

Seamstress celebrates 103rd birthday at Windham party

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

On Oct. 15, 1922, direct dial phone service without a telephone operator was introduced for the first time in New York City and closer to home, the Bisbee Family of Gray welcomed a daughter, Mariam Bisbee, who was born at home that day. On Wednesday, 103 years later, Mariam Bisbee celebrated her birthday with friends and relatives, and she shows little signs of slowing down.

During a party and celebration at Ledgewood Manor in Windham, Bisbee recalled growing up on her parent’s poultry farm on Whitney Road in Gray. Both her mother, Eleanor, and her father, Will, had been school-teachers before Mariam was born and they had hopes that she would follow them and become a teacher. Mariam’s actual first name is Eleanor but because it was also her mother’s name, everyone called her by her middle name.

By the time Mariam was 6, she had learned to operate a sewing machine, and it came in handy as she made a lot of her own clothes and for her sister, Elsie.

In 1939, she traveled to New York City to attend the World’s Fair and learned about new inventions such as television and air conditioning for the first time. Upon her return to Maine, Mariam’s parents sent her to Brooksville to live with her aunt while she attended the Castine Normal School for teacher training.

“The intellectual part there was less challenging than at a high school,” she said. “I spent one awful year teaching all grades at a one-room schoolhouse in a place in Maine called Atkinson,” she said. “I didn’t enjoy it at all and wanted to do something else.”

She returned home and found another job as a seamstress at a dress factory. Both her and her sister continued to live with their parents at the family home in Gray until 1970.

“That’s when we moved the carriage house in the property over an old cellar hole and my sister and I lived there until she passed at the age of 86,” Mariam said.

She never married because as she puts it, “nobody ever asked me.”

Leaving the dress factory, Mariam found another job as a seamstress

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Alison Ashley, left, congratulates her cousin, Mariam Bisbee, who was celebrating her 103rd birthday at Ledgewood Manor in Windham on Wednesday, Oct. 22. Bisbee lived alone in her own home in Gray until moving to Windham in July. PHOTO BY ED PIERCE

Mountain Division Trail project in Windham could be part of Maine’s Three-Year Plan

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

After years of discussion, studies and surveys, the final segment to extend the Mountain Division Trail from Windham could be added to Maine Department of Transportation’s Three-Year Plan.

During a meeting of the Portland Area Comprehensive Transportation System’s Advisory Committee on Oct. 7, PACTS members voted to recommend the project to be included on MaineDOT’s Three-Year Plan spanning 2026-2027-2028.

Aubrey Miller, Senior Transportation Program Manager for the Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG), said that following the Draft Plan’s adoption by the committee, the GPCOG Policy Board will review and consider adopting the Regional Trail Plan on Oct. 23.

The \$16.2 million project will extend the Mountain Division Trail from its current end at Main Street (Route 202), in Windham, and extend the trail about 5 miles south to Bridge Street in Westbrook. Doing this will create a continuous, nearly 10-mile off-road bicycle and pedestrian transportation link running from Standish to Westbrook, Miller said.



A \$16.2 million project to extend the Mountain Division Trail from Windham to Westbrook has been recommended to be included on the Maine Department of Transportation’s Three-Year Plan. The 5-mile stretch would finish a continuous, nearly 10-mile off-road bicycle and pedestrian transportation link running from Standish to Westbrook. COURTESY PHOTO

In 2012, a preliminary design and draft report for the Mountain Division Trail using old railroad beds

and tracks was developed and submitted to the MDOT, the City of Westbrook, and Town of Windham for initial review but the project was put on hold because of insufficient funding. The project sat dormant for a decade until in 2022 the Town of Windham applied to the MDOT’s Quality Community Program, seeking funding for the design and construction of the multi-use trail.

A \$450,000 grant for engineering and design work for the project was obtained, with a report submitted to the Maine Department of Transportation upon its completion.

Once funded by MaineDOT, project work will include new pavement, gravel, curbing, drainage, signing and striping, retaining walls, fencing, and rectangular rapid flashing beacons located at the trail crossings on Bridge Street in

Westbrook, Depot Street in Windham, and Main Street (Route 202) in Windham.

Plan specifics include installing a prefabricated steel pedestrian bridge over Mallison Falls Road with a structural subconsultant hired to complete the design of the bridge. MaineDOT will hire a bridge firm to evaluate the Inkhorn Brook and Colley Wright Brook stone arch culverts and impacts to the project will be further evaluated as trail work progresses.

A final plan version was submitted to MaineDOT in July 2024 and recommended bicycle trail design speeds between 12 to 30 mph, with a speed of 18-mph being generally accepted in relatively flat areas. Because of the adjacent near rail of the railroad track, the plan called for the near edge of the trail to be set back a minimum of 15 feet from the near rail.

Plans also propose introducing vertical curves to minimize drainage and property impacts, as well

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INSIGHT

Reminiscing about home

Finding home for me is much more than the advice Dorothy received in “The Wizard of Oz” film of closing her eyes, tapping her heels together three times and thinking to herself “There’s No Place like Home.”

A few weeks ago, my wife Nancy and I drove to Henrietta, New York where members of my high school class were gathering for a picnic and reminiscing about the old days. I was back in the place where I grew up almost six decades ago and for some of my classmates, it remains home as they never left.

For me, although a great deal has changed there, it’s essentially the same place. We stopped and took photos outside our family’s old residence where I learned to ride a two-wheel bicycle in the driveway and where a neighbor’s boxer dog crashed through a glass storm door trying to get at one of our dachshunds in the mud room connecting our kitchen and the garage when I was 7.

As we drove away, Nancy had me stop and she selected a book from a Little Free Library on what used to be the corner property of the people who owned that boxer dog.

Back in 1966, we moved from the home on that street to a brand-new house in the next town over because my father didn’t like driving in the snow in the winter for four miles to get to his job as a mechanical engineer. Our new house was

Today in HISTORY

OCTOBER 17

1888 – The first issue of “National Geographic Magazine” is released.

1919 – Radio Corporation of America (RCA) is created as a subsidiary of General Electric.

1931 – Gangster Al Capone is convicted on income tax evasion charges and sentenced to 11 years in prison.

1933 – Dr. Albert Einstein arrives in the U.S. as a refugee from Nazi Germany.

1956 – The first commercial nuclear power station is officially opened at Sellafield in Cumbria, England.

1960 – The Drifters hold the Number One spot on the Billboard popular music charts with their hit “Save the Last Dance for Me.”

1965 – The New York World’s Fair closes after 18 months and hosting more than 50 million visitors.

1967 – U.S. Air Force test pilot William “Pete” Knight reaches an altitude of 102,100 feet while flying the experimental X-15 spaceplane.

less than a mile and a half away from his job and so I wanted to take a drive there and show Nancy where he worked. But unfortunately, the building where he worked had been torn down years ago and now a U.S. Post Office is there.

In checking into our hotel, neither of the desk clerks were aware that at one time the property the hotel was on was a large landing strip for Cessna and other small aircraft. In fact, that street is named for the man who owned the airfield back when I was a child.

Later during our visit to the area, we were driving after dinner to see my Aunt Barbara a few towns away from our hotel and I showed Nancy a building by the bridge in Fairport, New York where my mother’s friend opened an Italian restaurant called The Cottage. It had fabulous food, and it was the first restaurant I ever ate at that served Eggplant Parmesan and I liked it. The place closed early in the 1970s and I don’t know what’s in there now.

Across the road from there was the old gas station that my cousin Pete operated in the early 1960s. He eventually opened his own car repair business in East Rochester and now his son runs the business.

We passed the location where I would ride my bike with my brother as a major shopping center called Pittsford Plaza was under construction in 1963. It’s still there and next to a small brick building in the parking lot where my parents would visit their bank on Friday nights is a huge Barnes and Noble bookstore.

Landmarks are the same. I spotted the old smokestack of the long-closed sanitarium where my mother would threaten to drop me off if I continued to argue with her. That’s only a short way from the Rochester airport, and my backyard where I was playing after school in 1962 and I heard a large “Boom” only to watch on the 6 o’clock news that an airplane had crashed there while landing.

On that Saturday afternoon, we stopped by the Catholic school that I attended from first grade to seventh grade. It’s still a Catholic school but has a different name. The east side of the school is now a playground, but students had none of that when I went there in the 1960s.

Before leaving we drove to Sea Breeze by Lake Ontario and visited a restaurant called Don’s Original. When I was a kid, it was Don & Bob’s but now both of those men are gone yet the building looks just as it did when my mother went there as a small child in the 1920s. The food was to die for and tasted just like it did in 1977 when I stopped there while in the U.S. Air Force on my way to my new duty station in Germany.

Nancy and I left early on Sunday morning and we made good time traveling back, first on the New York State Thruway to Albany, then over to Springfield and Worcester, Massachusetts and through Portsmouth, New Hampshire and back to our house in Maine.

Inspirational Quote of the Week

“Mistakes are a fact of life. It is the response to the error that counts.” – Nikki Giovanni

Despite being nostalgic for the places I lived long ago and knowing that many of the people I knew back then are no longer around, I came to realize that home for me is not dredging up some vivid memories of my past existence, the things I did way back when, or how much things have changed at locations I used to know decades ago.

The plain and simple truth is that home for me is what I have taken with me, not what I have left behind. <

~ Ed Pierce

ON THE SPOT

What was your favorite Halloween costume you wore while trick or treating?

“The gimp from Pulp Fiction.” – Chris Twomey

•

“The witch as I had the works with striped red and white socks, black-pointed witch shoes and a real cool looking nose with great makeup, I must add.” – Miki Mayberry

•

“In the middle and late 60s a Hobo.” – Tommy Matthews

•

“When I dressed up as Rose, from Titanic! Going as her again this year!” – Morgan Peters

•

“Donatello from Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.” – Rick Seacroft

•

“Spiderman.” – David Tettley

•

“Flipper the Dolphin remains my all-time favorite, but a close second was going as Paul McCartney from The Beatles.” – Anne Glotschuck

•

“The Macho Man Randy Savage.” – Dean A. Smalley

•

“Woman’s Long Hippie Dress with hair beads, a medallion and black boots.” – Chris Macklin

•

“A door-to-door salesman with an orange vest and holding a clipboard.” – Mia Potenzio-Ransey

•

“My favorite was a walking hot dog with ketchup.” – Jude Orestes-Sanchez

•

“Lenny Kravitz while carrying my guitar.” – Mitchell B. Robinson

•

“When I was 7 my mom made us a centipede costume, and I was part of it along with my three older sisters.” – Tawny Lamabe-Punto

•

“A princess.” – Isabella Mongon

•

“One year I went as schoolgirl Britney Spears from the ‘Baby One More Time’ video. It was outrageous!” – Deirdre Schulte

•

“Thelma from Scooby Doo was a blast for me. Another year I went dressed as Jimmy Neutron.” – Mary V. Guererro

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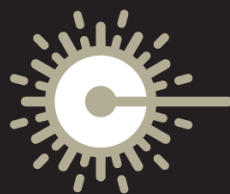
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→ **TRAIL** *Cont. from page 1*

as to improve the trail construction. It prefers that the trail width be 10 feet although reduced to 8 feet minimum for short distances where a physical barrier or right of way does not allow for the full width of the trail. The proposed shoulder widths in the plan are 3 to 5 feet.

If accepted as part of the Maine Three-Year Plan by MaineDOT, the

subgrade and surface of the trail will be graded to drain away from the rail line unless adequate drainage is provided by the trail developer to prevent trail runoff and providing that there are no impediments to normal rail line maintenance.

Equestrian use will be allowed on the proposed trail and snowmobile passage may be accommodated by removing the middle bollard of the

trail during winter months.

The proposal includes sidewalk reconstruction along Main Street (Route 202), Bridge Street, Depot Street, Pierce Street, and Stillwater Drive and rectangular rapid flashing beacons to be installed at the mid-block crossing located for Main Street (Route 202) in Windham, Depot Street in Windham and Bridge Street in Westbrook.

In November 2023, voters statewide approved the \$30 million Maine Trails Bond and funding for the new multi-use trail could be derived from that bond. Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands will administer \$30 million with about \$7.5 million per year in competitive grant funding to towns, organizations, and clubs to support the design, maintenance, and construction of trails, prioritizing accessibility and sustainable design standards. The bond provides equal access for all types of trail projects, including for motorized trail use, non-motorized uses, and multi-use trails; and to help leverage other sources of public and private funding to support trail projects in Maine.

The Mountain Division Trail itself follows the former Portland and Ogdensburg Railway. When Maine Central Railroad originally acquired the line, the name was changed to the Mountain Division Rail Line and it was originally built to connect the port of Portland with the St. Lawrence Seaway in Ogdensburg, New York with a spur connecting to Montreal. By the time that its construction was finished, there was more competition, and it became difficult for the

railroad to be profitable. Passenger service for the rail line was suspended in 1958 with freight service halted in 1983 and by 1994, all rail service on the former Mountain Division Rail Line in Maine was abandoned.

A public hearing was conducted by the state in May 2021 regarding a feasibility study to replace the existing rail tracks with a paved, multi-use trail. Under federal law, if railroad tracks are removed, the corridor needs to be railbed meaning that it is available to be converted back for railroad use if needed at any point in the future.

The first mile-and-a-half of the proposed trail leading south from South Windham is a flat walking path along an undeveloped rail bed. The remaining 3.5 miles ending on Bridge Street near the Westbrook Community Center is slightly more rugged and contains railroad tracks which would need to be removed to finish the project.

Currently the Standish-to-Windham segment of the Mountain Division Trail runs for 5.6 miles. It starts at the parking lot behind the South Windham Fire Station, and crosses Route 202, where the 10-foot-wide paved trail follows the unused rail tracks for 1.6 miles to a crossing over the Presumpscot River. Just past the Presumpscot River bridge, a side trail heads downhill past Shaw Park and to a bridge just above Gambo Dam. The trail continues west for 3 miles to a gate and then continues up a hill as a gravel path for 1.2 miles to the trailhead at the south shore of Sebago Lake. <

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Community invited to Raymond Fire & Rescue open house

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

Firefighters and emergency medical technicians are at the forefront of protecting the community and during an upcoming open house offered by Raymond Fire & Rescue, the public will be able to see firsthand how the team prepares for emergency situations and the equipment they use to save lives and property.

The Raymond Fire & Rescue Annual Open House will be conducted from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 22 at the Raymond Public Safety Building, 1443 Roosevelt Trail.

“This free, family-friendly event is a chance to meet your local EMT’s and firefighters, explore emergency equipment, and learn important safety skills,” says Scott Doyle, Public Information Officer for Raymond Fire & Rescue.

According to Doyle, the event includes free hot dogs, chips and soda for all visitors and a “Touch-a-Truck where kids and adults can get up close to fire trucks, ambulances, and other emergency vehicles.

At 5:30 p.m., participants can view a Fire Truck Push In, a firehouse tradition, and catch a glimpse of the department’s newest addition to its fleet and learn how it helps keep the community safe.

There will also be a Red Cross Disaster Response Van and Information Booth to learn about disaster response services and their free smoke alarm installation program and an opportunity to meet Cumberland County 911 Dispatchers and learn how the 911 system works.

Visitors can take part in free blood pressure readings, learn the basics of life-saving skills through CPR demonstrations, and receive tips for preventing fires and injuries from battery-powered devices at a Lithium-Ion Battery Safety Table.

Fire Extinguisher demonstrations will offer hands-on experience in using a fire extinguisher and kids will enjoy a Children’s Water Squirt Event to experience the fun side of firefighting.

Raymond firefighters will also showcase a Live Fire Engine Demonstration for the public to watch firefighters drive in, connect to a hydrant, and flow water just like they do during real emergencies.

“This event is a great opportunity for residents of all ages to get to know



Raymond Fire & Rescue’s Annual Open House is being held from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 22 at the Raymond Public Safety Building, 1443 Roosevelt Trail.

COURTESY PHOTO

their fire and rescue teams, see the equipment we use, and pick up critical safety tips,” said John Facella, Fire Prevention for Raymond Fire & Rescue. “Fire Prevention is a team effort,

and the more our community learns, the safer we all are.”

The theme for Fire Safety Month this year through the National Fire Prevention Association is “Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home” and Facella says that this year’s theme works to educate everyone about using these batteries safely.

“The campaign stresses how important it is to buy, charge and recycle safely when it comes to lithium-ion batteries.

Raymond Fire & Rescue Chief Bruce Tupper says the Annual Open House event is about building strong connections with the community while sharing valuable safety knowledge.

“It’s a chance for families to see

our work up close, learn life-saving skills, and enjoy a fun evening together,” Tupper said. “Join us for an evening of education, demonstrations, and community spirit.”

Tupper leads the department, which includes full-time, part-time, and on-call staff. Fighting fires is only a small part of what the Fire and Rescue Department does for the town of Raymond every day. They provide education, review plans for subdivisions and commercial buildings, and run programs like risk mitigation and the department also serves as Raymond’s ambulance service.

The Open House is free and open to the public and convenient parking will be available at the Raymond Public Safety Building. For more details, call 207-655-1187. <

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New talent allows Windham High to bring ‘Grease’ to life

By Erin Rose
STAFF WRITER

Students at Windham High School are working to perfect the musical “Grease” before presenting it to audiences next month at the WHS Performing Arts Center.

Set in 1959, the show follows a group of teenagers as they make their way through their senior year of high school, including navigating social groups, teen romance, and the pressures of school. It’s seen long runs on Broadway and London’s West End and was popularized by the 1978 film version featuring John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John in the lead roles of Danny and Sandy.

“The last couple of shows we did, we’re asking them to be ogres and fairy tale creatures,” Director Rob Juergens said, remembering last year’s “Shrek” and 2023’s “Spamalot” performances. “What they need to do is a show where they can be high school kids.”

Grease is Juergens’ 15th show for the district and he’s especially excited by a sudden explosion in participation, thanks to the efforts of Windham Middle School. Cast for previous shows was between 30 to 40 students. This year, 60 students turned out for the musical.



Student cast and crew members rehearse for the upcoming Windham High School musical production of the Broadway and movie smash hit “Grease” after school at the WHS Performing Arts Center last week. More than 60 students tried out to land parts in the show, which opens in November. PHOTO BY ERIN ROSE

“The middle school has been building a really nice following for their musicals,” Juergens said. “We had a huge freshman group come up.”

“I didn’t have enough knights for Spamalot, so we had a lot of girl knights. We’ve had the luck to have a lot of guys this year,” the director said.

Sticking to the original musical, the huge cast presents the opportunity to include the Burger Palace Boys (known as the “T-Birds” in the 1978 movie version), along with a full cast of supporting characters.

WHS Senior Joshua Macloughlin will be playing one of the leaders of the Burger Palace Boys, Kenickie, and is excited to see how many kids turned out to join the show this year.

“It’s cool to see such a diverse

group of kids coming together to do this. You have kids who play sports, who have only done theater, who are major academic types. Everyone can come together, regardless of what your background is, and we have a really fun community here,” he said.

Fellow Senior Kaitlyn Dickson shares Macloughlin’s excitement at seeing such a huge cast.

“It’s a little overwhelming at big rehearsals, but I do appreciate it for a musical like Grease because it’s so fun having big dance numbers with a lot of people, and I know the costumes are going to be amazing,” Dickson said.

In addition, more than 15 students will run and operate the show from behind the scenes.

“During the show, I get up, I give

my little introductory speech, and I sit down,” Juergens said. “The students run the show.”

While the show may be based in the 1950s, there are elements that continue to resonate with today’s teens.

“Friends and community are the things that stick around,” Macloughlin said.

Reaching into his own communities has helped him form a connection with his character as a love for cars is something he shares with his character Kenickie.

“I find myself in car communities, new and old. It’s like I’m in that time, buying an old beater, having a job over the summer to pay for a car,” he said. “Imagining I want something fun to ride around in and take your girlfriend out for drives in. I can really see that today.”

His love of cars will be on display as the students bring one of the show’s most popular songs to life, “Greased Lightnin’” alive.

“I can’t wait to drive on in that car,” he noted excitedly.

Dickson shares the love for the signature song.

“It’s a funky, good song,” she said. “Hopefully we can capture the visuals from the movie for that scene.”

Dickson will be playing Rizzo and is looking forward to playing another diva character after her past roles as the Dragon in “Shrek” and as the Lady Of The Lake in “Spamalot.”

“I’ve loved ‘Grease’ since I was younger, but I have always had a soft spot for my character,” she said. “Rizzo is a little complicated and very misunderstood.”

One of the songs that shows off her character’s history is “There Are Worse Things I Can Do,” and Dickson is looking forward to showing audiences a different angle of Rizzo.

“The movie showed it one way,” as relating to the movie’s reference to teen pregnancy, “while the play shows the character going through different struggles,” she said. “It’s her big moment.”

Performances of this year’s WHS musical “Grease” will be offered Friday, Saturday, and Sunday Nov. 14 through Nov. 16 and Nov. 21 to Nov. 23. <

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Nangle earns perfect score from Maine AFL-CIO for voting record supporting working families

State Senator Tim Nangle, D-Windham, received a perfect score in the Maine AFL-CIO's 2025 Legislative Scorecard for his voting record to promote fair wages, ensure safe work environments and support working families.

Nangle was one of 17 senators in Maine to earn a perfect score. The Maine AFL-CIO scored 11 initiatives considered by the 132nd Maine Legislature in 2025.

"It just makes sense to support the workers who keep Maine running," Nangle said. "When Maine's workers do well, our whole economy does well. Fair wages, safe workplaces,



— Sen. Tim Nangle

and respect on the job keep our communities strong and Maine's economy moving forward."

Senator Nangle received a perfect score for supporting proposed legislation that would lower costs for Maine's working families and protecting the state's future as a place for families to live happily and raise a family.

During the 132nd Maine Legislature, Nangle supported legislation to:

Protect the income of federal and state employees during government shutdowns

Guarantee a minimum wage for

Maine farm workers

Fund Pre-K to 12 public education programs by making the wealthiest pay their fair share

Strengthen pre-apprenticeship programs that bolster Maine's workforce

Improve recruitment, retention and pay for state employees

Ensure that the workers powering Maine's clean energy transition are compensated fairly with good benefits

Help law enforcement and first responders access treatment for PTSD.

Fund Maine government services and programs, including education and revenue sharing.

The senator also opposed a perennial effort that would weaken the ability of workers to organize for better wages and safe working conditions.

Since becoming a state senator, Nangle has consistently supported working families each year he's served in the Maine Legislature, receiving a perfect score from the Maine AFL-CIO in 2023, 2024, and 2025. <

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Local poet composes new work to honor life of Bill Diamond

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

A Windham resident who believes that written words can soothe the emotional pain associated with grief has composed a new poem expressing his sadness over the loss of his long-time friend, former Windham legislator Bill Diamond.

Clark grew up in Windham and

started writing poetry in high school and continued to do so while attending college at Gorham State Teachers College in the late 1960s, publishing poems in campus literary publications. It was at the college that Clark met and became friends with Diamond.

“Bill and I had been friends for nearly 60 years,” Clark said. “Bill was

involved in campus politics and inspired me to do the same.”

While Clark dabbled at writing poetry in college, he took classes devoted to looking at the meaning, motives and expression of poetry and it validated for him that creative use of the written word was legitimate in the modern world.

After his college days, Clark joined the Peace Corps and says he found that in the Spanish-speaking places that he traveled to that he noticed the tone and sound of words that people responded to and their connection to the written word.

He said that writing poetry allows him to observe, perceive, and communicate something of lasting worth.

“The attempt becomes one of organizing and polishing an idea that might otherwise lay dormant as single words scattered throughout pages of a dictionary,” Clark described his writing experience in a previous newspaper interview.

He said he begins each poem that he writes with the natural state and brings a connection to the human experience.

“I lay the landscape, then make a human connection so you’re really there with me for a touch of humanity,” he said. “It underlines the human character and makes a connection to the natural world. To write is to feel freedom and it’s a freedom to use words as images and images as expressions of comfort and joy as well as concern or unease.”

Clark’s new poem is not the first

time he used poetry to express his feelings about loss and grief. Following the mass shooting in Lewiston in 2023, he composed a poem and presented it before the Lewiston City Council to show the concern of individuals statewide about the tragedy.

When Diamond, who represented Windham as a State Senator and a State Representative and he also created the “Walk a Mile in Their Shoes Foundation” to address problems associated with child homicide in Maine and children under state-supervised foster care, died on Aug. 31, Clark says that he was devastated.

“His friendly wave on his way to North Windham was always savored,” Clark said. “Out his car window I remember his shout – ‘Way to go Bobby, keep up the good work!’ On his behalf I wanted to relate a few words in public and have fashioned them as a brief poem stanza.”

To honor his friend, Clark wrote a new poem called “The Angle Blade” upon learning of the death of Diamond.

“He was always thinking of and working tirelessly for the benefit of others, and he has, even in his passing, invented a way for us to do the same,” Clark said. “Walk a Mile in Their Shoes” has organized a lifetime of his concerns and as the Windham signboard says Bill, we miss you.”

The Angle Blade
Walking the angle blade
Steady, sure, ahead of steps
More work to be done. <

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October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month: Through These Doors assists victims seeking safety

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

Through These Doors is Cumberland County’s domestic violence resource center which offers a wide range of services to individuals and families who are experiencing domestic abuse and related issues. It provides community education, prevention, and training about domestic abuse and a residential shelter program to assist victims of domestic violence, stalking, dating violence, and human trafficking in seeking safety from an abuser.

The program operates a 16-bed residential shelter that serves as a

temporary home for those in danger or homeless due to domestic violence and provides shelter referrals, advocacy, housing assistance, and referrals to other shelters and housing resources.

Advocates from the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence network worked with 14,810 people statewide in 2024. Of that, 12,385 of those were directly experiencing abuse and violence and 48 percent of adults served had at least one child in their home. For those served in 2024, 2,418 people received housing help, including emergency sheltering, transitional support, housing navigation,

homelessness prevention, and housing problem solving. Statewide in 2024, 324 households, including 218 children, found refuge in emergency sheltering problems.

Nationally, 1 in 4 women and 1 in 10 men have experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence or stalking by an intimate partner and reported a related impact such as being fearful, concerned for safety, needed medical care, needed help from law enforcement, and missed work or school during their lifetime. Statistics also show that most domestic violence is committed against women (82 percent) as compared to

→ see **ABUSE** Page 10

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shiloh1227@aol.com



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ABSENTEE VOTING HAS NOW BEGUN

for the State Referendum & Municipal Ballot for the November 4, 2025 Elections

You can vote absentee by:

- 1). Coming into the Clerk’s Office during business hours*
- 2). Calling 892-1900 to have a ballot mailed to you,
- 3). Have a family member sign out your ballots

IF YOU NEED TO REGISTER TO VOTE:
the Registrar of Voters is available at Town Hall during regular business hours*, & at the polls on Election Day from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Please bring your I.D. & proof of residency. If your address or name has changed, you must update it before voting.

OUR LATE NIGHT & LAST DAY TO ABSENTEE VOTE WILL BE THURS., OCTOBER 30 UNTIL 7:00 P.M.

All ballots must be returned to the Clerk’s Office no later than 8:00 p.m. on November 4 to be counted.

For your convenience you may deposit your absentee ballot envelopes in the Secure Ballot Drop Box at the Town Hall’s front entrance, bring them inside or mail them back to us using one postage stamp

Election Day voting will take place at the Windham High School, 406 Gray Road in the Auxiliary Gym. The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

*CLERK’S HOURS: Monday/Wednesday 7am - 5pm, Tuesday 7am - 6pm & Thursday 7am - 4pm
Closed Friday

For more info call the Town Clerk’s Office at 892-1900.
Thank you, Linda Morrell - Town Clerk

→ ABUSE *Cont. from page 9*

men (18 percent).

The impact of domestic violence upon children and young people is astounding. Each year, 1 in 15 children live in homes where one of the parents or a parent's partner abuses the other adult and 90 percent of these children are eyewitnesses to the violence.

According to the 2023 Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey, 18.3 percent of Maine middle schoolers report that violence or the threat of violence in their home has caused them to have to leave home, even if only temporarily.

Dr. Andrine Belliveau of Lake Region Animal Hospital says domestic

violence even upends the lives of family pets as less than 20 percent of local domestic violence shelters accept pets and that is a huge barrier for victims leaving their partners. Belliveau says that Purina's Purple Leash Program is a national program which provides funding to domestic violence shelters to help them accommodate dogs and cats, but it remains a significant problem.

Families staying at Through These Doors shelter receive necessities such as food, clothing, and personal care items; ongoing, comprehensive safety



planning; education and information about the dynamics of domestic violence; specific referrals to community resources; assistance with applying for and obtaining safe, stable housing and other resources; and ongoing housing support services after leaving the shelter. They also have a 24-Hour Helpline in which a trained Through These Doors advocate is available round the clock by phone for support, information, and safety planning. You do not have to be in crisis or in need of shelter to call the helpline. Call 1-800-537-6066 with questions or talk with someone who will listen to you without judgment or telling you what to do.

Currently, Through These Doors is accepting monetary and in-kind donations.

The most urgently needed donated items include:

- Cookware sets like pots and pans (multiple sets needed) (preferably new or gently used, acceptance is condition based)
- Dinnerware sets for at least 4 place settings (multiple sets needed) (preferably new, acceptance is condition based)
- Bath Towel sets – 2 big towels, 1-2 hand towels, and 2 washcloths (have to be new)
- Diapers, specifically sizes 4t, 5t, and 6t (can be accepted out of original packaging, as long as they are not damaged or expired)
- Countertop Blenders (preferably new or gently used, acceptance is con-

dition based)

- Can openers, manual or electric (preferably new, acceptance is condition based)
- Backpacks (new or gently used)
- Sturdy tote bags and storage/moving boxing (preferably new, acceptance is condition based)

Other items Through These Doors needs are:

- Tech accessories like phone chargers, headphones, ear buds (new)
- Gift cards of any amount (new or unused with original purchase balance) to stores like Walmart, Market Basket, Walgreens, Dunkin Donuts, Hannaford, Target, Trader Joes, Macy's, TJ Maxx, or gas station cards from Cumberland Farms or Shell. Household cleaning supplies like laundry detergent, dish soap, sponges, dishwasher or laundry pods, dryer sheets, Swiffer's and Swiffer pads, dusters, Clorox wipes, multi-purpose kitchen and bathroom cleaners, microfiber cleaning cloths, and kitchen towels. (unopened, new, and unexpired products only please)
- Self-care and personal care products like shampoo and conditioner, especially for curly/textured hair. As well as body wash, hand soap, and baby soap. Skin care and makeup are appreciated as well! (unopened, new, and unexpired products only please)
- Personal care tools and accessories like Q-Tip's, cotton rounds, face wipes, body wipes, makeup remover, nail files or clippers, and hair ties are also accepted (unopened, new, and unexpired only please).

For more information on services offered or how you can help visit www.throughthesedoors.org. <



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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH



LOVE SHOULDN'T HURT

If you or someone you know are in an abusive relationship, help is available 24/7.

Call 1-800-537-6066

Trained, experienced advocates are available 24 hours a day by phone for support, information, and safety planning. They're here to listen and support.

Wearing a purple ribbon in October means: I stand in solidarity with survivors, I honor those lost to domestic violence, & raise awareness to help prevent abuse & promote safe relationships.

The following business support victims and survivors of domestic abuse and putting an end to domestic violence in Maine

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Domestic Violence Resources & Advocacy

www.throughthesedoors.org

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES:

TTD's Shelter Program assists victims of domestic violence, stalking, dating violence, and human trafficking in seeking safety from an abuser. The 16-bed shelter provides a private location of adults and their children.

Families staying at TTD's shelter receive:

- Necessities such as food, clothing, and personal care items
- Ongoing, comprehensive safety planning
- Education and information about the dynamics of domestic violence
- Referrals to community resources
- Assistance with applying for and obtaining safe, stable housing and other resources
- Ongoing housing support services

SUPPORT GROUPS: TTD provides a variety of support groups, all of which are FREE and CONFIDENTIAL. These groups are for anyone who has or is currently experiencing abuse in their relationship. Groups are facilitated by trained domestic violence advocates who listen, offer emotional support, and provide information and referrals to other resources. Childcare & transportation are often available.

- **ADVOCACY SERVICES** – Incarcerated Women's Programs, Human Trafficking, Abuse in Later Life, Court Advocacy, Child Protective Services Liaison, and Enhanced Police Intervention Collaboration (EPIC).
- **EDUCATION & PREVENTION** – Their educators and prevention advocates are dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of anti-oppression work and inspiring others through workshops and interactive programming.
- **YOUNG ADULT ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM** – Workshops provide youth with info and tools needed to think critically about relationships, encourage media awareness, and develop healthy relationships. Workshops are free to middle and high schools in Cumberland County.

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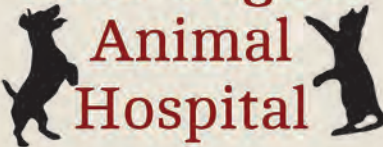
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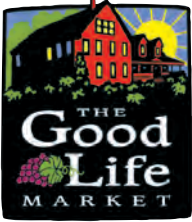
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Southern Maine Women's Reentry Center partners with veterans' group to build floating docks for Maine Marine Patrol

In May 2025, Vocational Trades Instructor (VTI) Corrine Bailey and the crew from the Southern Maine Women's Reentry Center (SMWRC) in Windham, part of the Maine Department of Corrections (MDOC), began construction of a series of float-

ing docks for the Maine Marine Patrol, based out of Boothbay Harbor.

This latest project built on a successful partnership between MDOC and Boothbay V.E.T.S., a local veterans' organization that previously collaborated with the crew on building emergency

shelters for veterans in the region. That prior experience made for a seamless transition into the new dock construction project.

"Hands-on projects like this give our crew valuable real-world experience while supporting Maine communities," said Bailey. "Working again with Boothbay V.E.T.S. and contributing to the Marine Patrol's operations has been an incredible opportunity."

Boothbay V.E.T.S. President Ed Harmon and Vice President Arthur Richardson offered the use of their workshop in Boothbay to complete the builds. Materials were supplied by Custom Float Services in South Portland and delivered in stages as work progressed.

The SMWRC team constructed eight floats in total – two measuring 10 feet by 24 feet, two at 8 feet by 25 feet, and four at 8 feet by 20 feet. The 8 feet by 20 feet docks are linked together and positioned parallel to the existing pier, requiring precise measurement to ensure proper placement of rub rails



Some of Windham's Southern Maine Women's Reentry Center residents join Boothbay V.E.T.S. President Ed Harmon and Vice President Arthur Richardson after building new floating docks for the Maine Marine Patrol. SUBMITTED PHOTO

and chains.

Built to withstand rough seas and large vessel mooring, each dock features 4 inch by 8 inch pressure-treated frames and longitudinal joists ranging from 20 feet to 30 feet in length. Once outfitted with piling chains, boat cleats, and hardware, each dock weighs more than 2.5 tons.

On Sept. 19, a crane and truck from Fullers transported the completed floats, loading two at a time and hauling them to Juniper Point, where they were secured to a mooring. Final placement of the docks is scheduled for this month.

FMI about SMWRC visit www.maine.gov/corrections/smwrc <

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LETTERS
to the editor

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Editor,
Why I'm voting for Clayton Haskell. Remember the last Town Budget Meeting?

Some five or so years ago, Clayton Haskell and others were "finally" replaced on the Council (to the great joy of a remaining Councilman) by, "educated like-minded people;" "now we can get things done." Well, they did and if you don't believe it, look at your tax bill.

We voted down a Community Center because we couldn't afford it; so it was parted out to "Education" and "Public Safety." What kind of person votes against education and paying firemen?

"Looking ahead" means "budgeting ahead" so we don't get in that situation" TIFs" (though having some merits used correctly), "grants" and especially the cherished "Impact Fees" are not tax relief; they're just taking money out of our other pocket. So, I'm voting for Clayton Haskell.

It's good that we are teaching about finances in earlier grades, but who are they learning from – our leaders?

I've not always agreed with Clay-

ton nor he with me. When he was on the Planning Board (as with others who graduated to the Council) he was unmoving in his opposition to a project we presented. I still think he was mistaken about our motivation but there was no mistake about his. His concern was for Windham then and it is now. I'm voting for Clayton Haskell for the same reasons I did before.

"Clayton will spend our money as conscientiously as his own; he will be forthright and honest – no silly renaming or re-dos of unpopular issues. No impressing us with his credentials and accomplishments." Solid footing today is the only way for a solid future tomorrow. I'm voting for Windham and I'm voting for Clayton Haskell.

~ Lynda McDonald, Windham

Editor,
Support Question 1 for Election Integrity.

This November, Mainers will

have the chance to vote on Question 1 – the referendum to require voter identification at the polls. I strongly encourage my neighbors to vote yes.

At its heart, Question 1 is about restoring confidence in our elections. Whether you are Republican, Democrat, or Independent, we should all agree that fair and secure elections are the cornerstone of our democracy. Just as we show identification to board a plane, buy certain medications, or even check out a library book, it is common sense to provide ID when casting a ballot.

This referendum does not create new barriers – it simply ensures that every vote cast is legitimate and belongs to the person presenting it. In

→ see LETTERS Page 21



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Marshall Youngs



Grade: 3 **School:** Windham Primary School
Teacher: Mr. Miller
Favorite subject(s): Reading is his favorite subject because he says it is fun, and you can read new book series.
Parents' names: Bradley and Sarah Youngs
Reason for selection: Marshall is an important part of the classroom community. He works each day to demonstrate the 3B's (Windham Primary School Rules). Marshall shows what responsibility, respect, and being safe should look like in third grade. He also shows incredible kindness in the way he's always eager to help a classmate in need. He is currently in his second year as a WPS student advisory member. As a member of this group, Marshall works to represent the students of Windham Primary School. He helps give a voice to the entire student body. He shares good ideas about how to make his school a better place. He is always willing to help others. It's quite a special responsibility!



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Presumpscot River Revival Race, sponsored by The Friends of the Presumpscot River, is returning for the first time since 1995. Celebrate the river's comeback 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=ebdssbdest-search

Craft Fair

The Windham Lions Club will host a Craft Fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18 at the North Windham Union Church, 723 Roosevelt Trail. There will be crafts galore including crocheted items, scents and soaps, jewelry pieces, a raffle with over 40 items and more. Lunch will be available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. FMI, call 207-776-0469.

Bean Supper

American Legion Field-Allen Post 148 will offer a Bean Supper from 4:30 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 18 at the Windham Veterans Center. Meal includes a variety of beans, chili, mac and cheese, American chop suey, potato salad, red hot dogs, desserts and beverages. Cost is \$10 and kids under 12 eat for free. FMI, call 207-892-1306.

Beginner Mah Jongg

The Windham Public Library at 217 Windham Center Road, is hosting a Beginner's American Mah Jongg session from 1 to 3 p.m. Friday, Oct. 24. Join Mary Lou Tracy and other American Mah Jongg enthusiasts on the first and fourth Friday of the month in the library's Meeting Room. All ages and abilities are welcome. FMI, call 207-892-1908.

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.

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LETTERS *Cont. from page 19*

fact, a wide majority of Americans already support voter ID laws, and more than 30 states have adopted some form of them. Maine should not be left behind.

Voting is one of our most cherished rights and protecting it protects us all. By voting Yes on Question 1, we can strengthen trust in our system, discourage fraud, and give every Mainer greater confidence that their voice truly counts.

Let's make Maine elections both accessible and secure. Join me in voting Yes on Question 1.

~ Barbara Bagshaw, Windham

Editor,

I'm truly saddened by the negativity and misinformation that has been circulating about good people in our community.

Adam Zajac is a devoted father who cares deeply for his children and for the well-being of all students. His involvement began when his sixth-grade son discovered an inappropriate book in the school library – one that included explicit adult themes.

Shocked by its content and placement, his son brought it home to share his concerns with his father. When Adam learned that the librarian had even offered his son another, more graphic novel, he felt compelled to take action.

Adam supported his son in bringing the issue before the School Board. He read a brief passage from the book during a public meeting, and the story soon gained national attention. Since then, Adam has continued to attend board meetings to advocate for age-appropriate materials in our schools. Many parents joined him in months-long book review challenges though ultimately, the board decided the book could remain.

Whether one agrees or disagrees with that outcome, it's important to remember that differing opinions should never lead to personal attacks. The unkind things that have been said about Adam are deeply unfair. He is not a divisive person – he is a caring father who believes our schools should focus first and foremost on academic excellence.

I will be voting for Adam because

I share his belief that we need to get back to the basics. Our children deserve a strong academic foundation, and I know Adam will work hard to ensure that happens.

~ Karen Schanz, Windham

Editor,

After talking with Destiny Johnson, I understood exactly what she means by creating "safe schools." She's not just talking about emotional safety. She's talking about physical security that gives parents peace of mind. Destiny believes we can secure our schools by working hand in hand with local law enforcement and employee security training.

As a parent, I couldn't agree more. We shouldn't have to wonder whether our kids are secure in their classrooms. I appreciated how Destiny listened to my concerns and shared practical ideas that balance safety, transparency, and collaboration. Her

thoughtful, hands-on approach reflects real leadership.

That's why I'm asking my fellow Windham residents to join me in voting Destiny Johnson for Windham School Board.

~ Jen Marquis, Windham

Editor,

While I'm not 100 percent against voter ID, I am 100 percent against Question 1.

Our voting system in Maine is doing just fine with very little or no fraud and makes it easy for so many Mainers to vote. Question 1 will do little to lower any fraud but a lot to make it more difficult to vote. That's not what I want to happen.

Vote No on Question 1 this time. Come up with a voter ID referendum that doesn't make it more difficult for Mainers to vote. That might get my support.

~ Bill Keller, Windham



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Windham High girls' soccer continues winning streak

By Matt Pascarella
STAFF WRITER

Windham High's varsity girls' soccer team played Bonny Eagle and earned its fourth consecutive victory in shutting out the Scots 4-0 at Windham on Friday, Oct. 10.

Senior Marley Jarvais and Neve Ledbetter both scored in the first half. Sophomore Morgan Clark scored her first varsity goal in the second half, then Ledbetter found the back of the net again partway through the second half.

"I think a lot of effort and grit led to tonight's win, we don't give up," said Clark. "Lately, we've been doing a really good job distributing through the middle and switching the field. That's something we've struggled with in the first part of the season, but we've worked really hard and we've gotten better at it. Our first touches (need work), but that will get better as the season goes on."

The Eagles had solid defense and took multiple shots at goal with high intensity. Jarvais found the back of the net roughly 10 minutes into the half. Windham never let up. Senior Neve Ledbetter scored off a corner kick and Windham led 2-0 at intermission.

"I think the past couple weeks we've been working really hard, and we've been showing up to practice and showing up for each other," said Ledbetter. "It was a team effort, and it started from the back, and it started from the first play. We've come out the second half (strong) to prove we belong in this game. I feel like the



(Clockwise from top left) Windham senior Neve Ledbetter fires the ball into the net during a girls' soccer game against Bonny Eagle at Windham on Friday Oct. 10. Junior Mackenzie Delewski keeps the ball away from her opponents as she heads toward the goal. Sophomore Morgan Clark is about to shoot the ball at the goal. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

second half we played a little bit harder than the first because we're more warmed up and more ready to play. We should always play super hard for each other and who we represent."

The second half brought just as much hustle as the first half as Windham's offense continued to take shot-after-shot at goal.

Clark scored her first varsity goal when she sent the ball fast right at the goalie and it flew over their team's fingertips and into the net.

"It had felt so good, especially after beginning to feel a little frustrated that I hadn't scored with it being so late in the season," said Clark.

"The team had been talking to me about it during team dinners always saying how I was going to get one, and the coaches were also reassuring me. It felt good to score, but it felt even better to know I was supported by my team."

Ledbetter scored again before the end of the second half. Windham commanded the field in the second half and defense kept Bonny Eagle away.

"Ever since our Kennebunk loss we've been focusing on better passing to feet and trying to read the defense; is the outside open, which tonight was the better way to go," said Windham varsity girls' soccer coach Deb Lebel. "We're reading defenses better which has led to some success. One thing



that's going great is we've got a lot of people scoring – it was super exciting to have Morgan Clark score her first goal, she's been working really hard, and they were all so happy for her. One thing that we can probably keep working on is not as many touches in the middle of the field because that's where the ball gets stripped from us if we pass too slowly."

On Monday, Oct. 13, Windham defeated South Portland, at South Portland High School, 6-1, to extend its winning streak to five. <

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Gracie McPherson

Age: 16 **Team:** WHS varsity field hockey
Coach: Maddy Perfetti
Parents' names: Renee and Todd McPherson
Reason for selection: Gracie holds the center of the field with patience and a strong field IQ. She distributes the ball well and leads by example with her hustle and competitiveness during games. She is always seeking to improve her individual skills along with her understanding of the game. Coaches see her checking in quickly with teammates when she sees a change in demeanor. She always brings a positive, hard-working attitude while remaining relaxed and low stress. One asset that Gracie brings to the team is her low stick with good footwork. She is able to defensively breakdown play in the midfield without fouling and then is able to redistribute the ball to start the offense. This, paired with great attitude and demeanor makes her perfect for the role of center midfield. She has stepped into a starting varsity role with grace and composure that you rarely see from someone only in their second season with the sport.

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Youth Soccer Under-11 teams excel during tournament

By Matt Pascarella
STAFF WRITER

Two Windham Youth Soccer Association Under-11 boys' teams, one led by coach Chris Hadidian and another by coach Dustin Roma, played in the Falmouth Fall Classic, an annual tournament hosted by the Falmouth Youth Soccer Association. The three-day tournament brings in teams from all over the state and is a great opportunity for teams to see a wide range of skills and play against a variety of athletes.

At the youth Under-11 level, only one Windham boys' team was allowed, so the two WYSA teams played a combined game where each team played a half on Saturday, Oct. 11 against Portland where Windham won 7-1. Hadidian's team played Brunswick and won 6-1 on Sunday, Oct. 12. Roma's team played Dirigo LLC on Sunday, Oct. 12 and won 3-1.

"It felt amazing, and it was really fun to play in the tournament," said WYSA youth-11 Roma player Ryan Richards. "We played ... two games, that's pretty fun. Playing with our team was fun and soccer is just really fun."

Richards said playing in the Falmouth Fall Classic helped him score more goals and scoring more goals makes you a better soccer player.

John Woodcock, a member of the Windham Hadidian team, said the tournament was fun and competitive; it's always good to play against competitive teams.

Both teams are having strong regular seasons. Hadidian's has a record of 5-0. Roma's team has a record of 4-1.

Windham Hadidian versus Brunswick – Brunswick scored early, but Windham defense wouldn't allow more than that goal. Windham's John Woodcock scored and tied the game 1-1. Offense was really giving the Brunswick goalie a workout.

In the second half, Windham's Archer Burnham scored. Windham had hustle and their offense remained strong.

Woodcock scored twice more before the final whistle.

"It's always good to play against other competitive teams," said Woodcock. "We took more shots than usual from farther away and that profited in our favor. (He learned) it is important



(L to R) Windham Youth Soccer Association Under-11 player Ryan Richards is first to the ball during a Falmouth Fall Classic game against Dirigo LLC at Falmouth on Sunday, Oct. 12. John Woodcock fires it past the goalie. Archer Burnham approaches the goal. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

to have strong people to pass up field." Windham's Eliace Hadidian and Trent Richard scored in the second half.

"They always bring the intensity, teamwork and lots of good passing," said Chris Hadidian about what led to the team win over Brunswick. "They are fun to watch. The Fall Classic gives the boys more exposure to a wider variety of teams and possibly allows them the opportunity to play against a team they have not played before. The tournament helps them learn how to transition from playing one team to another all in a day or a weekend. I think it helps them greatly with their teamwork and personal development."

Windham Roma versus Dirigo LLC – WYSA Roma started by working hard to be first to the ball. They passed well and took multiple shots on goal. Offense and defense were strong. Richards scored twice in the first half.

The second half brought just as much hustle from Windham as the first. Defense held back Dirigo though they did score once. Logan Poirier scored for Windham.

Richards said they were successful as a team because they had more scoring opportunities. It felt really good for him to score because his team needed that to stay ahead.

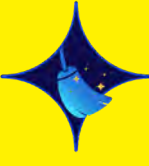
It's a different type of intensity at a

tournament," said Roma. "All around the energy is just higher. Windham feeds off that energy; I feel for us, we play better in this environment, than

playing a regular season game. High energy helps us a lot. It was having high intensity from the beginning that led to the win." <



Logan Poirier sends the ball between two opponents and toward the goal.



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Windham in the ‘60s: Back to the old hometown

► **By Max Millard**
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE

In September 2025, I returned from my adopted city of San Francisco to revisit my boyhood terrain of Windham Center. I grew up with the Hawksees, Quimbys, and Bennetts, all of whom had children about the same age as my family. It was a tight neighborhood, in which we attended school together and would drop into each other’s homes without calling.

But in the last year and a half, two stalwarts of that era – Florence Hawkes and Jim Quimby – passed on, along with our more recent neighbor, Bill Diamond. Florence, who died in March 2024 at age 99, liked to tell me how the

town had changed since the early 1960s. She said that Windham kids no longer went trick-or-treating from house to house but instead would organize Halloween parties in their own homes. This saddened me, for I remembered the thrill of Halloween night, when a group of us in costume would prowl Windham Center Road and its tributaries, walking until we had hit every house within range.

One Halloween, Lloyd Bennett wanted to join us, but his mother Nellie had a stiff-necked belief that trick-or-treating was begging and forbid her children from indulging. Lloyd came with us anyway, but at the first house, the matron denied him a treat because he had no costume. So, he dashed home

and returned with a nylon stocking stretched over his face. It mashed his nose and distorted his features enough so that this “costume” sufficed for the rest of the night.

A few families in the area maintained their privacy, maybe because they had no children of our generation. At the corner of Windham Center Road and Nash Road lived Phil Tubbs, the town plumber. He was a consummate professional, but otherwise a stranger to us. Although his house was the closest to us geographically, our only interaction with him was when he was lying on our kitchen floor, fixing a leaking pipe under the sink.

Mrs. Tubbs was an equal mystery. My only encounter with her was on Halloween night, when she held out a large bowl of wrapped half-penny candies, and when I tried to grab a handful, she gently slapped my hand and said, “Take only one.”

Jim Quimby, who left us in June 2025, was a popular local figure who for decades co-owned and operated Thayer’s Store on River Road with his wife Judy. His funeral in Windham drew hundreds of people.

The last time I saw Jim was about 10 years ago, when I stopped by his store during a visit to Maine to buy a couple of Italian sandwiches. Jim was behind the counter. He greeted me warmly, and we chatted while he prepared the Italians.

Almost the first words he spoke were a slightly discomfited apology for something he’d done 50 years before. It happened on a summer day when I’d just returned from camping in Canada with my family. I had brought back a paper bag filled with fireworks of every variety. They were illegal in Maine, and I probably bragged about them. Suddenly Jim pulled a matchbook out of his pocket, lit a match and dropped it into the bag. Within seconds, the contents were reduced to a smoldering ruin.

I had never forgotten the incident, but it surprised me to learn that it might have troubled him for all those years. He gave me the sandwiches for free and sheepishly admitted that he no longer drenched them with olive oil but had switched to cottonseed oil.

Just one more reminder that some things were better in the old days. <

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NOTICE OF MEETING

Tuesday, October 28, 2025 • 7:00 PM

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You are hereby notified that the Raymond Appeals Board will hold a meeting on **Tuesday, October 28, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.** to review and ratify Finding of Facts and Decision on the following application:

APPLICANT: Teresa Ellis, Dennis Martin & Lisa Martin
LOCATION: Map 78/Lot 62A Zone LRR 1
DESCRIPTION: Administrative Appeal of Permit issued July 22nd, 2025 to Sheena-Jo Randall and Jonathan Stickney for a 4 x 4 temporary platform with stairs to access Thomas Pond.

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

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REAL ESTATE & Home

Drought conditions put pressure on Maine homeowners and wells

► **By Nicole Foster**
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE



— Nicole Foster,
Broker/REALTOR®

Notably low levels of precipitation beginning in January, combined with Maine’s sixth driest summer on record, have led to prolonged drought conditions across the state. Some regions are now experiencing the most severe dryness in the entire Northeast. According to the National Weather Service, Maine would need roughly 150 percent of its normal rainfall – an additional six to twelve inches—over the next several weeks to end the drought before the ground freezes. Once the soil is frozen, precipitation can no longer be absorbed to replenish groundwater reserves, meaning that underground aquifers and private wells will not begin to recover until spring.

For many Mainers, the effects of this dry spell are not just visible in the foliage but felt directly at home. More than half of the state’s households rely on private wells for their water supply and when rainfall is scarce, the water table drops in the underground aquifers—and with it, the availability of water to private wells.

According to the Maine Drought Task Force, a division of the Maine Emergency Management Agency, more than 500 homeowners have reported

their wells running dry this year, including 66 in Cumberland County. Those numbers may continue to rise if conditions persist through fall and into winter, as the long-range forecasts suggest.

For homeowners, now is the time to take proactive steps to protect your well by conserving what you currently have, and to make sure your property is prepared for what could be an extended drought cycle.

Start by checking your home’s plumbing to look for any leaks. Even small leaks that seem insignificant can waste dozens of gallons of water each day. During a drought, that loss can be impactful. Faucets and pipes, toilets and garden hoses are common areas for leaks to develop and sometimes the fix may be as easy as a new washer being installed.

Next, evaluate how efficiently your household uses water. Installing faucet aerators and low-flow shower heads equipped with flow restrictors is an easy and inexpensive way to reduce water consumption. When it’s time to replace fixtures or appliances, look for models carrying the WaterSense or Energy Star label, which identify products that meet higher efficiency standards. Modern low-flow toilets use less than half the water of older designs, conserving water with every flush.

Outdoor water management also plays a key role. Adjust irrigation sched-

ules to early morning or late evening to minimize evaporation and consider using soaker hoses or drip irrigation systems that deliver water directly to plant roots. Mulching garden beds helps the soil retain moisture and protects roots from temperature swings. Collecting rainwater in barrels or cisterns can supplement outdoor watering needs when rainfall is available.

When purchasing an already existing home, review any history of quantity issues the homeowner has disclosed and when purchasing a newly constructed home make sure that the well driller is licensed and in good standing with the Maine Well Drillers Commission.

Understand where your well is located and ideally know how deep it is, how many gallons per minute it yields and how long it takes to recover from use. Take note of any changes in water pressure, air sputtering from faucets, or cloudy water—these may be early signs that your water table is dropping. Homeowners can monitor well levels themselves or hire a professional to conduct a depth test. In some cases, deepening an existing well or installing a storage tank may be a practical long-term

solution depending on your needs.

A well is said to have run dry when the water level inside the well drops below the level of the well pump intake. This does not necessarily mean that the aquifer which supplies water to your well has gone dry. Some of the signs that a well may be starting to run dry include: a decrease in the water pressure, your water supply taking longer to recover after use, a noticeable change in appearance or smell, your well pump seems to be running constantly or your faucets begin to sputter with air. Should your well run dry, contact 2-1-1.

While we can’t control the weather, we can control how we respond to it. Maine homeowners have always been known for their resilience and self-reliance. By inspecting your plumbing, updating fixtures, and practicing smart water habits, you can protect your household’s water supply, reduce waste, and help preserve one of our state’s most valuable natural resources—clean, reliable groundwater.

Author Nicole Foster is a real estate broker with over 20 years of experience and a Windham parent who loves real estate and people. <

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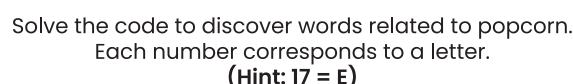
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PUZZLES & GAMES

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

ACORNS	CINNAMON	HARVEST	RAKE
APPLE	CORNUCOPIA	LEAVES	SCARECROW
AUTUMN	CRISP	MAPLE	SEPTEMBER
BONFIRE	FESTIVAL	MAZE	SPICE
CHILLY	FOLIAGE	ORCHARD	SUNSET
CIDER	GOURDS	PUMPKIN	SWEATER



Clue: Tasty quality

Clue: Inner part of a seed

Clue: Cooking device

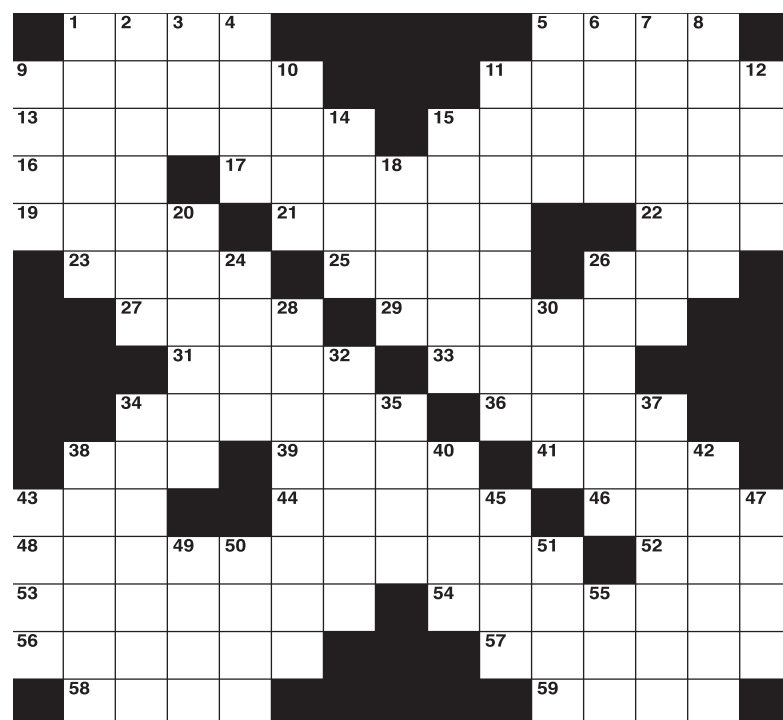
Clue: Explode

Answers: A. buttery B. kernel C. microwave D. pop

B	A	B	E		B	A	Y	A		A	M	B	L	E
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T	A	K	E		T	A	L	C		A	G	A	T	E
S	H	E	R	L	O	C	K	H		O	L	M	E	S
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A	N	O	A	S			T	A	L	E		E	B	O



.....CROSSWORD PUZZLE.....



1. Difficult
5. Coarsely ground corn
9. There's one for the "world"
11. Loved Romeo
13. Sticky situation
15. Pelvic areas
16. An informal debt instrument
17. Cannot be repaired surgically
19. A device attached to a workbench
21. Related on the mother's side
22. Sound unit
23. __ Sagan, astronomer
25. Utah city
26. A disappointing effort
27. Steal goods during a riot
29. Wakes up
31. Hair salon service
33. Serenaded
34. Looked intensely
36. U.S. Air Force expert Robert F.
38. A type of cast
39. One's duty
41. Where golfers begin
43. Make a mistake
44. Semitic sun god
46. Ancient Greek City
48. Having had the head cut off
52. A place to stay
53. Unwise
54. Most unnatural
56. Dennis is a notable one
57. Ointments
58. Students' exam
59. Leaked blood

1. Brave
2. Act of awakening
3. Jest at
4. Sandwich store
5. Chapter of the Koran
6. Dismounted
7. Small vehicle
8. Irrked
9. One who earns by disreputable dealings
10. Monetary unit of Samoa
11. Long, mournful lamentation
12. Weight unit
14. Alone, single
15. Decreases
18. Indicates beside
20. Worn by exposure to the weather
24. A body of traditions
26. College students' ultimate goal
28. Amino acid
30. Nasal mucus
32. US government entity
34. Swinish
35. Legislative body in Russia
37. Grant an exemption to
38. Put in advance
40. Satisfy
42. Felt
43. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
45. Witnesses
47. Picnic invaders
49. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
50. Ancient person of Scotland
51. Cheerless
55. Unwell

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.

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

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Clark is a Certified Makeup Artist, Licensed Permanent Makeup Artist, and a Licensed Fine Line body tattoo artist. She's also certified as a Permanent Makeup Removal Specialist and Trainer.

What distinguishes Blush & Brow from other companies is the experience that Clark creates for her clients.

"I know my permanent makeup services can be very nerve wracking to someone who has never had it done before and as well as tattoos," she said. "I get a lot of first- time tattoo clients. I like to try and make the process comfortable, safe, and enjoyable. There are so many great artists around who do what I do but my work is distinguished by how natural and customized it looks. I don't believe in the 'one-size-fits-all' type thing. All faces and brows are different, so I customize every-



Blush & Brow



Samantha Clark is an expert at permanent and event makeup services and fine line tattoos. COURTESY PHOTO

one's permanent makeup that best suits their natural features. Fine line tattooing is a niche style that not many tattoo artists focus on. Fine line work requires a very steady hand, precision, and an artistic eye – combining that with permanent makeup training allows me to create delicate, detailed results that stand out."

According to Clark, a common misconception about permanent makeup is that it's just about beauty.

"It's also about confidence," she said. "We're not just applying pigment, we're helping people feel like their best selves every day. And or if you want to just combine both into one a misconception would also be that fine line tattooing and permanent makeup are 'quick or easy' to do. But behind every thin line or natural brow is hours of practice, lots of training, a steady hand and an eye for balance and detail."

In business for five years, Clark

got started in the beauty field about 14 years ago as a certified makeup artist.

"I would constantly hear my clients say they wish they had their brows microbladed and wish they could be fixed," she said. "I had no idea what microblading was back then. I looked into it and it was so fascinating to me. When COVID happened, I lost all my weddings that year, which was a huge financial strain. I was then approached by a microblading artist asking if I would have any interest in doing an apprenticeship. I was so excited to dive into this and learn more, so I did. A year later Maine changed the rules and regulations so that any microblading artist had to go on to get their micropigmentation license to be able to continue working.

Because Maine had no classes or schools for that at the time, she attended the Massachusetts Academy of

Beautiology and graduated before going on to pass the American Academy of Micropigmentation Boards, earning a certificate so that she could become licensed in Maine.

"Learning micropigmentation opened the doors for learning tattooing," Clark said. "After two years of being a licensed micropigmentation permanent makeup artist my creative brain wanted to learn more about fine line tattooing because I have always loved the look of dainty and delicate tattoos and Maine doesn't have a ton of fine line tattoo specialists. I took a fine line tattoo class for micropigmentation artists and spent six to eight months learning and just practicing non-stop until I felt confident to work on real skin. I've now been licensed as a body tattoo artist for three years now and it was the best decision I've made to add this into my services."

Blush & Brow clients tell Clark they love her attention to detail, how cozy and welcoming her studio is, and how comfortable they feel when they're there.

"I really put my whole heart in everything I do and am so grateful for my amazing clients," she said. "My business is built on artistry, safety and trust and specializing in creating work that feels personal and unique and not about trends and cookie cutter results."

To learn more about Blush & Brow services or for a free consultation, visit blush-brow.com or send an email to Blushandbrowpc@gmail.com. Find them on Facebook and Instagram. <

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BIRTHDAY *Cont. from page 1*

working for Maine Medical at an osteopathic hospital and stayed there until she retired. But retirement was boring for Mariam, so she got another job working at the Maine Wildlife Park in Gray.

She continued driving until she was 98 and attended the Congregational Church of Gray where she made many friends, some whom were at her 103rd birthday party in Windham.

Alison Ashley of Buxton is Mariam's first cousin twice removed and says she has always had a wonderful sense of humor.

"She had a cat named Baby and something that nobody may know

about her is that she can shoot a shotgun and a rifle," Ashley said. "I think she would shoot her rifle right up to the age of 98. She's not a fussy person she just goes with the flow."

Mariam stayed alone in her own home until July at the age of 102 1/2, when she moved to Ledgewood Manor. She never drank, never smoked and spends much of her days now reading, doing crossword puzzles and playing word search games.

"I read for fun," Mariam said. "If it's got print on it, I'll read it, even if it's a medicine bottle. And I like chocolate a lot."

Having made many friends at Ledgewood, she says the food is good there and for the first time, she's

learned to play bingo. She's become so adept at bingo, she won a fancy quilt while playing there that now covers her bed.

"I love my family, and I love my church family," Mariam said. "I guess

I just enjoy being around people."

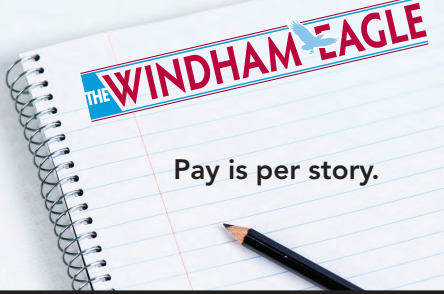
She admits the secret to longevity is very simple.

"Just keep breathing," Mariam said. "I tell everyone who asks me, my advice is to just keep breathing." <

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