THE WINDHAM EAGLE

Fall Car Care Guide INSIDE!

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RSU 14 Board of Directors to choose new middle school name at Nov. 4 meeting

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

When the RSU 14 Board of Directors meets on Wednesday, Nov. 4 at Windham High School, further discussion and the name of the new middle school currently under construction will be voted upon.

During a board meeting on Oct. 21 at Jordan-Small Middle School in Raymond, two possible names were brought up, including Windham Raymond Middle School and William Diamond Middle School after the late Lakes Region state representative and state senator, former Maine Secretary of State and champion for children across the state.

Diamond, a longtime legislator, educator, local business owner and child welfare advocate, died Aug. 31, 2025, at the age of 80. He also co-founded Windham Neighbors Helping Neighbors to provide heat assistance to those in need in Windham and Raymond, and the Walk A Mile In Their Shoes Foundation to end child homicide in the state of Maine.



As construction continues for the new middle school at 71 Windham Center Road, RSU 14 Board of Directors members will determine what to name the school on Nov. 4, including a proposal to name the building after the late Windham and Raymond educator and legislator Bill Diamond. PHOTO BY ED PIERCE

While some RSU 14 board members expressed support for naming the school after Diamond, others disagreed, saying they wanted the school's name to reflect both the communities of Windham and Raymond and recognizing each town.

During public comments, speakers including State Rep. Mark Cooper and Maine State Senate District 26 Republican candidate Kenny Cianchette supported naming the school after Diamond because of his advocacy for children in the state.

One board member then inaccurately said that Diamond had no connection with Raymond schools, and she wasn't in favor of naming the new middle school after him.

However, Raymond Schools' first school superintendent, Frank McDermott, who lives in Raymond, confirmed that when he left the Raymond district to join Bonny Eagle Schools in 1976, Bill Diamond succeeded him as superintendent and as the principal of Jordan-Small School.

Diamond grew up on his grandfather's farm in West Gardiner and originally came to the Lakes Region after earning a bachelor's degree and master's degree in education

see NAME Page 10

Windham couple grateful for community's help in finding beloved cat after 37-day search

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

Breyanna Barboza of Windham continued to pray for a miracle and clung to the hope that her beloved lost cat Kitty would return home safely.

Barboza has owned Kitty for the past nine years since he was just six weeks old and she was desperate to find him. She and her fiancé Gary Trask searched for Kitty for weeks without any luck and as the weather got cold this fall, Breyanna, who is on disability, worried that her pet might never be found.

On Saturday, Sept. 12, Breyanna attended a wedding and when she returned home afterward, she discovered Kitty, who was born outside in a barn and is an outdoor/indoor cat, was missing.

"He has never done this before in the nine years that I've had him," Breyanna said. "I knew instantly something was not right and I felt it in my whole being."

The couple then took steps to try and find their lost cat. They called local animal shelters and local veterinarians, alerted neighbors, posted Kitty's photographs on social media and began to walk streets around their Pope Road home calling out for him.

"I walked miles a day until my body could no longer walk because of my disorders. I posted on the Windham community page every week, walked to all the neighbors around me and asked for them to look for him and keep an eye out," Breyanna said. "We printed flyers and put them in neighbors' mailboxes, called animal shelters, vets, and everywhere I could to try to find him."



After being missing for 37 days, Breyanna Barboza's beloved missing cat Kitty was found on Emerson Drive in Windham on Oct. 18. The cat disappeared from Barboza's Pope Road home on Sept. 12, prompting a frantic five-week search for the lost pet. SUBMITTED PHOTO

She said the ordeal was gut-wrenching and didn't know how she could cope if Kitty was never found.

"Honestly the love I have for Kitty is what kept me going," Breyanna said. "For the first few days when he went missing, I went to the field near my house and just cried and cried and cried. I didn't want to be here on this earth without him. But I knew I had to keep going because I love him and I needed to find out answers and had to keep trying. He deserves that. He deserved me not giving up complete hope and I pushed myself to keep trying."

Gary works night shift and sleeps during the day, but he was supportive of the search, as were Breyanna's roommates who lent a hand by calling neighbors alerting them about the missing cat.

"Other than that, it was mostly me walking miles a day to try to see where he could have gone," Breyanna said. "People kept telling me not give up hope, look under sheds and other spots like that, set out traps, shake treats and call for him."

As time went on, Breyanna found it hard for her to accept that Kitty was gone.

"I thought he had passed away because it was so unlike him to do," she said. "I still kept hope, because he's everything to me and I would never ever just give up looking. I looked even though everything inside me felt in agony without him."

According to Breyanna, the compassion shown to her by the community helped her cope.

"People's kindness made me get through. If I heard 'you are a horrible person for letting him outside,' I would be not here I don't think," she said." When he went missing honestly everything in me went into agony."

The search went on for 37 days until Kimberly Cook saw a post on the Windham Maine Community Board Unfiltered containing photos of a found cat in Windham. She remembered

see CAT Page 6

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INSIGHT

Going nowhere fast

Seeing a photo of a hang glider last week jogged my memory of a time in my past I'd rather forget.

It was October 1987 and I was working the 2-11 shift at a newspaper in Albuquerque, New Mexico. When I left home to drive to work that afternoon, I was low on gas and figured I'd cash my paycheck on my lunch break and fill up. It was also 75 degrees and sunny, so I got into the car without taking a jacket.

Somehow, I got busy at work and never took a lunch break. When I stepped outside to drive home after my shift, the temperature had dropped to 38 degrees and snow flurries were in the air. Starting my car up, I noticed the fuel gauge was close to low but the grocery store where I would cash my paycheck was closed. I decided to drive home and hoped I had enough gas to make it.

About six miles south of Albuquerque on I-25, my car ran out of gas, and it was near some steep hills where I would spot hang gliders taking off from time to time.

I stepped out of my 1978 Buick LeSabre and stuck my thumb out to hitchhike. At about 11:45 p.m., an Army soldier in uniform stopped and offered me a ride. He said he had just attended a Christian concert in Albuquerque, and that it was the Christian thing to do to drive me the remaining 10 miles south to my house.

Reaching my home, I thanked the soldier who then drove off. I then grabbed a warm coat, about $8 in quarters, and my gas can. It was a short walk of under a mile back to Highway 47 and the Circle K convenience store. I used $2 to fill the gas can and waited for someone driving north to ask for a ride back to my car on the side of I-95.

At about 12:30 a.m., a rusty old yellow pickup truck pulled into the Circle K lot, and a fellow wearing a cowboy hat got out and pumped $5 of gas into his gas tank. There were two other men in the pickup's cab and two more bundled up under blankets riding in the pickup truck's bed.

I approached the driver paying for his gas and asked if he was headed north to I-95 and if so, could I ride with him to where my car was. He smiled and asked me how much it was worth to me. When I offered him my remaining $6 in quarters, he scooped it out of my hand and instructed me to jump in the back.

The guys riding in the truck's bed with me said they were oil workers heading home after working at an oil rig near Artesia, New Mexico. They had exited I-25 hoping to find a gas station, had become lost, and ended up at the same Circle K where I was. Inside the store, the clerk had told them to head straight up Highway 47 past the Isleta Pueblo reservation as they would reconnect with I-25 in about eight miles.

Riding in the pickup truck bed was brutal. It was now snowing and between that and the wind blowing all around me while driving at 55 mph, I was absolutely freezing.

Nearing my car on the opposite side of I-25, I banged on the pickup's rear window and signaled to the driver that it was where I wanted to get out. He pulled over and I thanked him for the ride. I put the gas in my car, and it started right up.

But before I could leave for home, I noticed one of the oil workers waving his arms and shouting at me from across the highway. He ran across the highway divider and told me that one of the front tires had blown out on the pickup truck and it was now flat all the way to the rim. They apparently didn't have a spare tire or even a tire jack for emergencies.

The driver asked if I could drive him back south to the Circle K store where he could buy a can of Fix-A-Flat. As a joke, I asked him how much it was worth to him and he said he would give me my $6 in quarters back. I told him that was a deal and I said that I would even bring him back to the truck after he bought the Fix-A-Flat.

We took off in my LeSabre and I waited while he went inside the store. I drove him back to the pickup truck and stood by while they inflated their front tire. I made a U-turn and headed back south for the 10-mile ride home.

I crawled into bed about 2:15 a.m. and the next morning, I called my friends and shared my experiences of the previous evening with them.

Here's what I learned. First, I always bring a jacket with me in October while driving at night. Second, I always keep plenty of gasoline in the gas tank of my car. Lastly, I always have some cash available in case of an emergency. < *~ Ed Pierce*



OCTOBER 30

1485 – King Henry VII of England is crowned at Westminster Abbey.

1864 – Helena, Montana is founded after four prospectors discover gold at "Last Chance Gulch."

1938 – Orson Welles' "The War of the Worlds" airs on CBS radio and causes a panic among listeners thinking that Martians are invading Earth.

1945 – The U.S. government announces the end of shoe rationing following the end of World War II.

1953 – U.S. Army General George C. Marshall is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

1961 – During a test, the Soviet Union detonates the largest hydrogen bomb ever created in Northern Russia.

1972 – U.S. President Richard Nixon approves legislation to increase Social Security spending by $5.3 billion.

1974 – Muhammad Ali knocks out George Foreman in the eighth round during the "Rumble in the Jungle" boxing match in Zaire.

Inspirational Quote of the Week

"Somewhere inside all of us is the power to change the world." ~ Roald Dahl

ON THE SPOT

What grinds your gears the most?

"Oak trees waiting until November to drop their leaves." – Brian Butler

"All the money wasted on mailing political flyers to homes. Do these candidates really think a flyer will influence my vote?" – David W. Tettley

"Local Good Idea Fairies who are all-too-comfortable spending other people's property tax dollars." – Brian McCarthy

"Unchecked development and property taxes." – Alfred Traylor

"Chronic complainers." – Ed Pierce

"Nonstop mud-slinging political ads on TV and texts!" – Gail LaPrino

"The most?? Willful ignorance, I think. Every wheelhouse has its experts; when did we stop recognizing that simple fact? I don't want a cardiologist working on my home plumbing nor do I want a plumber dealing with any cardiac issues. Science is hard. So is diagnosing what the heck is wrong with an engine. Respect all and defer to others' knowledge in fields that aren't your strong suit!" – Hannah Bannon

"The absolute dumpster fire that is the American healthcare system." – Jonathan E. Priest

"People that drive under the speed limit!" – Melissa Carter

"The young people in my apartment complex who have parties every night and play loud rap music past midnight." – Anne Glotchshuk

"Negative individuals." – Deirdre Schulte

"Heavy metal rock music." – Mitchell B. Robinson

"Loud car radios and drivers who flick their cigarette butts out the window." – Rick Seacroft

"That kid's voice in the Chapter 11 Furniture commercials on television." – Dean A. Smalley

"Anyone who litters" – Sarah Singer-Miller

"Neighbors who don't pick up after their dogs on my lawn." – Jerry Greene

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Eagle NEWS

Windham voters to decide three referendums

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

Voters are casting ballots on three separate town referendums in Windham in the Nov. 3 election and each one carries significance for residents if passed.

The first referendum modifies the Windham Town Charter to curtail the annual town meeting held every June on a Saturday where the municipal budget is discussed and voted on by residents. It instead changes municipal budget approval to a public vote held on Maine Primary Day on the second Tuesday in June. This would coincide with the annual RSU 14 school budget voting.

Since the town charter was adopted and the town council form of government was put in place in 1975, public participation at the Windham Annual Town meeting has dwindled to less than 150 residents out of more than 12,000 registered voters in town over the past two years.

During Windham Town Council meetings for several years, councilors discussed the legal aspects of making a charter change with the town attorney. They learned that to make a change to the charter, an amendment was needed and it is required under Maine law to propose an amendment through a formal process that includes public notice, public hearings, and ultimately a vote by town residents at a regular or special election.



Another alternative for the council would have been to form a charter commission of appointed or elected citizens who would research the existing charter, potentially comparing it to those of other municipalities, and drafting a proposed amendment.

After lengthy discussions, councilors chose to increase public participation voting on the municipal budget through an amendment that moves away from an in-person town meeting to a balloted referendum vote.

A second referendum item before Windham voters raises the threshold requiring voter approval for offbudget spending from $25,000 to $500,000. Councilors say this would give the council flexibility in presenting either a single upordown budget vote or departmental line items.

Raising the threshold requiring voter approval for offbudget spending will allow the council to approve purchases up to a $500,000 limit without going to a town-wide vote for approval.

Councilors say this measure is currently being used by surrounding towns and the current limit of $25,000 no longer provides for emergency operations or acquisitions in a meaningful way.

In developing these two referendum items, members of the Windham Town Council chose to implement the "Charter Amendment" method before voters which can be used when a specific existing section of the charter is desired to be changed. That way the changes being proposed will not drastically affect the charter in its entirety.

During this year's Annual Town meeting held at Windham High School on June 13, Windham Town Council Chair Mark Morrison said that the low participation of voters at the town meeting is evident and that is why a charter amendment is needed to change the budget process to a public vote by secret ballot like the annual RSU 14 budget vote every spring with the goal of increasing resident participation.

Some who oppose the proposed charter amendments say that voters are being asked to cast their ballots without full information or completely understanding complex or legal language contained in referendums that they are voting on.

The third referendum issue Windham residents will vote on is if the town should purchase Windham Middle School for $1 from RSU 14 once it becomes vacant in the fall of 2027 and then repurposing the building into a Community Center and housing for town offices and the Windham Public Library there. The cost would be estimated at $19.5 million by issuing general obligation bonds for the project and includes design work, engineering, professional services, site preparation, construction, renovation, operating expenses, and other improvements and furnishings as may be required in connection with the project.

The proposal includes leveraging up

see REFERENDUMS Page 4



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This project is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling $18,228,216 with 75 percent funded by ACL/HHS and $4,941,389 amount with 25 percent funded by non-government source(s). The contents are those of the author(s) & do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACL/HHS, or the U.S. Government.



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REFERENDUMS

Cont. from page 3

to $2 million of the town's fund balance as the Windham Town Council deems reasonable and necessary to reduce the borrowing amount and directly pay costs of the project.

The existing Windham Middle School building first opened in 1974 and was intended for a capacity of 483 students. That number has grown in the past 52 years to 650 students and some sixth graders being housed for classes at the adjacent Field Allen School, which was built in 1949.

In November 2023, a plurality of voters in the school district, which encompasses Windham and Raymond, approved a referendum to build the new Windham Raymond Middle School with about 77 percent of construction costs paid by the Maine Department of Education's Major Capital Construction Program. The total project budget to construct the new school is estimated at about $171.5 million, with the state funding $131.7 million of that expense and residents of Windham and Raymond paying the remaining $39.8 million.

As part of the language in that referendum in November 2023 to obtain $131.7 million in state funding for the new middle school, RSU 14 voters agreed that the existing Windham Middle School could not be used as a school again, since the state had already contributed funding for substantial repair costs over decades of the building's use and the school does not have a fire suppression system.

A 20-member Middle School Repurpose Advisory Committee looked at ways to best use the soon-to-be vacated school building and found that the basic structure of the school was sound and that it offered 80,000 square feet of available space, the committee looked at the existing town buildings with long-term replacement costs and short-term maintenance, parking improvements and repair costs and decided that a number of municipal services could be relocated to the site for a fraction of the cost of renovating or replacing current buildings.

In putting forward the Community Center referendum, Windham Town Manager Robert Burns said that although the benefits of the Windham Middle School Repurposing Project come with a cost, in the long run it will be cost-effective for the town.

He said this proposal would move Town Hall offices there, along with Windham's Social Services Office, which houses the Windham Food Pantry, the Windham Public Library, Windham's Medical Loan Closet, and create a Community Center.

"This building represents an opportunity for us to move forward," Burns said.

According to Burns, approval of Referendum 3 represents a total mil rate increase of 37 cents. He said the impact will be spread over five years by using up to $2 million in fund balance to limit the average annual mil rate impact to roughly 7.4 cents. This is equivalent to an annual tax increase of about $33.30 on a $450,000 home for five consecutive years with no further tax increase after the fifth year. <





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CAT *Cont. from page 1*

Breyanna's posts on the Windham Maine Community Board and she sent Breyanna a message on Sunday, Oct. 18.

"Someone named Melissa Ann Dalrymple posted pictures of him. He was all the way by Emerson Drive about 2.2. miles away in Windham," Breyanna said. "She just posted how he got in her car and didn't want to leave her car. She stayed with him for two hours outside and fed him, so he wasn't alone and posted on the Windham Maine Community Board Unfiltered page how he was in her car."

Breyanna then woke Gary up and told him that Kitty had been found and he was alive.

"When I saw the message that he was found and the pictures of him, I ran out the door so fast and forgot the address and everything because I was that excited," she said. "Gary had to look it up and everything because my heart was beating so fast. It didn't feel real at first."

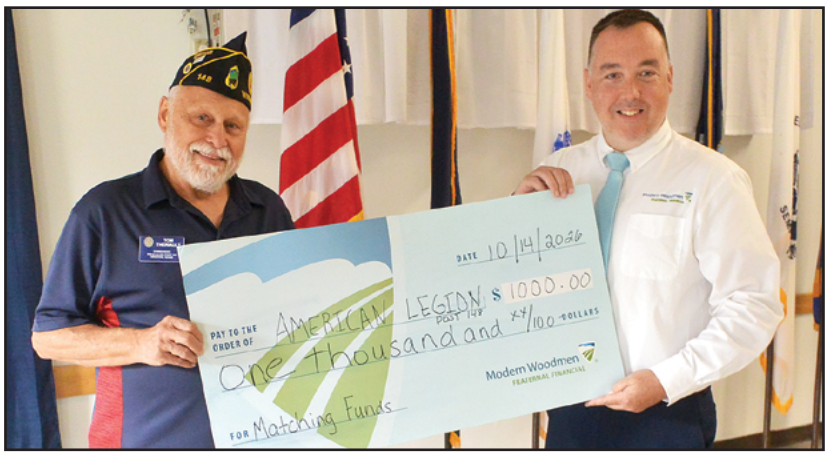
They drove over to Melissa's house, picked Kitty up and then brought him home.

"He's doing great," Breyanna said. "He's so happy to be here. He follows me around, meows and listens like he always used to. Everything I say he just looks and understands."

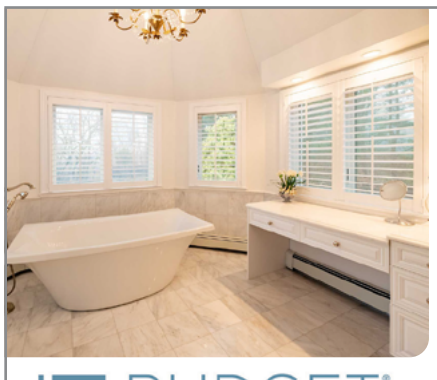
She believed her continued posts trying to find Kitty helped find him.

"I would love to say to the community after this hard, hard time thank you for keeping me updated with sightings if you saw him and made me feel better about him being an outdoor cat to and didn't judge me for it," she said. "His happiness is the most important thing to me. Thank you for keeping him in your prayers. It's a miracle to have him back." <

Generous Donation



Modern Woodmen of America Financial Representative and Post 148 member Timothy Pike, right, presents a check for $1,000 to American Legion Field-Allen Post 148 Commander Tom Theriault during the weekly Veteran's Coffee held on Oct. 14 at the Windham Veterans Center. The check is the results of Modern Woodmen's sponsorship of the Post 148 Jeep Car show on Aug. 1 this summer as a Modern Woodmen matching donation program. The funds will help support the post's Veteran Heating insecurity program during this coming winter season. SUBMITTED PHOTO



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- ★ Balance the budget by cutting wasteful spending & exposing fraud.
- ★ Reform DHHS to save children of child abuse.
- ★ Protect individual & constitutional rights, including ensuring that girls are not forced to unfairly compete against biological men.
- ★ Prioritize economic growth & improve infrastructure to create lasting opportunities for future generations.

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Are you in support of naming the new Middle School after Bill Diamond?

I SUPPORT BILL DIAMOND MIDDLE SCHOOL

Please join us on

Wednesday, Nov. 4th at 6pm

in the parking lot of Windham High School to show your support!



The RSU14 School Board is planning on holding a vote to determine the name of the new Middle School at 7:00pm in the Windham High School Auditorium.

We respectfully ask that the Board consider naming the school in honor of Bill Diamond, recognizing his lifetime of dedication to the children of Windham, Raymond and all of Maine through his service as an educator, superintendent and legislator.

HERE ARE JUST A FEW REASONS WHY WE SUPPORT THIS:

- **Bill's work touched lives far and wide. He taught from 1968 to 1989 in Windham schools and was the first principal of Windham's Manchester School. He went on to lead Field-Allen Junior High School and Windham Middle School as principal and was Superintendent of Schools for Raymond.**
- **He was an avid supporter of RSU 14 athletics, attending as many games as possible and sponsored Windham Little League softball teams for over 30 years.**
- **He founded the Windham Land Trust that was used by many teachers for field trip opportunities.**
- **He cofounded the "Windham Neighbors Helping Neighbors" non-profit in 2007 in an effort to provide emergency assistance for residents in immediate need of heating fuel.**
- **In 2023, he launched the "Walk A Mile In Their Shoes Foundation," a non-profit dedicated to preventing child homicides and the abuse of children who are under the supervision or direct care of the State of Maine or who are or have been associated with the state's Child Protective System.**



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Windham High School teacher named distinguished educator for personal finance organization

By Lorraine Glowczak
STAFF WRITER

Windham High School teacher Jen Chilton has taken her professional development to the next level, making an investment in her students' futures. Recently recognized as a Distinguished Educator by Next Gen Personal Finance (NGPF), a national nonprofit dedicated to bringing personal finance education to students, Chilton, who teaches Senior Personal Finance and Citizenship is deepening her knowledge and bringing those lessons into the classroom.

Maine teachers must complete 90 contact or in-service hours every five years to renew their teaching certificates. Chilton has earned six NGPF certifications, each of which requires nine hours of live and collaborative coursework on a key personal finance topic and passing a one-hour certification examination.

"I was looking for meaningful professional development that would directly pertain to my work in the classroom," she said. "This requirement presented an opportunity for me to pursue professional development that would benefit and help prepare students for the financial decisions they will face in the future."

Now in her 22nd year, Chilton began her first 18 years at WHS teaching freshmen geography and Foundations of World History classes. Then the opportunity to teach seniors and the Senior Personal Finance and Citizenship classes came her way.

"I have really enjoyed the transition to the seniors, especially teaching a topic that they will interact with on a daily basis," Chilton said.

Often referred to as, "Personal Finance," the class became a requirement to graduate in 2013. It is a semester-long class that all students take in their senior year. The units include Citizenship, College and Career, Banking: Checking and Savings, Credit: Loans and Credit Cards, and Financial Obligations.

The NGPF curriculum inspired Chilton to deepen her knowledge of the topics she teaches.

"From the courses offered by NGPF I decided to take Behavioral Economics, Credit, Taxes, Banking and Budgeting, Insurance, and Paying for College all in an effort to expand my knowledge

see TEACHER Page 12

Stephanie ANDERSON
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

RESTORE SAFETY IN CUMBERLAND COUNTY!

"For 28 years I served as your District Attorney. I put your and your family's safety first. I've been asked to come out of retirement to do it again - but I need your support. Together, we can restore safety to Cumberland County." - Stephanie Anderson

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- Stand with victims and their families
- Exercise compassion, but not at the expense of public safety
- Abide by and enforce Maine laws
- Restore trust in the DA's office and return safety to our communities

✓ VOTE Stephanie Anderson

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Paid for and authorized by Stephanie Anderson for District Attorney.

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- FIGHT FRAUD, LOWER TAXES
- CUT ELECTRICITY COSTS
- GROW JOBS & OPPORTUNITY

Rolf Olsen
State Representative

Early Vote: Oct. 5-29 | Election Day: Nov. 3

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MAINE STATE HOUSE - 106

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Re-Elect MARK COOPER

House District #107



READY TO WORK HARD FOR MAINE PEOPLE FOR ANOTHER 4 YEARS!

LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS & CONTINUED PRIORITIES:

★ GETTING RESULTS IN AUGUSTA
– Introduced three bills during my first term that passed the House and Senate and were signed into law by Gov. Janet Mills.
– Secured bipartisan sponsorship on two of those bills and co-sponsored numerous bills with members of both parties.

★ PROPERTY TAX RELIEF
– Support increases to the Homestead Exemption Program to provide property tax relief for seniors, veterans and lower-income families.
– Working on legislation to reduce property taxes for disabled veterans.

★ STANDING UP FOR VETERANS
– Supported LD 355, restoring motor vehicle excise tax exemptions for eligible disabled veterans with owned or leased vehicles.
– Supported numerous pieces of veterans legislation during the 132nd Legislature.

★ HELPING CONSTITUENTS
– Assisted constituents throughout my two-year term in navigating state and local government and resolving problems.
– Worked with U.S. Sen. Susan Collins' office on citizen issues requiring federal assistance.

★ SUPPORTING MAINE AGRICULTURE
– Supported legislation to increase the use of locally grown food in Maine schools and state institutions.
– Worked on initiatives to address food insecurity and improve access to healthy, Maine-grown food.

★ PROTECTING TAXPAYER DOLLARS
– Opposed fraud and misuse of state funds.
– Supported greater transparency, full disclosure and accountability for non governmental organizations receiving state funding.
– Believes taxpayer dollars should be used responsibly to serve the people of Maine.

ENDORSED BY

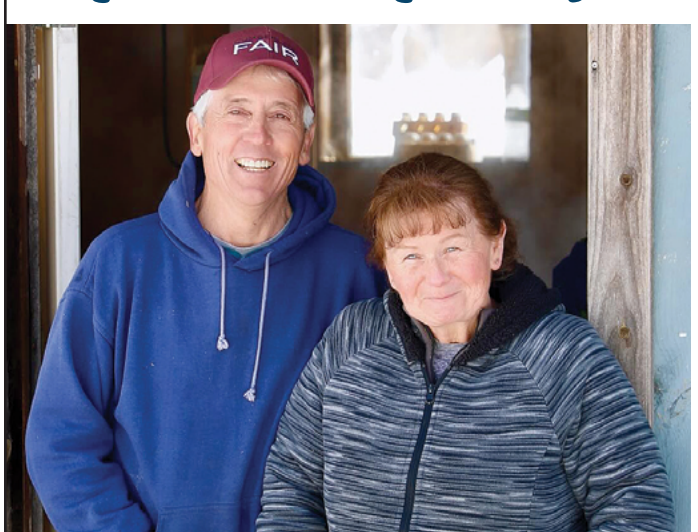
SPORTSMAN'S ALLIANCE OF MAINE — SAM-ILA — INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION — **A+ RATING**

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION — 1871 — **A RATING**

"Mark has consistently demonstrated honesty, hard work, and trustworthiness – qualities I believe are essential in a representative.
He is a thoughtful, fair-minded person who listens, treats others with kindness, and brings people together. As a lifelong Mainer, he understands the importance of hard work, family businesses, and community involvement.
Having known Mark firsthand for decades, I believe he would serve the people of Windham and Maine with honesty, sound judgment, and a commitment to working with others. Please join me in voting for Mark Cooper for House Seat 107."

~ Ann Marie and Randy Grenier

I plan to be part of the change that gets Maine back on track!



About Mark Cooper

- State Rep., serving on the Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry Comm.
- Owner/President, LC Cooper Co. Inc. Building Contractors; 3rd generation family business
- Farm Owner Operator with wife, Gaylene, Cooper's Maple Products, Greenhouse, and Royal Heritage Farm (American Aberdeen Cattle)
- Cumberland Farmers Club, Fair Director, and Livestock Supt., 8 years
- Maine Maple Producers Association, Director, 15 years
- Former Cumberland County 4-H Club Leader, 23 years
- Graduate of Windham High (1981) and University of NH (1983)
- Father of sons, Craig & Eric; grandfather of Brian & Reagan

Representative Mark Cooper

Paid for and authorized by the candidate

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd

VOTE

Contact Mark at (207) 232-5842 or email: gmcooper81@aol.com

NAME Cont. from page 1

at Gorham State Teacher's College. Starting in 1968, he taught in Windham schools and went on to serve as the first principal of Windham's Manchester School, and he also led Field-Allen Junior High School and Windham Middle School as principal before joining Raymond Schools as superintendent and the principal of Jordan-Small School.

He first ran for the Maine House of Representatives in 1976 as a write-in candidate in Windham, winning re-election in 1978 and 1980. In 1982, he won a seat in the Maine State Senate seat, representing Windham and Raymond and won re-election in 1984.

In 1989, Diamond was sworn in as Maine's 45th Secretary of State and campaigned to become governor in 1986 and then campaigned for the 1st Congressional District position in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1994.

He founded the Windham Independent newspaper and publicized achievements of both Windham and Raymond students for more than a decade before deciding in 2004 to re-enter politics and winning the Maine Senate District 12 seat representing Windham and Raymond. He won re-election in 2006, 2008 and 2010 before being term limited. Four years later in 2014, Diamond won the Maine Senate District 26 seat, representing Windham and Raymond, and subsequently won re-election to that position in 2016, 2018, and 2020.

Before leaving political office in 2022, Diamond was known statewide as a staunch advocate for children and led Maine Senate investigations into prominent deaths of abused children whose families were relegated to the state's child welfare system. In 2014, Diamond wrote a book about the subject called "The Evil and the Innocent."

In 2023, Diamond launched the Walk A Mile In Their Shoes Foundation, a non-profit dedicated to preventing child homicides and the abuse of children who are under the supervision or direct care of the State of Maine or who are or have been associated with the state's Child Protective System.

During the RSU 14 meeting on Oct. 21, a board member suggested that it would be unusual for the school district to name a school after an individual, yet the school district's Manchester School, Field-Allen School and even Jordan-Small Middle School where the board meeting was held were all named after individuals. Another board member said she admired Bill Diamond's accomplishments, but she supported naming the new middle school Windham Raymond Middle School to make the Raymond students and the Raymond community feel that they are an equal part of the school.

Karyn Diamond, Bill Diamond's daughter, attended the Oct. 21 meeting and prior to that had posted on Facebook that the Diamond family was humbled by the idea of possibly naming the new school after him.

"Naming the school after my dad, a man who dedicated his life to educating and protecting children and who poured out his heart into his hometown of Windham, would be the highest honor this community could do for him," she said.

John Cressey of Windham believes the school should be named after Diamond.

"Having the new school named for one of the most influential people in Windham and Raymond, who rose up to become Maine Secretary of State, all while still maintaining close ties to the community would be inspirational," Cressey said. "He deeply cared about the community and for children and was at every sporting event until he passed away. He sponsored a softball team every season for 30 years in Windham Little League even after his daughters were out of school."

RSU 14 Board of Directors Chair Christina Small said the Oct. 21 discussion was preliminary, and she personally does not believe that not having "Raymond" in the name of the new school would marginalize Raymond students.

She said there is not a high school in Raymond so Raymond students attending Windham High School have the option to attend other high schools, such as Gray New Gloucester High school and that is why it isn't named "Windham Raymond High School."

Small said that middle school students in Raymond will have to attend the new school and that is why a name to reflect both communities is under consideration by the board.

Public comments about the school's name will be included during the RSU 14 Board of Directors meeting at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 4 at the WHS Performing Arts Center. <

Windham Community Center Referendum...

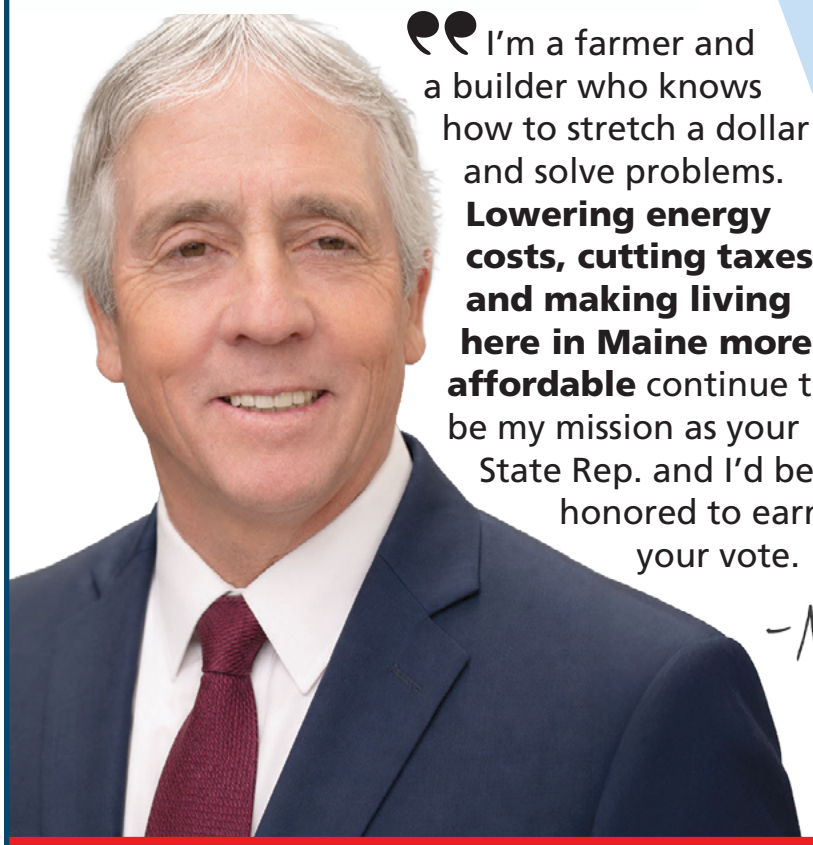
DID YOU KNOW?

The Windham Public Library was constructed in 1971, and a 1992 addition brought it to its current square footage of 10,600, serving a resident population of 13,020, the expansion proposed in the square footage to 18,200 square feet will allow for the added space needed for more books, seating and reading areas, and programing space for a resident population soon surpassing 20,000?

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Re-Elect MARK COOPER

House District #107



"I'm a farmer and a builder who knows how to stretch a dollar and solve problems. **Lowering energy costs, cutting taxes, and making living here in Maine more affordable** continue to be my mission as your State Rep. and I'd be honored to earn your vote."

-Mark

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- ✔ **STOP FRAUD & CORRUPTION** – Root out the fraud & waste that are costing taxpayers & hurting those most in need.
- ✔ **GROW GOOD-PAYING JOBS** – Make it easier for businesses to create jobs & give our kids a future here.
- ✔ **SUPPORT EDUCATION** – Prepare our children for success in whatever they choose - college, military, or tech & trade careers.
- ✔ **PROTECT GIRLS IN SPORTS** – I will stand up to prevent biological males from playing in girls sports & fight for their protection in private spaces.
- ✔ **HELPING SENIORS** – Ease the burden through property tax relief so seniors can stay in their homes
- ✔ **FINANCIAL RELIEF** – I support no tax on tips, no tax on overtime, increasing the standard deduction & increase the homestead exemption.
- ✔ **PROTECT CHILDREN** – In favor of separating Child & Family Services to protect child welfare in state care & foster care systems.

VOTE >>>>>> November 3rd

Representative Mark Cooper

Paid for and authorized by the candidate

Contact Mark at (207) 232-5842 or email: gmcooper81@aol.com

Windham in the 1950s: Ghostly happenings

By Max Millard
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE

In February 1958, when my family moved into the Goold House in Windham Center, we quickly sensed an otherworldly presence. The house, which is now on the National Register of Historic Places dates back to the 1770s, and throughout the 1800s was occupied by several generations of the Goold family.

To the Millards' six children, the house seemed like an old Gothic mansion. The tower rising from the end of the long, narrow ell gave the place an enchanted feeling. Adding to the atmosphere was the Goold cemetery, located at the edge of the property, far back from the house. It was the resting place of about 60 souls.

In October 1958, my family got a surprise visit from a reporter for the Portland Press Herald. He interviewed us for an article titled "Will Ghost Walk, Bell Ring? Windham Family Will Be Listening On Halloween."

He wrote: "Tradition has it that a bell long since gone from the bell tower … still peals a melancholy alarm to ears attuned to such spirit sounds. … The old bell was believed used to signal Indian raids, or perhaps to sound alarms during the War of 1812."

My sister Frances, then 14, was the only child who scoffed at the idea of ghosts but admitted: "I hate to go into the tower to feed my pet hamster, Squuffy. It's spooky in there."

Growing up, I never saw a ghost. But when I was 12, I moved into a small bedroom just above the garage. As I lay there in the darkness, I could hear the distinct sound of footsteps coming up the stairs toward my door. I'd hide under the covers, leaving just a small opening for breathing.

Since then, I've often wondered if the footsteps were real. But my belief was rekindled in September 2026 when I stopped by the house with two old friends from the neighborhood. We were warmly greeted by the current owner, Steven Blankschein, who purchased the house in 2024 with his wife Ruth. He invited us inside and gave us a tour.

A Navy veteran who spent 20 years as a cargo ship captain, Steven is a skilled carpenter and handyman who loves spending his days restoring the house's interior. Our conversation soon turned to the supernatural. Steven told of objects disappearing, then reappearing somewhere else, and a light that flickered on and off because the bulb kept getting partially unscrewed.

These incidents might have an easy explanation, but not when a female guest in an upstairs bedroom released an ear-splitting scream in the middle of the night. She sobbed out that she had seen a man in the room staring at her. A moment later, he vanished. She refused to return to the room, and never again stayed in the house overnight.

Some guests in the ell testified that they'd awoken to the touch of a cold hand rubbing against their cheek. In the downstairs room where I'd slept as

see GHOSTLY Page 13



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TOWN OF WINDHAM
VOTERS
ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD
at Windham High School in the Main Gym
406 Gray Road, Windham
POLLS ARE OPEN FROM 7A.M. TO 8 P.M.

View the Sample Ballots at: windhammaine.us/124/Elections

If you need to register to vote, you may do so on Election Day with a valid I.D. and proof of residency.

ALL ABSENTEE BALLOTS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE BY 8:00 P.M. ON ELECTION DAY NOVEMBER 3RD OR BEFORE, TO BE COUNTED.
Please do not bring them to the High School.
There is a secure Absentee Ballot Drop Box located at the Town Hall's front entrance for your convenience.

ELECTION DAY ACCESSIBLE ROUTE:
Anyone with mobility issues, please use our accessible parking lot located across from the tennis courts on Educational Way. This is the second parking lot on the right and enter Door #17. Please look for the Handicap Accessible Signs and our staff on site to help you if needed.

*Note: All other voters should enter the first parking lot off Educational Way and enter through Door #12.

For more info. call Anthony Blasi, Town Clerk, at 892-1900. Thank you.

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November 3rd
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Windham High School
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The Windham Democratic Town Committee meets every 3rd Thursday from 7-8:15pm at the Windham Public Library.
ALL REGISTERED DEMOCRATS IN WINDHAM ARE WELCOME!
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TEACHER Cont. from page 8

on the topics," Chilton said.

Chilton says that the world current graduates are entering is financially challenging and she wants to give them the best possible start.

"I want them to truly understand what using a credit card means and how their vote matters," she said. "I am so happy that we require this course for our students. When people ask what I teach and I tell them the reaction I get is, 'I wish they taught that class when I was in school.'"

Among the many subjects the class explores, a few activities include looking at how an individual's credit score impacts borrowing power.

"Students look at buying a car and a house. Then we do the math based on three different credit scores," she said. "It is pretty eye opening for them to see how much more you pay in interest based on your credit score. I am transparent with my students too. We look at my pay stub, credit score, and credit card statements so they can see what each actually looks like. We also have a realtor, mortgage broker, investment banker and insurance guest speakers."

Chilton said that WHS students are fortunate that the district has prioritized Senior Personal Finance and Citizenship.

"Many schools in Maine do not have a stand-alone class; they attempt to embed the topics in other social studies classes to meet the Social Studies Standards of Personal Finance and Civics and Government. Organizations like NGPF, JumpStart Coalition and FAME have been working hard to get the legislation passed to make it a requirement. The fact that we as a district believed it was a valuable course and added it to our graduation requirements makes Windham an excellent school and community to be a part of." <



WHS teacher Jen Chilton has completed 90 in-service hours to renew her teaching certificates and in doing so obtained six NGPF certifications, earning her special educator recognition.
SUBMITTED PHOTO

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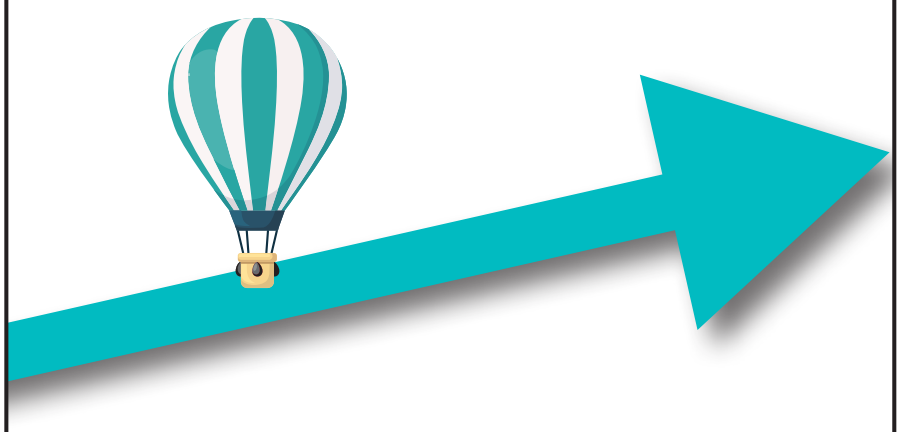
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GHOSTLY Cont. from page 11

a child, local plumber Lee Tubbs was doing some work next to a hole in the floor when someone – or something – pushed him in. He wasn't injured, but when he looked up, the room was empty.

To cap our visit, Steven led us to the graveyard, which is anchored by the imposing tomb of William Goold, dated 1890. The oldest grave is an above-ground crypt that reads: "Here lies all that is mortal of Benjamin Goold, who was born in the part of Kittery afterwards Elliot, in 1749. … He whose dust lies beneath came to Falmouth in 1768, and from thence to this town in 1771. He cleared a farm and built a house 130 rods directly south from this monument, where he died of consumption November 12th, 1807, aged 58 years."

Hardly anyone visits the graveyard anymore. When I was growing up someone would come on Memorial Day and plant a flag on each veteran's grave. That has since been officially abandoned, but Steven now takes up the task himself. Several graves are for young men from Windham killed in the Civil War. The most recent gravestone is for my sister Bronwyn, who tragically died in 1974 at the age of 22.

William Goold's tomb, nestled under a mound, is guarded by a thick slate door and an iron gate. Unfortunately, vandals over the years have punched a roughly circular hole in the center of the door with a crowbar. The hole is big enough so that one can see the interior quite clearly with a flashlight. There are no skeletons – just coffins.

Back at the house, Steven related that he often hears footsteps coming from the ell when no one is there. But he is unbothered by the unexplained phenomena because "they don't seem to be harmful spirits," and he senses only good vibes coming from them. As he continues restoring the house, he might be encouraged by the thought that his work is getting a quiet assist from beyond the grave.

This article was brought to you by Max Millard, a retired journalist and teacher in San Francisco, CA. Email: sunreport@aol.com <





Unexplained occurrences have left Max Millard, who grew up in the old Goold House in Windham Center in the 1960s, to believe the home and tomb on the grounds may be haunted by an otherworldly presence.

COURTESY PHOTOS



Windham Community Center Referendum...

DID YOU KNOW?

The Windham Social Services building was constructed in 1901 as a school, has a square footage of 1471, had been used as the Windham Police Station until 1989, requires $1,400,000 for a complete renovation including structural support, HVAC, ADA access, public water service, and interior updates, and the proposed larger, more accessible, and modern facility will be a much more welcoming space for our residents to use and our volunteers and staff members in which to work?

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Triple B event raises record-breaking amount for Riding To The Top

By Kelly Johnson
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE

On Saturday, Oct. 17, more than 325 people attended the 18th Annual Triple B ~ Boots, Band & BBQ and raised a record-breaking amount - over $350,000 - to benefit the clients, horses and programs of Riding To The Top Therapeutic Riding Center (RTT) in Windham.

This year's event paid homage to all the "Shining Stars of RTT" – RTT's clients, horses, volunteers, long-time supporters, staff, and the evening's guests and sponsors. Eric Schildroth of Schilly's Catering served up another delicious and abundant barbeque to the hungry crowd. The record-breaking mission-based auction was led by auctioneer, Elizabeth Ross. Emcee, Michelle Taylor of 99.9 The Wolf kept the program running on schedule. The evening was capped by live music and dancing to the popular local band, Under The Covers.

The true shining stars, of course, are the courageous clients and the horses they team up with at the center.

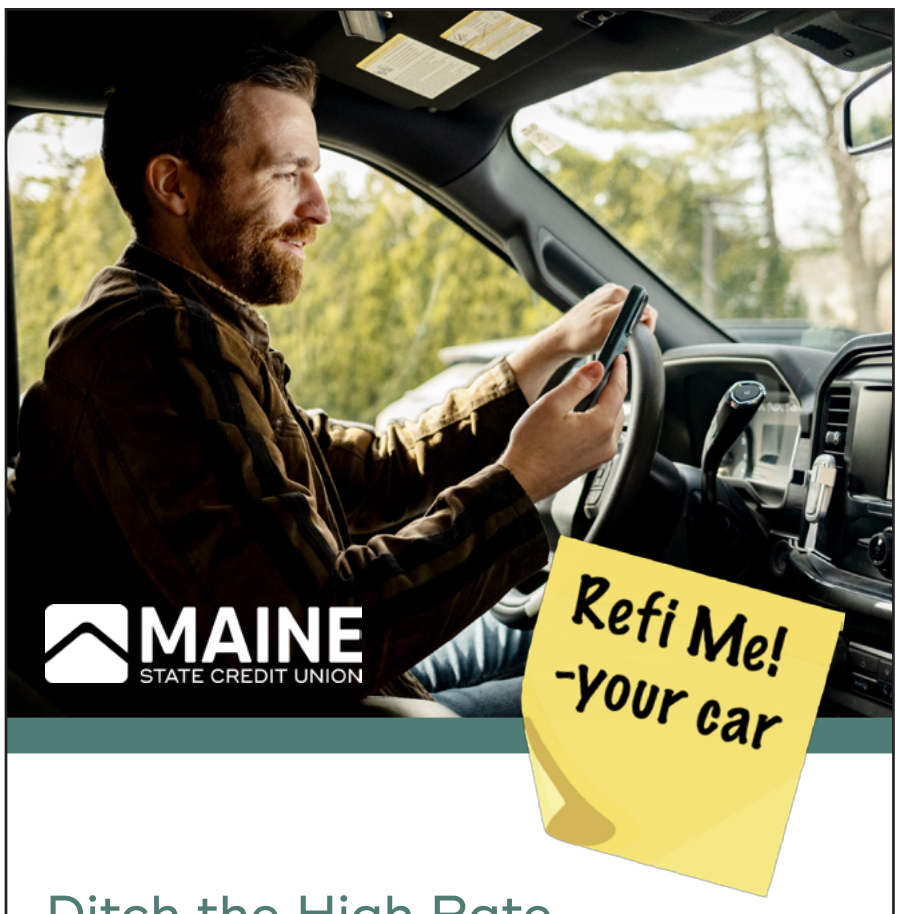
The evening began with RTT client, Kelley Handy, discussing what RTT means to her. Among her examples, she included, "What happens is, Tuesday morning, that's the only day I know I'll have steady legs under me. Because they're not mine…The independence I feel from riding my horse goes through the week, where I remember that independent feeling. And I know that if anything ever goes wrong in my life, I've got a home to come back to."

Later in the evening RTT parent, Erika Estes, gave the keynote speech, saying, "My daughter has formed such special relationships with her team at RTT, especially with Tracy (her instructor) who we work with every week and Stacie (her volunteer) who has been by Sadie's side since her first days at RTT. They bring knowledge, experience, compassion, patience, humor and excitement to us every session…It's because of the comfort she feels here that she has been able to make such great progress."

As the bidding got underway, Bob Bittenbender, a long time RTT supporter, stepped forward with a special matching challenge of $25,000 for the Ridership Fund, which provides direct financial aid to families in need and he made special mention of how an organization like RTT would have benefited his grandmother, who contracted

see TRIPLE B Page 15

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TRIPLE B Cont. from page 14

polio and lived most of her life using a wheelchair for mobility. Bittenbender conveyed to the crowd the importance of keeping RTT's services accessible to as many people as possible.

Sarah Bronson, RTT Executive Director, reflected that "the outpouring of support felt at this year's Triple B was absolutely incredible.

"Every year we have many long-time attendees present, but also every year, we have many first timers who get to know more about Riding To The Top and the work we do here," Bronson said. "Everyone was moved by the speakers who shared their personal stories and event goers are greeted at the start of the night by some of our horses who are the welcoming crew in the barn. This event truly combines fun and fundraising in such a meaningful way. We are grateful to all the people in attendance, the generous donors who support the Ridership and Horse Funds and to all the local businesses who support the event as sponsors."



Riding To The Top Equine Manager and Instructor Kristin Meaney, left, joins RTT client and Triple B speaker Kelley Handy during the 18th Annual Triple B ~ Boots, Band & BBQ fundraiser event on Oct. 17 in Windham.

PHOTO BY HANNAH CORMIER, RIPTIDE PHOTOGRAPHY

This year IDEXX, UNUM, Bangor Savings, Martin's Point Healthcare and Stone Coast Fund Services employees joined RTT volunteers to help with set up and then again with post event "take-down." During the event, the St. Joseph's College baseball team members returned to help with food service, the auction and recycling efforts. In total, over 100 volunteers contributed over 800 hours in the various stages of the event (pre-event planning, set up, night of and cleanup days following the event).

The Triple B event is RTT's largest and most important fundraiser of the year, funding nearly a third of the organization's annual expenses. Since its inception, this event has raised nearly $3 million dollars, while introducing the healing power of horses to thousands of community members. This year's event was supported by many local business partners led by Grand Champion Sponsor, Portland Volvo, and Reserve Champion Sponsor, Norway Savings Bank.

About Riding to the Top

Riding To The Top Therapeutic Riding Center (RTT) was founded in 1993. Its mission is enhancing health and wellness through equine assisted services. Located in Windham, RTT is the state's only PATH Intl. (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International) Premier Accredited Center solely dedicated to equine- assisted services. Riding To The Top is a community-based nonprofit, receives no federal or state funding and provides scholarships to over 60% of its clients. For more details about client services, volunteering, or making a gift, please visit www.ridingtothetop.org or call 207-892-2813. <

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A Stunning View of Autum in All Its Glory



Raymond photographer Jenny McCarthy used a drone launched from Veterans Memorial Park in Raymond across from The Good Life Market on Route 302 to capture this breathtaking image of Sebago Lake and the surrounding area of homes and docks at the height of the fall season on Oct. 12. PHOTO BY JENNY MCCARTHY

Windham Community Center Referendum...

DID YOU KNOW?

The current Windham Town Hall was originally built as a school in 1910 and expanded in 1957, has a square footage of 19,300, the interior was most recently completely renovated in 2007, and for continued use foundation replacement, structural support repairs, asbestos remediation, HVAC, electrical, and elevator system replacements will be needed at an estimated cost of $14,200,000?

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- Seasonal Greens
- Crafts & Gifts
- Books, Games & Puzzles
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- Jewelry Boutique
- Christmas Decor
- Santa & more

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Holiday Fair



Saturday, Nov. 7th
9am-3pm

LUNCH AVAILABLE
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WINDHAM HILL UCC
140 Windham Center Road

STUDENT OF THE WEEK
Camila Chavez



Grade: 12
School: Windham High School
Favorite subject(s) in school: Spanish
Parents' names: Paola Alfaro and Jose Chavez
Reason for selection: Camilla is a student who consistently encourages all students to become involved in the Windham High School community. She helps build strong communities of learners in each of her classrooms and demonstrates leadership through her positive attitude, kindness, and willingness to make everyone feel welcome and valued. Camilla is open to meaningful conversations and engagement centered on promoting equality, inclusion, and understanding among her peers. She is actively involved in the Black Student Union (BSU) and Spanish Honor Society, where she contributes to the school community in meaningful ways. Camilla has also provided Spanish tutoring to English language learners, as well as students learning Spanish as a second language. Her commitment to helping others demonstrates leadership, compassion, and dedication to creating an inclusive school environment.

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VOTING DAY IS
TUESDAY, NOV. 3RD

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILE

Please take notice that Loon Island, LLC, with a mailing address of P.O. Box 235, Cumberland, Maine 04021, is intending to file a Stormwater Law permit application pursuant to the provisions of 38 M.R.S.A. §§ 420-D and Natural Resource Protection Act permit applications pursuant to the provisions of 38 M.R.S. §§ 480-A thru 480-KK with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection on or about October 30, 2026.

The application is for the construction of an 8,000 square foot RV sales and service facility with associated paved parking and driveways and RV inventory storage area at 45 Portland Road in Gray, Maine.

A request for a public hearing or a request that the Board of Environmental Protection assume jurisdiction over this application must be received by the Department in writing, no later than 20 days after the application is found by the Department to be complete and is accepted for processing.

A public hearing may or may not be held at the discretion of the Commissioner or Board of Environmental Protection. Public comment on the application will be accepted throughout the application processing period. The application will be filed for public inspection on the DEP's website at: www.maine.gov/mels/hub.html.

Written public comments may be sent through the website. A copy of the application may also be seen at the municipal offices in Gray, Maine. For more information on how to submit public comment with the DEP, please go to the DEP's website: Public Participation in the Licensing Process (information sheet) Maine DEP.

WINDHAM RAYMOND ATHLETIC BOOSTERS

34th Annual Holiday
CRAFT FAIR
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH
& SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH
~ 9AM-3PM BOTH DAYS ~

Windham High School
– 406 Gray Road, Windham –

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SALUTE TO SERVICE
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RSU 14 videographer provides narrative of school district activities to community

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

Gary Harriman prefers to work behind the scenes but his videography and photography document the up-close-and-personal actions of RSU 14 students, teachers and staff while keeping the school district's websites current.

His official title for RSU 14 is Webmaster/Videographer but Harriman says that's a bit of a misnomer.

"An accurate description should really be Web Content Manager/Videographer," he said.

Harriman's duties fall into two areas.

"First, I maintain the content of the school district's eight primary websites. This includes creating/updating/maintaining directories, photo and video galleries, recent news, department webpages, public facing calendars and individual school links and special areas. I'm available to all staff as a resource to help develop and promote their content on the web," he said. "And second, I shoot and edit video and do still photography to promote events district-wide on the district websites and to support teachers and administrators in the schools. This can range from recording concerts or meetings, to recording, and archiving professional development materials for future sharing, to documenting classroom practice and special projects, to providing sports and event photos for use on the school websites."

He's worked for RSU 14 for 14 years and says the best part of his work is that telling stories about the school district helps to create positive opinions of educators in the community.

"I think one of the most important aspects of any community is the quality of its school system," Harriman said. "My job does two things. I play a role in supporting students and staff in the day-to-day education process. And I get to help to provide a narrative for RSU 14 by documenting and promoting its successes to the community. In today's media landscape an organization needs to be proactive and involved with informing the public's perception."

Staying "in the loop" day to day with all of the schools to keep the websites current is the most challenging aspect of his job.

"Many people look at the school systems as a nine month per year business. In reality, there is no true down time anymore," he said. "While the bulk of the students leave for a couple months in the summer, the work of the school district continues. Summer is the time for maintenance and upgrades. Summer programs, both academic and athletic, linger into July and come back by mid-August. My position is no different. Summer is when we examine every page and link all the websites for improvement and relevancy. Toward the end of summer, we're updating all



Webmaster/Videographer Gary Harriman has worked for the school district for 14 years and his videography and photography document the day-to-day and special activities and projects of students, teachers and staff and he also keeps the RSU 14 websites current. SUBMITTED PHOTO

the staff directories and teacher pages. This coming July we'll be launching the new webpage for the new middle school. During the summer we'll be prepping it for the first day of school."

According to Harriman, one of his most memorable times with RSU 14 came in his first year, producing one of the first long format videos he put together for Windham High School.

"It was a feature on the Simond sisters. Three sisters whose time in high school overlapped and they were all 'all conference' soccer players," he said. "For a period of about six years there was at least one sister playing for WHS and during that time the Eagles were a dominant power in Class A. Everything about that story was positive. Great kids, great students, excelling at what they loved to do. Having come from the world of commercial television it was a really rewarding experience."

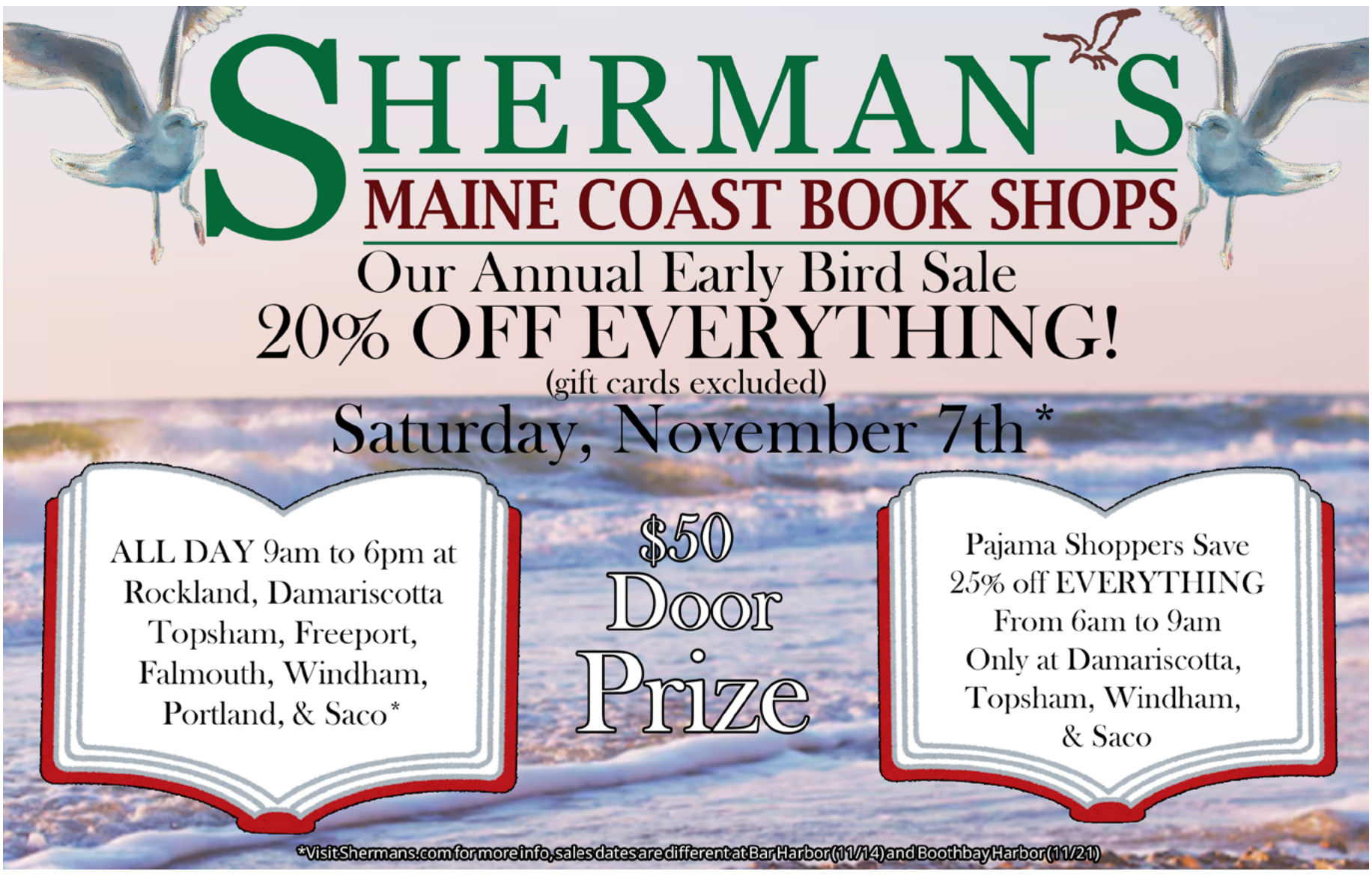
His family is fully supportive of Harriman working for a school district.

"They share my feelings about the importance of the local schools to any community," he said. "But I think what they like most about the job is that I really like it and enjoy going to work every day."

Harriman says the most important thing he has learned while working for RSU 14 is a deeper understanding of just how challenging being an educator can be.

"Teachers, administrators and staff spend enormous amounts of time developing and implementing strategies to provide the best possible education for our children," he said. "They are constantly looking for that additional 'edge' that will improve their students' success. In return for their investment, communities rightly expect excellence, but until you live in the education environment, it's hard to even imagine the constant commitment given by education professionals." <

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LETTERS to the editor

SUBMIT LETTERS BY TUESDAY AT NOON TO:
editor@thewindhameagle.com
or mail to: 585 Roosevelt Trail, Windham, 04062

Editor,

I strongly support the reelection of Representative Barbara Bagshaw for Maine House District 106. A dedicated teacher for 25 years and former arts nonprofit president, she brings real classroom experience to the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee.

Rep. Bagshaw prioritizes improving education for Maine students while fighting measures that raise taxes or energy costs for families. She has served our community through food pantry work, helping the homeless, and international relief efforts. Her focus remains clear: protect taxpayers, support local families in Windham, and keep government accountable.

In these challenging times of rising costs, we need proven, practical leadership. I urge voters to re-elect Barbara Bagshaw on Nov. 3.

~ Jen Marquis, Windham

Editor,

For a second year, Windham held forums with local and state candidates, expertly moderated with humor and warmth by Gary Plummer and Barb Maurais. These forums are valuable opportunities to hear from those seeking to represent our community. I appreciated hearing from those who made time to participate.

Senator Tim Nangle's commitment to our community and knowledge of Maine's legislative process were evident throughout the forum. His work to protect mobile home park residents, expand affordable childcare, support our veterans, and enforce environmental protection laws demonstrates his dedication to making a positive difference in our lives.

His calm, respectful demeanor toward moderators, constituents, and his opponent was reassuring, even amid moments of discourteous rumblings. Our legislature is where the serious business of representing Mainers deserves decorum and professionalism. It is not a barroom.

The choice is clear: Windham will be best served by reelecting Tim Nangle as our state senator.

~ Debbe Kelley, Windham

Editor,

Mark Cooper ably serves Windham in House District 107 with very admirable character traits. He demonstrates ultimate integrity, trustworthiness, honesty, and dependability. His low-key, calm personality prevails even amid chaos. He sees problems as opportunities, cooperatively finding resolutions.

Mark demonstrated leadership at a young age, chosen at 22 by Maine's Governor to serve on the state Agricultural Advisory Board made up of professionals far senior to him. He has continued to serve in leadership positions including many volunteer organizations and now in the Maine House.

Mark grew up in Windham. He and Gaylene raised two sons, con-

see LETTERS Page 20

see CANDIDATES Page 19

DANCE Cont. from page 20

Windham Community Center Referendum...

DID YOU KNOW?

The current middle school was built in 1960, has a square footage of 82,700, and the current cost to replace with comparable new construction is estimated at $45,500,000?

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LETTERS to the editor

LETTERS *Cont. from page 19*

tinuing to reside here as well-respected small business owners and dedicated grandparents. He understands fiscal responsibility and provides opportunities for others to be gainfully employed in his businesses.

To maintain common sense, bi-partisan cooperation, and solid investment in our community and state, I will vote for Mark Cooper. Please join me if you live in HD107.

~ Blaine Rich, Windham

Editor,

With the overwhelming number of ads and mailing cards this election season, it might be time for all of us to pause: Most candidates are promising things that are mutually exclusive, like lower taxes and increased services.

How can that be – well it can't; there are always tradeoffs! Voters should use critical thinking in deciding whom to vote for. One dictionary defines critical thinking as "applying reason and questioning assumptions in order to solve problems, evaluate information, and discern biases."

Does the candidate merely mouth promises, or do they explain in some detail how they will fulfill those promises? What tradeoffs will they make to deliver on those promises? Is the candidate aware of the future issues at the local, state, and federal level that we all will face, and how will they prepare our governments for those issues? Can they reach across the aisle to get things done, or is it "only my party's way?"

There are a lot of accusations flying around – you can check the other candidate's web site to see their response.

This is an important election at every level. Be sure to vote and apply some critical thinking to see what is behind all of the talk.

~ John Facella, Raymond

see LETTERS Page 21

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Windham Community Center Referendum...

DID YOU KNOW?

For the cost of $1 and renovation cost of $19,500,000 Windham can add 43,000 sq ft of multigenerational recreation space, expanded and modernized space for the Windham Library, and expanded and updated spaces for Social Services and the municipal offices?

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LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

TOWN OF RAYMOND, MAINE

PLANNING BOARD

Wednesday, November 4, 2026 • 7:00 PM

Broadcast Studio - 423 Webbs Mills Road, and Via ZOOM

You are hereby notified that the Raymond Planning Board will hold a meeting at the Raymond Broadcast Studio and via Zoom on **Wednesday, November 4th, 2026 at 7:00 pm** on the following matters:

PRELIMINARY PLAN REVIEW MINOR AMENDMENT TO APPROVED SUBDIVISION

APPLICANT: Silas Canavan, Canavan Civil Consultants on behalf of Frick Joint Trust

LOCATION: Map: 008 Lot: 48E Zone VR Westview Drive

DESCRIPTION: Application for an amendment to an approved subdivision to allow creation of a backlot driveway.

SKETCH PLAN REVIEW

APPLICANT: James Seymour, Sebago Technics on behalf of FT Holding LLC

LOCATION: Map: 016 Lot: 56 Zone R and a Portion in RP Zone Dyer Road

DESCRIPTION: Application for sketch plan review of 14-lot conventional subdivision and 14-lot cluster subdivision.

– PUBLIC HEARING –

Ordinance Updates to be in compliance with State regulation regarding ADUs

Copy of the submitted applications are available for review on the town website (www.raymondmaine.gov/agendas) after October 20th, 2026 or at the Town Office (401 Webbs Mills Road) by appointment during regular business hours.

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.

SCAN HERE TO REGISTER IN ADVANCE FOR THIS MEETING OR GO TO:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/ga2e20upQS6MWL4sGi6sUw

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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Famous Labels! Men's Thermal Knit Crewnecks & Henleys $9.99 to $12.99 Values to $38.00

Comfy Cozy! Ladies' Humungo Hoodie Loungers Prints & Solids $12.99 to $19.99 Values to $39.00

Famous Brands! Men's Fleece or Flannel Pajama Pants $7.99 to $12.99 Values to $28.00

Cashews — Whole, Unsalted, Halves & Pieces or Honey Roasted — SALE $4.99 Our Reg. $5.99 Each 8oz

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~ Ruby, Belfast, ME

LETTERS to the editor

LETTERS *Cont. from page 20*

Editor,

I'm delighted that Tim Nangle is running for re-election to the Maine Senate, and I support him wholeheartedly. Having served 16 years in the Maine House, I know how hard it is to write and pass legislation, and I can tell when It's done well.

Tim Nangle loves Maine, and especially our district. He listens to constituents and works to solve real problems we face every day. Tim knows that Mainers need affordable health care, housing, and childcare, along with economic opportunities and fairness.

Tim gets results. He knows how to work with state government and his fellow legislators. He has written and passed bills to protect our environment and keep housing affordable.

We need a government that works for everyday Mainers. Senator Tim Nangle has a solid record of service to our community and real results to show for it. Please join me in voting to re-elect Tim Nangle on Nov. 3.

~ Mark Bryant, Windham

Editor,

We endorse Barbara Bagshaw as Representative for Windham. We first met Barbara when she was going door-to-door. She listened to our inquiries and became a friend from our neighborhood. I heard about her meeting a shut-in woman who she called on at her door, (not sure if this woman even was or became a supporter,) but gosh darn it, Barbara still visits her, nonetheless. She engages in every conversation, no matter what their viewpoint, because Barbara is one of those rare people who listen.

Her sponsored Bills: Act to Grant Access to STEM, An Act to Expand Property Tax Relief for Veterans and Survivors of Veterans, Act to Ensure Transparency in Student Transfer Requests, Joint Resolution to honor legacy of Charlie Kirk, Act for DOE Mathematics Requirements, Act to Prohibit Males from Participating in Female Sports.

Barbara is a true, diligent Representative working for Windham's citizens.

~ Marianne Moran and Ted Geshickter, Windham

Editor,

Tim Nangle is doing a terrific job as our Senator. Shaped by his years as a paramedic, he's quietly passionate about the wellbeing of everyone in our district. He feels compelled to address any problem he discovers, whether it's towns unable to stop developers from violating Shoreland Zoning (LD 2101 passed) or mobile home park residents whose homes are at risk (LD 1145 passed).

Tim focuses on health care, housing, education, veterans, consumer rights, and the needs of children, seniors, and struggling Mainers, especially the burden of high heating oil and grocery costs.

As federal cuts continue, Maine faces challenges, but Tim worked to keep MaineCare funded, provide school meals for all kids, and replace funding that keeps veterans housed (LD 2135 passed). I trust him to keep looking for solutions and to stand up for every Mainer.

Please join me in re-electing Sen. Tim Nangle.

~ MaryBeth Davidson, Windham







BRIEFS

Stuff the Bus

The Windham Lions Club is asking for your help to Stuff a Bus with food from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 7 at Hannaford Supermarket in Windham. The goal is to completely fill a school bus of non-perishable food and donations will be accepted to help purchase gift cards for teens for Christmas. FMI send an email to WindhamLionsME@gmail.com.

Holiday Fair

Windham Hill UCC's Holiday Fair runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7 at Windham Hill United Church of Christ, 140 Windham Center Road in Windham. Plenty of crafts and knitted items will be sold, along with baked goods and candy, used books, attic treasures, costume jewelry, handcrafted wood items, feline gifts, puzzles and games and berries and bows. There will also be a Silent Auction, a 50/50 raffle and gift cards available.

WCA Craft Fair

Windham Christian Academy, 1051 Roosevelt Trail in Windham, is hosting a Craft Fair & Silent Auction from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7. Local crafters and vendors will be there, along with a silent auction. The event is open to the public.

Holiday Craft Fair

The 34th Annual Holiday Craft Fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7 and Sunday, Nov. 8 at Windham High School, 406 Gray Road in Windham. There will be more than 200 unique vendors and tables to support many WHS clubs, along with kids' crafts, raffles, concessions, popular crockpot lunches and free photos with Santa. FMI, send an email to windhamboosters@yahoo.com

Holly Berry Craft Fair

The 36th Annual Holly Berry Craft Fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7 and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 8 at Lake Region High School, 1877 Roosevelt Trail in Naples. More than 70 vendors and photos with Santa available on Saturday. This event supports the 2027 LRHS Project Grad.

Food Drive

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church at 919 Roosevelt Trail in Windham parishioners generously support neighbors facing food insecurity. Bags are available at the church with lists of items need attached. Because the Casco Village, Casco Alliance, and Raymond food pantries distribute food a week before Thanksgiving, filled bags must be returned on Saturday, Nov. 7, or Sunday, Nov. 8. Leave donations under the turkey-decorated tables at the church or at the back entrance. FMI, call 207-892-8288.

Grief Discussion

North Windham Union Church UCC, 723 Roosevelt Trail in Windham, will present "An Evening Discussion on Grief" at 6 p.m. Monday, Nov. 9. The session will be led by Vary S. Fischer, RN-AND, BSN, MSed, who says grief isn't just when someone dies, it is any time we experience a loss that causes the end of a familiar pattern of behavior. There is no charge to attend but donations will be accepted. RSVP by calling 207-892-6142.

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Town of Windham
Fall 2026



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CLOSES: SUN 11/8, 6PM
OPEN 24/7 FOR ALL WINDHAM RESIDENTS

- ✔ Separate piles will be maintained for leaves and brush. PLEASE SEPARATE YOUR LEAVES & BRUSH & place in designated area (please follow the signs).
- ✔ Leaves must be removed from bags, please dump the leaves & TAKE THE BAGS WITH YOU FOR DISPOSAL.
- ✔ All brush must be LESS than 12" in diameter.

Please kindly adhere to the rules above so we can continue to enjoy this service twice annually!

WHERE: End of Enterprise Drive



FMI: Leaf and Brush Disposal at: windhammaine.us Town of WIndham Public Works 207-892-1909 M-Th 6am-4pm

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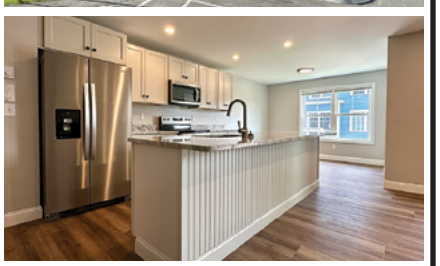
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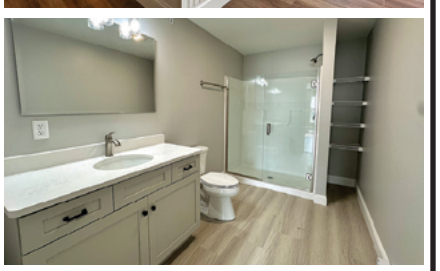
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MODERN CAR FEATURES MAKE DRIVING SAFER AND MORE ENJOYABLE

Today's vehicles offer far more than transportation from one destination to another. Advances in automotive technology have introduced a wide range of features designed to make driving safer, more comfortable, convenient and enjoyable. From advanced safety systems to heated steering wheels and smartphone connectivity, modern vehicles offer something for nearly every driver.

One of the most appreciated developments is the availability of advanced driver-assistance systems. Features such as blind-spot monitoring, lane departure warnings and automatic emergency braking help drivers recognize potential hazards and may reduce the risk of collisions. Adaptive cruise control is another popular feature, automatically adjusting a vehicle's speed to maintain a selected following distance from traffic ahead.

Backup cameras, now standard on new passenger vehicles sold in the United States, have made parking and reversing easier. Many newer models also offer 360-degree camera systems, parking sensors and automatic parking assistance, which can be especially helpful when navigating tight spaces or crowded parking lots.

For Maine drivers, comfort features are particularly appealing during the colder months. Heated seats and heated steering wheels make frosty morning commutes more pleasant, while remote starters allow vehicles to warm up and defrost before drivers head outside. Some vehicles even feature heated windshields, windshield wiper deicers and heated side mirrors to improve visibility during winter weather.

All-wheel drive remains a highly desirable feature in northern climates, providing additional traction when accelerating on snowy or slippery roads. Combined with modern traction control and electronic stability systems, these technologies can improve vehicle handling in challenging conditions, although appropriate tires remain essential for safe winter driving.

Inside the cabin, smartphone integration has transformed the driving experience. Apple CarPlay and Android Auto allow drivers to access navigation, music, phone calls and messages through a vehicle's infotainment screen. Voice commands provide additional convenience, helping motorists stay connected while keeping their attention on the road.

Wireless phone charging, multiple USB ports and built-in Wi-Fi hotspots are also increasingly popular, particularly among families and drivers who spend considerable time traveling.

Convenience features extend beyond electronics. Hands-free power liftgates make loading groceries or luggage easier, while keyless entry and push-button starting eliminate the need to search for keys. Memory seats automatically adjust to preferred driving positions, and dual-zone climate control allows passengers to select their own comfort settings.

Newer vehicles may also include ventilated seats, panoramic sunroofs, premium sound systems and customizable interior lighting, adding a touch of luxury to everyday driving.

For those who frequently travel long distances, modern navigation systems with real-time traffic information can help identify alternate routes and avoid delays. Some vehicles also offer driver monitoring systems that detect signs of distraction or fatigue and provide reminders to take a break.

Despite the many benefits of modern automotive technology, drivers should remember that assistance systems are not substitutes for attentive driving. Cameras and sensors can also be affected by snow, ice, dirt and poor visibility, making regular cleaning and maintenance important.

Whether purchasing a brand-new vehicle or shopping for a quality pre-owned model, today's drivers have more features to consider than ever before. Choosing technology that matches individual driving habits, lifestyle and Maine's changing seasons can make every trip safer, easier and considerably more enjoyable. <



Windham Middle School Repurpose





Centralized services. Better access. Stronger community.

A plan for easier access to services, more opportunities for all ages, and one welcoming place for community life.

WHY IS THIS BEING CONSIDERED?

The RSU is offering the building to the Town for $1 per State Law. A Repurpose Committee was formed and determined a Community Center as the best use. Review of the numbers revealed a significant savings to renovate this existing building instead of building new. This building project is designed to serve residents well into the future and reduce long-term repair, maintenace and operational costs needed to continue services in the current facilities.

PARKS & RECREATION

- Before and After School Program, grades K–5
- Full and auxiliary gyms for sports, fitness, and dance
- Arts and crafts room; kitchen for cooking classes
- Flexible cafeteria and gathering space for dinners, events, and senior programming
- Rentable rooms with courtyard playground
- Outdoor pickleball courts
- Welcoming places to gather and build relationships

MUNICIPAL OFFICES

Bringing staff and services together can improve customer service, emergency coordination, and accessibility. The facility includes improved parking, modern elevators, and multiple ADA-compliant spaces for civic and public use.

SOCIAL SERVICES

- Walk-in refrigerator/freezer for self-service access, replacing multiple homestyle units.
- Ventilated storage; improved staging for large food pickups
- Covered canopy for food pick up; improved client spaces

LIBRARY

- Increased floorspace to serve Windham's population
- Added seating, computers, study, sensory, and infant areas
- Expanded space for Books and Library of Things
- Outdoor area for programming or reading

An investment designed to replace multiple, aging facilities and create a ONE-STOP SHOP for Municipal Services

PAID FOR AND AUTHORIZED BY THE TOWN OF WINDHAM

Windham Community Center: The Numbers at a Glance

A comparison of the proposed project and estimated needs.

$19.5M
general-obligation bonds and/or notes to rehabilitate current Windham Middle School for use as a community center.

$18.75M
guaranteed maximum project cost for the proposed Community Center.

92,104 sq ft
proposed Community Center size.

$33.30/year
approximate tax increase per year for 5 years on a $450,000 home after using $2,000,000 in fund balance.

TAX IMPACT

37 cents
total mill-rate increase over 5 years.

7.4 cents
average annual mill-rate increase per year for 5 years

$2,565
total tax impact on a $450,000 home over the life of the 20 year bond

What the Estimates Show

Transform Current Middle School into a Community Center — $19.5M

Current buildings: repairs/renovation and Expansions

$16M	$4.49M	$22.5M *	Total $42.99M
Essential Repairs and Renovations needed at existing buildings	Comparable Square Footage Expansions Library, Social Services	Comparable Square Footage Expansions of Town Hall and Parks & Recreation	

* Expansion of Town Hall and Parks & Recreation not possible at current location

Estimated Essential Repairs and Renovations to current Buildings - Details

TOWN HALL $14,228,000 total

- Heat Pump & AHU Handler $130,000
- Common Area RTUs $150,000
- Parking lot repair, 32,000 sq ft $288,000
- New Flooring $360,000
- Incoming electrical services $180,000
- Replace elevator $170,000
- Replace Septic System $100,000
- Relocation and Temp Space $350,000
- Full gut renovation $12,500,000
  25,000 sq ft at $500/sq ft

SOCIAL SERVICES $1,401,400 total

- New center beam $30,000
- Small AHU $10,000
- Public Water Service $25,000
- Heat pump $20,000
- New flooring $68,400
- Light upgrade to LEDs $8,000
- Relocation and Temp Space $100,000
- Full gut renovation, $1,140,000
  3,800sq ft at $300/sq ft

LIBRARY $423,000 total

- Light upgrade to LEDs $25,000
- Medium AHU $30,000
- Parking lot repair, 17,000 sq ft $153,000
- Entrance walkway/Stormwater $125,000
- Entrance Doors and Windows $15,000
- Ceiling Grid and Tiles $75,000

Combined listed estimates $16,052,400 total

Annual Operational Costs Comparison:

	SQ FT	Utilities	Contracted Services	Maintenance Staff	Custodial Services	Maintenance Equipment & Materials	Total	Cost/SF
Current RSU WMS	86,105	$220,695	$112,723	*	$352,000	$73,855	$759,273	$8.82
Current 3 buildings	25,350	$74,874	$103,022	$87,664	$356,750	$197,628	$819,938	$32.34
Estimated Community Center	92,104	$84,822	$133,566	$87,664	$356,750	$70,000	$732,802	$7.96

*Cost included in contracted services

More information

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Fall Car Care Guide

PREVENTING AND REPAIRING RUST

For Maine drivers, long winters, road salt and moisture make rust a common and potentially expensive problem. Taking preventive measures and addressing corrosion early can extend a vehicle's lifespan. One of the most effective ways to prevent rust is through regular washing, particularly during winter. Drivers should pay special attention to wheel wells, rocker panels, door edges and areas where debris accumulates.

Professional undercoating provides another valuable layer of protection. Undercoating involves applying specialized materials beneath a vehicle to shield metal surfaces from moisture, salt and road debris. Treatments may include oil-based, wax-based or other corrosion-resistant coatings.

Some professional rustproofing services also treat enclosed areas such as door cavities and rocker panels, where moisture or salt can collect.

Proper preparation and application are essential. Professionals inspect vehicles for existing corrosion, trapped moisture and damaged coatings before treatment. Applying unsuitable coatings over significant rust can trap moisture and allow deterioration to continue underneath.

Vehicle owners should also watch for early warning signs of rust, including bubbles beneath paint, reddish-brown discoloration, peeling paint and rough patches around wheel openings or lower door panels.

Rust can also develop underneath vehicles, affecting suspension components, brake lines, exhaust systems and structural supports. Because these areas are difficult to examine, periodic professional inspections are important.

Addressing rust promptly can prevent minor cosmetic damage from becoming a larger problem. Surface rust may be repaired by removing corrosion, preparing the metal and applying appropriate primers, protective coatings and paint.

Advanced corrosion may require cutting out damaged metal, welding replacement sections or replacing body panels. Simply painting over rust or covering it with body filler without treating underlying corrosion generally provides only temporary improvement.

Consulting a professional auto body shop is important when rust spreads, paint bubbles appear or metal becomes weakened. Experienced technicians can determine the extent of corrosion and recommend appropriate repairs.

Rust affecting structural components, suspension mounting points or other safety-critical areas requires immediate professional evaluation because extensive corrosion can compromise vehicle safety.

Rust prevention and repairs is more than a cosmetic concern. It can protect your investment for years to come. <

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- Express Interior Vacuum
- Dash Wiped Down
- Tires Dressed

INTERIOR DETAIL

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- Vacuum Carpets, Mats, & Upholstery
- Shampoo Carpets, Mats, & Upholstery
- Clean Consoles, Door Panels, Jambs, Vents Knobs, & Gauges
- Vinyl & Plastic Surfaces Dressed
- Glass & Windows Cleaned
- Leather Cleaned & Conditioned

*XL vehicles include vans, Suburbans, Escalades, and similar vehicles. All prices are starting rates. Additional charges apply for pitch removal, excessive soiling, and pet hair removal.







EXTERIOR DETAIL

$229 Small, $269 Mid-Size, $309 Full-Size, $349 X-Large

- Hand Wash & Paint Decontamination
- Buff Polish & Protectant
- Vinyl Trim Reconditioned
- Windows Inside & Outside
- Wheel & Rims Cleaned
- Tires Dressed

INSIDE & OUTSIDE RECONDITIONING

$399 Small, $449 Mid-Size, $499 Full-Size, $549 X-Large

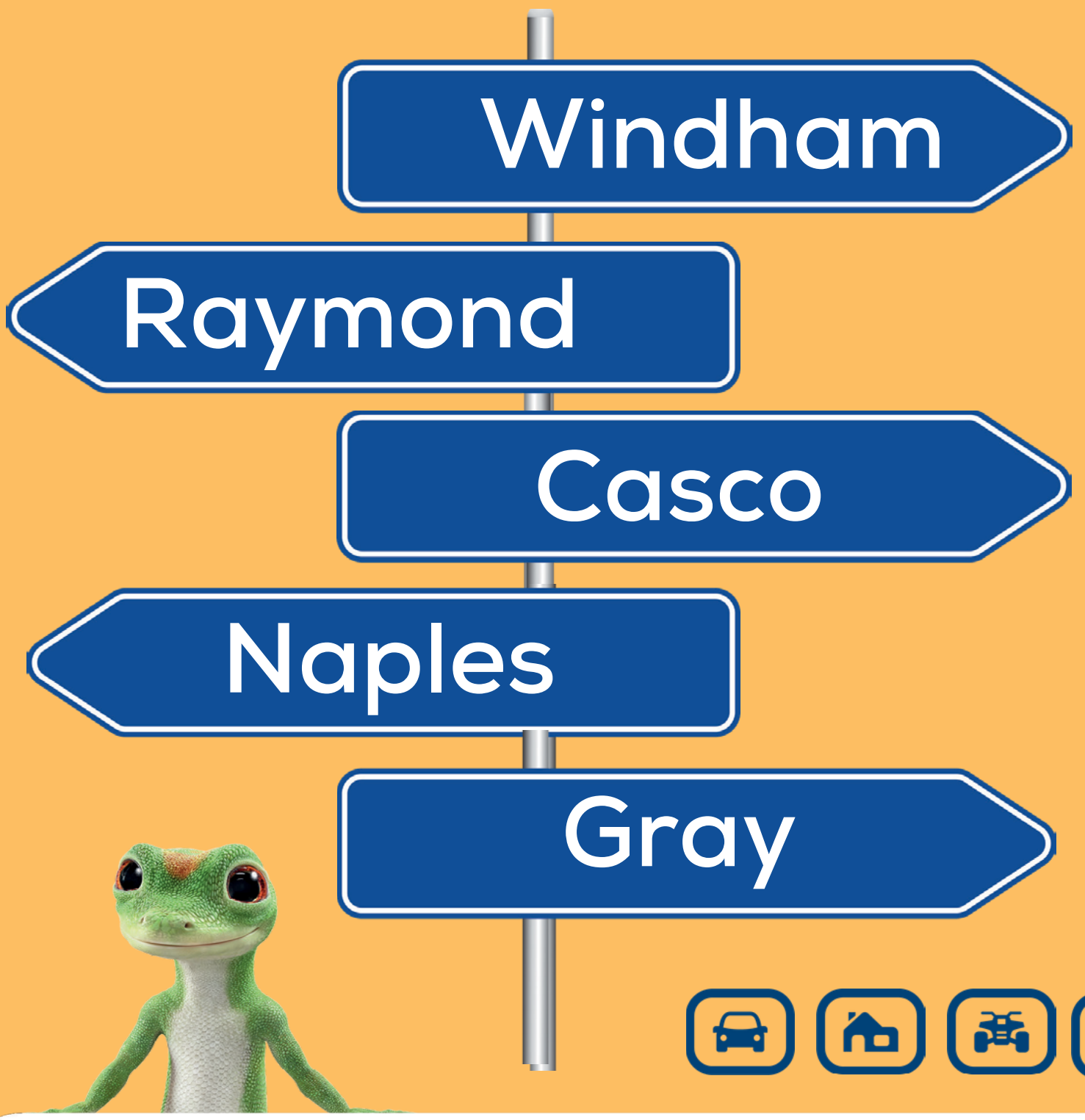
- Hand Wash & Paint Decontamination
- Buff Polish & Protectant
- Vinyl Trim Reconditioned
- Windows & Glass Inside & Outside
- Wheels & Rims Cleaned • Tires Dressed
- Vacuum & Shampoo Carpets, Mats, & Upholstery
- Interior Wiped Down & Dressed
- Leather Cleaned & Conditioned

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Fall Car Care Guide

DON'T LET A DEAD BATTERY LEAVE YOU OUT IN THE COLD

Cold weather can significantly reduce a battery's ability to deliver power. At the same time, engine oil becomes thicker in freezing temperatures, requiring more energy to turn the engine over. This combination can expose weaknesses in an aging battery that seemed to perform perfectly well throughout the warmer months.

Most conventional car batteries last approximately three to five years, although their lifespan depends on many factors. Frequent short trips, extended periods of inactivity and extreme temperatures can shorten battery life.

One of the best ways to avoid an unexpected breakdown is to schedule a professional battery inspection before winter arrives. Many automotive repair shops and auto parts retailers offer battery testing services that measure the battery's condition and ability to deliver starting power.

A professional inspection can also identify problems with the vehicle's charging system, including the alternator, which replenishes the battery while the engine is running. Sometimes a battery that repeatedly loses its charge is actually experiencing an electrical or charging problem rather than simply reaching the end of its useful life.

Drivers should also watch for warning signs of a weakening battery. Slow engine cranking, clicking sounds when attempting to start, dim headlights during startup and electrical accessories that operate inconsistently may indicate a problem. Some vehicles may also display a battery or charging system warning light.

However, not every failing battery provides advance warning. A battery may work normally one day and fail the next, particularly during a sudden cold snap.

Battery terminals and connections also deserve attention. Corrosion around the terminals can interfere with electrical connections and make starting difficult. A qualified technician can clean the terminals, inspect cables and ensure connections are secure.

When replacement becomes necessary, selecting the correct battery is important. Professional installation helps ensure the replacement battery meets the vehicle manufacturer's specifications and is properly secured and connected. Some newer vehicles also require battery registration or electronic system resets following replacement.

Ultimately, preventive battery maintenance is a relatively inexpensive way to avoid the inconvenience and potential danger of being stranded.

A quick visit to a trusted local automotive repair shop for a battery test this fall can provide peace of mind and help ensure your vehicle starts reliably. <

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Fall Car Care Guide

VEHICLE ACCESSORIES OFFER PROTECTION FROM WEAR & TEAR

Maine winters can be particularly hard on vehicles. Investing in quality vehicle accessories can provide a layer of protection, helping prevent costly damage and preserving a vehicle's appearance and value.

One of the simplest and most effective upgrades is a set of high-quality, all-weather floor mats. Heavy-duty rubber or molded floor liners are designed to trap melting snow, salt, mud and dirt before they soak into carpeting. Custom-fit liners offer even greater protection by covering more of the floor area, including edges where moisture and dirt can collect.

Keeping moisture out of carpeting is especially important. Trapped moisture can lead to staining, unpleasant odors and even corrosion beneath the carpeting. Quality floor liners are also easy to remove, rinse and reinstall.

Durable seat covers provide another practical way to protect a vehicle's interior to extend its life. Available in a variety of materials, including waterproof and water-resistant options, they help shield upholstery from wet clothing, spills, pet hair and everyday wear.

For pickup truck owners, tonneau covers and truck caps offer valuable protection against winter weather. A tonneau cover helps keep snow, ice and road debris out of the truck bed while protecting tools, equipment and other cargo from the elements. Available in soft and hard styles, many covers also provide added security for items stored underneath. Truck caps take protection a step further by creating an enclosed, covered cargo area. They are particularly useful for contractors, outdoor enthusiasts and anyone regularly transporting equipment or supplies. Both accessories can also reduce the need to shovel accumulated snow from the truck bed following a storm.

Mud flaps and splash guards are another worthwhile investment, especially for drivers who frequently travel on sanded or gravel-covered roads to help reduce the amount of rocks, salt, slush and debris thrown against lower body panels, potentially minimizing paint chips, scratches and corrosion.

Other helpful accessories include protective cargo liners, running boards with slip-resistant surfaces and durable bed liners that guard against scratches, dents and moisture-related damage.

When choosing accessories, proper fit and quality materials are essential and while these upgrades require an initial investment, they can save vehicle owners money by reducing wear, limiting damage and maintaining resale value. <

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Fall Car Care Guide

KNOWING WHAT TO DO AFTER AN ACCIDENT CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Car accidents can happen in an instant, whether it's a minor fender bender in a parking lot or a serious collision on a busy highway. Changing weather conditions, icy roads, wildlife and heavy traffic can increase the risk of unexpected crashes. Knowing what steps to take following an accident can help protect everyone involved, prevent further injuries and make the insurance and repair process easier.

The first priority after any collision is safety. Drivers should remain calm, check themselves and passengers for injuries and assess the immediate surroundings. If anyone is seriously injured, appears to need medical attention or is trapped inside a vehicle, call 911 immediately. Avoid moving injured individuals unless they are in immediate danger, such as from fire or approaching traffic.

For minor accidents where vehicles remain operational and no one is seriously injured, moving to a safe location away from traffic may help prevent additional collisions. Turn on hazard lights and, when safe, use emergency warning devices to alert approaching motorists.

In more serious accidents, vehicles may need to remain in place until emergency responders arrive, particularly when moving them would be unsafe. Drivers should follow instructions from law enforcement and avoid standing in travel lanes or other hazardous areas.

Maine law requires drivers involved in certain accidents to notify law enforcement, including crashes involving injuries or deaths and those meeting the state's property damage reporting threshold. When uncertain whether an accident must be reported, contacting local police or the Maine State Police is a sensible precaution.

Once everyone is safe, drivers should exchange essential information with others involved. This includes names, contact information, driver's license details, license plate numbers and insurance information. It is also helpful to record the make, model and color of each vehicle.

Photographs can provide important documentation for insurance claims. When safe, take pictures of vehicle damage, license plates, road conditions, traffic signs, skid marks and the overall accident scene. If witnesses are present, ask for their contact information as well.

Even after a seemingly minor collision, drivers should avoid making assumptions about injuries or vehicle damage. Some injuries, including neck and back problems, may not become apparent until hours or days later. Anyone experiencing pain, dizziness, headaches or other concerning symptoms should seek medical evaluation.

Similarly, vehicles that appear to have only cosmetic damage may have hidden problems involving suspension components, sensors, alignment or structural supports. Having a qualified repair professional inspect the vehicle can help identify issues that might otherwise go unnoticed.

Contacting an insurance company promptly is another important step. Drivers should provide accurate details about the incident and follow their insurer's instructions for filing a claim. Avoid speculating about fault or agreeing to informal settlements before understanding the extent of damage and potential injuries.

When repairs are necessary, choosing a reputable professional auto body shop is essential. Modern vehicles contain sophisticated safety systems, cameras and sensors that may require specialized equipment and calibration following a collision. Proper repairs help restore the vehicle's appearance, performance and safety to its original condition.

For major accidents, where vehicles need to be towed from the scene, always confirm where thevehicle is being taken and keep records of towing, storage and other accident-related expenses.

Preparation before an accident can also make a difference. Keeping insurance information, emergency contacts, a flashlight, reflective warning devices and a basic first-aid kit in the vehicle can be especially helpful during Maine's winter months.

Although no driver expects to be involved in a collision, understanding what to do afterward can reduce confusion and stress. <



Fall Car Care Guide

DEFENSIVE DRIVING TIPS TO PREVENT ROAD RAGE

• **Stay calm and patient:** Don't let traffic delays or other drivers' mistakes affect your attitude.

• **Keep a safe distance:** Avoid tailgating and allow plenty of room between vehicles.

• **Avoid distractions:** Put your phone away and keep your attention on the road.

• **Use your turn signals:** Communicate your intentions clearly and give other drivers time to react.

• **Don't drive aggressively:** Avoid speeding, weaving through traffic, sudden braking and unsafe lane changes.

• **Let others merge:** Be courteous and make room for other vehicles entering your lane.

• **Avoid confrontations:** Don't respond to aggressive drivers with gestures, yelling or excessive honking.

• **Don't take it personally:** Another driver's poor behavior isn't necessarily directed at you.

• **Allow extra travel time:** Leaving early reduces stress and the temptation to rush.

• **Be aware of your surroundings:** Watch for unpredictable drivers, pedestrians and changing road conditions.

• **Let aggressive drivers pass:** Don't challenge, block or attempt to keep pace with an angry motorist.

• **Never retaliate:** Responding to aggressive behavior only increases the risk of a dangerous situation.

• **Stay in your vehicle:** If confronted by an angry driver, keep your doors locked and windows up.

• **Know when to seek help:** If someone follows or threatens you, drive to a safe, populated location or police station and call 911 if you're in danger.

• **Remember:** Arriving safely is more important than anything.

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Fall Car Care Guide

PROPER SNOWPLOW INSTALL & MAINTENANCE ENSURE WINTER READINESS

When winter storms arrive in Maine, a dependable snowplow can be an essential tool for homeowners, businesses and commercial snow removal contractors. Proper snowplow installation and regular maintenance are critical to ensuring safe, efficient operation throughout the winter season.

Installing a snowplow involves much more than simply attaching a blade to the front of a truck. The plow must be compatible with the vehicle's weight capacity, suspension, electrical system and design. Choosing the wrong equipment or installing it incorrectly can place excessive stress on the truck, potentially damaging the frame, suspension, steering components and drivetrain.

Professional installation helps ensure the plow is properly mounted, secured and connected to the vehicle's electrical and hydraulic systems. Experienced installers can also determine whether additional equipment, such as upgraded suspension components or manufacturer-approved ballast, is needed to maintain proper weight distribution.

Weight is particularly important when selecting a snowplow. The combined weight of the plow, passengers, cargo and other equipment must remain within the vehicle's gross vehicle weight rating and axle weight limits. Exceeding these limits can affect braking, steering and handling, especially on slippery winter roads.

Once installed, a snowplow requires regular attention to remain dependable. Owners should inspect mounting hardware, hydraulic hoses, electrical connections and moving components for signs of wear, corrosion or damage.

Hydraulic systems deserve particular attention because they control the raising, lowering and angling of the blade. Checking fluid levels, inspecting hoses for leaks and following the manufacturer's recommended service schedule can help prevent breakdowns

The plow's cutting edge should also be inspected regularly. This replaceable component makes contact with the pavement and gradually wears down with use. Becoming excessively worn can damage the plow blade itself, resulting in more expensive repairs.

Electrical connections, lights and controls should be tested before winter begins. Road salt and moisture can cause corrosion, making it important to keep connections clean and protected. Properly functioning plow lights are especially important when operating during nighttime storms or periods of reduced visibility.

Throughout the winter, operators should check the plow after each use for loose bolts, damaged components and accumulated ice or debris. Washing salt and grime from the equipment can help extend its service life.

When winter ends, snowplows should receive a thorough cleaning and inspection before being placed in storage. Touching up exposed metal, lubricating appropriate components and storing the plow in a dry location can help prevent deterioration during the warmer months.

For Mainers who depend on their snowplows, professional installation and preventive maintenance are worthwhile investments. Taking care of equipment before problems arise can reduce unexpected repair costs, minimize downtime and ensure the plow is ready. <

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Fall Car Care Guide

DON'T DELAY ON WINTER VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

Changing seasons expose vehicles to various conditions throughout the year. Although severe weather can occur at any time, the winter is known to be particularly harsh and can make it hard for a vehicle to function properly.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says winter weather can cause extremely dangerous road conditions. An estimated 320 fatal traffic crashes occurred in the United States in 2023, and 22,293 injuries happened when there was snow or sleet conditions at the time of the crash. It is essential that drivers prepare their vehicles for winter weather. Properly winterizing a car can help prevent breakdowns and accidents and also potentially save drivers from being stranded in the cold.



Here are some winter car maintenance tips to consider before the first storm of the season, courtesy of AAA and State Farm®.

- **Test the battery.** A driver needs a battery to be fully charged and in good condition to start the engine on cold winter mornings. Colder temperatures cause chemical reactions within the battery, which can make electricity slow down and hinder the vehicle's ability to reach maximum power. Check the battery prior to winter, and replace it, if necessary.
- **Check fluids.** Part of winter preparation is ensuring that all of the car's fluids are at the right levels and appropriate for low temperatures. This includes engine oil, windshield washer fluid, and antifreeze.
- **Schedule a maintenance checkup.** A mechanic can look at hoses and belts to check that they are in good working order. Cold temperatures can make belts and hoses more brittle and prone to breaking.
- **Apply a windshield repellent.** Scraping ice and snow off windshields on winter mornings can be a frustrating and arduous task. Adding hydrophobic repellent like Rain-X to the windshield can make it easier to remove ice later.
- **Maintain tire pressure.** As outside temperatures drop, so does tire pressure. Routinely check and inflate tires to the recommended pressure listed on a label located on the driver's side door frame.
- **Inspect the wiper blades.** Seeing clearly out of the windshield is important for safe winter driving. In addition to a properly working defroster, drivers will need wiper blades that can remove rain and snow. If any streaks or skips occur while using the wipers, it might be time for a new set.
- **Conduct a brake check.** A combination of snow, moisture, and salt on roads can contribute to rust on brakes and rotors. Symptoms of brake issues include noises, sticking brake pads, and slower stop times. Before the thick of winter, drivers are urged to have their brakes checked by a professional.

Winter is on the horizon, and vehicle owners should prepare their cars and trucks now for the rough weather to come. <

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Fall Car Care Guide

WHY GOOD TIRES ARE ESSENTIAL FOR SAFE WINTER DRIVING



When winter weather arrives in Maine, having the right tires can make a significant difference in staying safe on the road. Snow-covered highways, icy intersections, slushy backroads and freezing temperatures create challenging driving conditions, making quality tires one of the most important investments vehicle owners can make.

Tires are the only part of a vehicle that maintains contact with the road, making their condition essential for steering, braking and traction. Even vehicles equipped with all-wheel or four-wheel drive depend on good tires to stop and turn safely. While these systems help vehicles accelerate in slippery conditions, they cannot compensate for worn tires or inadequate traction when braking.

Winter tires are specifically designed to perform in cold temperatures. Unlike conventional all-season tires, winter tires feature specialized rubber compounds that remain more flexible in freezing weather, along with deeper tread patterns and small grooves called sipes that improve grip on snow and ice.

For Maine drivers who regularly encounter snow-covered roads, investing in four quality winter tires can provide better handling, shorter stopping distances and greater confidence behind the wheel.

Studded winter tires offer another level of traction, particularly on icy roads and hard-packed snow. Small metal studs embedded in the tread help grip slippery surfaces, making them especially beneficial for drivers who frequently travel untreated rural roads, steep hills or areas prone to persistent ice.

However, studs are not necessary for everyone. Modern studless winter tires can provide excellent traction in many winter conditions and often perform better on clear, dry pavement. Studded tires can also increase road noise and contribute to pavement wear.

In Maine, studded tires are generally permitted from Oct. 2 through April 30, allowing drivers to use them during the coldest months.

Regardless of the tires selected, regular maintenance is essential for safety and longevity. Tire rotations help distribute wear evenly among all four tires, preventing certain tires from wearing out faster than others. Most vehicles benefit from rotations approximately every 5,000 to 7,500 miles, although manufacturer recommendations should always be followed.

Proper wheel alignment is equally important. When wheels are misaligned, tires may wear unevenly, steering can become less predictable and the vehicle may pull to one side. Maine's potholes, frost heaves and rough winter roads can knock wheels out of alignment, making periodic inspections particularly worthwhile.

Tire pressure also deserves attention throughout winter. Cold temperatures naturally cause tire pressure to decrease, potentially affecting handling, traction and tire wear. Checking pressure monthly and maintaining the manufacturer's recommended levels can help ensure optimal performance.

Drivers should also inspect tread depth regularly. Although 2/32 of an inch is a commonly used minimum replacement threshold, winter traction can deteriorate well before tires reach that point.

Ultimately, even the best tires cannot eliminate the dangers of snow and ice. Slowing down, increasing following distances and avoiding sudden braking or steering remain essential winter driving habits.

By investing in appropriate tires and keeping up with rotations, alignments and inspections, Maine motorists can improve safety, extend tire life and enjoy greater peace of mind throughout the winter driving season. <

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Eagle SPORTS



Windham's Cross Country teams compete in Regionals

By Matt Pascarella
STAFF WRITER









(L to R) Windham junior Stephanie Roghelia keeps her composure as she runs along the trail during the Class A Cross Country Regional Championships at Twin Brooks Recreation Area in Cumberland on Saturday, Oct. 24. Senior Grace Lee goes up the final hill before the last stretch to the finish line. Senior Mason Bragdon stays within the pack. Freshman Sam Jaynes makes his way to the finish line. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

Windham High School's boys' and girls' Cross Country teams competed in the Regional Championships against teams from all over the state at Twin Brooks Recreation Area in Cumberland on Saturday, Oct. 24. Both Windham teams have been working hard in preparation for this very hard course, and although neither team qualified for the State Championship, both teams did well with the girls' finishing 14th with a score of 358 and the boys' finishing 16th with a score of 448.

"I think we knew it was going to be hard to qualify as a team," said Windham cross country coach Paula Pock. "Our goal was to have everyone run an awesome race and finish the season on a high note. A couple of these kids just ran out of their shoes – it was impressive. This is a pretty challenging course, and we talked a lot about mindset, pushing through and staying positive. They did a great job of maintaining and staying strong throughout the whole thing."

GIRLS

Senior Stephanie Roghelia finished first for Windham and 60th overall with a time of 24:05.88 minutes.

"We prepared for today by practicing hills because this is a very hilly course and also our intervals and pacing," said Roghelia. "Our hill work and pacing went really well." I wish we could have run the course first to get the experience of what it was going to feel like."

In second place for Windham was senior Grace Lee who finished 66th overall with a 24:37.59 time.

Lee said the team got out pretty well and they were all able to get themselves in a good position with the pack they were in and stay with most of the race.

Both Lee and Roghelia said that they were very proud of their team and for their last race they were glad everyone did their best.

Alanna Lewis, a senior, finished third for Windham and 77th overall with a time of 25:48.09.

All seven runners ran the course in under 28 minutes.

BOYS

"My goal for the day was to run a similar time to what I ran my sophomore year, and I think I hit that time I was looking for today," said Windham senior Mason Bragdon who finished first for Windham, 73rd overall and ran the course in 20:05.75. "I've run this course close to 10 times as of now and it's one of my toughest courses every single time. The terrain topography is really, really tough; especially when you have so many people funneling through ... it's difficult to navigate. The start went really well and was fast. Into the second mile I felt consistent, I was in my place and held my place pretty much all the way into the end. A little bit more hill work would have been helpful. It's my final race, I'm really happy with how I did. I'm glad I'm leaving it in the hands of some of the fast runners here."

Freshman Sam Jaynes finished second for Windham and 77th overall with a time of 20:07.69.

Franklin Murray, a freshman, finished third for the Eagles and 96th overall with a 21:17.40 time.

The seven runners each finished the course in under 24 minutes.

"They were so supportive of each other," said Pock. "We ran really well within their abilities. We understood from the beginning of the season that it was going to be a building year, and we just really ran strong. Our upperclassmen were great role models and were really encouraging to the younger athletes. We are looking forward to next year." <

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Alex McGonagle

Age: 13
Team: Windham Little League fall ball team 1
Coach: Chris Whitney
Parents' names: Pat and Marina McGonagle
Reason for selection: Alex is an athlete who loves to compete no matter what. He's competitive, but what a lot of people don't see is he's got a big heart. The team has had some issues with younger kids being scared of being hit with the ball, and Alex has been tasked with going over and trying to pep-talk them up. Alex does more than what you typically see on the baseball field. Coaches say he is their biggest challenge, but he's just such a good kid and he's talented. He knows situations; if a kid makes a mistake, Alex is the first one over there explaining what they did wrong. When he's on the whole team's on and they follow suit.

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WHS PLAYOFF SCOREBOARD

★ **FIELD HOCKEY:** Seventh place Windham played 10th place Marshwood in the preliminary playoff round at Windham on Friday, Oct. 23. Windham scored early and kept up their offense until the last buzzer to win 4-2 and advance to the quarterfinal.

With seven minutes remaining in the first quarter, senior Morgan McLain scored. Right before the end of the quarter, sophomore Hayley Johnsen scored.

Early in the second quarter, Johnsen scored again.

In the third quarter with nine minutes left, Johnsen scored her third goal of the game.

Windham played Biddeford in the quarterfinal at Biddeford on Wednesday, Oct. 28. Details to follow.

★ **GIRLS' SOCCER:** Second place Windham played 10th-place Westbrook in the A South quarterfinal at Windham on Tuesday, Oct. 27. After two overtime periods, and over 100 minutes of gameplay, Windham won 2-1.

Windham junior Emily Wardwell scored early in the second half.

Westbrook answered to tie the game 1-1.

After over 100 minutes of game play, the game went to penalty kicks. Windham won the penalty kicks round and then the game. The girls will play in the semifinal playoff round at Windham on Friday, Oct. 30 at 5 p.m.

★ **WINDHAM CHRISTIAN ACADEMY COED SOCCER:** WCA's coed soccer team played their semifinal playoff game against Solid Rock Academy at Windham Christian Academy on Tuesday, Oct. 27. After a hard-fought game, WCA broke a 5-5 tie game to win, 6-5.

Windham Christian Academy played in the championship game at Edward Little in Auburn on Thursday, Oct. 29. Details to follow.

Windham Little League wraps up season with big win

By Matt Pascarella
STAFF WRITER

On a beautiful fall day for baseball both Windham Little League teams, Windham 1 and Windham 2, celebrated the end of a very successful fall ball season by playing against each other at Ciccarone Field at Lowell Farm in Windham on Saturday, Oct. 24. After a big fourth inning, Windham 2 won 9-1.

This was more of a fun game, and it showed through the attitudes and actions of the players on both teams cheering each other on and being nothing but supportive.

"They stuck with the process today and stayed committed and disciplined," said Windham Little League Windham 2 coach Kevin Rancourt. "All the boys really met the goal for the season; they grew, developed, stayed on track and bonded as a unit. Our mantra for the team this year was good things happen when we swing our bats. They went with that and kept it rolling. We saw contributions from all kids throughout the lineup."

Windham Little League Windham 1 coach Chris Whitney said when the fall ball season began, he wanted his team to learn how to play baseball correctly and have fun while doing it. The team surpassed his expectations and only had two losses over the course of the season. Whitney said during this game, some of the younger kids who didn't see a lot of hits during the season, made contact with the ball, and this built their confidence. He said win, lose or draw, what he looks for as a coach is a player who can take a bad situation, learn from it and turn it into a positive later on.

The first inning began for Windham 2 as seventh grader Elijah Sun walked. Seventh grader Peyton Edwards crushed a double and brought Sun in to score.

Both teams had stellar defense as they went two full innings with neither team scoring.

Sun smashed a two-run homerun in the fourth inning. Windham 2 led by four runs. Windham 2 added five more runs in the next two innings.

"Honestly, I didn't see the ball, I just swung the bat, and everyone was screaming," said Sun who also won M.V.P. from his coach. "I think we did great; our hitting, our defense and our pitching were all really good. It was a solid all-around team."

When Sun looks back on the season, he sees that the team has improved. In one of their first games, they lost to Bonny Eagle and then beat them toward the end of the season. Sun also got his first Little League homerun in a game against Gorham earlier in the month.

Also in the fourth inning, Windham 1 fifth grader Maxtyn Spence walked and then stole his way around the bases. When the moment was right, Spence was careful and quickly stole home to put Windham 1 on the scoreboard.

Spence said he was proud he got an out today and scored. Something that stood out to Spence during the season was when he hit an inside-the-park grand slam during a scrimmage earlier in the season. He said he's proud of how he's been playing the past three years as well as how well his team played today.



Portland Sea Dogs mascot Slugger joins Windham Little League's fall ball teams 1 and 2 before playing the final game of the season at Ciccarone Field at Lowell Farm on Saturday, Oct. 24. PHOTO BY MATT PASCARELLA

After two strikeouts in the fifth inning, Windham 1's defense was on it as they secured the last out with a hit to second baseman and sixth grader Evan Standley who made the throw to first baseman Spence.

Both Standley and Spence repeated this skill to nab the first out of the sixth inning against Windham 2.

Windham 1's pitchers were fifth graders Garrett Dansereau and Tyler Hanlon, and sixth graders Jaxson Whitney and Grayson Charles got a total of 12 strikeouts over six innings.

The pitchers of Windham 2 were Sun, sixth grader Ethan Clarke and sixth grader Ashton Belanger who struck out 11 batters over six innings. <

Windham Raymond Schools
RSU14

SCHOOL BOARD UPDATE

AT-A-GLANCE

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

RSU 14 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Upcoming School Board Work:

- New Middle School Name Vote
- MAN State of the School
- WPS State of the School

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Upcoming Committee Work:

- 5-Year Capital Planning

POLICY COMMITTEE

Upcoming Committee Work:

- JLF - Child Abuse Reporting, Prevention, & Education
- IKE - Promotion, Retention & Acceleration of Students
- ADAA - School System Commitment to Standards for Ethical Behavior
- BED- Remote participation in school board meetings
- ILA - Student Assessment/local assessment system
- JEA - Student compulsory attendance
- KLGC - Relations with Law Enforcement Personnel
- Sports Forfeit Policy

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Upcoming Committee Work:

- Fall Data Review
- National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)
- Program for International Student Assessment (PISA)

FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Upcoming Committee Work:

- Joint meeting with Finance Committee

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

November 2, 2026:
9:00 a.m. at Central Office: Policy Committee
11:00 a.m. at Central Office: Finance and Facilities Joint Committee Meeting

November 4, 2026:
7:00 p.m. at Windham High School: Board Meeting

November 16, 2026:
9:00 a.m. at Central Office: Policy Committee

November 18 2026:
3:00 p.m. at Central Office: Curriculum Committee
6: 30 p.m. at Jordan-Small Middle School: Board Meeting

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

As seen in the Community Calendar



Photo By: Pam Zangrillo Photo from: Sebago Lake, Raymond Cape

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Set Your Clocks Back Change your detector batteries!	2 AL Aux 148 Mtg 6pm WVC Parks & Recreation Kiddie Gym Begins 8:30AM	3 Election Day MAIN GYM WINDHAM HIGH SCHOOL 7 AM - 8 PM WHS/JSMS Remote Day - Voting Election Day	4 Zoning Board of Appeals Site Walk 7:00AM Veterans Coffee 9-11am WVC AL Post 148 Mtg 6pm WVC RSU 14 Board of Directors Meeting	5 SLRCC - Board of Directors Mtg Zoning Board of Appeals 6:30PM Parks & Recreation Halloween Costume Contest Ends	6	7
8	9 Planning Board Meeting 6:00PM	10 Council Meeting 6:00PM	11 Veterans Day No School VFW 11/11 @ 11am WVC AL Memorial Garden Ceremony 12pm Town offices, library closed	12 Library Board of Trustees Meeting 4:30PM	13	14
15 Parks & Recreation Sunday Open Gym Begins 8:00AM	16 WVA Meeting 6pm WVC	17	18 Veterans Coffee 9-11am WVC Red Cross Blood Drive 12-5pm WVC RSU 14 Board of Directors Meeting	19	20	21 AL Bean Supper 4:30pm WVC
22	23 Planning Board Meeting 6:00PM	24 Council Meeting 6:00PM	25 Veterans Coffee 9-11am WVC DAV Mtg 6pm WVC No School - Staff Work Day	26 Happy Thanksgiving Town offices, library closed No School	27 Library Closed No School	28 Library Closed
29	30					

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 10643 was founded in 1989 to support Veterans who have served in Foreign Wars. In 2005 VFW Post 10643 held their first Veterans Day Community Celebration at the Windham Veterans Center and dedicated the new Veterans Memorial Park on 11/11 @11 that year to ALL Veterans.

For more information about VFW Post 10643 please call the current Commander, Willie Goodman, at 207-228-4329.

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Should you file that insurance claim? Sometimes the answer is no!

By Tricia Zwirner
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE


— Tricia Zwirner, State Farm

You've paid your insurance premiums faithfully for years. Then one day, something happens. A tree limb damages your roof, a pipe leaks and ruins your flooring, or you accidentally back into something with your car.

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Insurance is designed to protect you from financial losses that could be difficult to absorb on your own. While policies cover many types of damage, using your insurance for every relatively minor incident may not always be the best financial decision.

Let's say a windstorm damages a section of your roof. The repair estimate is $2,000, and your homeowners' deductible is $1,000.

If the damage is covered, your insurance company would generally pay $1,000 after your deductible.

Sounds reasonable, right? But here's where things get interesting.

Depending on your insurance company, claims history, and other factors, filing that claim could affect your future premiums or even your eligibility for certain insurance programs. Suddenly that $1,000 reimbursement might not look quite as appealing.

Your Claims History Matters

Many people don't realize that insurance companies consider claims history when determining rates and eligibility for coverage.

While one claim doesn't automatically mean your premium will increase, multiple claims within a relatively short period can raise concerns for insurers.

And here's another surprise: Claims history can follow you when you shop for insurance with another company. Insurers may use databases that report prior claims, meaning changing companies doesn't necessarily give you a clean slate.

This doesn't mean you should be afraid to use your insurance. Far from it! It simply means understanding the potential consequences before making a decision.

A Little Maine Perspective

Living in the Sebago Lakes Region, we're no strangers to unpredictable weather. Between winter ice storms, heavy snow, falling trees, and the occasional windstorm that seems determined to rearrange our yards, there's no shortage of opportunities for unexpected damage.

Imagine waking up after a storm to discover a large branch resting on your roof. Before assuming you need to file a claim, take a moment to assess the situation.

Is there actual damage to the roof, or does the branch simply need to be removed? Is the damage minor, or could there be structural problems that aren't immediately visible?

These distinctions matter. Depending on your policy and the circumstances, debris removal may be covered, limited, or excluded.

And remember, what initially looks like a small repair can sometimes turn into something much more significant. When in doubt, have the damage evaluated by a qualified professional before making a financial decision.

When Does Filing a Claim Make Sense?

If a major storm causes $40,000 of damage to your home, that's exactly the type of financial loss insurance is intended to help protect against.

The same goes for a serious automobile accident, a house fire, or a significant liability claim.

But what about a $1,500 repair when you have a $1,000 deductible? That's when it's worth considering whether paying out of pocket might make more sense.

Of course, every situation is different. Your financial circumstances, the nature of the damage, and your insurance policy all play a role.

One important exception: If someone is injured, another person's property is damaged, or there's a possibility of a liability claim, don't assume it's better to handle the situation yourself. Prompt reporting may be required under your policy, and delaying could complicate matters.

What About Calling Your Insurance Agent?

Here's where I think having a local insurance agent really makes a difference.

Before deciding how to proceed, it's helpful to understand your deductible, what your policy covers, and what factors could affect your insurance going forward.

A knowledgeable agent can explain your options and help you make an informed decision.

Keep in mind that contacting your insurance company about damage may result in a claim being opened, even if no payment is ultimately made. It's worth understanding how your insurer handles inquiries and claim reporting.

The Bottom Line

Insurance is one of those things we hope we never need but are incredibly grateful to have when something serious happens.

The goal isn't to avoid filing claims. It's to use your coverage wisely. Sometimes filing a claim is absolutely the right decision.

Other times, handling a smaller expense yourself may make better financial sense. The important thing is understanding the difference.

And remember, the cheapest insurance policy isn't necessarily the best one. Having the right coverage—and someone you trust to help you understand it – can make all the difference when the unexpected happens.

This article was brought to you by Tricia Zwirner, a State Farm agent in Windham. She and her team would love to hear from you and can be reached via phone and text at 207-892-2864 or via email at tricia@TRICIAZWIRNER.com. <


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Eagle

PLEASE NOTE: FOOD AND GAMES FEATURE ALTERNATES WITH MOVIE REVIEW

FOOD AND GAMES

THE WINDHAM EAGLE'S Cooking Corner

Slow Cooker Pumpkin Chili

Here's a handy recipe that you can prepare and start first thing in the morning, and it'll be ready in time for dinner using your slow cooker. It combines some of your fall favorites including turkey and pumpkin and warms you up on chilly fall evenings or even to set aside a few bowls for lunch the next day. Adding the unique taste of pumpkin, along with cinnamon gives this hearty turkey chili meal some extra zing when it's cold outside. Takes about 20 minutes to put everything together but the family will think you spent all day whipping this up in the kitchen. Ingredients are relatively inexpensive at the grocery store, and many of the items used in this recipe can be found on the shelf in your kitchen cupboards.

INGREDIENTS

2 cups of chicken broth
1 can of pumpkin purée
1 1/2 teaspoons of ground cumin
3/4 teaspoon of chili powder
1/2 teaspoon of cinnamon
1/3 teaspoon of cayenne pepper
1 pound of lean ground turkey
1 large onion (chopped)
2 garlic cloves
1 can of green chiles
2 cans of white beans

INSTRUCTIONS

In a mixing bowl, combine the dry ingredients for the chicken.
In a 5-to-6-quart slow cooker, whisk together the chicken broth, pumpkin purée, cumin, chili powder, cinnamon, and cayenne pepper.
Add the turkey and stir everything together thoroughly to combine well.
Fold in the chopped onion, garlic, chiles, and beans, and then heat in the slow cooker covered until the turkey is cooked through, about 4 to 5 hours on high setting or 6 to 7 hours on low setting.
If wanted top with sour cream, grated cheese, radishes, and cilantro as garnishments. Serve with warm bread or crackers. *Makes 4 hearty bowls.*

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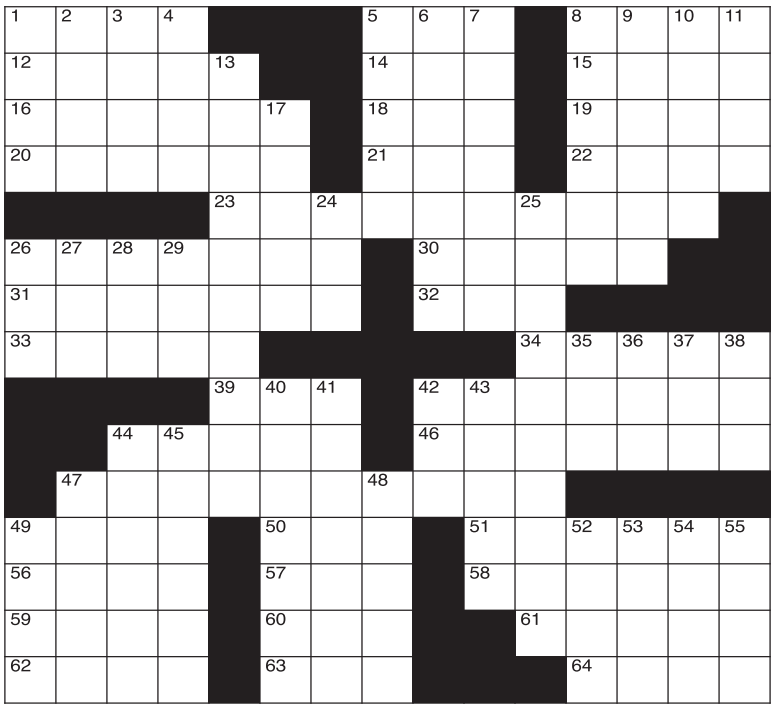
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SUPPORT Local BUSINESSES

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS

1. El __, Texas town
5. Rocker's tool
8. A lot
12. Traveling by ground
14. Spelling competition
15. Two-toed sloth
16. Small perfumed bag
18. "Much __ about nothing"
19. Tough-skinned mollusk
20. Removes from record
21. It warms the planet
22. Leafy green
23. Quality of arriving favorably
26. Living thing
30. "Six of Crows" author Bardugo
31. Got around a rule
32. Resin from burned substance
33. Iraq seaport
34. Religious leaders
39. Fugitives are on it
42. Samson's influencer
44. Italian city
46. A quality of lacking interest
47. Predatory tropical fishes
49. Nobel physician Isodor
50. Luck
51. Stationary part of a motor or generator
56. Orthopedic professional group (abbr.)
57. One point south of due east
58. It follows 79
59. Paper currency
60. Anger
61. Spanish seaport
62. Sleep in a rough place
63. Famous museum
64. Selfs

CLUES DOWN

1. Bullfighting maneuver
2. From a distance
3. Soul and calypso song
4. Expressions of delight
5. Lower in esteem
6. Inner region of an organ
7. Flowers
8. A bog
9. Remove a fastening
10. Membranes
11. Enormous
13. One who abstains from drink
17. Malayan wild ox
24. Type of student
25. Rejecting all moral principles
26. Sino-Soviet block
27. Egyptian unit of weight
28. Wrong
29. Make a mistake
35. Indicates location
36. Boxing's "GOAT"
37. Where wrestlers compete
38. Timid
40. Disney town
41. Suggesting the horror of death and decay
42. Male parent
43. Remove for good
44. Simple shoes
45. Flowers
47. Hindi courtesy title for a man
48. Not pleased
49. "Atlas Shrugged" author
52. CIA officer and writer
53. Hoodlum
54. __ Von Bismarck, Iron Chancellor
55. Woolen rugs

SUDOKU

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

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

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

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Brickliners
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For homeowners in Maine, a chimney is more than an architectural feature. It is an important part of the home, particularly as colder weather arrives, and fireplaces and heating systems return to regular use. For Brickliners Custom Masonry & Chimney Services, helping homeowners safely maintain those systems has been the foundation of the company for two decades.

Founded in 2006 by owner and president Jake Loeffler, Brickliners is celebrating its 20th year in business in 2026. What began as a small masonry and chimney company has grown into a regional operation serving customers across Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine, including a dedicated location in Windham.

Despite that growth, the company continues to focus on the specialized chimney and masonry work upon which it was built.

Brickliners provides chimney inspections, sweeping and cleaning, chimney repairs and rebuilding, masonry restoration, chimney liners, waterproofing, fireplace and stove-related services, and other work designed to help homeowners maintain safe and functional chimney systems.

The Windham location allows Brickliners to serve homeowners throughout the greater Portland area and surrounding Maine communities while providing the support and resources of an established regional company.

One of the company's priorities is education, both for its technicians and its customers. Chimney systems can be complicated, and problems are not always obvious from inside the home. Deteriorating masonry, damaged liners, water intrusion and other issues can develop over time, particularly in New England's demanding climate.

Maine's freeze-and-thaw cycles can be especially tough on masonry. Water can enter small cracks in brick and mortar, freeze, expand and gradually contribute to deterioration. Regular inspections can help identify developing concerns before they become more significant repairs.

That is one reason Brickliners encourages homeowners not to wait until the first cold night of the season to think about their chimney.

The company also places a strong emphasis on technician training. Brickliners uses a structured apprenticeship and training process that combines classroom-style education with hands-on field experience. Technicians work toward industry knowledge and professional certifications, including certification through the Chimney Safety Institute of America (CSIA).

For Brickliners, training is an ongoing process rather than something that ends after an employee's first few weeks. New technicians develop practical skills under experienced team members while learning company procedures, safety practices and the technical knowledge needed to evaluate chimney and masonry systems.

That approach has become increasingly important as Brickliners has expanded. Maintaining consistent standards across multiple locations requires investing in employees and giving technicians a clear path to develop their skills and take on greater responsibility.

Safety is another major part of the company's culture. Chimney work frequently requires technicians to work on roofs, ladders, scaffolding and elevated work areas. Brickliners provides ongoing safety training covering areas such as fall protection, ladder and scaffolding safety, personal protective equipment, respiratory protection, safe lifting, and proper use of tools and equipment.

The company also emphasizes communication with homeowners. Rather than simply completing a service and leaving, technicians are expected to help customers understand what they find, what may require attention and why a particular repair or maintenance recommendation is being made.

As Brickliners enters its third decade, its Windham operation represents an important part of the company's future.

For Loeffler and the Brickliners team, however, growth is not simply about covering more territory. The goal is to build long-term relationships in the communities the company serves and establish the Windham team as a trusted local resource for Maine homeowners.

After 20 years, the fundamentals of the business remain much the same: craftsmanship, safety, education and taking care of customers' homes.

For Maine homeowners preparing for another New England heating season, Brickliners recommends having chimney systems inspected regularly and addressing signs of deterioration, water intrusion or other concerns before they develop into larger problems.

Brickliners Custom Masonry & Chimney Services serves Windham and surrounding Maine communities. To learn more about the company and its chimney and masonry services, visit Brickliners.com or call the Windham office at 207-572-1071. <

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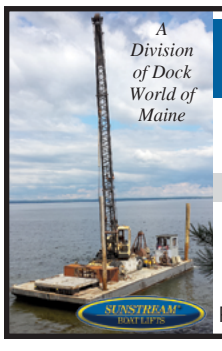
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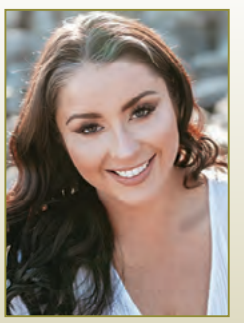
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