

Raymond Roadrunner INSIDE!

Community mourns loss of beloved Korean War veteran Walter Braley, Jr.

By Ed Pierce

STAFF WRITERS

One of the humblest military heroes you'll ever meet and a genuine friend to everyone who knew him has died at the age of 92.

Korean War veteran Walter Braley Jr. of Windham passed away peacefully at his home in the Cornerbrook subdivision on Father's Day, June 16.

Born in Somesville, a village on Mount Desert Island in Maine, as the only child of Walter Sr. and Eva Braley, his family moved to Scarborough when he was 10 so that his parents could work in a shipyard there. He attended schools in Scarborough until he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1947 at the age of 17. Braley completed basic training at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina and then was sworn in for active military duty by the late Maine U.S. Senator Margaret Chase Smith.

He rose to the rank of Sergeant in the Marines and was stationed at bases in Cuba and California and then was sent to South Korea during the Korean War. While in Korea, one of his duties was to patrol the DMZ, the no man's land separating South Korea from its hostile North Korea neighbor.



U.S. Marine Corps and Korean War veteran Walter Braley, Jr. waves to parade vehicles driving by his home in the Cornerbrook subdivision in Windham on his 90th birthday on Oct. 10, 2021. Braley died on Father's Day, June 16, at the age of 92. PHOTO BY ED PIERCE

"I walked across the DMZ before Donald Trump ever did a few years ago when he did so with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un," Braley said.

"I did it first."

While stationed at Moffett Field in Mountain View, California, Braley was asked to transport up a fellow

Marine to the base, and it turned out to be future county music superstar George Jones, who was just about to launch his recording career.

Braley said they became good friends, and he would accompany Jones when he would go out with his friends on weekend leave and perform songs in exchange for drinks.

Years later when Jones was in Maine to perform a concert, he introduced the audience to Braley and asked him where he had been since he last saw him in the 1950s.

"Right here," Braley is said to have told him.

Because of an injury he sustained in Korea, Braley was discharged from the Marines at the rank of Sergeant and returned home to Maine. He found work with the Delaware Feed Grain Store, as a truck driver for Maine Egg, a dog groomer for Dutton Animal Hospital in Saco and then at the Animal Refuge League in Westbrook, a position from which he retired after 35 years of service. Braley was a longtime pet owner and served as a Maine State Humane Agent and an advocate for suffering animals.

Following his retirement, Braley spent time volunteering for the Bruce

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Windham Raymond Adult Education graduate shows what hard work and determination can do

By Masha Yurkevich

STAFF WRITERS

On June 13, Windham Raymond Adult Education celebrated their 2024 graduates who persevered through all the challenges that came their way and who stood strong in their determination, not giving up until they reached their goal.

Matthew Ostiguy was one of this year's graduates of the WRAE program and a patient of the Neurorestorative Rehabilitation Clinic of Standish Maine who provided a shining example of determination and willpower.

Ostiguy is originally from Fairhaven, Massachusetts where he lived for 25 years until moving up to Maine.

"During my stay there, I had only made it to junior year in high school before dropping out," said Ostiguy. "I couldn't say I really had any plan in life yet other than spending time at the skatepark trying to make something of myself thinking I could take that to a level where I could get paid for it."

Ostiguy chose to complete his education at WRAE because he was feeling left out.

"Seeing most of my friends, my younger cousins, my family and people I looked up to, having degrees



Through all the challenges and obstacles that came his way, Matthew Ostiguy's determination led him to finish what he started, to graduate, and follow his dreams. Ostiguy, right, shows his high school diploma to Cathy Giuffre-Renaud of Windham/Raymond Adult Education. SUBMITTED PHOTO

and or still completing school made me so much more motivated to buckle down and attain my diploma," he said. "I felt like I had something to prove by finishing what I had started."

This promised to be a difficult journey.

During his time in the adult education program, Ostiguy found it extremely challenging to relearn some of things that he was taught because the material felt foreign after being out of school for such a long time.

"I had never thought it would be so difficult to relearn," said Ostiguy. "It definitely required practice and studying, or I don't think I would've gotten through it at all."

Ostiguy had many obstacles on his way, but he was determined to finish what he started. He said he was determined to show everyone what he was capable of and that he could actually get it done once he

set his mind to it.

"School was always very hard for me, so it came as a surprise to my family and even myself when I decided to start attending the program," he said.

After graduating, Ostiguy says he couldn't help but feel a great sense of

personal accomplishment wash over him as he had completed what he had originally set out to do.

"The fact that I could show everybody that I had completed high school even after 12 years and having a hemorrhagic stroke, relearning basically everything from talking to even being able to walk short distances, and then to go on and finally graduate. I really did feel amazing."

One of Ostiguy's favorite parts of acquiring his education was the feeling of regaining knowledge from the past and the feeling of actually attending school again.

"It may sound odd, but it really does feel good to be learning again after a long hiatus. Especially going to a graduation ceremony for the first time, it really was the most rewarding feeling I've experienced in a while."

After graduation, Ostiguy plans to return to his home state and get a place of his own and look for work until he can acquire a college education, get himself situated and get things in order until he opens the next

→ see **WRAE** Page 10

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INSIGHT

Barking up the right tree

When our dog Fancy arrived in our household, my wife and I had no clues about how to coax proper behavior from a puppy. Our previous dog had been older when we adopted her and required little training. However, this new puppy was a boundless bundle of energy, and every experience was new to her.

While working for the newspaper, I had met a well-respected dog trainer who offered weekly lessons in a large garage adjacent to her home that had been converted into a training facility and kennel. I asked the trainer, Caroline, if we could bring Fancy for Basic Obedience Training on Saturday mornings near our home in New Hampshire and she agreed.

For the next four months, we spent an hour every Saturday morning at Caroline's studio practicing basic commands and taming an incorrigible and spirited little creature with a mind of her own.

We learned how to sit and stay, lay down and come when called. We learned how to walk properly on a leash, how to heel, and basic doggie manners when encountering other dogs nearby.

Caroline was also a breeder of Dobermanns, a type of large dog which must have seemed intimidating to Fancy when she saw them there during her training. At first, I wasn't sure any of this was going to work. Fancy was intensely curious and somewhat anxious. She didn't like being put on a leash and balked the first few times that Caroline tried to teach her something new.

She was put into a crate in the mornings when we went to work, and we hired a staff member from the school where my wife worked to come in several times a day and let her outside for a while.

The crate was kept in the dining room and somehow it didn't take Fancy very long to figure out if she leaned hard enough on a side of the crate, she could get it to move on our wood floor. That's how I came to regret hanging a nice jacket over the back of a dining room chair one day only to come home from work and find the jacket torn to pieces inside the dog crate by Fancy.

She also severely tattered several of the sofa cushions and anything close by she could find to chew on. My wife tried recovering those shredded cushions, but they were too far gone for salvaging. When we eventually placed the sofa by the road hoping some impoverished college student would see it and haul it back to their apartment, we were mistaken. It sat there for weeks with its ratholes, and I ultimately had to pay a junk-hauling service to relocate it to the dump.

The puppy also had atrocious table manners. During dinner, if you weren't careful, she would jump and snatch items off your plate in a fraction of a second. I can't begin to tell you how disappointing it is to sit down at the supper table to a full plate of food only to have a puppy leap and in one swoop grab a Sloppy Joe sandwich and swallow it whole. It didn't matter what it was, it could be burgers, grilled cheese sandwiches, or slices of toast, anything you fixed to eat was fair game for Fancy.

In discussing this bad behavior with Caroline, she suggested either putting Fancy in a crate in another room during dinner or placing her on a leash and keeping my foot on the leash to prevent her from leaping up and grabbing food off the dinner table while we were eating. We tried the crate option first but abandoned it because we couldn't stand the crying, loud whining, and barking coming from Fancy while we were eating. The leash idea worked better, but have you ever tried to eat a meal one-handed while holding a dog leash in the other hand?

Over time, Fancy came to love going to Caroline's for training on Saturday mornings. She did learn how to sit, stay, heel, lie down and come and she even was able to exhibit those tasks on cue and off-leash.

She scored 100 percent on her Basic Obedience Test and graduated from Caroline's Canine College with a certificate and a trophy. Because that training was successful, we continued visiting with Caroline and Fancy eventually completed Good Neighbor Training and Therapy Dog Training with her. She was able to sit quietly when surrounded by a dozen other larger dogs and not growl during her final Therapy Dog test.

More than anything, the training was beneficial for Fancy in learning to control her excitement and teaching her the correct way to behave and how to interact with people and other animals.

Fancy is now 8 and has settled down quite a bit. She loves going for walks in our neighborhood and is great with children and is very gentle. On occasion though, every now and then she feels compelled to leap and grab a burger off our dinner plate, so we've adapted to eating in a guarded manner and not to walk away from the table, even if only for a minute, leaving our plates unguarded. < ~ Ed Pierce

Inspirational Quote of the Week

"In the end it's all about priorities." – Vandita Pandey

Today in HISTORY

JUNE 21

1676 – Isaac Newton presents his theory of light and colors, explaining the phenomenon of rainbow formation.

1788 – The U.S. Constitution goes into effect as New Hampshire became the ninth state to ratify it.

1834 – Cyrus Hall McCormick of Chicago, Illinois receives a patent for a mechanical reaping machine for farms.

1893 – The first Ferris wheel appears at Chicago's Columbian Exposition.

1928 – Amelia Earhart becomes the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean as a passenger accompanying pilot Wilmer Stultz and copilot Louis Gordon on a flight from Newfoundland to South Wales.

1953 – The famous painting called the "Mona Lisa" is exhibited for the first time in the U.S. at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

1968 – The first Special Olympics are held at Soldier Field in Chicago, Illinois with more than 1,000 athletes participating.

ON THE SPOT

Which cartoon character do you secretly identify with and why?

"Benny from Top Cat because some days I have no clue."
– Janet Paul

"Beetle Bailey because I want to nap any place/anytime."
– Tommy Matthews

"The older I get the more I sympathize with Eeyore. 'Thanks for noticin' me.'"
– Steve Hatt

"Donnie Thornberry, definitely." – Michael Nadeau

"Ariel. We are both redheads."
– Morgan Peters

"Red and Rover my dog definitely is Rover."
– Rhonda Fenderson

"Calvin (and Hobbes)."
– William D. Reiner

"Now that I'm older, Opal from Pickles." – Julie Mallett

"George Jetson, the wise-cracking father."
– David D. McCoombs

"Because of my hair, I'd say Marge Simpson."
– Anne Glotchshuk

"Ned Flanders from The Simpsons. His mustache resembles mine."
– Oscar F. Kellner

"Tweety Bird. Sweet and innocent." – Sarah Singer-Miller

"Johnny Bravo. Back in the day I had quite the collection of pick-up lines to use at the club. Not so much now that I got married." – Dean A. Smalley

"Sponge Bob Square Pants because my best friend's name is Patrick." – Jerry Greene

"Inspector Gadget."
– Aurelia Marmol

"Wilma Flintstone and my daughter would be Pebbles."
– Lois Fuller

"Lucy from Peanuts. Available to give psychiatric advice."
– Chris Macklin

"I'm blonde with green eyes and I love talking about the weather, so I'd say Sam Sparks from the 'Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs' movie."
Mia Potenzio-Ransey

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Sheri Gagnon Memorial Park

Improvements continue: Raymond approves new tennis and pickleball courts for Sheri Gagnon Memorial Park

By Joanne Terrasi
STAFF WRITER

When it's time to get to the courts, where do you go to play tennis or pickleball? It won't be far for residents of Raymond when the Sheri Gagnon Memorial Park expansion becomes reality.

Last year, the members of Raymond's Budget-Finance Committee and Planning Board approved two tennis and two pickleball courts for Sheri Gagnon Memorial Park, according to Raymond Parks and Recreation Director Joe Crocker. Crocker said the town was granted a \$500,000 bond to fund the capital improvement project.

"We did it, but the tough part is the implementation," he said. "That's what we've been working on for about year."

Pickleball has grown in popularity as a racket sport, and so too has the town's Parks and Recreation Department program. The sport's outdoor program has been using the park's basketball court to line for pickleball and players are bringing their own nets.

"I've never seen a sport grow so fast," he said.

It may have a funny name, but pickleball is a serious sport and Raymond Town Clerk Sue Look said she had no idea it was that popular.

"When they told me how many

people were playing pickleball, I couldn't believe it," Look said.

The site plan for the new courts was submitted on behalf of Raymond Parks and Recreation last March, by Sebago Technics of South Portland. The project was scheduled to appear before the Planning Board on June 12 but was postponed until July 10.

Crocker said there was "some confusion," when exterior lighting was excluded from the building plans.

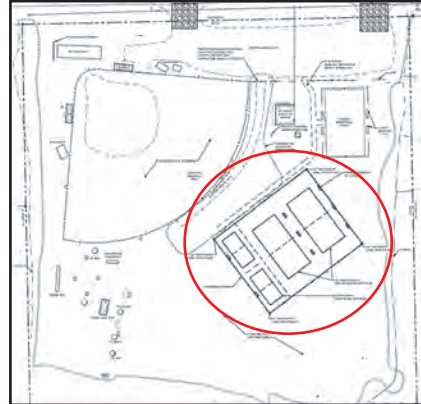
"We're putting it in, but we need to make sure we have enough funds for the courts first," he said.

The two 78-by-36-foot tennis courts and two 44-by-20-foot pickleball courts will be built on the southwest side of the basketball court. A connecting foot path from the parking lot will extend the existing basketball court path to the new fenced-in courts.

One of the park's existing baseball fields will be removed to accommodate the design, but there's no chance of a turf war, according to Crocker. He said the baseball field was used by middle schoolers and the numbers have "dwindled" in size recently. But apparently, the field always has had some issues with drainage.

"It's a swamp," Crocker said. "Last November the adults played flag football there and it was a mud pit."

A neighbor of the park, Jennifer McCarthy, said she had heard about



Plans are under way to install two tennis and two pickleball courts at Sheri Gagnon Memorial Park in Raymond. A meeting of the town's Planning Board will further discuss the project on July 10. SUBMITTED PHOTO

the new tennis and pickleball courts and she thinks "it's great." McCarthy frequents the new playground that the park installed last month with her young girls, Sloan, 2, and Lettie, 1.

"We love the playground," she said.

Raymond resident Isaac Ormberg, 17, works in the park's neighborhood at The Good Life Market. The new courts sound "awesome" to Ormberg.

"I might go to check it out," he said. "I played pickleball before and it's fun, it's like tennis and Ping Pong."

Pickleball is a combination of tennis, Ping-Pong and badminton. The nets are lower than tennis and the

courts are about one-fourth the size. And, with less sprinting involved, it has become a favorite among adults. In 2023, the Sports & Fitness Industry Association deemed pickleball the fastest growing sport in America for the third consecutive year.

The project will be going out to bid soon, but Crocker said they have a local contractor in mind for the job who has built most of the courts in the area.

"Once the courts are put in, youth tennis will be the big new addition," he said.

Crocker belongs to the United States Tennis Association (USTA) for the Tennis in the Parks Program, a foundation known for its dedication to player development. He said he would like to see youth players in Grades 1 through 8 become involved and have a chance to compete for a national tennis championship.

"That's my next project."

Beginner/intermediate and intermediate/advanced outdoor pickleball runs from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and is for adult players only. Sessions for first-time players resume in the fall. Adult basketball runs from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and all players must register.

To register for any of the programs offered by Raymond Parks and Recreation, visit raymond.recdesk.com/Community/Home <

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Town of Windham's Communications Director settling into new role

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

Editor's note: This is another in an ongoing series of Windham and Raymond town employee profiles.

Roger Cropley II is new to his role as the Communications Director for the Town of Windham, but integral to how the public perceives town activities, services and events.

He has extensive experience in videography and applied for the communications position when it was created by Windham Town Council members less than a year ago.

"I've worked for the town since 2018. I started as a custodian as a way to supplement my freelance video editorial income, and then transitioned to this position when it was created in 2023," Cropley said. "I had been exclusively a freelancer since 2004, and as my contacts within the area's advertising community moved on or aged out, I was left with a dwindling amount of work. I still loved and still love editing but it was beginning to become harder to make a living with that alone."

In his new role, Cropley will be tasked with developing a cohesive multi-channel communications strategy for the town, preparing all communications materials and creating a trustworthy voice while maintaining integrity across all town platforms.

"This is a new position within the

town, so my duties are evolving, but they include gathering relevant information from other departments and posting that info to the town's website and social media accounts," he said. "I shoot video and stills for town events or other newsworthy happenings within the town and then either create pieces for the new monthly newsletter or for the town's YouTube channel. I also create promotional material for the town to attract tourism and create business interest in Windham."

Being a video guy, Cropley says he loves making videos for the town, but creating magazine ads and improving his writing skills due to the demands of a monthly newsletter are certainly highlights of his new job because he enjoys the creative challenges involved with those.

"The most challenging part of the job is two-fold," he said. "One is staying on top of all the goings on within the town and second is combating the misinformation that always seem to permeate the social media platforms."

Originally from Lincoln, Maine, Cropley became familiar with the area when he attended Saint Joseph's College of Maine in 1985.

"I didn't finish my school there, I transferred to UMaine and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications with a concentration in Broadcast Production," he said.



Roger Cropley II is the Town of Windham's Communications Director and has extensive experience in videography. He is responsible for developing a cohesive multi-channel communications strategy for the town. SUBMITTED PHOTO

During his professional career, he's edited hundreds of local, regional and national commercials including ads for Maine Tourism, Hardy, Wolf and Downing, and Sylvania.

"I've edited a television show for TLC with Maine-based organic gardeners called 'Gardening Naturally' and recently, while working as a custodian for the town, two feature films. One was shot here in Maine starring Tom Berenger called 'Blood and Money' and another called 'Dan-

gerous Waters' was Ray Liotta's last performance."

According to Cropley, learning that he had landed this new position has been his most memorable moment in working for the town to this point and what he likes the most about his new job is getting to be creative while learning and disseminating information to the public.

"Since this is a position that hasn't even been around for a year, I'm not sure people even realize my position exists," he said. "I hope though that they have noticed an increase in the amount of information that is being put out by the town. I hope that they realize that I am just trying to give them the facts about things happening within this community."

He said he now has a clearer picture of what it takes to operate a municipality of this size and to keep it running efficiently no matter what the circumstance.

"I guess the most important thing I've learned is that running a town is a very complicated endeavor," Cropley said. "It requires a large and qualified group of individuals using their expertise not only to perform the duties that keep the town moving but also to make decisions that will impact the town for years to come, and that all decisions are made with the intent of adding to the quality of life of Windham's residents." <

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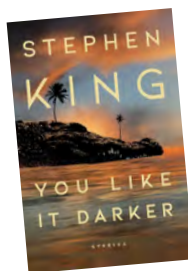


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Here are a few popular picks this week...



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Book Awards pay tribute to outstanding WHS juniors

By Ed Pierce

STAFF WRITER

Before the 2023-2024 school year ended at Windham High School, a schoolwide assembly on June 5 paid tribute to outstanding students for their emphasis on academics and deep commitment to community involvement.

According to Phil Rossetti, Windham High School assistant principal, the University Book Awards are presented at the conclusion of each school year to top students in the junior class.

Rossetti said that each year universities and colleges in America partner with secondary schools such as Windham High School to recognize exceptional high school juniors. Each University Book Award focuses on a specific area of academic achievement and excellence, such as service to the community, music and the arts, distinction for academics and community advocacy.

"The awards honor distinguished juniors at Windham High, giving them a chance to gain a wider look at the world they live in, and to connect outstanding students with schools of higher learning," Rossetti said. "Collegiate Book Awards are given annually to top-achieving students in the junior class. Each college or university establishes rigorous criteria and seeks feedback from high school faculty and administration to identify the worthy recipient of each award."

Here are this year's Windham,

High School 2024 University Book Award recipients:

Hannah Bowker and Jordyn Davis-Belanger, Suffolk Book Award. This award is presented to a student who shows dedication to learning in the classroom as well as to their school community through extracurricular involvement and volunteer positions.

Bella Bragdon, St. Michael's Book Award. This award recognizes a National Honor Society member who shows a sustained and sincere commitment to community service, issues of peace and justice, and concern for others.

Noah Campbell, St. Anselm College Book Award. This distinction is presented to a student that demonstrates academic success and exceptional leadership qualities in the area of civic engagement.

Ethan Chen, Harvard Book Prize and the University of Rochester Xerox Award for Innovation and Information Technology. The Harvard Book Prize is awarded to a student with excellence in scholarship and high character, combined with achievement in other fields. The University of Rochester Xerox Award for Innovation and Information Technology is presented to a student with a strong interest in innovation and/or information technology and a high level of achievement in this area.

Luke Cunniffe, Elmira College Key Award. This award is given to a student who demonstrates outstanding school and community leadership.

Joseph Donnelly, Rochester Institute of Technology Business and Leadership Award. This is presented to a student with high academic achievement who is involved in the school and community and demonstrates innovation, leadership, and success in business-related classes.

Abigail Dumont, University of Vermont Citizen Scholar Award. This award recognizes a student with high achievement in a rigorous college preparatory curriculum and who has made a contribution to their school or community.

Carter Engelman, Rensselaer Medical. This honor is awarded to a student

who has excelled in advanced math and science courses, demonstrates potential for success in a challenging academic setting, and exhibits significant involvement in extracurricular activities.

Ethan Fletcher, Clarkson University Leadership Award. This distinction is presented to a student with an interest in Engineering, Business, Science, or Liberal Arts who demonstrates outstanding leadership qualities and is a positive contributor to the school and community.

Braycen Freese, Rochester Institute of Technology Science and Math

→ see AWARDS Page 12

A.T. Hutchins Funeral & Cremation Services ROGER WILLIAM LEBLANC, SR.



Windham, Maine - Roger William LeBlanc Sr. passed away peacefully in his home in Windham, Maine, on Little Sebago Lake, June 12, 2024, at 68 years old. Roger was born on August 6th, 1955, to Gordon and Edna LeBlanc of Littleton, Massachusetts, the 7th of 11 children. Roger was a loving husband, father, grandfather, uncle, brother, son-in-law, and a friend to everyone he met.

Roger served as the president of his senior class at Littleton High School. He attended Massachusetts College of Pharmacy where he was an active member of the Phi Delta Chi Fraternity and met the love of his life, Mary Josephine Parisi. When they married in 1978 Mary was pursuing her career as a pharmacist while Roger trained as an Airborne Ranger in the U.S. Army. Roger and Mary were together for 46 loving years. Roger graduated from U.S. Army Command and General Staff College in 1990 and earned his Master's Degree in Information Technology from George Mason University in 1993.

Roger served honorably in the US Army in the Medical Service Corps for 20 years, retiring at the distinguished rank of Lt. Colonel. Together he and Mary traveled the world with their four children, making lifelong friends everywhere they went. They spent time in Virginia, Massachusetts, Texas, Germany, Kansas, Hawaii, and Maryland.

In 2014, Roger and Mary found their dream home on the shores of Little Sebago Lake in Windham, Maine, where he enjoyed boating and spending time with his family. He faithfully cared for his 100 year old mother-in-law, Connie Parisi. Roger and Mary created an oasis where all were welcome to relax and be together.

Roger was always drawn to serving his community. In Hawaii, he was co-captain of the Hickam Waterski Team. He and Mary volunteered countless hours in the band booster programs at his children's schools. He was active in the Littleton Rotary, Quartermaster of the Boy Scouts, and sang baritone in the Nashoba Valley Chorale. He drove the Safety Boat on Little Sebago Lake and served as a member of the Lake Association. Roger found joy as a driver's aid for RSU 14, helping special education students safely get to school. The day before he passed, Roger was volunteering at the polls at the Windham town hall.

Roger was charming, charismatic, thoughtful, funny, loving and was always there for his friends and family. He is sorely missed.

Roger is preceded in death by his parents Edna and Gordon, sister Carole, daughter-in-law Hannah Marie, and Jean and Warren McManus. He is survived by nine sibling: Cecile Johnson, Gordon LeBlanc, Phyllis Worthley, Helene Tassone, Nannette Foley, Michelle Duffett, Andrea LeBlanc, Yvonne Cedergren, and Donna Arnold and many, many nieces and nephews. Additionally, Roger is survived by his loving wife Mary, the extended Parisi family, his four children, Joseph and his wife Kyung, Matthew, Danielle and her husband James Spizuoco, and Roger Jr. and his partner Javier Lara Cartagena, and three treasured grandsons, Emery, Ellis, and Oscar.

VISITATION HOURS WILL BE HELD AT A.T. HUTCHINS FUNERAL HOME, 660 BRIGHTON AVE., PORTLAND, MAINE ON MONDAY JUNE 24TH FROM 4:00 - 7:00 PM.

Funeral mass will be held at St Anthony Parish / St. Hyacinth's Catholic Church in Westbrook on Tuesday June 25th at 10:00 am.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Heart Association at www.heart.org.

For online condolences please visit www.athutchins.com

Dolby, Blais & Segee Funeral Chapel LUNA ROY MARTIN, 10



RAYMOND, ME - Luna Roy Martin, 10, died unexpectedly on May 12, 2024. She was born on March 26, 2014, in Portland, the daughter of James Martin and Samantha (Slocum) Martin. Luna completed fourth grade and was a beloved member of her family and community.

Luna was a strong, beautiful, little girl who was full of energy. She was a ray of sunshine with a big smile and a huge heart. Luna was selfless and humble, always wanting the best for others and wanting to do the right thing. She was happiest seeing others succeed and having fun. Luna was an active child with interests in dance, soccer, hiking, skiing, and playing piano. She danced in lyrical jazz, ballet, hip-hop, and acro, and was preparing for an upcoming dance recital and joining a competitive dance program. Luna enjoyed spending time with her friends and family doing almost anything. She loved animals, music, being silly, playing with her sisters, and overall snuggling with her parents and siblings. Luna was a sincere person who strived to do her best every day. She knew how to make other people laugh, said I Love You frequently, and was determined to stay close to her parents forever.

In addition to her parents, Luna has two older sisters (Harper and Willow), a twin sister (Charlie), and a younger sister (Bowie). She is preceded in death by her maternal grandfather, Roy Slocum, and uncle Andy Slocum. Luna has three surviving grandparents: Jenene Slocum, and Teresa and Dwight Hafford, and a large loving, and connected family of aunts, uncles, and cousins.

A MEMORIAL SERVICE WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 23, 2024, AT A.T. HUTCHINS, 660 BRIGHTON AVE, PORTLAND.

Visiting hours will start at 11:00 a.m. followed by the service starting at 12:30 p.m.

Luna was a special person who loved having friends and family around. Please join us in honoring Luna's life and sharing memorable stories of her impact.

Poland announces candidacy for District 106 State Rep.

Doris Poland, a Democrat from Windham, has announced her candidacy for the Maine House of Representatives District 106, which includes North Windham and Windham generally east of Route 302.

“My interest in politics started when I was very young—my mom and dad were part of the group that did a Bean supper to launch Ed Musk-

ie’s campaign for governor,” Poland said. “Since then, I’ve watched working families have to work harder and harder to stay afloat. My husband and I raised four kids here in Windham and now I wonder how my grandkids will get by. Augusta needs to do more to support Windham families, from fully funding the state’s share of our school budgets, to sending back more money to the municipalities to keep our property taxes in check. We have to do better.”

She moved to Windham on Independence Day, 1970 and then spent 20 years working for the Windham School District driving students to and from school, games, and outings as a bus driver. Poland also worked in the Windham High School library as a technician before retiring.

In addition to making sure Windham’s kids got home safely, she raised four children, and continues to care for her one disabled child at home. She supported her late husband

while he served as a proud postal worker for over 30 years, and advocates for working families as a member of various labor unions and auxiliary groups.

Poland works with area food pantries, has worked with the Wounded Warrior Program, advocates for disabled access and rights, and spends her free time chasing down legislators in Augusta and Washington, D.C. to make sure they hear from Maine families.

U.S. Congresswoman Chellie Pingree says that Poland is an excellent



Doris Poland of Windham, a Democrat, is running for State Representative to represent Windham District 106 in the Maine House of Representatives. She has lived in Windham since 1970.
SUBMITTED PHOTO

choice for State Representative in District 106.

“I’ve had the pleasure of seeing Doris advocating for working families for many years now. Her dedication to Mainers has helped move the needle on healthcare, wages, housing, and many other issues that have an impact on our everyday lives,” Pingree said. “The deep understanding of the needs of working families that Doris has makes her uniquely situated to work for Windham in Augusta. Her ability to listen and take action on behalf of others will make her an excellent State Rep.” <

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Turns Back Time

Sat., June 22 • 12-9:30PM

FREE event to kick off summer!!

Windham High School Campus

Parade at 12PM

NEW PARADE ROUTE, Starting on Windham Center Rd.

Starts at 12pm from Stadium Drive. Staging areas at Public Works and Stadium Drive Parking lot. Ends at the High School. Announcer will be at Corsetti's parking lot.

ALL DAY EVENTS

Amateur Radio Relay League
 Field Day • Inflatable Park
 Rock Wall • Escape Room & more

OTHER EVENTS

2:00 PM 3V3 Bball Tournament
 Sign up at WindhamSummerfest.com

3:00-7:00PM Party Palooga
 5:00PM Golf Ball Drop

MAIN STAGE

1:00-3:00PM Jimmy Macisso, Band
 3:00-3:45PM Jason Tardy, Juggler
 4:00-6:00PM Cryin' Out Loud, Band
 6:00-7:00PM Mad Science
 7:30-9:30PM Get on Up, Band
 9:30PM God Bless The Usa and FIREWORKS!

THE HALL IMPLEMENT CO., GEORGE HALL MEMORIAL STAGE

1:00-2:00PM Maine Baton Twirlers
 2:15-3:15PM Mad Science
 3:30-4:30PM Doc & Dave Trio, Band
 5:00-5:45PM Jason Tardy, Juggler

YUMMY TREATS INCLUDE:

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➔ BRALEY *Cont. from page 1*

Roberts Fund and Meals on Wheels. As a veteran, he became active in Windham Post 10643 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion Field-Allen Post 148 in Windham.

He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Westbrook, holding various board positions and serving on other church committees.

On his 90th birthday in October 2021, a parade was held outside his home to commemorate his birthday and at that event Braley was presented with a Quilt of Honor by Cindy Beaulieu of the Quilts of Honor group.

“First we honor you for your service,” Beaulieu told Braley. “Second, freedom is not free, and we thank you for your service. We hope this quilt brings comfort to you as you are forever in our thoughts and in our hearts.”

Braley said receiving the quilt and having a parade in his honor was one of the most moving experiences of his lifetime.

“I just want to say thanks to everyone for coming out here today and recognizing me in this way,” Braley said. “You’ve made me feel appreciated and you can’t ask for more than that in this life. I’m deeply grateful and to all my fellow Marines, I say Semper Fi.”

Known affectionately to his family as “Junie,” Braley loved to hunt, fish, and spend time with his wife, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren at their camp on Thomas Pond.

Surviving Braley are his wife Nina, four daughters, one son, seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, June 22 at the First Baptist Church of Westbrook, 733 Main St. in Westbrook. A graveside ceremony with full military honors will be conducted for Braley at the South Gorham Cemetery on Burnham Road in Gorham. <

Windham's Dundee Park open, swimming temporarily closed

Because of unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of the Town of Windham, Dundee Park will be closed for swimming from now until water levels return to normal.

In a press release, Windham officials say that the park will remain open for all other activities including picnicking, basketball, volleyball, and lawn games. All scheduled events including concerts and movies in the park will continue as scheduled, and the concession stand will remain open.

According to the town, the reason for the loss of water level is because of a malfunctioning gate at the Dundee Hydroelectric Dam. The repair, as it currently stands, is scheduled to last through July.

After the repairs are complete and the refilling of the body of water starts, water levels will gradually return to normal. Unfortunately, this will probably mean a lost swimming season at Windham's only point of public water access.

"We realize this is a major inconvenience to our residents and visi-



A malfunction of the Dundee Hydroelectric Dam gate has caused a swimming ban at Dundee Park until further notice. COURTESY PHOTO

tors," Windham officials said in the press release. "Therefore, anyone who has purchased a season pass, can have the cost for those passes fully refunded and daily visitors to the park will not be charged an entrance fee."

The cost of renting picnic pavilions at Dundee Park will also be reduced for this summer to \$25 per reservation.

"The town is in contact with the dam's owner and operator, and we will provide updates as repairs continue," town officials said in the press release. "We remain hopeful that the repairs will progress quickly, and we may be able to salvage a little bit of the season in late August." <

Strawberry Festival nearing at Hawthorne House in Raymond

One of Southern Maine's beloved annual events, the Strawberry Festival at Nathaniel Hawthorne's Boyhood Home at 40 Hawthorne Road in Raymond returns this year from 6 to 7:45 p.m. Saturday, June 29.



This year's special guest speaker will be award-winning author/editor Tess Chakkalakal, professor of Africana Studies and English at Bowdoin College. Chakkalakal is creator and co-host of this summer's podcast series from Maine Public Radio entitled "Dead Writers: Great American Authors and Where They Lived."

Wrapping up the event, all attendees will enjoy yummy homemade strawberry shortcake, served with coffee, punch, and lots of friendly smiles.

Those who would like to donate to the ongoing restoration of Nathaniel Hawthorne's Boyhood Home in Raymond may do so by sending a much-appreciated check payable to "Hawthorne Community Association" to: Hawthorne Community As-

sociation, P.O. Box 185, South Casco, ME 04077. Secure credit card, debit card, and PayPal donations may be made online at www.hawthorneassoc.com.

The Hawthorne House is the boyhood home of the legendary author of The Scarlet Letter and The House of the Seven Gables in Raymond and has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places since 1969.

Author Nathaniel Hawthorne was born on July 4, 1804, in Salem, Massachusetts, a descendant of William Hathorne, a Puritan who emigrated with his family from England to the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Hawthorne's grandfather John Hathorne was a judge who presided over some of the Salem Witch Trials.

Reservations for the Strawberry Festival are strongly recommended but walk-ins also are welcome. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$5 for children aged 8 and under. For more information or to make a reservation email: Hawthorne@Maine.RR.com or call 207-329-0537. <

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Windham residents approve 2024-2025 municipal budget

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

Windham voters approved a municipal budget of \$34,922,971 for 2024-2025 and other associated warrant articles during the annual town meeting on June 15 at the Windham Town Hall Auditorium.

Warrant articles also approved during the meeting authorized the issuance of general obligation bonds up to \$13 million to finance the design, engineering, construction and an analysis of operations and assessments for a sewer system to serve RSU 14's campus including Windham High School, Windham Middle School and Windham Primary School. Another warrant article that voters supported is the execution of agreements with the Portland Water District in connection with the financing, construction, ownership, operation and maintenance of the RSU 14 campus sewer system.

Windham Town Manager Barry Tibbetts said these actions are part of Phase 2 of Windham's installation of sewers as approved by voters during a referendum in June 2022.

He said this new system will result in the existing Wastewater Treatment Plant at Windham High School being closed and the new plant at Windham Middle School will be used to pump wastewater to the new treatment facility at Manchester School in North Windham.

According to Tibbetts, Phase 1 of the sewer installation has about a \$4 million shortfall because of construction cost and materials increases, but



Windham Town Councilors vote for a warrant article during the Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, June 15 at Windham Town Hall. From left are Councilors John Henry, Bill Reiner, David Nadeau, Jarrod Maxfield and Nick Kalogerakis. PHOTO BY ED PIERCE

a warrant article approved by voters at this meeting allows the town to issue a bond of \$4 million through the state's Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund. In doing that, the shortfall will have no impact for taxpayers.

Tibbetts said the new municipal budget will also allow the town to add four new firefighter/emergency medical technicians, two of them funded in the budget and two funded by grant.

"The intent is to reduce overtime and per diem costs of firefighters and EMTs," he said.

Other town personnel actions approved in this new budget include hiring a Public Works Operational Manager to offer more efficiency for that department and making the Windham Police Department's Community Resource Liaison a full-time position. The Community Resource Liaison position provides additional support to individuals struggling with mental health or substance use and up to now has been a

shared position between the Windham and Gorham Police Departments.

Funding approved in the budget also will allow the Windham Fire/Rescue Department to purchase new self-contained breathing apparatus and equipment for \$535,000 and to acquire land located at Cherry Lane adjacent to Gambo Soccer Fields for \$750,000. The new budget also includes up to \$750,000 for the paving and repair of 10 local roads.

The budget also awards \$850,000 to the Windham Fire/Rescue Department to purchase a new fire engine, up to \$400,000 for adding additional space and making improvements at Smith Cemetery. Funding included in the budget also will allow the town to complete work on the heating and cooling systems at Windham Town Hall, create new additional trails at the East Windham Conservation Area, award town employees a 4 percent wage increase and to finish sidewalk projects

under way in South Windham along Gray Road.


Approval of the budget also authorizes \$3.5 million to create a sidewalk on Windham Center Road from Windham High School extending to the site of the new Windham Middle School. Tibbetts said \$1.2 million of that cost will come from grants, so that expense will be reduced when completed.

After the meeting, Tibbetts said work on formulating the annual town budget began in December and proceeded to a goal-setting session with Windham Town Council members in January. In February, Tibbetts met with town department heads to streamline budget requests before the Windham Finance Committee reviewed the preliminary budget before it was formally presented at a Town Council meeting in April and a Public Hearing was conducted at a town council meeting in May.

"Now that the budget has been approved by voters, we have to get to work," Tibbetts said. "There's a lot of nice things in this budget but there's a lot of work left to be done."

He said among things still to be decided in the future are choosing the best location for a new fire station and what to do with the current Windham Middle School building once the new Windham Middle School building opens.



At the start of the town meeting, Windham resident and former Windham Town Council member Tim Nangle, who currently serves as a Maine State Senator, was elected as moderator to preside over the gathering. <



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American Lung Association's Trek Across Maine cyclists stop overnight at Saint Joseph's College

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

Participants in the 40th Trek Across Maine fundraiser enjoyed perfect weather in accomplishing their goal of completing 180 miles by bicycle last weekend peddling through some of the most scenic terrain in the Pine Tree State.

Starting on Friday, June 14 in Brunswick and then riding to Lewiston before spending the night there at Bates College, Trek Across Maine riders arrived Saturday, morning June 15 and into the afternoon in the Lakes Region, staying overnight at Saint Joseph's College in Standish. On Sunday, June 16, riders completed the event by peddling back to Thomas Point Beach in Brunswick for a total of 180 miles.

The Trek Across Maine event is the primary annual fundraiser for the American Lung Association in Maine and participants once again were able to collect more than \$1 million in pledges for riders completing the trek.

George Eastman of Pittston rode in his 25th consecutive Trek Across Maine this year and is the events' logistics coordinator.

He said the most difficult aspect of the event for him each year is always finding enough time to get the miles in training.

"Riding for a cause is near and dear to my heart," Eastman said. "When you can't breathe, nothing else mat-



Riders in the annual Trek Across Maine reach the finish line of the second segment of the 180-mile event at Saint Joseph's College in Standish on Saturday, June 15. More than 600 riders departed the following morning to ride to Brunswick to complete the journey which raises money from pledges for the American Lung Association in Maine. PHOTO BY ED PIERCE

ters. It seems that every year I always have friends or family to ride for, or in memory of, and I don't want the 'in memory of' list to grow so fast. There will always be someone to ride for until we can get people to understand that breathing clean air is important and inhaling poison by smoking will kill you sooner or later."

Eastman says what is poignant year after year for him in participating in the Trek Across Maine is that there

are too many people that have lung disease be it lung cancer, COPD, asthma, and breathing is something that most healthy people take for granted. By doing this ride and volunteering, he feels that he is making a difference and giving back to those that have a hard time breathing for whatever reason.

According to Eastman, over the years, he and his wife have lost six family members to lung cancer or

other types of lung disease, so it is personal to them, but they ride in the event for anyone with lung issues.

Something that he's learned about the American Lung Association that he did not know before he started doing the Trek Across Maine is what the organization does for lung health.

"They're fighting for clean air, they have made it so there is no smoking allowed in many public places, they have research teams working on how to treat lung diseases, programs to keep kids from starting to smoke and the list goes on," Eastman said.

The American Lung Association's mission to research, educate, and advocate to prevent lung disease and promote lung health and funds raised during the Trek Across Maine each year support laws protecting clean air, and asthma and COPD research, lung education, education, advocacy, and research to help prevent and treat lung-related afflictions.

What stands out the most to him is that he can ride 180 miles on a bicycle and still do at the age of 73 and that he has been able to raise over \$1,000 and most times more every year since he's started riding in the event.

"Over the 25 years I've raised over \$30,000 to help people breathe easier," Eastman said. "My wife has said she thinks I may be the oldest trekker someday...we will see. I do really enjoy it."

→ see TREK Page 15

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➔ **WRAE** *Cont. from page 1*

chapter of his future.

“As for advice to all those who are trying to pursue or already pursuing a high school diploma or thinking about it, I'd really like to try to persuade you to give it your all,” said Ostiguy. “Every little bit of effort is worth the result in the end, and you'll unlock so many doors by doing so. The reward really is worth the cost of commitment everyone puts in. To anyone reading this, know that it is never too late, and there is never going to be any judgement on when or how you accomplished your goals. The point comes down to the fact that you got it done, and that is all that will ever matter.”

Ostiguy is very grateful and thanks his mother, his father, the many therapists he had helping me out from Day One, Cathy Giuffre-Renaud of Windham/Raymond Adult Education, and the many people from Windham/Raymond Adult Education for allowing him to attend the program to achieve my goals.

“I really could not have done any of it if it weren't for the many people who have offered me support of any type, it really meant the world to me,” said Ostiguy. <

JMG supports over 4,000 students with Career Exploration Badge and \$2 million in awards

JMG has announced that more than 4,000 students have benefited from the Maine Career Exploration Badge, with over \$2 million directly placed into the hands of Maine students. This significant achievement is highlighted in Maine Gov. Janet Mills' refreshed 10-year Economic Development Strategy: The 2024 Reset, released in March 2024, underscoring JMG's vital role in shaping Maine's future workforce.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Maine Career Exploration Badge: This innovative program provides high school juniors and seniors with job-ready skills and meaningful work experiences. Students who complete the program are awarded the Maine Career Exploration Badge and a \$500 academic award.

Economic Impact: The initiative has directly placed over \$2 million into the hands of Maine students and their families, supporting their transition to post-secondary education and career pathways.

Program Overview: The Maine Career Exploration Badge represents a groundbreaking two-year initiative

that aligned with Maine's Economic Development Strategic Plan. JMG made a commitment to offer the Maine Career Exploration Badge to high school students enrolled in JMG, and also made a commitment to offer the opportunity to all high school juniors and seniors throughout the entire state. JMG focused on a collaborative effort among public schools, private employers, and mission-aligned state agencies and nonprofits to provide students, especially those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, with engaging learning opportunities through meaningful work experiences. This action-driven approach has significantly bolstered the emerging talent pipeline across various industries, connecting thousands of students to hundreds of businesses and funding paid work experiences.

Leadership and Vision: "Craig Larrabee's leadership philosophy, which emphasizes JMG's role as a bridge between education and employers, has been instrumental in the success of the Maine Career Exploration Badge," said Danielle Ahern, JMG Board Chair and the Senior Vice President, Director, Payments and Corporate Services at Bangor Savings Bank. "Craig's approach to public-private partnerships reinforces the importance of post-secondary and career readiness, blending

knowledge and competencies to prepare students for success beyond high school." Larrabee, the President and CEO of JMG, led a call to action among public schools, private employers, and other mission-aligned organizations to develop and launch the Maine Career Exploration Badge. His vision was to help students, especially those starting high school during the COVID-19 pandemic, regain and enhance hands-on learning opportunities through community engagement and work experience. This collaborative effort also embraced social and emotional learning support for students.

Employer Partnerships: Maine's largest employers, including Unum, MaineHealth, L.L.Bean, CMP, and Bath Iron Works, along with small business owners throughout the state, have dedicated over 20,000 volunteer hours to support students through this innovative workforce development initiative.

About JMG: JMG is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing Maine students with the skills and experiences needed for successful careers. Through partnerships with schools, employers, and communities, JMG offers comprehensive support to ensure students are prepared for post-secondary education and the workforce. <

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NEW!

The Town of Windham is seeking individuals to serve on two **NEW** Council-appointed committees.

The Windham Middle School Repurpose Advisory Committee has two (2) community member vacancies. This Committee will serve as an advisory body to the Town Council for the analysis of potential re-uses for the Windham Middle School's renovation design, documentation, construction and potential benefit as a Community Center. The Committee will provide a comprehensive recommendation to the Council for its consideration.

The North Windham Fire Station Repurpose Advisory Committee has two (2) community member vacancies. This Committee will serve as an advisory body to the Town Council for the analysis of potential re-use for the North Windham Fire Station's renovation design, documentation, construction and potential benefit as a North Windham Economic Incubator. The Committee will provide a comprehensive recommendation to the Council for its consideration.

We welcome online submissions via the committee application found at www.windhammaine.us/376/Committee-Vacancies. A printable PDF form is also available on this page. Please call our office at 892-1907 with questions.

APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED ONLINE OR IN THE TOWN MANAGER'S OFFICE UNTIL ALL POSITIONS ARE FILLED.

We expect the Town Council will begin making appointments at their meeting on July 9, 2024. Forms should be submitted to the Town Manager's Office at 8 School Road or by email to tahodgman@windhammaine.us.

Two WHS graduates earn Mainely Character Scholarships

Sophia Gugliuzza and Chloe Harmon, 2024 Windham High School graduates, have been awarded Mainely Character Scholarship for \$5,000.

Mainely Character Scholarships are presented annually to Maine high school seniors who demonstrate exemplary concern for others, responsibility, integrity, and courage. Gugliuzza and Harmon were selected for this honor from nearly 380 scholarship applicants statewide. Gugliuzza's scholarship is sponsored by Market Decisions in Portland while Harmon's scholarship is sponsored by Richard and Anne Cass.

Gugliuzza says that she was inspired to spread inclusivity by her grandmother, a special education teacher. Recognizing the social divide in the separation of classes between students with and without disabilities, Gugliuzza took it upon herself "to bridge the gap." She founded a Unified Sports Club at Windham High School and has fought tirelessly to expand its activities.

Unified Basketball pairs students with intellectual disabilities (Unified Student Athletes) with student partners (Unified Student Partners) without intellectual disabilities. Students make connections and work together. Coed training opportunities are a quick path to friendship and understanding.

Her commitment to champion equality and inclusion is demonstrated in her many different activities. She has volunteered at Camp Jab-

berwocky on Cape Cod for the last four summers. Jabberwocky is the oldest sleep away camp in the U.S. for students with disabilities. She showed her compassion when one of her campers had a psychotic episode, stepping in immediately, sitting with him and engaging him in comforting conversations.

As an active member of Windham High Schools Civil Rights club, Gugliuzza designed a mural honoring school shooting victims.

She also led a Spread the Word to End the Word campaign to end use of the R-word at her school. It was strategically scheduled to end on the same day as Unified Basketball Senior

Night. Before the game, she helped to set up a station at lunch where students could pledge to never use the R-word.

"The buzz around the event grew and resulted in the largest turnout for any Unified game in our school's history," Gugliuzza said.

The atmosphere was electric as students filled the stands, armed with posters they made to support their friends on the team. The joy and camaraderie that filled the gym that day, coupled with the overwhelming support from the entire school community, created an unforgettable experience.

For Gugliuzza, it became for her

the number one moment of high school and as she puts it, "a testament to the transformative power of unity, inclusion, and the positive impact we can make together when we stand together."

In the fall, Sophia will attend the University of Michigan, where she will continue to study social justice issues. She plans to become a civil rights attorney.

Harmon says that she decided to become a law enforcement officer after her beloved stepfather died by suicide in 2015. A lieutenant from the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department provided empathy and

→ see SCHOLARSHIPS Page 28

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AWARDS *Cont. from page 5*

Award. This is awarded to a student with high academic achievement who is involved in the school and community and demonstrates success and interest in the STEM (Science, Engineering, Technology and Math) field.

Lukas Hammond and Hannah Lee, Russell Sage College Student Sage Award. This award recognizes a student who makes school an exciting, creative, and engaging place of learning, possesses powerful communication skills, is actively involved in the community, and inspires others to develop and grow.

Levi Hayman and Tayla Pelletier, University of Southern Maine Book Award. This award is presented to a student who has demonstrated great determination and persistence in the accomplishment of goals in academics, leadership, community and/or extracurricular activities.

Brianne Johnsen, Elmira College Key Award. This honor is given to a student who demonstrates outstanding school and community leadership.

Zocia LaWind, Bowdoin Book Award. This award recognizes a junior who demonstrates extraordinary service to the common good, a commitment to the study of the environ-

ment and lives life with compassion and integrity.

Francesca Lomonte, Rochester Institute of Technology Women in STEM Award. This is presented to a female student with high academic achievement who is involved in the school and community and is pursuing a degree in STEM.

Ahlam Nure, University of Rochester Bausch and Lomb Honorary Science Award. This honor is awarded to a student with high achievement and rigor in science classes and who has made positive contributions to their school and community.

Molly Plati, University of Rochester George Eastman Young Leaders Award. This award is presented to a student with strong leadership experience at school and in the community, high grades and challenging courses, and extensive involvement in extracurricular activities.

Addison Profenno, Brandeis Book Award. This distinction recognizes a member of the junior class who demonstrates a commitment to civic engagement, community service, political activism, social justice, or volunteer work.

Talia Salazar, MECA Book Award. This award recognizes a student for outstanding visual artwork.



Windham High School's Ahlam Nure was the recipient of the University of Rochester Bausch and Lomb Honorary Science Award during the school's annual University Book Awards ceremony earlier this month. COURTESY PHOTO

Dakota Small, University of Rochester Fredrick Douglas Award. This honor is given to a student who has demonstrated commitment to understanding and addressing difficult social issues, leadership and dedication to community action, and academic strength in humanities and social sciences.

Bryce Smith, Rochester Institute of Technology Computing Award. This distinction recognizes a student with

high academic achievement who is involved in the school and community and demonstrates interest and ability in computing.

Sierra Sparrow, College of the Atlantic Book Award. This award is presented to an adventurous junior who is invested in creating positive change in the world and is engaged in their learning and their community.

Nathan Strout, Rochester Institute of Technology Humanities Award. This award is presented to a student with high academic achievement who is involved in the school and community and demonstrates an interest in humanities and social science.

Emily Talbot, Clarkson Achievement Award. This honor recognizes a student with an interest in Engineering, Business, Science, or Liberal Arts who demonstrates outstanding leadership qualities and is a positive contributor to the school and community.

Ava Wardwell, Endicott College Junior Book Award. This distinction honors a student who exhibits strong leadership skills inside and outside the classroom.

Riley Yates, Smith College Book Award. This award is given to a junior girl who is an example of scholarship and community service and exemplifies academic achievement, leadership qualities, and concern for others. <

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BRIEFS

Bean Supper

The Windham Veterans Association will offer a bean and chili supper starting at 5 p.m. Saturday, June 22 at the Winham Veterans Center. Along with beans and chili, there will be a variety of side dishes and beverages and a 50/50 raffle. The cost is \$10 and kids under 12 eat for free. FMI, call 207-892-1306.

Saturday Supper

The Casco Village Church United Church of Christ will host its June "Strawberry Shortcake" Saturday Night Supper from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Saturday, June 29 at 941 Meadow Road in Casco. Dinner includes: beans, casseroles, salads, rolls, beverages, and fresh strawberry shortcake. The cost is \$12 for adults and \$5 for children ages 8 and under. FMI, call 207-627-4282.

Vendors sought

The Casco Village Church, United Church of Christ at 941 Meadow Road in Casco will host its annual "Open Air Fair/Flea Market" from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, July 13. Vendor tables are \$25 and are 8 feet in length with space to walk around them. Call 207-627-4282 to reserve your spot or email Sue Ackroyd at sua21@msn.com. This year's event will feature vendors, a flea market, food booths, coffee and donuts, an auction board, a raffle calendar, and a flower sale.

Evening Book Group

The Raymond Book Club meets the last Tuesday of every month to discuss a chosen book at the Raymond Village Library, 3 Meadow Road. FMI, call 207-655-4283. Visit raymondvillagelibrary.org for other ongoing events

Thrift Shop

The North Windham Union Church UCC Thrift Shop at 723 Roosevelt Trail in Windham across from the fire station is open from 10 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Come shop and find bargains on sweaters, coats, jeans, pajamas, sheets, fleece fabric, household items, children's clothing, books, puzzles, and more.

Suicide Support

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

Meals on Wheels

The Meals on Wheels program provides up to five meals for homebound participants four days a week. No

deliveries are made on Wednesdays. Meals generally arrive between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. and are delivered whether frozen or preheated based upon request. Suggested donation of \$3.50 per meal. This service is provided by the Southern Maine Agency on Aging. Call 1-800-400-6325 FMI.

Windham Food Pantry

The Windham Food Pantry and General Assistance at 377 Gray Road in Windham is open by appt. only Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. by calling 207-892-1931 or for an appt. for General Assistance call 207-892-1906.

Legal Services

Legal Services for the Elderly is a nonprofit organization that offers free legal help for Maine residents ages 60 and over. Call LSE's Helpline at 1-800-750-5353.

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<p>Down Alternative Comforters All Sizes! \$19.99 Each</p> <p>Our Reg. to \$24.99</p>	<p>GIBSON Everyday Lobster Pot \$12.99 Each 16qt</p> <p>Our Reg. \$14.99</p>
<p>Hydrogen Peroxide 79¢ Each 16oz</p> <p>Our Reg. 99¢</p>	<p>Name Brand Bathroom Cleaners \$2.99 Each 17oz/24oz</p>

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Stars and Stripes forever



Windham Boy Scouts from Troop 805 assist American Legion Post 148 members in properly burning and destroying used and tattered American flags on Flag Day, June 14 at the Windham Veterans Center. The flag disposal followed a ceremony marking Flag Day held in the WVC courtyard. PHOTO BY DAVID TANGUAY

Gracie Gym puts Maine on the map



During competition at the Jiu-Jitsu World League on June 16, Gracie Gym Maine of Windham teams performed exceptionally well. Gracie Gym Maine's Elite Eight youth team secured first place out of 88 competing teams, showcasing their dedication, skill, and teamwork. The Gracie Gym Maine adult team was second overall among 129 teams. These accomplishments reflect the dedication and effort of everyone involved, from the athletes to the coaches and supporters. Shown is Philip Contois of Gracie Gym Maine, left, with referee celebrating the team placing second in the adult competition at the Jiu-Jitsu World League in Worcester, Massachusetts. SUBMITTED PHOTO

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Bureau of Insurance approves multi-million reduction in Workers' Compensation rates

The Maine Bureau of Insurance has approved a 15.7 percent average rate reduction in workers' compensation insurance premiums for the Maine Employers' Mutual Insurance Company (MEMIC), the largest workers' compensation carrier in the state. The rate reduction will save Maine employers by more than an estimated \$31 million in workers' compensation costs. The adjusted rates will become effective upon the renewal of policies over the next year.

Robert L. Carey, Superintendent of Insurance said that the Bureau's property and casualty division worked with MEMIC staff to bring real savings to Maine employers.

"MEMIC's initial rate request would have lowered average rates by 13%; but by scrutinizing the numbers and cutting MEMIC's profit margin, the Bureau approved a more significant average rate reduction of 15.7 percent," Carey said. "The further rate reduction will mean an additional \$5 million in savings for Maine businesses, which they can use to invest in Maine people and Maine businesses."

According to Carey, MEMIC is the largest workers' compensation insurer in the state, providing coverage



to over 17,500 employers. When it opened in January 1993, MEMIC was one of four companies licensed to sell workers' compensation insurance in Maine, with the other three poised to exit the state altogether. Injury rates at Maine companies were high, and workers' compensation costs were the nation's highest.

In response, the Maine Legislature passed a landmark workers' compensation reform law, signed by then-Gov. John R. McKernan Jr., creating a private mutual company governed by policyholders. Despite its public purpose, MEMIC received no funds nor guarantees from the State of Maine.

What would become known as "a Maine Miracle" in local media, MEMIC was, and remains, a key force in delivering on the 1993 reforms, with a proven structure that unleashed a vibrant workers' compensation insurance market by ensuring that there was coverage available for all Maine employers.

The new average rates differ across different industries. The vast majority of Maine employees insured by MEMIC will see rate decreases, but there are some businesses that will see increases.

"MEMIC continues to be a success

story that delivers on its mission of workplace safety, fair treatment of all workers, and a strong Maine economy," Carey said. "In addition to lower premiums, MEMIC has consistently delivered multi-million-dollar dividends to its member companies."

The Bureau of Insurance is one of five agencies within the Maine Department of Professional and Financial Regulation (www.maine.gov/pfr). Consumers with questions about insurance matters can obtain information and assistance from the Maine Bureau of Insurance by visiting www.maine.gov/insurance, calling 1-800-300-5000 (TTY call Maine Relay 711), or emailing Insurance.PFR@maine.gov.

TREK *Cont. from page 9*

He rode in this year's Trek Across Maine on a Trek 1000C bicycle.

"As long as one doesn't have too many flat tires it's not too hard. I didn't have any this year," he said. "I try to do most of my own maintenance, but I do take it to a shop once a year before the Trek and have it inspected which is required by the American Lung Association before I ride, and at that time if there is anything that needs work I have them do it."

From riding for 25 years every year in the Trek Across Maine, Eastman has also learned something he never knew previously about himself.

"I've learned that if you set your goals and your mind to it and work for them one can do anything," he said. "I never thought I could ride a bicycle 10 miles let alone 180 over three days or raise as much money as I have." <

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4th OF JULY TRASH PICK UP WILL BE AVAILABLE!

This year, the 4th of July holiday falls on a Thursday and Casella WILL be running the normal trash route that day. Please have your trash & recycling curbside by 7am.

* You will not need to hold trash until the following week.



Raymond Town Office

EFFECTIVE July 1st, 2024, office hours will be adjusted to:



**Tuesday: 8am-6pm
Wednesday thru Friday: 8am-4pm
Saturday - Monday: CLOSED**

This adjustment is being made to better serve our residents and improve operational efficiency. After careful consideration, it was determined that closing an hour earlier on Tuesday evenings & opening at 8a.m. instead of 8:30a.m. will enhance our customer experience. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and assure you that we remain committed to providing you with the highest quality service.

Should you have any questions or require further clarification on this change, please do not hesitate to contact us.

CONSTRUCTION NOTICE!

The project is being managed by Maine Inland Fish and Wildlife.

The Mill Street Dam Rebuild Project has started and is expected to run through September 1st, 2024. Mill Street will remain open for traffic, but the road may frequently be down to one lane. Find an alternate route if you can to avoid delays.



A big THANK YOU to Lisa & Jordan Magiera for providing Swim Lessons to our Community for so many years!

They have decided to move into a different structure and offer swimming lessons that are in a private setting. Here is the info. if you are interested!



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- Call Lisa 207-240-7163



ANNUAL LAKE ASSOCIATION MEETINGS this Saturday June 22nd

THOMAS POND IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION – 9AM

AT RAYMOND PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
For more information visit thomaspond.org

RAYMOND WATERWAYS PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION – 9:30AM

AT THE HAWTHORNE HOUSE
Visit raymondwaterways.org for more information

It is the responsibility of all waterfront landowners to work together to improve water quality and foster watershed stewardship.

Visit the association websites for educational information regarding ways to help keep our ponds and lakes safe and to get involved or donate towards Raymond lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams!

Announcements from Raymond Code Enforcement CODE OFFICER BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

The Raymond Code Enforcement Office is currently down to just one Code Officer. We are in the process of trying to fill the vacant position and are working as hard as we can to keep up with permit and inspection requests.

This is the busy season for Code Enforcement so please be advised that approval times and appointment request times are delayed. Please have patience & understanding on this matter. Please use kindness when working with our staff!!

THINGS TO NOTE:

- ▶ Electrical and plumbing permits can be issued immediately. No appointment is necessary.
- ▶ You do not need an appointment to come into the office to review a building file.
- ▶ Electrical permits ARE required.
- ▶ If the Code Officer is in the building, it does not necessarily mean he has time for questions, please make an appointment. We are operating on a limited schedule

OFFICE HOURS

Monday: Closed • Tuesday: 8:30am – 7:00pm
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: 8:30am – 4:00pm



Raymond Schools PTO

We would like to wish all of the staff & students of Raymond Schools a terrific summer & extend a big

Thank You

FOR ALL OF YOUR SUPPORT THIS YEAR!

We can't wait to welcome you back in the fall.

Raymond Schools PTO is a registered 501(c)3 organization. Visit our website for opportunities to stay up-to-date with our volunteer opportunities events & fundraisers at: www.raymondschoolspto.org

ROADRUNNER

JUNE 2023 NEWSLETTER



PLEASE REGISTER FOR ALL PROGRAMS AT Raymond.recdesk.com

OUTDOOR PICKLEBALL



held at Sheri Gagnon Memorial Park (63 Mill Street)

ADULT PLAYERS ONLY; 25+ YEARS OF AGE

- **Mondays 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. ~ Intermediate/Advanced**
(Experienced players with the ability to play at least the first 4 strokes consistently)
- **Tuesdays 6:00 – 8:00 p.m ~ Beginner/Intermediate**
(Understands the game and the rules and has had some limited playtime)
- **Wednesdays 6:00 – 8:00 p.m ~ Intermediate/Advanced**
(Experienced players with the ability to play at least the first 4 strokes consistently)

NOTE: All players must sign in to the TeamReach App.
(Directions are presented during the registration process)

All players must be registered at Raymond Parks and Rec website
All nights will be limited to 15 players maximum.
Walk ons are only allowed up to the Maximum number of players.
There are no sessions for first time players during the summer – These will resume in the fall.

OUTDOOR PICKUP BASKETBALL

held at Sheri Gagnon Memorial Park (63 Mill Street)



FOR ADULTS 25+:

- **Thursday evenings 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**
Basketball will run from June 6th – September 12th



Ever wonder about the history of Tassel Top Park or how it named?

Karen Alden, Operations Manager of Tassel Top Park, researched and put together information on the history!

Check it out at:
www.tasstoppark.com/park-history

Thank you, Karen, for all the work you did on this!

The cutest Barred Owl hanging out in a tree at Tassel Top Park. Is he looking for the sun or perhaps his next meal?!?



Photo credit: Raymond Parks & Rec

SEASON MEMBERSHIP PARK PASSES

Go to: raymond.recdesk.com & click on the "Membership" button and follow directions on creating an account.

For Season Pass Members check in with the Park Attendant. They'll ask for your Driver's License & check you in with our Rec Management Software. We now allow up to 7 people/guests in your car with a season pass before charging the Daily Rate!

If you are adding a family member to your account for your household season pass they must share the same address on their Driver's License. We'll be checking the Driver's License with the primary account holder's address.

For hours of operation and weather closures.

Like & follow us at: www.facebook.com/TasselTopPark.

PLEASE NOTE: We are limiting the number of cars we allow into the park. If you are concerned about space please call ahead at (207) 655-4675 and our Park Attendant will let you know how many spots are available.

PROGRAMS



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Open Mon, Wed & Fri 9am-6pm;
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Adult Programs - Ideas Welcome!

The Raymond Village Library is committed to providing opportunities for people of all ages to promote individual and community growth. We are always interested in your ideas! If you have something to share or would like to offer a program, please contact us at any time

Adult (and Teen!) Summer Reading

For six weeks this summer, we will be giving away gift cards to lucky readers throughout the community! Registration begins on July 2nd and the first week of raffle tickets will begin on July 9th.

HOW IT WORKS

- Read (at least) one book each week.
- Come into the library each week to get a stamp and a raffle ticket (maximum one per person per week).
- Be entered to win weekly prizes. We will be drawing a weekly prize every Tuesday morning for the following week's entries.
- Every weekly raffle ticket gets entered for the grand prize.

WEEKLY PRIZES: **\$10 gift cards to businesses around town (Beacon Pizza, A La Mexicana, Southpaw Meat Market, Village Donut, The Mosquito).** Teen prizes will be \$10 to The Mosquito every week!

GRAND PRIZE: **\$50 to Good Life Market!**
Teen Grand Prize is \$50 to Beacon Pizza!

Technology Assistance

SATURDAYS FROM 10A.M. TO NOON.

Partnering with the Bridgton Public Library you can now sign up for one-on-one basic technology assistance! Additionally, if you're interested you can receive help in signing up for the Affordable Connectivity Program or tech classes through the National Digital Equity Center. **Registration is required 655-4283**

Bridge Club

Tuesdays from 9a.m. to noon the RVL Bridge club meets for some games of bridge! Want to learn how to play? One of our members would be happy to teach you.
OPEN TO ALL!

Evening Book Group

The Raymond Book Club meets the last Tuesday of the month to discuss a chosen book.
Contact us at 655-4283 for more information!

Baby Storytime! Thursdays at 10:30am

Join us for songs, stories, lap bounces, and more!
OPEN TO ALL AGES BUT BEST FOR AGES 0-24 MONTHS

Preschool Storytime Wednesdays at 10:30am

Join us for stories, songs, and crafts! BEST FOR AGES 2-5

Drop-in Table Activities

A variety of art, crafts, Legos & block building stations are available in the children's room throughout the week.

Patron Passes

Passes are available to the Maine Wildlife Park, the Maine Children's Museum and Theatre, the Southworth Planetarium and Maine State Park Pass. **These passes offer either discounted or free admission.** Contact the circulation desk for more info about available passes!

For more information on any of the listed programs, please contact RVL: 207-655-4283 • rvldirector@gmail.com



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Cryin' Out Loud band to perform at Windham Summerfest

By Kendra Raymond

STAFF WRITER

With the countdown to Windham Summerfest well underway, festival fans are starting to make plans to join the festivities. Whether you're looking for some great eats, parade excitement, crafting exhibits, field day activities, or live music – there is something for everyone.

This year, the Summerfest theme is, "Summerfest Turns Back Time." What better way to "turn back time" than to listen to some great tunes from the well-known group Cryin' Out Loud? Typically known as a blues band, COL performs well-known songs from the 1960s to the present day. This band packs a punch; In addition to popular tunes, the band also plays a variety of original music.

Band member Jim Fratini says that the current iteration of the band has been together for about two years. Last year the band found themselves opening for the Grammy-winning guitarist and producer Paul Nelson, who took on the job of producing their first Album "Play Loud and Smoke Often." Paul passed away earlier this year.

The band consists of Brandon Stalard on guitar and vocals from Lamaine, Ben Chute on guitar from Damariscotta, Jim Fratini on bass and vocals from Winterport, and Bob Evans on drums from Bangor.

"As a veteran musician of the Bangor music scene, I have had the opportunity to play with some of the greatest musicians in Maine," said Fratini. "There is nothing like being part of a



The Cryin' Out Loud band is typically known for playing blues but at Windham Summerfest, they will perform well-known songs from the 1960s to the present day and a lot of original music. SUBMITTED PHOTO

group of musicians that are bringing their talents to a stage and having people enjoy what they are presenting."

A middle-school science teacher by day, Fratini incorporates fun musical elements into his classroom. Students enjoy learning through his laid-back attitude and interesting connections. A veteran student recalls Mr. Fratini's class fondly by saying "A lot of teachers don't realize the importance of arts and personal connection to learning. Mr. Fratini's classroom was always a space to have fun and learn in a relaxed and productive environment."

Fratini has been heavily involved in the Maine Invention Convention, a competition created to promote creativity, forward thinking, and confidence in middle school-aged students.

Former student and Invention Convention winner Nolan Raymond says

that Fratini's class was special.

"Mr. Fratini always incorporated creativity and music into his class. By encouraging kids to think outside the box, we were able to tap into the more nuanced ways of looking at things."

Fratini shared the exciting news that Pilot Light Records has announced that its blues-rock artist Cryin' Out Loud has broken the Top 10 of Roots Music Report (Blues Radio Chart) on their recent album "Play Loud and Smoke Often." The album was produced by the late Paul Nelson, Grammy Award winning

guitarist of Johnny Winter."

Fratini said that the Cryin' Out Loud CD is now available on all music platforms. Produced by Nelson and recorded in Bangor, their debut release is highly anticipated and inspired by the likes of The Band, The Allman Brothers Band, Little Feat, and of course all the blues greats. There is something for everyone on this album and it's full of brand-new originals and features guest appearances from Erik Lawrence, Paul Nelson of the Paul Nelson Band, and Ana Popovic's renowned keyboardist, Brooks Milgat.

"Maine truly has an outstanding musical community and supportive venues that support live music," said Fratini.

COL is set to hit the main stage at Summerfest from 4 to 6 p.m. Saturday at Windham High School.

FMI about Windham Summerfest, visit www.windhamsummerfest.com

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Strawberry picking: A cherished family tradition for many

Strawberry picking in Maine is more than just an agricultural activity; it's a beloved tradition. Generations of families have participated in this summertime ritual, making it an integral part of Maine's cultural fabric. The activity provides an opportunity to reconnect with nature, appreciate the hard work of local farmers, and enjoy the simple pleasures of rural life.

Tips for a Successful Picking Day

To make the most of your strawberry picking adventure, consider these tips:

- **Timing is Everything:** Arrive early in the day to get the best berries. Strawberries are usually at their peak in the morning, and fields can get picked over by afternoon.
- **Dress Appropriately:** Wear comfortable clothing and shoes suitable for walking in fields. A hat and sunscreen are also recommended to protect against the sun.

- **Stay hydrated:** Strawberry picking in the hot summer sun can dry you out quickly. Be sure to carry water with you especially for the safety of the young pickers.

- **Bring Containers:** While most farms provide containers, bringing your own can be helpful, especially if you plan to pick a large quantity.

- **Pick with Care:** Gently twist the berry to avoid damaging the plant. Choose fully red berries for the best flavor. Also be careful to step between rows so you don't squish the berries.

The Joy of Fresh Strawberries

One of the main draws of picking strawberries in Maine is the unparalleled freshness. Unlike store-bought berries, which are often picked before they are fully ripe and can lack flavor, farm-fresh strawberries are harvested at their peak. This freshness translates into a superior taste experience,

whether you're eating them straight from the field, adding them to a summer salad, or incorporating them into homemade jams and desserts.

Community and Connection

Strawberry picking also fosters a sense of community. Fields often become gathering places where people share stories, recipes, and the simple pleasure of working together in nature. This communal aspect is especially important in today's fast-paced world, providing a respite and a chance to slow down, be outdoors and reconnect with loved ones.

Preserving the Harvest

The strawberry season in Maine is short but sweet, making it all the more important to preserve the bounty. Many families engage in making jams, jellies, and preserves, extending the enjoyment of their harvest well

into the year. Freezing strawberries is another popular method, allowing the flavors of summer to be enjoyed even in the depths of winter. <

EASY STRAWBERRY JAM RECIPE

Ingredients: 2 cups fresh strawberries
1 cup granulated sugar & 1 tbl. lemon juice

Instructions:

Wash, hull, and mash the strawberries until you have 2 cups of mashed berries.

In a medium saucepan, combine the mashed strawberries, sugar, and lemon juice.

Bring the mixture to a boil over medium-high heat, stirring frequently. Once it reaches a boil, reduce the heat to medium-low and simmer. Continue to cook, stirring occasionally, until the mixture thickens. This usually takes about 20-25 minutes.


To check if the jam is ready, place a small spoonful on a chilled plate and run your finger through it. If it wrinkles and doesn't run back together, it's done.

Remove from heat and let it cool slightly. Pour the jam into sterilized jars and let it cool to room temperature. Seal the jars and store in the refrigerator.

Enjoy!



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The Town of Windham is seeking individuals to serve on several Council-appointed committees.

- Assessment Review Board (2)
- Energy Advisory Committee (4)
- Human Services Advisory Committee (2)
- Long Range Planning Committee (3)
- Natural Resources Advisory Committee (1)
- North Windham Fire Station Repurpose Advisory Committee (2)
- Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee (1)
- Summerfest Committee (3)
- Windham Middle School Repurpose Advisory Committee (2)
- Zoning Board of Appeals, alternate seat (1)

We welcome online submissions via the committee application found at www.windhammaine.us/376/Committee-Vacancies.

A printable PDF form is also available on this page.
Please call our office at 892-1907 with questions.

APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED ONLINE OR IN THE TOWN MANAGER'S OFFICE UNTIL ALL POSITIONS ARE FILLED.

Forms should be submitted to the Town Manager's Office at 8 School Road or by email to tahodgman@windhammaine.us.

TOWN OF WINDHAM, MAINE
PLANNING BOARD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Monday, June 24, 2024 • 6:30 PM
Town Hall, Council Chambers, 8 School Road

These public hearings were postponed from the June 10, 2024 meeting.

- 23-34 Natural Wonders Daycare
Tax Map: 43, Lot: 30 A-2 – Pope Road.
Site plan review for a childcare facility.
- 24-05 Donnabeth Lippman Park Expansion & Stormwater Management Improvements
Tax Map: 18, Lots: 19A, 20 – Plaza Drive.
Amendments to stormwater management and for additional future development.
- 24-18 Astral Village Subdivision (formerly 11-Unit Residential Development)
Tax Map: 18-A, Lot: 48-1 – Tandberg Trail.
Subdivision and site plan review for a two building residential development with associated infrastructure.

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.

Maine expands new high-speed electric vehicle charging

Maine Gov. Janet Mills has announced that 17 new high-speed electric vehicle charging stations will open in Maine over the next year as part of the state's commitment to build an accessible and reliable network of EV chargers for residents and visitors.

The new charging sites, which will feature 52 new chargers, have been selected with the goal of expanding the charging network to serve travelers on heavily traveled highways and roads, such as Interstate 95 (I-95), U.S. Route 2, U.S. Route 302, areas of Portland and Bangor, and supporting outdoor recreation and university communities. The high-speed EV chargers will be installed in the coming year.

One of the 17 sites selected for these new high-speed EV chargers is Shaw's Plaza on Roosevelt Trail in North Windham.

Of the 17 new locations, the nine sites funded through the Federal NEVI program (in Bangor, Bridgton, Hermon, Newport, Portland, Rumford, and Windham) will offer at least four chargers, per requirement of the program. The other eight sites will have two chargers at each location, bringing the total of new chargers to 52.

"Since opening its first NEVI funded station in April, Maine has been accelerating progress on EV charging, giving more people the choice to ride or drive electric," said Gabe Klein, Executive Director of the Joint Office of Energy and Transportation. "By using different funding sources to support EV charging infrastructure, Maine

demonstrates creativity and flexibility in continuing to build out the national charging network."

The total investment in the charging infrastructure is nearly \$8.6 million. Funding for the charging includes \$5.7 million from National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Program, an initiative of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and \$2.8 million through the Governor's Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan, and settlement funds from the New England Clean Energy Connect project.

Selection of sites were made through the State's Recharge Maine initiative, a partnership among the Maine Department of Transportation, Efficiency Maine, the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future, the Governor's Energy Office, and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

"Drivers across Maine and the nation are increasingly choosing electric vehicles because they are safe, reliable, and better for our environment," Mills said. "This means that Maine must have a robust charging infrastructure to help ensure that you can get there from here. These investments from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and my Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan will further expand access to high-speed chargers across the state, making long-distance travel more reliable for commuters and visitors alike."

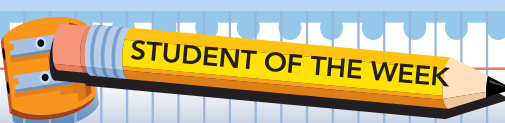
Currently, a total of 830 Level 2 community ports at 409 locations and 241 DCFC high-speed charging ports

at 88 locations are publicly available in Maine.

Over the next several years, Maine will receive an additional \$12 million from the NEVI Formula program and \$15 million from the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant Program (CFI). With these funds, the Recharge Maine initiative intends to establish DC fast charging every 50 miles or less along Maine's major corridors, in ur-


ban areas, and in rural service centers. These charges will be required to be physically accessible to the public any time of day and year-round and must also remain in proper working condition more than 97 percent of the time.

For more about Maine's commitment to expand EV charging in Maine, and an updated dashboard of EVs in Maine, please visit the Recharge Maine website at maine.gov/rechargemaine




STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Brody Blodget



Grade: 2 **School:** Windham Primary School
Teacher: Miss Cambridge
Favorite subject(s) in school: Math because it is the most of what you learn at school.
Parents' names: Sasha and Mitchell Blodget
Reason for selection: Brody has been an integral member of our classroom community this year by making sure everyone in our class feels welcome and included. He is respectful to peers and adults and can greet most by name. I know I can count on him to work with anyone who needs a partner or a friend and make them laugh in the process.

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Eagle SPORTS



'Driven to Win' documentary film perfectly encapsulates WHS boys' basketball's state championship season

By Matt Pascarella
STAFF WRITER

2022 Windham graduate Cole Washburn was with the 2023-2024 Windham varsity boys' basketball team through much of their journey to become the first-ever Windham team to win a state championship. Washburn captured many of those key moments and coupled with interviews, created "Driven to Win," a documentary that was shown at Windham High School on Friday, June 14. The team also received their championship rings on that night.

"It brought me right back to the moments; it was really special," said Windham senior Erik Bowen. "Cole knocked it out of the park he did such an amazing job capturing really the whole season, the championship games and the final celebration. It gives me goosebumps again, just seeing it all makes me miss basketball season. The time has already gone fast from when we won. A bunch of us out there were tearing up in the crowd, it just shows how special this team really is."

When Washburn was a sophomore at Windham High School, he was planning to play lacrosse in the spring of 2020, but COVID-19 cancelled that season. So, Washburn picked up the camera and started taking photos and making videos; it grew into something he loved doing and didn't feel like work.

Washburn had always followed the basketball team and was home for winter break from Thomas College where he is majoring in entrepreneurship. He saw the team was on a bit of a run and showed up to a few games. He used his



The Windham varsity boys' basketball 2023-2024 state championship team display their rings after the showing of their documentary 'Driven to Win' created by Windham graduate Cole Washburn on Friday, June 14 at Windham High School. From left are assistant coach Geoff Grigsby, Erik Bowen, Tyrie James, Matt Searway, AJ Moody, Braycen Freese, manager Paolo Ventura, Joseph Blige, Conor Janvrin, head coach Chad Pulkkinen, Blake McPherson, Grant Coppi, Quinton Lindsay, Noah Mains, assistant coaches Noah Estey and George McCrillis. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

footage to put up clips online. He followed them through the playoffs and once they became Windham's first-ever basketball state champions, it was obvious to Washburn he could make a documentary and tell a really cool story about the team and their season.

"It means a lot," said Windham senior Quinton Lindsay. "I'm glad people came out to support us one last time. All these guys are like brothers to me; the coaches, we're all just one big family and I'll never forget this season. I hope I can see all these people next year at the games, it's going to be amazing."

For many players, their season is anything but a distant memory.

According to Windham senior Matt

Searway, it felt good for him to be reunited with the team again and to have the community's support made it feel like the season all over again. Searway says he would do anything to relive that season and he considers it the best few months of his life.

Although it was a lot of work, it was fun for Washburn to make and he'd definitely do it again. There was a very special moment in the documentary when the team celebrated with Windham parent Pat Moody as he rang a bell indicating he was officially cancer-free. It was met with a roar of applause from the crowd.

"This past year was a whirlwind of emotions and I had to look away from the screen to keep my composure during the premiere viewing when the documentary featured the team rallying around me," said Moody. "Being fueled by love, maintaining a positive mindset and grinding to win can get you through adversity on the court, or in my case, battling cancer. I couldn't be more proud of AJ and his teammates, the coaches and the way this community rallied around the team and my family. A year of gratitude and achievements beyond my dreams."

Windham varsity basketball coach

Chad Pulkkinen says he will use this past season as a blueprint for upcoming seasons. He's already begun practices for the summer season and had a larger-than-usual turnout.

"I was watching all Cole's videos, the highlights that he put online and smiled every single time," said Pulkkinen. "It meant a lot; it was incredible to see the community continue to support and celebrate something so special."

A new season brings new challenges and new opportunities and just like this team left their mark, it's time for another group to write their story.

"It was so much fun going to the games; it was crazy," said Washburn. "How good the team was and how much fun they were to film; to sit there courtside and film a team this good at a place where I went to school for four years was awesome to see and I'm glad I got to document it."

This documentary is now available for viewing on YouTube. <

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Jake Lord

Age: 18 Team: WHS varsity boys' lacrosse

Coach: Peter Small

Parents' names: Andrew Lord, Stephanie Angelides

Reason for selection: Jake is the happiest guy every single day. He loves to come to practice, and he loves the guys that are around him. He lifts everybody up and he works his tail off; he's the vocal leader when the team does its stretching, and he took that on himself.

Everyone respects this kid, he strings everyone's sticks, he buys the team stickers for helmets, he makes sure all the incoming freshmen are taken care of with gear. He's the heart and soul behind the scenes and he works his tail off every single day. He's motivated to do well and he's someone who has a lot of assists from a lot of our guys up back.

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Windham varsity boys' basketball coach Chad Pulkkinen says a few words about the season before the showing of 'Driven to Win' created by WHS alumni Cole Washburn. The film can be viewed now on YouTube.

Windham High School graduate Ammons accepts lacrosse scholarship to play for Saint Joseph's College

By Matt Pascarella
STAFF WRITER

2024 Windham graduate Emma Ammons signed a letter of intent to attend Saint Joseph's College and major in nursing while also playing for their lacrosse team on Wednesday, June 5.

Ammons said that she was a little nervous but feels good about herself and has a real feeling of accomplishment to be able to reach this achievement. She would like to use her degree after college to become an injection nurse and do Botox and aesthetic nursing.

"Emma's done a lot of things to make herself better," said Windham varsity girls' lacrosse coach Matt Perkins. "She's a great citizen, she sets a great example in the school, academically, how she carries herself on and off the field, she works her tail off. There were times last winter, and she's in my classroom doing wall-ball; doing the extra things to be the best she can be, I'm always impressed by that. You look at us and you look at our ride and it's a major part of what we do with our attack. She has bought in these last two years and just been a major piece of that, whether it's on the goalie, chasing down the field, gives everything she has and is a great example of how many kids we have that work hard. I'm really excited for you, I think you're just going to keep getting better and better because of your work ethic - can't wait to see what you do in college; really proud and very, very fortunate to have coached you for four years."

Ammons first became interested in



(L to R) Windham senior Emma Ammons, middle, joins Windham seniors and teammates Mallory Muse (left), Ella Lombard, Macie Ennis, Marlie Ennis, Casey O'Connell and Abby Morneault after signing a letter of intent at Windham High School on Wednesday, June 5 to attend Saint Joseph's College of Maine and play lacrosse for the school. Emma Ammons, left, and her mother, April after the official signing. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

the game through her family and has been playing lacrosse for eight years. It was her middle school coach, Taylor Colangelo, who encouraged her to stick with it.

According to Ammons, it took a lot of support from family, the community coaches and friends to help her get to where she is today.

"Emma's one of my best friends and she's just one of the most supportive teammates I've ever had," said Windham senior Mallory Muse. "She's always worried about the team. I'm really proud of her for committing, and she's worked so hard for it and is so deserving out of everyone I know. She does a great job on the ride, she's always stopping and getting the best checks from behind and has the

best crease roll, catches it shoots it every time. She'll bring her skill and positivity to Saint Joseph's College."

Ammons said she chose Saint Joseph's College because she really loved the school and she loved that it was close to her hometown. When she visited the campus, it felt right to her. The Saint Joseph's College women's lacrosse coach, David Keenan, made her feel welcome and like she was already a part of the team. Ammons was impressed by the girls on the team and the community Keenan is building up.

"At WHS I learned the importance of teamwork along with valuable lessons in time management and discipline," said Ammons. "I will miss having the opportunity to wear the

Windham uniform and play alongside my friends. I will miss the bonds formed with my teammates, coaches, and mentors. At Saint Joseph's College I look forward to bringing my passion for the game, sportsmanship, and my drive to improve."

Her advice to anyone who wants to get the opportunity to accomplish what she has is it's ok to be nervous and if you really want to achieve it, go for it. Even if you're having a hard time with school or sports, you do not have to be a top-ranked athlete to play collegiately.

She would like to thank her friends and family, Coach Perkins, Coach Ludka, Coach Babb, Coach Colangelo and Coach Keenan for helping her reach this point in her career. <

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A good oh-for-three

► **By Andy Young**
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE



-Andy Young, Columnist

My baseball career was modest at best. After warming the bench at ages 9 and 10, I played regularly during my last two Little League campaigns, making the all-star team in my final season. Three years of Babe Ruth League ball followed, with similar results. I was named an all-star at age 15, but only because every team needed a representative, and I was judged by the selection committee to be the least incompetent player on the league's last-place squad. I may have had a couple of two-hit games along the way, but once pitchers began throwing curveballs on purpose, I experienced a lot of oh-for-threes.

Baseball is America's traditional summer game, and that's relevant because on days within a week of the solstice I can leave home on a bicycle at 7:30 p.m. for a grocery store that's

four miles away, pick up bananas and a half-gallon of milk, and pedal home with daylight to spare. And that's important, since my bike is a Wrigley Field model. Which, as old-time baseball fans inherently understand, means it has no lights.

Virtually everyone around here knows how late darkness arrives during June's last week, but relatively few are up when the sun first peeks over the horizon in the morning. But those of us who leave for work early in the a.m. know, the unaccustomed early morning glimmer changes a few things about our daily commute.

The biggest difference involves some of our fellow mammals, specifically the ones that live outdoors. Their existence is more directly impacted by the early daylight than the lives of those of us who live and work inside enclosed structures. Normally timid animals are more brazen about crossing the road this time of year, since they aren't discouraged or intimidated by oncoming headlights.

Which brings me to a recent inci-



dent. It was 5 a.m. and I was no more than two miles into my ride to work when, 50 or so yards ahead of me, a large deer suddenly emerged from the bushes on the road's right side, ambled onto the pavement, straddled the yellow lines in the middle of the street, then paused to casually observe its surroundings. Fortunately, I was driving the speed limit (which rarely bothers anyone at that hour), so I had sufficient time to slow down and allow the animal to glance my way, shrug, and then canter off to continue its day.

I would have liked to exhale at that point, but not a half-mile later a squir-

rel scurried out of the underbrush to my left and sprinted across the road no more than 10 yards ahead of me. There was no time to stop, but the bushy-tailed rodent timed its dash well, because there was no thump, and a split-second later I saw him disappear into the weeds to my right.

I didn't have time to pat myself on the back, though. No more than a minute later, I was picking up speed on a straight-away when I detected

more motion. It was a turkey that, like the squirrel, was attempting to cross the road from left to right. And even though the confused fowl's gait resembled a knuckleball's path (as opposed to the squirrel's straight fastball), avoiding him was a breeze, as I had seen him and was able to decelerate with more than enough time to spare.

Within a five-minute, three-mile span three animals had darted onto the road without warning, and I didn't so much as foul tip any of them.

Going hitless isn't always a bad thing. I'm still grateful for last week's oh-for-three! <



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Eagle REAL ESTATE & Home

Is home staging worth the money?

► **By Theresa Bouchard**
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE



— Theresa Bouchard
TS Staging & Design

Home staging, the process of preparing a home for sale to make it more appealing to potential buyers, can significantly impact the return on investment (ROI) for homeowners. Here's a detailed look at how home staging can affect ROI:

Benefits of Home Staging

- 1. Faster Sales:**
 - **Reduced Time on Market:** Staged homes often sell faster than unstaged homes. According to the National Association of Realtors (NAR), staged homes typically sell 73% faster.
 - **Buyer Appeal:** A well-staged home helps potential buyers visualize themselves living in the space, making the property more attractive.
- 2. Higher Sale Price:**
 - **Increased Offers:** Staging can lead to higher offers. Studies show that staged homes can sell for 1% to 5% more than similar unstaged homes.
 - **Perceived Value:** Staging highlights the home's strengths and minimizes its weaknesses, often leading buyers to perceive it as more valuable.

Costs of Home Staging

- **Professional Fees:** Hiring a professional stager can cost anywhere from \$2000 to \$5,000 or more, depending on the size of the home, the

extent of staging required, and the market.

Calculating ROI

To calculate the ROI of home staging, use the following formula:

$$\text{ROI} = (\text{Increased Sale Price} - \text{Staging Costs}) \div \text{Staging Costs} \times 100$$

Example Calculation

1. Scenario: A homeowner spends \$3,500 on staging.
2. Initial Listing Price of Home: \$450,000
3. Sold for \$20,000 over Asking: \$470,000

$$\text{ROI} = (\$470,000 - \$450,000) \div \$3,500 \times 100 = 471$$

In this example, the staged home listing price was \$450,000 but sold at \$470,000; a \$20,000 over asking sale. With an investment of \$3500 to stage this home, the ROI would be 471 percent.

Factors Influencing ROI

- 1. Market Conditions:** In a seller's market, staging might have a more significant impact due to higher competition among buyers.
- 2. Quality of Staging:** Professional and high-quality staging can result in a better ROI compared to amateur or poorly executed staging.
- 3. Home Condition:** Homes that need minor cosmetic updates can benefit more from staging than homes in need of major repairs.

TS Staging and Design has been staging homes for 3 ½ years and have



PHOTO COURTESY OF TS STAGING AND DESIGN

found that many homeowners and realtors are experiencing the benefits of home staging. Here are just a few testimonials from our clients:

"Our home was staged and listed within a two-day period. Once active, we had an offer in hand and many compliments on the staging that was carried out. I know this investment made a huge difference in the sale of our home as we received offers over our initial asking price."

"The staging at the house was spectacular and the buyer wanted to not only buy the house, but all the staging furniture too!"

"TS Staging and Design staged a vacant listing, and they blew it out of the park! Everyone wanted to buy the house fully furnished! It ended up selling with multiple offers and \$56,000 over asking price! The staging made all the difference, and I can't thank them enough!"

In summary home staging generally offers a high return on investment by reducing the time a home stays on the market and potentially increasing the sale price. While the upfront costs can vary, the benefits often outweigh these costs, resulting in a substantial ROI for homeowners.

This article was brought to you by Theresa Bouchard of TS Staging and Design. Don't leave money on the table! Reach out to them for your staging needs at 207-400-9393. Check out their work and more info on Facebook, Instagram or at www.tsstaginganddesign.com. They are a 7x award winning professional home staging company that provides superior customer service and beautiful designs that attract buyers to your home! <

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THE WINDHAM EAGLE'S

Cooking Corner

Strawberry Rhubarb Crisp

Entertaining comes easy when the weather is pleasant. Many people welcome the chance to host in warm weather, and with hosting comes the need to provide tasty foods and refreshing beverages. Strawberry Rhubarb Crisp Crock-Pot test kitchens creates a cobbler-esque dessert chock-full of comforting flavors. It can be enjoyed on its own, or topped with a dollop of cream or ice cream.

INGREDIENTS

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 4 cups sliced hulled strawberries | 1 cup all-purpose flour |
| 4 cups diced rhubarb (about 5 stalks), cut into 1/2-inch dice | 1 cup old-fashioned oats |
| 1 1/2 cups granulated sugar | 1/2 cup granulated sugar |
| 2 tablespoons lemon juice | 1/2 cup packed brown sugar |
| 1 1/2 tablespoons cornstarch, plus water (optional) | 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger |
| | 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg |
| | 1/2 cup butter, cut into pieces |
| | 1/2 cup sliced almonds, toasted |

INSTRUCTIONS

Coat crock pot with nonstick cooking spray. Place strawberries, rhubarb, 1 1/2 cups granulated sugar and lemon juice in the crock and mix well. Cook on high 1 1/2 hours, or until fruit is tender. If fruit is dry after cooking, add a little water. If fruit has too much liquid, mix cornstarch with 2 tablespoons water and stir into liquid. Cook on high an additional 15 minutes, or until cooking liquid is thickened. Preheat the oven to 375 F. For the topping, combine flour, oats, sugars, ginger, and nutmeg in medium bowl. Cut in butter using a pastry cutter or two knives until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Stir in almonds. Remove the lid from the crock pot slow cooker and gently sprinkle topping onto fruit. Transfer the stoneware to the oven. Bake 15 to 20 minutes or until tipping begins to brown. *Makes 8 servings.*

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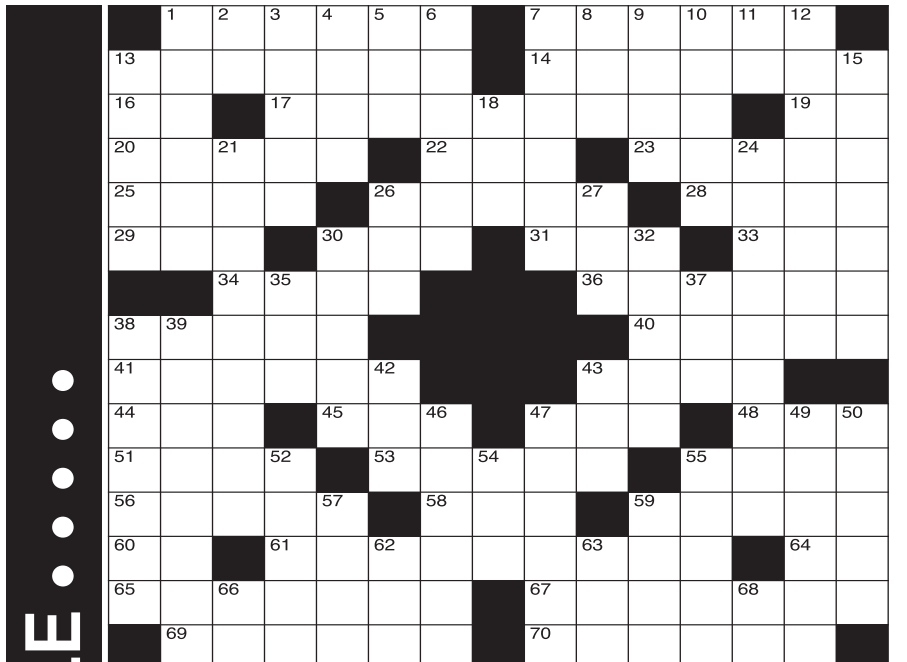
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A	D	P	S	S	A	T	Y	R	S										
C	A	L	I	A	C	I	D	U	L	O	U	S							
C	R	A	M	M	O	B	O	R	N	E									
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O	R	A	T	E	D	E	R	G	S										

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Spiritual leaders
7. A solution
13. Fortified wine
14. Edible mollusk
16. Blood group
17. A way to compare
19. Gov't lawyer
20. Actor Ciaran
22. Calendar month
23. Very willing
25. ___ ex Machina
26. Satisfies
28. Type of berry
29. Distinctive practice
30. Popular pickup truck model
31. Dekagram
33. Naturally occurring solid material
34. Company officer
36. Villains
38. Cricket frogs
40. German founder of psychology
41. Endured
43. A female domestic
44. A situation you can be in
45. Cigarette (slang)
47. Fiber optic network (abbr.)
48. Belgian composer Walter
51. Employee stock ownership plan
53. Belonging to the bottom layer
55. Musical or vocal sound
56. Yankees' great Judge
58. Dickens character
59. Beloved late sportscaster Craig
60. South Dakota
61. Exposing human vice or folly to ridicule
64. Atomic #79
65. Former Braves pitcher Julio
67. Humor
69. Shawl
70. Hospital unit

CLUES DOWN

1. Animal disease
2. Commercial
3. Arts and crafts supplies
4. Containers
5. Investment vehicle
6. A way to greet in a friendly way
7. Bulged downward
8. "A Day Without" singer
9. Lay about
10. Intestinal
11. Negative
12. Caused to be loved
13. Prominent in Islamic eschatology
15. Sincere
18. Not in
21. Number above the line in a fraction
24. Bill Murray chased one
26. Pouch
27. Swedish krona
30. Start over
32. Wild white or yellow flower
35. Fourteen
37. Visual way of interacting with a computer (abbr.)
38. Up-to-date
39. Campaigns
42. Touch lightly
43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
46. Violent seizure of property
47. One who supports the Pope
49. Malaise
50. Body fluid
52. Inauthentic person
54. Title of respect
55. Chilean city
57. Central Japanese city
59. Garment
62. Draw from
63. Automobile
66. The man
68. Top government lawyer

SUDOKU

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

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

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



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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

With a passion for helping clients make informed decisions while fostering lasting relationships, the Libby Starnes Team with Signature Homes Real Estate Group continues to impress buyers and sellers in Maine's Lakes Region and beyond with their professionalism and expertise.

Conveniently located at 8 Turning Leaf Drive, Suite 3, Windham, the Libby Starnes Team has been serving the community for the past nine years. During this time, they have built a solid foundation of individualized services, outstanding communication, and flexibility in working with clients.

The team provides a comprehensive range of real estate services tailored to meet the needs of both buyers and sellers. These include residential sales, where they assist buyers in finding their dream homes and help sellers to market their properties effectively. They also specialize in commercial real estate, helping businesses find the perfect commercial space, and offer consultations, providing expert advice on real estate investments, market trends, and property valuations.

Tiffany Libby and Pamela Starnes, friends since sixth grade, decided to form their own real estate team in 2015. They believe that communication, setting upfront expectations about the current market, and educating their clients about the real estate process are essential elements of their success.

Both Pam and Tiffany highlight



the unique selling points of their team. "We pride ourselves on providing highly personalized service to each client, understanding that every client's needs are unique," Pam said. "Having deep roots in the Lakes Region, we offer unparalleled local market knowledge."

Tiffany said that their client-centric approach has been crucial.

"Our business thrives on building strong relationships with clients, focusing on their long-term satisfaction rather than just completing transactions," she said.

Meeting new people and creating relationships that extend beyond the sale or closing is a key part of what makes their work fulfilling. "At The



Pamela Starnes and Tiffany Libby co-own and operate The Libby Starnes Team with an office in Windham at Turning Leaf Drive. COURTESYPHOTO

Libby Starnes Team with Signature Homes Real Estate Group, the client always comes first," Tiffany emphasized. "Our goal is to make the real estate process as smooth and rewarding as possible, whether you are buying your first home, looking to sell, or seeking investment opportunities."

While the team's primary focus is on the Lakes Region, they also serve clients in surrounding areas such as York, Cumberland, Sagadahoc, Kennebec, and Androscoggin counties. This ensures a broader range of options for their clients.

"Our journey in real estate began with a passion for helping people find their perfect homes and a keen interest in the local property market," Pam

said. "Over the years, this passion grew into a successful business built on trust, local knowledge, and a commitment to excellence."

Their goal is to use their market knowledge and top-notch negotiation skills to get buyers and sellers the best deal possible in the shortest amount of time. Acknowledging that this process can be one of the most stressful times in the life of a buyer or seller, they aim to reduce stress by consistently providing top-notch communication and support throughout the entire process.

"We are committed to maintaining the highest standards of quality in all services offered," Tiffany said. Feedback from clients often highlights their dedication, professionalism, and the personalized attention they receive. "Our clients appreciate the smooth transactions and successful outcomes facilitated by our team. A common misconception is that being in real estate is easy, but we're up at the crack of dawn trying to find the best fit for our clients. We ensure all deadlines are met and the documentation is correct. We are involved in the whole process of buying and selling, and we take the time to educate our clients every step of the way."

For further info about The Libby Starnes Team with Signature Homes Real Estate Group, call 207-838-8051 or 207-712-2424 or visit www.libbystarnesteamhomes.com. You can also find them on Facebook. <

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➔ SCHOLARSHIPS *Cont. from page 11*

support during her family's grief and inspired by his kindness, she's dedicated herself to helping others.

Having completed high school, now in her stepfather's memory, she's preparing for a career of helping others.

According to Harmon, she is driven by this advice given to her by the Lieutenant: "You can't save them all, but it doesn't mean you shouldn't try."

Those who know her say that Chloe has a true passion for community outreach and is a leader in classes, always speaking up if participation is scant, and always ensuring that lonely students get warm attention. She is the student that the teacher wants to leave in charge. She is also a feminist who wants to break

barriers because she believes law enforcement needs women.

Harmon will attend Thomas College this fall.

The Mainely Character Scholarship Board of Directors recognized both Harmon and Gugliuzza as students upholding its tenets of character including concern, responsibility, integrity, and courage deserving of scholarships.

Mainely Character has been awarding scholarships to students of character since 2001. This year 12 different scholarships are being awarded to students in Maine entering a higher education institution in the fall.

For more details about Mainely Character visit them online at: mainelycharacter.org. <



2024 Windham High graduates Sophia Gugliuzza, left, and Chloe Harmon have each been awarded \$5,000 Mainely Character Scholarships. The scholarships are presented annually to Maine high school seniors who demonstrate exemplary concern for others, responsibility, integrity, and courage. COURTESY PHOTOS

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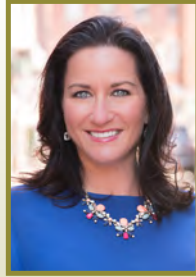


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