

# Windham athlete finishes seventh nationally in Triple Jump competition

By Kaysa Jalbert

STAFF WRITER

Many are familiar with the term “adulting” to describe the mundane responsibilities that make up the daily life of an adult, but there’s not a term to describe the lives of teenagers whose days are packed with classes, homework, practices, and work, while maintaining a social life and preparing for their futures full of adulting. Some call this overachieving, but in the eyes of most teens today, it’s simply what it means to be a teen.

Tayla Pelletier is one of these busy teens, as a soon-to-be senior at Windham High School, an honors student, working two part-time jobs and on top of it all, a competitor in the National Track and Field Championships. To her, all of this is what it means to be trying your best.

Earlier this spring, Pelletier won the Triple Jump event at the Maine State Championships at Thornton Academy on Saturday June 1 and went on to win the New England Championships at the University of New Hampshire on Saturday June 8 in the triple jump.

She then traveled out of state to compete in the Adidas Nationals at North Carolina Agricultural

and Technical State University in Greensboro, North Carolina where she competed in the 100-meter hurdles, 400-meter hurdles and the triple jump events.

“Competing in sports has definitely shown how hard I can be on myself,” Pelletier said. “I set very high expectations and always strive to do my best.”

Leading up to competing for a title, Pelletier said she focuses her thoughts on trying her best and staying patient in the air and not getting upset with herself over a bad jump, but to instead focus on the next one.

When she’s not in school, or practicing her triple jump, she can be found at one of her two part-time jobs. Somedays she is serving scoops at the Ice Cream Dugout in Windham, and on other days she works at Beacon Pizza in Raymond.

Pelletier started working at the age of 15 during the summer of her sophomore year. She has held her job at the Ice Cream Dugout for three years and started working at two different jobs last year.

“I wanted to get my first job because I liked the idea of having my own money and being able to get the

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Tayla Pelletier of Windham High School finished seventh in the nation in the triple jump at the Adidas Nationals at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in Greensboro, North Carolina in June after winning the Maine State Championship and the New England Championship this spring. She will be a senior at WHS this fall. COURTESY PHOTO

# Racing remains at forefront for Windham’s Kneeland

By Kendra Raymond

STAFF WRITER

For Windham auto racer Derek Kneeland, the only way to define your limits is by going beyond them.

Kneeland, 38, continues to be a busy man in auto racing this year, trying to find time to race his own car at local tracks, driving part-time for Mike Bryant Racing in select super late model events, and serving as a spotter for Kyle Busch, Austin Hill xfinity, Nick Sanchez trucks in NASCAR events.

Racing runs in Kneeland’s blood as his father Jeff competed in the 1970s and his grandfather was the general manager of Beech Ridge Motor Speedway in Scarborough at one time. Derek started racing go-karts when he was 8 years old, and it ignited a dream of one day taking the checkered flag at a NASCAR race.

As costs to compete in NASCAR rose sharply, Kneeland found another avenue to become involved at that level and he took on the job as a spotter during a race in Pennsylvania 16 years ago. Those spotter duties grew over time and Kneeland now has served as a spotter for drivers in the NASCAR Cup Series, the NASCAR Xfinity Series, the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series and the ARCA Menards Series.

“Bristol is my favorite race as a



Derek Kneeland of Windham has been racing since he was 8 and now works for Richard Childress Racing as a spotter in NASCAR events. He also finds time to compete on local tracks in his super modified car, finishing fifth in a race at Lee USA Speedway in New Hampshire on June 22. COURTESY PHOTO

spotter,” Kneeland said. “It’s busy, there’s a lot going on, a lot of information, it’s loud and an exciting environment. Keeping up with the differences in divisions I spot is the hardest thing, different drivers, different vehicles, the job itself is still the same, give info, and try to describe the things I see the best way I can to be a valuable asset to my drivers and teams.”

He is currently working for Rich-

ard Childress Racing as a spotter and typically is out on the road for 38 weeks every year. That can be an exhausting schedule and doesn’t leave much time, but he is planning on racing his own car this summer at Lee Speedway in New Hampshire on July 26, Oxford Speedway in Maine on Aug. 4, Berlin Raceway in Michigan on Aug. 7, and possibly the Oxford 250 on Aug. 25 and the Snowflake 100 at Five Flags Speedway in Florida.

As a NASCAR spotter, Kneeland relays information to the driver of the team he works for, keeping them alert of what is occurring on the track. To get a complete look at the racetrack, he is usually positioned on top of one of the grandstands or support buildings.

“For me I think the hardest part is I don’t get to race weekly like most do because of traveling around the country working my NASCAR duties, so there are a few things I need to clean up to figure out such as how to go faster and be better as a driver. And money obviously, it takes a lot of money to race these cars and be competitive.”

He said racing his own car is more of a hobby than something he calls his career.

“I love it, done it since I was 8 years old,” Kneeland said. “I’m just fortunate to be able to do it a handful of times a year with my busy schedule.”

According to Kneeland, his greatest fans are his family, including his wife, Carley, his two stepsons Kolby and Logan, his parents Jeff and Kelly Kneeland, and his sister, Tasha.

He said all his family and  
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# INSIGHT

## Age before beauty

Now that Adam Vinateri and Tom Brady are officially retired from professional football, the courtesy title of the National Football League's oldest player has been passed on to offensive tackle Jason Peters, 42, who appeared in eight games last season for the Seattle Seahawks. In Major League Baseball, the oldest current player is pitcher 41-year-old Justin Verlander of the Houston Astros and professional basketball's oldest player still suiting up is LeBron James of the Los Angeles Lakers at 39.

It tells me that in professional sports, age doesn't matter if you can help a team win games. It's a philosophy I developed years ago while watching professional football with my father on television.

Nobody personifies that concept for me more than George Blanda. He started his career as a quarterback with the Chicago Bears in 1949 but by 1959 he was 31 years old and was out of football and wondering what to do next. Then in 1960, a new pro football league was launched called the American Football League and Blanda signed on to be the signal caller and placekicker for a new team called the Houston Oilers.

For seven seasons, he guided the Oilers and was the league's Player of the Year in 1961, yet at age 39 in 1967, Houston wanted Blanda to become a fulltime kicker and he balked at that, instead signing with the Oakland Raiders as a backup quarterback and kicker. That decision produced immediate results. In his first season in Oakland, Blanda led the league in scoring with 116 points and kicked two extra points for the Raiders in a 33-14 loss in Super Bowl II.

By 1970, Blanda's heroics during a five-game span for the Raiders at the age of 43 cemented his legacy as one of the greatest players of all-time. Coming in to replace injured starting QB Daryle Lamonica, Blanda threw three touchdown passes against the Pittsburgh Steelers, then booted a 48-yard field goal with 3 seconds left to forge a tie against the Kansas City Chiefs. Against the Cleveland Browns he came off the bench to throw a late TD pass to tie the game and then kicked a 53-year field goal with 3 seconds left to hand Oakland a victory. Against the Denver Broncos, Blanda again came off the bench in the fourth quarter and ignited a comeback win with a touchdown pass and followed that up a week later by kicking a field goal as time expired as the Raiders defeated San Diego, 20-17.

At age 48, Blanda's last game was in the AFC Championship Game in January 1976 between Oakland and Pittsburgh. He kicked an extra point and a 41-yard field goal in that game as the Steelers beat the Raiders, 16-10, closing out Blanda's remarkable 26-season career. He was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1981.

Lefthanded pitcher Jamie Moyer played 25 seasons in Major League Baseball and made his debut for the Chicago Cubs in 1986 at the age of 23. By the end of the 1991 season, Moyer had pitched for the Cubs, the Texas Rangers and the St. Louis Cardinals, who released him that October. But Moyer persisted and pitched 19 more seasons in the big leagues, winning 269 games and appearing at age 45 in the World Series as a member of the Philadelphia Phillies in 2008.

Moyer's final season came in 2012 for the Colorado Rockies where he was 2-5 at the age of 49.

Seven-footer Kevin Willis grew up in Detroit, Michigan and didn't start playing basketball until his junior year of high school. He started his college career at Jackson College in Michigan and transferred to Michigan State as a sophomore. When he was drafted in the first round as the 11th overall pick in 1984 by the Atlanta Hawks, Willis never dreamed he would establish records for longevity in his NBA career.

He played with the Hawks for 10 years before being traded to the Miami Heat in 1994. Then in 1996, Willis was traded to the Golden State Warriors and signed as a free agent with the Houston Rockets later that summer. After two seasons in Houston, he was traded again, this time to the Toronto Raptors. In 2001, the Raptors traded Willis to the Denver Nuggets who traded him in September 2001 to Milwaukee. Without ever playing a game for Milwaukee, the Bucks traded Willis back to the Rockets.

Willis signed with the San Antonio Spurs in 2002 and was part of their NBA championship roster in 2003. He returned to the Atlanta Hawks in 2004 as the oldest player in the league at age 42 and closed out his time in the NBA in 2007 at age 44 as a member of the Dallas Mavericks. During his career, Willis tallied 17,253 points, grabbed 11,901 rebounds and recorded 750 blocked shots.

For young sports phenoms such as the NBA's 20-year-old Victor Wembanyama, 23-year-old MLB shortstop Gunnar Henderson and 23-year-old NFL tight end Kyle Pitts, the future may be bright, but aging does catch up with everyone eventually.

As Mark Twain once said, "Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter." < ~ Ed Pierce

*Today in*  
**HISTORY**



**JULY 5**

687 – Sir Isaac Newton's theory is published outlining his laws of motion and gravitation.

1865 – The U.S. Secret Service is established by the U.S. Treasury Department.

1937 – Spam is first introduced by the Hormel Foods Corporation.

1947 – Larry Doby signed a contract with the Cleveland Indians, becoming the first black baseball player in the American League.

1950 – U.S. forces enter combat in the Korean War for the first time at the Battle of Osan.

1954 – Elvis Presley's first commercial recording session takes place when he records "That's All Right" at Sun Records in Memphis, Tennessee.

1971 – U.S. President Richard Nixon certifies the 26th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which lowers the minimum voting age from 21 to 18.

1994 – Amazon.com is founded by Jeff Bezos.

# ON THE SPOT

**In your opinion, what's the best present you can receive for your birthday?**

"Spending the day with family." – Marlene Pond Scholl

"Just a nice dinner out. After a certain age you pretty much have all the 'stuff' you need (mostly)." – William D. Reiner

"Swimming outdoors in a lake in Maine." – Anne Alexander

"A homemade birthday card. It shows that you care enough to take the time to do it." – Shel Daniels

"Spending it with family." – Rose Tirrell Haigis

"The Birthday Wishes video call from my daughter. Especially special hearing my grandsons say happy birthday Grammy. Makes my day and melts my heart." – Miki Mayberry

"A nice visit from my children and being with my husband. I'm blessed to have my 100-year-old mom who gave me life." – Sharon Bickford

"A card is all I ever ask for." – Pamela Gregory Brown

"I grew up in the south; my birthday is in the winter, and in my youth my concerned mom ("it's so cold up there!") would regularly send me flannel-lined dungarees from LL Bean. Appreciated at the time and sentimentally retained to this day (tho I doubt I'll fit in them anytime soon!) Quality clothing can be a gift for many years..." – Francesco Paredon

"A surprise visit from someone you haven't seen in a while." – Brian March

"Hedonist that I am, a big chocolate cake, vanilla ice cream and someone(s) to share it with." – Linda Miller Ladd

"Spending it with my family, that's the best gift you can get." Tommy Matthews

"Health." – Nick Kalogerakis

"Being with family." – Julie Mallett

"Having one." – David Luce

"Spending time with my family." – Jennie Moroney Butler

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# RSU 14 Backpack Program thwarts childhood hunger through take-home meals; monetary donations needed

By Masha Yurkevich  
STAFF WRITER

Studies have shown that even mild hunger can significantly impact a student's school performance, behavior, and cognitive development as well as absenteeism, concentration and grades. This need was identified and thus, the RSU 14 Backpack Program was launched in 2011 as an effort to combat childhood hunger in our community.

"There are children that leave school on Friday and truly don't know when their next meal will be, possibly not until Monday morning back at school," says Ryan Roderick, District Chef for RSU 14. "The idea behind it was that although we may have a robust school nutrition program, there are still many more meals that school lunch doesn't provide, most notably over the weekend."

The Backpack Program is aimed at fulfilling that weekend need with nourishing snacks and easy to cook meals. Well-fed children are more energized and feel more secure, and this enables them to be better learners and have more success in school, Roderick said.

"The way the program works is we collect donations from the community, and we use those funds to purchase foods from various vendors. Hannaford has been a great partner over



RSU 14 is grateful for the support of community members in funding the RSU 14 Backpack Program, which provides food for children in need when school is not in session. From left are RSU 14 Superintendent Chris Howell, donors Bruce and Gail Small, and Marge Govoni of the RSU 14 Board of Directors. SUBMITTED PHOTO

the years," Roderick said. "We then have local volunteers that come by and pack the bags every week and our RSU 14 school staff help to make sure the bags get distributed to each school and child in need."

Each bag generally includes some sweet and savory snacks, fruit cups, juice, shelf stable milk, cereals and a heartier meal option like macaroni and cheese, tuna, peanut butter, pasta

with tomato sauce, and so on.

"My role in the program is to coordinate with Marge Govoni and purchase some of the food items from our other vendors," Roderick says. "I also coordinate with our RSU 14 courier, Phil Hebert, to pick up and deliver the large orders from Hannaford. I also work with Marge to create our cycle menu; we wanted to make sure it has as much variety as is feasible in order

to keep the offerings interesting. We often tweak it throughout the year, making sure to keep the costs as low as possible while still offering healthful and hearty foods that kids will eat and can feel confident in preparing themselves if necessary."

The community can help in two very simple ways. The first is by donating; the rise in food cost over the years has been crushing for everyone and this program is no different.

"We do not accept food donations in an effort to be consistent and equitable with our offerings to the children" says Roderick. "We like to remind anyone who donates that every single cent goes directly to purchasing food and bags to put the food in, this program is run entirely by volunteers and there are no administrative fees or costs applied."

Volunteering is another way that the community can help. If you are interested in volunteering to help pack bags on a weekly or intermittent basis, please reach out to RSU 14 volunteer coordinator Michelle Jordan at [Mjordan@rsu14.org](mailto:Mjordan@rsu14.org).

"The Backpack program is mostly in need of funding, we are currently looking for more regular donors, ideally local businesses looking to sponsor us and our kids," says Roderick. "For reference, it costs us about \$10 to

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## Deputy Fire Chief a key component to the public safety in Windham

**By Ed Pierce**

STAFF WRITER

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

Windham Fire Rescue Deputy Fire Chief John K. Wescott never knows what he will encounter on each call but proceeds with the same level of commitment and service every time.

Wescott has served as a fulltime firefighter in Windham for more than 22 years and is tasked with overseeing department operations, fire prevention and inspections and scheduling of department personnel. It's a tough assignment, but one Wescott continues to embrace with professionalism and expertise

"In my opinion being firefighter/AEMT is the best job in the world. I love what I do," Wescott said. "Having a career as a firefighter is very rewarding and some may say it's more of lifestyle than an occupation. There are many things that I enjoy in fire service, however, helping people when they need it the most is the most rewarding part of the job."

He says working with the Windham Fire Rescue team is gratifying.

"In command school they always emphasized that your human resources are the most challenging part of leadership," Wescott said. "In the Windham Fire Rescue Department, we have an outstanding group of men

and women, and they make it easy for me in this respect. However, in command school they never taught scheduling. Scheduling folks in a combination fire rescue department is as challenging as it gets. There are many moving pieces to it."

Born and raised in Westbrook, Wescott graduated from Westbrook High School in 1982. He went on to attend Southern Maine Vocational College where he earned a diploma in Machine Tool Technology. In 1996, he earned an Associate of Science degree in Applied Fire Science from Southern Maine Technical College and in 2014, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Fire Administration from Columbia Southern University.

"At the time I applied to the Town of Windham I was working at the SAPPI paper mill in Westbrook as a sergeant in the plant protection



**Deputy Fire Chief John K. Wescott has served with Windham Fire Rescue 22 and a half years and his job is to oversee department operations, provide town fire prevention and inspections and to manage the schedules of department personnel.** SUBMITTED PHOTO

without a doubt certainly one of the lucky ones. I am wholeheartedly supported by my wife and our three daughters. My wife Jennifer grew up in a firefighting family that goes back two generations. Her father was the Chief of Westbrook Fire Department, and her three brothers were all in the service as well, so she understands the demands of the job. I'm very lucky

department," Wescott said. "My older brother was a call firefighter in Windham, and I always heard good things about their progressive department. I caught wind that they were creating a fulltime Deputy Chief position, so I applied."

The time he spends on duty is demanding and his job is 24 hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days every year.

"It's a lifestyle that is not for everyone. You have to be committed and all in," Wescott said. "I'm

and fortunate to have these folks in my life, and they are my support team. This includes their spouses and our 4 grandchildren. These are the ones that keep me grounded."

According to Wescott, the biggest misconception people may have about his work involves fire inspections of commercial properties.

"Some may think that a fire inspection violation will lead to properties being closed or some type of fine," he said. "This notion is far from the truth. Quite the contrary, the Windham Fire Rescue inspection model is to communicate, educate and help our partners in commercial business to make their properties fire safe. We want every business in the town to succeed but we also want the businesses to be fire safe. We will work with these businesses to solve their fire safety issues."

Wescott says that through the years he's learned that a job as a firefighter will humble you very quickly, and to succeed there must be a team effort, and not individualism.

"In the HBO series Band of Brothers, Dick Winters made the comment in his interview with the cast and said someone asked him 'Are you a hero?' and his answer was 'no, but I served with a bunch of hero's.' The same metaphor holds true here in the Windham Fire Rescue, I work with a bunch of heroes every day." <

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**NATIONALS** *Cont. from page 1*

things I wanted by myself without parents help," she said. "I wanted to be more independent and to rely less on my parents for everything especially with having five siblings."

At this point, Pelletier says that she's undecided in what she wants to do as a future career, but she is certain she wants to continue participating in track into college while studying.

Pelletier started competing in the triple jump during the spring season of her freshman year.

"What interests me most about track is the environment. The team supports one another, and even those you compete against are super friend-

ly," said Pelletier. "What I like most about being an athlete is the goals I am able to set for myself, and the team and coaches who push me to and support me with achieving these goals."

Pelletier says that balancing two jobs, school and sports can be a lot at times, especially while taking anatomy and physiology, and honors classes, and there is a lot of work that comes with it.

"My weeks are busy, and nights can be long but it's all worth it in the end," she said. "Having a busy schedule can be exhausting, but you just have to find a way to manage it all. And when you get days off then you need to enjoy them and use them as a

day off and one to relax."

Ever since she got into track Tayla has started watching past Olympic competitions or world track and field meets. Through this, she said she gathers a sense of how she can improve on her form and gain inspiration to keep working and never stop giving it her all.

"I enjoy competing because it allows me to not only prove myself but it's something I can control," said Pelletier. "I enjoy the competition and have found a lot of joy in this sport and am always looking forward to meet days, especially when it comes to the competition. This fuels my energy and as long as I have the right mindset, I know I can perform."

She says competing at the Adidas Nationals was a great experience, and she was happy with her times in both the 100-meter hurdle and 400-meter hurdle events, considering it was her first time running the 400-meter hurdles. As for her triple jump, she started the event seeded ninth and came out of finals placed seventh overall. Pelletier attended the Adidas Nationals in North Carolina accompanied by her mom and grandmother.

At home, Pelletier's hard work makes her a role model for her two sisters and three brothers, all younger than she is.

"My siblings are extremely supportive and are always excited to know how I do," she said. <

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# Windham receives state grant for safety equipment

By Ed Pierce  
STAFF WRITER

The Town of Windham has been awarded an Ed MacDonald Safety Grant by the Maine Municipal Association Workers Compensation Fund to reduce workplace injuries sustained by town employees.

The \$3,000 grant was established by the Maine Municipal Association's Workers Compensation Fund and provides for towns to purchase safety equipment or services to assist in reducing the frequency and severity of workplace injuries. The grant programs are designed to prevent injuries and improve workplace safety for Maine municipal employees.

In accepting the grant, members of the Windham Town Council said that reduction in employee injuries also benefits taxpayers by lessening lost hours at work, the cost of claims and potential overtime expenses for employees who might have to fill in for injured co-workers. The primary purpose of the Ed MacDonald Safety Enhancement Grant is to specifically fund equipment or items that reduce

the risk of injury to workers and promote safe and healthy conditions in the workplace.

Overall, the Maine Municipal Association has been awarding Safety Grants to members of the Workers' Compensation fund since 1999. MMA officials say that the Ed MacDonald Safety Grants and Scholarships are an example of a successful partnership that has been preventing workplace injuries by bestowing more than \$6.6 million in the funding of 4,687 Safety Grants and 552 Scholarships since its inception.

The MMA Workers Compensation Fund dedicates 25 percent of the grant awards to supporting slip, trip and fall prevention.

Under this grant, Windham will be able to purchase items such as slip-resistant flooring, outdoor slip resistant mats, cones, high visibility vests, stop/slow paddles and traffic control equipment, heated sidewalks, improved lighting, cold-water immersion suits, throw ropes, life vests for cold-water rescues, ice creepers, and body harnesses for fall protection.

In other actions, Windham's Town Council has made three appointments to town boards and agencies. During the council's June 15 meeting, councilors appointed Charlotte Mace and Maggie Terry to serve two-year terms on the Windham Economic Development Corporation with each term expiring on Feb. 15, 2026. The council also appointed Mike McGuigan to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a three-year term ending Feb. 15, 2027.

Councilors also authorized the town manager to enter into an agreement with the Windham Little League for the use of Ciccarone Field and to take necessary action to finalize the agreement.

Assistant Windham Town Manager Bob Burns briefed councilors about provisions contained in a three-year collective bargaining agreement with Teamsters Local 340 covering town drivers and road crews. Burns said the agreement included a 4 percent Cost of Living Adjustment during the first year of the agreement, with 3 percent increases in years two and three. It also features a \$750 allowance for clothing, awards time-and-a-half for working on

off days and an extra personal day.

After a brief discussion about the agreement's provisions, councilors voted unanimously to approve the collective bargaining agreement and directed the town manager to sign it on behalf of the town.

Councilors voted to award \$1,000 from the Substance Prevention Grant Program Fund to Windham Primary School's Odyssey of the Mind program that promotes prevention, education, and positive choices in reducing youth substance use.

During a meeting in May, as the council members looked to finalize their meeting schedule for the summer months, Windham Town Manager Barry Tibbetts reminded councilors that the council must meet at least once per month. Councilors held their June meeting prior to the Annual Town Meeting on June 15 to meet that requirement.

Windham Town Council meetings during July and August are scheduled for Tuesday, July 9 and Tuesday, Aug. 13 before resuming the councilor's twice-a-month schedule in September. <

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# SJC hosts national program on NE gothic literature

Saint Joseph's College of Maine is honored to host a three-week residential institute, "Place, Race, and Gender in New England Gothic Literature" for 25 higher education faculty members from across the country. The prestigious program, funded through a \$120,926 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), features works by authors Nathaniel Hawthorne, Sally Wood, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Morgan Talty, Shirey Jackson, Stephen King, and more.

The institute runs through July 5 and is co-directed by Dr. Wendy Galgan and Dr. Chris Fuller.

Saint Joseph's College is one of only nine institutes for higher education that received this highly competitive funding by the National Endowment of the Humanities this year, underscoring the college's commitment to academic excellence and its role as a leader in humanities education. Annually, NEH conducts more than 200 review panels, involving nearly 1,000 outside experts, in its evaluation of approximately 5,700 applications across 40 grant programs. In most programs, the applicant success rate varies from about 6 percent to 40 percent.

"Few locations are better suited to



Saint Joseph's College of Maine is currently hosting a three-week residential institute called 'Place, Race, and Gender in New England Gothic Literature' for 25 higher education faculty members from across the country. SUBMITTED PHOTO

explore this genre than Maine with its complex history and rich literary tradition. It is particularly fitting to host our first institute this summer, as 2024 marks the 50th anniversary of Stephen King's first novel, *Carrie*," said Galgan. "We look forward to offering our guest scholars a truly

immersive learning experience with King's work serving as a connecting thread throughout our exploration."

The institute will enhance college-level humanities research and teaching by focusing on the seldom-studied genre of New England Gothic literature and the cultural

influence of the Puritans on horror. Participants will examine the intersections of place, race, and gender, contributing to our understanding of American literature, history, and religion in civic life.

It will also delve into the impact of place on our self-understanding as a country, and how the past treatment of indigenous and enslaved populations continues to haunt our present, evolving gender roles in American life and the artistic merits of popular culture. The program will also include visiting scholars such as historians, folklorists, and authors, as well as field trips to Salem, Massachusetts, and locations in Rhode Island.

"It is our hope that our visiting faculty will gain a deeper appreciation for New England and its contribution to American literature," said Fuller. "We are thrilled to have this opportunity to explore this genre in its authentic setting, bringing the chilling and thought-provoking tales that inspired so many of us to life."

For more information about the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Program at Saint Joseph's College of Maine, please visit [www.sjcme.edu](http://www.sjcme.edu). <

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# Youth 'small business' concept thrives in Raymond

By Kendra Raymond  
STAFF WRITER

With temperatures climbing into the 80s recently and our thoughts wandering to all things summer: barbecues with family and friends, days near the water, and staying cool, what better way to find refreshment than a visit to a kid's lemonade stand? Or how about a friendship bracelet or two? Raymond residents are in luck; several such small business stands are sprouting up all around our community.

"Eat, Pray, Love" author Elizabeth Gilbert said, "If life gives you lemons, don't settle for simply making lemonade - make a glorious scene at a lemonade stand." Even if you aren't a lemonade fan, stopping in at a stand can be a positive experience for all involved. Why not take a minute out of your busy day to visit with the young entrepreneurs, give a donation, or make a purchase? Likely, you won't regret it. Beyond buying a great product, you might just learn something new, make some new acquaintances, or even end up with a treasure you never knew you needed. Plus, it's a great feeling to support youth development.

A set of young businesspeople in a Raymond neighborhood seem to have the system streamlined pretty well. The brother-and-sister duo can frequently be seen set up at the mouth of their driveway selling the most delicious ice-cold lemonade and sometimes packaged snacks. They have great signage and a lot of curb appeal. Customers are always impressed with their impeccable customer service skills. Plus,

the youngsters are polite and friendly. What's not to like?

At another location along the route, people often come across an industrious young lady and her younger brother selling some well-made loom band bracelets. Knowing that you can never have enough friendship bracelets, many make the stop. The bracelets are presented well, and in a variety of color combinations - something for everyone's taste. I am always impressed with the proprietor's commitment to maintaining an inventory, handcrafting skills, making change, and her polite and efficient interactions with the customers. Seems like a win-win to me.

"The best part about my bracelet business is hanging out with my brother," said Addy Neal. She added that her three-year-old brother Olly is a great addition to the bracelet stand, lending a hand with setting it up. "He also yells, 'Bracelets for sale' which makes people stop," she said. Their father Jake Neal agrees that the kids make a great team. He said that he is proud to see them working together.

In a different area of town, an iced tea, lemonade, and baked goods stand



Raymond youngsters Addy and Olly Neal showcase their bracelet inventory recently at a roadside stand. PHOTO BY KENDRA RAYMOND

serves as a fundraiser for a local animal rescue group. The seller said that he's been running the stand for a couple of years and that all money raised goes directly to help animals. He said that every little bit helps, and he drops off the

donations about once a month.

"Lemonade Day" is an innovative program designed to support youth in starting their own lemonade business. It aims to develop skills in the areas of problem solving, communication, self-esteem, goal setting, philanthropy, and math.

The Lemonade Day website says: "Starting a lemonade stand can help kids develop important entrepreneurial skills, such as financial management, marketing, and communication. Through this experience, children can learn to create a business plan, set prices, manage inventory, and promote their product. These skills can be applied in future endeavors and serve as a foundation for a successful career in business. These are all key in knowing how to start a lemonade business."

The Finance Authority of Maine (FAME) website is filled with resources to support financial wellness in youth and provides education and programs to help parents teach kids about healthy use of money.

To learn more about getting started with a lemonade business, visit: <https://lemonadeday.org/blog/how-to-start-a-lemonade-stand>

Visit the FAME website to access resources to help kids learn about money: [www.famemaine.com/financial-wellness/grow-your-students-or-childs-financial-wellness/elementary](http://www.famemaine.com/financial-wellness/grow-your-students-or-childs-financial-wellness/elementary)

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# Barbara Bagshaw: Electricity rates going up again despite efforts by Republicans to lower them

► **By State Rep. Barbara Bagshaw**  
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE



– Rep. Barbara Bagshaw

The Maine Public Utilities Commission (PUC) recently announced that our electricity bills will rise again in July. It shouldn't surprise anyone – legislative Republicans and Maine's Public Advocate have been warning Mainers about this for years. I joined with my fellow Republicans, and a handful of Democrats, to try and lower rates this past session. Special interests and the majority of Democrats in Augusta refused to listen. Now we will all pay the price.

Residential ratepayers and now many of Maine's businesses will start paying higher amounts of what is called the stranded cost portion of your electric bill. Simply put, this is the part of the bill where you subsidize the solar panels that have popped up across Maine, even if you do not benefit from them. You may have heard it called "Net Energy Billing."

Electricity supply rates have already increased 76 percent higher on average since January 2021. The cur-

rent increase on top of that is due to misguided state policies that reward out of state solar companies at the expense of Maine consumers. Simply put, wind and solar companies are paid .20 cents per kilowatt for a product that costs as little as .05 cents to generate.

This part of our bill is not because of Versant or CMP – they are required to pass the increase from solar on to you as part of their bill. The legislature is responsible for this one because of the excessive solar subsidies mandated through Net Energy Billing and other hidden subsidy costs.

- Standard offer rates increased 132.06 percent between 2014 and 2023 because of more expensive solar required under the Renewable Portfolio Standard.

- The Public Utilities Commission says we must pay even more for solar subsidies.

- For CMP, stranded costs will go up 93 percent to \$183 million.

- Versant's Bangor Hydro District remains about the same but Maine Public – the one that serves northern Maine – is going up 60 percent.

- Some businesses will be subject to a "job-killing solar tax," with one small business bill going up over 1,660

percent. Another medium-size business will see its bill rise from \$431.56 a month to \$3,494.46 (709.73 percent increase).

- Maine's nonpartisan Public Advocate Bill Harwood says it will cost \$4 billion over 20 years. In a May 12 interview with WGME, he said: "It requires CMP and Versant power to pay approximately 20 cents per kilowatt hour for solar energy that costs less than 10 cents a kilowatt hour to generate," Harwood said. "They then make up this difference by adding it to the rates charged to rate payers."

It is important to point out that I and other legislative Republicans are not against rooftop solar. It should be a consumer choice. What I am against is requiring lower to middle income ratepayers to subsidize projects that they cannot afford or do not benefit from. It is wrong!

*It is an honor to represent part of Windham in the Legislature. If there is any way that I can be of assistance, please contact me at barbara.bagshaw@legislature.maine.gov. My office phone number is 207-287-1440. You can find me on Facebook.*

*To receive regular updates, sign up for my e-newsletter at <https://maine-housegop.org> <*

## LETTER to the editor

Submit letters by Monday at 5p.m. to: [editor@thewindhameagle.com](mailto:editor@thewindhameagle.com)



or mail to: 585 Roosevelt Trail, Windham, ME, 04062

### Editor,

Make your bed every day. Easy for you to say. What if the bed is upstairs and your bones and muscles won't let you climb anymore? It's a humbling ask to reach out to a person for assistance in finding a downstairs place to sleep. The couch had been enlisted to hold her frailties by default but was no substitute for a real restful mattress that would understand the late-life curvature and charley-horse sensations from such a limited fall-back option. If only there was a hospital bed that could be moved in.

Ask your District 106 legislator, Barbara Bagshaw, for help. Enter a search engine angel and an immediate neighborhood family response that found a hospital bed nearby.

Cancer caused a vacancy in the lives of the Argraves family and his hospital bed was immediately designated for restful redeployment to the couched senior who asked for help. Within hours a motivated mechanical team from the Windham Republican Town Committee disassembled, moved, and reinstalled the hospital bed.

Representative Bagshaw engaged with her network to resolve an elderly lady's discomfort. Partisanship was excused from the project. The community won.

~ William Colby, Windham

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# History roars to life for visitors this summer at Raymond Casco Historical Museum's Blacksmith Shop

By Ed Pierce  
STAFF WRITER

Steeped in history, the Watkins Blacksmith Shop is one of the oldest blacksmith shops still in existence in Maine, and visitors to the Raymond-Casco Historical Society Museum this summer can watch blacksmiths take red-hot iron from the fires of the shop's forge and hammer it into a variety of tools, and hardware.

A year-long project to resurrect and preserve the shop and move it to the museum grounds in Casco was completed last summer and it has become the centerpiece and star attraction to a revitalized museum of artifacts and antiquities unequaled anywhere in the Lakes Region of

Maine. According to Raymond-Casco Historical Society president Frank McDermott, the blacksmith shop was first opened in the 1850s by William Watkins and was in use right up until the 1940s in Casco.

Footage of the blacksmith's forge and shop was included in a 1922 silent movie called "Timothy's Quest" and it once was part of a thriving rural community in Casco, but over the past eight decades, the building slowly become a crumbling relic of Maine's past. That is, until an idea about moving the building was pitched to Frank McDermott, president of the Raymond-Casco Historical Society. He envisioned the potential of moving the blacksmith shop to the society's

museum on Watkins Farm in Casco, restoring it and using it for live demonstrations for the public.

A team of advisors assisted the historical society in moving the structure to the museum and that group included Dr. Robert Schmick, Museum Director of 19th Century Curran Village in Orrington, Ed Somers of Bridgton, a specialist in preservation and restoration of buildings of this era, and Kerry Tottle of Limington, who devised a plan for lifting sections of the building over an adjacent building at its original location.

"We are amazed at what was accomplished. We realize that we have

saved an important part of history that should serve the communities as well as the state for another 200-plus years. Most of the credit for saving this piece of history must go to the citizens of Casco and Raymond for their generous donations that voted to give the project last summer. Then we must thank the individual donors that put us over the top. Without them, nothing would have been accomplished."

Besides Blacksmith Shop demonstrations, guests to the Raymond-Casco Historical Society Museum can also explore four old buildings at the site. The main museum building was

→ see BLACKSMITH Page 20



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**➔ BACKPACK** *Cont. from page 3*  
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**Local businessman Shaw Dwight receives a plaque for donating to the RSU 14 Backpack Program.** SUBMITTED PHOTO

any additional help.” Roderick says that he has learned a lot from being a part of this amazing program.

“I think it’s a wonderful example of the strength of our community and our school district and how much they care for the future of our children,” he said. “I think it also opened my eyes to a bigger lesson, even when it appears our towns may be thriving, growing, improving, there are still plenty of people and families that are just getting by, that could use just a little bit of breathing room in order to really succeed. And often it is those people, and those families that were given a lift that can then turn around and help the next person because they understand and appreciate how much it means.” <



**Derek Kneeland's schedule has afforded him the opportunity to race his own super-modified race car at a handful of events this summer throughout New England.** COURTESY PHOTO

**➔ RACING** *Cont. from page 1*

friends have been supportive of his life in racing.

“My dad and my cousin Rusty Poland and my good buddy, Nick Brown, we all work together on my car and Rusty’s,” Kneeland said. “It’s definitely a family sport. My parents and my wife every weekend tune into the NASCAR app to listen to me spot for my drivers as well. They love it all whether it’s getting to watch me behind the wheel or listen to me do my job on a weekly basis.”

His proudest moments in racing include his first Cup win at Michigan with Kyle Larson, being a part of

an Xfinity championship with Tyler Reddick and a Superspeedway win with Kyle Busch.

His career as spotter has taken him to NASCAR tracks all over the nation and as a driver, Kneeland has raced in Maine, New Hampshire, Michigan, North Carolina, and Florida. He says the biggest race he’s competed in is the Oxford 250 because he raced against NASCAR driver Brad Keselowski in that event.

“I still have a couple things left to check off my list,” Kneeland said. “And they are tough ones. A cup championship and a Daytona 500 win.” <

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# Tim Nangle: Easing the property tax burden for Mainer

► **By Senator Tim Nangle**  
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE



Ensuring Maine's seniors can afford to stay in their homes is a priority beyond politics. Property taxes can be a significant burden, especially for older Mainers on fixed incomes. In response, we have enhanced and expanded essential programs to support seniors and working families.

One of the pivotal programs we've enhanced is the Property Tax Fairness Credit (PTFC). This credit is crucial for income-eligible Mainers, whether renting or owning their homes. Recognizing the need for more targeted relief, we have increased the maximum benefit for seniors by \$500. This enhancement ensures the credit is more substantial for those over 65, providing a critical lifeline to our older residents.

Notably, the PTFC is refundable, meaning eligible individuals will receive the credit as a refund even if they owe no state income tax. This feature is particularly beneficial for older Mainers living on fixed incomes. The amount of the credit is determined based on income eligibility and age. I encourage you to visit the Maine Revenue Services website for more information on eligibility and the application process: [maine.gov/revenue/taxes/tax-relief-credits-programs/income-tax-credits/property-tax-fair-](http://maine.gov/revenue/taxes/tax-relief-credits-programs/income-tax-credits/property-tax-fair-)

ness-credit.

Another important program we've strengthened is the Property Tax Deferral Program. This program is designed to help older Mainers and individuals with disabilities remain in their homes even if they fall behind on property taxes. Through this program, the state pays the property taxes owed to the municipality, and repayment is deferred until the property is sold or the estate is settled.

During the 131st Maine Legislature, we increased eligibility of this program, broadening its reach to ensure that more older Mainers on the brink could benefit. This increase reflects our commitment to supporting the generation who has contributed so much to our community. To learn more about the Property Tax Deferral Program and see if you qualify, please visit [maine.gov/revenue/taxes/tax-relief-credits-programs/property-tax-relief-programs/deferral-program](http://maine.gov/revenue/taxes/tax-relief-credits-programs/property-tax-relief-programs/deferral-program)

We also have specific programs to ease the property tax burden for our veterans. Veterans who have served during recognized war periods are 62 years or older, or are 100 percent disabled can receive a \$6,000 reduction in the assessed value of their home through the Veteran Exemption. Additionally, paraplegic veterans who have received a federal grant for specially adapted housing may qualify for a \$50,000 exemption. These benefits are one way of honoring the service of our veterans and ensuring they can live comfortably in their homes.

Another valuable program for property tax relief is the Homestead Exemption. This program reduces up to \$25,000 in the assessed value of your primary residence for property tax purposes.

To qualify, you must be a permanent resident of Maine and have owned a home in the state for at least 12 months before applying. Once approved, the exemption remains in effect as long as your ownership and residency status do not change. This exemption is a significant benefit for all home-owning Maine residents, especially for those on fixed incomes, as it directly lowers the taxable value of your home, reducing your overall property tax bill.

Beyond these specific programs, I was proud to support budgets that ensure the state fully funds its share of K-12 public education and the revenue sharing program, which returns a portion of sales tax revenue to municipalities. These efforts are crucial because property taxpayers bear the additional burden when the state does not fulfill its financial commitments. By ensuring that the state adequately funds these areas, we aim to stabilize property taxes across the board, ben-

efiting all Mainers.

For a comprehensive overview of all property tax relief programs available, please visit the Maine Revenue Services property tax relief page: [www.maine.gov/revenue/taxes/tax-relief-credits-programs/property-tax-relief-programs](http://www.maine.gov/revenue/taxes/tax-relief-credits-programs/property-tax-relief-programs). These resources are here to help you navigate and apply for assistance.

Our efforts to provide property tax relief are about ensuring that our seniors, working class families and veterans can continue to live in the homes and communities they cherish without financial strain. I am committed to working for you and ensuring that our community remains a great place to live for everyone.

*Even though we are out of session, I am a resource and advocate for you all year. Contact me directly at [Timothy.Nangle@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Timothy.Nangle@legislature.maine.gov) or call the Senate Majority Office at 207-287-1515. For the latest updates, follow me on Facebook at [facebook.com/SenatorTimNangle](https://www.facebook.com/SenatorTimNangle), and sign up for my e-newsletter at [mainesenate.org](http://mainesenate.org).*



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# College Roundup

Delana Perkins, Alanna Luce and Julian Howard of Windham have been named to the Dean's List at the Rochester Institute of Technology for the Spring 2024 semester.

Alanna Luce of Windham has earned a Bachelor of Science degree in computer technology from the Rochester Institute of Technology.

Chloe Cyr of Windham has been named to the Dean's List at Baldwin Wallace University for the Spring 2024 semester.

Grace Alfiero and Haley Atherton of Windham have been named to the Dean's List at Emmanuel College for the Spring 2024 semester.

Erin Nakamura of Windham has earned a Master of Science degree from the University of Hartford's College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions.

Mikayla Linscott and Logan Marden of Windham have been named to the President's List at Plymouth State University for the Spring 2024 semester.

Jackson Williams of Windham has been named to the Dean's List at Bryant University for the Spring 2024 semester.

Bella Lorenzatti of Windham has been named to the Dean's List at Salve Regina University for the Spring 2024 semester.

Rianna Barnhart and Rylee Prescott of Windham have received the President's Honors distinction for academics at Central Maine Community College for the Spring 2024 semester.

Dominic Jordan of Windham has received the Honors distinction for academics at Central Maine Community College for the Spring 2024 semester.

Matthew McNally of Raymond, and Lauren Broadbent, Madelyne Hancock, Hannah Langstaff, Brenden Norwood, Bradyn Shaw and Haley Theberge, all of Windham, have received the Highest Honors distinction for academics at the University of New Hampshire for the Spring 2024 semester.

Antonio Candelmo, Alexsea Cholewa, Lizzy Donahue, Miranda Hopkins, Joe Kerkes, Lisa Parisi-Baribeau, Caden Theriault and Hannah Woznicki, all of Windham, have been named to the President's List at the University of Maine Augusta for the Spring 2024 semester.

Michelle Deiulio, Ashley Benner, Katie Dube, Thomas Dyer, Sharon Kennedy, and Jason Mulligan, all of Windham, have been named to the Dean's List at the University of Maine Augusta for the Spring 2024 semester.

Chloe Allen, Heather Carper, Sam Michelson and Bella Turner, all of Windham, have received the High

Honors distinction for academics at the University of Maine Farmington for the Spring 2024 semester.

Izack Enman, Ryan Sargent and Laura Taylor, all of Windham, have received the Honors distinction for academics at the University of Maine Farmington for the Spring 2024 semester.

Annmarie Andrews of Windham has been named to the Dean's List at High Point University for the Spring 2024 semester.

Danielle Hall of Windham has earned a Master of Science degree in Geographic Information Science from Clark University. <



## Hannah Clukey



**Name:** Hannah Clukey **Grade:** Fifth Grade  
**School:** Manchester School  
**Teacher:** Jennifer Breton and Cindy Moore  
**Favorite subject(s) in school:** Writing  
**Parents' names:** Amy and Tony  
**Reason for selection:** Hannah was chosen for Student of the Week because of her willingness to help anyone in need, her kind heart, and her strong work ethic. Hannah is a gentle soul with the biggest heart. She is an excellent and motivated student who thrives on learning and sharing her knowledge with others. She has great character and is self-reflective. Her dependability and honesty are wonderful attributes, and she is an immense pleasure to have in class. Her sense of humor is the frosting on the cake! These are just some of the reasons Hannah is a deserving student for this recognition!

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➔ **BLACKSMITH** *Cont. from page 11*  
 constructed and then donated by Skip and Zina Watkins to the Historical Society and contains exhibits of historical value to Raymond and Casco. There's also a barn featuring farming and industrial exhibits that were used in both Raymond and Casco dating as far back as the 18th century.

The third building on the museum grounds is a true replica of the Friends School House that was destroyed by a fire years ago. At the time of the fire, historical society members were in the process of moving it to the site and it's an excellent example of a one-room schoolhouse. The school is used for demonstrations as well as a

meeting space. And now the fourth building at the museum is the Watkins Blacksmith Shop.

McDermott says that he truly wants people visiting the blacksmith shop to understand their history as blacksmith shops used to be the lifeblood and center of rural communities in Maine.

"We really need to get people to understand their history, the history of where they live, and how that relates to what we're doing today," said McDermott. "If you don't know your history, you don't know anything. People need to care about the history of where they live, and we're going to try and change that a little bit, so people do become more curious about the

towns they live in."

What's even better for museum visitors is that there is no charge to visit the museum which is open from noon to 3 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday. The Raymond-Casco Historical Society Museum is located at 1 Shadow Lane in Casco. For more info, call 207-655-6389. <

**Blacksmith Tony Stanley of Forged by Thor works in the Raymond Casco Historical Society's restored Blacksmith Shop last summer. Free demonstrations by blacksmiths are held for the public throughout the summer at the Raymond Casco Historical Museum in Casco.**  
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# BRIEFS

## Temporary Library Delivery System

In early June, interlibrary loan service between Maine's libraries was suspended. Now, Windham Public Library is part of a group of Greater Portland area libraries which are restoring some degree of interlibrary loan delivery for users until the new statewide delivery service goes live. The public libraries in Biddeford, Cape Elizabeth, Falmouth, Gorham, Gray, Scarborough, South Portland, Westbrook, and Windham have all agreed to work collaboratively and will commence transporting interlibrary loan materials between these nine locations beginning July 1. Though far from the

scope of access to materials users are used to when statewide delivery is fully running, this localized effort does provide our users with delivery access to more than 860,000 items. FMI, contact the Windham Public Library Help Desk at 207-892-1908, ext. 5.

## Flea Market

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. 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. FMI, call 207-627-4282.

## Pot Roast Supper

Raymond Village Community Church will offer a Pot Roast Supper on Saturday, July 13. The meal includes pot roast and gravy, potatoes, green beans, carrots, a roll, and a brownie for \$15. Meals are take-out only. The church will take orders for meals for pick up between 5 and 6 p.m. at 27 Main St. in Raymond. Order in advance. To order call 207-655-7749 before noon on July 13 and leave a message with your name, number of meals and time you'll pick up. Or you can email: office@rvccme.org with the info.

## Meals on Wheels

The Meals on Wheels program provides up to five meals for home-bound participants each week. Volunteers and agency staff deliver meals 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. There is a suggested donation of \$3.50 per meal. This service is provided by the Southern Maine Agency on Aging. Call 1-800-400-6325 for more info.

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# Eagle SPORTS



## Windham graduate Marion to play soccer at SJC

By Matt Pascarella  
STAFF WRITER

Windham graduate Nick Marion started playing soccer at age five; it was his grandmother who helped him choose this sport. He first tried T-ball and didn't like it, so he began playing soccer. He was instantly in love with the game and likes playing as much as possible. Marion scored 33 goals this year, which is the second-best season-goal record in Class A history. In the fall, he will attend Saint Joseph's College where he will major in political science, while also playing soccer. Marion would like to go to law school after college.

"Not everyone gets this opportunity," said Marion. "I feel honored and blessed to be able to keep playing. I'm very thankful to my family and friends who helped me get here."

In addition to this achievement, the United Soccer Coaches chose Marion as 2023 Fall Boys High School All-America Team – Windham High School's first All-American player. Three students were picked from Maine to receive this honor and Marion was one of them; he thanks his family and teammates for being able to accomplish this.

This year, Marion was Offensive Player of the Year for the Southern Maine Activities Association, Portland Press Player of the Year and Class A Player of the Year, just to name a few of his accolades.

"He's going to bring a lot to Saint



Windham High graduate Nick Marion (center) joins his mother Lisa O'Reilly and stepfather Kevin O'Reilly after signing a letter of intent to attend Saint Joseph's College where he will major in political science and play soccer. PHOTO BY KAREN BURNETT

Joseph's College," said Windham graduate and teammate Owen Dakin who will be attending University of Maine Farmington in the fall. "He'll be passionate with the team, bring a lot of team chemistry and bring the team together. Just all around-great athlete; he's great in school, I bet he'll be helping his classmates with work. He's always that nice person, you can go to him with anything. He just wanted the [Windham] team to be the best they could, and he pretty much did whatever he could to make them better. It's really great to see."

Marion chose Saint Joseph's College because he loved the school, he liked the location, and he liked the soccer team. It had everything he was looking for.

Throughout his athletic career, Windham Athletics taught him a lot that he'll be able to bring with him when he plays collegiately; one thing is perseverance. Although during his time on Windham's varsity boys' soccer team they never won a state championship, they learned something every year which they could carry forward to the next season to make that

season more successful. Not giving up made them stronger players.

"So well deserved for you; everything that I think you want in a student athlete, Nick exemplifies," said Windham varsity boys' soccer coach Jeff Neal. "Tireless worker, fierce competitor, but his humility is one of his greatest traits – and something that is totally admirable. He is a young man that doesn't like to be on the sidelines; loves the opportunity to be useful and helpful in any way that he could. When you take him off the pitch, he is so quick to deflect the praise on his teammates and he did it all season long, he did that with the press ... which is a hard thing for a young man to do; you represented yourself well you came across as a class act, which is no surprise to me. The other thing I asked of Nick was could he come and do stuff with the younger players in the community and he always did. That role model for younger players is huge."

If there is one piece of advice Marion would like to pass down to underclassmen, or anyone looking to accomplish what he has, it's to believe in yourself – everyone can work hard if they want to, and good things will come from that.

Marion would like to thank Coach Neal, Coach Dubay, Coach Hodge, Coach Graves, Saint Joseph's College mens' soccer Coach Pike, and his family and friends. They have all been instrumental in his success. <

## WLL's 9/10 All-Star softball drops hard-fought game

By Matt Pascarella  
STAFF WRITER

A total of 12 teams entered the annual District 6 softball tournament for 9/10-year-olds and Windham's

All-Stars made it all the way to the district's final four before their season ended on Monday, July 1 in Gorham. Looking to advance further in the tournament, Windham worked hard

at it, but Gorham prevailed, 12-2.

Windham's successful season included an 8-6 win over Cumberland North Yarmouth, a close 4-3 loss to Falmouth, and a big 12-2 win over Scarborough.

"I try to get them to think about little battles within the big game. It was a good ... crowd," said Windham 9/10 All-Star coach Nick Caiazzo. "You embrace the big crowd and let them know a lot of those people are here to watch you guys play. Now you're down to the final four – they're all here to watch us and we're good softball players. Improvement, in just the concept of the game of softball in all of them coming from Minors player-pitch to what we call 'real softball', all of them got exposed to so much."

In the third inning, after a couple walks, a groundout brought Windham fifth grader Quinn Couture home with her team's first run of the game.

In the fourth inning, Windham fifth grader Brooke Legere stole home after fifth grader Avary Caiazzo walked.

Legere also pitched for Windham and had eight strikeouts.

"I'm proud of every girl and I cherish and will remember every moment I had with them," said Avary Caiazzo. "I loved that we stayed at it and never gave up; I think we could have had a better ... attitude, but overall, we did

amazing and grateful for the times we got to play. Basically, everyone did great in their spots."

According to Windham fifth grader Lily Nickel, she thought they did great as a team, and they worked hard to get to this point. She said she's really proud of her team and they had great practices and had fun while they did it. <



Windham fifth grader Lily Nickel holds a runner on third base during a Little League softball game on Monday, July 1 against Gorham. PHOTO BY MATT PASCARELLA

### ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



#### Bronson Bassett

**Age:** 11 **Team:** Windham 11/12 All-Star baseball  
**Coach:** Adam Kalakowsky  
**Parents' names:** Nichole and Johnathan Bassett  
**Reason for selection:** Bronson displayed solid relief pitching in the All-Star 1-0 loss to Cape Elizabeth. He pitched 2.1 innings with six strikeouts and no runs. He has been a great role model for his teammates with strong leadership skills. He always has a positive attitude and is a good teammate. He pitched in two All-Star games this year and had a 0.00 ERA in 3.2 innings pitched. Bronson is a great teammate and leader on and off the field.

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# 10/11 All-Stars rally in final inning to avoid shutout

By Matt Pascarella  
STAFF WRITER

The Windham Little League 10/11 All-Stars baseball team played Falmouth in Scarborough on Friday, June 28 and after a rough first inning gave Falmouth a big lead. Windham came back in the last inning to put a couple runs on the scoreboard. Unfortunately, Windham suffered its second loss and was eliminated from the District 6 tournament, with Falmouth winning, 18-2.

"I think on that last inning the team had like a pump-up boost and everyone was on," said Windham fourth grader Nathaniel Potter. "We just did great all in all and it was a great experience to be in an inning that we were doing good. It was really fun to play on a team where it's mostly Majors players and you got me and another kid and we're learning from the Majors kids and being able to start alongside them was a great experience. Little League's not just all about winning, it's about improving yourself and becoming a better baseball player."

A rough first inning gave Falmouth the opportunity to score several runs, but Windham kept their heads up and made improvements every inning after that.

In the second inning, Windham fourth grader Dominic Rathbone singled, but was left on base when the inning ended.

In the third inning Windham gave a solid final push.

"I could tell they really wanted to



(L to R) Windham 10/11 All-Star fifth grader Nathaniel Potter runs to first base during the final inning of a game against Falmouth on Friday, June 28 at Scarborough. Fourth grader Byron Dansereau pauses at third base before scoring a run. Fifth grader CJ Bisson makes a throw to the infield after fielding the ball. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

put something together in the last inning," said Windham 10/11 All-Stars baseball coach John Cressey. "It was great to see the effort and the mental aspect of it come back around again. They cheered each other on, and it was a proud moment to be able to say this was the team that we put together, and we battled together as a team. They started communicating better in the field in that last inning. They watched the pitches and made sure they weren't swinging at bad pitches, and it developed into a couple runs and they were excited. They were really happy to get rid of the goose egg and put a couple runs across the board. They started realizing they

needed to get to the ball a little bit quicker and keep the kids on the bases and then they started building off that momentum. I'm really proud of the progress these kids made."

Windham fourth grader Byron Dansereau reached first base after a dropped third strike. Potter walked, then stole second base. Fifth grader Wesson LeDuc walked, Dansereau scored and now Potter is on third base. Fifth grader CJ Bisson walked; LeDuc artfully stole second base. Potter stole home.

"It was very exciting to score because my whole team was congratulating me," said Dansereau. "My team was talking more, and we did some

good plays and we played smart."

Dansereau had fun this season and will play again next year.

"On the mound, it was fun; it was exciting," said LeDuc who closed out the game. "It was a little stressful because I had a feeling it was probably going to be the last inning. I tried my hardest to throw strikes. It's an energetic team and we try to build each other up. For the few that got on base we did pretty good, we were smart, we were fast and then fielding we had a couple errors, but the rest were really good plays; we had some good hits. My takeaway from this season is to be a good teammate, and just practice and get better." <

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# Four years of 600 words

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

This week's column marks the completion of four years' worth of weekly essays for this newspaper, each of which has contained exactly 600 words. So ... why 600? Why not 400, or 700, or 567, or some other random number?

The explanation goes back to late 2003, when I wrote a letter to the editor of the Community Leader, a free weekly newspaper in Falmouth. The subject was the Boston Red Sox, the baseball team New England, or at least the portion of it east of the Connecticut River, is irrationally smitten with. The Sox had just lost yet another playoff series, extending their champion-

ship-less streak to an unfathomable 86 seasons. To make matters worse, their latest excruciating defeat had come at the hands of their arch-rivals, the lordly, arrogant, and maddeningly successful New York Yankees.

In the aftermath, an overwrought Red Sox Nation blamed the soul-crushing defeat on manager Grady Little's decision to leave his tiring ace, Pedro Martinez, on the mound for too long, allowing the Yankees to tie the game in the 8th inning. That set the stage for Aaron Boone's decisive home run in the bottom of the 11th.

Twelve days later Little was discharged, which prompted me to dash off a letter to a local daily newspaper, the Falmouth (ME) Community

Leader. In it I excoriated Red Sox fans for their overwrought reaction, and concluded by predicting Grady Little would get himself a World Series ring a whole lot sooner than Boston's American League team would.

Naturally the Red Sox ended their championship drought the following fall. But while my letter's publication ultimately revealed that I didn't know any more about baseball than those histrionic Red Sox aficionados I had taken to task for their irrationality did, it also caught the attention of the Community Leader's editor, who asked me if I'd consider writing a weekly column for the paper.

A chance to sound off in print on whatever subject(s) I cared to write about? Sign me up!

When the Community Leader went belly-up a couple of years later, I signed on with another free weekly, the Yarmouth Notes, to do a monthly column. That led to periodic pieces in an actual daily paper, the Biddeford Journal Tribune. But when each of those publications became defunct, I was left platformless.

Then I had an epiphany. As an English teacher, one of my responsibilities is convincing students that

adherence to the "three C's" (clear, complete, and concise) is what makes effective writers. Why it hadn't occurred to me before I cannot say, but I realized that striving for clarity, completeness, and conciseness would serve me just as well as it does high school students who care enough about their writing to put in actual effort. The first 200 or so words of every column I had written consisted of me writing about what I was about to write about. It was the equivalent of the start of my long-ago high school gym classes, where the whole point of doing 15 jumping jacks, 10 pushups, and two laps around the gym wasn't the exercises themselves: it was about warming up our muscles for what was coming next.

After a writing hiatus of 18 months or so I was contacted by Ed Pierce, who had been running the Journal Tribune at the time of its demise. He had resurfaced as Managing Editor of The Windham Eagle, a print weekly that was attempting to grow rather than disappear, and he asked if I'd consider contributing an occasional column. The rest is ongoing history, in 600-word installments.

Like this one. <

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#### PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC MEETING

**Broadcast Studio - 423 Webbs Mills Road  
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**Wednesday, July 10, 2024 • 7:00 PM**

You are hereby notified that the Raymond Planning Board will hold a Meeting at the Raymond Broadcast Studio and via Zoom on **Wednesday, July 10, 2024, at 7:00 pm** on the following matters:

#### SITE PLAN REVIEW & PUBLIC HEARING

**APPLICANT:** Nicolas Cummings by Dustin Roma

**LOCATION:** Map: 004 Lot: 15B Zone LRR2  
Mila's Woods Road

**DESCRIPTION:** Road Construction Permit

#### AMENDMENT TO APPROVED SUBDIVISION & PUBLIC HEARING

**APPLICANT:** Derek Ray/Cousins Development Corporation

**LOCATION:** Map: 018 Lot: 18C, 16C, 18 Zone R  
Tenny Hill Road Extension

**DESCRIPTION:** Waive requirement of underground power to overhead lines

#### PUBLIC HEARING & SITE PLAN REVIEW

**APPLICANT:** Town of Raymond – Parks & Recreation Dept.

**LOCATION:** Map: 048 Lot: 11 Zone VR1  
63 Mill Street – Sheri Gagnon Memorial Park

**DESCRIPTION:** Site Plan for construction of two (2) tennis courts (78' x 36') and two (2) pickleball courts (44' x 20') in an approximately 17,880 s.f. fenced area

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

Copy of the submitted applications are available for review on the town website ([www.raymondmaine.org/content/planningboard-agenda](http://www.raymondmaine.org/content/planningboard-agenda)) after June 20th, 2024, or at the Town Office (401 Webbs Mills Road) by appointment during regular business hours.

#### JOIN ZOOM MEETING

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#### NOTICE OF STAFF REVIEW

You are hereby notified that the Raymond Code Enforcement Officer and Town Planner are conducting a Site Plan Staff Review on the following matter:

**APPLICANT:** Matt DiBiase

**LOCATION:** 138 North Raymond Road  
MAP 17, LOT 19, ZONE R

**DESCRIPTION:** Create a backlot driveway to allow construction of single family dwelling

Copy of the submitted application is available for review at the Town Office (401 Webbs Mills Road) by appointment during regular business hours. Please call 207-655-4742 x134 to schedule an appointment. Documents are also on the Town's website.

**You have until July 14th, 2024 to respond with any objections or concerns about this project.** You may email your comments to the Raymond Planning and Zoning Administrative Assistant at [sandy.fredricks@raymondmaine.org](mailto:sandy.fredricks@raymondmaine.org).



# Eagle REAL ESTATE & Home

## Did you get a permit for that?

► **By Nicole Foster**  
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— Nicole Foster, Broker/REALTOR®

Maine has some of the oldest housing stock in our nation, often pre-dating building codes, land use ordinances or zoning requirements. More often than not, these older homes have changed ownership a number of times over the years and had modifications along the way. As real estate professionals, we witness daily how building trends from bygone eras have either endured the test of time or fallen short, presenting a spectrum of outcomes.

If given the choice, would you prefer to purchase a home that was constructed in the 1920s or one which was built in the 1970s? Consulting with a local REALTOR® can help to shed light on the market inventory and its unique features and distinctions.

One of the first tasks that the listing or buying broker will undertake will be to check and see what information

may be found in the file for the property at the Code Enforcement department of your municipality. This is a free, public record and anyone is welcome to view the contents and ask any questions that they have.

Homeowners must apply for and receive a permit for any changes or improvements beyond minor upgrades prior to beginning the work to the inside or outside of their home. Regardless of whether the work is completed by a contractor who has been hired by the homeowner or the homeowner does the work themselves, most alterations beyond a new faucet, change in flooring or new paint will necessitate a permit from the municipality. Larger projects or renovations will likely require more than one permit to be obtained.

Each town or city has its own requirements for inspections and fee structure when applying for permits. The permitting process is intended



to help safeguard buildings to make them safer for the current and future occupants. Having the required permits for the improvements that you do ensures that the work complies with the current local standards for energy and safety.

A lender could deny a borrower the loan to purchase the home, or an insurance company can reject a claim due to unpermitted work. Properties with all the necessary permits for upgrades appeal more to buyers and achieve higher valuations compared to those with un-

permitted improvements.

Reasons homeowners may forego obtaining permits vary, and many view the process of obtaining them as tedious. Some wish to avoid any increased property taxes by keeping improvements undisclosed to the Tax Assessor. Others fear that permit requirements may impose unwanted scrutiny or will reveal other potential violations during inspections. Additionally, homeowners may hesitate due to the expense of the permit fees, or they simply may be unaware of the requirements and standards.

When selling a home, the owner must disclose any improvements which have been done to the property, both during their ownership and all previous ownership (yes all the way back to the beginning of time). A failure to do so can lead to legal liability down the road after the closing. When unpermitted upgrades and alterations are disclosed to buyers the new owners have accepted the re-

→ see REAL ESTATE Page 28

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# BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Looking for a cool treat to beat the summer heat? The Outpost Scoop Shoppe, a new ice cream shop in Standish, is sure to have something to satisfy you. This quaint ice cream shop, situated near the water with a spacious lawn and friendly staff offers a delightful escape from the ordinary ice cream shop experience. They invite customers to indulge in a world of creamy, sweet perfection where creative flavor combinations will please any palette.

Since opening its doors in May, The Outpost Scoop Shoppe located at 380 Pequawket Trail has garnered a loyal following, thanks to its commitment to quality and service. The building formerly known as the Inlet was acquired in January 2023 by the Decrow family and is now home to The Outpost Scoop Shoppe and an independently owned family restaurant.

While the Scoop Shoppe is a family-owned business, Abigail Decrow's passion and inspiration are what make this business thrive. Abigail's enthusiasm for community engagement is evident in every aspect of their ice cream business.

"The Outpost Scoop Shoppe prides itself in offering quality ice cream and supreme service. Our weekly specials are unique and keep our menu fresh." Decrow said. "We introduced a few new products to the local market, including ice cream nachos, flights, and specialty stackers also known as par-faits. Some of our unique specials have



recently been picked up by other local ice cream shops."

Abigail's journey began in a little ice cream shop in Falmouth who also served Shain's of Maine and Hershey. She was mentored by veteran ice cream shop owners and that experience is the foundation of her operation model today. Her time in a local Windham ice cream shop allowed her to explore her creativity.

At The Outpost Scoop Shoppe customers will find a kaleidoscope of many different flavors of ice cream produced both locally and nationally, best sellers, and in both hard and soft-serve options. The menu which features many original combinations is a testament to Decrow's dedication to innovation and creativity.

Specialty drinks offered by The Outpost Scoop Shoppe include energy surges, frozen lemonade, nor'easters, milkshakes, frappes, floats, spritzers, freezes, and ice cream sodas.

Customers can try out tempting tasty sundae flavors such as Granny D's Whoopie Pie, Watchic Wonder, or Ultimate Brownie Sundae. Customers

don't need to be limited by the menu options, they can also branch out and create their own sundaes. They even offer pup cups topped with a doggy biscuit for a tasty refreshment for your furry friends.

"If you have dietary restrictions, we have you covered. We offer vegan, dairy-free, low fat low sugar yogurts, and no-sugar added ice cream options," Decrow said. "We have over six different dairy-free options and an array of frozen energy drinks and specialty drinks. Our prices are competitive, our service is exceptional, and our specials are worth driving past your regular ice cream spot to give us a try."

The Outpost's specialty stacker flavors include Oreo Bliss, Bass Master or Campfire or you can build your own unique creations. The Outpost Scoop Shoppe prides itself in serving weekly exclusive specials which are advertised on their social media channels - try them before they sell out. And if you have not tried their ice cream nachos yet, you are missing out on an exceptional delicious treat you won't find anywhere else.

In the future, Decrow plans to expand the business to include ice cream cakes, pies and other baked goods. She would also like to take her business on the road in an ice cream truck for birthday parties and special event catering.

The list of regulars is growing by the day and their passion for creating memorable moments is evident in every scoop they serve.

Online reviews are extraordinary.

"We've stopped in three times now. The sundaes are amazing, waffle cones were great, and flavor/topping selections are fantastic!! Prices are amazing and will keep us coming back." ~ Heather Marx

"Dairy free vegan options. I got the flight, and all six flavors were amazing. I have a lot of food allergies. and this was the first time in many, many years I was able to enjoy ice cream." ~ Aimee Esty

In a world where life can sometimes be overwhelming, The Outpost Scoop Shoppe offers a simple, yet profound reminder: sometimes, all you need is a sweet treat and a smile. Ice cream solves everything!

Take a trip over to The Outpost Scoop Shoppe and take the trip often. They offer loyalty cards to earn free ice cream and are open daily Noon to 9 p.m. through Labor Day. Follow them on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok under the handle OutpostScoopShoppe to keep up with the latest creations and specials or visit their website at: [www.outpostscoopshoppe.com](http://www.outpostscoopshoppe.com). <

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➔ REAL ESTATE Cont. from page 25

sponsibility, shifting liability from the seller to the buyers.

Owners may choose to or could be

asked to obtain retroactive permits for already completed work.

Identifying unpermitted work can be straightforward at times by comparing visual inspection to what

is in the code file, but it can also be extremely challenging to know where work was done that permits were not obtained for, intentionally or unintentionally. Consulting with a seasoned building inspector or trusted contractors can help to identify any areas of concern, though visual inspection alone may not always reveal permitting noncompliance.

It's important to confirm that the contractors you hire will handle the required permits on your behalf. You will want to verify this directly with Code Enforcement by checking in the municipal code enforcement files for your property yourself, as ultimately, the homeowner holds the responsibility.

This is an entirely common and relatively normal occurrence, and I have encountered a costly oversight

where a high-end contracting company failed to secure the necessary permits from the municipality for a kitchen remodel, unbeknownst to the seller until the property was going to be listed. Similarly, an insurance claim following a fire was denied due to an electrical issue stemming from work performed without permits.

Upgrades and improvements are an excellent way to support a higher value for your property, don't sell yourself at a discount by skipping the bureaucratic procedures involved.

This article was brought to you by Nicole Foster, a real estate broker with Locations Real Estate and 19 years of experience. She is a Windham parent who loves people and real estate. Follow Nicole on Instagram @207nicolefoster or Facebook facebook.com/sellingmaine. <

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