THE WINDHAM EAGLE

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VFW salutes Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy essay winners on Veterans Day

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

Veterans Day for Americans remains an acknowledgement that those willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for our nation deserve our admiration and respect. Two local students captured that sentiment perfectly and were honored as this year's winners of the Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy contests sponsored by Veteran of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 10643.

Annaelle Kaways,14, an eighth grader at Windham Middle School won the post 's annual Patriot's Pen essay competition, while William Kindred, 16, a junior at Windham Christian Academy, won the annual Voice of Democracy contest.

Both students received their awards during the VFW Post 10643's Veterans Day Observance at the Windham Veterans Center on Nov. 11.

In announcing each award, VFW Commander Jeff Cook said both Kawaya and Kindred will now advance to compete in district competition in January and if they are successful there, they will advance to the state-level contests next spring.



Students Annaelle Kawaya, left, and William Kindred were honored by Windham VFW Post 10643 as the local middle school and high school winners of the VFW's Patriot's Pen essay contest and Voice of Democracy competition during the annual Veterans Day Observance at the Windham Veterans Center on Nov. 11. PHOTO BY ED PIERCE

Patriot's Pen is an annual youth essay contest sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars for students in grades 6 to 8. The national Patriot's Pen winner is presented with a $5,000 college scholarship.

Voice of Democracy is an annual audio-essay competition sponsored by the VFW for high school students in grades 9 to 12. The national Voice of Democracy winner is awarded a $35,000 college scholarship.

The theme for this year's Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy contests was "What a Veteran Taught Me About America."

Kawaya said that it took her about two weeks to develop and prepare for how she wanted to write the essay, but once she did sit down to write her essay, it only took her about two hours to finish it.

"I love that I get to share most of my opinions within my essay and help all veterans be recognized but I also love the celebration that they hold at the Veterans Center."

The daughter Lucie Mbimi and Jonas Kawaya of Windham, Annaelle also submitted an essay last year as a seventh grader that received second place in the post contest.

She learned that she had won this year's Patriot's Pen competition when Cook called and informed her that her essay was judged by a VFW Post 10643 panel as the top submission for this year.

In winning the contest, Kawaya re-

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Windham crews ready to tackle winter storms

By Erin Rose
STAFF WRITER

Windham's Public Works Department is ready and waiting for whenever Mother Nature decides to start the cycle of winter weather.

"We are fully ready if there were to be a storm today," said Brian S. Morin, the town's Public Works Director. "Last year, there were 31 events starting on Dec. 2, 2025."

The department's crew of 23 people cover 386 miles of lanes throughout Windham once winter weather arrives with freezing conditions, ice or snow.

The town's roads require "typically 2,800-3,000 tons of salt, depending on the winter," Morin said.

During a winter storm, the teams split to cover 17 plow routes to ensure roadways remain passable, depending on the snowfall rates or icing conditions. While some storms can be quick, dropping several inches of snow over a few hours, others linger, taking hours to deliver all of the precipitation before moving out.

Windham Public Works crews remain active while the storm continues to maintain the town's roadways, regardless of how long that takes.

"Our crew is in for the duration of the storm, which depends on the storm itself," Morin noted. "The larger storms, we could be here over 30 plus hours straight."

While there have been some reports of shortages of road salt to de-ice roadways and surfaces nationally, Morin said that the town of Windham is well stocked and has not had an issue finding salt in previous years.

"We did have one event last year where we needed to purchase from a second supplier," he said. "There has been no indication of there being a problem this year."

Residents who need supplies to restore traction to slippery walkways and driveways can find free salted sand at the town's Public Works facility at 185 Windham Center Road. The facility is open, Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on weekends during snow events while the Public Works crews are plowing.

"Residents are allowed two five-gallon pails of salted sand from the public sand bin," Morin said, explaining that the bin is accessible from the facility's second entrance at Gate 2.

The members of the Public Works team also have the task of putting up the holiday lights around town, including the town's Christmas tree at the Public Safety Building on Gray Road and the lights in the center median of the rotary joining Routes 202 and 302.

"All Christmas decorations will be in place by Sunday night, Nov. 29, following the annual Windham Tree Lighting Ceremony," Morin said.

The winter solstice will fall on Monday, Dec. 21 this year, but Windham typically sees snow before that date.



Windham's Public Works Department is fully prepared to handle winter storms this year and maintain more than 386 miles of roadways in the town. Last year, Public Works crews worked clearing snow and ice resulting from 31 storms and typically distribute 2,800 to 3,000 tons of salt to keep roads safe and passable during the winter. PHOTO BY ED PIERCE

"It's normal to see one or two storms in December," Morin said.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Windham receives around 84 inches of snow between November and April, while the statewide average is 90 inches. NOAA also reports that snow typically covers the ground for an average of 101 days each year in Windham.

Morin's job in ensuring that the town's streets and thoroughfares remain passable in winter is essential to the entire community's mobility, commerce, and safety. It's not an easy task to lead a department responsible for overseeing Highway Maintenance in Windham, which includes winter plowing as well as

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INSIGHT

Thanksgiving Family Feud

Celebrating Thanksgiving with my family through the decades produces many cherished and wonderful memories for me although there were some holidays that even the deepest forms of hypnosis or years of intense psychotherapy could never me make me forget.

For years I longed to have grown up in a home with a loving family who all got along but unfortunately, I came to expect that animosity and snide remarks while the turkey was carved was par for the course in our household. When you are a child in a home with parents constantly bickering and arguing, Thanksgiving and the holiday season were hardly special.

As a child, I recall visiting the homes of relatives on Thanksgiving in 1960 when a heated political discussion about John F. Kennedy winning the U.S. presidential election over Richard Nixon turned into uppercuts and a wrestling match on the front porch. On another occasion, my parents had a less than friendly exchange about whether a portable television set should be wheeled into the dining room to watch a football game during Thanksgiving dinner.

Despite the passing of time, I found that some things hadn't changed very much when I returned home as an adult after years of studying at college, serving in the military and establishing my career more than 2,000 miles away.

In 1993, my mother invited her older sister and me to Thanksgiving dinner along with one of her friends from work and what happened that day remains indelibly etched in my brain forever.

She had spent all day preparing a full Thanksgiving meal of roasted turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, yams, green bean casserole, stuffing, cranberry sauce, dinner rolls and pumpkin pie. After I carved the turkey, we all sat down to consume a great meal.

To understand and detail the relationship between my mother and her sister takes some explanation. They had grown up in foster care during the Great Depression after their mother had died when they were young. Each sister survived, but it jaded them.

My aunt had served in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps in World War II and was rather worldly before marrying and becoming a born-again Christian. My mother had gotten married at 18, then became a divorced single mother in the late 1940s whose sole goal was to marry a successful man and live in a fine house.

Each sister tried to constantly outdo each other but by that Thanksgiving Day in 1993, they were aging widows who lived about two miles away from each other. My mother had purchased her own home and a mobile home for my aunt and seemed to enjoy bringing that up to her frequently. Their relationship was anything but loving.

So, as we filled our plates that day and started to eat, my mother asked my aunt what she wanted for Christmas. She answered her by saying "You never buy me what I ask for anyways."

With that my mother lost her temper and told her sister to leave, right there in the middle of the Thanksgiving meal. My aunt stormed out of the house, got in her car, backed out of the driveway and making sure that my mother was watching her, she honked her horn and stuck out her tongue at her.

They didn't speak for weeks afterward. It left me in an awkward position of having to listen to each one of them and try and make peace between them. My aunt would drive over to my mother's neighborhood, slowly cruise past her house and make a crude gesture at her if my mother was outside at the time.

My mother would then call every other relative she could think of and tell them how her sister acted toward her. Several months into this petty feud, my mother would drive through my aunt's mobile home park and make a crude gesture if she saw her outside.

They each would go to the same restaurant several times a week for breakfast and sit at adjoining tables. They would both tell stories to the waitress about how horrible that their sister treated them, They were sitting less than 15 feet apart from each other and could hear what each other was saying. They would pass each other in the grocery aisle, ignore each other, and look the other way.

Neither was willing to give an inch or try to settle their differences.

That all ended though when my aunt suddenly fell and was in the hospital after breaking her hip. My mother seemed to forget all about the feud and stepped in to take my aunt whatever she needed while she was in the hospital. They became close again and would visit at least once a week.

Just a year later in 1994, both sisters were back at my mother's dining table gathered for Thanksgiving. This time each sister laughed off what had happened previously on Thanksgiving Day and that spirit of family unity lasted until the next summer and the next argument between them, followed by months of not talking to each other.

For those of you planning a peaceful loving family gathering on this Thanksgiving Day, count your blessings. Not everyone's so fortunate. < *~ Ed Pierce*



NOVEMBER 20

1789 – New Jersey becomes the first state to ratify the Bill of Rights.

1901 – The U.S. and Great Britain complete a treaty providing for construction of the Panama Canal by the U.S.

1914 – America's State Department starts requiring photographs for passports.

1945 – The Nuremberg trials begin in Germany to prosecute prominent leaders of Nazi Germany for war crimes.

1959 – Britain, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland, Austria, Denmark and Sweden meet to create the European Free Trade Association.

1962 – The Cuban Missile Crisis ends as the Soviet Union removes its missiles and bombers from Cuba, and the U.S. ends its blockade of the island.

1969 – The Nixon administration announces a ban of the residential use of the pesticide DDT.

1990 – Space shuttle Atlantis lands at Cape Canaveral, Florida after completing a secret military mission.

ON THE SPOT

What is your ultimate winter comfort food?

"Chili made with more beef than you'd think possible; on back burner all day, reassuringly available." – Francesco Paredon

"My late grandmother's chop suey or broccoli and cheese soup." – Mandy Lavallee

"Beef stew from a chuck roast with potato, onion, carrot, the works. Lasagna is great too." – Julie Mallett

"My wife Carol's chicken pot pie with pumpkin roll for dessert." – Bill Keller

"Venison stew with homemade biscuits." – Jennifer Harmon

"Shepherd's Pie (yes I use lamb), with Irish cheddar mashed potatoes on top." – Cherie Lynne

"Chili and corn bread." – MB Davidson

"Homemade macaroni and cheese is mighty good!" – Hannah Bannon

"Grilled cheese and ham sandwiches." – Rick Seacroft

"Meatloaf and tater tots." – David W. Tettley

"Chicken noodle soup, rye toast slices, strips of bacon and hot chocolate." – Anne Glotschuck

"Mashed potatoes, creamed corn and pot roast." – Dean A. Smalley

"Ham, roasted carrots, turkey soup." – Mia Potenzio-Ransey

"Red beans and rice with sausage." – Jude Orestes-Sanchez

"Biscuits with sausage gravy." – Sarah Singer-Miller

"Tacos." – Mitchell Robinson

"Baked ziti." – Deirdre Schulte

"Grilled cheese with tomato soup!" – Oscar F. Kellner

"Smothered pork chops, brown beans, cornbread, fried potatoes and a beer." – Richard Heaney

"Korean seafood stew, with or without dumplings." – Benjamin Lee

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Eagle NEWS



Windham Town Council chooses Morrison as chair

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

Councilor Mark Morrison has been chosen again to serve as Windham Town Council chair, after serving for the past year as the council chair.

Morrison, 64, was re-elected to the town council on Nov. 3 to represent the town's East District and was voted unanimously as the chair by councilors during the Nov. 4 Windham Town Council meeting. He is an Independent Financial Advisor and has served as a Windham Town Councilor since November 2020, including three years as council chair and one year as council vice chair.

During the meeting, councilors chose At-Large Councilor Katie P. Cook and At-Large Councilor David Nadeau as the council's parliamentarian.

For the council's Finance Committee, councilors voted Cook, Nadeau and West District Councilor Bill Reiner as council representatives. The Finance Committee reviews the Town Manager's proposed municipal budget and makes recommendations about it to the council.

Councilors voted newly elected At-Large Councilor Mark Cobb,



During a meeting on Nov. 4, members of the Windham Town Council chose Mark Morrison as chair of the council for the next year. Morrison has served as a Windham Town Councilor since November 2020, including three years as the council chair and one year as council vice chair. COURTESY PHOTO

Morrison and North District Councilor Maggie Terry to serve on the Appointments Committee which reviews applicants for town positions requiring council approval.

For the coming year the council's representatives to the Windham Economic Development Corporation's Board of Directors will be South District Councilor Doug Fortier and Councilor Terry.

The council's Ordinance Committee representatives will be Councilors Reiner, Nadeau and Terry. The Ordinance Committee review proposed ordinances or amendments and makes recommendations to the council for final action.

Councilor Cobb was chosen to serve as the council's representative on the Windham Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee, which oversees the town's Parks and Recreation Department initiatives.

Councilors Morrison and Cook were chosen to serve on the Substance Prevention Grant Committee which makes recommendations to the council about grant awards related to reducing substance misuse among young people in Windham.

Morrison also will be the council's representative to the Natural Resources Advisory Committee, unless Councilor Fortier wants that position. Morrison said Fortier had expressed interest in doing that but was unable to attend the Nov. 4 meeting. Morrison said he will offer Fortier that opportunity if he wants it.

The council's representative to the Highland Lake Leadership Team for the next year will be Councilor Nadeau.

The primary Windham delegate to the Greater Portland Council of Governments will be Councilor Morrison and the alternate delegate will be Councilor Cook.

Windham Town Manager Robert Burns was voted by councilors to serve as Windham's official representative to the Eco Maine Board of Directors. Councilor Nadeau was as an alternate for the Eco Maine Board.

Councilors Cook and Nadeau were chosen to serve on the town's Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee.

In other business, the council voted unanimously on Nov. 4 to confirm Mark Stombach as a town Code Enforcement Officer. According to Town Manager Burns, two town Code Enforcement Officers are currently out on leave, creating a backlog and delays in obtaining necessary permits. He said Stombach's confirmation will help alleviate some of those delays.

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Dolby, Blais & Segee Funeral Chapel

DONALD "DON" SWANDER, 93

September 20, 1933 – November 12, 2026



Windham – Donald "Don" Swander, 93, passed away November 12, 2026. He was born Sept. 20, 1933, in Warren, Ohio, to the late Leo "Roscoe" and Leona (Bunnell) Swander. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sisters, Irene Diehl, Eileen Casbohm, and Winifred Eldridge; and brothers, Steven Swander and Larry Swander.

Don grew up on a farm in Beaver Center, PA, cultivating his lifelong love for horses. He was a man who lived 1,000 lives: he was a cowboy and bull rider in New Mexico; he recovered from paralytic polio and entered the army at 21, proudly serving in the Korean War; he set a world record for most consecutive games bowled in 30 hours; he was a lifeguard and life insurance agent; he owned a general store in Mannsville, NY and Skateland roller rink in Windham, ME; and he was a devoted speech pathologist for the Portland Public Schools for 31 years, where he developed the first augmentative communication lab in the Portland School District and often traveled the country presenting with experts of the speech therapy world.

If there was a group to join, he joined it. Among the dozens of organizations he belonged to over the years, he was most notably president of his road association, a King Lion of the Windham Lions Club, and a member of the Windham Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee, Knights of Columbus, Sebago Lake Rotary Club, Western Crawford Masonic Lodge #258, VFW Post 10643, the American Legion Post 148, the Windham Veterans Association, and the Finance Committee at Our Lady's. He believed in giving back to the town he loved and was never content to sit on the sidelines when there was something he could do to make a difference.

After retirement, his greatest pride was working for and with the Windham veterans community. Don served in several leadership roles, including Commander of VFW Post 10643 and President of the Windham Veterans Association, a position he held for 13 years. Throughout his service, he became a trusted resource for veterans' issues within the community and instituted several projects that benefited the Windham Veterans Center. Among his many contributions, he spearheaded a fundraising drive that raised tens of thousands of dollars for the Center and played a critical leadership role in the establishment of the Windham Veterans Memorial Garden.

He adored his grandkids and took the job of Papa seriously. He went to all of their events, big and small. He traveled with them; he played games and did word searches with them; he read to them; he cared for them. Right up to the end, he was acting silly for them, as his greatest joy was making them laugh.

He loved a good party and the dance floor, camping at Outdoor World, ice cream, traveling, and beating everyone (even his grandkids) at tic-tac-toe, Rummy, and Blokus. He also had a knack for finding treasures wherever he went. If you were selling anything on the side of the road, it probably ended up in his yard. He documented everything, too. His notebooks were filled with daily musings. He dated his word searches, including the time of day completed. And, much to his children's chagrin, he kept everything for said documentation: cards, letters, receipts, his losing lotto tickets.

He lived his entire life all-in: Whether it was his family, his friends, his students, his town, or his hobbies, he devoted 150% of himself.

He is survived by his loving wife of 50 years, Camille (Magnotta) Swander; cherished children Vicki Swander, Jeffrey Swander, Debbi Swander, David Aaron and his husband, Tristan, Susan Thombs and her husband, Jeremy, Matthew Swander and his wife, Heather, Gregory Swander and his wife, Sasha; beloved grandchildren Zackery Swander, Elisabeth Thombs, Jackson Thombs, Catherine Thombs, Hailey Swander, and Makayla Swander; brother-in-law John Magnotta and his wife Kathy; nieces Kim Comatas and her husband George, Jodi Chanza, Melissa Humphrey and her husband Jordan, and Lori Baker and her husband Rick; nephews Bob Swander, Bill Diehl and his wife Linda, Chris Casbohm, Ernie Casbohm, Donnie Swander, Alan-Michael Magnotta and his wife Caroline, Andrew Magnotta, and Dylan Magnotta; as well as an army of grandnieces, grandnephews, cousins, and friends who will miss him dearly.

The family thanks the staff of Bean 5 and R3 Core of Maine Medical Center and Lisa Austin of Amada Senior Care for their loving attention and support of both Donald and his family.

Family and friends are invited to attend a memorial service at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, 919 Roosevelt Trail in Windham, on Saturday, November 28 at 11am, followed by a Celebration of Life in the church hall. Private interment with Military Honors will be at the Mayberry Cemetery in Windham.

To share memories of Don, please visit www.dolbyblaissegee.com.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations in his memory to the Windham Veterans' Association, PO Box 1776, Windham, ME 04062.

ESSAYS *Cont. from page 1*

ceived a check for $200, along with a backpack filled with a pen, a bracelet and a Patriot's Pen medal.

According to Kawaya, she hasn't fully decided yet what to do with her prize money.

"Well, I am a teenager, so I might be planning on doing a little shopping, but I plan on saving most of it," she said.

For winning the essay contest, Kawaya says that her friends think she did a great job and offered her congratulations, and her parents told her they are proud of her.

When finished with school, Kawaya said that she has several careers that interest her.

"If my plan for getting offers in any of my sports do not work out and I do not end up as a pro athlete, I plan on being a sports psychologist or a nurse."

Kindred said he learned about this year's Voice of Democracy contest when his English teacher, Jackie Sands, brought it to his attention.

"It took me about an hour to really think of what I was going to say and put it into words," he said. "I love having the ability to share them with other people and just write down my thoughts."

He is the son of William and Lucille Kindred and lives with them in Baldwin.

"My mother is a teacher, and she got the call that I had won," Kindred said. "She immediately walked over to me and told me I had won."

In winning the post's 2026 Voice of Democracy competition, he received a check for $250, and backpack with a pen, a medal and some trinkets.

"I plan to have fun with some of it but plan to invest around $200 into a business that I'm creating," Kindred said.

Besides being adept at recording a successful audio-essay, he currently serves as editor of his school's newspaper, operates a landscaping business and wants to launch his own clothing brand.

"I want to own a business that I created from scratch.," he said. "I want to do what the Lord has planned for me."

Kindred said his parents were happy he chose to enter the contest this year and that he won first place among all the post entries.

"They think it's absolutely awesome," he said. "They said that they are very proud of me." <



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Dedicated to duty



Newly elected Windham Town Councilor Mark Cobb takes the oath of office before the Windham Town Council meeting on Nov. 4 at Windham Town Hall. Cobb's wife, Angela, watches as Windham Town Clerk Anthony Blasi administers the oath to Cobb, who will serve in an At-Large position. COURTESY PHOTO

COUNCIL *Cont. from page 3*

More than an hour of the meeting was a discussion about three failed town referendum items during the Nov. 3 election. Some councilors attributed the referendum failures to poor communication and voters not understanding the referendums, while other councilors cited a lack of trust by voters or financial constraints of town residents hesitant about adding to an increasing tax burden.

The failed referendums included modifying 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 would have changed municipal budget approval to a public vote held on Maine Primary Day on the second Tuesday in June, coinciding with the annual RSU 14 school budget voting.

A second referendum item that failed would have raised the threshold requiring voter approval for off-budget spending from $25,000 to $500,000, giving the council flexibility in presenting either a single up-or-down budget vote or departmental line items and allowing the council to approve purchases up to a $500,000 limit without going to a town-wide vote for approval.

The third failed referendum issue Windham residents voted down involved the town purchasing 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 was 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.

Prior to the council meeting, Mark Cobb was sworn in to office as a Town Councilor by Windham Town Clerk Anthony Blasi. Cobb will serve in an At-Large position. See the photo of his swearing in to the left. <

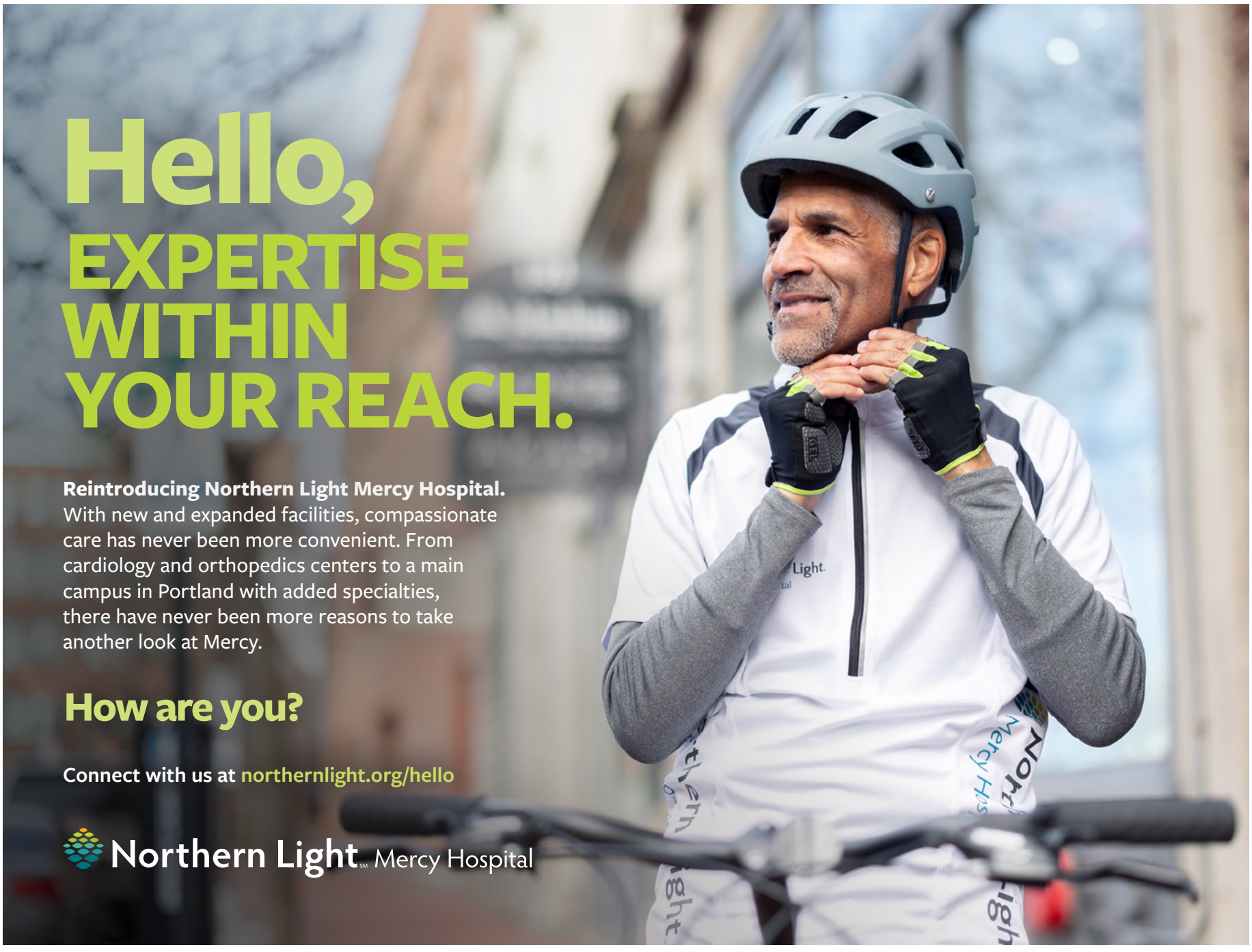
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JSMS students discovering power of Passion Projects

By Lorraine Glowczak
STAFF WRITER

Sometimes the most meaningful learning experiences aren't found in a textbook or worksheet. They can also happen when students are given the freedom to discover new interests or passions and see where the journey may take them. Often, it can lead to a hidden talent, a future career, or a new dream.

At Jordan-Small Middle School (JSMS), Jill Mathieu's seventh and eighth-grade students had the opportunity to do just that through Passion Projects, an approach to learning that encourages students to follow their curiosity, explore personal interests, and direct their own learning experience.

Mathieu, JSMS' Gifted and Talented teacher, said that the students spent the first quarter of the school year exploring their projects during their WIN extension class period. These projects are also referred to as the "Genius Hour."

"The purpose of Genius Hour is to foster student-driven inquiry, spark intrinsic motivation, and give learners the autonomy to explore their personal passions and curiosity inside the classroom," she said. "The concept is modeled after Google's 20 percent time policy (where employees spend a fifth of their work week on passion projects that interest them), which famously led to innovations like Gmail."

Mathieu works with motivated students, and she wanted to give them an opportunity to explore a passion or interest in a self-guided educational journey to empower them to take ownership of their own learning. Once the projects were done, they showcased them by presenting them to parents and students.

The students' interest took them in many different directions that resulted in a variety of innovative and inspiring projects. Stella Redmond's interests led her to choose fundraising as her educational adventure.

"Over the summer, I started a dog-walking business, which led me to want to expand it and donate [treats] to the animal shelter," she said.

Not only did Redmond learn how to raise funds to make and donate treats, she also learned another valuable lesson. "While making my treats, I wanted to be sure they were safe, so it took a lot of research to be absolutely sure dogs could eat them."

Redmond's experience is a reminder that some of the most meaningful learning happens along the way, often in ways students never anticipated. Beyond completing a project, students gain opportunities to challenge themselves, build confidence, and discover abilities they may not have recognized before.

Mathieu believes this personal growth and self-awareness are among the most valuable takeaways students

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SNOW Cont. from page 1

maintaining all town roads, ditches, shoulders, drainage, and other infrastructures; vehicle maintenance, and the maintenance of all equipment from excavators and backhoes down to chain saws and hand compactors, as well as the police and town office vehicles. The job also includes maintenance for the town's Buildings & Grounds Department, which includes care of the town's cemeteries, nine municipal buildings, and two intersections.

All those duties are in addition to department budgeting, seeking grant money for roads, working on capital equipment replacement plans, getting bids for anything from equipment selection to having to purchase tons of winter sand and salt and hiring new employees when there are Windham Public Works Department vacancies.

Morin says that even though winter requires constant work to keep roadways safe, spring, summer and fall keep the department busy all year with street cleaning, tree trimming, replacing and repairing culverts, mowing along the roads, repaving roads, and performing street sign maintenance.

For more details about Windham's Public Works Department, visit the town's website at https://me-windham.civicplus.com. <

Scouting for food



Members of Windham Cub Scout Pack 805 spent Saturday, Nov. 14 at Shaw's Supermarket in Windham collecting food and other personal hygiene items to donate to the Windham Food Pantry and the St. Ann's Episcopal Church Essentials Pantry. By the end of the day, the scouts were able to donate a boatload of food to those deserving organizations. COURTESY PHOTO

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PROJECTS Cont. from page 7

gain from Passion Projects.

This was the case for Rosabel Shamaoun whose project was discovering how she could pursue her dream of becoming a U.S. President. While researching George H.W. Bush, Shamaoun said that at first glance it looked easy to become president, but soon realized that family connections and hard work can play a significant role in becoming the highest-ranking officer in the U.S.



JSMS students of Jill Mathieu's class spent the first quarter of the school year exploring their Passion Projects, a self-guided educational journey to empower them to take ownership of their own learning. Rosabel Shamaoun, pictured, learned what it would take to pursue her dream of becoming a U.S. President. PHOTO BY GARY HARRIMAN

"As I dug deeper, I realized how much behind the scenes work took place," she said. "If I want to become president one day, especially because I don't have anybody in my family with a government background, I will need to work super hard to accomplish this huge dream of mine."

Shamaoun's project provided an opportunity to see that overcoming challenges will be a part of pursuing her career goals. Mathieu said that overcoming hurdles is one of the expected learning outcomes of the passion projects, including the projects themselves.

"Some students ran into time constraints, some ran into technical difficulties, and some didn't realize what a big task their chosen project would become," she said. "That's all a part of the learning journey, and each and every student figured out a way to overcome whatever roadblock they encountered. It was inspiring to watch."

Ian Bizier, who built a fishing rod for his passion project, said that the project may seem foreboding at first, but it is something you can achieve, despite any challenges, if you make the time.

Bizier mentioned that the biggest roadblock to his learning was hollowing out the handles for his fishing rod. "I got through it by using a dremel, which was one of the most degrading experiences of my life."

Although traditional classroom instruction remains an important part of today's educational system, as Mathieu's students demonstrate, it is not the only meaningful approach to a students' learning. It is increasingly recognized that students learn differently and benefit from opportunities that allow them to explore their interests, build on their individual strengths, and apply their learning in meaningful, real-world ways.

For the quarter two self-directed project, the students will get to try creating a podcast on a topic of their choice.

"Based on the work ethic shown this quarter, I have no doubt the podcasts will be amazing, " Mathieu said. "The students will bring thoughtfulness, passion, and genuine enthusiasm to another topic that interests them, and I look forward to seeing what they create." <







Windham Hill UCC preparing for annual Festival of Trees

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

The 9th annual Christmas Festival of Trees will be held at Windham Hill United Church of Christ from Dec. 4 to Dec. 6 and promises to yet again be one of the most anticipated events of the year in Windham.

Those who attend the popular event in the Fellowship Hall at Windham Hill UCC, 140 Windham Center Road in Windham, will find a reason to get into the holiday spirit by admiring beautifully decorated Christmas trees. It's a showcase for local merchants and organizations with participants having an opportunity to contribute to a fundraiser for local charitable work by Windham Hill United Church of Christ, the founding church of Windham and a historic landmark for the town.

This year's theme for the Festival of Trees is "Bells." Festival hours are noon to 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4 and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5. On Sunday, Dec. 6, the festival will be open from noon to 4 p.m. with the Grand Drawing of Winners to be conducted at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6.

The church's Fellowship Hall will be decorated for the holiday season and refreshments will be available.

There will be 23 decorated Christmas trees with lights, and each one will be donated by a local business or by individuals in Windham.

In keeping up a tradition, Windham Hill UCC will once again sponsor a special tree to honor the memory of the late Bob Turner, a Windham Hill UCC church member who came up with the idea to create this popular annual event. Turner, who died in January 2023, based his idea on an event that he participated in when he lived in Brewer.

The tree sponsor will decorate the tree and then put gifts on and around the tree, many from their store or organization. Winners will receive the tree itself, with its lights and ornaments, all the gifts hanging on the tree, and all the wrapped gifts placed under the tree.

At each of the previous Christmas Festival of Trees events, the drawing winners took home everything from toys and gift items to kitchen supplies and jewelry and there's always great excitement and anticipation when each Grand Drawing is conducted.

Admission to the Christmas Festival of Trees is free and everyone is welcome to visit the church and take in the sights of these decorated Christmas trees with the colorfully wrapped gifts underneath from the event's tree sponsors. There will be drawing tickets on sale for 50 cents each. A bucket will be in front of each tree display and one ticket will be drawn for each tree at 4 p.m. on Sunday afternoon.

The winners do not have to be present for the drawing but will need to claim their tree and gifts by 4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8.

Along with the Christmas tree displays, visitors to the event will find refreshments available in the church's café. Available treats will include Macaroni and Cheese, Hot Dogs, Fish Chowder, Tacos, Whoopie Pies, and a variety of other sweet goodies.

Event officials say that by participating, not only do you have a chance to win big, but you'll also be helping to support the church budget and community mission projects, spreading joy where it's needed most. Some of Windham UCC mission projects include donations to the Windham Food Pantry; Windham Neighbors Helping Neighbors; Sebago Lakes Region Fuller Center for Housing programs; Good Shepherd Food Bank; Pilgrim Lodge; the RSU 14 Christmas Angels program; RSU 14 Social Work/Guidance Departments; American Legion Field Allen Post 148; Hospice of Southern Maine; and providing meals for local families in need at Thanksgiving and Christmas.



The 9th annual Christmas Festival of Trees will be held from Dec. 4 to Dec. 6 at Windham Hill United Church of Christ, 140 Windham Center Road in Windham. The annual event raises money for local charities and is a great way to catch the holiday spirit. COURTESY PHOTO

The church's charitable work also involves collecting donations for national and international relief programs and for those affected by other natural disasters such as World Central Kitchen; Hawaii Flooding; American Red Cross for Midwest tornado assistance; and Doctors Without Borders for Nepal Disaster Relief.

Windham Hill United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming church, welcoming all who would come.

The church was founded in 1743 and has been central to the life of Windham throughout Windham's history as a town. <



Vintage cookie cutters reveal history, traditions at upcoming RCHS programs

The Watkins Farm, located on the campus of the Raymond-Casco Historical Society, houses a vintage cookie cutter collection that has inspired a new holiday history program.



A recently rediscovered collection of vintage cookie cutters at the Watkins Farm Museum has led to the creation of two upcoming holiday programs to be presented by the Raymond-Casco Historical Society.

What first appeared to be a collection of modern aluminum cutters was later identified through research as a group of tin, flat-backed cookie cutters, many likely dating to the mid-19th century. Their excellent condition and distinctive gray patina concealed a fascinating piece of culinary history.

Among the collection are numerous animal-shaped cutters that have already found new life in Historical Society programs. Several have been used to create Watkins Farm Animal Cookies for museum events, including a fish-shaped cutter that inspired rainbow trout cookies served during the popular "Fishing the Big Sebago" program earlier this year.

This holiday season, Sue Pride of the Raymond-Casco Historical Society will present a program exploring the history of cookie cutters and the centuries-old tradition of gingerbread. The program traces the origins of shaped baking forms and treasured holiday spices from ancient civilizations through Europe and eventually to colonial America, where ginger, cinnamon, and nutmeg became seasonal favorites. These spices with their wonderful scents evoke memories of the Christmas season. Either vintage cookie cutters passed down from generation to generation that are rediscovered each holiday season or more modern ones, these items create memories while making cookies, wrapped as gifts or serving cookies using them with family and friends gathered together in joyous celebrations.

Upcoming programs will be offered by the Raymond-Casco Historical Society at the Casco Public Library, 5 Leach Hill Road in Casco at 1 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 29 and at the Raymond Village Library, 3 Meadow Road in Raymond at 4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10.

Dig out your collection of cookie cutters and bring them for discussion and identification.

To learn more, visit www.raymondcascohistoricalsociety.org <

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NSB contributes $2,500 to 'empowering' Windham Primary School students

Teachers and staff at Windham Primary School continually explore ways to best ensure each student leaves the school as a responsible citizen, an effective communicator, a creative analytical person, and an informed thinker on a path to being a lifelong learner.

The school's Empowering Student Success program is directed at achieving those goals.

"With over 700 students, our school faces challenges, including achievement gaps, chronic absenteeism, and developing interpersonal and intrapersonal skills among students," said Dr. Kyle Rhoads, the Windham Primary School principal.

At the foundation of the program is BARR (Building Assets, Reducing Risks), which is a nationally recognized approach to building strong, intentional relationships that uses real-time data to address learning barriers. Teachers and administrators receive virtual coaching, professional development, and data analysis training to help support learners' academic and social growth.

According to Norway Savings Bank President Darci Hamm, NSB is pleased to continue its support of the program's implementation with a $2,500 donation.

"It was so impressive to learn about these efforts at Windham Primary School and inspiring to see a faculty genuinely dedicated to providing a curriculum that develops the whole child," Hamm said. "This program helps create an educational environment that promotes positive and successful learning experiences and helps all members of the school community develop their unique potential. NSB is happy to assist in their efforts."

Rhoads said that the school is grateful for the donation and that it will be of great benefit to Windham Primary School students.

"Our goals are to decrease the number of students who are chronically absent, improve student academic performance in reading and math, and maintain systems that encourage teacher collaboration, timely decision-making, and productive meetings," Rhoads said. "NSB's investment will have a lasting impact, strengthen our school practices, and help teachers support generations of students, giving them what they need to succeed inside and outside the classroom."

Windham Primary School currently has an enrollment of about 727 students in kindergarten through Grade Three. <

STUDENT OF THE WEEK — Oliver Garland



Grade: First
School: Windham Christian Academy
Teacher: Mrs. Edmiston
Favorite subject: Math
Parents' names: Matt and Andrea Garland
Reason for selection: Oliver is kind and compassionate, considering his friends in all that he does. When someone feels left out, he checks in with them and invites them to play! He is attentive to his lessons, patient and loves to learn! Oliver is a peacemaker and I'm thankful to have him in my class!

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ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH
—NOVEMBER—

Meet Easton MacCullum of Naples, our Play Warrior of the Month!



AGE 10, GRADE 5
SUPERPOWER: Having a lot of knowledge about heavy machinery
FAVORITE SUPERHEROES: Every Marvel Superhero
FAVORITE HOBBIES: Drawing, playing baseball, football, soccer & lacrosse
SOMETHING PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT ME: I am a very good illustrator and very good baseball player, especially catcher
FAVORITE SINGER: Morgan Wallen
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP? Business owner or a scientist
WHAT IS THE BEST PART OF BEING A PLAY WARRIOR? Getting to have fun & play baseball with the staff
YOU RECENTLY PUBLISHED A BOOK ABOUT YOUR PAPA'S ALZHEIMER'S? Yes, it is called My Papa & Me. It was fun to share information and draw and paint illustrations with Miss Kim, and hard work because I had to think about how my Papa acts and stuff.
WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO A FRIEND THAT HAS A LOVED ONE WITH ALZHEIMER'S? Think about the times that you spent with them before they got the disease.
SHOUT OUT! To Bridgton Hospital for finding out that my Papa had Alzheimer's.

EASTON'S BOOK WILL BE AVAILABLE ON AMAZON AND HIS BOOK SIGNING DATE AT PLAY WARRIORS TBA!

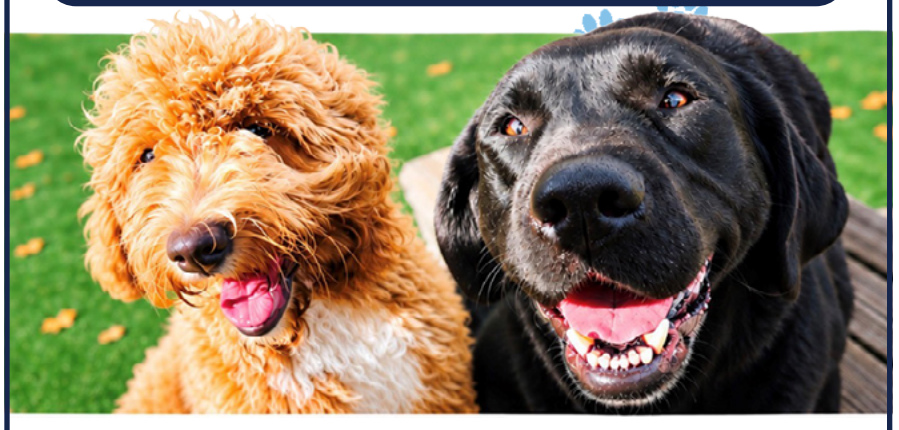
HE HAS CHOSEN THAT THE PROCEEDS FROM HIS BOOK WILL BENEFIT THE CURE ALZHEIMER'S FUND.

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New book reminds of joys found in imperfect Christmases

By Erin Rose
STAFF WRITER

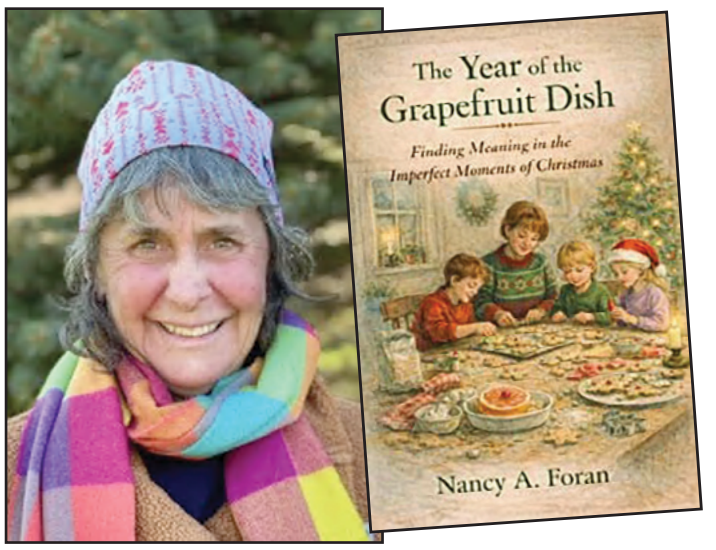
"Mother Christmas" will be telling tales of less-than-ideal but memorable Christmases during local appearances and connecting with attendees over imperfect holidays.

Rev. Nancy A. Foran will be sharing stories from her new book, "The Year of the Grapefruit Dish: Imperfect Moments Revealing the Meaning of Christmas," and hearing more about attendees' past Christmases, during a presentation at the Windham Public Library, located at 217 Windham Center Road, at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 9.

"In the two book talks I've done, I've asked people, 'when I say Christmas, what is the first word or phrase that comes to mind'," the author said. "Both times it has been family, tradition, love, hope. Family and maintaining meaningful traditions are something I love about the holiday."

Foran is known by her family as "Mother Christmas," as dubbed by her husband, Joe, and subsequently carried on by her children and grandchildren.

"I have that nickname because from the first of December on, I am just oriented towards Christmas, whether it's making wreaths, or baking cookies or plum pudding, or decorating the house," she said. "I guess I do that a little more than other people do. I have always loved Christmas, and I have always been the keeper of Christmas in my family. It was a role I, unbeknownst to me, inherited from my father."



Rev, Nancy Foran will offer two presentations in Windham next month for her book 'The Year of the Grapefruit Dish: Imperfect Moments Revealing the Meaning of Christmas,' which grew out of a monthly newsletter column she once wrote for the Raymond Village Community Church, where she served as pastor for 16 years. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Published in September, "The Year of the Grapefruit Dish" is a collection of tales and memories which grew out of a monthly newsletter column for the Raymond Village Community Church, where Foran served for 16 years.

"Every month in the newsletter, there had to be a Pastor's column and in December, I just started writing Christmas memories, a different one each year," she explained. "After I retired, I was going through files and came across them."

"I read them and realized that they were really all around a common theme – where we find the greatest meaning in Christmas and the memories that seem to endure are not the perfect centerpiece or the exquisitely decorated tree or the Martha Stewart-type home," she continued. "It's the little mishaps and the unexpected things that went kind of wrong. All those moments of imperfection, and I started thinking that we think we all want a perfect Christmas, but what we really want is a meaningful Christmas. That meaning comes out of the imperfections, instead of everything

see FORAN Page 21

Town of Windham's Annual
RABIES CLINIC
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Raymond Fire Department brings fire safety to hundreds

By Scott Doyle
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE

Fire prevention isn't just about responding to emergencies. It's about preventing them before they happen. Throughout October, members of Raymond Fire & Rescue took that message into classrooms, local businesses, and community gathering places as part of Fire Prevention Month.

The department's fire prevention efforts directly reached approximately 542 people through school visits, community events, and workplace training. An estimated 1,500 additional people were reached through Facebook posts and community sharing of the department's activities.

At Raymond Elementary School, firefighters worked with 210 students, teaching important fire safety lessons. Another 67 children participated in educational visits at three local daycare facilities.

The department also visited the Raymond Library, where 48 children and parents had an opportunity to explore Squad 38, meet firefighters, and learn more about fire safety.

One of the month's highlights was the department's annual Open House, which welcomed more than 100 visitors. Families learned about smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, fire extinguisher safety, and the hazards associated with lithium-ion batteries.

The Maine State Fire Marshal's Office also participated, bringing its sprinkler demonstration trailer to help illustrate the lifesaving benefits of fire sprinkler systems, especially in homes.

Fire prevention efforts extended beyond families and schools. Department members provided hands-on fire extinguisher training to approximately 117 employees from Dielectric, Sabre Yachts, and SPX.

"Fire prevention is about giving people the knowledge to keep themselves and their families, or coworkers safe," said John Facella, of Raymond's Fire Prevention. "Every conversation is an opportunity to prevent an emergency, and we're fortunate to have a community that welcomes our efforts."

The department's October activities also included a fire prevention coloring contest at Raymond Elementary School. One lucky student will receive a memorable prize: a ride to school aboard a Raymond fire truck.



In October during Fire Prevention Month, members of the Raymond Fire Dept. visited Raymond Elementary School, where firefighters taught important fire safety lessons to students and families. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Facella credited the department's shift crews, live-in students, staff, officers, and volunteers for making the month's educational efforts possible.

While October is nationally recognized as Fire Prevention Month, Raymond Fire & Rescue reminds residents that fire safety is a year-round responsibility. Residents are encouraged to regularly test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, practice home escape plans, and take steps to reduce potential fire hazards.

Through education, community partnerships, and hands-on demonstrations, the department hopes the lessons shared throughout October will help keep Raymond residents safer all year long. <

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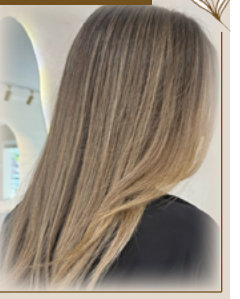
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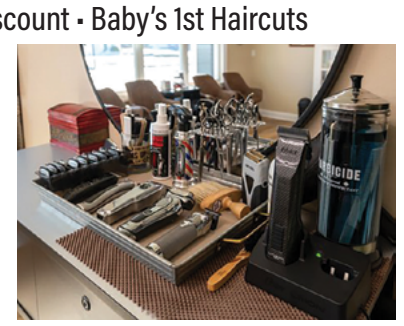
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Grieving Through the Holidays

A free program for those who have experienced a loss will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21 at The Refuge Church, 765 Roosevelt Trail in Windham. The holiday season can be especially hard for those grieving the loss of someone. This presentation shows how to navigate the holidays in a way that honors the memory of the person lost and create safe spaces to deal with your own emotions. To RSVP, call 207-450-3387 or 207-232-1165

Bean Supper

The American Legion Field-Allen Post family is hosting its last Bean Supper for 2026 at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21 at the Windham Veterans Center, 35 Veterans Memorial Drive in Windham. Menu includes a variety of beans, chili, sides, and desserts. The Post Auxiliary will also be hosting its homemade Holiday Pie Raffle to support its scholarship program. The event is open to the public. The cost is $10 at the door, and kids under 12 eat for free. FMI, call 207-892-1306.

Nuturing Playtime

Nurturing Playtime, a play group aimed at children up to 2.5 years old and their favorite adults will be offered from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. at the Windham Public Library, 217 Windham Center Road in Windham. Enjoy a short rhyme and song session followed by open play and parent chat. To learn more, call 207-892-1908.

Knitting and Crocheting Group

Do you knit or crochet? If not, would you like to learn? We would love to have you join the Knitting and Crocheting Group. We meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at the Raymond Village Community Church, 27 Maine St. in Raymond. All are welcome. We have extra yarn and knitting needles if you need some. If you do another type of craft, you are welcome to come and bring it too. FMI, send an email to bishbun1@gmail.com

Cancer Support

The Windham Cancer Support Group will meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 24 at the Windham Public Library, 217 Windham Center Road in Windham. The organization supports anyone that is dealing with cancer whether a survivor, caretaker or family member. FMI, send an email to coppjanet@yahoo.com

Maine Mariners Hockey Tickets

A limited number of free tickets are available at the Raymond Village Library for Maine Mariners ice hockey games. Only one game can be reserved per household. Available to Raymond residents with a valid library card. FMI, call 207-655-4283.

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FORAN Cont. from page 14

being just so."

The book presentations are an interactive program, with some of the time being dedicated to a reading of the book by Foran, but also time is spent discussing memories with attendees.

"I'm not the type of person who likes to get up and lecture with all the focus being on me. I would much rather get people talking and engaged," she said, noting that she has done appearances in Naples and Casco since the start of November and will be appearing at the Prince Memorial Library in Cumberland in addition to her appearances in Windham during December.

Foran will also meet with the Women's Fellowship Group at the Windham Hill United Church of Christ, located at 140 Windham Center Road at 12 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 15.

"I ask for reactions to the stories and encourage people to share their own Christmas memories and mishaps," Foran said. "I think people feel joyful when they leave. I do."

When asked for advice on how to reduce the stress of trying to replicate the perfect Christmas, Foran encourages people to embrace the mess and focus on the true meaning of the holiday.

"First of all, taking a deep breath and being able to step back from the situation," she said. "Realizing that Christmas is not about the perfect centerpiece. Christmas is, for many people, about spending time with family or with friends, not for putting yourself in super stressful situations."

"Being able to take some time for yourself and realize that you don't necessarily have to make 12 batches of cookies" is essential, Foran continued. "Those things are hard to let go of, if that is your standard, but giving yourself permission to try something new or let go of something is important. Rituals and traditions come and go, and hanging on to everything just to hang on to it just adds to the stress level."

Foran has three children who feature heavily in the book, Heather, Padraic, and Tim, and four grandchildren, Rory, 5, Josie, 4, Raia, 3 and the newest addition, Pia, who is just three weeks old and will be enjoying her first Christmas this year. She lives with her husband and two dogs, Clancy and Smudge, at Little Farm.

While Foran is technically retired, she remains busy as a Contact Pastor at the Faith Lutheran Church in Windham, where she preaches twice a month. Ordained by the United Church of Christ, Foran also works for the organization's retirement arm.

Copies of "The Year of the Grapefruit Dish" can be found on Amazon or locally at Bridgton Books. Foran will also have copies that may be autographed available at her presentations. <

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Eagle SPORTS



Windham varsity football falls in Class A North Final

By Matt Pascarella
STAFF WRITER

For the first time since 2021, Windham varsity football played in the Class A North Prep Football Final, but third-place Windham fell to first-place Oxford Hills, 42-33, at Gouin Field in South Paris on Saturday, Nov. 14.

Despite the loss, the Eagles showed marked improvement from earlier in the season. Windham held its own against the Vikings, and the game was tied 21-21 at halftime.

In the third quarter, Windham defense kept Oxford Hills to just one touchdown, but Oxford Hills pulled away in the fourth quarter and even though Windham scored twice, it wasn't enough.

"The biggest thing for us coming into this game was you can't come in cocky," said Windham senior Tegan Perkins. "Maybe we were a little hotheaded, but it's always good to have some energy. We made mistakes on little things; we knew it was going to be a dogfight, just didn't turn out our way. Our coach said we handled everything this year, we started the year in rough shape, we were losing a lot, and you look at our record last year, especially the seniors going into this year, we said we got to change things around. I'm proud of all our guys, we came out and worked our butts off, so that's all we could do."

Windham came onto the field ready to take care of business, but Vikings' defense was tough. However, Windham answered that strong defense with their strong defense. Oxford Hills moved the ball to second and goal, but because of Windham early on could not reach the end zone.



(L to R) Windham junior quarterback Patrick Davenport throws a pass during the Class A North Prep Football Final against Oxford Hills. Senior Landon Wyman rushes by defenders. Sophomore Dre O'Neil catches a pass in the end zone. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

Later in the first quarter, the Vikings did score but their extra point was blocked and Oxford Hills led, 6-0.

Landon Wyman, a Windham senior, crossed into the end zone after a 61-yard pass from junior quarterback Patrick Davenport, who had 228 passing yards and 67 rushing yards. With roughly 42 seconds left in the first quarter; their extra point was good and Windham led 7-6 after one quarter.

During the second quarter, Oxford Hills scored again and succeeded with a two-point conversion.

It was first and 10 Windham from the 30-yard line. After a first down, some penalties hurt Windham and moved the ball back. Despite all this, Windham junior Jordan Pastore scored and tied up the game 14-14, after the extra point was good.

Moments later, Oxford Hills scored again, but Windham responded with sophomore Dre O'Neil who scored on a 41-yard pass from Davenport, and the Eagles tied the game 21-21 at the halfway point.

O'Neil said some things that went well were that the team relied on each other and developed a strong bond throughout the season.

While Windham's defense didn't dwindle in the second half, Oxford Hills' offense was solid. The Vikings scored one touchdown in the third quarter and two in the fourth quarter.

Ronin Rotaru scored on a 71-yard pass from Davenport. O'Neil scored with less than 12 seconds left on a 13-yard pass from Davenport.

Wyman said the passing game was good and looking back over the season what stands out is that the team were like brothers.

"We felt we could throw on them and thought there were possessions there; defensively we had to swarm the ball, which I thought we did a pretty good job there," said Windham varsity football coach Matt Perkins. "We gave up two-fourth down conversions here in the red zone and we had some personal fouls that caught up to us, fumbles, the turnover game got us. We had two fourth-down penalties; we had Oxford Hills stopped and then gave them the ball right back. From the beginning of the year, we were immature, not handling things well to now really grown up a long way. We got to continue to do ... things well and do them right." <



ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Libby Hartwell

Age: 17
Team: Windham High varsity girls' soccer
Coach: Deb LeBel
Parents' names: Kim and Josh Hartwell
Reason for selection: Libby has been on the girls' varsity soccer team all four years of high school. She works extremely hard in practice and always takes advice from her coaches as to how she could improve her game. She repeatedly gives back to the program by working with the Little Eagles soccer camp each summer. Libby had some spectacular saves toward the end of the season with tipping a shot over the bar against Westbrook and saving a penalty kick that advanced WHS to the quarterfinals. Libby's high school career is one of hard work, perseverance and never giving up.

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WCA sophomore earns All-Star Team recognition

By Matt Pascarella
STAFF WRITER

The Maine Christian School Sports League chooses 11 students from varsity and middle school every soccer season to be recognized for the All-Star team and Windham Christian Academy sophomore Elija Popov earned one of the spots on this season's team. He was awarded the All-Star team medal after the league championship game at Edward Little in Auburn on Thursday, Oct. 29.

Each school's Athletic Director and head varsity coach are given four votes each to select deserving players for this recognition. The many votes are tallied league-wide and the 11 players with the most votes – who are also very deserving – are selected for the All-Star team. The decisions for this team are primarily based on athletic ability, leadership, character, and sportsmanship.

"I've had the opportunity to coach Elija both during his middle school years and now as an assistant varsity coach," said Windham Christian Academy Athletic Director and assistant varsity soccer coach Whitney Coppersmith. "I've been able to watch him grow and develop as a player. Elija is humble and fairly quiet, but he is a great team player who really understands the game. He communicates regularly with his teammates on the field and uses his knowledge of the game to help guide those around him. He doesn't need to be the loudest player to make an impact and that says a lot about the kind of teammate he is."



Windham Christian Academy sophomore Elija Popov shows his soccer All-Star Team medal and best forward of the game medal after the championship game at Edward Little in Auburn on Thursday, Oct. 29. Popov was recently one of 11 individuals in the Maine Christian School Sports League to be named to its 2027 fall season All-Star Team. PHOTO BY MATT PASCARELLA

According to Coppersmith, what makes this selection especially meaningful is Popov's recognition through league-wide voting. Being selected as one of just 11 players across the league shows his abilities and performance stand out to coaches and Athletic Directors from many other schools.

Popov's passion for soccer began by playing in the back yard with his dad and relatives during family gatherings or at church. Popov is home-schooled and when he was in the eighth grade, he joined the team at Windham Christian Academy.

He said he's stuck with it because he's very skilled at it. Over the course of the 2026 season, he's had the most goals of the offensive line. He scored 28 goals in 10 games. Popov has worked very hard to have reached this point in his athletic career.

"I practiced a lot this summer and into the season, I really wanted to play better than last year," said Popov. "Last year, I wasn't bad but really wanted to progress more. This season I noticed I had a lot more confidence than last year. (Winning the All-Star Team recognition) motivates me to get it again next year."

A stand-out moment for Popov came during the semifinals; with the game tied 5-5 and in a second overtime, Popov scored, broke the tie and the team advanced to the championship with a 6-5 win.

During the basketball season, while Popov plays on the Windham Christian Academy team, he's also keeping up his soccer. He's already working on strategies for next year.

"We're going to win the championship next year," said Popov. "In the last three games I've always had a man on me, so I'm going to do summer work to work on how to deal with that."

In addition to this All-Star accolade, Popov was also recognized by the referees as the "forward of the game" for Windham Christian Academy following their championship game appearance. <




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Eagle REAL ESTATE & Home

Commercial real estate due diligence

By Larry Eliason
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE



— Larry Eliason
Butts Commercial Brokers

Buyers today, whether owner occupant or investor, should consider engaging a Commercial Real Estate Professional to assist them with Buying, Selling or Leasing a Commercial Property. Incorporating Due Diligence as part of the process for a purchase, sale or lease is an instrumental part of the process.

A Real Estate/Title Attorney should also be engaged to review the Title, Zoning, Land Use Regulations and in some cases, the Purchase and Sale Agreement before it is fully executed by the Buyer(s) and Seller(s).

Site Inspectors/Environment Engineers are also recommended depending on the size and scope of the property. If the subject property has always been an office building, the scope and level of investigation may be limited. However, if the property was ever a Gas Station or a Dry Cleaner, then expect to go further into the history of the property. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) records can be researched to determine if any spills or contamination may have occurred at the site or adjacent to it. There may be some ongoing monitoring on the subject property or over on an abutting property.

Building Inspectors/Structural Engineers can offer insight on the condition of the structure, the systems, estimate the remaining useful life of those components and point out potential problems such as mold or other possible contamination.

And, in the case of New Commercial Development, a Civil Engineer will certainly offer insight as to a property's development potential along with expectations for costs, timelines for approvals and construction and expectations from governing agencies such as Town, State and in some cases Federal Approval.

A typical Commercial Purchase and Sale Agreement spells out Inspections, Permits and Due Diligence. In many cases, the Seller is asked to provide any title history, surveys, engineering studies, architectural, geotechnical, storm water, utility, sewage, environmental, etc., as a request with the Seller's documents being provided for informational purposes.

The Subject Premises are being conveyed "as is" or possibly "as complete" depending on the specifics of the building or project. The Seller generally grants the Buyer and/or his/her Agents to enter upon the property for reasonable investigations as part of the Due Diligence work.

The Contract should "Spell Out" to Buyer's Satisfaction and in his/her sole discretion with its investigations, reviews, reports and findings and those specific items such as Environmental Testing, are specifically spelled out in the contract. If the Buyer is unsatisfied with his/her investigation, the Contract may become null and void, can be renegotiated or the Buyer and Seller may agree to extend the contract to allow more time for Due Diligence.

Property Disclosures are a guide to a Commercial Property; however, buyers should verify the facts as to what someone thinks is the case may have changed due to occupancy by Tenants or Zoning changes by a Town or the State such as setbacks from roads, wetlands, and abutting properties. In Windham for example, zoning ordinances are being modified on a regular basis so investigate what the Town and State may have in the pipeline for changes that could impact your investment objectives.

It is a good idea to get a title history done early on so that any title issues may be addressed during the normal course of the contract. A lot of times, title is done just before closing, problems with obtaining title insurance pop up and the deal must be extended to clean-up clouds on the title so an acceptable title policy may be issued.

Due Diligence on the Title can include a survey, easements of record, restrictions, exceptions, errors with legal description, and undischarged liens to name a few.

Some Commercial Property Sales include the assignment of leases as the property may be a multi-tenanted shopping center. As part of the Lease Due Diligence, a Buyer may want to see any extensions in the leases and a payment history as well as any pre-existing Landlord consent given to a Tenant.

An Environmental Site Evaluation may become a requirement for a Buyer to obtain commercial bank financing. And this Due Diligence can help avoid inheriting potential liability such as Environmental Contamination.

A Phase I Environmental Report can help determine the presence or likely presence of any hazardous substances or petroleum products in or at the property. This can be due to a release in the

→ see REAL ESTATE Page 25

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1042 Roosevelt Trail, Windham
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FOR LEASE



48 Tandberg Trail, Windham
946 +/- Sq. Ft. of well-appointed second floor executive/professional office space. The space is ideal for professional office users looking for a prime location in the heart of North Windham just west of Rt. 302/Rt. 35 intersection. Rent includes heating & electricity. Offered for lease at $1,250/mo.

FOR LEASE



219 Roosevelt Trail, Windham
800 +/- Sq. Ft. of open concept professional office space that is ideal for Professional Office users. The property has ample paved parking spaces and a sign panel allowance on the sign stanchion on the road. Rent includes heating and air conditioning. Shared breakroom/meeting space on the lower level. Offered for lease at $ 1,200/mo.

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REAL ESTATE Cont. from page 24

environment or under conditions that could pose a threat of future release to the environment. The Phase I Environmental Report generally includes a site visit, local, state, and federal environmental records, historical research, interviews, and visual observations.

In the event further investigation is warranted, a Phase II Environmental Report may be required. In this case, testing is performed on site such as borings to look at soils samples and to determine an area of possible contamination.

If clean-up is required, this is what I would refer to as Phase III. Soil may need to be removed from the site to mitigate a problem. The remaining contaminated soil might need to remain as is under a building or a road. The DEP has a program - Voluntary Response Action Program (VRAP) that helps reduce the liability for a Buyer and his/her Lender. The VRAP allows applicants to voluntarily investigate and clean up properties to the Department's satisfaction, in exchange for protection from Department enforcement actions. The VRAP is intended to encourage the cleanup and redevelopment of contaminated properties within the state.

A property Condition Evaluation by a Building Inspector/Structural Engineer can give Buyers valuable insight as to the physical assets associated with a particular property. Site improvements, building components and operating systems such as HVAC can be observed, tested, and evaluated. Building deferred maintenance, anticipated capital repairs and replacements can be prepared. Some lenders require Property Condition Evaluations as part of their mortgage lending commitments.

When buying commercial real estate and/or commercial land, I would encourage all Buyers to do their "Due Diligence" and engage professionals for the Commercial Real Estate Buying process like a Real Estate/Title Attorney, Environmental Site Inspector/Engineer, Building Inspector/Structural Engineer and a Civil Engineer.

As a seasoned Commercial Real Estate Professional, I have over 40 years of experience helping Client's access current as well as future Real Estate needs and to advance the quality of their real estate project and goals by capitalizing on my: ability to search out the ideal solution and problem solve impediments; experience knowing and recognizing all of the requirements pertaining to completing the transactions; and talent for bringing all parties together to fulfill their expectations.

This article was brought to by Larry Eliason Commercial Broker with Butts Commercial Real Brokers at 940 Roosevelt Trail, Unit 10, Windham, Maine 04062. Contact him at 207-415-2112 or by email: LarryEliasonBCB@gmail.com. www.ButtsCommercialBrokers.com <

LETTER to the editor

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

Editor,

I found Max Millard's "Ghostly Happening's" article in The Windham Eagle, Oct. 30 issue, quaint but not entirely accurate. His comment that at the Gould Cemetery, "…When I was growing up someone would come on Memorial Day and plant a flag on each Veteran's Grave. That has been officially abandoned…" I can attest to the fact that every Veterans Grave in Windham gets a flag every year the week before Memorial Day, and that includes the Gould Cemetery.

I have been involved in this process for over 30 years and went to the Gould Cemetery with Don Rogers, and later Dick McKeen, both of Windham. Dick is now assisted by David Brackett, the Legion Post 148 Sergeant at Arms. In 2026, over 1,000 flags were placed on Vet graves in Windham from Arlington Cemetery in North Windham with over 350 veteran graves to a single veteran's grave on the Elder family plot, deep in the woods off River Road.

Gould Cemetery is visited twice a year, by a group of dedicated veterans with a flag placed on each of the seven veterans' graves for Memorial Day and in December a wreath is provided by the American Legion under their Everlasting Gratitude Program. The current owners, like the previous owners of the Gould property, have allowed veterans to park in their driveway in order to reach the cemetery.

David Tanguay,
Adjutant, American Legion
Field-Allen Post 148, Windham

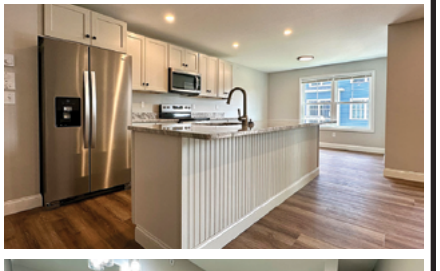
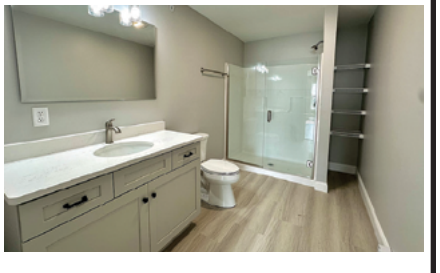
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TOWN OF WINDHAM, MAINE

PLANNING BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Monday, November 23, 2026 • 6:00PM
Town Hall, Council Chambers, 8 School Road

- #26-10 Highland Cliff Estates Subdivision
  Tax Map: 3; Lot: 49A – Highland Cliff Road
  Major plan review for a 27- lot residential subdivision.

- #25-11 Roosevelt Trail Site Redevelopment
  Tax Map 7, Lots 1 and 3E – Roosevelt Trail
  Major site final plan review for two, 7,100 square foot contractor services buildings.

- #26-24 Land Use Ordinance Text Amendment
  Chapter 120, Articles 8 and 9 – Site Law Delegated Review Authority – Town of Windham
  Proposed amendments to Site Plan Review §§ 120-811 and 120-812 and Subdivision Review §§ 120-910 and 120-911 to satisfy Maine DEP requirements for Site Law Delegated Review Authority. The revisions address soils, groundwater, blasting, noise, natural resources, wildlife and fisheries, scenic character, and odor control, enabling the Town to review qualifying Site Law applications.

There are no public hearings scheduled for this meeting.

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

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W	A	B	H	B	L	A	N	S	I	A	D	N	V	M	J	I
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T	L	E	V	E	S	O	O	R	J	E	F	E	V	S	U	G
N	W	M	A	H	D	N	I	W	S	G	S	H	R	A	P	T
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TRAIL
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CRESCENT
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JAGUARS
PANTHER
ROADRUNNER
SEBAGO
WINDHAM

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to Thanksgiving.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 12 = A)

A. 10 5 24 4 11 18
Clue: Poultry

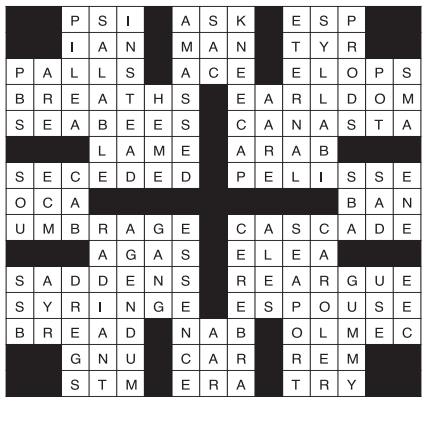
B. 14 12 10 22 11 24
Clue: Get together

C. 10 22 12 19 4 1 5 25
Clue: Showing gratitude

D. 1 12 8 16 25 18
Clue: Relatives

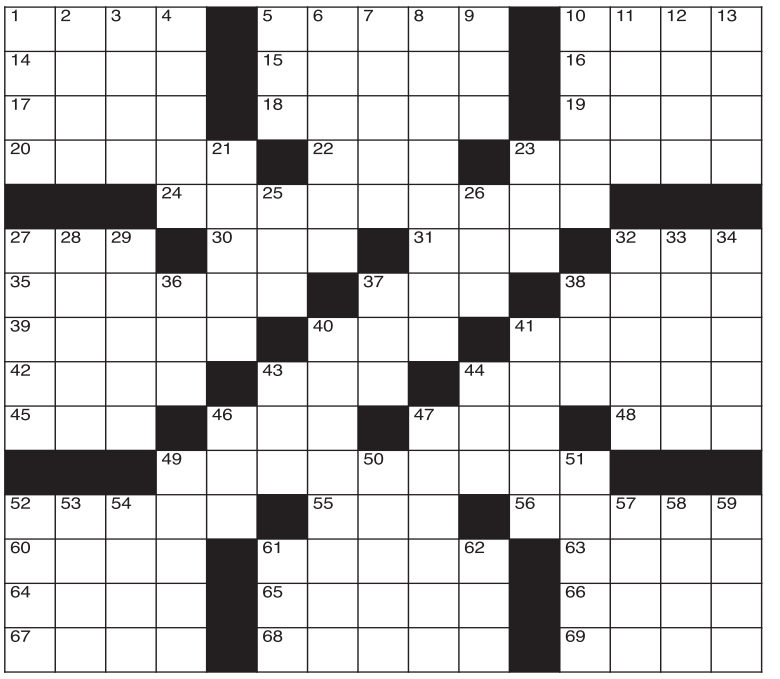
Answers: A. turkey B. gather C. thankful D. family

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS



SUPPORT Local BUSINESSES

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS

1. Perceive a sound
5. Pretends to be
10. Type of guitar
14. Actor Idris
15. A citizen of Iran
16. Creative
17. Keep under control
18. Weight unit for precious stones
19. You better call him
20. Fanatical
22. Male cat
23. Jewish spiritual leader
24. One who takes risks
27. A way to nail
30. Cool!
31. Progressive policy supporter
32. "Losing My Religion" rockers
35. Step-shaped recess
37. Round globular seed
38. Somewhat
39. Butterhead lettuces
40. Color at the end of the spectrum
41. Lines where fabrics are sewn together
42. Dodgers great Hershiser
43. Floor covering
44. Traveled aimlessly
45. Rocker Stewart
46. Body art
47. Congressman (abbr.)
48. No seats available
49. Categorizes
52. Iraq-Syria border town
55. Ballplayer's tool
56. Type of sword
60. Baseball team
61. Upper bracts of grass
63. Italian seaport
64. Ancient city in Syria
65. Shoelace tube
66. U. of Miami mascot is one
67. South American nation
68. "Nebraska" director Alexander
69. Upper body part

CLUES DOWN

1. German courtesy title
2. Ancient Greek City
3. Skin care manufacturer
4. A long-legged frog
5. Photo
6. Delivered a speech
7. Lute in northern Indian music
8. Decorated
9. Take a seat
10. Bottom layer
11. Type of horse
12. Ticket part
13. Defunct currency of Guinea
21. Challenges
23. Popular BBQ food
25. Subway rodent
26. By way of
27. Shady garden alcove
28. City in Egypt
29. __ and flowed
32. Large quantities of paper
33. Eurasian wheat
34. Act incorrectly
36. Layer of water right above sediment (abbr.)
37. Al Bundy's wife
38. Ocean
40. Large, round root
41. Sound units
43. Knock
44. Soak in water
46. Hot drink
47. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
49. Rumanian city
50. Come back from being down
51. Vaccine developer
52. Canadian law enforcers
53. Wings
54. "Perry Mason" actor Raymond
57. Small fry
58. __ Clapton, musician
59. Gamble
61. Semi-liquid food
62. Consumed food

SUDOKU

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

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

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Eagle BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Causeway Commons

Supporting the community, showcasing local makers and helping customers discover meaningful gifts are at the heart of Causeway Commons in North Windham, where a growing selection of Maine-made products offers something for nearly everyone.

Located at 1091 Roosevelt Trail, Causeway Commons is owned by husband-and-wife team, Sarah and Trent, who purchased the business and relocated it from Naples to Windham. The family-run shop brings together handcrafted gifts, specialty foods, everyday convenience items and unique products from small businesses throughout Maine, all under one roof.

For shoppers searching for thoughtful gifts, the store offers an assortment of handcrafted soaps from Backyard Bear, decorative shaped candles from Ugly Candle, air diffusers and fragrances. Customers can also browse Maine Oyster Tree ornaments, Maine-themed napkins, potholders and kitchen towels, Little Mainer hats, jewelry including bracelets, earrings and necklaces, books by local authors and gift baskets. With options for all ages and interests, the shop makes finding something special for friends, family, co-workers or gift exchanges convenient and enjoyable.

Food lovers will find plenty to explore as well. Causeway Commons carries locally roasted Swift River Coffee, Better Buckwheat Maine Crisps, Brigham's Brown Bag Dog Treats and an assortment of Maine-made jams, jellies, relishes and other specialty foods. Hot cocoa, snacks, beverages and pantry favorites provide opportunities to discover new products while supporting businesses from across the state.

One particularly popular addition is the Famous Giant Stuffed Cookies from Cookie Jar of Maine, based in Harmony. Known for its oversized, indulgent cookies, the business has attracted several thousand followers from throughout Maine who eagerly seek out its creations. With flavors including Oreo Stuffed, Reese's Stuffed, S'mores Stuffed, Everything and Salted Caramel Bliss, the cookies have developed a devoted following. Now, customers in southern Maine no longer need to make the long drive to enjoy them and can find them right here in Windham.

"We are a small local store with convenient items and gifts," Sarah said. "We started with the simple idea of bringing the ingredient friendly products to locals around us. We put lots of love and careful thought into all we do and are a family run business that really focuses on supporting our community."

That commitment extends to the growing number of vendors represented in the store. Causeway Commons continues to welcome new makers and products, providing opportunities for small businesses to reach customers who might not otherwise discover them. Sarah encourages local artisans, crafters and specialty food producers interested in showcasing their products to reach out and discuss whether their offerings would be a good fit.

"Our goal is for the majority of the store to be items made locally to support the local community and build upon the wonderful small businesses already here," Sarah said.

Beyond its retail offerings, Causeway Commons provides personalized services, including custom goodie bags, party favors, event favors and assistance with event planning. The team works with customers to create gifts suited to specific occasions, themes and budgets. In-person consults, in-store pickup, local delivery and shipping options add to the convenience.

"For what we make, we are most known for our soap designs and being able to create items that fit any and every theme you could imagine," Sarah said. "Most of the feedback we have gotten has been positive about how we are willing to work with others and are personable."

The business also has plans to make its greenhouse an important part of its seasonal offerings. When spring arrives, customers can look forward to a large selection of vegetable seedlings, providing local gardeners with a convenient place to prepare for the growing season. The greenhouse will add another dimension to the business, offering customers even more reasons to visit throughout the year.

For Sarah, opening a permanent storefront has created new opportunities to connect with customers and introduce them to new products..

"It's a new kind of adventure having a physical storefront," she said. "No more hunting us down at the craft shows. You can now shop with us anytime at our new convenient location."

With the holiday shopping season underway, Causeway Commons offers an alternative to big-box shopping, emphasizing personal service, competitive prices and local gifts.

"Whether you're shopping for yourself or looking for the perfect gift, stop in and see what we have waiting for you. Shop local, find your new favorite scent and get a head start on holiday shopping."

Causeway Commons is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

FMI, text 207-886-2777 or visit backyardbeargifts.square.site to order online. You can also follow their Facebook page to keep up with new items. <



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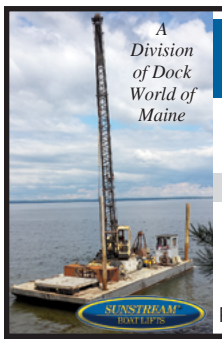
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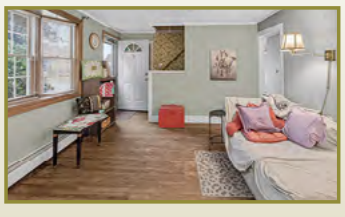
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