

Raymond-Casco Historical Society debuts Early Bird Show

By Kendra Raymond

STAFF WRITER

A local resident recently came up with a clever solution to beat the winter blues. The Early Bird Show recently rolled out its first episode with another on the way.

The brainchild of Raymond-Casco Historical Society member Greg Plummer, the brand-new YouTube series features a different town celebrity on each episode. During the show, Plummer chats with guests in his makeshift studio, complete with a host's desk and chairs. The "set" is decorated with local historical pieces and the place appears quite cozy.

"The Early Bird Show is designed to have the appearance of a low-budget late-night talk show parody. The host is yours truly and each month I will interview a featured guest, a senior member of our community and someone with a story to tell," Plummer said. "My vision is to document and share as much history and local lore as I can from the people who have lived in this area for decades. Plus, I like talking with old people. Old people rule."

Plummer aptly kicked off a con-

versation by telling his guest, Wayne Whitney, "This will be perfect. It's just you and I, it's all it is. That's what we're gonna do."

This seems to summarize the tone of the entertaining and witty conversation.

"Dazzle 'em with your brilliance or buffalo 'em with your BS," laughed Whitney.

Known primarily as a poultry farmer, Whitney explained how his family got into farming and highlighted some memories from his childhood on Raymond Cape Road.

"The only good chicken is a dead one," he laughed. "It was peaceful and quiet," Whitney said. "I played baseball and football as a high school student at Bridgton High School. I drove back and forth with a pickup truck to school. My first vehicle was a 1952 Chevrolet. I bought it for \$50 from a friend of mine, Dana Wiley up



Area resident Wayne Whitney, left, chats with host Greg Plummer during the debut episode of the Early Bird Show, a new video project of the Raymond-Casco Historical Society on YouTube. COURTESY PHOTO

in Naples."

Whitney said that his sons live out of state, but they look after him to make sure he does things right.

"If I don't do them worth the first time, I do them right the second time," he said.

He is the former captain of the Raymond Volunteer Fire Department.

"We had two main fire trucks in Raymond Village, a little utility truck,

and two fire trucks up in east Raymond. This was back around 1955," he said. "I was in the department when they came out with the first rescue unit."

According to Whitney, he is a fan of country and western music, but he has never attended a concert.

"You would have to go to Portland for that and it's too far. You just

→ see **SHOW** Page 4

Maine author to discuss new novel in Windham

By Ed Pierce

STAFF WRITER

For Maine author Shannon Parker, the process of writing her new novel *Love & Lobsters* was as she describes it a lot like falling in love, fevered and intoxicated, as the story poured onto the page in under three months followed by roughly a year of editing.

It is the third book that Parker has written and a unique take about love of community and friendship and the people and places that shape us here in Maine. She'll be on hand to meet readers and promote the book from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8 at Sherman's Maine Coast Book Shop in Windham.

The concept for *Love & Lobsters* came about as Parker was oddly thinking about how lobsters are cannibalistic when trapped together. A friend and I were texting about my weird thought when she made me laugh out loud.

"And in that moment, I was so grateful for hilarious banter with friends," Parker said. It was really that random, four-minute exchange that inspired the main character and her best friend and the truth about lobsters. If you think about it, Mainers are some of the few who know lobsters aren't holding claws under the slate sea, forever linked in love. Because of the popularity of the TV show *Friends*, Phoebe Buffay has spawned an industry devoted to love and 'you're my lobster' devotion. So, I thought about

how two friends could expose the world to the truth about lobsters in a funny, uniquely Maine way. I wrote a blog post in the main character's voice, and then she began to take shape in my head. Her relationship with her best friend became clearer and funnier. And soon the entire cast of characters were crystal clear, as if they'd always lived in my head."

According to Parker, her goal with this new novel is simple.

"When a reader finishes *Love & Lobsters*, I want them to hold the book close to their chest for a beat and love it enough to immediately gift it to someone they love," she said.

She's previously written *The Rattled Bones*, published under S.M. Parker, which explores the erasure of Midcoast Maine's Malaga Island.

"The inspiration for that story came to me nearly 15 years ago when I was listening to a Maine Public Radio segment called: Malaga Island, a story best left untold. I disagreed," she said. "My debut, *The Girl Who Fell*, explored



Author Shannon Parker will appear at Sherman's Maine Coast Book Shop in Windham from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8 to meet readers and discuss her new novel 'Love and Lobsters.' It is Parker's third book and copies will be available at Sherman's during the author's visit. COURTESY PHOTO

how intoxicating first love can too easily become toxic. The idea for this story came to me when I was working with young adults in Rockland and a brilliant teen told me she was going to pass on her college scholarship because her boyfriend was afraid college

would make her 'too smart.' The book explores how even the most accomplished, driven, intelligent people can fall for the wrong person – and what it takes to recover from a debilitating relationship built on the foundation of gaslighting."

The most interesting aspect of this new novel though is how the main character tries to make sense of human relationships through the lens of lobsters, but readers have overwhelmingly connected to the community and kindness in the book, Parker said.

"Down East magazine called *Love & Lobsters* a 'love letter to Maine,' and that feels spot-on. There's rugged beauty. Independence buoyed by community," she said. "Characters who feel like people you know, or people you want to know. The hardness of life balanced with hilarity. Each reader will connect with the book differently, of course, but I think it would be a mistake for anyone who loves Maine to dismiss this as 'just a romance'; it's a novel that explores all the ways Mainers uniquely show up for one another as we live among bounty and beauty, love and wonder – and I hope that feels like a gift to everyone who reads this story."

A native New Englander, Parker lives in → see **AUTHOR** Page 6

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INSIGHT

The Stranger, Bookends and the Ring of Fire

Every single day, in some way, shape or form, music touches my life. And I'm a better person for it.

Last weekend, my wife Nancy and I spent time visiting several thrift shops and antique stores and we each found something to bring home. She is into sewing and with the time speeding by until a new grandchild is born in March, she's been busy accumulating fabric to turn into clothing and other items for the baby. As for me, I always find a record album or two during these excursions to add to my growing collection.

On this trip, I brought home Billy Joel's 1977 recording "The Stranger" priced at only \$5, and Simon and Garfunkel's 1968 "Bookends," also for \$5. I also bought a "Peter Paul and Mary" album for \$3. Considering those to be genuine bargains, you can only imagine my surprise when I noticed a pristine copy of 1963's "The Best of Johnny Cash: Ring of Fire" for \$12. I brought four all-time classic recordings home for just \$25.

That Billy Joel album remains one of my favorites, and I am lucky to say that I saw him and his band perform it live during his "Just the Way You Are" tour at the Frankfurt Zoo in Germany in 1978. I was stationed in Frankfurt in the U.S. Air Force at the time and a friend called and asked if I wanted him to purchase tickets for the concert. I was able to scrape up the \$20 and the next evening, my wife and I joined our friend and his wife to walk two blocks to the zoo for the show.

The Frankfurt Zoo Auditorium featured a small stage facing 300 folding chairs with 150 on each side divided by an aisle. We sat near the aisle in the third row, and I was completely mesmerized by how great the acoustics were there. At one point, Billy Joel stepped off the stage and ran up and down the aisle while singing and I certainly felt that he gave a great performance that night.

If you've watched the movie "Almost Famous," you've probably seen the cover of Simon and Garfunkel's "Bookends" album. It's a black and white image of the two singers and in the film, actress Zooey Deschanel brings the album home and her mother, portrayed by actress Frances McDormand, disapproves. Deschanel says that the music of Simon and Garfunkel is poetry, but McDormand says "Yes, it's poetry. It is the poetry of drugs and promiscuous sex."

The "Bookends" album contains an interesting mix of catchy tunes including "A Hazy Shade of Winter," "At the Zoo," "Mrs. Robinson" (from the 1967 film "The Graduate"), and "America." Deschanel plays "America" from "Bookends" to explain to her mother why she's leaving home to become a flight attendant. At one time in the 1970s, I owned the Simon and Garfunkel album "Bookends" on 8-Track tape for my car, but that's another story for another time.

Growing up in the 1960s, I loved listening to Peter Paul and Mary but have never previously owned one of their albums. This was their first album on the Warner Brothers label in 1962 and includes classic folk songs such as "500 Miles," "Where Have All The Flowers Gone," "If I Had A Hammer," and "Lemon Tree." I was on my way to the front of the store to pay for the other records I had found when I noticed the "Peter Paul and Mary" album. Its cost of \$3 was less than a gallon of gas and it promises to be a much-beloved part of my collection, especially since it was the first folk music album to ever reach the top position in America on the Billboard Popular Music chart.

The weekend after the New Year's holiday, Nancy and I went to the theater to see the Bob Dylan biopic "A Complete Unknown." Scenes in that movie depict the friendship between Dylan and Johnny Cash and although I'm not much of a country music aficionado, I am aware that Johnny Cash is truly a legend, and through the years I have come to appreciate his music.

Finding "The Best of Johnny Cash: Ring of Fire" album was indeed a stroke of luck. The distinctive purple album cover, and the LP inside it are in near-mint condition, and it's a tangible piece of history now residing in my music room. Released in July 1963, sales for "The Best of Johnny Cash: Ring of Fire" grew over the rest of that year and it was the first #1 album when Billboard debuted their "Country Album Chart" on Jan. 11, 1964. Some new copies of the soon-to-be 62-year-old album are selling for \$35 currently on Amazon.

With each passing day, I'm so grateful to have rebuilt my home stereo system last summer. I even have co-workers contribute albums to my collection. Over Christmas, Melissa Carter of *The Windham Eagle* was in Goodwill and found two old Neil Diamond albums which she purchased and gave to me.

For me, music rekindles past memories, it helps me travel to places I wouldn't normally visit, and awakens my sense of creativity. <

~ Ed Pierce

Today in HISTORY



JANUARY 24

1848 – James W. Marshall discovers a gold nugget at Sutter's Mill in Northern California, setting off the first gold rush in America the following year.

1908 – The very first Boy Scout troop is organized in England.

1922 – School teacher and candy shop owner Christian K. Nelson of Iowa obtains a patent for the Eskimo Pie.

1962 – Jackie Robinson becomes the first African American player elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame; Bob Feller is also elected.

1984 – Steve Jobs introduces Apple's revolutionary new computer Macintosh, two days after its groundbreaking commercial "1984" aired before a national TV audience during the Super Bowl.

1989 – Confessed serial killer Ted Bundy is executed in Florida's electric chair for the 1978 kidnap and murder of 12-year-old Kimberly Leach.

1995 – The prosecution gives its opening statement in the O.J. Simpson murder trial in Los Angeles, California.

Inspirational Quote of the Week

"Always work hard and have fun in what you do because I think that's when you're more successful. You have to choose to do it."

— Simone Biles

ON THE SPOT

What food or beverage would be the hardest for you to live without?

"Mac and cheese, it brings me lots of comfort when I eat it!"
– Fi Brickel

•

"It's a toss-up...Water and coffee."
– Mickie Johnson

•

"My mom's chocolate chip cookies!"
– Rob Bridge

•

"Tacos. Tacos is life."
– Brian Butler

•

"Chocolate, hands down!"
– Stephen Signor

•

"Venison and a good IPA."
– William D. Reiner

•

"Hot Sauce."
– Brian Skillings

•

"Tacos!"
– Stephanie McCort

•

"Oh, there are so many! Eggs, pizza, sandwiches and BBQ to start with."
– Rob Juergens

•

"Dr. Pepper."
– Cheryl L. Page

•

"Being of Italian descent, pasta, pizza, cannoli and too many other things to list."
– Rose Tirrell Haigis

•

"COFFEE."
– Kat Doughty

•

"Hot dogs."
– Ryan Cormier

•

"Mexican food."
– Jule Mallett

•

"So many...Chinese food, eggs, mashed potatoes, Coke."
– Stephanie Page

•

"Water, pizza and fine chocolate."
– Miki Mayberry

•

"Diet cranberry juice. With ice."
– Linda Miller Ladd

•

"Potatoes."
– Renate Masse

•

"Avocado Toast."
– Carrie Colby

•

"Iced coffee."
– Julie Reilly

•

"Chicken and waffles with real maple syrup."
– Anne Glotchshuk

•

"Spaghetti and meatballs."
– Sarah Singer-Miller

•

"My wife's fried chicken and mashed potatoes and gravy."
– Dean A. Smalley

•

"Popcorn."
– Chris Macklin

•

"Shepard's Pie or Prime Rib."
– Mia Potenzio-Ransey

•

"Cheeseburgers and fries."
– Jude Orestes-Sanchez



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WHS robotics team prepares for VEX V5RC competition

By Jolene Bailey
STAFF WRITER

Windham High School’s robotics team is currently in the process of preparing for an upcoming competition to take place on Feb. 1 at Scarborough High School.

The VEX V5 Robotics Competition High Stakes is played on a 12-foot by 12-foot square field. The main objective of the competition is to attain a higher score than the opposing alliance. This is achieved by scoring rings to stakes, placing mobile goals, and climbing at the end of the match.

“It’s a learning opportunity; students get ideas for how they might want to improve their robot, by building and/or programming based on how their robot performed compared to other teams,” said Michelle Lane, the WHS robotic team’s advisor. “Students gain confidence in parts of their robot that completes the task well and discuss what they can improve. The teams continue going through the engineering design process and improve their robot for the next competition.”

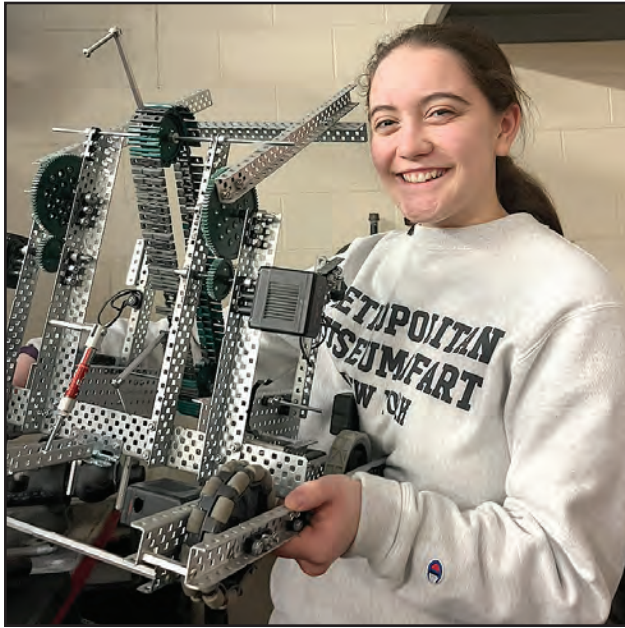
Team members are eagerly looking forward to the competition.

“We are hoping to win. While in the past many of our awards have

come from capturing the spirit of the competition or our Engineering Design Notebooks. We would love to bring home a few more trophies that show just how good of a team we can be on the field,” said Chessie Lomonte, a senior at WHS and team captain.

The WHS robotics team has brought home 11 trophies in the last three years, one of them coming from an international competition.

“I have been a part of the WHS Robotics program for four years now and honestly it has blessed my life so much,” said Lomonte. “We have such a great community, and we’re all able to just be silly together. Having an organization as small as ours, we often get looked over at competitions and seen as an easy win, but over the course of my time in the program,



Windham High School senior Chessie Lomonte serves as team captain for the WHS robotics team, which is currently preparing for the VEX V5 Robotics Competition High Stakes event to be held at Scarborough High School on Saturday, Feb. 1. PHOTO BY JOLENE BAILEY

Windham has proved that we are a force to be reckoned with.”

Serving as the robotic team advisor comes naturally to Lane.

“As a child I always gravitated toward the STEM fields and working

with my hands,” she said. “I enjoy the challenge that these areas offer. I enjoy coming up with solutions and thinking critically.”

Long before Lomonte’s freshman year in high school, she showed a commitment to being a part of a team and someone who truly enjoys robotics.

“I competed in the first Lego League in middle school, which is entirely different from VEX V5RC, which is what I compete in now,” Lomonte said. “They’re about as similar as soccer and basketball. They use different operating systems, different materials, different rules, and different game structures, and different age groups, but my love for robotics has strengthened from this event.”

The VEX V5RC competition’s main goal is to address “the STEM problem.” Lane said this competition exists to solve the conversational idea that there will not be enough teaching of traditional methods when addressing science, technology, engineering, and math to adequately prepare students for the complexity in the world.

STEM topics many students find difficult to understand and be interested in and the VEX V5RC compe-

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Pre-K Lottery Registration

2025-2026

Kindergarten Registration



Pre-K Program Eligibility Criteria

- Students must be 4 years old by October 15 and are not of kindergarten age
- Submission of a completed *Pre-K Lottery Application Form* (see rsu14.org for link)
- Lottery Application Form must be completed and submitted online by **April 1, 2025**
- In-person screening times for the week of June 16, 2025 will be scheduled with individual families in advance

A February 1, 2025
Pre-K Lottery Opens

B April 1, 2025: Pre-K Lottery Application Due

C April 11, 2025: Pre-K Admittance Notification

D Pre-K Screening by Appointment in June

Kindergarten Program Eligibility Criteria

- Students must be 5 years old by October 15
- Submission of a completed *Kindergarten Online Registration* (see rsu14.org for link) by **May 1, 2025**
- In-person screening times in May will be scheduled with individual families in advance

A February 1, 2025:
Kindergarten Registration Opens

B May 1, 2025:
Kindergarten Registration Due

C Kindergarten Screening by Appointment in May

Questions? Call 207-892-1800 or email: cbertinet@rsu14.org
Program forms & info available at: rsu14.org

SHOW *Cont. from page 1*

couldn't get there. We went to Portland about twice a year for groceries, we'd go in the fall to pick up a winter's supply of groceries. We went to the old A&P on Forest Avenue. Then we'd go in the spring," he said. "We hunted deer every year and had an ice shed and bought ice from Charlie Watkins."

He recalls a story where the Lombard's truck went through the ice in Sebago off Raymond Cape's high sand banks.

Whitney recalled the Cabana Beach Club owned by a riverboat gambler.

"It was down just before Gulick's Camps on the other side of the cove. The next cove was where the Cabana Beach Cove was - they used to have dancing girls from Boston and New York. It eventually burned down. This was in the 1930s or 1940s," he said.

Whitney offered some sage advice to the listeners, "If you want to do something, make sure you're right

first. Then go ahead and do it. Know what you're talking about and do it your way."

The next episode of the Early Bird Show will feature the one-and-only iconic Raymond resident Trudy Files. The show is sure to include many laughs and witty stories.

"Trudy is a hoot," said Plummer. "She is a dear friend and will be the featured guest on Episode 2 of The Early Bird Show. Born and raised in Raymond, Maine, Trudy has quite a collection of interesting stories and anecdotes to share. It's hard to choose just one and I won't give away all the details, but let's just say she may have been involved in a high-speed chase pursuing Elvis Presley"

Serving many roles in the historical society, Plummer keeps busy.

"I'm the grounds keeper, head of maintenance, lead videographer, director of the Watkins Blacksmith shop and the janitor. I serve the people. I'm a docent," he said.

The society maintains an active membership and the group is pursuing several improvements and projects.

"This winter, we will be remodeling a portion of the museum to include a kitchenette. This will provide us with the necessary tools to work with the Southern Maine Agency on Aging to help feed the local elderly population," said Plummer. "In addition, we have plans to build a pavilion next to the blacksmith shop. The space will be equipped so we can offer blacksmithing lessons to larger groups. When the pavilion isn't being used for teaching purposes, we hope to bring in high-end local artisans to sell their wares."

Plans are already in the works for next spring and summer activities.

"Be on the lookout for featured guest speakers at the museum. As always, frequent weekend Blacksmithing demonstrations with Lucas Damen from Hammer Forge Creations and Tony (Thor) Stanley from Forged by Thor," said Plummer. "If you've never seen the Watkins blacksmith shop, it's a site to behold. Built in the mid-19th century, it was owned and operated by my great-great grandfather Bill Watkins. The shop and Bill were featured in a 1922 silent film titled 'Timothy's

Quest.' The structure was moved from South Casco to our Campus at 1 Shad-ow Lane and restored in 2022."

Episodes of the Early Bird Show are posted on the Raymond Casco Historical Society's YouTube channel. Episode 1 with guest Wayne Whitney is live now and can be viewed here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=uy3xTZDGarQ

Plummer is hitting the ground running with his new talk show.

"I'm shooting to have Episode 2 live on YouTube on Saturday, Feb. 15," he said. "Maybe we'll add a little Valentine's Day vibe to the show? It will at least give me a great reason to eat some cupcakes. I'm hoping the first episode will land us a Daytime Emmy award. Until then, I'll be working on shooting and editing new episodes. If any of you lovely readers of The Windham Eagle know someone who might be interested in becoming a featured guest, please reach out to the Raymond-Casco Historical Society or myself (Greg Plummer) on Facebook," he said.

To Learn more about the Raymond Casco Historical Society or to become a member: raymondcascohistoricalsociety.org Don't forget to follow them on Facebook and YouTube. <

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Initial plans drawn up to extend Mountain Division Trail

By Ed Pierce

STAFF WRITER

Using a \$450,000 grant for engineering and design work, plans for a proposed 5-mile multi-use trail between Windham and Westbrook have been finalized and submitted to the Maine Department of Transportation.

Back in 2012, a preliminary design and draft report for the Mountain Division Trail using old railroad beds and tracks was developed and submitted to the MDOT, the City of Westbrook, and the Town of Windham for review but the project was put on hold for insufficient funding. The project sat dormant for a decade until in 2022 the Town of Windham applied to the MDOT's Quality Community Program, seeking funding for the design and construction of the multi-use trail.

The purpose of the project is to extend the Mountain Division Trail from its current end point at Route 202 in Windham about 5.02 miles south to Bridge Street in Westbrook. Doing this will create a continuous near 10-mile off-road bicycle and pedestrian transportation route running

from Standish to Westbrook.

Once funded by MDOT, work on the project will include new pavement, gravel, curbing, drainage, signing and striping, retaining walls, fencing, and rectangular rapid flashing beacons located at the trail crossings on Bridge Street in Westbrook, Depot Street in Windham, and Main Street (Route 202) in Windham.

New plan proposals include installing a prefabricated steel pedestrian bridge over Mallison Falls Road with a structural subconsultant hired to complete the design of the bridge. MDOT will hire a bridge firm to evaluate the Inkhorn Brook and Colley Wright Brook stone arch culverts and impacts to the project will be further evaluated as trail work progresses.

The final plan version was submitted to MDOT in July 2024 and it recommends bicycle trail design speeds between 12 to 30 mph, with a speed of 18-mph being generally accepted in relatively flat areas. Because of the adjacent near rail of the railroad track, plans call for the near edge of the trail to be set back a minimum of 15 feet from the near rail.

Plans also propose introducing vertical curves to minimize drain-

age and property impacts, as well as to improve the trail construction. It prefers that the trail width be 10 feet although reduced to 8 feet minimum for short distances where a physical barrier or right of way does not allow for the full width of the trail. The proposed shoulder widths in the plan are 3 to 5 feet.

According to plan specifics, the subgrade and surface of the trail will be graded to drain away from the rail line unless adequate drainage is provided by the trail developer to prevent trail runoff and providing that there are no impediments to normal rail

line maintenance.

Equestrian use will be allowed on the proposed trail and snowmobile passage may be accommodated by removing the middle bollard of the trail during winter months.

The proposal includes sidewalk reconstruction along Main Street (Route 202), Bridge Street, Depot Street, Pierce Street, and Stillwater Drive and rectangular rapid flashing beacons to be installed at the mid-block crossing located for Main Street (Route 202) in Windham, Depot Street in Windham and Bridge Street in Westbrook.

→ see TRAIL Page 8

Thomas V. Gordon, O.D. is pleased to announce that Alan D. Beaulieu, O.D. has joined the practice and will be seeing patients at Sebago Primary Eye Care located at 195 Roosevelt Trail, Casco and 5 Lumberyard Drive, Bridgton.

"We are very excited to welcome Dr. Beaulieu to the practice," said Dr. Gordon. "He provides a great blend of top-notch clinical education and knowledge with a strong passion for providing community-based care. I also expect that he will be an active member of the community and that will be evident over the course of the months and years to come".

Dr. Beaulieu received his Doctorate of Optometry from the New England College of Optometry located in Boston, Massachusetts in May 1989. He has worked in private practice in Massachusetts for a number of years and is a past president of the Massachusetts Society of Optometrists. Bridgton initially was a seasonal community for Dr. Beaulieu, but after experiencing the year round activities, he is pleased to make the lakes region his home. He and his wife Donna have two grown sons.

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AUTHOR *Cont. from page 1*

Damariscotta, and didn't know how to pronounce the name of the town when serendipity dropped her into the little village.

"I saw an old, neglected Greek Revival with its sagging roof, scars of disrepair, and swinging 'For Sale' sign and bought it two days later. I think my husband still has whiplash," she said. "When my mother completed some genealogy work a few years later, we discovered my maternal great-grandparents lived 10 miles from my home. I've traveled to 38 countries across five continents but had still managed to return home in a way."

Canadian author Margaret Atwood is Parker's favorite author, full stop.

"In my writer-fantasy-mind, we are best friends, and I call her 'Maggie' and we laugh a lot. Like, a lot. She was, in many ways, the formative voice of my youth," Parker said. "I grew up quite

poor, in a home without books, and I redeemed cans to purchase tattered paperbacks at tired yard sales. Margaret Atwood has this famous quote, 'a word after a word after a word is power' and that woke something in 12-year-old me. It was both a road map and permission to follow that path. One step, then the next. Then the next. And then, a story. A voice."

Parker calls herself a morning writer, and says she tries to slip away from kids and chores and other work on the days she writes.

"In addition to being an author, I'm an English professor and grant writer. I'm also in my thesis semester of my third master's degree," she said. "It's a full, busy work life, for sure. So, I try to schedule two to three mornings a week to keep momentum. When I'm at the computer, I typically write for three hours at a stretch. But *Love & Lobsters* was largely conceived while I was kayaking. I'd return to my truck

post-paddle and dictate my ideas into my phone. Then, I'd email the notes to myself. When I'd return to my working manuscript, I'd have entire scenes developed. Paragraphs of dialogue. Cures for plot or character holes. It was an amazing experience – unlike any process I'd ever engaged before."

Simon & Schuster published *Love & Lobsters*, and it's something Parker is grateful for.

"I've had such a great experience working with publishers and editors and agents. Really, I've been so fortunate," she said. "My first two books were classified as Young Adult and were released by Simon & Schuster. *Love & Lobsters* is my adult debut, and it didn't fit into the tidy 'romance' category for publishers – which is fair; it is definitely not a traditional romance. *Love & Lobsters* is my Maine take on romance because I am 1,000 percent in love with Maine's coast, its tenacity, and its people. So, I took all I'd learned from working within the industry and struck out on my own, betting on Maine for interest in the book. Within days of its release, I had a major studio interested in film rights, as well as a smaller production company. The book's been a bestseller at Sherman's since its release. Creating a unique path for this book to be in the world was the best decision I ever made."

Her family has been supportive of the new novel.

"I live in a house full of boys and they don't read. They might be allergic. Unless it's a technical manual, printed words on a page hold exactly zero interest for them. But this book was different," Parker said. "They rallied around this story. I think it's because

we all see ourselves in one of the characters, or a bit of ourselves in each of the characters. As a family, we have a habit of honoring Big Love and Big Nature, and both are themes in the book. I recently lost my 20-year-old son in a car accident and the sorrow has been unbearable. Deafening and suffocating all at once. Like you're leagues underwater but somehow, miraculously, you can still breathe. My son came to me in a non-traditional way and our love was fierce. But we had hard shells when we met; we'd both been hurt. We had to trust in the process of trust and keep showing up for each other. And we did, and it was beautiful. It is beautiful. And if I had to do it all over again, I would take the same leap of trust with him. Even now. Even knowing the heartbreak that sits on the other side of loss. Because this is love. It is immeasurable. Expansive. Terrifying. It both makes and breaks us. And it is worth it. Every time."

She's excited to meet Windham readers and discuss *Love & Lobsters* at Sherman's next month.

"Meeting people is one of the singular joys of living. I love exchanging smiles and stories and dreams," she said. "And Sherman's is great. I mean, it's Sherman's. And readers should only consider buying a copy of *Love & Lobsters* if they want to read about love in all its forms – the love for land and sea; the love between grandparents and grandchildren; love found later in life; the love shared by best friends; love for the way the past shapes our present...and future, and the love that we are all capable of. Because love begets love begets love begets love. And who couldn't use more love?" <

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WMS Repurpose Committee to examine new uses for school

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

Tasked to serve as an advisory group to the Windham Town Council to analyze potential uses for the Windham Middle School's renovation design, construction and potential benefit as a Community Center, the WMS Repurpose Advisory Committee has held its first meeting.

Committee members met at Windham Town Hall for the first time on Tuesday evening to review the group's mission and will gather again at 8 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 1 to take a tour of the school facility and to see first-hand what possibilities the building could hold for the community when construction of the new Windham Raymond Middle School is completed in 2027 and the building.

Last fall, Windham Town Councilors reconfigured the committee's membership to include three members of the town council (Jarrod Maxfield, Nick Kalogerakis and Bill Reiner); Windham Town Manager Barry Tibbetts as a non-voting member; Assistant Windham Town Manager Bob Burns as a non-voting member; Windham Parks & Recreation Director Linda Brooks as a non-voting member, Deb Matthews as a Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee

member; Windham Library Director Jen Alvino-Wood as a non-voting member; Catherine Miller as a Windham Public Library Board of Trustees member; Brian Morian, Windham Public Works Director as a non-voting member; and Rene Daniel, the Windham General Assistance Administrator as a non-voting member. Other committee members include Chuck Daigle, Windham's Code Enforcement Deputy Director as a non-voting member; Erica Bell-Watkins as the Age Friendly Windham Coordinator as a non-voting member; Stan Rintz and Cathy Streifel as prior Community Center Ad Hoc Committee members; and up to five members of the public.

During a Windham Town Council meeting on Jan. 14, councilors voted to increase the Windham Middle School Repurpose Advisory Committee's number of community member participants from two to five, add a code enforcement officer member and correct a position title for an existing staff member. Councilors appointed Matthew Irving, Anne Daigle, Marge Govoni, Peter Small and Lorraine Glowczak to the committee as community members.

Committee members will review the community center engagement results from August 2019 which iden-

tified multigenerational flexible spaces for a range of activities. Members will determine if the middle school building can accommodate those identified spaces within the current structure and/or future spaces around the facility. They will also fur-

ther determine any new spaces not in the current building and the phasing opportunities and costs.

The committee will determine if the municipal services for can be accommodated within the middle

→ see **SCHOOL** Page 9



STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Elijah Webster



Grade: Kindergarten **School:** Windham Primary School
Teacher: Mrs. Pettus
Favorite subject(s) in school: Elijah likes doing math and says that math is fun because it makes his brain think.
Parent's name: Rachel
Reason for selection: Elijah is a hard-working kindergarten student at WPS. He came to school excited to learn, but unsure of how to participate in learning. He has thrived in his first four months of school learning the routine, making friends, becoming a classroom helper and making academic gains. He is curious, full of love and life and almost always has a smile on his face. He wants to be a paleontologist when he grows up and is very curious about all science topics. Elijah can always be counted on to help a friend or give his teacher a hug and he is a valued member of his classroom community!

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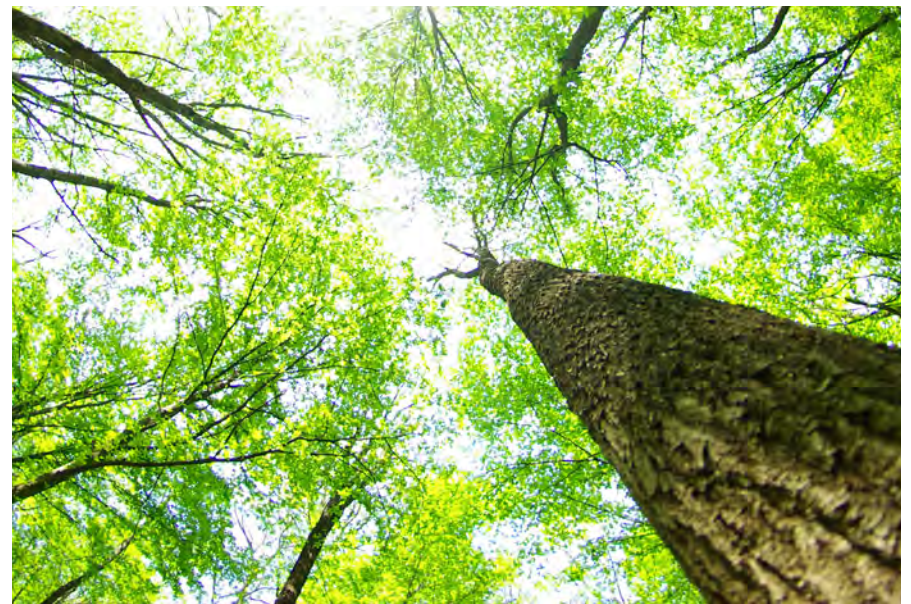
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ROBOTICS *Cont. from page 3*

tion works toward finding certain skills and passions necessary to gain the proper education to better the productive and overall outcome for student's lives.

This competition shows skills enhanced in a different manner than in a classroom such as teamwork, problem solving, and scientific discovery. The study of competitive robotics encompasses aspects of STEM through the engineering design and overall process.

"We've spent the time in between events working to fortify our robot, incorporate new elements to hopefully score some more points, as well as getting our subsystems more consistent in scoring points," Lomonte said. "We are also going to try to up our game with our autonomous portions. For each V5RC match, there is a short time in the beginning where robots operate without the input of a human known as the autonomous period. In the past, our autonomous was put together at the last minute and it hasn't been particularly good, but now we have plans for a much more consis-

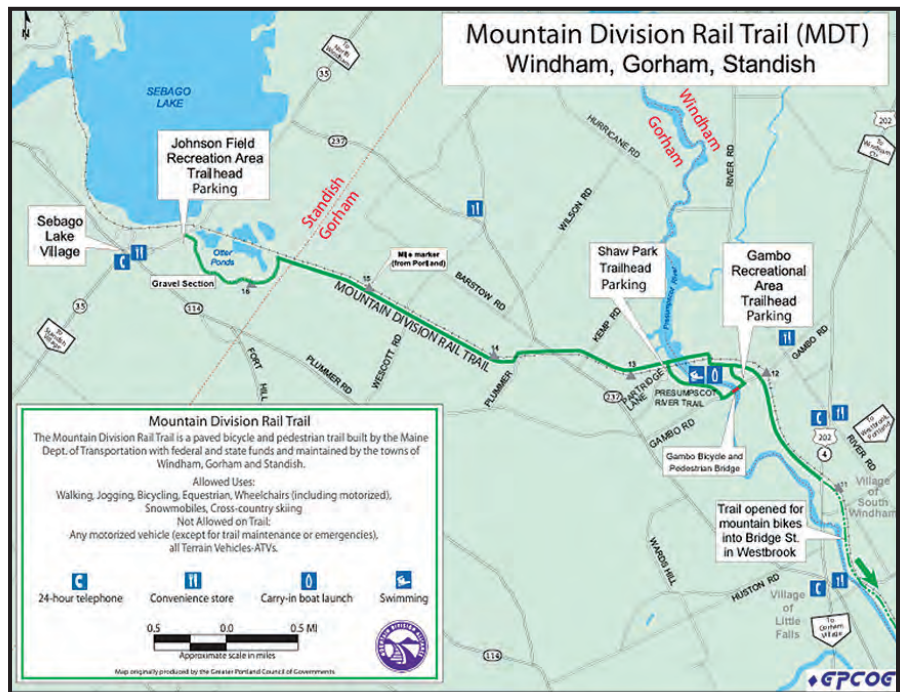
tent and high scoring autonomous." Robotic competitions are often defined as electrifying and competitive.

"Being the robotics coach is a rewarding experience. It's amazing to watch the students apply concepts they learn in their classes and from going through the engineering design process to build their robot," Lane said. "Seeing student growth over the four years that they are involved with the team, including social, intellectual, and technical makes it worth all the time that it takes to be a coach. It is also amazing to watch the students overcome various challenges from being able to modify their robot in 10 minutes if needed between matches to finding and fixing programming errors quickly."

While this robotics competition is one of the last that WHS seniors will take on, that has not stopped Lomonte from furthering her passion for engineering.

"I have yet to pick a university for next year, but I plan on studying robotics engineering in higher education, and I would ideally like to have a career in robotics, but that is in the future," she said. <

TRAIL *Cont. from page 5*



An artist's conceptual drawing shows what the Mountain Division Rail Trail will eventually look like once fully completed and stretching from Fryeburg to Westbrook running through Windham. COURTESY IMAGE

In November, voters approved the \$30 million Maine Trails Bond with more than 55 percent of the vote, and funding for the new multi-use trail could be derived from that. Starting this year, the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands will administer \$30 million over a four-year period or about \$7.5 million per year in competitive grant funding to towns, organiza-

tions, and clubs to support the design, maintenance, and construction of trails, prioritizing accessibility and sustainable design standards. It provides equal access for all types of trail projects, including for motorized trail use, non-motorized uses, and multi-use trails; and to help leverage other sources of public and private funding to support trail projects in Maine. <

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Distinguished visitors



State Rep. Barbara Bagshaw (R-Windham) and State Rep. Mark Cooper (R-Windham) recently hosted Stephanie Milroy's Third-Grade Class and Danielle Pride's Fourth-Grade Class from Windham Christian Academy at the State House in Augusta. 'I was blessed to be able to teach art at Windham Christian Academy for nine years,' Bagshaw said. 'It was a great pleasure for Rep. Mark Cooper and I to host some of their current third and fourth graders and potential future leaders at the State House. I especially enjoyed their enthusiastic questions about the legislature.' Each Maine House member is elected to a two-year term and represents a district which has about 9,000 residents. SUBMITTED PHOTO

SCHOOL Cont. from page 7

school building, including the Windham Public Library, the Windham Parks & Recreation Department, the Windham Social Services and Food Pantry and the Windham Medical Loan Closet and any other uses for the facility.

Eventually, committee members will determine in what areas municipal departments will use space and the renovation costs or new costs for such space. They will perform a complete review of the building's condition, strengths and weaknesses of existing current town facilities and how they relate to current and future town needs.

The existing Windham Middle School building opened in 1974. Committee members will use community engagement results from a study conducted in August 2019 which identified the need to create

a multi-generational facility for all Windham residents that enhances the quality of life for Windham, provides flexible spaces for a range of activities, and is a self-sustaining site that fosters fun for residents.

Town councilors consider this a vital working committee because members will recommend and prioritize improvements to the current building structure as appropriate for initial use and possible phased uses and provide an operational budget for the facility including manpower estimates with anticipated revenues and expenses. The committee is charged with formulating the tax impact calculation of debt and manpower needs which would be determined on the initial building occupation and adding phased additions.

It will report as appropriate to the Windham Town Council on progress made and at a minimum issuing a quarterly report. <

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Lake Region Community Chorus seeking new performers

All singers are welcome and encouraged to join the Lake Region Community Chorus as it begins its 10th Spring Concert season.

If you love to sing and are free on Monday evenings, the members of the chorus would love to have you join them. Registration will begin at 6 p.m. on Monday Jan. 27, 2025 in Twitchell Chapel at Bridgton Academy in North Bridgton. Registration will also be held at 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 3.

Jan Jukkola and Susan Stockwell will be conducting the Spring Session and will be assisted by accompanist, Patrick Speckamp. The LRCC welcomes members from all voice parts including Sopranos, Altos, Tenors and Basses. Auditions are not required but some familiarity with singing and reading music would be helpful.

The LRCC concerts feature a variety of pieces from many musical genres and styles. There is something for everyone and they want to make sure their singers and audiences have a very enjoyable time at rehearsals and performances. This enthusiastic singing group performs a varied program made up of traditional classical pieces, folk songs, show tunes, medleys of hits by The Beatles, John Denver and more.

Chorus rehearsals run from 6:20 to 8:30 p.m. on Monday evenings and there is a \$25 registration fee that helps

cover the cost of the music.

This year the LRCC spring concert dates are scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday, May 23, and 3 p.m. Sunday, May 25 in the Twitchell Chapel at Bridgton Academy in Bridgton.

The chorus had its first meeting in February 2013 to discuss the possibility of forming a choral group in the Lakes Region. It was amazing how quickly everything seemed to come together, and with Laurie Turley as its original conductor, chorus members performed their first concert in June 2013.

Since then, the original group of 36 singers has grown with each season, and now has 58 members from 14 communities, including Windham, Raymond, Bridgton, North Bridgton, Naples, Sebago, Harrison, Waterford, Stoneham, Casco, Denmark, Lovell, Hiram and Fryeburg.

Jukkola says that the LRCC is a community of voices joined together in song and is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Its purpose is to provide an opportunity for individuals with an interest in singing to share their love of choral music through regularly scheduled rehearsals that will culminate in community and outreach performances. It also strives to enhance each member's ability to sing by teaching vocal exercises and techniques and to enrich their

choral experience by providing a wide variety of musical selections that will increase their knowledge and appreciation of choral literature.

Lakes Region Community Chorus performs two concerts each year. One falls in early December and features holiday music. The other is a spring-

time concert generally falling in mid-May.

For further details or if you have questions about the chorus, call 207-647-2584, send an email to musicsix@cox.net or visit the Lake Region Community Chorus website at www.lakeregioncommunitychorus.org <

College roundup

★ Audrey Day of Windham has been named to the Dean's List for academic excellence at Hofstra University.

★ Lucy Hatch of Windham has been named to the Dean's List for academic excellence at Roger Williams University.

★ Kiana Webster of Raymond has been named to the Dean's List for academic excellence at Eastern Connecticut State University.

★ Sophie Koutalakis of Windham has been named to the President's List for academic excellence at Shenandoah University.

★ Keegan Brooks of Raymond has been named to the Dean's List for academic excellence at Maine Maritime Academy.

★ Rianna Barnhart, Gabrille Conant, Elizabeth Day, Sophia Nappi, Rylee Prescott, Elise Schultz and Joel Verdini, all of Windham, and Keegan

Brooks and Cameron Landry, both of Raymond, have been named to the President's List for academic excellence at Central Maine Community College.

★ Mareena Batsungern, Adrianna Edge, and Dominic Jordan, all of Windham, and Jacob Childs of Raymond have been named to the High Honors List for academic excellence at Central Maine Community College.

★ Kailee Gaudreau of Raymond and Ashley Littlefield of Windham have been named to the Honors List for academic excellence at Central Maine Community College.

★ Cheryl Gilson and Hillary Goding, both of Windham, have been named to the President's List for academic excellence at Washington County Community College.

★ Jamie Lyn LeClair and Danielle McQuarrie, both of Windham, have been named to the Dean's List for academic excellence at Washington County Community College.

★ Sam Kidder and Madeleine Landry, both of Windham, have been named to the Dean's List for academic excellence at Stonehill College. <

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Her Mainly Girl Adventure: Ice Fishing

By Staci Warren
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE



Staci Warren, Columnist

My family has avid ice fisherman, so I know the pacing that ensues waiting for ice to become safe enough to fish one of the many lakes in the Belgrade Lakes region where we live. For the past few years, it seems the ice shack spends less and less time on the ice. As of the end of January 2023, Maine's largest lakes still were unsafe to venture on, many smaller ponds weren't much better, and there were at least two fatalities according to the Sun Journal. In 2018, nine people across Maine fell through ice within a 24-hour period. If you are fortunate enough to have ice, good thick safe ice, then you'll need to try fishing for Northern Pike. Patience is the key to safety and ice fishing.

According to MIF&W Northern Pike Assessment 2008 report (MIFW NPA), pike were initially introduced into Maine in the 1970's, as the result of an illegal introduction into the Belgrade Lakes. Subsequent migration within the Belgrade lakes drainage and additional illegal introductions are responsible for an expanding distribution within central and southern Maine that now reside in 28 non-flowing waters and an additional 15 waters. I've had a difficult time embracing the pike; however, I had another avid pike fisherman declare that the landlocked salmon and brown trout we once caught regularly in Great

Pond and Long Pond, are not native. While I cringe at illegal stocking of any fish, several other states stock northern pike for their popularity as a sport-fish. Maine, however, does not manage northern pike.

"Northern Pike are generally considered predators consuming prey between one-third and one-half the length of the pike. Spawning males average 26 inches long and weigh 5 pounds, whereas spawning females average 31 inches long and weigh 9 pounds. Diet studies on the Belgrade Lakes indicate that pike eat white perch, yellow perch, smallmouth bass, smelt, landlocked salmon, minnow species, and insects and studies suggest white perch are the most consumed forage fish in Maine waters (MIFW NPA)." With those lengths and weights and its reputation as a major sport fishery, pike fishing has bloomed in Maine, particularly in the winter.

Fishing for Northern pike requires a different technique than that for bass, perch, or brook trout. Pike have large sharp teeth that will razor your line in an instant, and they are strong. A pike puts up a mean fight and reg-



Staci Warren's granddaughter Elloise proudly displays her pike with her dad Aaron. PHOTO BY REBECCA SUCY

ular tackle isn't advised. It's not so tough though that kids can't catch; in fact, my grandkids love to pull up pike from the hole.

You don't need the most expensive set-up that's available, but pike fishermen attest that bigger gear does help. A good strong tip up. One with a larger reel al-

lows for more line and pike will make runs when you're fighting them. Also, more line means having traps spaced further apart and bigger traps are easier to spot at distances.

The most popular bait are extra-large shiners on a single No. 2 hook with a two-foot 50 lb. fluorocarbon leader attached to regular waxed ice fishing line. When your flag goes up, be ready to set the hook like any other fish but then be ready to let that fish run for as much as 15 minutes before you land it. Pike will fight, and if you don't let them run to tire out, you could end up losing the fish.

Where to fish: In early winter, fish shallow weeded areas with drop offs.

Larger fish tend to be on the outskirts of these areas, and smaller pike within the weeds. By mid-January, move to deeper water but stay within 20-30 feet of water. If you have bait fish, then you'll have pike nearby. By March, barring falling through the melting ice shelf, fish close to shore in shallow water for pike heading to their spawning grounds. Some of my best pike fishing have been in late winter, early spring.

There is still a lot of debate about releasing pike back into the water. I personally prefer not to put the pike back and will leave it to feed the raptors, whereas my son-in-law releases them back into the lake. His thought is that it's not going away, so might as well embrace it. I'm not there yet.

While I do admit that catching pike is fun, I don't like how they made their way here. I just keep reminding myself that if I'm lucky, I might just land a nice brown trout even though I'm fishing for pike. Stay safe and know your ice conditions before venturing out.

Staci Warren provides a unique woman's perspective and column on the outdoors every month. She is a freelance writer whose blog, My Mainly Girl Adventures, is about a woman hunting, fishing, trapping, foraging and living in the Maine outdoors. She's an active member and board member of the New England Outdoor Writers Association and is a monthly columnist and feature writer for The Maine Sportsman Magazine. <

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24th ANNUAL SEBAGO LAKE ICE FISHING DERBY



**Saturday, Feb. 15
& Sunday, Feb. 16**

It's a Maine tradition spanning 24 years & you're invited to be part of it! Get outside and safely enjoy winter lakes in Cumberland County!

Fun for the family & the competitor in all of us. Enjoy the Polar Dip, Ice Shack Contest, & other family-friendly activities.

All entries qualify for the 2025 GRAND PRIZE OF \$5,000 IN CASH!

Proceeds to benefit the Sebago Lake Rotary Clubs Feed the Need serving 12 local food pantries and other Rotary charities.

RAYMOND BEACH WEIGH STATION:

Headquarters Weigh Station for the Sebago Derby. Subject to favorable ice and weather conditions, Raymond Beach will also host the Polar Dip, and food vendor stands.

WEIGH STATION TIMES:

7AM to 5PM Saturday & 8AM to 4PM Sunday
– It's a 4PM sharp close on Sunday –
Anglers need to be in line prior to 4PM

For registration details & more info. visit: ICEFISHINGDERBY.COM

If you would like to donate to the Feed the Need directly you may do so at: www.sebagolakeschamber.com/feed-the-need

FREE FISHING WEEKEND is February 15th & 16th!

Angler's Alley

Winter in Raymond does not mean you have to say farewell to fishing season. Dust off your gear, bundle up, and head to one of the area's beautiful frozen lakes or ponds for a REEL good time ice fishing!

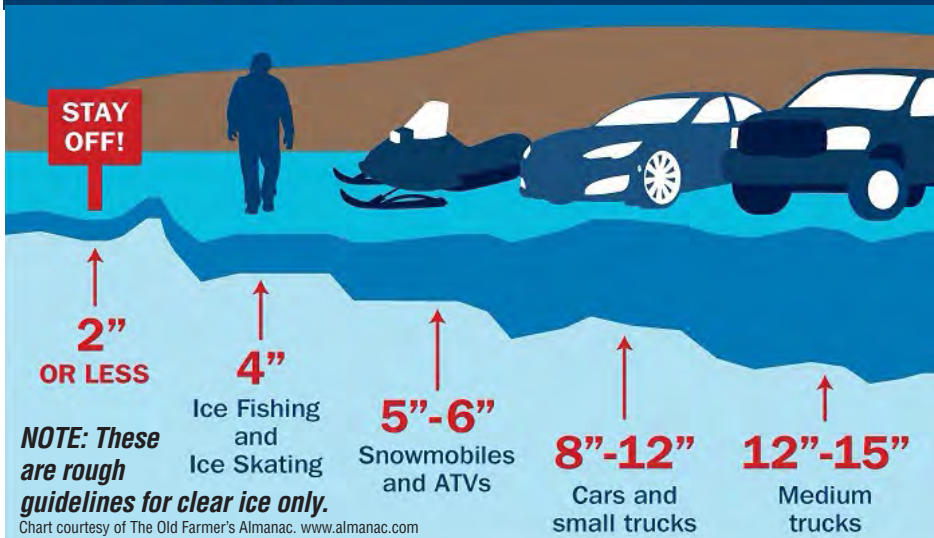
Check out our ice safety tips below and visit the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife website for advice and tips on Maine fishing laws and other fishing resources. www.maine.gov/ifw/index.html

2025 Fishing Licenses:

Before you update your status to "Gone Fishing" be sure to purchase your 2025 Fishing License. Fishing licenses are required for persons 16+ years of age. Licenses can be purchased at the Town Office or online at: www.maine.gov/portal/residents/hunting_fishing.html

Ice Thickness Chart

Safe Ice Depths



WINTER ICE SAFETY TIPS:

- Always check the ice thickness by using an auger, chisel, or a long drill bit
- Ice should be blue to clear in color. White or opaque ice is water saturated snow that has frozen on top of ice. This kind of ice is porous and generally unsafe.
- Don't forget proper gear like ice safety picks.
- Have a safety plan & know what to do if someone falls through the ice.

IF YOU DON'T KNOW IF IT'S SAFE – DON'T GO!



RAYMOND TOWN OF RAYMOND



Raymond Property Revaluation

This project includes the market valuation of all property in the town as of April 1, 2025.

KRT Appraisal has been contracted by the Town of Raymond to conduct a full town-wide revaluation. This project is required to more fairly assess Raymond's property tax obligations and because the town's current methodology is 20 years old and falling out of compliance with state law.

For more information on the revaluation project or questions please contact the Town Assessor at (207) 655-4742 or visit:

KRT Appraisal

www.krtappraisal.com/dist/raymond.html and www.raymondmaine.org/town-office/assessing



JSMS Visioning Committee Members Wanted

- This is a short-term committee (should be complete in several months) with the task of coming up with conceptual ideas on how the Jordan Small Middle School building could be used when it is given back to the Town of Raymond (scheduled for June of 2027).
- Information gathered by the Comprehensive Plan Committee will be considered.
- Looking at uses over the next 10 to 15 years.
- This committee will not be considering the feasibility or cost. These tasks will be for a subsequent committee which will be made up of people with expertise such as engineers, builders, technology, finance, etc.
- Will report recommendations to the Select Board.



Accepting applications for a F/T Paramedic/FF

In anticipation of an upcoming retirement, the Town of Raymond is taking applications for a full-time Paramedic/FF in our Public Safety Department.

This union position is scheduled on 24 hour rotating shift. The qualified applicant must be experienced with an excellent work history, self-motivated & hold a clean valid Maine Driver's license. Current Maine paramedic license & firefighting certifications are required. All candidates must successfully pass a fitness assessment & a complete background check, including criminal and driving records.

The Town of Raymond offers a competitive salary and a comprehensive employee benefit package with health, dental and life insurance and Maine PERS retirement as well as vacation, sick and holiday pay.

Advanced EMT's are encouraged to apply.

For application and job descriptions go to www.raymondmaine.org

SEND RESUME, APPLICATION, AND COVER LETTER TO:

Attn: Cathy Gosselin - Human Resource Officer
401 Webbs Mills Road, Raymond, Maine 04071
207-655-4742 ext 123

or electronically to: cathy.gosselin@raymondmaine.org

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- JANUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

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KRT Appraisal

DOG LICENSES RENEW BY JANUARY 31ST

2024 Dog licenses expired on December 31st, 2024. TO AVOID A LATE FEE, DOG REGISTRATION AND RENEWALS MUST BE DONE BY JANUARY 31ST, 2025. The cost is \$6 (spayed/neutered) or \$11 (unaltered). **There is an additional \$25 fee applied for renewals done February 1st and after.**

Register or renew your dogs license in person at the Town Office or online (additional fee).

Why do dogs need to be licensed?
Many reasons! Dog licensing ensures rabies vaccination which protects the health of your pet. Fees also go directly to the Maine Animal Welfare Program to fight animal cruelty and abuse, accounting for 95% of the State Animal Welfare Program's entire funding. Without these fees, the State would be unable to protect the animals of this state.



Happy New Year everyone!

Is it 2023/2024 season all over again? Ugh!
The 24/25 snowmobile season is not off to a great start.
The cold has arrived, now we just need the white stuff to fall.
COME ON SNOW!



CLUB NEWS:

BIG Announcement:

We now have a NEW place to hold our monthly meetings courtesy of the Crooked River Snowmobile Club.

CRSC generously offered the use of their new clubhouse @ 661 Meadow Road in Casco, Maine.

A big THANK YOU to their club for allowing us to use their clubhouse, it is greatly appreciated!

Monthly meetings held the first Tuesday of each month October thru April.

Our next meeting is February 4th @ 6:30PM. Hope to see you there.

FIND CLUB MEMBERSHIP & CONTACT INFO ONLINE AT:

raymondmaine.org/content/raymond-rattlers-snowmobile-club and on our Facebook page.

Single or family membership - \$35 • Business memberships - \$50

Business membership includes your business name in the Maine Snowmobiler Newspaper business section.

CLUB MAILING ADDRESS IS:

Raymond Rattlers S.C., PO Box 994, Raymond Maine 04071
Make checks payable to Raymond Rattlers SC

TRAIL MAPS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE FROM THE CLUB FOR \$5 EACH.

Contact us on our Facebook page, by email raymond.rattlers@gmail.com or by mail for a copy. All map proceeds directly support trail grooming.

A special thanks to all the landowners that share their property with us.

Ride right and respect landowners property! Thank you - RRSC

Winter Sand & Salt Shed Open

RAYMOND RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME TO GET SMALL AMOUNTS OF SAND/SALT FOR USE ON WALKWAYS AND DRIVEWAYS.

Please respect the limit of two 5-gallons buckets at a time.

The Sand and Salt Shed is located on Plains Rd (FL 89) & the gates are open from 7am-3pm, Monday-Friday.

All other areas & equipment remain off limits to the public.

NOTE: The shed is closed during snowstorms for safety and to allow the plow truck traffic to move freely.



Be Your Library's Best Friend!

Now that our library is part of the Town of Raymond, the Friends created a fundraising organization to help support activities & special events that are beyond the scope of our library's regular operating budget.

Our Friends group was officially incorporated as a non-profit 501(c)(3) in January of 2023. Since that time, we have funded a preschool STEM workshop through Mad Science that was held at the library, new shelves that can be rolled into different configurations when the library hosts events and talks by visiting authors.

WE HOPE TO DO EVEN MORE IN 2025! CAN WE COUNT ON YOUR SUPPORT?

MEMBERSHIP IN THE FRIENDS OF THE RAYMOND VILLAGE LIBRARY BEGINS WITH A FIVE-DOLLAR DONATION AND IS OPEN TO ANYONE WITH A CURRENT LIBRARY CARD. As a non-profit, your membership fees and additional generous contributions are tax deductible.

We welcome your support via PayPal through the link below, or with a check

sent to PO Box 297, Raymond, ME 04071 or dropped off at the checkout desk at your next visit to the library.

www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=UD379K89FUD4Q



RAYMOND

PARKS & RECREATION

- FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT - FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH AT 7PM at Raymond Elementary School

Raymond Parks & Rec. & Raymond Schools PTO present the movie "IF" featuring Ryan Reynolds. Rated (PG)

\$10 at the door - includes a drink & a snack

Don't forget to bring a cushion or chair & wear your comfiest pajamas!

- SWEETHEART SOIREE - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH from 5PM-7PM at Raymond Village Community Church, 27 Main Street

Dress to impress for a night of:

DANCE-MUSIC-CRAFTS-PHOTOS-LOVE Featuring DJ Alex
Adults - \$20 • Kids- \$10

For all ages and families! Children must be accompanied by an adult

- MAINE CELTICS NIGHT - FEBRUARY 1ST at 7PM at the Portland Expo

Come join us for the Raymond Parks & Rec Basketball Day as the Maine Celtics take on the Iowa Wolves!

EVERY TICKET PURCHASE RECEIVES A FREE MAINE CELTICS HAT!

This game will sell out so GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

Gates open at 6:00 PM and the game starts at 7:00 PM

\$3 from every ticket sold will be donated to Raymond Parks & Rec!

Thank you for your support and we can't wait to see you there!

PURCHASE TICKETS HERE:

<https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/RaymondBBall>

- MAINE MARINERS HOCKEY NIGHT - MARCH 8TH at 6PM at CROSS INSURANCE ARENA

Experience the thrill of live hockey for Raymond Parks and Recreation Night as the Maine Mariners face off against the Reading Royals at the Cross Insurance Arena.

TICKET PRICE - \$20: A portion of each ticket sale will be donated to support the Town of Raymond Parks and Rec. Department. Get your tickets today and be part of the action while giving back to your community!

Thank you for your support and we can't wait to see you there!

PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS HERE:

<https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/Townraymond2>

Eagle SPORTS

Varsity girls' basketball falls at home to Oxford Hills

By Matt Pascarella

STAFF WRITER

Windham varsity girls' basketball hosted Oxford Hills on Tuesday, Jan. 21 and despite fighting hard for a solid 32 minutes, the Vikings prevailed over the Lady Eagles, 44-37.

Before the game, Windham senior Stella Jarvais was presented with the "Little Eyes Upon You Award" by Maine Optometry. This honor was established by Pat Moody when he was president of Windham Youth Basketball Association. The award is given to a senior that demonstrates commitment to youth in their community. Members and current WYBA President Ben Delewski and WYBA board member Erik Bowen, who also serves on the Pat Moody Foundation, handed Jarvais the award.

"I think it's just like an eye-opener, especially growing up in the Windham Youth Basketball program," said Jarvais, who scored 12 points against Oxford Hills. "Always looking up to the next big star and it being surreal that I'm the person that everyone is looking up to. It's something that I don't expect, I'm just playing because I love the sport, not because I'm trying to impress anyone. It represents all the work I've put into it from me being in kindergarten to now being a senior, I think it's cool to see the growth that I've accomplished through the years, and it's especially cool to be recognized."

Early on against the Vikings, Windham moved the ball well and the game was tight, with Windham lead-



The Windham Youth Basketball Association with WYBA board member Erik Bowen, back left, and WYBA president Ben Delewski, back right, present Windham High School senior Stella Jarvais, middle, with the 'Little Eyes Upon You Award' at Windham High on Tuesday, Jan. 21. This award is given to a senior who demonstrates commitment to youth within their community.

PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

ing by one point after the first quarter.

Oxford Hills capitalized on several turnovers and pulled ahead, sinking a couple of three-pointers. Although the Vikings had the lead, Windham was right on their heels and Oxford Hills only led 22-19 at the half.

In the second half, Windham rebounded well, and junior Addison Caiazzo sank a three-pointer.

"Late in the game (we) switched defenses from man-to-man to zone," said Windham sophomore Denali Momot. "I think especially in the first half, our cuts were a little bit better, but some people were just not seeing them, me being one of them. We had a lot of open shots, and we got each other open very well. In the second half we brought up our defense ... we

shut down some of their best players as much as we could."

With roughly three minutes remaining, just seven points separated the two teams.

"Kids worked hard for 32 minutes against arguably the best team, just a tough matchup overall for us," said Windham varsity girls' basketball coach Brody Artes. "There were a couple little stretches where we let things get away from us, but for the most part we did what we needed to do and competed ... the best we could. Defensively we're very good again and that's going to be our backbone this year. We just got to make sure we ride that going (up against Cheverus) and

find some offense to go with that. We got to make sure we get good looks and be strong with the ball, take good shots and if we do those things, we'll be OK."

Windham did not let up until the final buzzer.

"Facing the fact that one of our top-leading scorers has been out, has been a challenge for us but not letting that get to our heads and our defense really carries us a lot; playing with our defensive side really helped us" said Windham junior Marley Jarvais. "Our main goal was to stop Ella (Pelletier) and (Gabbie) Tibbetts, which we contained in the first half, but Ella is just

unstoppable. I think we did a good job putting pressure on her and Stella did a really good job defending her. I think breaking the press went well ... we fixed how aggressive we were cutting in the second half rather than the first half which helped us a lot. Going to our passes (needs work); we tend to wait for the ball and watch the ball go to us rather than going to the ball. We need to work as a team ... and get that one look and so on and so forth."

Windham's boys' and girls' basketball teams play a double-header at home against Cheverus on Friday, Jan. 24. The girls' game starts at 6 p.m. and boys' game tips off at 7:30 p.m. <



(Left) Junior Addison Caiazzo takes a shot from the three-point arc. (Above) Senior Stella Jarvais sends a pass midair.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



AJ Moody

Age: 17

Team: Windham High School Varsity Basketball

Coach: Chad Pulkkinen

Parents' names: Pat and Sherma Moody

Reason for selection: AJ has been a starter on the WHS varsity basketball team since his freshman season. He has taken a new role on the team this year as captain and has done a tremendous job growing in

that role. His team-first mentality helps keep the team focused and together. His maturity, resilience and strength are inspirational for the WHS team. He leads from the front and helps keep the group composed in the toughest of moments. AJ is one of the best defensive players in the state averaging a staggering four steals per game. He has electrified WHS crowds with fastbreak dunks, and the team feeds off his energy. He has helped the team propel forward by being a servant leader looking to help encourage, regroup and manage the team's energy and concentration. He is the voice of the team when it is needed and showcases his passion for others to follow. His defense is suffocating and his teammates feed off that.

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Windham/Gray New-Gloucester/Westbrook Wolfpack wrestling upsets Deering and Cheverus in a tri-meet

By Matt Pascarella
STAFF WRITER

In their final home meet of the season, the Windham/Gray New-Gloucester/Westbrook Wolfpack wrestling team secured solid victories over Deering and Cheverus on Wednesday, Jan. 15. The Wolfpack crushed Deering 53-20 and held back Cheverus 44-33.

It was Senior Night and Windham High seniors Jack Arsenault, Ayden Cofone, Phineas Cunningham, CK Kennedy, Addison Leger and Gray New-Gloucester seniors John Stults, Spencer Fields, Jameson Hart and Arnost Osmera were presented with a gift and thanked for their time and dedication to Windham athletics.

“This time we had a lot of kids step up and wrestle weights they hadn’t wrestled before,” said Cofone. “We all came out confident and knew what we could do. We work very, very hard and we all push each other every day. It’s go hard, get better, come out for the team and win. As a team we did good not giving up with the last few seconds left, especially when we’re searching for pins late, we go harder to get the extra team points. What I think we could work on is some of us get in our head too much. We get nervous about who our opponent is and as a team we prepare so much. We don’t need to fear who our opponent is.”

Cofone received a plaque for achieving 100 pins during his high school career. The 100th pin happened at the Kennebunk Duals at Kennebunk High School on Saturday, Jan. 11.

According to Cofone it’s a big accomplishment that means a lot and he is really happy to have achieved it.

DEERING

The Wolfpack started in the 175-weight class with Westbrook sophomore Cole Tanner who pinned his opponent.

Fields worked extra hard in the 285-weight class to avoid getting pinned – and he succeeded there but lost 11-0 after three rounds.

Leger fought hard in the 120-weight class to not get pinned. She kept moving, never letting her opponent keep her long in a bad spot. She lasted three rounds defending herself but lost 9-0.

In the 126-weight class Cofone pinned his opponent in one round.

Windham junior Josh Hamby



(Clockwise from top left) From left, Wolfpack wrestling assistant coaches Nick Vogel and Nick Buckley, Windham senior Ayden Cofone and Wolfpack head coach John Nicholas present Cofone with a plaque on Wednesday, Jan. 15 at Windham High School for achieving 100 career pins wrestling for the Wolfpack, which Cofone achieved on Jan. 11. Windham junior Josh Hamby cradles his Deering opponent. Windham senior Ayden Cofone holds his opponent to the mat. Windham senior Addison Leger holds onto her Deering opponent’s leg to bring him to the mat. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

pinned his opponent in just 35 seconds in the 144-weight class.

In the 150-weight class, Westbrook freshman Lucas Roberson grabbed his opponent’s leg and brought him to the mat. Roberson cradled and got the pin. Kennedy also got the pin after he kept his opponent on the mat.

CHEVERUS

Fields got the takedown and the pin in the 285-weight class.

In the 113-weight class, Leger kept herself moving to avoid being pinned. She would not be flipped to her back but lost 3-0.

“I think (the Wolfpack did) pretty well,” said Leger. “I think that we had high energy, you can see improvement that’s happened ... and the season’s not over yet, so we still have room to improve. Our technique has definitely improved, making sure if you make a mistake to fix it ... during the match. Being more aggressive as a team and maintaining how we start with how we finish (needs work). Overall, as a team we do a pretty good job.”

Windham sophomore Amelia Brickel fought hard but was pinned in one round in the 120-weight class.

Westbrook sophomore Jajjad Jumah won 13-3 in the 136-weight class.

In the 126-weight class, Cofone pinned his opponent in 39 seconds.

Roberson kept his opponent on the mat and got the pin in the second round of the 157-weight class.

“I think fighting off our backs, fighting off the bottom, working for pins, our conditioning looks like it’s

coming along,” said varsity Wolfpack wrestling coach John Nicholas. “The kids are aggressive, working hard in the practice room and it’s transferring to the mat. I knew that Cheverus match was going to be close, they beat us last time, but we were undermanned. On Senior Night, our last home meet, it was good to come out with two wins.” <

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The simple pleasure of interacting

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



- Andy Young, Columnist

About a week ago I stopped for groceries on the way home from work. I needed bananas, oranges, fresh spinach, brown sugar, and milk.

It didn't take long to find everything on my list. I also picked up some blueberries because they were on sale; two boxes of store-brand Rice Chex, because I remembered I was running short of cereal; and a box of generic wheat crackers, because I went shopping when I was hungry, which I recalled too late was the first thing the professor for the "Personal and Family Financial Management" course I took in college told us never to do.

When I went to pay there was only one checkout line open, so I dutifully lugged my nine items to a spot behind a person leaning on a cart that was overflowing with groceries. She was

behind an individual who was buying a bottle of wine, who was behind the first person in line. His numerous purchases were being scanned by an adolescent cashier, who then sent them down a belt to a second teen-aged employee, who carefully placed each item in one of the customer's cloth shopping bags.

It looked like I'd be waiting a while, but then, for no apparent reason, the tiny, older woman in front of me asked if I'd like to go ahead of her in line. I told her that wasn't necessary, but she insisted. "No, really. I've got all this stuff, and you've only got a few items," she said. "You go first."

So I did, and got checked out in a flash, since both the cashier and the equally youthful bagger perhaps inspired by my new friend's courtesy, were exceptionally efficient, friendly and accommodating.

That woman's random act of kindness probably allowed me to get home three or four minutes earlier than

would have been the case had we each maintained our respective places in line. But the generosity of spirit she showed with her tiny bit of thoughtful unselfishness has paid off in far greater ways than just that.

A few days later I made another post-work trip to the grocery store, got my 10 or so items, staked out my spot in the checkout line, and prepared to wait my turn. A moment later a young man who was probably less than a third of my chronological age got in line behind me, clutching a lone can of soda. I invited him to go ahead of me. The genuine appreciation he expressed made my already pretty good day into a great one. He enthusiastically pledged he was going to let a whole lot of people in front of him the next time he had a cartful of groceries, and I don't doubt for a second that he



has. So why, a cynic might ask, didn't I just get into one of the four self-checkout lines that the local grocery store has installed in order to save time?

I suppose I could claim it's for the same reason I always walk into my local credit union and stand in line to cash my check, rather than use the automated drive-up teller outside: so I can interact with someone who is as happy to serve a cheerful person as they are grateful to have a job that feeds and clothes them and their family.

But the real reason I choose to deal with actual people rather than soulless, computer-powered machinery is a selfish one. I truly enjoy direct communication with other human beings and choose to believe they appreciate being cheerfully interacted with at least as much as I do. <

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TOWN OF WINDHAM, MAINE

PLANNING BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Monday, Jan. 27, 2025 • 6:30PM

Town Hall, Council Chambers, 8 School Road

- #24-26 Monique Drive Subdivision
Tax Map: 11; Lot: 49D, 49D-3, 49D-5 -Lisa & Jules Drives.
After-the-fact subdivision plan review for 3 lots and road upgrades.
- #23-18 Windham Village Apartments
Tax Map: 70; Lot: 1-A01 – Tandberg Trail & Manchester Drive
Amendment to condition of approval regarding traffic movement permit.
- #25-01 Dolley Farm Subdivision
Tax Map: 5; Lot: 25 – River Road Subdivision plan review for a 44-unit residential condominium development.
- Planning Board Workshop

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.



What is home equity?

► **By The Libby Starnes Team**
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE



— Pamela Starnes/Tiffany Libby,
The Libby Starnes Team, Signature
Homes Real Estate Group

Home equity is one of the most valuable assets a homeowner can have, yet it's often misunderstood. Simply put, home equity is the portion of your home that you truly "own"—it's the difference between the current market value of your home and the balance remaining on your mortgage.

For example, if your home is worth \$300,000 and you still owe \$200,000 on your mortgage, your home equity is \$100,000. This figure represents a powerful financial tool that can grow over time and provide benefits in the future.

How Home Equity Builds

There are two primary ways to build equity in your home:

1. Paying Down Your Mortgage

Every mortgage payment includes a portion that goes toward the loan's principal (the amount you originally borrowed). Over time, as you reduce your loan balance, your equity grows. Early on, a larger portion of your payment covers interest, but as your loan progresses, more of each payment goes toward the principal. This

gradual shift accelerates equity growth in the later years of your mortgage.

2. Appreciation (Increasing Property Value)

When your home's market value increases, so does your equity. Factors such as a strong housing market, local developments, and strategic home renovations can boost your home's value. For example, if your home appreciates by \$50,000 over five years, that increase directly adds to your equity, assuming your mortgage balance remains the same or decreases.

How to Build Home Equity Faster

While equity naturally grows as you pay down your mortgage, there are strategies to speed up the process:

1. Make Extra Mortgage Payments:

By making additional payments toward your loan's principal, you can reduce the balance faster and build equity more quickly. Even a single extra payment each year can make a significant impact over time. Be sure to specify that any extra payments go toward the principal, not interest.

2. Increase Your Property Value with Renovations:

Strategic home improvements can increase your property's market value, which, in turn, boosts your equity.



Focus on upgrades with high return on investment (ROI), such as updating kitchens or bathrooms, enhancing energy efficiency, or improving curb appeal. Not only do these changes add value to your home, but they also make it more enjoyable to live in.

3. Avoid Tapping Into Your Equity Prematurely:

Taking out home equity loans or lines of credit can reduce the equity you've built. Use these options sparingly and only for worthwhile investments, like renovations that further increase your home's value.

Why Home Equity Matters

Building equity in your home is

more than a financial milestone; it's a foundation for long-term wealth and security. Here's why it's essential:

1. Financial Security:

Home equity serves as a safety net. Whether you face unexpected expenses or need to fund a significant project, equity can be a valuable resource, often at lower interest rates than other borrowing options.

2. Leverage for Loans:

Home equity can be used as collateral for a home equity loan or line of credit (HELOC). These tools are ideal for financing home improvements, consolidating high-interest debt, or covering other major expenses.

3. Higher Returns When Selling:

The more equity you have, the larger your profit when selling your home. For instance, if you sell your home for \$350,000 and owe \$150,000 on your mortgage, the remaining \$200,000—minus selling costs—is yours to reinvest or use as you see fit. Tapping Into Your Home Equity

Once you've built a significant amount of equity, you can access it in

→ see REAL ESTATE Page 20

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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Two of Windham’s favorite local businesses are teaming up to bring an enhanced shopping experience to the Lakes Region. On the Docks, owned by Jaime Anderson, and Willow Tree Primitive Shop, owned by Carrie Perry, are now located under one roof at 889 Roosevelt Trail, Suite 1, Windham.

This exciting collaboration combines the unique offerings of both businesses, creating a destination for gifts, home décor, and furniture that reflects the charm and beauty of Maine’s lake and camp lifestyle.

“We’re thrilled to work together to offer something truly special to the community,” said Anderson. “It’s not just about combining spaces—it’s about creating an experience where customers can find beautiful, meaningful items that bring joy to their homes.”

Expanding a Vision – Since its opening in January 2024, On the Docks has been a go-to spot for locals and visitors alike. Known for its unique gifts, local apparel, Maine-made products, and lake-inspired home décor, the store reflects Anderson’s passion for curating items that capture the serenity of life by the water.

“Our mission is to bring a sense of serenity and joy to every home, whether you’re lakeside, or in the surrounding areas,” Anderson said. “With a thoughtfully curated selection of lake-themed décor, timeless home accents, and meaningful gifts, we aim to inspire a connection to nature, comfort, and

On the Docks and Willow Tree Primitive Shop

community.”

Primitive Charm – Willow Tree Primitive Shop brings its own unique charm to the collaboration, with a focus on rustic and primitive home décor. Perry’s offerings include candles, clocks, furniture, and linens, all carefully selected to fit the cozy, authentic feel that customers have come to love.

“Primitive décor is all about simplicity and functionality,” Perry explained. “These pieces are often handmade, with a raw, authentic look that’s perfect for anyone who loves rustic or country-style decorating.”

Perry discovered her passion for primitive décor in the 1990s and has been sharing her love for this aesthetic with customers ever since. By relocating Willow Tree Primitive Shop to On the Docks, she’s excited to offer an expanded range of products and gain greater exposure in the Lakes Region.

“This move allows us to bring even more unique furniture and home décor to our customers, all in one convenient location,” Perry said. “It’s about creating a seamless shopping experience, where people can find everything that



Willow Tree Primitive Shop owners Carrie Perry, left, and Debbie Webb, are joined by On the Docks owner Jaime Anderson. The two businesses are collaborating to bring an enhanced shopping experience to Windham. PHOTO BY MELISSA CARTER

they need for their homes and gifts under one roof.”

Supporting Local Artisans – A shared commitment to supporting Maine artisans is at the heart of this collaboration. Both Anderson and Perry are passionate about showcasing the work of local artists and craftsmen, offering a variety of handmade and locally sourced items.

“We have many talented artisans from Maine who supply Willow Tree Primitive Shop with gifts and décor, including signage, candles, artwork, and dolls,” Perry said.

Anderson echoed this sentiment, emphasizing the importance of celebrating local talent. “At On the Docks, we’re proud to offer Maine-made products, from faux florals and candles to unique gifts and apparel,” she said. “By working together, we’re able to showcase even more incredible pieces.”

A Perfect Collaboration – The collaboration between On the Docks and Willow Tree Primitive Shop isn’t just a business move—it’s built on shared values and a commitment to providing exceptional customer experiences.

“We’re blending our expertise to offer something truly special,” Anderson said. “Willow Tree Primitive brings a beautiful curtain line, lamps, and furniture that complement what we already offer, like our lake and camp-themed décor and gifts. Together, we can provide customers with an even wider range of products.”

Perry agrees, noting that this enhances both businesses. “This collaboration means more variety and more opportunities to serve our customers,” she said. “Whether you’re looking for a unique piece of furniture, a thoughtful gift, or a way to bring a touch of Maine into your home, you’ll find it here.”

FMI about On the Docks, call 207-332-5231 or visit onthedocksme.com. Follow on Facebook at On The Docks Gifts and Home Décor. FMI about Willow Tree, call 207-572-4100 or visit willowtreeprimitive.com. Follow on Facebook at Willow Tree Primitive Shop. <

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➔ REAL ESTATE Cont. from page 17 a few ways:

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- Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC): A HELOC acts like a credit card, allowing you to borrow as needed up to a set limit. You only pay interest on the amount you use.
- Cash-Out Refinancing: Replace

your current mortgage with a larger one and pocket the difference, giving you immediate access to your equity while refinancing your loan terms.

The Bottom Line

Building home equity is a powerful way to grow your wealth as a homeowner. Whether you choose to accelerate your equity growth through extra payments and renovations or let it build naturally over time, equity is a financial asset that opens doors to future opportunities.

When managed wisely, home equity can provide financial security, serve as a tool for investment, and help you achieve significant milestones. If you're interested in learning more about how to maximize your home's value or build equity faster, the Libby Starnes Team at Signature Homes Real Estate Group is here to guide you every step of the way.

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This article was brought to you by Pamela Starnes and Tiffany Libby coowners of the Libby Starnes Team with Signature Homes Real Estate Group. Call them at 207-838-8051 or 207-712-2424 or visit them online at www.libbystarnesteamhomes.com. <

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