

Winning candidates to be sworn into office following municipal election



Winning candidates in Tuesday’s election are from left, Maggie Terry (Windham Town Council North District), Doug Fortier (Windham Town Council South District), Katie Cook (Windham Town Council At-Large), Christina Small (RSU 14 Board of Directors), and Matthew Irving (RSU 14 Board of Directors). COURTESY PHOTOS

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

The voters have spoken and three new Windham Town Councilors and two members of the RSU 14 Board of Directors representing Windham will be sworn in prior to the next meeting for both entities this month.

For the Windham Town Council, three incumbent councilors, including Jarrod Maxfield (North District), Nick Kalogerakis (South District) and John Henry (At-Large) chose not to

seek re-election to those positions.

Voters elected three new councilors to serve three-year non-partisan terms on the town council during Tuesday’s municipal election.

In the North District, Margaret “Maggie” Terry will succeed Maxfield, picking up 3,221 votes to defeat Deborah Devou, who had 2,621 votes.

Terry is the business owner of Legal Label Inc. and Seahorse Alley LLC. During her campaign, she said she was seeking a town council posi-

tion to address Windham’s increasing property tax burden and the challenges posed by rapid growth.

“I am particularly concerned about the impact of new state housing mandates on our infrastructure and community character,” Terry said. “My goal is to promote responsible development, preserve Windham’s heritage, and pursue alternative revenue strategies that reduce reliance on property taxes while maintaining essential services.”

For the South District, Doug Fortier received 3,736 votes to defeat Michael Russin, who had 1,826 votes.

Fortier owns a Christmas tree farm and had served for 20 years as Public Works Director for the Town of Windham before retiring in 2023. He says he grew up and has lived in Windham since 1970.

“I feel working for the town has given me insight of how the town works and what its needs are and help

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Raymond appoints new interim town manager

By Dina Mendros
STAFF WRITER

The Town of Raymond will welcome a new interim town manager, Glenn Michalowski, who will be starting later this month. He will replace Joseph Crocker, who submitted his resignation as the Raymond Town Manager in early October.

The Raymond Select Board approved appointing Michalowski to the position on Oct. 21 and he will officially start duties with the town on Nov. 17. Michalowski is leaving his position as town manager for the Town of Lisbon, where he has served for three years, to work for the Town of Raymond.

The interim Raymond town manager position is initially for six months but could be extended to a year. To extend the position “the Board would have to be content with his accomplishments and how well he worked with the staff,” said Raymond Select Board Chair Denis Morse. He says that the town has not yet begun the process of looking for a permanent town manager.

Michalowski was one of two finalists out of 42 applicants when the board was originally looking for a town manager earlier this year, Morse said.

Crocker, who had worked for Raymond as the director of the Parks and Recreation Department for about five

years, was appointed interim town manager in March and became the permanent town manager in May. He also took over as the town’s finance director in the summer of 2024 when the former finance director stepped down.

“Speaking for myself,” Morse said, “I voted for Joe as he had spent four to five years as our Recreation Department head building our growing recreation program that had been long overdue and looking for a leader.”

Although Crocker is moving to another job, he will still be around Raymond Town Hall for a while and will be helping out with some specific town projects.

“He has been in touch with Glenn and will be coming back to work for us providing help with the web page and hopefully other projects,” Morse said. “I know I can speak for the Board when I state we are delighted to hear Glenn has hired him back for a few weeks.”

In the search for an interim town manager, “We were looking for someone with the energy and passion to move forward with several large upcoming initiatives, such as the re-envisioning of the Jordan Small Middle School and our recently accepted Comprehensive Plan,” said Raymond Select Board Vice Chair Kaela Gonzalez.

Additionally, Morse said, the board was looking for someone with



Glenn Michalowski has been appointed as Interim Town Manager for the Town of Raymond and will start his duties on Nov. 17. Michalowski has served as the Lisbon Town Manager for the past three years. SUBMITTED PHOTO

town manager experience and a degree in Public Management. Michalowski has both town manager experience and he holds a master’s degree in public administration from Rutgers University.

According to his LinkedIn page, in serving as Raymond’s interim town manager Michalowski says that

he is “under contract to guide the organization through a leadership transition and strengthen its operational foundation ahead of future recruitment. My work focuses on continuity, fiscal management, and organizational stability – ensuring the town is positioned for long-term success and ready to attract strong leadership.”

In addition, Michalowski said, “I’m passionate about helping municipalities navigate periods of change, build administrative capacity, and modernize systems to deliver more effective, responsive public service - whether in a direct leadership role or as an advisor.”

Michalowski will be Raymond’s fourth town manager in 20 months. He replaces Crocker, who succeeded former Town Manager Sue Look, who resigned in March. Look had previously served as Raymond Town Clerk before being appointed by the Raymond Select Board to the role, succeeding longtime Town Manager Don Willard in January 2024 upon his retirement. Willard had worked as Raymond’s Town Manager for 23 years until he suffered an illness and while recovering chose to retire from the town manager’s role. <

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INSIGHT

The skies the limit

I recently had to fly out of state to attend an event and not having flown or visited the airport for a while, my best advice for those contemplating boarding a commercial aircraft anytime soon is to check your emotional baggage at the ticket counter.

When first reviewing the flight schedules for my destination, the thing that stood out the most for me was the difference in cost for traveling early in the morning as opposed to times later in the day. The least expensive flights are the ones departing around 6 a.m., and therefore those are the ones I chose. But the catch for flying that early in the morning is I had long layovers and waits to catch the connecting flights to my destination.

Despite the early hour, I found long lines and crowded TSA security checkpoints in the terminals. I had been able to check in and could receive my boarding passes on my iPhone, but I wasn't able to check my suit bag in that way, so I had to visit the ticket counter to do that. Before it could be sent to the plane's cargo deck though, I had to pay \$40 for that privilege.

Going through security, I discovered that you no longer are required to remove your footwear for agents to check for shoe bombs. But you do have to look into a specialized camera for facial recognition and present identification embossed with the REAL ID symbol.

Today in HISTORY

NOVEMBER 7

1874 – The Republican party of the U.S. is first symbolized as an elephant in a cartoon by Thomas Nast in Harper's Weekly.

1893 – The state of Colorado grants women residents the right to vote.

1895 – The last spike is driven into Canada's first transcontinental railway in the mountains of British Columbia.

1916 – Jeanette Rankin of Montana becomes the first woman elected to the U.S. Congress.

1929 – The Museum of Modern Art in New York City opens to the public.

1944 – U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt is the first person elected by American voters to serve a fourth term as president.

1963 – Elston Howard of the New York Yankees is the first black baseball player to be honored as the American League's Most Valuable Player.

1965 – The "Pillsbury Dough Boy" debuts in television commercials.

On the way to the gate, I passed by several airport bars with patrons already visiting there at 5:30 a.m. and observed that the line of individuals waiting at Starbucks had reached more than two dozen.

At two different airports that I had flown into, the restroom was convenient, but I had to carefully select a stall to use because I did not want to set my canvas carry-on bag in puddles of an unknown liquid substance on the floor nearby. Also, at one of the Philadelphia Terminal F men's restrooms, it had 12 sinks with soap dispensers for hand washing, but only two dispensers contained soap.

Boarding the airplane for my seat in Row 8 departing my home airport, my seat space was all of 22 inches wide. And even though the seat cushion can be removed and used as a flotation device during an emergency flying over water, it wasn't very comfortable. And when you are wearing a coat like I was, buckling the seat belt is a challenge.

Fortunately, I was able to stash my carry-on bag under the seat in front of me, but it left no room to extend my feet beyond my tiny space on the floor. Having that option though was helpful as the surrounding overhead airplane compartments near my seat were already filled with backpacks and carry-on luggage even though our boarding group got to get on soon after parents traveling with small children, the disabled and those flying first class.

Each flight I took was on the same airline for this trip, so I found that each safety instruction briefing prior to takeoff was an identical pre-recording. None of the flights I was on offered water or peanuts, but if you wanted, you could purchase liquor or beer even if it was before 8 a.m.

While waiting for a connecting flight to my destination, I decided that I would look and see if any vendor selling food on the airport concourse had something I would be interested in eating. It was barely 9 a.m. and other than Starbucks, which had posted a large sign saying it was out of croissants and fruit cups, the only restaurants open in the airport at that hour were several unhealthy choices in Sbarro Pizza, Burger King or Smashburger.

I opted to purchase a cold drink from an airport convenience-like storefront. The choices were limited to two coolers containing tall cans of energy drinks with names I couldn't read or decipher or a plastic bottle of Dunkin' Donuts Iced Coffee. The cost of the iced coffee also shocked me when I went to pay. No pricing was indicated for anything in the cooler or in the store for that matter and the digital register display showed that including tax, my 13.7-ounce bottle of Dunkin' ice coffee was \$12.99. And that particular store did not accept cash for merchandise, it only took smartphone payment app systems or debit or credit cards.

Even worse, about 15 minutes later while sitting at the gate waiting for my flight, I felt like I had to blow my nose. Ironic as it was, I had to return to the airport store and buy a small pack of Kleenex. I first looked in the nearby restrooms, but they did not offer paper towels, only electronic hand-drying machines and all toilet stalls were being used. I then felt fortunate paying only \$8.99 plus tax for a small package of 10 disposable 3-ply tissues.

It's been a few years since my previous flight and after this latest trip, my thought is that it's better to be on the ground wishing I was up in the air than up in the air wishing I was on the ground. < ~ Ed Pierce

Inspirational Quote of the Week

"Great things never came from comfort zones."

– Anonymous

ON THE SPOT

What celebrity or celebrities have you met in person?

"Cyndi Lauper my absolute favorite singer."
– Amy Beth Brochu-krikken

"Dave Cowens, Wade Boggs, James Montgomery."
– Marty Nichols

"Norm Lewis, nicest guy ever!"
– Ruthie Jackson

"I used to serve George HW and Barbara Bush in Kennebunkport. And scared Jason Varitek with my love and fanaticism."
– Nicolette Harding

"Shared a dance with K.C. Jones one New Year's Eve."
– Heather Marden

"Bob Hope, Mick Jagger, Burgess Meredith, Red Skelton; all because I worked in restaurants where they happened to eat."
– Rob Juergens

"Chubby Checker, Davy Jones, Peter Tork, John Michael Montgomery, Sawyer Brown, 98 degrees, Celtic Thunder, Blake Shelton."
– Jocelyn Quimby

"Jeremy Allen White, literally the nicest guy! I was working a wedding, and he was married to the bride's sister at the time, and he'd come up to us often asking if we need anything (drinks etc.)."
– Samantha Clark

"Green Day, Blink 182 in 1997, Johnny Damon, Dave Chapelle, Singer from Sevendust flew my friend and I out to shows a few times. Met other touring bands on that particular tour."
– Mary Hiltonsmith

"Garth Brooks's ex-wife and kids, my friend John Berry, Sawyer Brown, singer Mike Eldred, a lot of country singers, and some guy named Zac Brown."
– Sandie Hatt Rogers

"Coretta Scott King and Hallie Kate Eisenberg (Pepsi girl)."
– Alicia DC Pieper

"Abe Vigoda, James Gandolfini, Danny Aiello. Not 'connected' just worked in North Jersey."
– William Reiner

"Presidents Clinton and G.W. Bush."
– Alfred Traylor

"Kane Brown and several NASCAR drivers."
– Kelly Kneeland

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EDITORIAL POLICY

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Community rallies to help neighbors losing SNAP benefits

By Ed Pierce

STAFF WRITER

Windham and Raymond have been known for years as communities willing to step up and help neighbors in need and now that compassion and generosity is on display once more as organizations and individuals are collecting food to offset the loss Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for area residents.

Because of the federal government shutdown, SNAP, benefits ran out on Nov. 1 and threatens to leave already food-insecure people without publicly supported food assistance. SNAP provides food benefits to low-income families, the elderly and the disabled to supplement their grocery budget so they can afford nutritious food essential to health and well-being. Benefits from SNAP are typically delivered to Maine recipients between the 10th and 14th of the month but without federal funding, those benefits may not be available this month, affecting a significant number of community residents.

Among businesses and organizations helping are Windham Cub Scout Pack 805. From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 8, Pack 805 will be conducting a food drive at Shaw's Supermarket, 770 Roosevelt Trail in Windham.



Cub Scouts from Windham Pack 805 will be at Shaw's Supermarket in Windham from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 8 for a food drive supporting the Windham Food Pantry and the St. Ann's Episcopal Church Essentials Pantry. It is one of many efforts in the Lakes Region to assist families affected by the loss of SNAP benefits during the government shutdown. COURTESY PHOTO

The initiative is called "Scouting for Food," and food collected from the drive will be donated to the Windham Food Pantry and the St. Ann's Episcopal Church Essentials Pantry. This theme is "Fill the Canoe," with a canoe to hold all donations before delivery.

Josh Smeltzer of Cub Scouts Pack 805 says participating in the food drive

instills character, citizenship, personal fitness and leadership in young scouts.

"One way Pack 805 does this is through teaching kids how to not only respect and safely enjoy the outdoors but also respect and give back to their country and their community through projects like Scouting for Food," Smeltzer said.

This year happens to be the 40th anniversary of the national Scouting for Food program, he said. It was officially implemented as a council-wide project of the Boy Scouts of America in St. Louis, Missouri in 1985. In 1988, Boy Scouts of America adopted the program, rolling it out nationwide.

According to Smeltzer, Windham Food Pantry and St. Ann's are in need of canned vegetables and meats, fresh fruit and vegetables, pancake, cookie and muffin mixes, pasta and rice, prepared meals like Hamburger Helper, cold and hot cereal, peanut butter, jelly, and bottled water and juices. The Cub Scouts will also be accepting cash donations on behalf of the food and essentials pantries.

Angela Libby of Windham is holding a food drive over the next two weeks for the Windham Food Pantry. She's looking for all non-perishable items including boxed pasta; granola or cereal bars; applesauce; cups of fruits; crackers; peanut butter; rice; instant potatoes; jars of sauce; canned fruits, veggies, and soups. Any items you may have can be dropped off at 5 Ward Road in Windham. She is also collecting cash donations via Venmo to Angela-Libby-1 (7563 is last 4 dig-

→ see **BENEFITS** Page 6

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ELECTIONS *Cont. from page 1*

move it forward,” he said.

In the race for the At-Large council seat, Cook’s 2,273 votes earned the position, topping former town councilor Clayton Haskell’s 2,234 votes and Joseph Campbell’s 1,575 votes.

Cook is an Information Technology and Litigation Support Manager. She said she was running for town council because she believes Windham deserves leadership that listens, plans wisely, and protects taxpayers.

“I’m not here to play politics, I’m here to serve,” she said. “I want to make sure every decision made at Town Hall reflects the values and priorities of the people who live here. That means clear communication, smart budgeting, and a commitment to keeping Windham a place we’re proud to call home.”

In a five-candidate race with the top two vote tallies earning seats for

three-year terms on the RSU 14 Board of Directors, incumbent Christina Small and first-time candidate Matthew Irving will be sworn in later this month.

Currently serving as RSU 14 Board Chair, Small picked up 2,888 votes, while Irving received 2,483 votes. Adam Zajac was third with 2,327 votes, while Megan Potter had 1,644 votes and Destiny Johnson received 1,629 votes.

Small has served on the RSU 14 Board of Directors for five years. She is a stay-at-home mother who says she sought re-election because she cares deeply about this community and public education.

“My goal has only ever been to support the staff and students of RSU



14,” Small said.

Irving is a former classroom counselor and community mental health worker who is now a stay-at-home father. He said he was running because he wants the best future possible for area children.

“I am a graduate of public schools and a first-generation public university graduate, so I can vouch for the value of public education,” he said. “Our kids need relevant skills and confidence in their ability to think critically in a tumultuous world. Our board needs people who engage respectfully with our community and contribute with well-researched ideas, which I will do.”

Voters in Windham and Raymond were among state residents casting ballots in Tuesday’s election to decide the fate of two statewide referendum questions.

Referendum Question 1 asked vot-

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

The question failed statewide, with 256,326 no votes to 144,925 yes votes, or a margin of 63.9 percent to 36.1 percent. In Windham, 4,321 no votes were cast, on Question 1, while 2,558 voted yes. In Raymond, 1,185 no votes were received to 800 yes votes on Question 1.

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

The question was approved statewide, with 252,687 yes votes to 147,022 no votes, or a margin of 63.2 percent to 36.8 percent. In Windham, 4,403 yes votes were tallied for Question 2 to 2,465 no votes. In Raymond, 1,189 yes votes were recorded, while 793 voted no. <

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Public welcome to Veterans Day event in Windham

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

Every year Veterans Day is observed on Nov. 11 and is more than just another day off from work. It was established to recognize the ultimate sacrifices made by American military members in the name of liberty and freedom. The day symbolizes the 11th Hour of the 11th day of the 11th month marking the end of World War I and here in Windham, the public is invited to a special Veterans Day observance to remember those who have worn the uniform of the United States of America.

This year's Veterans Day event starts at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 11 at the Windham Veterans Center and will feature guest speakers and the student winners of this year's local Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10643 essay contests.

The event is part of the national Veterans Day celebration and holiday, which was originally known as "Armistice Day" to millions of Americans.

Paying tribute to military veterans was first launched on Nov. 11, 1919, one year after the end of World War I. U.S. President Woodrow Wilson declared "Armistice Day" to take place annually in America on the "11th day of the 11th month at the 11th hour" to remember the end of what was known as "The Great War," now called World War I. During his original proclamation, President Wilson was resolute about creating a day to honor America's veterans.



Veterans Day ceremonies will be held at the Windham Veterans Center located at 35 Veterans Memorial Drive beginning at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 11

"Reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations," Wilson wrote in his original declaration creating "Armistice Day."

By June 1954, members of the U.S. Congress officially changed the name of "Armistice Day" to Veterans Day to honor those Americans who perished in World War II and Korea since "Armistice Day" had first been observed. Then in 1975, U.S. President Gerald Ford designated Nov. 11 as the permanent Veterans Day holiday because of its historical significance for the nation.

For this year's observance in Windham, Jeff Cook, the commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10643, will serve as the Master of Ceremonies for the event.

"As a combat veteran who served

in Afghanistan, I still continue to serve for our local veterans," Cook

said. "Getting young people to research and learn about past wars, the service and sacrifices made hopefully could change a young person's life to become an impact in their community or serve in the military."

During the Veterans Day observance, the guest speaker will be Elizabeth Cormier, Vice Chair of the Maine Honor Fight Board of Directors, patriotic songs will be performed by the Windham Chamber Singers and Windham Boy Scout Troop 805 will assist with seating and the Pre-

→ see VETERANS DAY Page 8

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 BENEFITS *Cont. from page 3*

its) and she will make a trip to the store to purchase items.

She’s also collecting food items for Thanksgiving baskets at the Windham Food Pantry. For that, she’s seeking stuffing; cranberry sauce; gravy; muffin mixes; cream of anything soups; pudding mixes; cake mixes; frostings; brownie mixes; pickles; olives; and oils.

Hailey’s Kitchen, 771 Roosevelt Trail in Windham is offering meals to anyone who needs them due to SNAP benefits being withheld.

“We are the only ones that can keep our neighbors from starving and vulnerable members of our community are looking to us for help,” said Rebecca Willis-Coffin of Hailey’s Kitchen. “Please do what you can.”

Stable Foundations in Windham have started a baby formula drive to help anyone who is struggling this winter. Kasey Sutor of Stable Foundations is trading pony rides for donations so residents in need can purchase baby formula. For more details or to

seek help with baby formula, call 802-448-0570.

Tinker Automotive located at 51 Tandberg Trail in Windham is collecting non-perishable food items and diapers to donate to the Windham Food Pantry.

The Refuge Church at 765 Roosevelt Trail, Windham collected non-perishable food items on Sunday, Nov. 2 and will do it again on Sunday, Dec. 7 for the Windham Food Pantry. Shopping carts are available prior to the church’s 9 and 11 a.m. services. The church is seeking ready-to-eat soups/stews; canned pasta meals; jam/jelly; spaghetti sauce; sloppy joe sauce; baked beans; canned tuna/chicken; canned fruit; peanut butter; crackers; cake mixes; kid snacks; paper towels; and toilet paper to donate to the food pantry.

2-1-1 Maine is a statewide directory of more than 8,000 health and human service resources, including information about programs providing assistance with food, shelter, clothing, heating, and healthcare. Visit 211maine.org or dial 2-1-1 for information by

phone.

The Wayside Program can help secure food assistance and meals for those in Windham in need. Call 207-775-4939 for help.

The Windham Food Pantry, 375 Gray Road in Windham, is open to Windham residents with proof of residency. Residents are provided with food monthly. Please call to schedule an appointment to visit the Food Pantry. Food and non-food donations are accepted from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monetary donations are accepted Mondays to Thursdays 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Town Manager’s Office, 8 School Road in Windham. Call 207-892-1931 for information.

The Raymond Food Pantry, 1273 Roosevelt Trail in Raymond, is open from 4 to 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. Call 207-655-6594 for more details.

The Standish Food Pantry, located at 410 Northeast Road in Standish at the former Sebago Congregational Church building and is open Mondays from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. and Wednesdays from 4 to 6:30 p.m. They serve everyone, no residency or income restrictions and no ID or other documentation is required. To make a donation

visit: www.standishfoodpantry.org

The Gray Community Food Pantry is located at 5 Brown Street in Gray. Distribution is the first and third Friday from Noon to 2:00 p.m. Contact 207-671-4458 for more info or visit their Facebook page.

Casco Village Church United Church of Christ, 941 Meadow Road in Casco distributes food from 2 to 5 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of the month. Donations may be made from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays. For further details, call 207-899-6725.

A Thanksgiving Food Drive for the Windham Food Pantry is seeking grocery gift cards for Hannaford and Shaw’s Supermarket to purchase turkeys and non-perishable items for local families needing assistance. Canned vegetables, canned gravy, stuffing, cranberry sauce, macaroni and cheese, instant mashed potatoes, crackers, soups, and drink mixes may be dropped off at Paul’s Boutique, 8 Crimson Drive in Windham; Bailey’s Direct Primary Care, 944 Roosevelt Trail in Windham; Seed Sound Herbal Apothecary, 4 Whites Bridge Road in Windham; Black Maple Piercing, 690 Roosevelt Trail in Windham; and Maine’s Alternative Caring, 771 Roosevelt Trail in Windham. <

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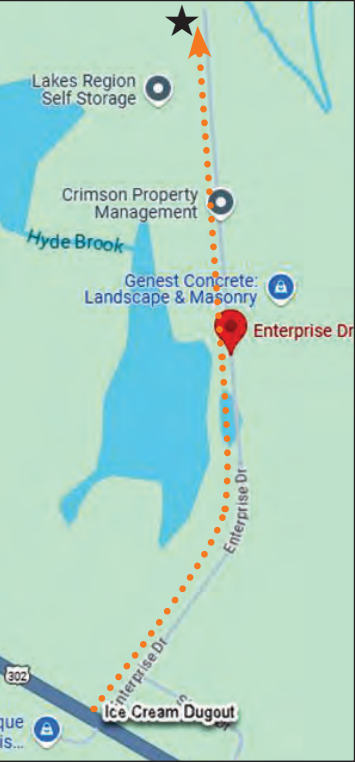
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Medical Loan Closet moving to new temporary home

By Erin Rose
STAFF WRITER

The Windham Medical Loan Closet will be moving to a new temporary location at the Windham Fire Department's East Station at 47 Falmouth Road on Monday, Nov. 10.

Once the Windham Raymond Middle School, now under construction on Windham Center Road, is completed, the loan closet will settle into its permanent home in the repurposed existing Windham Middle School.

The move was prompted by the state of the organization's current building, located at 221 Windham Center Road, next to the Windham Public Library. The medical loan closet building's accessibility ramp requires repair and there is no water access or bathroom facilities at the site.

"The building is unsafe," said Lynda Murphy, the Loan Closet's director and a volunteer there for nine years. She said the new temporary site "has worked out well."

The fire station will provide a safe, accessible facility that meets the needs of both those in the community that are served by the Medical Loan Closet and the volunteers who support the organization. The group will also be able to use a conference room and room in one of the building's vehicle bays to organize and store items.

Anyone who has borrowed equipment or is seeking to donate to the organization should be aware that drop-offs will be made at the new location as of Nov. 10, Murphy said.

Residents of Windham and Raymond can reach out to the Medical Loan Closet to borrow medical equipment, such as crutches, knee scooters, and wheelchairs, and receive other donated items necessary to care for themselves or their loved ones. There is no time limit on the loans, but the group asks that items be returned once they are no longer needed so that they may be provided to others in need.

"We used to say three months," Murphy said. "Now we say short term, but it's not a hard and fast rule. Some items never come back."

Items are provided and picked up on an appointment basis, with re-



The Windham Medical Loan Closet is moving on Monday, Nov. 10 to a temporary location at the Windham Fire Department's East Station at 47 Falmouth Road in Windham. The current facility at 221 Windham Center Road in Windham has no running water and requires structural repairs. PHOTO BY ED PIERCE

quests filled by a rotating group of volunteers who monitor the organization's voicemail, responding to calls for both needs and for those seeking to donate.

"We're quite a service," Murphy

said. "We're bleeding hearts and will do the best we can for just about everybody."

She praised the volunteers that make the work possible, recounting how one member has been with the

organization for at least 20 years. "She goes way above and beyond to where people know to call her directly when they need things," she said. The group has "a lot of years and a lot of history."

The loan closet is always in search of new volunteers to help those in need in the community. The time commitment is less intense, Murphy explained, as each member is expected to commit to answering calls for service for one week in a rotating schedule based on how many volunteers they currently have.

As of right now they have 11 volunteer members, and for example, each person covers one week out of every 11. There is flexibility as well if life circumstances require volunteers to switch weeks with others. Appointments with community members are set as per the volunteer's schedule, allowing for people to volunteer as their schedule allows. Currently, they answer an average of 35 calls each week,

→ see LOAN CLOSET Page 10

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→ **VETERANS DAY**

Cont. from page 5

sensation of the Colors.

Cook will announce the winners of this year's VFW-sponsored essay competitions who will read their essays for the audience in attendance for the Veterans Day observance. The theme of this year's Patriot's Pen contest for students in grades 6 to 8 is "How are you showing patriotism and support of our country?" and for the Voice of Democracy contest for students in grades 9 to 12 the audio-essay theme is also "How are you showing patriotism and support of our country?"

Veterans Day is a federal holiday recognized each November to celebrate and honor all U.S. veterans, those who are deceased or living. No matter what day of the week, Veterans Day always falls on November 11 each



Thank you, Veterans

year and is recognized as a federal holiday nationally. As of 2025, more than 16.2 million

veterans live in the United States and a total of 800,000 veterans of the Korean War are still alive as of mid-year. That group includes Windham American Legion Post 148 member Jerry Black, 97, who served in the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Johnston during the Korean War.

Over the years, Veterans Day has evolved into a day not just for remembering those who served in wartime but also for recognizing all veterans, including those who served in peacetime. It now serves as a time to reflect on veterans' contributions and ongoing challenges, such as health care and employment and the day has become a platform for honoring military service while also advocating for the needs of those who served.

This year's Veterans Day event in Windham is free and open to the public at the Windham Veterans Center, 35 Veterans Memorial Drive in Windham. <

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Interesting facts about Veterans Day

Each November, Americans pause to honor the courageous men and women who have worn the uniform of the United States Armed Forces. Veterans Day, observed annually on November 11, recognizes the service of all U.S. military veterans—both living and deceased—with special appreciation for those who continue to live among us after serving honorably during wartime or peacetime. The observance offers communities a chance to reflect on the resilience, sacrifice, and dedication shown by those who protected the nation’s freedoms at home and abroad.

The holiday originated as Armistice Day, marking the ceasefire that brought World War I to an end. Hostilities formally halted at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918. Although the Treaty of Versailles, which officially concluded the war, was not signed until June 28, 1919, November 11 quickly became a symbolic date associated with peace and international healing. In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first Armistice Day proclamation, acknowledging the valor and sacrifice of those who served during the Great War. Many communities held parades and public gatherings, while businesses briefly closed to honor returning soldiers.

The observance evolved as history unfolded. After World War II and the Korean War, millions more Americans had served overseas. Recognizing the contributions of these additional veterans, Congress approved

legislation in 1954 that renamed the holiday Veterans Day. President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the bill into law, broadening its purpose to honor American veterans from all eras of military service, not only those who fought in World War I. Since then, Veterans Day has stood as an inclusive tribute to all who have served the nation in uniform.

Although Veterans Day is an American holiday, other countries commemorate similar observances on or near November 11. Canada recognizes Remembrance Day, and the United Kingdom observes Remembrance Sunday on the second Sunday of November. Australia and France also mark the date with ceremonies honoring those who served in World War I, World War II, and other conflicts. These international observances share a common purpose: acknowledging the service and sacrifice of military personnel who defended their nations and ideals.

Today, Veterans Day remains a time for reflection on the immense contributions of service members across generations. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, there are approximately 17.6 million veterans living in the United States as of 2025. The largest group continues to be Gulf War-era veterans, who outnumber Vietnam War-era veterans by a wide margin. Women comprise around 12 percent of the veteran population, a number that continues to grow as more women serve in both combat and support roles across the

branches of the military.

Among the nation’s most hallowed grounds is Arlington National Cemetery, located outside Washington, D.C. More than 400,000 servicemembers, veterans, and family members are laid to rest on its grounds. Each year, Arlington hosts commemorative ceremonies on Veterans Day and Memorial Day, reaffirming the nation’s enduring commitment to honoring those who served and sacrificed.

While Memorial Day honors those who died in combat or later from combat-related injuries, Veterans Day recognizes all who served, whether living or deceased. This distinction underscores the breadth of service across generations and highlights the importance of acknowledging the experiences of veterans long after their time in uniform. To encourage public participation, the Veterans Day Moment of Silence Act, signed in 2016 by President Barack Obama, established a nationwide moment of silence at 3:11 p.m. Atlantic Standard Time for 120 seconds on November 11.

The demographics of the veteran population continue to shift dramatically. As of 2025, about 34 percent of veterans are age 70 or older, while another 37 percent are between ages 50 and 69, according to Pew Research Center estimates. Meanwhile, the percentage of Americans with military experience continues to decline. The U.S. Census Bureau reports that only about 6 percent of adults in 2023 were veterans, a steep drop from 18 percent in 1980. Experts attribute this change to the end of the draft in 1973, a smaller active-duty force, and the passing of older generations of veterans.

From its origins at the close of World War I to its present role honoring all who have served, Veterans Day provides an important opportunity to learn, reflect, and express gratitude. As the veteran community changes, the observance remains a powerful reminder of the service and sacrifice that help safeguard the nation’s freedoms for generations to come. <

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→ **LOAN CLOSET** *Cont. from page 7*

between donations and requests for items. The group also holds two overall meetings per year.

“I never turn away volunteers,” Murphy said, emphasizing that the town supports the group’s mission as well.

Windham provides a grant of \$600 annually to help fund the organization. The town’s Public Works Department also assists in disposing of damaged or unusable equipment, while Tammy Hodgman with the Town Manager’s office provides support with the Medical Loan Closet budget and ordering supplies.

The community itself has played a major role in the organization’s success.

“Donations by beautiful people surpass” the amount given by the town, Murphy said. “People are just so grateful.”

In addition to donations of equipment, the group also purchases items as needed from Partners for World Health in Portland.

“We depend on Partners for World Health as a main resource for purchasing good quality used equipment to

meet the community’s needs,” Murphy said. “It’s a wonderful resource for purchasing used equipment.”

In the event a member of the community is seeking an item the Medical Loan Closet does not possess, including any battery-powered items or heavy pieces of equipment that are difficult for volunteers to manage, they are directed to Partners for World Health as they frequently have specialty or more complex items at a better cost.

Murphy said that while a wheelchair might cost \$175 from a major retailer like Walmart, Partners for World Health might have one that is still in very good condition but used for \$40.

“It’s a wonderful resource for purchasing used equipment,” she said.

The Medical Loan Closet was started by Windham medical professionals who saw members of the community in need of equipment when facing infirmities. It grew into the Windham Health Closet, which became the Windham Medical Loan Closet.

Anyone seeking equipment, to donate, or for more information about volunteering can call 207-894-5999 and leave a message. <

CoverME.gov’s Fifth Annual Open Enrollment under way

Maine Department of Health and Human Services’ (DHHS) Office of the Health Insurance Marketplace (OHIM) has officially opened CoverME.gov’s Open Enrollment for 2026.

Maine residents without access to health or dental insurance coverage through their employer, Medicare, or the state’s Medicaid plan known as MaineCare, are encouraged to find coverage through Maine’s official health insurance marketplace, CoverME.gov.

Open Enrollment launched Nov. 1 and continues through Jan. 15, 2026. Maine people can visit CoverME.gov to compare private plans, update information, learn if they qualify for financial savings, and enroll in health and dental insurance plans for 2026.

“Access to comprehensive health coverage is essential to the health and financial stability of Maine families,” said DHHS Commissioner Sara Gagné-Holmes. “Now is the time to visit CoverME.gov to compare plans and select the coverage that’s right for you.”

CoverME.gov provides more than financial protection, it ensures access to essential health services and peace of mind. All plans include 100 percent coverage for preventive care, and most plans include pre-deductible low-cost office and urgent care visits, and prescription coverage with typical co-pays between \$0 and \$50, depending on the plan. Health coverage protects Maine people from medical debt and helps families stay healthy when unexpected illness or injury strikes.

“CoverME.gov was created to make finding and maintaining health coverage easier for Maine people,” said DHHS’ OHIM Director Hilary Schneider. “Whether you’re renewing or enrolling for the first time, CoverME.gov helps you more easily compare plans, understand your options, and choose coverage that fits your needs and budget.”

Free, local help from certified brokers and enrollment assistants is available statewide to guide consumers through the process of comparing and enrolling in plans. Assistance can be found at CoverME.gov/localhelp or by calling (866) 636-0355 (TTY: 711).

Households purchasing coverage through CoverME.gov may be eligible for federal Advance Premium Tax Credits (APTCs), which provide some monthly savings based on household income. However, tax credits known as Enhanced Premium Tax Credits (EPTCs), which introduced additional federal savings for marketplace plans in 2021, will expire at the end of 2025 unless Congress acts.

If Congress does not extend these extra savings, an overwhelming majority of CoverME.gov consumers will see rate increases – ranging from small for some, to very large for others – making it more important than ever to actively shop and compare plans. If Congress extends the EPTCs, average rates will decrease. Even without EPTCs, nearly 70 percent of CoverME.gov enrollees will still receive some federal tax credits (APTCs) that will provide them with access to lower premiums compared to the premiums they would pay if purchasing plans outside the Marketplace.

Most existing CoverME.gov members will be automatically re-enrolled in their current plan or a similar option if their previous plan is no longer offered. All consumers are encouraged to visit CoverME.gov during Open Enrollment to review plan options, confirm information, and ensure their 2026 coverage meets their needs.

CoverME.gov is Maine’s official Health Insurance Marketplace, created by the State of Maine to help residents without access to employer coverage find, compare, and enroll in quality health insurance plans. The Marketplace also helps consumers determine eligibility for financial assistance that may make coverage more affordable.

To learn more about the program or to apply for coverage, visit CoverME.gov or call 866-636-0355 (TTY: 711). <

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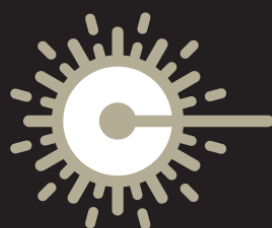
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SALUTE TO SERVICE

PROFILES OF THOSE WHO SERVE OUR COMMUNITIES

New Windham firefighter/EMT values department's outstanding teamwork

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

There's truth to the statement that the community rests easier at night because Windham firefighters such as Cameron Lebel remain ready, courageous, and unwavering on every single call for assistance.

Lebel joined the Windham Fire and Rescue Department in April as a Firefighter and Advanced Emergency Medical Technician after serving as a live-in student with the department for a year while attending Southern Maine Community College and completing all the necessary training and requirements to be placed on shift. He is assigned to work Shift 3 at Windham's North Fire Station.

His duties as a firefighter for Windham include responding to emergencies when they arise including fires, medical emergencies, hazardous material incidents and an array of other rescue situations. He extinguishes fires using hoses, pumps, and other firefighting equipment and is responsible for keeping fire apparatus and equipment clean, organized, and in sound working order. He also spends continuous classroom and field training in a wide range of fire prevention and emergency situations.

As an advanced EMT, Lebel evaluates a patient's condition and injuries at fire and accident scenes and during medical emergencies while administer-

ing assistance, monitoring a patient's vital signs and offering basic and advanced life support for patients until they are transported to the hospital.

"The best part of the job is it's fast-paced nature and the rewarding culture to be there and be able to give care and aid to people who are having some of their worst days," Lebel said.

Serving as a firefighter and EMT is nothing new for Lebel. He grew up in Turner and became an Eagle Scout while a member of Scout Troop 187. Being an Eagle Scout is the highest rank and distinction he could earn as a scout and is awarded for excellence in skills development, leadership, personal growth and community service. Lebel also served for a year as Section Vice President of Scouting America's Eastern Region Section 19 The Order of the Arrow.

After graduating from high school and while attending college, Lebel also worked as a firefighter in Turner and Naples.



Cameron Lebel has worked for the Windham Fire and Rescue Department for seven months as a Firefighter and Advanced Emergency Medical Technician. He is assigned to work Shift 3 at Windham's North Fire Station. SUBMITTED PHOTO

"I'm currently finishing up a fire science degree at Southern Maine Community College," he said. "I went to SMCC for fire science while living and working at Windham Fire and Rescue and earning my firefighter 1+2 and advanced EMT license. My family was nervous about my career choice at first and rightfully so. But they are very supportive of my choice, and I can confidently say they are proud of me and my career."

According to Lebel, he wants to clarify the notion that working as an EMT is different from serving as a firefighter.

"I'd say the biggest misconception is that firefighting and Emergency Medical Service are two separate jobs when in fact here in Windham every member is cross trained to work on both an ambulance and fire apparatus."

The job is tough and dangerous but it's one that Lebel says he enjoys because he is helping to protect the com-

munity.

"We work 24-hour shifts two days a week instead of the traditional 9 to 5," he said. "We work 24 hours on shift, 48 off, 24 on, and 96 off."

In looking back at his time with Windham Fire and Rescue so far, Lebel says he can recall specific memorable moments that stand out for him, but the department's camaraderie is exceptional.

"I can say is the people I get to work with become a second family and for 24 hours at a time, I get to do the best job in the world with some of the best people in the world," he said.

Lebel cites his unique experience of being a live-in student with Windham Fire and Rescue and ability to get an inside look into the department before applying for a position here.

"What made me put in an application in Windham were the people I met and their willingness to mentor and guide me as a young individual in the fire service," he said.

Of everything he's learned here though, one aspect of his job has been very noticeable for him.

"I'd say working this job has reinforced the cliché of don't judge a book by its cover," Lebel said. "Just in the town of Windham alone we have many extraordinary people from all different walks of life, and it's humbling to meet just some of these people and hear their stories." <

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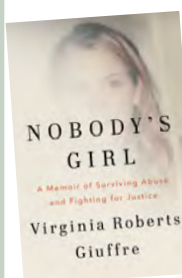
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Great Falls Bridges reopens after 53 days of repair work

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

Maine Department of Transportation’s Great Falls Bridges Project has been officially completed and drivers using the bridge linking Gorham and Windham are relieved that they no longer must seek an alternative route.

Scott Construction Corporation of Portland closed a portion of Windham Center Road to complete the rehabilitation of Great Falls #1 and Great Falls #2 Bridges over the Presumpscot River for MaineDOT. The closure started at 7 a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 26 and crews continued working on the bridges through Friday, Oct. 17.

The bridges are located about 0.5 miles west of River Road and the repair project was first contained on MaineDOT’s lengthy list of road and bridge projects featured in its annual Three-Year Plan in January 2023.

Andrew Gobeil, Director of the MaineDOT’s Office of Communications and Creative Services, said the project is now finished.

In a recent MaineDOT study, the average daily traffic for vehicles crossing the Great Falls Bridges between Windham and Gorham is 1,910 vehicles per day with about 8 percent of that traffic consisting of heavy transport trucks.

The actual bridge wearing surface replacement involved 350 feet of approach work, installation of guardrail transitions and flare terminals, and expansion joint modification. Workers also installed concrete coring connect to the bridge beams and removed



After being closed for 53 days, the Great Falls Bridges linking Windham to Gorham have reopened to the public. The project cost almost \$400,000 and work was intended to improve the condition of the existing bridge structures while preserving the existing deck and superstructure longevity of the bridges. PHOTO BY ED PIERCE

a troublesome light pole that conflicted with the new guardrail plans.

The project’s purpose was to improve the condition of the existing structures while preserving the existing deck and superstructure longevity of the bridges.

Scott Construction says it intended to minimize impacts to the traveling public and impacts to adjacent properties and utilities throughout the project and implement a cost-effective solution to fixing the bridge’s wearing problem.

Maintenance of traffic during construction was achieved by closing the

bridges and detouring traffic to an alternate route.

All project work for the Great Falls Bridges Project used use specific erosion control measures conforming to the latest version of State of Maine

Department of Transportation Standard Specifications for Highways and Bridges and the Department of Transportation’s Best Management Practices for Erosion and Sediment Control.

Both Great Falls Bridges were originally constructed in 1970 and during its most recent inspections by MaineDOT engineers, each of the bridges showed signs of significant cracking and rutting on deck and paved surfaces.

The bridges are situated near the Great Falls Dam, one of the first sources of hydroelectric power in the Lakes Region of Maine. Use of hydroelectric power was implemented by early Great Falls settler Zebulon Trickey, who built bridges and mills on both sides of the Presumpscot River in the Great Falls area. When a wildfire swept through the Great Falls hamlet in 1872 and destroyed the mills and one of the bridges built by Trickey, settlement of the Great Falls site and residents residing there declined and the property was eventually annexed by the Town of Windham.

The contracted amount for the 2025 Great Falls Bridges Project was \$398,567. <



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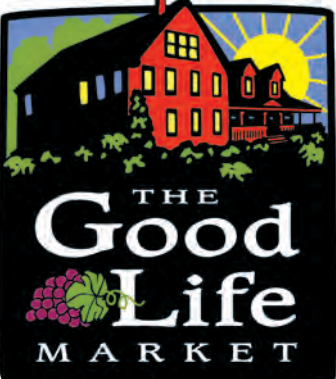
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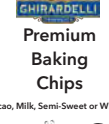
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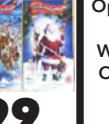
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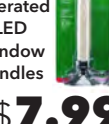
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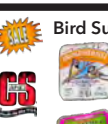
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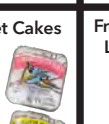
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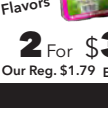
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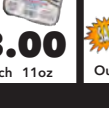
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Nangle to introduce bill to keep Maine veterans housed

When the 132nd Maine Legislature reconvenes in January, State Senator Tim Nangle, D-Windham, will introduce legislation to help Maine veterans stay in their homes and prevent homelessness.

Nangle proposed legislation, “An Act to Keep Maine Veterans Housed,” was approved for introduction in the 132nd Maine Legislature’s Second Regular Session by a majority of the Legislative Council at its Oct. 23 meeting. All Democratic members of the Legislative Council voted in favor, while all Republican members opposed admitting the bill.

“Too many veterans who have served our country with honor are still struggling to find and keep stable housing,” said Senator Nangle. “At a time when federal pro-

grams are being cut or delayed across the country, it’s more important than ever to strengthen the local partnerships that are working. This bill will ensure Maine’s veterans can continue to count on the proven support that keeps them housed and connected to their communities.”

The legislation will support the Veterans Flex Fund – an already successful program led by Preble Street and the Maine Homeless Veterans Action Committee, which includes the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Maine Bureau of Veterans Services, Volunteers of America, Vets Inc., Bread of Life Ministries and others.



— Sen. Tim Nangle

The program provides small but critical assistance to help veterans overcome barriers to stable housing, such as covering unexpected rental costs, offering incentives to landlords and conducting outreach to connect veterans with safe, affordable homes.

New legislation in the Second Regular Session of the Maine Legislature must be approved for introduction

by the Legislative Council, which is made up of the Democratic and Republican leaders in the Maine Senate and House of Representatives.

The Maine Legislature is set to reconvene for the Second Regular Session on Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2026.

For the latest, follow Senator Tim Nangle on Facebook at facebook.com/SenatorTimNangle, sign up for his newsletter at mainesenate.org, or contact him directly at Tim.Nangle@legislature.maine.gov. You can also call the Senate Majority Office at 207-287-1515. <

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DAV surpasses a century of care for veterans in need

From a World War I veteran who lost both legs to a Vietnam vet suffering the effects of Agent Orange to a young Marine with post-traumatic stress disorder finding her way after returning home from Afghanistan – many of America’s veterans live with physical, mental and emotional injuries that impact their lives resulting from military service.

They often need support with things such as navigating the complex Department of Veterans Affairs system to access veteran’s benefits, including

health care and education benefits or identifying employment opportunities after military service. And because of their service-connected health conditions, they can be particularly vulnerable during health epidemics and economic downturns.

Fortunately, DAV (Disabled American Veterans) has been providing a century of care to help disabled veterans of all generations adjust to life back home. For the last 100 years, this nonprofit organization has offered a range of services from assisting veterans in accessing the benefits earned through their service to finding meaningful employment and supporting their families. DAV has continued to evolve and provide new care as veterans’ needs have changed. However, one tradition remains a constant and that is DAV’s services are provided to veterans and their families at no cost or obligation to them.

DAV’s benefits advocates are located nationwide to assist military veterans with accessing the health care, financial, disability and educational benefits they’ve earned. For those needing guidance on the transition to civilian life, DAV advocates provide benefits counseling at nearly 100 military installations throughout the country. They also assist veterans with filing initial claims for their VA benefits, as well as providing everyday support.

The DAV organization is also coming to see DAV Page 24



Mason S. Bragdon



Grade: 11 **School:** Windham High School
Favorite subject(s) in school: History
Parents’ names: Jennifer and Benjamin Bragdon
Reason for selection: Mason is a rock star student whose academic aptitude, drive, enthusiastic energy motivates everyone around him. Always eager to learn and quick to lend a hand, he’s the kind of student others naturally turn to for educational support and mentoring. His curiosity and commitment shine both in and out of the classroom. As a leading member of the Windham High Quiz Team, Mason consistently earns top scores while competing against other high school teams from across Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. His enthusiasm, leadership, and dedication make him a standout example of academic excellence and true school spirit.

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BRIEFS

Holiday Fair

Windham Hill United Church of Christ, 140 Windham Center Road, Windham will hold its annual Holiday Fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 8 with lunch available starting at 11 a.m. There will be a silent auction featuring hundreds of dollars in gift cards, a 50/50 raffle, a silent auction with many gift cards from area businesses, baked goods, handcrafted wood items, crafts, jams, stained glass, jewelry, feline gifts, used books and more. FMI, call 207-892-4217.

Craft Fair

The 33rd annual Windham Raymond Athletic Boosters Holiday Craft Fair will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 8 and 9 at Windham High School. There will be nearly

200 vendors, pictures with Santa, crock pot lunches, and much more. FMI, visit www.windhamathleticboosters.com

Haddock Dinner

The Knights of Columbus are hosting a Fresh Baked Haddock Dinner to support Wreaths for Veterans from 5 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 8 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help's Parish Hall, 919 Roosevelt Trail, Windham. Dinner includes baked haddock, homemade mashed potatoes, carrots, rolls and butter, coleslaw, coffee, tea and punch, and a dessert bar. Cost is \$15 for adults, and a pizza or kids dinner is \$6. Meals are available to go. There will be a 50/50 raffle with prizes. FMI, call 207-892-8288.

Book Club

The Raymond Village Library's

Historical Fiction Book Club will meet at 1 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 13 to discuss this month's selection "Katherine" by Anya Seton. Everyone is welcome. FMI, call 207-655-4283.

Village Holiday Fair

The Casco Village Church, United Church of Christ, 941 Meadow Road, is hosting its annual "Christmas in the Village Holiday Fair" from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 15 This year's event will feature Christmas Crafters/Vendors, lots of Christmas decor, a Raffle table, a Bake table, and a Soup,

Chili, Chowder, and Sandwich Luncheon for only \$6! Feel free to wear your best "Ugly Christmas Sweater" as they will be awarding a prize for this! FMI, call 207-627-4282.

Blood Drive

American Legion Field-Allen Post 148 will conduct a Red Cross Blood Drive from noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19 at the Windham Veterans Center, 35 Veterans Memorial Drive. Donors are asked to call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit the RED CROSS App to register to give blood at the event.

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Holiday craft fairs and open houses bring community spirit

As the holiday season arrives in Southern Maine, a familiar tradition returns: festive open houses and craft fairs welcoming neighbors, families, and visitors to celebrate the season together. These gatherings are hosted in schools, churches, barns, galleries, and small businesses, offering a warm and personal alternative to big-box holiday shopping.

Holiday open houses often invite guests into artist studios, shops, and farms, where they can browse hand-crafted goods, sample seasonal treats, and meet artisans directly. Some feature demonstrations—such as pottery, weaving, or wreath-making—giving shoppers a closer look at the skill and creativity behind the products.

Craft fairs, held throughout November and December, showcase a wide range of handmade goods, from knitted hats and jewelry to ornaments, woodcraft, and specialty foods. Many fairs have decades-long histories and support local programs, making them meaningful community traditions. Towns in the Sebago Lake Region host annual events that draw both local shoppers and regional visitors.

The atmosphere is a large part of the appeal. Holiday music, evergreens, baked goods, and hot beverages create a nostalgic setting that encourages people to linger. Many families make attending a yearly tradition, often visiting multiple fairs and open houses across the region.

These events also provide a valuable opportunity for artisans and small producers, many of whom spend the year preparing inventory. By focusing on handmade and locally sourced goods, sellers are able to share the stories behind their work and build lasting relationships with customers. Specialty food makers—including bakers, jam producers, and maple vendors—add flavor to the season and often see returning fans year after year.

Some events are expanding with children’s activities, charity raffles, food trucks, or collaborations with nearby businesses to create holiday shopping trails. Sustainability is also a growing focus, with many shoppers seeking eco-friendly, handmade gifts that support the immediate local economy.

Even in a digital age, interest in these in-person gatherings remains strong. With their blend of creativity, tradition, and small-town hospitality, Southern Maine’s holiday open houses and craft fairs continue to be a cherished way to celebrate the season. <

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Still living the dream(s)

By Andy Young
STAFF WRITER

Traffic, as it inevitably does on week-day mornings, slowed to a crawl on the Merritt Parkway. My first reaction: annoyance. The earlier-than-usual delay meant I'd be late for school.

Fuming because I was boxed into the right lane directly behind a bus full of schoolchildren, I spent the next 10 minutes inching along at five miles per hour. Finally, after crawling around a curve at a snail's pace, I saw the bottleneck's cause.

A sad-looking man was standing beside a car with steam billowing from beneath its hood. Irritated, I wondered why anyone would take such poor care of his mode of transportation. But I also couldn't help noticing no one was stopping to help him, even though he had his thumb out. Feeling more empathetic than angry, I spontaneously decided to play Good Samaritan by picking him up and taking him to the nearest service station, even though doing so would make me even tardier for work.

But as I drew closer, I saw that the stranded man was none other than Willie Mays, who is considered by many to be the greatest baseball player the game has ever seen. Reassessing the situation, I realized the universe had arranged this meeting because Willie and I were destined to become friends. The selfless act I was about to perform on his behalf was no doubt arranged by some higher power to help accelerate that process.

Except ... the school bus picked him up first! Not only that, but traffic remained snarled for another ten or so miles, which meant that not only was I

late for school, I had to continue following that immense yellow vehicle, helplessly watching Willie Mays smile beautifully as he handed out autographs and tips on playing center field to every kid who asked.

I was still seething when it occurred to me that: A) Buses aren't allowed on the Merritt Parkway, B) I haven't lived in Connecticut for three decades, C) Willie Mays died over a year ago; and D) My alarm was going off, and my dream of meeting baseball's best center fielder had been just that: a dream.

This was by no means my first such nocturnal imagining. Some years ago, I scored from first base on a home run

by my Chicago Cub teammate Gordie Howe at Wrigley Field, even though in reality Howe was his generation's greatest ice hockey player. Then a few months ago I awoke from a vivid dream of Montreal Canadiens center Jean Beliveau taking me on a tour of Biddeford in his monster truck.

Just last week I found myself grabbing a rebound in a college basketball game, and firing an outlet pass to my teammate Larry Dierker, a former pitcher for (and manager of) the Houston Astros. We broke downcourt two-on-one against a lone but familiar-looking defender. Dierker tried to get the ball back to me, but LeBron James's defense was so effective

that Larry, out of sheer frustration, fired the basketball as hard as he could, trying to ricochet it off LeBron's hip and out of bounds. Unfortunately, it deflected off me before going over the sideline. "Larry!" I yelled. "Does my hip really look like LeBron James's hip?"

We all smiled; it was a friendly game, apparently. But as I slowly regained contact with reality, I recalled that neither Larry or LeBron had ever played college basketball. And as I shook loose the last of the cobwebs, I reluctantly remembered that I definitely hadn't either.

So, what do all these bizarre overnight fantasies mean? Don't ask me. I don't analyze 'em; I just dream 'em. <

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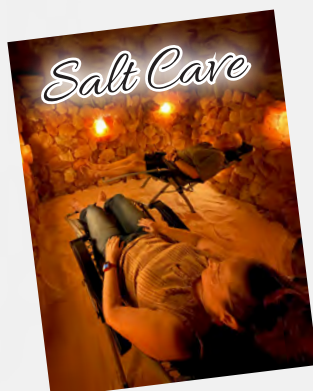
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Windham girls' soccer drops regional final to Scarborough

By Matt Pascarella
STAFF WRITER

After Windham varsity girls' soccer held back Falmouth in the semi-final playoff game at Falmouth on Saturday, Nov. 1 with a 3-2 win, the third-placed Eagles returned to Falmouth and took on top-ranked Scarborough in the Class A South regional final on Tuesday, Nov. 4. This was an incredibly hard-fought game that lasted over 100 minutes of play and a penalty kick round.

The Eagles truly left it all on the field and remained tough for over 110 minutes. Scarborough just slipped by when they scored one penalty kick more during the round and won 2-1.

"They being the No. 1 seed had everything to lose and we didn't," said Windham senior Marley Jarvais. "We came out and not only did we play with them, but we outplayed them most of the game and I think that's something we should remember. I think Scarborough was overconfident coming into this game and thought they could easily get a win against us, but I think we just proved that we can outplay them – I think this team has grown so much since the summer."

During the first half Windham had the upper hand with more offensive chances and very strong defense. The score was 0-0 at the half.

"Our energy ... this game, we all came ready to play," said Windham sophomore Morgan Clark. "We all knew that we could play with Scarborough and would play however long it would take. How much we've grown as a team is a positive that stands out. Coming into this year a lot of us thought this would be a rebuilding year. A lot of us knew what we could be and we all put in the work



(L to R) Windham sophomore Morgan Clark fires a shot in the direction of the goal during the Class A South girls' soccer regional final against Scarborough at Falmouth High School on Tuesday, Nov. 4. Senior Nola Bryant stops the ball from going out of play. Senior Marley Jarvais keeps the ball away from her opponent. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

to be (the team we've become)."

Windham sophomore goalie Jennifer Schwarz said she went into this game feeling like there was nothing to lose and she needed to go for every ball. She couldn't be nervous; she knew her team had her back. Schwarz said once the game started, she was happy out there, doing what she loved. She was a solid barrier and had 10 saves during regulation and overtime play.

In the second half, the Eagles had no diminishment of their hustle. They had earned the right to be there, and every player gave it everything they had.

Roughly 65 minutes into the game Scarborough scored. Windham had a shot at the Red Riot's goal that bounced off the crossbar. This game wasn't over yet.

About 72 minutes into regulation play Clark scored. The game was tied 1-1 as the clock ran out.

"We brought it to them, we brought our 'A' game, we weren't intimidated," said Windham varsity girls' soccer assistant coach Jim Stewart. "When Windham was down a goal they kept playing, got the goal back, they kept playing. They believed in themselves and they believed in each other. They should be proud of themselves; you play like that, and you lose, ... you hold your head high. You did everything you could do; you gave every bit of effort you could give and that's all as a coach we could ask for."

Both overtimes were no different for Windham. They remained aggressive, pressured and had offensive chances and shots on goal.

When it came down to penalty kicks, Scarborough got one more than Windham.

Both Jarvais and Clark agreed the team has grown and improved over the season. They worked hard all season, every game, every ball, every chance. The seniors were playing for the underclassmen, and the underclassmen were playing for the seniors.

"That's really, really hard what they just did," said Windham varsity girls' soccer head coach Deb Lebel. "As much as our kids don't like it and they all make fun of me for stressing the fitness, I don't think we dipped too much out there. Windham got a lot better opportunities when we played to feet, they did great."

When Lebel and Stewart look back on the season, growth and team camaraderie stand out. <



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EMERGENCY COVERAGE AT WARREN AVENUE LOCATION

Boys' soccer falls to Falmouth in quarterfinal playoff

By Matt Pascarella
STAFF WRITER

Tenth-place Windham varsity boys' soccer played second-place Falmouth at Falmouth on Wednesday, Oct. 29.

Windham kept Falmouth scoreless for 60 minutes of an 80-minute game, but Falmouth scored halfway through the second half. The Navigators got two more goals before the end and won, 3-0.

"For this contest, getting them on their heels early by coming out more aggressive and looking to push the scoring opportunities was the strategy," said Windham varsity boys' soccer coach Jeff Neal. "Windham faced adversity all season long on and off the pitch, but they all picked each other up day-after-day, working hard to find a pathway to get better. While we may not have met initial expectations, I can proudly say as a group they represented the community and program as well as a group of young men can."

Neal said the team worked hard all season to develop a more aggressive and positive shooting posture while doubling down to improve striking technique to generate more consistent scoring. As the season



(L to R) Windham senior Daniel Hancock stays with the ball during the boys' soccer quarterfinal playoff game against Falmouth on Wednesday, Oct. 29. Senior Dylan Crockett moves the ball by a Falmouth defender. PHOTO BY MATT PASCARELLA

progressed, WHS improved on this. Their defense really improved after losing a number of veteran players to graduation last year.

Windham's defense was strong from the start and remained strong for a very large portion of the game. The Eagles moved the ball well and worked hard to be first to the ball. They made solid attempts to go after scoring opportunities, but Falmouth defense was also strong. It was 0-0 at halftime.

"Coming into this game, my teammates and I went with the mindset of having nothing to lose," said Windham senior and goalie Tate Robinson who had nine saves during the game. "We knew that this wasn't going to be an easy game, however, we were still confident in our ability to compete against them. I was confident in our team's abilities and fully believed we could win. This was the best I've seen us play and really showed that we were able to compete with one of the best teams in Maine."

In the second half, Windham maneuvered and remained aggressive with incredibly strong defense. After several blocks by Robinson, Falmouth was able to score, but only after almost 60 scoreless minutes.

Robinson did not let this get him down and said he knew there was plenty of game remaining to tie it up. "As a team we held Falmouth up really well," said Windham senior Camden Patin. "Everything we talked about executing we executed to our best. The first half was some of the best all-around soccer we had played all season. It was simple mistakes that led to the defeat. Looking back on the season what stands out is our ability to push through adversity ... this team came every day to work and grind to get better."

The Navigators scored again with eight minutes left and once more on a penalty kick.

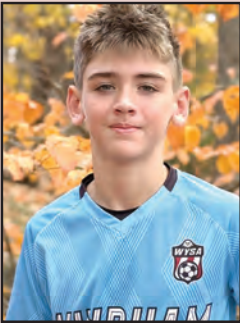
Captain and senior Daniel Hancock said leading up to Falmouth's first goal, they had executed their game plan well but just had a small break in it. When Robinson made back-to-back saves, in the moments following Hancock said Windham did not have Robinson's back to clear the ball. They ran out of gas, and some unfortunate bounces deflated them. He's proud of the effort Windham gave against a strong team.

"We controlled the ball well and kept the score to a 0-0 game," said Windham senior Dylan Crockett. "We are a very talented team with great players, but we did not fully adapt to Falmouth's urgency and hunger in the second half. Due to our lack of endurance toward the last 15 minutes of the game we got put under pressure. (While) we possessed the ball a lot better, and we had a ton of attacking chances, we just couldn't finish the chances. I'm very grateful for all the opportunities this team has given me; this brotherhood we all had will stay as a core memory for the rest of my life." <

WHS SCOREBOARD

- ★ **Football:** In its final game of the regular season, Windham varsity football played Deering at Windham on Friday, Oct. 31. After two scoreless halves, Windham sophomore Jordan Pastore scored on a four-yard run in overtime to earn the Eagles their third win of the season and a 6-0 victory. The Eagles did not make the postseason playoffs and finish the 2025 season with a 3-6 record.
- ★ **Cross Country:** Windham High's Cross Country team had two athletes compete in the state championship at Cony High School in Augusta on Saturday, Nov. 1. Senior Lila Stanley came in first for Windham and was 35th overall with a time of 22:33.48 minutes. Senior Sydney Broadbent came in second for Windham and was 64th overall with a 23:55.01 time.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Grayson Grigsby

Age: 12
Teams: Windham youth soccer and Windham youth basketball
Coach: Joey McLean
Parents' names: Tanya and Geoff Grigsby
Reason for selection: Grayson is a quiet leader whose work ethic and game IQ make him a standout on both the soccer pitch and basketball court. Grayson switched from football to soccer this fall, and he quickly adapted and became a reliable goalkeeper for his squad. He has a knack for analyzing play and positioning himself for success. On the court, his confidence has grown year by year. He has become more vocal and continues to impress with his steady development. With both soccer and basketball, Grayson's ability to read the game and elevate his role shows just how committed he is as an athlete.

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JSMS boys' cross country finishes with championship win

By Matt Pascarella
STAFF WRITER

The Jordan-Small Middle School boys' cross country team won the Cumberland County League championship on Thursday, Oct. 23 at Twinbrook Recreation Area in Cumberland.

Competing against 15 other middle school teams, the JSMS boys' team edged out Yarmouth Middle School by three points to win the Cumberland County League championship.

Hard work and grit paid off in a big way for these boys," said JSMS cross country coach John Powers. "With a goal in mind and support from teammates, coaches, parents and their friends they were able to take on a league filled with much larger school populations to win it all."

Three weeks prior to the event, the JSMS boys' finished second to Yarmouth during a regular season meet. The day after that second-place finish, Powers said the team got to work with their goal being to defeat Yarmouth in the championship meet and win it all.

He said that the entire team contributed to the improvement and everyone in their top five runners that figured into the score set a personal best during that race.

Eighth grader and team co-captain Miles Moreau finished first in the championship event for JSMS and fifth overall with a time of 11:40 minutes. Eighth grader and co-captain Franklin Murray finished 10th overall and second for JSMS with a



0.jpg – Jordan-Small Middle School's cross country team gathers after the Gray Invitational Meet at Gray Middle School on Friday, Oct. 3. PHOTO BY JOHN POWERS

12:19 time.

Sixth grader Mason Hall finished third for the team and 13th overall with a time of 12:28. Sixth grader Brady Cirrinone was fourth with a 12:56 time; and seventh grader Will Carroll finished fifth with a time of 13:13.

"Winning the championship is a reflection on how hard our team works," said Murray. "By putting their full effort in practices every time and having team spirit that pushes us to be the best we can be."

Moreau said he knew the meet was going to be close and was re-

lieved when he saw JSMS had won. his team and its championship accomplishment. <



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→ **DAV** *Cont. from page 16*

mitted to ensuring our nation’s warriors have the tools, resources and opportunities they need to competitively enter the job market and secure meaningful employment. DAV helps facilitate more than 144 career fairs annually, including virtual and live events to connect veterans with employers who are committed to hiring them. DAV offers advice to job seekers on how to succeed in their careers while educating companies on the value they bring to the workforce. To find a schedule of DAV’s career fairs, go to jobs.dav.org.
DAV also helps address the underlying issues of homelessness. Studies show that PTSD is a leading contributor to the homelessness of nearly

40,000 American veterans, with another 1.4 million at risk. DAV’s Homeless Veterans Initiative promotes partnership between the organization and federal, state, county and local governments to develop programs to assist homeless veterans in becoming self-sufficient.
When natural disasters strike, from hurricanes to wildfires, the DAV team is on the ground to help our heroes. DAV provides financial assistance to help eligible veterans and their families secure food, warm clothes and shelter and distributes supply kits with basic comfort items. In the past five years alone, the program has pro-



vided more than \$3.6 million to assist nearly 10,000 victims.
Another growing need, particularly for our aging veteran population, is obtaining transportation to medical appointments. Since 1987, DAV has organized no-cost rides with volunteer drivers to get veterans to their scheduled care at VA medical facilities. During this time, DAV has donated 3,678 vehicles at a cost of nearly \$85 million to the program and has provided more than 615,000 rides annually.
For those needing a little household assistance or other services, DAV also offers a searchable online database, VolunteerforVeterans.org, where veterans and their caregivers

can find the help they need, from local volunteers for basic tasks like doing yardwork or running errands.
Since 1920, DAV has been a leader in strengthening federal programs, benefits, health care and transition services for the men and women who served, their families and survivors. Its advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill are guided by DAV members through the adoption of resolutions at its national convention, and last year, with the strength of more than 1 million members, nearly 40 of these critical priorities were included in legislation or other means, with five becoming law.
We salute DAV for 100 years of tireless service and thank them for the work still to come in caring for America’s veterans. To learn more and get the help you need, visit DAV.org. *(NAPSI) <*



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LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF RAYMOND, MAINE

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

SITE WALK

Saturday, November 15, 2025 • 9:00AM

You are hereby notified of the Raymond ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS Site Walk at the following location
Saturday, November 15, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. regarding the information on the following application:

APPLICANT: Performance Motor Sports LLC/
Matthew Cullins/Isaac Allen

LOCATION: Map 55/Lot 62 Zone Commercial
1215 Roosevelt Trail

DESCRIPTION: Application for a Conditional Use –
Outdoor Sales

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, November 25, 2025 • 7:00PM

You are hereby notified that the Raymond Appeals Board will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, November 25, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.** to hear information on the following application:

APPLICANT: Performance Motor Sports LLC/
Matthew Cullins/Isaac Allen

LOCATION: Map 55/Lot 62 Zone Commercial

DESCRIPTION: Application for a Conditional Use –
Outdoor Sales

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

JOIN ZOOM MEETING
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84181474498?pwd=LZpDUBwoqrkK23iUhJmfkmsMe5FKEE.1>
Meeting ID: 841 8147 4498
Passcode: 4cXhUG

ONE TAP MOBILE – JOIN INSTRUCTIONS
Meeting ID: 841 8147 4498
Passcode: 866615

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84181474498?pwd=LZpDUBwoqrkK23iUhJmfkmsMe5FKEE.1>

TOWN OF WINDHAM, MAINE

PLANNING BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Mon., November 10, 2025 • 6:00PM
Town Hall, Council Chambers, 8 School Road

- Public hearing for #25-26 Code of the Town of Windham, Chapter 120 Land Use, Article 8 Site Plan Review & Article 9 Subdivision Review – Access Drive Standards
Proposed amendments regarding the construction standards and number of connections to public streets required for residential developments.

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

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF RAYMOND, MAINE

PLANNING BOARD

NOTICE OF MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING

Monday, November 17, 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 and Public Hearing at the Raymond Broadcast Studio and via Zoom on **Monday, November 17, 2025 at 7:00 pm** on the following matters:

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED SHORT TERM RENTAL ORDINANCE

Discussion of requirements for Banquet Halls

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
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► **By Warren O'Shea**
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE



— Warren O'Shea
Owner, O'Shea Builders

Many of you have noticed the increase in roadside homes for sale signs. Yes, the market is slowing down a bit but there are still between about 5,400 and 9,100 active Maine listings in late September/October 2025. New listings increased in late summer and early fall 2025, but the rate of new listings has been decreasing since the summer. While the statewide inventory has grown, the supply in southern and coastal Maine remains tight due to factors like job opportunities and desirability. Although specific data comparing old versus new homes is limited, you can be sure that there are more existing homes on the market than new ones. The demand for housing is high, and the skilled labor pool is low.

On June 19 of this year, WGME channel 13 aired a town hall broadcast called "Contractor Conflict." (wgme.com/news/i-team/cbs-13-i-team-contractor-conflict-town-hall)

The story was about the contractor licensing bill (LD1226) but turned

slightly to Maine's labor shortage. As VP of the Home Builders and Remodels association of Maine, I was one of three panel members. The other members were State Rep. Tiffany Roberts (D-South Berwick) and Jeff Harris, President of the Maine Association of Realtors. Mr. Harris said that the already tight housing market and the high cost for that housing would be adversely affected by the added cost of regulation. He mentioned that licensing would have a negative impact on the production of quality homes and the production of generational wealth.

Meh, maybe... but it wouldn't be much. Lumber prices go up; lumber prices go down. Sometimes it hurts more than others, but in reality, none of it matters if the parking lot at the job-site is empty. If you want more houses, if you want less expensive houses, we need more skilled labor and that starts with guidance counselors.

Jump in the way back machine to



1985. As a sophomore in high school, I wasn't performing to expectations in a college placement curriculum. I excelled in shop and was mechanically inclined but that didn't work so well with my school's college placement record. We had a 90-plus college placement for students. Sounds great right? Sounds like a great school. Great schools entice people to move there. Taxes fund things. All is good.

Not so much. Neither the school nor the guidance counselors were helpful at looking at the students as individuals and identifying what was best for them. They wanted college placement regardless of whether it was to their benefit.

"The world needs ditch diggers, too."

For the last five years I've been an advisory panel member of the Portland Arts and Tech High School and most recently the Lake Region High School and the Lewiston Regional Technical Center helping both to evaluate and augment their existing curriculum. This August, I was part of the curriculum steering committee for the Harold Alfond Center for the Advancement of Maine's Workforce which offers short term training through Maine's community colleges. Courses are offered free of charge thanks to grant funding through the Harold Alfond Center. They will be offered again in early 2026, as well as similar offerings at KVCC in the Fairfield region.

Until we erase the stigma of trade schools as dumping grounds for the bad actors and ne'er-d- well'ers, we will be paying a premium for skilled services. When fewer skilled workers are available, builders must pay higher

→ see **REAL ESTATE** Page 28

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FOOD AND GAMES

THE WINDHAM EAGLE'S

Cooking Corner

By Angela Paris

SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE • JUGGLINGACTMAMA.COM

Asian Purple Cabbage Slaw

Our purple or red cabbage Asian slaw recipe is just the right blend of delicious Asian flavors and is a versatile side dish for weeknight dinners. It's got lots of great crunch, sweetness from the carrots and honey, a little sour note from the vinegar, saltiness from the soy sauce, and even nuttiness from the toasted sesame oil. It is simple to prepare (only takes 10 minutes) and makes a great addition to casual evening or weekend meals. I love to serve this with any number of pork or poultry dishes or on top of sliders.

INGREDIENTS

- 4 cups of purple cabbage (shredded)
1 cup of carrots (shredded)
¼ cup of rice wine vinegar
1 tablespoon of honey
1 tablespoon of toasted sesame oil
- 1 tablespoon of soy sauce
2 teaspoons of ground ginger
2 tablespoons of fresh parsley
2 tablespoons of toasted sesame seeds
salt and pepper to taste



INSTRUCTIONS

In a large bowl, combine the carrots and purple cabbage. Set aside.
In a small bowl, whisk together the ingredients for the dressing until well combined. Pour the mixture over the carrots and cabbage and toss to coat.
Season with salt and pepper and sprinkle in the parsley.
Garnish with sesame seeds.

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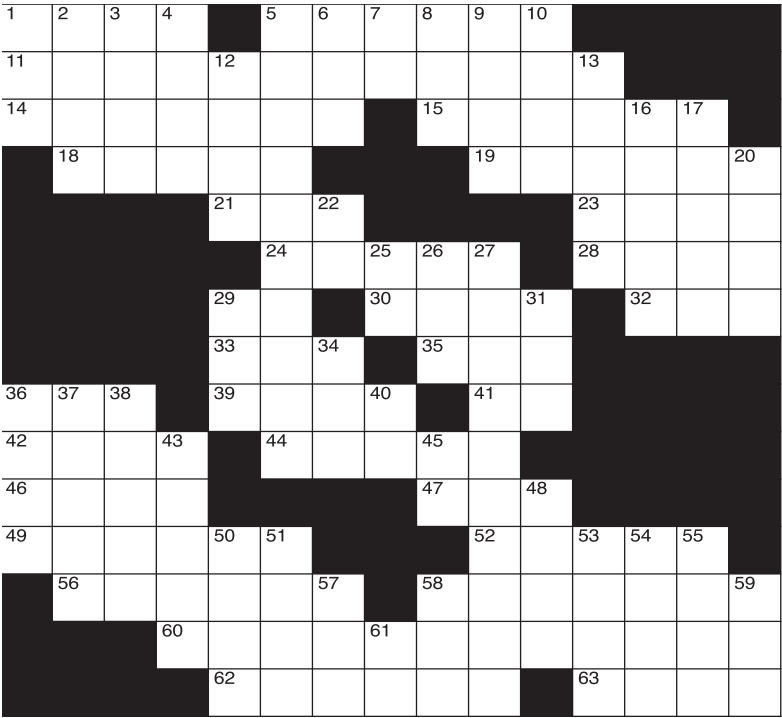


LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS

1. Dough made from corn flour
5. Rise
11. Gratitude
14. A low wall
15. Kidnap
18. A cup golfers want to win
19. Outgoing
21. "Partner" to flow
23. Former Michigan coach Brady
24. Proverb
28. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
29. Helps a body recover
30. Baseball Cy Young winner
32. Very fast airplane
33. Offensive baseball stat
35. Body of water
36. Record of one's heartbeat
39. Signs a contract
41. Atomic #24
42. Bind securely
44. French Jesuit theologian
46. Fragrant brown balsam
47. Post office box
49. Sells tickets at inflated prices
52. Places to hang coats
56. Jewish salutation
58. Yellow fruits
60. Poorly educated
62. Microorganism
63. Talk show host Barrymore

CLUES DOWN

1. A way to plan
2. Three-banded armadillo
3. Mobile
4. Romanian city
5. Making sour
6. Take a seat
7. "The Golden State"
8. When you hope to arrive
9. Pointed ends of pens
10. Extinct flightless bird
12. Sharp-pointed dueling sword
13. Nape of neck
16. Problems (Spanish slang)
17. Narrow carpet
20. To avoid the risk of
22. Spiritual academic degree (abbr.)
25. Equally
26. Traditional cars still need it
27. Eligible voters
29. Greek alphabet letter
31. Body part
34. Referee-declared outcome
36. Means to moving money
37. Popular footwear brand
38. Cockatoo
40. NFL's big game
43. Botswana currencies
45. News-reporting organization
48. Batman villain
50. Urgent request
51. Not all
53. Hallmark's specialty
54. Knot in a tree
55. Satisfy
57. Notable space station
58. Baby's dining accessory
59. Stitch clothing
61. ___ and behold

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

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

SUDOKU

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

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

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Living in the Lakes Region of Maine, it's essential to count on dependable heating and cooling systems and that's why homeowners and businesses rely on 207 Plumbing & Heating when something goes wrong.

Based at 299 Roosevelt Trail in Windham and owned and operated since 2015 by Bill Sterling, the 207 Plumbing & Heating team is highly professional, experienced and dedicated to customer satisfaction. Serving Southern Maine including Windham and the Lakes Region, 207 Plumbing & Heating is fully licensed and insured and offers affordable solutions to fit customer needs with expertise in plumbing, heating and cooling and heat pumps.

"In this day and age, it's a challenge to be fairly priced," Sterling said. "But we remain competitive with our pricing and will stay that way. We care about the quality of our work, are compassionate about our customers and like those in our community whom we serve, we are locally owned and live here too."

Sterling has more than 21 years of heating and plumbing experience and leads a team of 8 employees who are responsive when called upon and pay attention and listen to their customers.

"We never try and upsell anyone," Sterling said. "We give our customers great quality service."

He says 207 Plumbing & Heating strives to determine the best solution



for plumbing repair needs and to find the most efficient way to install new plumbing fixtures.

"Because we have worked on so many projects, we think outside the box for solutions that meet your needs and budget," Sterling said. "We use the highest quality materials and top manufacturers to complete repairs so you can count on long-lasting results and efficient products and fixtures."

The same is true for heating systems as 207 technicians repair, maintain and install oil, propane and natural gas furnaces and boilers, with the expertise to get the job done correctly and professionally.

"We keep up to date on the latest technologies and have the experience to work with older systems as well," Sterling said.

The company also installs heat pumps and provides heat pump maintenance and repairs, can resolve sewer and septic line clogs and even provides sewer and plumbing line camera inspections when needed. It offers convenient maintenance and

service agreements for total homeowner peace of mind.

They were a 2025 Eagle Choice Award gold winner for plumbing services and also took home the gold title for plumbers and bronze for heating/air in the 2024 Best of the 207 competition. Their more than 350 online reviews for 207 Plumbing & Heating are also exceptional.

"207 replaced my water tank, installed a sediment filter and serviced our furnace. When the furnace was running too rich, they came right out and fixed the settings and restarted everything and cleaned the space around the furnace before they left. They were efficient, polite, and knowledgeable with the different systems. Great job all around- thank you!!" ~ Missy Willette

"207 Plumbing and Heating was amazing to work with. They were able to deal with two issues I had at two separate properties the same day I called. They were professional and their communication was top notch. I will definitely be recommending them in the future!" ~ Andrea Raynor

"5 stars. We had lost furnace driven hot water after a subzero freeze, but still had heat pumps working for heat and there were no leaks anywhere, so it was not an emergency. Maura got right back to me when I called and as it wasn't an urgent matter, put me on the schedule the next day. Wound up only needing an overdue service as my hot water returned on its own. Bill arrived earlier than planned and was polite, professional and worked very clean. I am very happy with their services and will use them again in the future." ~ Patrick Reed

"We ran into a bind with a burst pipe. The guys at 207 Plumbing and Heating responded to our call quickly. They were friendly and got the job done quickly with no problems. They were very professional and cleaned up their work stuff. I would recommend the folks at 207 Heating and Plumbing." ~ Eric Colby

Sterling says that much of the success for 207 Plumbing & Heating comes from its employees caring for their customers.

"We want to make sure our customers receive value for their hard-earned dollars," he said. "We want our customers to know that we care and we're there for them."

To learn more about 207 Plumbing & Heating, call 207-653-0979 or visit 207plumbingandheating.com. On the website you can request service on the contact page. Find them on Facebook <

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➔ **REAL ESTATE** *Cont. from page 25*

wages to attract and retain them, and projects take longer to complete, which adds to carrying costs and ultimately increases the final price for buyers. Some of the direct cost increases are higher wages, extended timelines and lost production.

Competition for limited skilled labor has driven up wages significantly, with some reports noting increases of 40 to 50 percent for small builders since the pandemic. Projects take longer to finish, adding to the builder's overhead and carrying costs for financing, property taxes, and insurance. A reduced capacity to build new homes due to labor shortages leads to lower housing inventory, which puts upward pressure

on prices for existing and new homes. If you would like the idea of more affordable homes, better-built homes, not having to pay off student loans, job security and the ability to earn as much as some medical trades, talk to your guidance counselor.

This article was brought to you by Warren O'Shea, the owner of O'Shea Builders LLC, Maine's most award-winning remodeling contractor. He has 35-plus years of residential remodeling experience. He is a certified home inspector and has been featured on HGTV, Food Network, and Maine Cabin Masters. He is a recipient of the Portland Police Department's "Citizen Award," and is a staunch consumer advocate. Warren has, and continues to, co-author articles for nationally distributed trade magazines. <



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