 60 athletes departed from the starting line in the race on the tallest mountain in southern Maine.

Funds raised from the Pleasant Mountain Race support the nonprofit Loon Echo Land Trust, which maintains the 10-plus miles of trails on the mountain.

The mountain racecourse itself is 21 kilometers long and has over 4,000 feet of elevation gain. Runners began the competition at the Pleasant Mountain Ski Area's East Lodge, then headed up the Bald Peak Trail, and descended the mountain on the Firewarden's Trail. They then ran from the Firewarden's Trailhead to the Southwest Ridge Trailhead to then head back up the mountain to the summit, across the ridge to Sue's Way Trail, and down the Bald Peak Trail and return to the East Lodge.

"The course is marked, although we encourage all our runners to study the course beforehand," said Pleasant Mountain Race co-director Scott Eugley, who helped mark the course



A total of 60 runners gather at the starting line to compete in the 3rd annual Pleasant Mountain Race sponsored by the Loon Echo Land Trust on Sunday, Sept. 28 at Pleasant Mountain in Bridgton. The race is a half-marathon stretching 21 kilometers long with more than 4,000 feet of elevation gain. SUBMITTED PHOTO

along with co-director Addie Casali. "We try to minimize interference with hikers, so we usually mark the course the day before and take things down the day after. Typically, I will mark the course, and Addie will take it down."

Eugley said that it's not uncommon to see runners cross the finish line and immediately sprawl out in the grass in exhaustion as the course is unforgiving and punishing, with thousands of feet of steep climbing and descent while navigating the technical single-track and traverse across Pleasant Mountain's iconic ridge.

"It's a testament not only to the difficulty of the course, but also the grit and effort the runners put into it," he said. "The most common comment is probably, 'That was hard.' This course embodies the spirit of trail running in the Northeast. It was our goal to design the most challenging course possible on Pleasant Mountain, to bring the best out in our runners."

At 2,006 feet in elevation, Pleasant Mountain is indeed the tallest mountain in southern Maine and remains one of the defining landmarks in the Sebago Lakes region. The mountain is a favorite destination for hikers,

birdwatchers, snowmobilers, hunters, snowshoers and skiers. Loon Echo Land Trust (LELT) owns 2,064 acres on the mountain and protects an additional 24 acres through a conservation easement.

The land trust oversees the management and stewardship of the hiking trail network on Pleasant Mountain and the majority of the land that the Ledges, Bald Peak and Southwest Ridge trails are on are owned and managed by LELT.

Classified as a half-marathon, this year's race once again saw runners give it their all and pushing themselves physically to overcome some of the most difficult geographic race conditions that many of them will ever encounter.

"The feeling of accomplishing something really hard is priceless," Eugley said. "We urge the public to get involved in their community, get outside, and test their limits."

Crossing the finish line first among make runners in the race was Nate Manning in a time of 2:34:47. The winning female this year was Nichole Cort with a time of 3:15:53.

Local sponsors and partners for the 3rd annual Pleasant Mountain Race include:

→ see **RACE** Page 28



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Oct 9th RSU 14 Candidates

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This will be a Q&A format, not debate style.

Moderators will be Gary Plummer and Barbara Maurais

## Nangle: Progress, but still too many cracks in child welfare system

► By Senator Tim Nangle SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE

In September, the Health and Human Services Committee received a quarterly update on the state of Maine's child welfare system. I've been on the committee for nearly a year now, and I've seen several of these briefings. But this one landed a little differently.

It was the first one since the passing of my predecessor, The Honorable Bill Diamond.

Bill was relentless in pushing for transparency, accountability and stronger protection for kids and he wasn't afraid to say DHHS wasn't doing enough. I think he'd have said what I'm about to say: DHHS is still failing in ways that matter. Kids are still sleeping in hotel rooms. Families are still overwhelmed and under-sup-

ported. And staff — although passionate and committed — are still being asked to do too much, with too little.

That said, there is some progress. The department has filled a number of long-vacant positions and reduced turnover, which is certainly encouraging. The department has launched a new strategic plan with clearer values and more accountability. They've rolled out something called "Intensive Short-Term Homes," a 30-day model to get kids out of hotels and into stable placements while permanent solutions are found. They shared one story of a seven-year-old with autism who began sleeping through the night and communicating more clearly after moving into a supportive home and out of an isolating hotel room.

We also heard about efforts to bet-

ter differentiate between poverty and neglect. A new law now requires that families be considered "neglectful" only if they have the means to provide for their children and choose not to, or if they've been offered help and still cannot meet basic needs. Too many families are being dragged into and overwhelming the child welfare system when what they really need is safe housing, heat or help paying for food.

If the department can implement and operate these plans successfully, it will be a major step forward.

But for every step forward, there's a reminder of how far we still have to go.

At the briefing, I asked how DHHS is recruiting and approving the 270-plus "community sitters," who are now helping to supervise children in emergency departments and hotel rooms. I asked what kind of information and support new foster parents get when they take in a child. To be blunt, the answers lacked substance. They weren't reassuring enough to say with confidence that every child is being placed into a setting that understands their specific needs.

I also asked whether staff feel the new sitter program is helping ease burnout, especially after last year's controversial changes to overtime. Director Johnson acknowledged that staff were previously "very unhappy" and said adjustments were made, but I'll continue to watch for morale and retention issues.

The bottom line is that this system is moving in the right direction, but

it's not moving fast enough.

Bill Diamond understood that urgency. He made it clear that when the state takes custody of a child, that child becomes our responsibility; yours and mine. We owe it to Bill's legacy, and to every child in the system today, to keep the pressure on.

We need to understand that both state and federal law rightly protect the privacy of these families and their children. However, I'll continue to ask tough questions in these briefings. I'll keep listening to foster families, parents, and case workers. I'll keep pushing for a system that doesn't just survive scandal and tragedy but one that prevents them from happening in the first place.

If you're a parent, a foster family, a mandated reporter or someone trying to navigate the system, I want to hear from you. Real change doesn't come from a committee room in Augusta. It comes from communities speaking up and leaders listening.

Let's keep pushing forward. There's a long way to go, but we don't get there by pretending everything's fine.

For the latest, follow me on Face-book at facebook.com/SenatorTim-Nangle, sign up for my e-newsletter at mainesenate.org, or contact me directly at Tim.Nangle@legislature. maine.gov. You can also call the Senate Majority Office at 207-287-1515.

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

## Patricia Lorene (Varney) Quinn, 91



WINDHAM, ME - Patricia Lorene (Varney) Quinn, 91, of Windham, Maine, passed away at her home surrounded by family on September 21, 2025. Born on August 4, 1934, in Houlton, Maine, Patricia was the daughter of Murray and Clare (VanTassel) Varney. She grew up in Houlton and graduated with the Class of 1952, where she was proudly voted "Best Personality" by her classmates.

After graduating, Patricia moved to Portland with her best friend, Doris, and volunteered as a candy striper in local Portland hospitals. She later

attended business school and worked for Allstate.

In 1961, she married Stanley P. Quinn, Jr. and made their home in Raymond, Maine, raising four children. Patricia gave back to her community as both a Girl Scout and Cub Scout leader, beginning a lifelong tradition of nurturing and guiding others. Together with her husband, she owned and operated Lakeland Sand & Gravel. With an active real estate business, they built roads, housing developments, city parks and associated school site projects, including paving and landscaping. Later in life, after obtaining her CNA certification, Patricia dedicated herself to serving others, working in assisted living both as a CNA and a bookkeeper.

Patricia's talents and passions were many. A gifted seamstress, she enjoyed making her children's clothes and quilting alongside her family, creating pieces filled with love and tradition. She found joy in her gardens, in swimming and tennis, and in skiing the Maine winters. She was also known for her gift of hospitality, welcoming her wide circle of dear friends—some affectionately called "the Goddesses (you know who you are)"—into her home with warmth and laughter.

Her faith was a central part of her life. Patricia often shared one of her favorite sayings: "When you have problems and try to make things better without success, let go and let God. He will guide you down the right path."

Travel was one of Patricia's greatest passions. Her adventures took her across the globe, from Japan, England, and Ireland to the Caribbean Islands. She cherished learning about different cultures and the friendships she built along the way.

Patricia's legacy is one of kindness, curiosity, and deep love—for her family, her friends, her faith, and the world she delighted in exploring. Patricia was predeceased by her three siblings, Vernabelle Moran of Houlton, Nancy Fitzpatrick of Houlton, and Murray (Mickey) Varney of Hermon; her former husband, Stanley, and her son, Stanley P. Quinn III. She is survived by her three daughters: Elizabeth and husband, Brian Schidzig, of Windham; Sally and husband, Kenneth Dodge; and Nancy V.Q. Valente of Raymond; six grandchildren: Dylan Dodge and wife, Kayla; Casey Dodge and wife, Stephanie; Samuel Dodge; Elliot Valente; Clare Valente and husband, Eric Sawtelle; Elle Schidzig; and 5 great-grandchildren: Granton, Grayson, Lainey, Lawson, and Adelaide.

In lieu of a funeral service, the family of Patricia invite friends and family to a Celebration of Life gathering on Sunday, October 5th, between 1:00pm – 4:00pm at The Little Meeting House at 719 Roosevelt Trail, Windham.

Interment will take place at a later date at the Raymond Village Cemetery.

Arrangements are in the care of the Hall Funeral Home in Casco where condolences and tributes may be shared at www.hallfuneralhome.net.



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Dolby, Blais & Segee Funeral Chapel

## Janet Norma Elliott, 84



Janet Norma Elliott, 84, of Raymond, passed away peacefully on September 8, 2025, surrounded by her family at the Gosnell Memorial Hospice House in Scarborough.

Born in Portland to Charles and Ada (Hutchinson) Ridlon, Janet was predeceased by her parents and her husband, Robert Elliott. She retired from L.L. Bean in Freeport after many years of dedicated service and cherished her time with family, friends, and especially her grandchildren.

She is survived by her children, David Merrill rill (Jacqueline), and Kimberly Tripp; her brothers,

(Pamela), Richard Merrill (Jacqueline), and Kimberly Tripp; her brothers, Alvin Ridlon (Carol) and Norman Ridlon (Sandra); several grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, October 18, 2025, from 12–4 p.m. at the Ocean Star Banquet Room, 33 Allen Ave, Portland, ME The Windham Eagle Page 7

## Local students contribute through Emmanuel Day of Service

More than 360 first-year students at Emmanuel College to make an immediate impact in the community through the New Student Day of Service.

Rising early on the last day of summer vacation, the students volunteered at food shelves, homeless shelters, and other organizations that meet vital community needs through the day of service.

Local students attending Emmanuel College who participated in this year's New Student Day of Service event includes Bella Bragdon and Addison Profenno, both of Windham.

In addition to encouraging new students to embrace Emmanuel's rich history of serving the common good, the day of service helped them connect with Boston and each other.

"By engaging with the city from day one, our new Saints began their Emmanuel journey grounded in service, connection, and purpose," said Emmanuel Vice President of Mission & Ministry the Rev. Federico Cinocca. "It sets the tone not only for their year, but for their entire Emmanuel



Windham students Bella Bragdon and Addison Profenno were among more than 360 freshmen at Emmanuel College in Boston who participated in the 'New Student Day of Service' last month where they volunteered at food pantries, homeless shelters, and other organizations that meet vital community needs. SUBMITTED PHOTO

experience."

The New Student Day of Service was an Emmanuel tradition for more than 20 years, before going on hiatus during the pandemic.

Resuming the event was a joint ef-

fort between Mission & Ministry and the Office of Student Involvement. Campus Minister Sofia Estrada-Hannigan was the lead organizer, and she said it was great to help build on Emmanuel's longstanding ties with the community.

"Service has always been a part of Emmanuel's culture and this was an opportunity to deepen our relationship with Boston, which is always at the heart of what Emmanuel does and what we value," said Estrada-Hannigan. "We sent more than 360 students out into the community to volunteer. Any who return to those organizations and stay connected is just an amazing outcome."

Those efforts were greatly appreciated by Alicia Ridenour, who is the Senior Director of Volunteer Programs for Catholic Charities Boston. The Yawkey Center is the busiest of four pantries they operate in the area, supporting food security for more than 400 families each morning. She said volunteers play a critical role in making it happen.

"The amount of labor that it takes to process donations for hundreds of people each day is literally impossible without the support of volunteers," said Ridenour. "They are crucial to the work that we do."

→ see **SERVICE** Page 28



elections and register voters. Other duties include registering vehicles; issuing hunting and fishing licenses; issuing birth, death and marriage records; tracking cemetery plot sales and more.

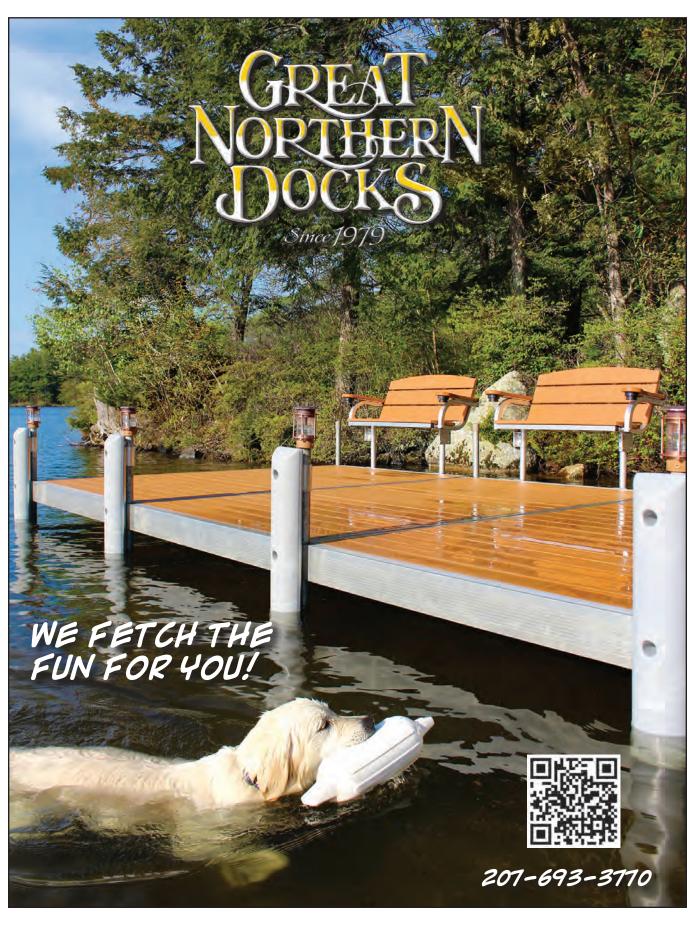
Originally from Westbrook, she went to Westbrook schools, then left to attend college at University of New Hampshire in Durham, New Hampshire where she studied psychology and earned a bachelor's degree. Years later, she went back to school at Hesser College in Portsmouth and earned an associate degree in paralegal studies. After serving as an Assistant City Clerk for two and a half years in Westbrook, she worked for three and a half years as Westbrook's Deputy City Clerk. Before that, Fernald was a Legal Assistant for two County Attorney offices for criminal prosecutions in New Hampshire.

Fernald says she enjoys her job and likes making a difference and helping Raymond residents. "I like knowing that I've played a helpful role in someone's important moments - whether it's helping to license a new dog, issuing a newborn's birth certificate or helping with death records and burial arrangements."

Although she enjoys her work, Fernald says the job isn't always easy. Balancing the many tasks of the job "while also giving the proper attention to all those who need services from us (including town staff, elected officials and members of the public) ... is challenging," she said.

Despite the challenges, Fernald said, she is always looking for ways to improve the way her office functions and to increase efficiency. "We're currently working with an agenda management software and a better website," she said. "We hope that these changes will streamline some processes and will improve ways of communicating information with the citizens."

In addition, Fernald said, "I always want to serve the public with transparency, respect and integrity." <



## Lake Region Project Graduation rallies community support

Lake Region Project Graduation is proud to continue a decades-long tradition of celebrating graduating seniors with a safe, substance-free event on graduation night.

This initiative, rooted in Maine history, began in 1980 after Oxford Hills lost seven young people to alcohol-related accidents during graduation season. In response, the community created a supervised, overnight celebration to protect its youth—a model that quickly spread nationwide.

The Lake Region of Maine joined the movement in 1982 and has upheld the mission ever since: to honor our seniors with a night of fun, food, entertainment, and prizes, all in a secure environment that keeps them safe and off the roads. To make this event possible for the Class of 2026, the Project Graduation committee is launching a series of fundraisers and calling on the community for support.

Fundraising efforts include:

- Cash for Class of 2026 Individuals are invited to donate \$20.26, and businesses \$200.26, in honor of this year's graduating class. Business donors will be recognized on social media platforms.
- Holly Berry Craft Fair (Nov. 1 and Nov. 2025) Now in its 35th year and its second year as a two-day event at Lake Region High School features over 80 vendors, concessions, raffles, and a visit from Santa. All proceeds benefit Project Graduation. Local businesses such as Bridgton House of Pizza/Breakroom

have committed to sponsoring Santa Claus for the kids of our community.

- Prize Calendar Raffle Local businesses donate prizes for daily drawings throughout a selected month. Past calendars have featured thousands of dollars in giveaways. So far, the calendar has donations from Point Sebago, an autographed Stephen King book, and many Macdonald Motors gift certificates totaling over \$1,200 to name a few.
- Casco Days Souvenir Booth The Lake Region Project Graduation group has volunteered at the Casco Days Souvenir booth since 2022 and has received at least \$2,000 each time
- Clynk Bottle Returns Families can contribute by returning bottles and cans through the committee's active Clynk account. Reach out to one of our committee members if you want to get a label for your bags of bottles
- Canvas Photo Raffle Tickets will be sold at events, with the final drawing held during the Senior Bas-

ketball Game in February. The Canvas photo is 20 x 60 and is taken by a local professional photographer.

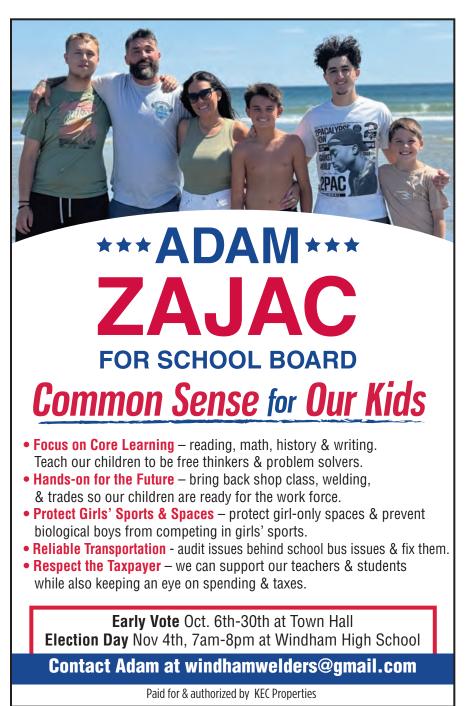
- Wrestling Event with Varsity Club Hoping to return in Spring of 2026, a new popular event for the whole family.
- New Ideas in Development Including a Paint Night and "Renta-Senior" program, where students help with yardwork, chores, or community service.

Lake Region Project Graduation is deeply grateful for the continued support of local businesses, families, and volunteers. Every donation – whether financial, in-kind, or time – helps ensure our seniors have a night to remember and a safe start to their next chapter.

Donations can be mailed to: Lake Region Project Graduation, 1877 Roosevelt Trail Naples, ME 04055 Tax ID: 86-2552802

For more details or information about how to get involved, contact Katherine Vincent at Lakersprojectgrad@gmail.com. <









The Windham Eagle Page 9



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

#### Editor,

The other afternoon, I heard an unexpected knock at the door. To my surprise, it was Destiny Johnson, and what followed was a fabulous conversation that left me inspired. Why is she running for our Windham school board?

Because she believes every child deserves safety and fairness in our schools. How does she stand out? By being passionate yet measured and listening first, then offering thoughtful solutions.

What does this mean for us? It means grandparents like me can trust that she will keep our children safe, and give them every opportunity to thrive. Destiny's heart for kids shows in both her community coaching and her leadership as a small business owner. I left that conversation hopeful, because leaders like Destiny remind us that when we engage, we can protect and strengthen our schools.

That's why I'm voting for Destiny Johnson for our Windham School Board, and I ask you to do the same.

~ Brenda Mattson, Windham

#### Editor,

Fact: Maine's elections are safe and secure.

Fiction, as seen on those lawn signs: We need Question 1 for secure elections.

Fact: Question 1 creates hurdles, even barriers, for Maine voters, making it difficult, sometimes impossible, for many to vote.

Fiction: This is only about "voter I.D."

Fact: This is actually about voter suppression.

Why aren't proponents of Q1 telling you everything that's in the proposal? They say absentee voting will be "not appreciably more difficult," but that guarantees it will indeed be more difficult for some.

I urge you to read the ballot question, itself as well as the full proposal. You'll see how misleading those "yes" signs really are. Their signature-gatherers didn't mention all the voting restrictions this proposal includes. One proponent even said people could "continue voting absentee just as they do now"— that's pure fiction!

Learn all the facts. And Vote NO on Question 1!

~ Grace Leavitt, Raymond

#### Editor.

I think I represent a good portion of the Windham residents when I say I am beyond mad regarding our last property tax increase! I, like many, feel helpless. Who is willing to take up this battle. I am one person, what can I do? How do I get involved?

First, I decided to look at the can-

didates for Windham Town Council. (We really need a change, a new direction.) I am not finding much out there about the candidates yet but am looking at their handouts.

Deb Devou has TAXFIGHTER at the head of her handout. Now that got my attention!

Reading down her objectives are:

- 1. Cut taxes focusing on needs not
- 2. Help make Windham policies that are Windham family and business friendly

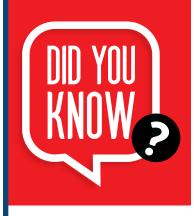
3. Balanced growth! Do we need that

I arranged to talk with her. What I found was an open, honest person of values and character, not some wordy politician. She truly cares about the overbuilding, overspending and the crime happening in our community. Her policies are not carved in stone; she listens to the people and wants our input. Deb wants to work for you and to keep Windham safe and affordable!

I do not personally know Deb De-

→ see **LETTERS** Page 12





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# Rocktoberfest returning to Naples with fireworks, national talent and unforgettable experiences

The Causeway in Naples is about to come alive. On Saturday, Oct. 11, Rocktoberfest returns with an explosion of sound, color, and community—turning the waterfront into one of Maine's most vibrant fall festivals. And the best part? It's completely free.

From Gary's to the Library, the Causeway will be lined with music stages, artisan pop-ups, and hands-on activities for all ages. As the sun sets, the skies will ignite with a brandnew fireworks show over Long Lake at 8 p.m., offering a dazzling finale to a day packed with excitement.

The music lineup is a show all by itself. Julia Gagnon, who captured hearts across the state on American Idol, will headline in her first hometown performance since her television run. They'll be joined by the Soggy Po'Boys, Portland's beloved New Orleans fusion band, who plan to march right down the causeway, bringing

a carnival atmosphere to Naples. The festival also welcomes The Only Hope Band with their unique blend of rock, reggae, and rap, rising country star Chase Jobe, and a powerful performance by the Penobscot Indian Nation drum circle – a rare cultural showcase taking place at dusk during Indigenous Peoples' Weekend.

But Rocktoberfest is more than music. Those attending the festival will find a night market unlike any other: free vintage speedboat rides courtesy of Long Lake Marina, live blacksmith and embroidery demonstrations, Do-It-Yourself flower crowns, hair tinsel, vintage clothing pop-ups, and even a KOA kids' campground complete with fire pits and s'mores. Families can snap waterfront portraits, try their hand at archery, or wander through arcade games and mini golf.

For those looking to test their



The Only Hope Band will perform at the Rocktoberfest in Naples on Saturday, Oct. 11, along with many other musical acts. COURTESY PHOTO

mettle, the Causeway will also host stein-holding contests, keg rolling, Hammerschlagen (a German pub game), a U.S. Army deadlift challenge, and even spike-driving with the Saco River Railroad Museum.

At its core, Rocktoberfest is about community. Proceeds support causes close to home, including the rebuild of Meadowbrook Equestrian's barn after a tragic fire, the Naples Historical Society, Lake Region High School programs, the Naples Recreation Complex, and future amphitheater development.

"Rocktober-fest is Naples at its best," said the Naples Events Committee. "It's music and laughter, traditions old and new, and thousands of people gathered together to celebrate where we live."

So grab a chair and bring your

friends, while claiming your spot on the Causeway – because this Rocktoberfest is set to be the biggest one yet.

Rocktoberfest 2025 runs from 3 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 11 on the Naples Causeway. Admission is free and fireworks start at 8 p.m.

For additional information, call the Naples Events Committee at 207-671-2368 or check out their Facebook page. <





**Early Vote** Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> Town Hall **Election Day**Nov 4<sup>th</sup> | 7am-8pm

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The Windham Eagle Page 11



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vou. I just know this overbuilding is burdening our town beyond what we can afford; that the spending is out of control and our taxes are not affordable! I truly feel fresh minds like Deb's is what we need. The same old, same old, is destroying Windham.

After much thought, I am voting Deborah Devou for Town Council!

We need a good, sensible person

~ Stanley Malinowski and Andrea Moore, Windham

#### Editor,

We hear a lot about Voter ID for

in-person voting - and for good reason. Around 80 percent of Americans support it. It just makes sense to show ID before casting a ballot in person.

But the truth is, a growing number of Mainers vote absentee. To keep all votes fair and secure, we need the same level of verification for those ballots too.

That's why I support the proposed reform to require ID each time an absentee ballot is requested. It's not a barrier, it's a basic check to make sure ballots go to real, eligible voters.

This simple step helps prevent ballots from being sent to outdated addresses, or to people who may have moved or passed away. It brings ab-

sentee voting in line with the same common-sense standards we already apply to voting at the polls.

Maine has high voter participation and strong civic pride. Let's keep it that way by strengthening, not weakening, the integrity of every vote.

Vote YES on this important reform. Vote Yes on Question 1.

~ Ingrid LeVasseur, Windham

The RSU 14 School Board has seats that need to be filled by people who truly care about the children and how the school system continues to educate them. I am writing this letter in support of Adam Zajac, who is one of those people running for a seat on the RSU 14 School Board.

Adam has been in the fight to clean up the libraries of inappropriate, sexually explicit books from the beginning. I know because he attended one of the initial meetings in Raymond that I also attended, when the book "Gender Queer" was first brought to the attention of the community and parents.

Adam's own son, then 11 years old, brought home another book of concern, "Mich & Charlie," full of graphic sexual acts between two boys that he later read a portion of at a subsequent school board meeting. This reading by Adam's son soon went viral on social media, helping to bolster the Windham/Raymond community's awareness of just how bad these books in the school libraries were. At another meeting, Adam himself read from the book "Identical," which is about an incestuous rape.

Adam will make sure that the RSU 14 schools will pursue changes to their bathroom policy of allowing boys into the girls' bathrooms and locker rooms, and he also believes that Maine needs to comply with the federal enforcement of the original Title IX which prevents biological boys from competing in girls' sports.

Consider the effectiveness of someone who has had a passion for these issues for the past five years, attended numerous school board meetings and has promised to focus on bringing back core learning and hands-on industrial arts classes - if all of that matters to you, vote for Adam Zajac.

~ Maria Clark, Windham



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STANDBY **GENERATORS**  The Windham Eagle Page 13

# Gracie Gym Maine competes at Boston Summer International Open Jiu-Jitsu Championships

By Ed Pierce

STAFF WRITER

Gracie Gym Maine, a premier martial arts academy in Windham specializing in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, turned in a dazzling performance at the Boston Summer International Open Jiu-Jitsu Championships on Sept. 13 and 14 in Boston, Massachusetts.

Participants from Gracie Gym Maine displayed immense dedication, skill, and discipline, bringing home experience and participation medals from the event. These victories were achieved by competitors ranging in age from 6 to 50 and spanning across various expertise levels from white belt to black belt rank.

A total of 12 Gracie Gym Maine students competed at Boston Summer International Open with nine of them competing at an IBJJF tournament for the first time and they returned to Windham with 14 medals including nine gold medals, one silver medal, and four bronze medals.

Gracie Gym Maine members showcased their extensive training and

commitment to martial arts, reflecting the high-quality in-

Gracie Gym Maine was well-represented the Boston Summer International Open at the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center in Boston on Sept. 13 and 14. A total of 12 Gracie Gym Maine students competed in the event and won 14 medals including nine gold medals, one silver medal, and four bronze medals. Gracie Gym Maine head instructor Vincius Garcia, left, also competed in Boston Summer International Open on Sept, 21, winning gold medals in the Master 1 division. SUBMITTED PHOTO

struction and supportive community found at their Windham facility while family and friends cheered them on at the event which was held at the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center in Boston.

The head instructor Gracie Gym Maine, Vinicius Carvalho Garcia, also competed in multiple categories at the Boston Summer International Open Jiu-Jitsu Championships on Sept. 21, winning double gold first-place medals in the Master 1 division.

Located at 770 Roosevelt Trail Suite 6 in Windham, Gracie Gym Maine stands as a beacon of excellence in martial arts training. The academy offers an inclusive and welcoming environment, coupled with world-class instruction in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. The gym prides itself on fostering a community where individuals of all ages and skill levels can learn, grow, and thrive

Gracie Gym Maine is excited to welcome new students to become part of their thriving community. Whether you are new to martial arts or an experienced practitioner looking to refine your skills, Gracie Gym offers a range of classes and programs to suit every individual's needs and goals. Participants embark on a journey of self-discovery, physical fitness, and mastery of the art of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu.

Having opened in March 2023, → see **GRACIE** Page 17







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## Trunk or treats add to the fun of the Halloween season

As Halloween approaches, communities across the region are preparing for the growing tradition of "trunk or treat." These family-friendly events bring neighbors together in parking lots, where decorated car trunks serve as candy stops for children. The fun comes not only from the costumes and candy, but also from the creativity poured into decorating each vehicle.

For many families, cost is a consideration, but decorating a trunk doesn't have to break the bank. With a little imagination and a few household sup-

plies, anyone can transform a car into a Halloween hit.

One of the simplest approaches is to choose a theme and build around it with what you already own. A picnic blanket and some stuffed animals easily turn a trunk into a "zoo" or "campout." Old sheets can be cut into ghosts or stretched like cobwebs for a spooky graveyard look. Cardboard boxes, paint, and markers can be repurposed into castle walls, pirate ships, or monster mouths.

Dollar stores and thrift shops are

also treasure troves for budget-friendly props. Plastic tablecloths make colorful backdrops, while string lights

add a festive glow. For families who prefer a non-spooky option, fall themes such as pumpkins, scarecrows, or apple orchards can be created with a few inexpensive decorations and even real produce that later doubles as seasonal décor at home.

Kids love interactive displays, and these don't have to be costly. A simple ring toss with glow sticks, a "fishing" game using candy prizes, or even a bubble machine adds excitement. Families often find that the laughter and fun these simple games create are worth more than the fanciest decorations.

The real joy of trunk or treat comes not from who has the most elaborate display, but from the sense of community it builds. Parents appreciate the safe, well-lit setting, while children enjoy filling their candy bags in a space designed just for them. Neighbors

who may not often see one another get the chance to connect, share stories, and celebrate the season together.

Trunk or treat events also create a unique opportunity for local businesses and community organizations. By decorating a trunk with their brand colors or themes, groups can hand out treats while showing

support for neighborhood families. It's an affordable, creative way to connect with the community and leave a lasting, positive impression.

Whether it's a spooky spider web trunk or a cheerful pumpkin patch theme, trunk or treat decorations prove that Halloween magic doesn't have to cost much. With a bit of creativity and community spirit, families can join in the fun, making memories that last well beyond Oct. 31. <







## Popular fall hunting seasons offer wide opportunities

As the first frosts touch the fields and the maples turn crimson, Maine's hunters are gearing up for one of the busiest and most colorful months of the year. October is the heart of the fall hunting season, with opportunities ranging from archery deer in the woodlots of south-

ern Maine to the great moose hunts of the north forests.

For deer hunters in York, Cumberland, and surrounding counties, October is all about the archery season. From Oct. 4 through Oct. 31, bowhunters take to tree stands tucked behind farm fields, along stone walls, and even in small woodlots not far from town centers. The expanded archery areas in southern and coastal Maine stretch even longer, running from Sept. 6 through Dec. 13. Families are also looking forward to the special youth deer hunting weekend on Oct. 24 and 25, when parents and grandparents can teach and pass down the tradition to the next generation.

Black bear hunting continues strong in October. Still-hunting runs through Nov. 29, while hound hunting and trapping both remain open until Oct. 31. Bears are less common in the southern part of the state, but encounters are becoming more frequent, keeping hunters alert in the woods.

Moose season belongs to the vast northern and western reaches of



Maine. A bull-only hunt is scheduled for Oct. 13 through 18, followed by antlerless moose hunts in certain districts later in the month. Special adaptive hunts in northern units, focused on cows, also stretch into the last week of October and beyond. For families

in southern Maine, these hunts mean a trip north to join camps or lend a hand to a lucky permit holder.

October is prime time for small game and birds. Woodcock season runs from late Sept. through Nov. 18, offering quick action along alder runs and river bottoms. Ruffed grouse are found throughout southern Maine's thickets and logging roads, and for those looking for steady action, gray squirrel season opened on Sept.27 and continues all the way through Dec. 31, giving hunters plenty of opportunity well into late fall.

The fall turkey season runs from Sept. 15 through Nov. 7 in many districts. Unlike spring, when hunters pursue gobblers, the fall hunt allows for either-sex turkeys, giving families another chance to fill the freezer before winter.

Waterfowlers are also busy. Ducks and geese are moving through marshes, rivers, and estuaries, with seasons running in segments through October and into November. Along the coast, sea duck hunting is underway and will stretch into the winter months. Wild turkey, once a rare sight in Maine, remains open in much of the state until Nov. 7, offering a unique fall challenge.

Looking ahead, November brings the season many hunters wait for all year: the annual firearms season for deer. Beginning Nov. 3 and running through Nov. 29, this is the most popular hunt in Maine. For many families, it is a cherished tradition that stretches back generations, often paired with hunting camp gatherings, woodstove meals, and stories shared.

Whether it's a bowhunter perched in an oak grove, a family setting out for youth deer weekend, or waterfowlers paddling the salt marsh at sunrise, Maine's fall hunting season offers something for everyone. October sets the stage, but the opportunities carry deep into November, with the excitement of rifle season capping off the heart of autumn in Maine.

For specific laws pertaining to hunting seasons visit maine.gov/ifw.

Beyond tradition and outdoor adventure, fall hunting plays a vital role in providing food for many Maine families. Venison, moose, and small game harvested responsibly often feed households through the year, supporting local communities and reinforcing the connection between hunters and the land they steward.







## MANAGER Cont. from page 1

tious or controversial, which it is not."

Morse also posted a letter that the Raymond Select Board had received from Crocker which amended the timeline for his original resignation.

"I will stay on in a capacity to help with the transition to find a Town Manager who will bring experience that will fit the needs of the community," Crocker wrote in the letter. "If this transition involves a space for me after the search has ended, I would be happy to stay in a different role if it works for everyone involved."

Crocker said he does not wish any animosity toward the Town of Raymond but prefers to keep the reason he resigned private.

"When you provide services to a small town for so long, they become your friends," he said. "All I can say is I have given my best effort to make the Town of Raymond better, and all I ask is that our elected officials act in good faith to do the same." <

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## **Maine Treasurer's** Office seeking owners of unclaimed property

The Office of Maine Treasurer Joe Perry will begin sending thousands of tangible items for auction if owners are not located under the state's unclaimed property program. These items include coins, jewelry and other collectibles of value, excluding military medals or military decorations.

Every year, the Maine Office of the State Treasurer (OST) receives contents of safe deposit boxes considered abandoned by Maine's banks and credit unions. Called "safekeeping," the safe deposit boxes are presumed abandoned when the property and proceeds remain unclaimed by the owner for more than three years after the expiration of the lease or rental period on the box or other depository. By law, the contents of these safe deposit boxes become the care of the State of Maine, where they are held while the office searches for the owner(s).

The Treasurer's Office uses many

avenues to determine owners of unclaimed property. Some of these methods include direct mail, town hall outreach, press releases and partnerships with other state agencies.

The most effective tool currently is the State Treasurer's searchable database at www.maineunclaimedproperty.gov where individuals can search for their name and file a claim online.

When the amount of tangible unclaimed property exceeds the space to house it, the Treasurer's office conducts an auction. Property from these safe deposit boxes date as far back as 1993 and as recently as 2021 and will become part of an ongoing online auction if the Treasurer's Office is unable to find owners/heirs. Note that by law and practice, the treasurer's office never auctions military medals or military decorations.

About safekeeping: Safe deposit box contents must be reported to the state where the contents are held.

Information on the contents of boxes located in Maine must be reported by Nov. 1 of each year.

The contents of safekeeping are to be delivered to the Office of the State Treasurer no later than June 1 of each year. Once auctioned, the cash value received from the sale will be available for the owner to claim.

About the auction company: The Office of the State Treasurer went out to bid for an auction company to provide auction services over the next five years. The winning bidder was Lone Star Auctioneers out of San Antonio, Texas. Lone Star has been providing online auction services to unclaimed property programs across the country.

About Unclaimed Property: Unclaimed property consists of money and other financial assets that are considered lost or abandoned when an owner cannot be located after a specified period of time of inactivity. It includes items such as bank accounts, uncashed checks, life insurance policies, unpaid wages, stocks and dividends, refunds, and safe deposit box contents. Unclaimed Property does not include real estate, animals, or vehicles.

Each and every year, tens of millions of dollars go unclaimed by Maine residents. These financial assets are turned over by thousands of national and local businesses and organizations by a law called MRSA Title 33, Chapter 45: Maine Revised Unclaimed Property Act. http://legislature.maine. gov/statutes/33/title33ch45sec0.html.

The Treasurer's office holds these assets, free of charge, until claimed by the owner or heir. The State is currently holding over \$310,000,000 in unclaimed property.

About the Office of the Treasurer: The Office of the Treasurer of State is established in Article V, Part Third of the Constitution of the State of Maine. The core duties of the Treasurer's Office are debt management, cash management, trust fund administration and unclaimed property administration. Other major tasks assigned to the Treasurer are directorships on many of Maine's quasi-governmental debt issuing agencies and distributions under the Municipal Revenue Sharing Program. <

# Windham Raymond Schools

## AT-A-GLANCE

Discussion topics are subject to change. Please check meeting agendas for the most up-to-date information.

### **RSU 14 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### **Upcoming School Board Work:**

Facilities Presentation (Director Bill Hansen)

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

#### **Upcoming Committee Work:**

- Finalize Committee charter
- Budget communication & visuals discussion
- Middle school bond payments
- Review of year-to-date expenditures and revenue
- Review upcoming capital needs

#### **POLICY COMMITTEE**

## **Upcoming Committee Work:**

- Committee reviews policy update schedule
- Review the Following Policies:
- Educational Philosophy (Mission) (AD)
- School System Goals & Objectives (ADA)
- School District Commitment to Learning Results (ADF)

## **CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

#### **Upcoming Committee Work:**

• Phonemic Awareness Presentation (Literacy Coaches)

No meeting scheduled

# **FACILITIES COMMITTEE Upcoming Committee Work:**

# SCHOOL **BOARD UPDATE**

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

All meetings are open to the public and subject to change.

### October 1, 2025:

3:00 p.m. at District Office: Curriculum Committee

6:30 p.m. at Windham High School Auditorium: School Board

## October 6, 2025:

9:30 a.m. at District Office: Policy Committee

## October 14, 2025:

9:30 a.m. at District Office: Finance Committee

## October 15, 2025:

6:30 p.m. at Jordan Small Middle School Gymnasium: School Board

#### October 20, 2025:

9:30 a.m. at District Office: Policy Committee



SCAN HERE TO SEE BOARD MEETING AGENDAS, MEETING VIDEOS, **BOARD MEMBERS, FINANCES, SCHOOL POLICIES & MORE** 

The Windham Eagle Page 17

GRACIE Cont. from page 13

Gracie Gym Maine is owned by Michael Smith, who said that he extends hearty congratulations to all the Gracie Gym Maine participants for their outstanding performance and dedication at the New England Championships.

"The academy also expresses sincere gratitude to the organizers of the New England Championships and the supportive family and friends who have made this achievement possible,"

Garcia joined Gracie Gym Maine participants at the event and said local participants gained invaluable experience at the Boston competition.

Originating in Brazil in the early 20th century, Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu focuses on using leverage and submission holds to defeat opponents, making it an effective form of self-defense for people of all sizes and abilities. It is an effective form of self-defense because it teaches practitioners how to stay calm and composed in high-pressure situations.

The Gracie Gym Maine academy draws students from all over the state and offers Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu lessons to everyone ages 4 and up.

Garcia is widely considered one of the most elite Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu instructors in the world. Garcia has been training in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu since the age of 16 and he has competed in many of Brazil's top events under renowned coach Rodrigo Castro, who promoted him to black belt in 2015.

Smith said that whether you are new to martial arts or are an experienced Jiu-Jitsu practitioner looking to refine your skills, Gracie Gym Maine offers a range of classes and programs to suit every individual's needs and

For further details about Gracie Gym Maine call 207-383-2228 or visit www.graciegymmaine.com <



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*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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## THE ROOKIE MAMA THE ADVENTURES OF MOTHERHOOD



## FALL HAULS, SOCCER BALLS AND BUDGETS FOR THE WIN

► By Michelle Cote

SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE



And here we are again, ladies gentlemen. We've been winding down another season -turn, turn, turn - as the next ramps way up. It's Michelle Cote, Columnist fall hauls and soc-

cer balls; buttoning down garden beds and prepping our harvest residuum for winter storage as we crank up the sports-o-meter to 11.

We're still in that odd seasonal transition, the autumnal Venn diagram of falling leaves and bubble wands.

I'm reminded of two things as I'm running soccer carpool and running hair-on-fire wild all at once - things that essentially point to being kind to your future selves in small ways now that will pay dividends later.

The first ongoing charge is to take the time to properly preserve any of your remaining garden harvest for the winter months ahead when you can -A big ol' storing up of nuts, if you will.

For those of you who garden and may have bonus harvest such as tomatoes, peppers, beans, gourds galore, there are several ways to pack it up, pack it in to enjoy farm fresh - and free! - taste all winter long before we do it all over again next spring.

If your harvest is past peak, you can sometimes save non-hybrid seeds for next season.

My kiddos love to shell peas and beans while watching a comedy, like a modern-day Waltons' front porch, but with Pixar.

Your garden is as full of gifts as it is compost bits, after all.

Just another benefit of money savings in the garden game.

Some of you may also enjoy canning – It's both literally and figuratively quite the process – and this is a classic method to preserve garden goods.

My crew cans one day out of the year, a massive family assembly line effort involving colossal quantities of applesauce. It takes an entire day and several background Christmas movies, a special October dispensation for that weekend.

But my go-to for easy weekend harvest preservation is freezing and blanching as needed.

If you've got yourself an unexpect-

ed haul of beans limping along, chop up and boil for three minutes, submerge in ice immediately, freeze flat in labeled freezer bags.

Extra tomatoes can be milled into sauces, also frozen

flat once cooled. To preserve garden tomatoes, wash and core them before freezing whole or chopped on a baking sheet, then transfer to freezer bags. For sauces, blanch to loosen skins, peel, and puree before freezing in air-

tight containers. This method locks in freshness, flavor, and nutrients for use all winter.

Freezing as a preservation method is easy peasy for your peas.

Remove from the deep freeze in the months to come when you're ready for your own tasty farm fresh goods to complement a meal.

The second ongoing charge is not unlike the first in practice, and involves budgeting for expenses that lay ahead – Storing up of nuts in another manner of speaking.

In recent years, my husband and I began harvesting proverbial greens in another sense of the word altogether by setting aside small funds monthly for various familial budget lines so that when ultimately needed, we'd be prepared and reduce any risk of debt.

We save now, a little at a time, as we do with the food preservation.

> We have sevchecking accounts serve as account lines for various expenditures including house projects, car repairs, plowing and Christmas, among others.

Costs associated with each of these, whether planned for, such as Christmas – or not, such as repairs – come faster than a speeding soccer ball, burdensome and fast.

Because they're inevitable, we bank

up a bit each month now to ready ourselves for that time.

For example, each January I estimate what I'll spend the following Christmas, divide that total by twelve, and contribute that dollar amount to my Christmas checking fund monthly in the interim so I'm not faced with holiday expenses all at once.

It's straightforward, and can be accomplished on a timeline that works for you, and ultimately will ease your mind in the future when your next car repair or otherwise comes around.

A small but meaningful habit

So turn a new autumnal leaf and start banking up to be kind to your future self, whether it's by storing up garden abundance now for use in dreary months, or by contributing small amounts regularly to important expense funds.

We're winding down to hibernation mode for a brief respite, a perfect time to reflect on habits and how we may plan ahead now for better outcomes later.

To everything there is a season,

And ours will be probably filled with a minivan carpool full of kids.

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

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The Windham Eagle Page 19

## One of the five takes a vacation

## By Andy Young



People who speak English employ 26 different symbols when they wish to exchange ideas in writing. However, while 21 of those

Andy Young, Columnist generally recognized letters are classified as mere consonants, most knowledgeable lexicographers and polyglots see the others, the vowels, as the alphabet's five most vital components.

That came to mind recently when I heard a soccer coach solemnly tell one of his pint-sized charges, a player who never seemed to pass to a teammate, "There's no I in team."

While that tired axiom might be the most ancient of old clichés, nevertheless it's literally correct, since the alphabet's ninth letter is indeed absent from the word "team."

Mentors since the beginning of time have invented similar axioms by employing the simple "There's no \_" recipe. For example, aspiring realtors are told there's no "D" in kitchen, no "H" in closet, and no "X" in garage, no matter what size abode they're trying to

Inexperienced cartographers learn early on that there's no "E" in Bolivia, no "L" in Costa Rica, and no "T" in China.

Okay, technically there is tea in China. However, reasonable people

recognize a semantic exception when they see one.

Persons who write and orate in English aren't the only ones availing themselves of the 26-letter alphabet. Speakers and writers of Malay and Indonesian do so as well. It's remarkable so many people can convey messages or other random notions, both verbally and in writing, when employing a mere 26 different characters.

While each letter is significant, the five vowels are by far the most indispensable. The chances of being able to write anything even moderately intelligible if they didn't exist, are practically nil.

Here's an interesting factoid: the Arabic alphabet contains 28 letters, all of which are consonants which can also serve as long vowels. A few other symbols are considered by some academics to be letters. However, they are not a basic part of that alphabet.

The Armenian alphabet is comprised of 38 letters in all, 31 of which are consonants. I had originally intended to list the seven vowels here for the edification of the Windham Eagle's loyal readers. However, as was also the case with many of the Arabic symbols, few are available options on my keyboard.

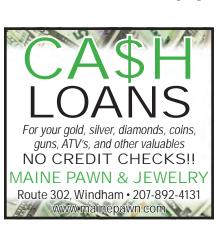
In contrast, the Hawaiian remarkable alphabet consists of only 13 letters: H, K, L, M, N, P, W, ', and the same five vowels English speakers employ in order to correspond with their friends in writing. The ', the letter that transcribes the glottal stop consonant in Hawaiian, is called the 'okina. For a better explanation of what a glottal stop (or glottal stop consonant) is, check with a syntax scholar, a prose professor, an expression edifier, or a terminology teacher. However, regardless of any odd-looking symbols, Hawaiians are getting by very well with an alphabet containing of only half the letters the one we're familiar with does.

Getting back to the "There's no I in team" thing, aspiring chefs and bakers are told both early and often by their learned and veteran advisors that there's no "R" in cinnamon, no "M" in salt, and no "Q" in baking powder. There is, however, an occasional "B" in honey. (See "semantic exception" in this article's sixth paragraph.)

Prominent clothiers teach their apprentices that there's no "D" in socks, no "M" in shirt and, one hopes, no "P" in shorts.

Fledgling arborists are told, correctly, that there's no "C" in Maples, no "E" in Oaks, and no "V" in Redwoods.

Which is something of a coincidence, since there aren't any yews in this essay either. <







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Grade: 11th School: Windham High School

**Favorite subject(s) in school:** Windham Chamber Singers Parents' names: Krystal Ash-Cuthbert

Reason for selection: Ashlynn is a dedicated student who focuses on both Honors and AP courses. She is also an accomplished musician who is an active member of The Windham Chamber Singers, the WHS Drama program, and the WHS Band. Ashlynn also participates in

various organizations at WHS, including the Civil Rights Team, Student Council, and Quiz Team. In addition, Ashlynn is a proud member of the National Honor Society, the Spanish Honor Society, and the Tri-M Music Honor Society.



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## **New law to protect Mainers** from subscription and gym membership traps takes effect

A new law introduced by State Senator Tim Nangle, D-Windham, that would make it easier for Mainers to cancel subscription services and gym memberships that they no longer want, has gone into effect after being passed by the Maine Legislature earlier this year.

This new law will apply to subscriptions entered into or renewed on or after Jan. 1, 2026.

LD 1642, "An Act to Protect Maine Consumers by Simplifying Subscription and Health Club Membership Cancellations," ensures that if a consumer can sign up for a subscription or gym membership online, they must also be allowed to cancel it online. The new law targets a growing problem in consumer protection: businesses that make enrollment easy, but make cancellation deliberately difficult.

"Too many companies count on confusion and delay to keep people locked into services they don't want. This law cuts through that," Nangle said. "If you can sign up online, you should be able to cancel online - no tricks, no runaround. Mainers deserve a system that's honest, simple and puts them back in control of their own money. This is a win for transparency and fairness. As you're entering into or renewing subscriptions in the new year remember that you can contact the Attorney General's office if you believe these protections aren't being implemented."

The law strengthens Maine's consumer protection law by requiring:

- Clear disclosure of subscription or membership terms before enrollment
- Affirmative consent before charging for automatic renewals
- Online cancellation using the same method as sign-up; and
- Advance notice before long-term re-

This new law also expands protections to cover health club memberships -- particularly those offered by for-profit gyms like Planet Fitness, which are among the most difficult subscriptions for consumers to cancel. Planet Fitness allows consumers to sign up in minutes online or through an app but requires them to go to a physical gym location in person to cancel. LD 1642 ends this practice by requiring that if someone can sign up online, they must be able to cancel online, too.

Consumers who believe the provisions of this law are not being followed for subscriptions entered into or renewed beginning in 2026 can contact the Maine Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division at (207) 626-8849. As non-emergency legislation, LD 1642 took effect on September 24, 2025, 90 days after the First Special Session of the 132nd Legislature adjourned. It was signed by Governor Mills on June 20, 2025. <





## Maine's credit rating improves with record Rainy Day Fund

Maine Gov. Janet Mills and State Treasurer Joe Perry announced this week that Fitch Ratings, one of the top international credit rating agencies, has upgraded its bond credit for the State of Maine to AA+, the second highest rating that Fitch issues.

Under Mills, Maine's Budget Stabilization Fund – the "Rainy Day Fund" – has reached a record \$1.03 billion, the maximum prescribed in statute, representing 18 percent of General Fund revenues from the prior year.

"This significant ratings upgrade from Fitch, a well-respected global credit ratings agency, combined with our healthy reserves, shows the strength of the State's financial picture," Mills said.

Maine State Treasurer Joe Perry says the credit rating boost puts Maine on a solid footing financially.

"Governor Mills' and the Legislature's fiscal policies have allowed us to build significant cash reserves, creating flexibility and security for the state," Perry said. "This ratings upgrade from Fitch affirms that we are on a good path."

Ratings agency Moody's also recently reaffirmed Maine's credit rating of Aa1, their second highest possible rating, and ratings agency S&P reaffirmed its AA rating for Maine. Fitch and Moody's both upgraded

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Maine's rating after the state's credit rating was downgraded under the prior administration.

The Department of Administrative and Financial Services also today reported that the State of Maine ended the 2025 Fiscal Year with a \$152.2 million General Fund surplus.

Since taking office, Mills has repeatedly urged legislators to use restraint and pass fiscally responsible budgets that preserve core services without pushing the state's finances to the brink. Through budget deliberations this year, Mills warned lawmakers that Maine, like other states, faces a tight fiscal environment, and that tough decisions were needed in order to keep promises to Maine people, such as free school meals, increased revenue sharing for municipalities, housing supports, and maintaining 55 percent support for education.

According to Maine statutes, when year-end revenues exceed projections and result in an unappropriated General Fund surplus, surplus funds are transferred to certain accounts – in-



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cluding the Budget Stabilization Fund
– in order of priority through a process known as the "cascade" as determined by the Maine Legislature.

After priority transfers are met, Maine law requires dividing the remaining General Fund surplus into an 80/20 percent split between the Budget Stabilization Fund and the Highway and Bridge Capital Fund. This year's cascade allocated \$79.4 million to the Budget Stabilization Fund and \$33.8 million to the Highway Fund.

"The nearly \$34 million will be used to ensure this year's construction

as defined in our three-year work plan is adequately funded," said Bruce Van Note, Commissioner of the Maine Department of Transportation. "The plan includes projects that will improve roads and bridges, enhance safety, and increase economic opportunity through upgraded transportation infrastructure across the state."

For this Fiscal Year, legislators also identified two additional priorities to receive one-time fiscal support through the cascade: the MaineCare Stabilization Fund and the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention Fund. <







## WHS volleyball earns second consecutive win

#### By Matt Pascarella

STAFF WRITER

After Windham High's varsity volleyball team previously shut out Sanford, 3-0, the Eagles earned their second win of the season during a match against Westbrook at Windham High on Friday, Sept. 26. The match was pushed to the fifth set in a best-of-five sets contest and Windham won the match, 3-2.

"We knew that to win this we'd have to work together as a team and that's something we've been working really hard on is trusting each other on the court," said Windham senior libero Lauren Neal, who had 15 digs against Westbrook. "I think it really paid off tonight. Toward the end, our communication got a lot better, we were calling where things were going. I think our attitudes were pretty good throughout the match - we were staying positive. It was thinking about the big picture as the match was really close. We know we haven't done our best this season and we want to be able to prove ourselves. A second win feels really good."

Right out of the gate, Windham showed they were ready to win. Windham took the lead early and were able to hold onto it until the end of the set. At one point, Windham led by 11. Senior Josephine Sibley scored over 10 points serving in this set and Windham won the set in a 25-8 blowout. Overall, Sibley had 12 digs and

In the second set, Westbrook took an early lead, but Windham wasn't far behind. At one point Windham was down by seven points but fought back and tied the set, 19-19. Westbrook







(L to R) Windham senior Josephine Sibley returns a ball during a varsity volleyball match against Westbrook at Windham High on Friday, Sept. 26. Senior Rowan Cummings tips the ball over the net. Senior Sydney Harmon spikes the ball over the net. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

pulled ahead and took this set, 25-20.

The third set was tied 7-7 early on. Windham defense blocked a ball and allowed Windham to take the lead. Windham had a 10-point lead. With senior Rowan Cummings serving the Eagles reached set point and won, 25-14.

"It's not just winning," said Cummings, who had two digs and four aces overall. "It's more about ... playing our best game. And playing up to how we know we're going to play. Our two main goals were communication and serve-receive. To bring that energy and support each other. It was having that communication and being there for each other (when the match got close) as a unit instead of

individual players. I think what went really well was our energy, we had great serves, we had great hits. A big thing for us is to come into the game with a mindset of being our best, we need to have a more positive outlook to things because volleyball is a very error-surrounding game. We need to look at errors as ways to make improvements."

In the fourth set, Windham fought hard to end the match here. Shortly, the set was tied 14-14 but Sibley spiked the ball, and the set was even closer. It was tied, 18-18, but Westbrook was able to pull ahead and won 25-20 to bring the match to a tiebreaker final set.

The fifth set is played to 15 and Windham jumped out in front early, and stayed there, as the Eagles' defense kept Westbrook scoring to a minimum and Windham really came together. Quickly, it was match point and Windham won the deciding set, 15-6.

"We had lows, but we had more of the highs," said Windham volleyball coach Chris Cloutier. "We found out how to get out of those lows a little bit faster. It tends to be on our serve-receive that we have a couple missed serve-receive and that's what starts that low. It was just in serve-receive; they didn't carry it to hitting. We kept the errors in that area and didn't let it spread to errors in our hitting and our serving. That is a good start to mental toughness. Tonight was a good step ... we've made progress from where we were. Back-to-back wins feels good; I think it'll give the girls a little more confidence." <



## **Libby Hartwell**

**Age:** 16 **Team:** WHS varsity girls' soccer Coach: Deb Lebel

Parents' names: Kim and Josh Hartwell

**Reason for selection:** Libby has become a mature keeper as a junior. She also worked hard in the offseason, and on her diving and she's way more confident to go down on her side. She's worked hard on those upper corner shots. Her hard work is only matched

de that uplifts the whole team. Libby has shown incredible dedication and resilience, always putting in the extra work to improve her skills. She's a great role model to her teammate and fellow goalkeeper Jenny (Schwarz) and both of them work very well together in practice pushing each other to get better. Libby is a reliable last line of defense, but also an inspiring presence on and off the field.

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## Little League's flamethrowers heating up fall ball

By Matt Pascarella

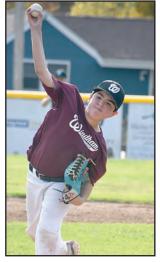
The 12-and-under "Swing Away" Windham Little League fall ball baseball team have three aces on their pitching staff in Windham sixth graders Byron Dansereau, Alex McGonagle and Elijah Sun. In seven games, the three players have pitched in 25-plus innings and have combined for over 70 strikeouts. Each pitcher consistently strikes out at least two batters an inning.

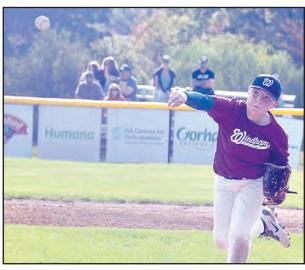
Swing Away coach Jason Sun said he noticed this skill in just their second game against Gray New-Gloucester that these three each had something special happening on the mound.

"In ... Byron's first time pitching in the second inning had us out of it with three batters up, three batters down all strike outs on 16 pitches thrown," said Jason Sun. "I just remember thinking 'wow, that was fast.' In the third inning, Byron got the leadoff batter to ground out on the first pitch of the inning and then struck out the next two for a total of eight pitches in the inning. Elijah pitched the fifth and sixth innings, striking out three batters each inning. I started looking at the stats and realized Alex struck out three in the first inning. Collectively they had 14 strikeouts of their 15 outs; that is impressive. I looked at the stats from our first game and found their dominance wasn't a fluke, Elijah had seven strikeouts through two innings and Alex had four strikeouts through two innings."

Dansereau, McGonagle and Elijah Sun were preselected as the fall ball







(L to R) Windham Little League sixth grader Byron Dansereau throws the ball right into the strike zone during fall ball baseball game against Bonny Eagle Atkinson in Buxton on Monday, Sept. 29. Sixth grader Elijah Sun winds up to pitch. Sixth grader Alex McGonagle throws a strike. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

team captains and have set a tone of excellence. This team has players as young as 9-years old. The three captains provide outstanding role modeling for the younger players. In addition, each captain is hitting very well. When not pitching, McGonagle plays strong defense at first base, Dansereau is a powerful shortstop, and Elijah Sun is the solid arm at third base.

At this age, players are still learning the game, so when a pitcher takes the mound, their main focus just throwing strikes – and that can be somewhat of a challenge. While in his first year as a head coach, Jason Sun has been around Windham Little League for three years and by his assessment, the hardest thing for a pitcher at this level to do is throw strikes.

"I learned how (to improve) my pinpoint, my cutoff and how to improve my attitudes towards the players," said McGonagle. "This season has been like a journey ... I've been doing so good lately throwing strikes, throwing heat. It's just been great by having good coaches, and a good pitching staff."

McGonagle began playing base-ball in 2021. In his second year of fall ball, he started pitching. The more he threw, the better he became at it, and the better he became the more he liked pitching.

"First, I wasn't very good, but we worked on it a lot," said Elijah Sun. "I think if you put your mind to it, you can really achieve something. I think it was pretty cool watching somebody walk back to the dugout (after you've struck them out). Fall ball has been good. We've really ... faced some good teams."

Elijah Sun started playing baseball three years ago. He wanted to pitch because it looked fun and he's fallen in love with it.

"I was watching the Red Sox a lot, and I wanted to play a sport, so I chose baseball," said Dansereau, who is in his second year of pitching. "It's really fun, I like pitching and hitting and hanging out with my friends. I feel like I'm improving; pitching is fun. (All three of us) try hard and encourage the team."

Dansereau was the starting pitcher in the Sept. 29 game against Bonny Eagle Atkinson. He said he was excited, but not nervous to start the game.

Jason Sun said these three pitchers have remained consistent since he first realized their abilities and said these three aces are good kids on and off the field. <

## **ESSAY CONTESTS**

**ONLINE SUBMISSIONS NOW OPEN!** 

## THIS YEAR'S THEME:

"How are you showing patriotism and support of our country?"



## **PATRIOT'S PEN**

- Open to students in grades 6, 7, and 8 enrolled by the Oct. 31st deadline
- Submit a 300 400-word essay
- National Prize is currently \$5,000
- Local winners receive cash prizes & gifts

See complete details & enter at: bit.ly/3MiZI54
or scan here for direct link



## **VOICE OF DEMOCRACY**

- Open to students in grades 9-12 enrolled by Oct. 31st deadline
- Submit a 3–5-minute audio & written essay
- National Prize is currently \$35,000
- Local winners receive cash prizes & gifts

See complete details & enter at: bit.ly/3MgcRf2
———— or scan here for direct link



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## **BRIEFS**

#### **Harvest Festival**

The Windham Historical Society will welcome visitors to the society's annual "Harvest Festival on the Village Green" event on Saturday, Oct. 4, with a rain date of Sunday, Oct. 5. The festival features free events, entertainment, and activities to provide family fun for all members of the community. FMI, call 207-892-1433.

#### **Veterans Family Day**

All community veterans and their families are invited for a free cookout to observe Veterans Family Day from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 4 at the Windham Veterans Center, 35 Veterans Memorial Drive. There will be a barbecue with hamburgers, hotdogs, and various salads. Converse with other veterans, a veterans' band,

a static military vehicle display, horseshoes, cornhole, and meet the leaders of local organizations including the Windham Veterans Center, American Legion, VFW, DAV, and the American Legion Auxiliary. FMI, call Tom Theriault at 207-405-8218.

## Wildland Interface Planning

Raymond Fire and Rescue will host a Wildland Interface Planning Session at the Raymond Fire and Rescue Central Station, 1443 Roosevelt Trail in Raymond at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 7. This important session is open to the public and all Raymond residents are encouraged to attend. Raymond Fire and Rescue tackles many unique challenges in addressing hazards on Raymond Cape and other areas in town and values the input of residents from every neighborhood in planning for wildfire and emergency events to ensure safe access for emergency vehicles, orderly evacuation routes, and preparedness strategies. For more details visit raymondmaine.org or call Raymond Fire and Rescue at 207-655-1187 or follow updates on the department's official Facebook page. Also call Brad at 207-775-0800 or send an email to Brad@MaineSEC.com

## **TRIAD Meeting**

The next TRIAD Meeting will be held at 11 a.m. Oct. 8 at the Gorham Police Department, 270 Main St. in Gorham. Amy Angelo of the Alzheimer's Association will be the guest speaker. The mission of the Gorham/ Westbrook/Windham TRIAD is to reduce the criminal victimization of the older citizens, enrich the delivery of law enforcement services, and improve the quality of life for our seniors in the Gorham, Westbrook and Windham communities. Please come and bring a friend. FMI, call 207-854-6822.

#### **Peony Sale**

The Raymond Village Library, 3 Meadow Road, Raymond, is conducting a Peony Sale from 8 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 11. Peonies are popular garden plants and range in color from purple and pink to red, white or yellow, blooming in late spring and early summer. FMI, call 207-655-4283.

#### **Turkey Dinner**

The Highland Lake Grange is offering a drive-through, roasted turkey dinner from 4 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 11. There will be roasted turkey, vegetables, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, bread, cranberry sauce and cake. The cost is \$10 per person. Please have exact price for meal(s) you want. No substitutions, no pre-orders, you drive up, pay and receive your meal. The grange is located on the corner of Route 302 and Hardy Road in Westbrook. FMI, call Joann at 207-233-7119.

#### Presumpscot River Revival Race

Presumpscot River Revival Race, sponsored by The Friends of the Presumpscot River, is returning for the first time since 1995 with paddling, food, and many fun activities. The event will be held from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18 at Dundee Park, 79 Presumpscot Road in Windham. Racer registration starts at 8 a.m. or register online at www.eventbrite.com/e/presumpscot-river-revival-race-tickets-1652920974129?aff=ebdssbdestsearch

#### **Suicide Support**

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

#### **Loan Closet**

The Windham Loan Closet, located on Windham Center Road, provides area residents with wheelchairs and other equipment for medical and physical needs by loan at no charge. The Loan Closet 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** 

## NOTICE OF STAFF SITE PLAN REVIEW

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

You are hereby notified that the Raymond Code Enforcement Officer and Contract Planner are considering approval of an Amendment to an Approved Staff Site Plan Review for the following property:

LOCATION: Pipeline Road @ Viola Avenue and Maisie Drive

MAP & LOT: Map 005, Lot 027 APPLICANT: Sebago Solar

**REASONING:** Entry access to Solar Project located in Windham

## YOU HAVE UNTIL OCTOBER 15TH, 2025 TO RESPOND WITH ANY OBJECTIONS TO OR CONCERNS ABOUT THIS PROJECT.

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

Application and additional materials are available at the Raymond Town Office (401 Webbs Mills Road) during regular business hours and on the town website: raymondmaine.org

## LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF RAYMOND, MAINE
RAYMOND PLANNING BOARD
PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, October 8, 2025 • 7:00 PM Broadcast Studio - 423 Webbs Mills Road and Via ZOOM

You are hereby notified that the Raymond Planning Board will hold a meeting at the Raymond Broadcast Studio and via Zoom on **Wednesday, October 8th, 2025, at 7:00 pm** on the following matters:

- 1. Presentation to the Board by Vernon Malloch, OCP regarding Marijuana Ordinance
- 2. Review Draft of Marijuana Regulation Ordinance
  Review latest Draft of STR Ordinance THE BOARD WILL BE
  DISCUSSING COMMENTS FROM LEGAL REVIEW AND
  MAKING A DETERMINATION TO ACCEPT SAME. THERE
  WILL BE NO PUBLIC COMMENT ANTICIPATED.
- 3. Staff Communications and Updates

The meeting will be streamed in real time from the local Government channel. This live stream is also hosted on YouTube (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/85302660838?pwd= OAmzatj8bQedGEpHB2hvUalkfKmW0d.1 Meeting ID: 853 0266 0838 Passcode: 0LY9NA

#### ONE TAP MOBILE INSTRUCTIONS

https://us02web.zoom.us/meetings/85302660838/ invitations?signature=JpVDf45JQTsvdhVhhU8du51spXMMZCQ8z6Ee\_eg9Ts

## LEGAL NOTICE

**TOWN OF RAYMOND, MAINE** 

## NOTICE OF STAFF SITE REVIEW

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

**APPLICANT:** Kurt Pelletier

LOCATION: Road Name: Woodsedge Trail – off Valley Road

MAP 13, LOT 33; ZONE RR

**DESCRIPTION:** Construction of a Backlot Driveway

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

## YOU HAVE UNTIL OCTOBER 30TH, 2025 TO RESPOND WITH ANY OBJECTIONS OR CONCERNS ABOUT THIS PROJECT.

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

# Eagle Property Come

## Why isn't my home selling?

## By The Libby Starnes Team SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE



- Pamela Starnes/Tiffany Libby,
The Libby Starnes Team ion

Selling a home can be an exciting journey, but it can also be frustrating when your listing isn't attracting

The Libby Starnes Team isn't attracting offers. If your property has been on the market for weeks, or even months, without a sale, you may be asking yourself: Why isn't my home selling? Understanding the common factors that affect home sales can help you make informed decisions and get your property sold.

1. Pricing is Key – One of the most frequent reasons a home doesn't sell is pricing. Overpricing can turn away potential buyers, while underpricing might make buyers question the home's value. Buyers today have access to extensive market data and can easily compare listings. A competitive, well-researched price based on current market trends is essential to attract interest and offers.

**2. First Impressions Matter** – Your home's curb appeal can make or break a sale. Buyers often decide within seconds if they want to see a home in person. Simple improvements – fresh

paint, trimmed landscaping, clean walkways – can make a significant difference. Once inside, ensure the home is clean, decluttered, and well-staged to highlight its best features.

**3. Marketing That Misses the Mark** –
Even the most beautiful

home won't sell if buyers don't know it exists. Professional photos, virtual tours, and strategic online marketing are critical in today's digital-first real estate market. A strong marketing plan ensures your home reaches the right audience and generates the attention it deserves.

4. Limited Availability for Showings – If buyers can't easily view your home, they can't fall in love with it. Flexible showing times and open houses increase the number of potential buyers who experience the home firsthand. The more people who see it, the higher the chances of receiving an offer.

5. Condition and Updates – Homes that show signs of deferred maintenance or outdated features can struggle to sell. Buyers want a home they can move into without major repairs or costly renovations. Address-



ing obvious repairs, updating kitchens or bathrooms, and ensuring systems like plumbing and HVAC are in good working order can make your listing more appealing.

**6.** Market Timing and Competition – Sometimes, the issue

isn't your home at all, it's the market. If your area has many similar homes for sale or the season is slow, it can impact how quickly your home sells. Understanding the local market conditions and working with a knowledgeable agent can help you adjust your strategy accordingly.

#### 7. Emotional Attachment

It's natural to feel attached to your home, but personal taste can unintentionally turn off buyers. Neutral décor,

depersonalized spaces, and creating a "blank canvas" for buyers help them imagine themselves living there.

What You Can Do – If your home isn't selling, it's time to evaluate the listing with fresh eyes. Talk with your real estate agent to review pricing, marketing, presentation, and market conditions. Small adjustments can create big results. Remember, selling a home is both an art and a science—strategic changes can make all the difference.

This article was brought to you by The Libby Starnes Team. They help homeowners in Windham and beyond understand the market and take the steps needed to sell successfully. The team can guide you through a customized plan to get it in front of the right buyers and moving toward a successful sale. Visit www.libbystarnesteamhomes.com or follow The Libby Starnes Team on social media. <





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

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Solve the code to discover words related to eye health. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 1 = S)

17 13 14 17 10 Α.

Clue: Sight

Answers: A. vision B. sunglasses В. 25 **13** 

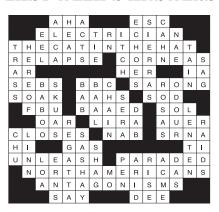
Clue: Tinted lenses

6 5

Clue: Test

Clue: Care for

#### LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS





## 11 13 15 16 17 20 21 30 31 32 33 43 56 60 59 61

#### **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Computer manufacturer
- 5. Noted space station
- 8. Kurt Russell film "Captain"
- 11. Automaton
- 13. Everyone has one
- 14. Incline from the vertical
- 15. Fights 16. Dunn & Bradstreet (abbr.)

OSSWORD

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protect

- 17. Finishes off
- 18. Places to store things
- 20. Dutch painter Gerard \_\_\_
- 21. Smaller quantity 22. There's a North, South
- and Central of these
- 25. In an early way
- 30. More spacious
- 31. Short-term memory
- 32. One who possesses

- 33. Sesame
- 38. Forbid
- 41. A way to explain
- 43. Not around
- 45. Evoke or suggest
- 47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 49. Dekameter
- 50. Fencing sword
- 55. "Luther" actor Idris
- 56. Affirmative (slang)
- 57. Afflicted
- 59. One point north of northeast
- 60. Born of
- 61. Arabic name
- 62. Hong Kong food stall: \_\_\_ pai dong
- 63. Not the start
- 64. Post

### **CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Creative expression
- 2. Fiber from the outer husk of a coconut
- 3. City in ancient Syria
- 4. College army
- 5. More disturbed
- 6. Pays no attention to
- 7. Restored
- 8. Competitions
- 9. Lyric poems
- 10. Famed American lawman
- 12. Expression of disappointment
- 14. Scars
- 19. Satisfy
- 23. Central European river
- 24. Brass instrument
- 25. One who gets paid to perform
- 26. Propel with oars
- 27. Long period of time
- 28. Woman (French)

- 29. Type of plane
- 34. Pitching stat
- 35. Pointed end of a pen
- 36. Pro sports league
- 37. Body part
- 39. Inoffensive
- 40. Yellowish cotton cloth
- 41. Feline
- 42. Does not tell the truth
- 44. Set out to attract
- 45. Spiritual leader of a Jewish
- congregation
- 46. Abba \_\_\_, Israeli politician
- 47. Repair
- 48. Genus of flowering plants
- 51. Tributary of the High Rhine
- 52. Prejudice
- 53. C. European river
- 54. Restrain
- 58. Father

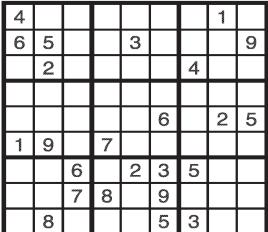
#### **HOW TO SOLVE:**

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

8	quo	3	4	6	5	7	2	9
7	4	5	3	9	2	6	8	www
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oood	7	6	8	4	9	2	5	3

## SUDOKU



The Windham Eagle — Page 27

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

With much of our daily lives connected by electronic devices and gadgets these days, the sudden loss of one often unleashes a desperate search to replace it and restore lost data found on it. Your homeowners or personal property insurance coverage may cover these items if they are damaged, destroyed or stolen in an event covered by your policy, however personal property coverage often doesn't cover the sort of losses covered by a new type of electronic device protection offered by Farmers Insurance through J. Priest Insurance of Windham.

No matter if it's a laptop, smart phone, smart television, a computer printer, or a Roomba vacuum, this new coverage goes above and beyond the standard electronics warranty for damage, loss or theft. It covers Bluetooth and Wi-Fi speakers; DVD/Bluray players; Printers/scanners; External hard drives; Gaming consoles; Handheld gaming devices; Home theater systems; Personal computers (Windows 8 or newer, Apple OS X 10 or newer); Pro/elite gaming controllers; Robot vacuums; Smart home devices; Standalone routers; Streaming devices; Tablets (Android 1.6 or newer, Apple OS X 10 or newer); Televisions (LED and LCD only); and Virtual reality headsets.

Three types of protection are available including Total Device Protection for both mobile and home devices and adds coverage for loss and theft of eligible home devices; Mobile Device



Protection covering up to four mobile phones in your household with phones covered for accidental damage, mechanical/electrical malfunctions, screen breakage and loss/theft; and Home Device Protection for most smart home devices covering accidental damage, mechanical/electrical malfunctions and screen breakage.

"The cost for this protection is very reasonable," said Jonathan Priest of J. Priest Insurance. "It provides complete smart device protection for everything from tablets to Roombas to up to four smart phones for \$35 a month. It even covers comprehensive screen replacements or lightning strikes, all for a small deductible and much more cost effective than through your homeowner's policy. There's a lot of upside to this and not a lot of downside."

Located at 57 Tandberg Trail R2, across the parking lot from Rustler's Steakhouse in the former Spectrum location, J. Priest Insurance provides all insurance services except health insurance.

"We offer auto, home, umbrella, life (individual and group), business, pet, disability, final expense, professional liability, financial planning, retirement planning and estate and wealth management insurance," Priest said. "What sets me apart is my desire to educate clients and potential clients about the coverages afforded by their policies and how not all policies are the same. I'd rather be up-front about having a more expensive policy and tell someone they have a great policy and a competitive rate with their current company than try to hard-sell them on my product. Folks really appreciate that."

He says Farmers, where he places most of his customers, is extremely competitive for people with multiple cars, accident-free records and few violations.

"The auto policies I can offer through Farmers are very comprehensive and can include pet coverage if they're injured in an accident; coverage for bikes and bike racks; skis and ski racks; electronic key replacement and more," Priest said. "The home policies can offer 'comprehensive; loss coverage, protecting against almost all types of losses except Flood, Earth Movement or things that happen over a longer period of time, like rotting or insect

infestation."

Priest started with MetLife Auto & Home in March 2018, and it was acquired by Farmers in 2021. He was previously a licensed sales and service "producer" with State Farm for about eight years, and then with Allstate for almost four years before being offered the MetLife agency opportunity.

"I was working as the Head Teller in a Key Bank when I was asked to come apply for a position at a State Farm agency," he said. "My first day on the job, I was the only one in the office and my agent forgot to tell me about the alarm. I looked out the window and there were several police cars in the parking lot with their blue lights on. From the squad car speakers I heard, 'Do you have keys to that office?' I held them up to show them, and they drove away. The rest is history."

For Priest, educating his clients is why he's in business.

"It's why my logo has a lighthouse, which is a symbol of enlightenment," he said. "If someone doesn't have all the information they need to choose the right insurance coverage, they are being done a disservice. This could lead to a claim not being covered, and no one wants that."

To learn more about electronic device protection or other insurance options through J. Priest Insurance, call or text 207-893-8184 or visit www.jonathanpriest.com. Find them on Facebook under J Priest Insurance Inc. <

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- \* Loon Echo Land Trust
- \* Revision Energy
- \* Norway Brewing co.
- \* Maine Morning Micro Roasters
- \* Live music by Dylan Tanguay
- \* Scale Shack Food Truck
- \* Photography by Mike Stew
- \* Wilderness Rescue Team (Search and Rescue/Medical Team)

Loon Echo Land Trust (LELT), founded in 1987, is a nonprofit organization that protects land, ensures public access to the outdoors, and builds and maintains recreational trails in Raymond, Casco, Naples, Harrison, Sebago, Bridgton, and Denmark. For more information visit LELT.org or their Facebook page. <

SERVICE Cont. from page 7

Catholic Charities Boston has a longstanding relationship with Emmanuel through both the Dorchester Food Pantry and the St. Ambrose Family Shelter, which provides shelter, support and hope for homeless families. Nearly a dozen Emmanuel students were there for the day of service, cleaning up the playground and tending to a garden that provides fresh produce for guests.

Appropriately, the day of service was largely led by student volunteers, with team captains, club officers and other young leaders pitching-in to make it happen. Those connections were made through the Office of Student Involvement. Dean of Students

Dr. Kristen Pierce said the response from student leaders was outstanding, but not surprising.

Our students are such great human beings," said Dr. Pierce. "I talked to one student who volunteered at one of the nursing homes. She's an RA who wants to be a nurse and work with the elderly, and she could not have been happier. She just spent two weeks training to become an RA and supporting homesick students and everything else, but she was happy to get up at 7:30 a.m. and go to help. It's just inspiring."

With more than 80 majors and areas of study, Emmanuel College combines outstanding classroom instruction and real-world experience to prepare students for lives of achievement, learning, and purpose. Voted the #1 college location in America by Niche.com in 2023, 2024, and 2025, Emmanuel offers easy access to world-class medical, cultural, and business organizations from 400 The Fenway in Boston. Learn more at Emmanuel.edu. <

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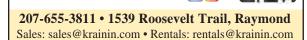
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