Polar Dip's chilly tradition to return on behalf of 'Feed the Need' for local pantries

By Kaysa Jalbert

Jumping into icy lake water on a mid-February morning might not be the first winter activity that comes to mind, but it's worth it to raise money for families in need. The Annual George Bartlett Memorial Sebago Lakes Region Polar Dip is coming up on Saturday, Feb. 15 at Raymond Beach in conjunction with the Sebago Lake Rotary Club's Ice Fishing Derby, and the chamber is looking for more people to join in and take the leap for

a good cause.

A new addition to this year's event will be portable saunas donated by Too Hot Saunas for the brave polar dippers to warm up after jumping. To make things even hotter, participants are encouraged to dress up in fun family-friendly costumes. Anyone interested can sign up in teams with up to six jumpers per team and will be given a time to jump between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Participants should pack oversized jackets, warm drinks and towels and wear some type of water shoe. It is not recommended to wear crocs as they



Participants dive into Sebago Lake during a previous Polar Dip conducted by the Sebago Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce. This year's George Bartlett Memorial Sebago Lakes Region Polar Dip will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15 at Raymond Beach and benefits 'Feed the Need' which donates to 12 different food pantries across the Lakes Region. PHOTO BY ED PIERCE

tend to get pulled off by getting stuck in the mud at the bottom of the lake.

All donations raised from the Polar Dip will go to the "Feed the Need" initiative set by the Sebago Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce Charitable Trust. The trust raises funds throughout the year through grants, generous donations, and events like the annual Polar Dip to make donations to 12 local food pantries throughout the Lakes Region.

In 2024, the chamber raised \$5,000 from just eight participants in the Posee **POLAR DIP** Page 10

MARA offers valuable knowledge for creating and maintaining private roads in and around Windham

By Masha Yurkevich

STAFF WRITER

The Town of Windham is made up of more than 60 miles of private roads and while they are a part of the town, it is every man for himself when it comes to private road maintenance.

Nick Kalogerakis is a Windham Town Councilor representing constituents in the town's South District and the issue of private roads concerns him.

"I have served on Road Associations and understand the complexities we deal with in keeping them maintained," says Kalogerakis. "Private roads do not get the benefit of any help from the town or its Public Works Department. We cannot utilize anything from the town even though we pay the same rate in taxes as everyone else."

This is where MARA comes in.

Started in 1998 by Betsy Connor Bowen, MARA, the Maine Alliance for Road Associations, is a nonprofit corporation with a volunteer board of directors that helps gather information for private roads and are a valuable resource for communities, whether it is providing guidance for starting a road association or providing knowledge of what can or cannot be done on private roads. It is a volunteer public service organization whose purpose is to help Maine homeowners who live on private roads and public citizens who may be considering this



The Maine Alliance for Road Associations is a nonprofit corporation and a valuable resource for information about private roads for residents seeking to establish a road association to help maintain a private road and share maintenance costs. Windham has more than 60 miles of private roads currently within the town. COURTESY PHOTO

possibility

Its purpose is, in part, the compilation and dissemination of information from many sources to help people living on private roads share maintenance costs and administer their road associations fairly and equitably. MARA is an advocate for fair and equitable laws relating to people living on private roads in Maine.

Anyone with an interest in private

roads, their maintenance, shared costs of maintenance through an association of owners, and the environmental impact of such roads and maintenance may find useful information on the MARA website but only individuals, not Road Associations, can join MARA.

It is entirely volunteer-based and MARA's purpose is to disseminate information to the communities about

private roads. The organization has a wealth of knowledge and resources on their website including several discussion forums where you can search for a topic and read through it to gain information.

According to Kalogerakis, MARA is important to Windham because the town has more than 60 miles of private roads and many residents need help forming road associations and assistance in getting them set up and maintained properly.

"When we set up our road association on my private road, we were not doing it right," says Kalogerakis.

During the 2024 MARA event that Kalogerakis attended he received two free books about private roads.

"These are not just books, but have photos in them that explain how to properly grade your roads, what type of materials to put on, what equipment to use, and how to avoid potholes. There are also photos showing why you see something on your road and how to fix it," says Kalogerakis.

"It is incredible the amount of information that is in these books and it is very helpful; I would love for

> see **ROADS** Page 8 PRSRT STD
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One of my favorite movies is "To Kill A Mockingbird," and in that film attorney Atticus Finch proclaims, "A court is only as sound as its jury, and a jury is only as sound as the people who make it up." Judge for yourself, but throughout February, I have been summoned as a potential juror.

Most of my exposure to the legal system comes from watching cases tried on television, such as the Johnny Depp v. Amber Heard media circus or most notably, the O.J. Simpson murder trial in the 1990s.

I previously served on two juries when I lived in Florida. The first time the parties went through the jury selection process, and I was seated in the group, but within minutes of starting the trial, the judge dismissed the jury as the parties had reached a settlement.

The second time was totally different. It took most of the morning to find jurors acceptable to both attorneys involved in the case. By noon a jury was seated, and I was among them. The judge had the courtroom break for lunch and the trial resumed with testimony for the remainder of the afternoon and into the following day.

The case was rather interesting to me. A Haitian immigrant who spoke very little English finished work as a stonemason for a contractor late in the afternoon of the Friday before Memorial Day. Before leaving, the contractor paid him a month's

> salary of about \$8,000 in cash in a brown paper bag he placed in the truck's center console. He got in his pickup truck and started to drive home when another Haitian immigrant at the work site flagged the stonemason down and asked if he could give him a ride home. During one of the hottest and most humid times of the year in Florida, the air conditioner in the pickup truck did not work and so the stonemason and his

co-worker rolled the windows down to have some fresh air come into the truck. As they arrived at the co-worker's home, he asked the stonemason to wait for a moment as he went inside for something. He reemerged with a four-pack of Bartles & Jaymes wine coolers, although it was missing two bottles. He said it was a gift for his kindness in giving him a ride home.

Taking off again, it was now dark outside, and the stonemason noticed flashing lights up ahead on the highway. It was a police DWI roadblock. He was pulled over and an officer noticed the unopened Bartles & Jaymes wine coolers on the passenger seat. He instructed the stonemason to step out of the truck and gave him a field sobriety test.

The Haitian immigrant passed all field sobriety testing, but as he didn't reply to some of the questions the officer asked because he didn't understand much English and the officer didn't speak his language, Creole, the officer detained him and requested another police car and officers to take him to the police station for blood testing for intoxication.

Once at the police station, blood was drawn from the Haitian. Since results would not be available from the lab for several days, he was booked for DWI and transported to the county jail. His pickup truck was towed to the county impound yard. It was Memorial Day Weekend, and the Haitian waited in the jail the remainder of Friday evening, Saturday, Sunday and through Monday as it was Memorial Day, just to obtain an attorney.

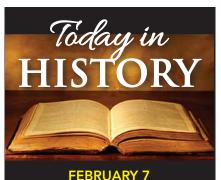
When the results of the blood test confirmed no alcohol in his system, the attorney for the state dropped charges filed against him and he was freed from jail. At the impound yard, he reclaimed his truck only after his attorney paid the \$750 towing and storage fees. And to his surprise, the brown paper bag of cash was missing.

He sued the city and the police department for \$50,000 for false imprisonment, false arrest, his expense of having to hire an attorney, the loss of a month's salary from the missing bag of cash, and the suffering and humiliation from spending four days in the slammer.

All of this had taken place three years before this trial that I was a juror for. We listened to all the testimony and adjourned to the jury room for our deliberation. To us, it was clear who had made a mistake. We reached a verdict for the plaintiff but before we could announce our decision, the judge dismissed the

It seems that the plaintiff's attorney had made some sort of technical error when filling out the paperwork for the case and this was brought to the judge's attention during the jury's deliberations. The judge visited us in the jury room before we left and said he had no choice but to dismiss this case and that the plaintiff's attorney said he was going to file the case for trial again, even if it took another three years to get on the court docket.

Now I am on the precipice again of doing my civic duty and serving as a potential juror. Paying homage to Atticus Finch, I'm hoping I can remain of sound mind until then. < ~ *Ed Pierce*



FEBRUARY 7

1795 - The 11th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is ratified affirming the power of U.S. states.

1817 – Baltimore, Maryland becomes the first American city to be illuminated at night by gas-powered street lamps.

922 – DeWitt and Lila Acheson Wallace offer copies of their new magazine "Reader's Digest" magazine for the first time.

1940– The Disney film "Pinocchio" debuts at the Center Theatre in Manhattan.

1943 – The U.S. government announces that shoe rationing would go into effect in two days.

1962 – All Cuban imports and the export of U.S. products to Cuba are banned by the U.S. government.

1984 – U.S. Space Shuttle astronauts Bruce McCandless II and Robert L. Stewart make the first untethered spacewalk.

1985 – "New York, New York" becomes the official anthem of New York City.

What was your very first job?

"Cleaning offices in downtown Portland." – Valerie Livesay Luce

"Shoveling snow for homes in the neighborhood. Had to have cars and sidewalks cleared before they left for work."

– William D. Reiner

"Aside from babysitting, my first job was a day camp counselor for Windham Rec."

– Sheila Boyden Corey

"Fuel attendant for Rogers Texaco Marina in Alexandria Bay, New York." – Ed Pierce

"Working on an assembly line making headbands and barrettes." – Cheryl L. Page

"Dundee Park." - Marie South

"Sweets n Eats scooping ice cream!" – Stacy Theriault Davis

"Mowing lawns and paper route." – Rob Bridge

"Other than mowing lawns, I worked as a sales/assembler at the House of 15,000 Picture Frames." – Rob Juergens

"Besides babysitting, I worked in a coat factory where my mom and aunts worked." Roose Tirrell Haigis

"Whidden Memorial Hospital, Everett Massachusetts, as a Ward Helper." – Ruthie Jackson

"Busser at Charlie Beiggs when I was 15. Flash forward 18 years and I worked as a bartender at Pops Place in the same building." – Kristin Murray

"Working in a ballpark concession stand. So fun!" Julie Mallett

"I started at the Windham Burger King at 15." - Emily Anne Morey

"Snack Bar Attendant, Duke Island Park in New Jersey. Had years of babysitting before then." - Cathy Wessel

"Sold tickets at the old Empire Theater in Lewiston in 1972."

 Anne Glotchshuk "Collected and packaged

eggs for sale at Ossment Farm outside of Wayland, Michigan." - Deirdre Schulte

"Assembled bicycles at a department store in Concord, NH." - Mitchell B. Robinson



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Annual Sebago Lake Rotary Ice Fishing Derby nearing

By Ed Pierce

STAFF WRITER

It's said that fishing is not just about catching fish, it's about the journey and the memories that last a lifetime. For those looking to create some new memories and take home some cash prizes, the 24th Annual Sebago Lake Rotary Ice Fishing Derby is approaching on Saturday, Feb. 15 and Sunday Feb. 16 and everyone who enters qualifies for the 2025 Grand Prize of \$5,000.

As Southern Maine's Largest Ice Fishing Derby and premier outdoors family friendly event, this year's derby promises to hold interest from start to finish and proceeds benefit "Feed the Need," which supports 12 different food pantries across the Lakes Region and an array of other Rotary charities.

The Sebago Lake Rotary Ice Fishing Derby is held every year in February and had been organized and managed by the club since 2001.

Every togue, pike, perch and pickerel caught during this year's derby will serve as one entry into the Rotary's Fish Pool drawings. Each angler participates must enter their own fish at the weigh station.

The 2025 Derby Fish Pool Prizes will exceed \$12,000 but not top \$22,600 which is the maximum allowed by state law. All registrants, whether you decide to fish or not, will be entered for the \$5,000 grand prize.

Derby organizers say the event serves as an important fisheries management tool for the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. As such, the prize structure was developed in consultation with the MDIFW Fishery Biologist to encourage the harvesting of invasive Northern Pike in local lakes and to moderate the abundance of lake trout. The derby also provides harvesting information as part of an initiative to manage freshwater sport fishing in Sebago Lake.

Cash prizes include:

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- 1st Place: \$500 Cash
- 2nd Place: \$250 Cash
- 3rd Place: \$100 Cash
- LARGEST PERCH**
- 1st Place: \$250 Kittery Trading Post Gift Card
- 2nd Place: \$150 Kittery Trading Post Gift Card
- 3rd Place: \$100 Kittery Trading Post Gift Card
 - LARGEST PICKEREL
- 1st Place: \$250 Kittery Trading Post Gift Card
- 2nd Place: \$150 Kittery Trading Post Gift Card
- 3rd Place: \$100 Kittery Trading Post Gift Card



LARGEST TOGUE

- 1st Place: \$1,000 Cash
- 2nd Place: \$500.00 Cash
- 3rd Place: \$250.00 Cash

Derby officials say that if Sebago Lake is deemed unsafe because of ice conditions, the cash prizes for togue and pike will remain in the charitable fund.

Every fish that is weighed has a chance to win, but there are some derby stipulations:

Pike Prizes: Pike must be caught in Sebago Lake only. The 2025 Pike Prize is for most fish caught, not for size and weight. All pike caught must be brought to the Raymond Beach weigh station for counting and tracking. Pike rules are that there are no limits the most fish caught to win first, second or third place.

Perch Prizes: White or Yellow Perch in Perch Fish Category - Debry officials will weigh your top six fish, and the remaining may be donated and entered for a prize drawing.

Togue Prizes: Togue must be caught in Sebago Lake only. Prizes will be determined by weight and length. An additional drawing will be held for all Togue caught and donated. No bag limit for Togue under 26 inches and no minimum weight limit. Only one may equal or exceed 26 inches.

Fishing Limits: A limit of six fish for togue, perch and pickerel species per day will be weighed for cash prices. Remaining togue can be donated and entered for a special drawing. Only one extra ticket per togue is allowed for donated fish per day and there are no limits on donated fish.

Registrants can donate their catch which will be processed through Nova Seafood in Portland. Containers will be available at each weigh station and each fish donated qualifies to be entered in a supplemental drawing for prizes.

A total of 26 lakes and ponds in Cumberland County are eligible to be fished in the derby. Weigh station times are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15 and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 16.

Entry fees are \$25 for individuals, \$35 for families of two adults and up to four children. Visit www.icefishingderby.com/derby-registration <



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Raymond to hold special town meeting about WiFi project

By Kendra Raymond

STAFE WRITER

A last-minute Board of Selectmen meeting in Raymond was conducted on Jan. 31 via ZOOM where selectmen could vote to make a warrant available for easements requested by Sebago WIFI LLC during a Special Town Meeting.

As it happens, an oversight regarding a Sebago WiFi project was discovered by the Town of Raymond's attorney, and it came to light last week. However, Raymond Select Board members were able to pull together an emergency meeting and voted to approve a Special Town Meeting Warrant authorizing a Special Town Meeting.

Raymond Town Manager Sue Look explained the oversight details prompting the meeting.

"In talking to our attorney about the Broadband Contract, I found that the Select Board does not have the authority to grant the easement needed to allow Sebago Fiber to build the proposed building on the Public Safety property for the broadband project, only (a) Town Meeting can do that," she said.

The Special Town Meeting Warrant was approved with the required votes of at least three select board members. There was no opposition.

Look said this will allow for the

Special Town Meeting to be called so it can be voted on by residents. The town is hoping to move forward with the project, so the broadband installation doesn't get held up.

The Special Town Meeting Warrant stipulates:

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to grant to Sebago Fiber & WIFI LLC a perpetual easement over and under a portion of Town-owned property identified as Tax Assessor's Map 04 Lot 106A support the installation of a fiber optic network ring connecting all municipal buildings and public safety radio towers and for the purpose of erecting, installing and maintaining:

- 1. A structure of approximately 400 sure feet to be used as a central office.
- 2. Two new utility poles and underground conduit, and
 - 3. Solar panels

"The easement will allow broadband with a fiber ring to the whole town, eventually," Look said. "The next steps are developing the wording of the easement and drawing the proposed easement. It will be available for residents to buy, and I think it will be much better."

The easement will allow construction of a small solar-powered building which will support the broadband ring. The new structure will be located on the town's Public Safety property.

The Special Town Meeting Warrant voting to approve the easement will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 11, at the Raymond Broadcast Studio, located at 423 Webbs Mills Road in Raymond. The meeting is open to the public.

Sebago Fiber is owned by Andrew Davis and has been in business since 2021. Its team includes workers covering engineering, support, billing, customer service and field service technicians.

"We build our systems for reliability," Davis said. "Light traveling over fiber does not have the limits of copper telephone or cable networks. Fiber is not susceptible to every power fluctuation in

a storm causing power surges down the lines and frying the cable modem. We build our systems with reliable backup battery and generator power."

To learn more about Sebago WIFI

A map by Sebago Fiber shows proposed WiFi expansion throughout Raymond. A Special Town Meeting to approve an easement for Sebago Fiber will be conducted at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 11, at the Raymond Broadcast Studio, 423 Webbs Mills Road in Raymond. SUBMITTED PHOTO

and take the survey visit: https://www.sebagofiber.net/lake

For updates about the Town's approval process, visit: www.raymond-maine.org <



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WHS representatives engage in dialogue at Yarmouth **High School's Civil Tea Club student meeting**

By Lorraine Glowczak

Five Windham High School students tackled complex and thought-provoking conversations with peers from five area high schools during a special event at Yarmouth High School on Friday, Jan. 31. Through open discussions, they embraced diverse perspectives, honed their listening skills, and felt inspired to take meaningful action based on their experiences.

The students were invited by YHS's Civil Tea Club, which extended the opportunity to schools involved in the Can We? Project. The Can We? initiative encourages civil dialogue, fosters empathy, and empowers young people to create positive change in their communities. By utilizing storytelling and compassionate communication, the project equips students with the skills needed to navigate challenging discussions and ensure that all voices are heard.

WHS students voluntarily participated in the Can We? Project, which has been running for three years.

When the invitation arrived from YHS, five dedicated WHS Can We? participants eagerly accepted, ready to engage in a respectful exchange of ideas and broaden their understanding of important social issues.

"I have been involved with the Can We? Project since it the goal of the project,

so seeing another extension of the project was an opportunity I couldn't miss."

Evans said that the Civil Tea Club kept the general mood of the Can We? Project, but made it more intimate.

Jen Dumont, WHS Teacher and JMG Specialist, is the school's Can We? Project Liaison. She said that the students share a passion for social justice and a strong desire to contribute to their communities. She is proud of her students' abilities to be respectful among any differing opinions.

"I wasn't concerned at all about



first came to Wind- Windham High senior Abigail Dumont, center, ham," WHS junior listens to two students from other schools as Gemma Evans said. "I they share thoughts about hard topics at the have always believed in Yarmouth High School Civil Tea Club gathering. PHOTOS BY LORRAINE GLOWCZAK

> challenges, such as strong disagreements or emotional reactions because over the past few years, facilitating the Can We? Project, I have consistently witnessed students come together and successfully navigate complex conversations with differing perspectives," she said.

> The students agreed, saying it was good to hear different opinions and to gain different perspectives.

> "When one of my group members had a different opinion than I did, I listened intently, I did not get angry

> > → see **TEA CLUB** Page 7





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TEA CLUB Cont. from page 6

or interrupt, I just listened," WHS Senior, Abigail Dumont said. "As the conversation went on, I circled back around to the topic and let him know why I felt the way that I did. I did not try to change his opinion."

WHS junior Kendra Eubanks agreed, saying that she has never felt so respected from both sides of the political spectrum as she did at Yarmouth's Civil Tea Club.

"It made me feel heard and accepted," she said. "I wish America could come together and talk about their different point of views respectfully and hear the other side and not make it turn into an argument. I feel that all political sides were heard at the Civil Tea."

Jen Dumont said that the intent

is never to have anyone's perspective change, but rather to facilitate a deeper understanding of the topic, relying on active listening, candid and vulnerable sharing of personal story, and

WHS senior Brooklyn Boucher said she enjoys having tough conversations and explained how she does

"Instead of listening to respond, it's very important to just listen," Boucher said. "Not everything needs a response. It was at first hard to hear people with different opinions than mine, but this experience has truly changed my way of thinking about politics, in the way of not always looking for a right or wrong but understanding that everyone has a reason to believe the things they do, and to hear that instead of belittling others. It can

> open your knowledge to both ends of issues. I really emphasize the saying "I hear you" because a simple agreement like "oh yea" or a head nod can be just brushed over, and sometimes it's just nice to be told that every word you said was heard by someone in the group."

Jen Dumont says that she couldn't be prouder of her students for their par-

"Every student experience was tre-



Junior Kendra Eubanks, left, and the four other ticipation. students were inspired by the experience and plan to invite the YHS Club to Windham High in reflected that the

mendously powerful and impactful. As an educator, any opportunity I can provide students to engage in authentic, solution-oriented dialogue is critical for their personal growth and self-confidence. Seeing the students so inspired after an event is truly edifying, and it provides much hope and faith in regard to this next generation of leaders." <





Grade: 5 School: Manchester School Teacher: Mrs. Falasca

Favorite subject(s) in school: Math Parents' names: Matt and Katie Franzoni

Reason for selection: Landon is a dedicated and thoughtful student who always strives for excellence in everything he does. He approaches each day with a positive attitude and consistently motivates his classmates to do the same. His contagious smile and upbeat demeanor brighten any room. He manages to balance

both academics and athletics with great discipline, working toward his goals both on and off the field. Landon has such a generous heart; he is always willing to lend a hand and support those around him. His teacher says it has been her pleasure to work with Landon this year, and she is excited for the great things that will come for him in the future.

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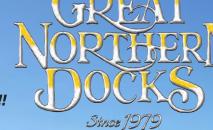






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ROADS Cont. from page 1

road associations in Windham to have this knowledge."

What private roads often look for is what material can they get inexpensively, and unaware that this could end up costing them even more.

"During our meeting, when we started talking about what to look for in a delivery of gravel, I was blown away," says Kalogerakis. "This man was showing different photos of gravel, how they sift through it, and what to look for to make sure that the gravel you are paying for is the best. All gravel is not the same. You need the correct mixture to keep your road together and in its best condition for the long run. I guarantee that no one is doing this correctly, which is why our private roads have so many of the issues that they do. This would be very valuable information for Windham."

He said that another valuable source

of information about private roads is Peter Kaufmann, who works for the Maine Department of Transportation and is the executive director of Maine Private Roads Chapter for the MDOT, working with Public Works Directors and communities on private roads. Kalogerakis says that he has spoken to the Windham Assistant Town Manager Bob Burns about possibly having Kaufmann come and lead meetings in Windham soon for any road associations that want to learn more about what they can do to care for and to maintain their private roads.

"Kaufmann is a wealth of knowledge with his experience," says Kalogerakis. "I think that having him talk here in Windham would be very valuable as Windham has over 60 miles of private roads and having information about how to properly care for them would be very helpful."

More info. about MARA can be found at www.maineroads.org <



Aroma Joes partners with Raymond Parks and Rec for winter pop-up event

By Kendra Raymond STAFF WRITER

When it comes to winter fun, Raymond Parks and Recreation Department has it covered. After a recent snowstorm caused the cancellation of a field trip, Parks and Rec staff members jumped into action to save the

Camp Raymond After School is a program designed to keep children active and occupied following school hours. Activities take place in Raymond, but occasionally special trips are planned. The recent surprise storm derailed the group's trip to the Children's Museum in Portland, which was planned during a scheduled halfday at school.

Raymond's Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Riley Silvia said that the partnered event just sort of

"This event was part of our after-school program, which provides kids with fun, enriching activities after school. We had originally planned a field trip that day, but when the snowfall made travel difficult, we turned the day into a winter adventure instead," she said. Parks and Recreation Director Joe Crocker went out and got sleds, and we transformed the afternoon into a classic snow day experience right at Camp Raymond After School."

Silvia recalls that "snow day" feeling from her childhood. She said she thinks that it is important to encourage wholesome traditions while spending some time outdoors with friends.

"Many kids look forward to snow days and all the traditions that come with them, sledding, hot chocolate, and cozy movies, so we wanted to recreate that special feeling," she said. "Since they only had a two-hour delay, we made sure they still got to enjoy the winter fun."

The fun didn't stop there. Quick thinkers Crocker and Silvia figured that the chilly sledders would want a way to warm up and get some refreshment after all the excitement. Enter: Aroma Joe's, home of delicious beverages right in Raymond.

"After flying down the slopes, we warmed up with delicious hot chocolate from Aroma Joe's in Raymond," Silvia said. "They have been a longtime supporter of our programs and always find ways to give back to the community. When we told them about our impromptu snow day and asked if they'd be interested in helping, they didn't hesitate to step up," she said. "They generously provided hot chocolate for all the kids, making the day even more special. It's partners like Aroma Joe's that make our community so great,

→ see **POP UP** Page 18

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
- **February 1, 2025 Pre-K Lottery Opens**
- April 1, 2025: Pre-K Lottery **Application Due**
- April 11, 2025: Pre-K **Admittance Notification**
- **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
 - February 1, 2025: **Kindergarten Registration Opens**
 - May 1, 2025: **Kindergarten Registration Due**
 - **Kindergarten Screening** by Appointment in May

Questions? Call 207-892-1800 or email: cbertinet@rsu14.org Program forms & info available at: rsu14.org The Windham Eagle Page 9

Town Council approves substance prevention grants

By Ed Pierce

STAFF WRITER

Members of the Windham Town Council have approved more than \$6,600 in funding from the Substance Prevention Grant Program aimed at preventing students from using drugs or other dangerous substances and help them make positive choices.

During the town council meeting on Jan. 28, councilors awarded three grants to help support positive activities for RSU 14 students. Funding for the Substance Prevention Grant Program is derived from annual licensing fees collected from cannabis businesses in Windham.

Councilors awarded Windham Middle School's Smokescreen Program a grant of \$2,500. The activity is an evidence-based game to educate students about the dangers of vaping. It promotes vaping prevention, education, and assists students in making positive choices in reducing youth substance use.

Tier 1 of the program will be used for all sixth-grade students and provides a universal prevention program focusing on vaping risks and developing peer resistance skills. The Tier 2 component of the program would be available as a targeted intervention for students involved in vaping or a substance violation at school.

Windham Middle School's Band and Orchestra was awarded a grant of \$2,600 by the council from the Substance Prevention Grant Program Fund to help pay for the group's participation in the Trills and Thrills Music Festival, a recreational event that promotes prevention, education, and positive choices in reducing youth substance use.

The Trills and Thrills Music Festival will be held June 5 and June 6 at Canobie State Park in Salem, New Hampshire. It is a competition staged by former music educators familiar with the abilities of school-aged musicians and helps to build esteem and confidence in student musicians.

Council members also awarded a grant of \$1,500 to the Windham High School Student Council for Raising Student Voice and Participation training and bringing a trainer from the National Association of Student Councils to Windham to conduct leadership training for 100 WHS students. The intent of the program is to provide more opportunities for all students to be active members of the school community by learning that they can share their voices, and that real change is possible through this process.

All three of these grants that were awarded by the Windham Town Council were approved and recommended by Windham's Substance Prevention Grant Program.

In other actions also during the meeting, Windham Town Councilors approved an annual contract with the Animal Refuge League running from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 for services provided.

The rate for the contract's renewal

is based upon 2020 U.S. Census figures for the town, which recorded 18,434 residents living in Windham. The per capita rate charged by the Animal Refuge League is \$1.47 per resident under the contract's terms. The total amount of the contract is \$27,098.

Maine law requires municipalities to provide shelter at a state licensed animal control shelter for strayed and lost dogs, cats, and domesticated animals that are a problem in the community and undomesticated animals that pose a threat to public health or safety, and requires that the municipality also must provide services relating to the humane disposition of said animals in the event they are not claimed by their owners. Funding obtained by the communities served by the Animal Refuge League and its shelter in Westbrook allows the organization to offer veterinary care for strays and provide adoption services for as many pets as possible into responsible and caring homes. It is an open-admission shelter, giving every pet hope for a new

Windham has contracted with the Animal Refuge League of Greater Portland for stray care services since 1990. Animal control services in Windham are administered by the Windham Police Department through an annual budget of \$77,046 and that includes the annual salary for the town's animal control officer, animal control uniforms, equipment and supplies, and the services provided by the shelter. <



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lar Dip. The goal this year is to raise at least the same amount but hopefully much more, said Amber Rankine, Sebago lakes Region Chamber of Commerce President and Chief Executive Officer

Rankine said the chamber is hoping for more participants than last year as the lake is iced over and many more people will be out on the lake once again for the Ice Fishing Derby.

There's one simple reason you should take part in this year Polar Dip and it's "because it supports such a great cause," said Robin Mullins, past Chamber President and CEO.

The event is held in memory of George Bartlett. Bartlett was a Rotary Club member for over 30 years, and he worked with the Maine Children's Cancer Network to start the Polar Dip event. When interest in the Polar Dip came to an end after many years, Bartlett approached Mullins wanting to restart the Polar Dip through a benefactor in town, leading to its subsequent connection with the chamber and "Feed the Need." After Bartlett passed away in 2023, it was decided the event would be renamed in his honor for the effort and dedication he had given this cause.

"With problems like food and insecurity, a lot of people don't think about the Sebago Lakes Region, but it is something that the Sebago Lakes Region does have to deal with and that's why we have these fundraisers," said Mullins. "Also, there isn't a whole lot to do in the winter, so this is something to do."

Mullins took a dip at the Polar Dip for the first time at last year's event.

"It wasn't as bad as you would think," she said.

It was a last-minute decision to make up for the short list of participants they had last year as well. Mullins posted on Facebook that she would be participating and within less than 24 hours, she had raised almost \$2,500.

On the scene at the event this year at Raymond Beach will be members of the Raymond Fire Department and Kathy Johnson of CPR Professionals of Maine. Johnson is a local from Maine who has been teaching CPR for over 10 years throughout Maine and parts of New Hampshire and has worked in the Emergency Medical Field for over 22 years.

"The Raymond Fire Department is an amazing group that helps collabo-



rate with safety and orchestration as well," says Rankine.

Donations from the Polar Dip will be totaled with funds from past fundraisers hosted by the chamber and distributed throughout 12 food pantries based on demand.

The receiving food pantries are Casco Village Church Food Pantry, Casco Alliance Church Food Pantry, Gray Community Food Pantry, Crosswalk Community Outreach, Naples Community Resource Council, First Congregational Church in New Gloucester, Raymond Food Pantry, Sebago Warming Hut, Standish Food Pantry, St. Ann's Episcopal Church Food Pantry and Town of Windham Food Pantry.

Jumping into the icy waters of Sebago Lake may not be for everyone, but the public can donate for the cause even if they aren't jumping in Sebago Lake. Anyone wishing to donate can do so by going to the Sebago Lakes Chamber of Commerce website at https://www.sebagolakeschamber.com/ and donating directly to "Feed the Need." No freezing water or jumping is required.

Participation in the Polar Dip is open to anyone of any age. You can sign up through the online registration form at www.sebagolakeschamber.com/cal-event/sebago-lakes-region-polar-dip <



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The Windham Eagle

Snowshoeing remains a favorite activity for Mainers

By Abby Wilson

STAFF WRITER

If you're looking to get outside this winter but the pace of the ski slopes is not for you, you might consider snowshoeing, a favorite activity of Mainers for generations.

In fact, Norway Maine was once known as the "The Snowshoe Town of America." According to the Western Foothills Land Trust (WFLT) website, "Norway was home to four major snowshoe industries between 1850 and 1980: Snocraft, Tubbs, H.H.Hosmer and Dunham." WFLT celebrates the sport with an annual Snowshoe Festival featuring snowshoe games, races, a fashion show, and more. This year's festival is scheduled for Feb. 14 and Feb. 15.

Further south, the Lakes Region of Maine boasts generous opportunities to continue the snowshoeing tradi-

"My favorite time to snowshoe is late season in early March when the deep snow firms up at night and softens in the warming sun," said Jon Evans, Stewardship Manager of Loon Echo Land Trust (LELT).

Evans said that once the snow flies, grab your snowshoes and check out the 40 miles that LELT has to offer including a variety of trails with a range of difficulty for any ability or age. He suggests Crooked River Preserve in Harrison.

"There's plenty of parking with



Snowshoeing is a favorite winter activity available," says Kelsey for many in the Lakes Region of Maine with Crowe, Deputy Director plentiful trails and local places to explore. of Windham Parks and PHOTO BY MELISSA CARTER

about 3 miles of flat trails. Some are groomed for snowmobiles and it's a vibrant forest full of white and red pine, spruce and hemlock," Evans said. "Good birding opportunities here too. The cold valley holds snow and may provide snowshoeing opportunities while other preserves may not. I find this place magical, full of life and spirit."

If you don't have snowshoes, you can rent or borrow them. Snowshoes are available from LELT and if conditions allow the land trust will also offer guided snowshoe hikes so you can learn from the professionals.

At Windham Parks and Recreation, you can borrow snowshoes for free. The loan program features pairs in kids and adult sizes. Residents can pick them up at the parks and at the recreation office at Windham Town

"You can call ahead to just make sure we have enough for your family or just stop in our office. With no snow right now, we have many pairs Recreation.

You can also pick up a brochure at the town hall with information about local trails.

"I would suggest Mountain Division, Lowell and Lippman. Or if you want a challenging trail, the East Windham Conservation Area which is new to Windham," says Crowe.

Will Sedlack, Executive Director of Presumpscot Regional Land Trust (PRLT) agrees that the East Windham Conservation area is a fun spot for snowshoeing. PRLT also manages several other trails that make winter recreation easy and accessible.

"With plowed and accessible trailheads all season long, it's easy to enjoy the peace and quiet of nature during the colder months. From the flat and family-friendly paths at Frazier Preserve to the more adventurous climbs at the East Windham Conservation Area and Mill Brook Preserve, there's a trail waiting for you this winter," says Sedlack.

While snowshoeing is a fun way to get outside, it is also strenuous exercise. This increases the importance of having the right gear and easing into snowshoeing.

> see **SNOWSHOE** Page 19



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THE DISCOUNT SNACK HAUL OF FAME

By Michelle Cote
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE

I've rekindled that old lost love for our local surplus and salvage store.

Alas, it's the store filled with many, many, rotating and delightfully haphazard overstock items that replace themselves so quickly, inevitably one may regrettably think, 'I should have bought

Mainers, you know the jingle.

But my relationship with our town's local discount shop had been an oscillat-

And not just because you can buy oscillating fans next to the carpets next to the dog leashes next to the snow pants in said warehouse space.

I have had a years-long aversion for shopping inside stores, namely stores with erratic inventory that require any sort of rifling through of goods.

I became a mama precisely around the dawn of curbside grocery pick-up, a sort of kismet convenience so appreciated that couldn't have come at a better time, and so I've been spoiled in that re-

Just like that, no more had I the patience nor time for browsing aisles, scouring deals, feeling stifled by the marketing of clutter-some items I just didn't need.

Online grocery shopping with the painless advantage of pickup without leaving the vehicle is an undeniable luxury - one that keeps me on budget and no longer requires me to lug two shopping carts down all the aisles as I excuse myself to every single shopper ever be-

cause I'm taking up all the lanes, only to end each excursion with a double-down Tetris round as I meticulously pack every item back into the cart, then again into the vehicle.

In those days, I ended each grocery shopping run like a flushed, wild-haired Supermarket Sweep contestant, and who had time for that?

No, sir; I'll keep my curbside pickup just fine.

But back to our local salvage store.

For years, I was less and less enticed to stop in and shop because of its unpredictable merchandise, although I couldn't help but acknowledge the prices were right, and always had been, no matter the product.

I have family and friends who love their local discount store for this very

Oh what fun for the knitters of my family to browse the skeins upon skeins of yarn galore.

What a glorious feeling for friends who score the name-brand clothing deals. They are the patient ones, and they deserve all the bargains.

Until recently, I only perused this store strictly day after Christmas, because it was a near guarantee I'd find significantly marked down holiday wrapping paper well ahead of budget and next Noel season.

But as of late, fellow mama friends have nudged me along with encouraging assurance that I could score fantastic bargains on school snack hauls - Now that's a hard one to pass up.

And what hauls I've since made off

with, indeed.

My family and I recently embarked on a road trip that necessitated road snacks, and I found treats a'plenty at the salvage store for a deal.

Some of the snacks were bigger hits than others; some had mixed reviews, but all cost very little.

So, why are salvage store prices so low anyway? Often products are nearing their expiration date, dented, damaged, or overstocked.

My favorite finds have been snacks or other food items that may include a promotion for a limited time offer of a movie or other deal that has since expired, but the food item at hand is still perfectly fine.

Items publicizing expired promotional ads such as these won't be found on traditional retail shelves, so are resold for a fraction to the salvage shop.

Food items ranging from dented cans of tomato sauce to frozen foods still safe for consumption but marked beyond a stamped date are also often included in these finds.

As well, company product roll-outs that don't quite catch on as hoped and produced en masse are often found – I'm looking at you, Hostess SnoBall-flavored coffee pods.

High hopes for sure, but no go.

I can't stress enough that shopping salvage stores truly requires patience.

I've visited mine before with all the intentions of a fabulous snack haul only to return home dismayed with shopping bags empty.

But most recently on a particular

shopping trip, I lucked out and walked down a random aisle - a road less traveled, you might say - and was face to face with rows upon rows of namebrand boots.

Garden boots.

I needed garden boots to replace my eleven-year-old beloved purple wellies that had spent more than their fair share deeply embedded in garden muck as my kids and I ran amok.

So beloved were the boots that cracks had formed in various areas, and I'd every intention of duct taping the cracks this year to squeeze out one more garden summer in their faded purple beauty.

And here I was, facing gorgeous replacement boots, a higher-end brand in a dusty rose color, just my size, dreamily comfortable, for an incredible fraction of the cost.

Perhaps the company merely had overshot their expected sales and so sold their overstock to this warehouse.

The world may never know. But in that moment, these boots were not only made for walkin,' but made for me. That's the satisfaction of shopping salvage in a moment just right.

Had I waited another day, I may have missed the opportunity altogether, and stubbornly spent one more summer in fancy duct-taped glamorous wellies.

So shop salvage with pride. If you don't find the knitting skeins you seek, there's probably a dented stewed tomato can or two waiting for you.

And if you're very lucky, you can score a fantastic snack haul for your kiddos and super fancy footwear to boot. <

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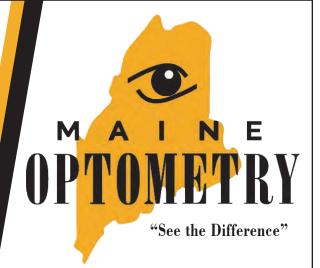
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The Windham Eagle Page 13

ebrate Your Valentine!



PAIRING WINES AND COCKTAILS FOR A VALENTINE'S DATE NIGHT

Valentine's Day is the perfect occasion to indulge in romantic ambiance, exquisite cuisine, and, of course, the perfect selection of wines and cocktails. Whether you're planning a cozy dinner at home or an intimate restaurant outing, pairing your drinks with the right food can elevate the experience. Here's a guide to choosing and pairing wines and cocktails to make your Valentine's celebration unforgettable.

Selecting the Right Wine

Wine has long been synonymous with romance, and the right bottle can set the perfect mood for the evening. Here are some great wine options based on your meal selection:

Champagne or Sparkling Wine – If you're starting with oysters, shrimp cocktail, or a light cheese platter, a glass of Champagne or sparkling wine like Prosecco adds a refreshing touch to the evening. The bubbles and acidity cleanse the palate, making each bite as delightful as the last. Pinot Noir - For a versatile red wine that pairs beautifully with both poultry

and seafood, Pinot Noir is an excellent choice. Its light body and fruity notes complement dishes like roast chicken, salmon, or mushroom-based entrées.

Cabernet Sauvignon -If your Valentine's menu includes steak, lamb, or rich, hearty dishes, opt for a bold Cabernet Sauvignon. Its deep flavors and

tannins balance well with red meat, enhancing both the wine and the dish.

Rosé - A fun and flirty option, rosé pairs well with lighter dishes like grilled vegetables, seafood pasta, or even a heart-shaped Margherita pizza. It's a great choice if you want something elegant yet casual.

Sweet Dessert Wine - For the grand finale, a sweet wine like Moscato or a late-harvest Riesling pairs beautifully with fruit-based desserts, cheesecake, or chocolate-covered strawberries.

Crafting Romantic Cocktails If wine isn't your drink of choice or



you'd like to start the evening with a creative twist, consider these Valentine's-inspired cocktails:

Love Potion Martini - A mix of vodka, cranberry juice, and raspberry liqueur, this cocktail is sweet, tart, and perfect for setting a romantic mood.

French 75 - Combining gin, Champagne, lemon juice, and sugar, the French 75 is an elegant and refreshing option to toast to love.

Chocolate Old Fashioned - Infuse a classic Old Fashioned with chocolate bitters and a hint of orange for a rich, decadent drink to pair with chocolate desserts.

Strawberry Basil Margarita - A romantic twist on a margarita, blending tequila, fresh strawberries, basil, lime juice, and a touch of agave.

Rosé Spritz - Light and bubbly, this cocktail combines rosé wine, club soda, and a splash of elderflower liqueur for a floral and refreshing sip.

Whether you choose a classic wine pairing or opt for a unique cocktail, the key is to complement your food while keeping the atmosphere light and romantic. Cheers to a beautiful Valentine's date night filled with love, laughter, and the perfect drinks. <











Celebrate Your Valentine!

THE MEANING OF VALENTINE'S DAY

Valentine's Day, celebrated annually on February 14th, is a day dedicated to love, affection, and appreciation. While many associate the holiday with romantic gestures such as flowers, chocolates, and candlelit dinners, its significance extends far beyond material gifts. At its core, Valentine's Day is about expressing love in all its forms—whether romantic, familial, or platonic.

The origins of Valentine's Day date back to ancient Rome, where the festival of Lupercalia was held in mid-February to celebrate fertility and purification. Later, the day became associated with St. Valentine, a priest who, according to legend, performed secret marriages for couples despite a ban imposed by Emperor Claudius II. Over the centuries, Valentine's

Day evolved into a celebration of love and devotion.

Today, Valentine's Day serves as a



reminder to cherish the meaningful connections in our lives. While couples often exchange heartfelt cards and thoughtful gifts, the holiday is also an opportunity to show appreciation for friends, family members, and

even oneself. Love is not confined to romance—it encompasses kindness, gratitude, and deep emotional bonds Beyond the traditional expressions of love, many people use Valentine's Day to engage in acts of generosity, such as volunteering, writing letters of appreciation, or simply spending quality time with loved ones. The essence of Valentine's Day lies in making others feel valued and cherished.

Whether celebrated with grand gestures or simple moments of connection, Valentine's Day is ultimately about spreading love and joy. It is a day to pause, reflect, and express gratitude for the special people who bring happiness into our lives.







Celebrate Your Valentine!



PLAN A SPECIAL VALENTINE'S DAY

Couples have been commemorating their love for one another in February for quite some time. Couples may go about such celebrating in their own unique ways, but it's not uncommon to focus on a night out on the town.

These tips can help you organize a Valentine's experience to remember.

Tip #1: Reserve early

The closer to Valentine's Day, the more likely popular restaurants will be all booked up. If the goal is to dine at a particularly trendy spot - or anywhere but the most obscure establishment - be sure to make a reservation well in advance. Start planning the Valentine's Day dinner in December so you won't have to look far and wide to book a reservation. If a restaurant does

not take reservations that far out, ask when they will start collecting names for Valentine's Day and book the moment you can.

Tip #2: Secure transportation

One way to make the night more romantic is to snuggle in the back seat of a vehicle and have someone else do the driving. This also is a safer option if you plan to pop a bottle of bubbly or sip some wine while celebrating. Hiring a limousine or luxury car also will require advanced reservations. However, going the extra mile can make the night memorable.

Tip #3: Emulate a scene from a favorite film

The person you love may adore a romantic movie, whether it's a classic or more recent tear-jerker. When

planning a romantic evening out, consider reenacting a movie scene with you and your special someone in the starring roles. For example, everyone know the famous movie "Dirty Dancing". Get your hips warmed up for a romantic and tantalizing dance in your living room to your favotire music.

Tip #4: Attend a live music perfor-

Music can touch the heart and soul. That makes an evening watching a band play or enjoying a musical on the stage even more memorable if it occurs on Valentine's Day. Select an intimate venue to add to the romantic ambiance of the night.

Tip #5: Think outside tradition

While dinner and a movie are Valentine's Day favorites, any activity done together can be memorable and romantic. Why not book a couple's cooking class? Or enjoy a winter sport like skiing or ice skating? Or warm up after window shopping on Main Street by sipping hot cocoa and snuggling on the sofa under a blanket.

Romantic nights out on Valentine's Day can be made even more special with some forethought and planning.



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Celebrate Your Valentine!

BRINGING ROMANCE INTO YOUR MARRIAGE

Marriage is a beautiful journey filled with love, companionship, and shared experiences. However, as time passes, the initial spark of romance can sometimes fade amidst daily responsibilities and routines. Valentine's Day provides an excellent opportunity to rekindle that romance, but maintaining a loving and passionate connection year-round is key to a fulfilling relationship. Here are some meaningful ways to bring romance into your marriage on Valentine's Day and beyond.

1. Prioritize Quality Time Together

One of the most effective ways to maintain romance is to spend quality time together. Whether it's a weekly date night, a weekend getaway, or simply an evening walk, making time for each other strengthens your emotional connection. On Valentine's Day, plan a special activity that you both enjoy, such as a candlelit dinner or a movie night at home.

2. Show Appreciation and Affection

Small gestures of love and appreciation go a long way in keeping romance alive. Express gratitude for your partner's efforts, compliment them genuinely, and show physical affection such as holding hands, hugging, or a spontaneous kiss. These simple acts reinforce emotional intimacy and make your partner feel valued.

3. Keep Surprises Alive

Surprises add excitement to any relationship. Surprise your spouse with love notes, a thoughtful gift, or a special date planned just for them. While Valentine's Day is the perfect time for grand romantic gestures, keeping the element of surprise throughout the year helps maintain the thrill of romance.

4. Communicate

Openly and Honestly Effective communication is the foundation of a strong marriage. Share your feelings, dreams, and concerns with your partner, and encourage them to do the same. Honest and open conversations build trust and

deepen your emotional bond, allowing romance to flourish naturally.

5. Keep the Intimacy Alive Physical intimacy is a crucial part of a romantic marriage. Prioritizing affection, touch, and intimate moments helps maintain a close and loving connection. Set aside time for intimacy, explore new ways to connect, and ensure that both partners feel fulfilled and desired.

6. Relive Special Memories Revisiting cherished moments can reignite romantic feelings. Look through old photos, recreate your first date, or reminisce about your honeymoon. Reliving special memories reminds you both of the love and excitement that brought you together in the first place.

7. Support Each Other's Goals and Dreams

Encouraging and supporting your partner's aspirations strengthens your bond. Take an interest in their hobbies, celebrate their achievements, and provide reassurance during challenging times. A partner who feels supported is more likely to reciprocate love and affection.

8. Infuse Fun and Laughter

Laughter is a powerful tool in keeping a marriage lighthearted and joyful. Engage in activities that make you

both laugh, such as playing games, watching comedies, or reminiscing about funny moments. A relationship filled with laughter fosters a deep and lasting connection.

9. Create New Traditions Together Establishing traditions unique to your relationship keeps things fresh and exciting. Whether it's a Valentine's Day ritual, an annual getaway, or a shared hobby, having traditions strengthens your bond and gives you something special to look forward to.

10. Continue Courting Each Other Dating shouldn't end after marriage. Continue wooing your partner with thoughtful gestures, heartfelt messages, and romantic outings. Making an effort to impress and surprise your spouse keeps the romance alive and ensures that your love remains strong.

Valentine's Day is a wonderful reminder to celebrate love, but true romance thrives when nurtured daily. By prioritizing time together, showing appreciation, keeping surprises alive, and fostering emotional and physical intimacy, you can keep the romance in your marriage flourishing long after February 14th. Love is not just about grand gestures; it's about the small, consistent acts of affection that make each day special.









The Windham Eagle — Page 17

Celebrate Your Valentine!



VALENTINE'S GIFT IDEAS FOR MEN, WOMEN, AND KIDS

Valentine's Day is a time to celebrate love and affection, not just between romantic partners but also among family members and friends. Finding the perfect gift for your loved ones can be a meaningful way to show appreciation and make them feel special. Here's a guide to some of the most appreciated Valentine's gifts for men, women, and children.

Gifts for Men

Choosing a thoughtful Valentine's gift for a man depends on his personality, interests, and lifestyle. Here are some ideas that are sure to be appreciated:

Personalized Accessories – Engraved watches, custom wallets, or monogrammed cufflinks add a personal touch.

Tech Gadgets – Wireless earbuds, smart home devices, or a high-quality portable speaker are great for tech enthusiasts.

Grooming and Self-Care Kits – A luxury shaving set, skincare products, or a cologne gift set cater to self-care needs. Or pick up a gift certificate to his favorite barber shop.

Experience Gifts – Concert tickets, a golf lesson, or a weekend getaway create lasting memories.

Hobby-Related Items – If he enjoys cooking, gaming, or fitness, con-

sider gifts like a premium chef's knife, a new video game, or workout gear. If he likes sports, consider some swag items like a sweatshirt, hat, or mug.

Gifts for Women

Women appreciate gifts that show thoughtfulness, effort, and love. Here are some timeless Valentine's Day gift ideas for the special women in your life:

Jewelry – A necklace, bracelet, or pair of earrings with sentimental value is always cherished.

Handbags – A stylish handbag from a favorite brand can be a luxurious and practical gift that she will appreciate.

Spa and Wellness Packages – A massage, facial, or a full spa day provides relaxation and rejuvenation.

Flowers, Candy and Chocolates – A classic yet delightful combination that never goes out of style.

Customized Gifts – A personalized photo book, a custom-made fragrance, or a star map marking a special date are thoughtful options.

Subscription Services – Monthly subscriptions for books, gourmet food, or beauty products offer continuous enjoyment.

Gifts for Children

Valentine's Day gifts for kids should be fun, engaging, and age-ap-

propriate. Here are some ideas to bring smiles to their faces:

Stuffed Animals – A cuddly teddy bear or favorite character plushie makes a comforting companion.

Books – Valentine's-themed storybooks or interactive books encourage a love for reading.

Craft Kits – DIY arts and crafts sets, sticker books, or coloring kits provide creative fun.

Sweet Treats – Heart-shaped cookies, chocolates, or homemade cup-

cakes make delicious gifts.

Personalized Items – A custom backpack, name-engraved jewelry, or a personalized puzzle adds a unique touch.

No matter who you're shopping for, the most appreciated Valentine's gifts are those that come from the heart. Whether it's a small token of love or a grand gesture, showing your affection through thoughtful gifts makes Valentine's Day even more special for everyone.

SWEET VALENTINE'S DAY IDEAS FOR KIDS TO SURPRISE THEIR PARENTS

Valentine's Day is not just for couples—it's also a perfect opportunity for kids to show love and appreciation for their parents. Simple yet heartfelt gestures can make the day extra special.

One of the easiest and most meaningful ways kids can express their love is by making a handmade card filled with drawings and kind words. A personalized note or poem adds an extra touch of warmth. Another thoughtful idea is creating DIY gifts, such as a handcrafted picture frame or a coupon book offering hugs, chores, or breakfast in bed.

Kids can also prepare a small surprise by helping set the table for a family dinner or baking cookies with a parent's favorite flavors. A heartfelt "I love you" and spending quality time together—whether watching a movie or playing games—are simple ways to make Valentine's Day memorable for parents. Love, after all, is about the little things!







POP UP Cont. from page 8

and we're incredibly grateful for their support. We finished the day with a bracket-style movie vote, letting the kids decide on the perfect film to wrap up their snow day adventure."

The Raymond Parks & Recreation Department Facebook page posted, "Today was SNOW much fun! Shout out to @aromajoescoffee for providing us with hot cocoa for this snowy day." The gratitude didn't stop there, as Aroma Joe's was featured as the Raymond Parks and Recreation Sponsor Saturday highlight posting, "This week we're shining the spotlight on Aroma Joe's Coffee, a fantastic supporter of our programs! Not only do they sponsor teams in our leagues, but they also go the extra mile by providing hot cocoa and snacks to their team at the end of the season. Plus, their generosity



Eager sledders Emerson Crocker and Acadia Carroll took part in the recent Raymond Parks been the director." and Rec pop-up sledding event during an afterschool activity. PHOTO BY RILEY SILVIA

extends beyond sports - Aroma Joe's donates hot cocoa to our community events, helping to keep everyone warm and smiling. Be sure to stop by and support them, just like they support us!"

Silvia is dedicated to keeping things exciting for the young-

"The kids get out at 12:10 every Wednesday, so we try to be creative with activities and trips," she said. "We started this program in September, and I have

With the rapid growth of the Ray-

mond Park and Rec Department, Silvia said that her responsibilities are increasing.

"My tasks in the Assistant Parks and Recreation Director position are growing as our department is growing, so I have dropped down to working Wednesdays and Fridays," she said. "Jill Lambert has become our Program Leader, covering the other three days."

Silvia says she's happy to get so much positive feedback on the recent pop-up sledding event and hopes to keep the momentum going with more engaging activities this year.

"I never thought the kids would be excited when I told them a field trip was canceled, but they were absolutely thrilled to have a sledding day instead," she said. "They were laughing and soaking up every moment of fun in the snow. Parents have told us how much they appreciated that we turned an unexpected change into such a fun opportunity." <

Credit union now offering college scholarships

Celebrating 10 years of supporting Maine students' pursuit of higher education, University Credit Union has announced that applications are now open for the 2025 UCU Scholarship

Since launching the UCU Scholarship in 2016, UCU has awarded \$64,000 in scholarships to students pursuing higher education across the University of Maine System, and Maine Maritime Academy.

This year, UCU will continue its commitment to educational advancement by awarding a total of \$9,000 in college scholarships, including \$1,000 to nine students; of which are eight undergraduate students attending University of Maine System campuses, and Maine Maritime Academy, as well as one graduate or professional student furthering their education within the University of Maine System or Maine Maritime Academy.

"For a decade now, the UCU Scholarship has been helping Maine students build a foundation for their financial future and demonstrate how UCU is Here for U," said Renee Ouellette, UCU's President and CEO. "10 years in, we have seen firsthand just how much education can change lives for the better. We are honored to have a small role in helping students across Maine have an opportunity to pursue their passion."

To be considered for the UCU Scholarship, applicants must be UCU members with a primary account in good standing by May 1, 2025. They must also be entering the Fall 2025 semester as a student attending a University of Maine System institution, or Maine Maritime Academy.

For full program details and to apply, visit www.ucu.maine.edu/schol-

About University Credit Union

Established in 1967, University Credit Union is an innovative, full-service financial institution. As a not-for-profit financial cooperative, UCU returns its profits back to members in the form of lower loan rates, higher deposit yields, lower fees, and more solutions and services. For more information visit ucumaine.com. <





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"I enjoy many types of outdoor sports but to me, snowshoeing is a great way to stay fit and enjoy the wonders of nature," Evans said. "Poles are very handy to have, and I recommend them. A small backpack is also great to store the layers of clothing that will come off as you get warmed up. Drink water, you can dehydrate in winter too."

If you're looking to jump right in

and purchase your own pair of snow-

Haddock Dinner

The Knights of Columbus are offering a Haddock Dinner from 5 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish Hall, 919 Roosevelt Trail in Windham. Meals will be available for dining in or to go. The menu includes fresh baked haddock, homemade mashed potatoes, carrots, rolls and butter, homemade coleslaw, and beverages. Gluten-free options will be available. The cost is \$14 for adults, and \$6 for pizza for kids. FMI, call 207-446-1012.

Cancer support

The Windham Cancer Support Group will be holding a "Caregiver only" meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 10 at the Windham Public Library. All caregivers are welcome. Feel free to come and express your concerns in a confidential setting. FMI, send an email to coppjanet@yahoo.com

TRIAD meeting

Gorham/Windham/Westbrook TRIAD is a cooperative partnership between law enforcement agencies, elder service providers, and seniors in our community. The primary mission of TRIAD is to reduce the criminal victimization of older citizens,

enhance the delivery of law enforcement services, and improve the quality of life for seniors. The next TRIAD meeting will be at 9 a.m. Friday, Feb. 14 at the Gorham Municipal Building, 75 South St., Gorham. All seniors are welcome. FMI, call 207-887-9222.

Habitat for Humanity

Applications are now being accepted for two new homes in Standish built by Habitat for Humanity of Greater Portland. Income limits vary by household size. Applications are due by 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19. For more details and an application, visit habitatportlandme.org/apply/standish or email molly@habitatme.org.

College scholarships

For the 10th consecutive year, SeniorCare.com will award an annual college scholarship to an individual that best demonstrates to us why "Aging Matters" to them. A \$1,500 scholarship will be given annually to a selected college student that currently cares for an aging loved one, works within the senior community, or intends to pursue a career that will have an impact upon the elder population. For more info. visit www.seniorcare. com/scholarship

shoes, there are a few things to con-

Using your weight and shoe size, you can select a snowshoe model, which are usually sized as length in inches. Every snowshoe has a weight capacity listed in the specifications. Remember to consider the weight of your gear as well.

Once you've selected your size, then you should consider where you are snowshoeing.

In Maine, conditions vary based on the year and the region. If you are mostly snowshoeing in the Lakes Region which receives a low to moderate amount of snow, you might select an average length.

If you decide to head north to Sug-

arloaf or other snowier parts of the Northeast, you can purchase a flotation tail. This is an extension that connects to the back of the snowshoe, giving the user the ability to accommodate for changing conditions.

While there is a lot to consider and to plan for, snowshoeing is a great hobby and a fun way to get outside in

"Grab your snowshoes, snow permitting, pack your sense of adventure, and come discover the magic of the winter season on our PRLT preserves," Sedlack said.

Beginners should be excited to embark on their snowshoeing journey and are invited to explore miles of free and accessible trails here this winter. <

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An abs soul loot game changer

► By Andy Young SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE



No one, least of all me, can afford to stagnate professionally. That's why, in an effort to improve myself technologically, I Andy Young, Columnist recently decided to try

out an "app" (I think that's what it's called) which, according to its creator, can sharpen up anyone's writing, or at least the spelling part of it. Has it helped? You be the judge.

Pea pull who no me well R deaf in it lea awe ware I'm not reel lea inn two tech knowledge gee. But I'm also not afraid to add mitt when I'm wrong, and boy, was I miss take in about this knew spell Czech app I just started yew zing. It's give in me fresh incite into the weigh I do things. Sum (though not awl) of the other methods I'd used bee four were just plane useless, but this gnu soft wear makes everything else pail bye come Paris

Here in mane (wear our state animal is the mousse), nun of my previous N gauge mints with pro grams that purr ooze my spelling have been grate. Inn fact, most have provided no ade what sew ever. But to be fare, in the passed I've off tin felt blew when matt teary ills that were sup post too uh cyst me never maid any differ rinse. I new nun of those things maid

buy technologists were worth N knee thing. In fact, nearly awl of them were waists of thyme and F fort.

I wondered if I had scene the last of my good daze as an edge you cater. I was all ways inn a fowl mood, feeling spiritually baron. Their were times I gist wanted to drop out of site, flea the staid of main, and hit the rode for sum place wear I could S cape the pane of all the sole-crushing tech knowledge gee, fig you ring it wood be good for what ales me. I kneaded a brake, gist to bear my sole (oar, if I whir feeling week, flecks my mussels) in some out door low cay shun wear eye could breathe sum fresh heir. If aye were aloud two, I wood put on a pear of old genes, fined a would den chair, and pro seed two go smell sum flours, swim out to a choral reef, wok in a reign foe rest, sit amongst the reads in a swamp, ore maybe reel axe beneath sum fur and/ore beach trees.

Of coarse, I'd half to tell the prince sip pull at my school, a former banned liter, before I hit the rode, not only to say high, but too let him no wear I was head did, in case he kneaded me. I don't think he'd mined, butt cents he's a fare and cay ring person, I'm sure he'd have tolled me knot to overdue things. And weather or knot hour principle mint it, ave bet he wood say I'd be mist bye the wrest of the staph. He'd also wont to make sir tin that I eight rite. I mien, eye sup hose I could all ways gist take an our ore two too visit a soup per mark it sew I could bye myself a thick juice E stake, butt I probably all sew ought to inn jest some hell thee foods, like maybe sum bran serial, a pare, or sum carats, just sew I don't get the flew.

Eye gist proof red this; there's knot won sin gull miss steak.

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Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 6:00p.m.

at the Broadcast Studio

423 Webbs Mills Road

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Raymond, qualified by law to vote in Town affairs, to meet at the Broadcast Studio at 423 Webbs Mills Road in said town on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 6:00 P.M., then and there to act on Articles 1 through 2 as set out below.

ARTICLE 1: To elect a moderator to preside at said meeting.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to grant to Sebago Fiber & WIFI LLC a perpetual easement over and under a portion of Town-owned real property identified as Tax Assessor's Map 04 Lot 106A support the installation of a fiber optic network ring connecting all municipal buildings and public safety radio towers and for the purpose of erecting, installing and maintaining:

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The Windham Eagle Page 21

A poetic gesture



State Senator Tim Nangle, D-Windham, hosted poet Robert C. Clark of Windham recently at the State House. Clark delivered the opening invocation before the Maine Senate, sharing a poem he wrote titled 'Those We Never Knew.' The poem offers a stirring reflection on the origins of American independence, honoring the courage of those who fought for freedom. Clark, center, joined Senator Nangle, left, in gifting a framed copy of his poem to Maine Senate President Mattie Daughtry, D-Brunswick. 'Robert's poem served as a powerful reminder of the values and sacrifices that have shaped our nation," Nangle said. 'It's fitting that we began the day with these words of reflection and gratitude. His invocation highlighted the importance of remembering our shared history as we roll up our sleeves and get to work for Maine people.' SUBMITTED PHOTO

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Pausing to remember



The American Legion Field-Allen Post 148 hosted a Four Chaplains Interfaith Service at the Windham Veterans Center on Sunday, Feb. 2. The Four Chaplains Ceremony paid tribute to the sacrifice of military chaplains serving on the USAT Dorchester, a troop transport ship that was torpedoed during World War II. The chaplains gave up their life jackets and seats in the lifeboats so that others might survive. The special event featured guest speakers from four different faiths representing each of the four chaplains and was coordinated by Vice Commander Yvonne Johnson of Post 148. PHOTO BY DAVID TANGUAY

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Eagle STPORTES

WHS girls' basketball crushes Falmouth on Senior Night

By Matt Pascarella

STAFF WRITER

The Windham varsity girls' basketball team crushed Falmouth 73-19 on Tuesday, Feb. 4 at Windham High School.

Before the game, the team honored Stella Jarvais on Senior Night and presented a gift for her and for her parents for their time and dedication to Windham athletics during Stella's high school career.

"It's something really special coming through the years of this program," said Jarvais, who scored 26 points against Falmouth. "I love this team, and it's really cool for them to recognize all the years I put into it. It's kind of surreal (to maybe have played my last home game) because I will not be playing basketball beyond these years. It's something special to share the court with my sister, because I will not be playing with her in college; so being able to spend this time with Mackenzie (Delewski) and my friends and my sister, it's something really special."

Windham came out strong and put up 19 points in just the first quarter. Windham sophomore Denali Momot sank a three-pointer. The squad's incredible defense held Falmouth to just five points.

In the second quarter, Windham junior Marley Jarvais hit a three-pointer. Windham led by 20 and their offense would not be stopped. At the half Windham led, 37-12.

"I thought our team defense went very well tonight," said Windham junior Chloe Delewski. "We did a great job defending the perimeter followed by boxing out and rebounding. I thought that tonight our offense was







(L to R) Windham senior Stella Jarvais takes the ball to the basket on Tuesday, Feb. 4 at Windham High. Junior Marley Jarvais goes in for a layup. Junior Chloe Delewski won't be stopped as she makes her way under the basket and sinks a shot. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

executed well but when we face stronger defenses, we will need to be sharper. It felt great getting this big win because we got the whole team involved and it was just an amazing show that we put on for the crowd. Stella leaving means ... we are losing one of our closest friends and outstanding players on the team. It won't be the same without her next year."

At the start of the second half, Windham's lead grew to 30 points. They rebounded and Windham's defense kept Falmouth scoreless in the third quarter.

"Passing, getting into our offense, being able to cut and read the defense, so stuff like that went well," said Stella Jarvais. "Our shooting percentage went up. Just communication I feel like is always a thing that teams can work on; and turnovers, in a lot of the games that came close and came down to the last minute were due to turnovers, so limiting turnovers we can work on."

In the fourth quarter, a block from Windham freshman Eliana Kostopoulos showed Falmouth who was in control.

Windham sophomore Leandra Woodman sank two three-pointers and Windham freshman Lauren Valle hit a three-pointer too.

"Tonight was about celebrating Stella and honoring her and her four years with us," said Windham varsity girls' basketball coach Brody Artes. "It was good for us to get out and run and put some points on the board. We had a lot of kids do that; we had a lot of kids score today. Good opportunity to kind of get up and down and climb

... the ladder towards the playoffs, just trying to get better every day. We were able to dip in that bench a bit earlier than we usually do and get some kids some experience and everybody did a good job. I think at times, we need to get them up and contest shots a little bit better on the perimeter. We got to contain shots a bit better - we did well today, but against better teams we've got to make sure we do that. Offensively we've got to move the ball, I thought we did well with that today. We've got to be strong at the rim, finishing inside and making our free throws when we need to."

Artes said when Stella Jarvais came in as a freshman, her ability was raw, but she worked at it and improved over the course of her career. She's a good teammate, plays hard, is a great defensive player and a great kid. <

Transit .

Philip Traina

Age: 17 **Team:** Windham/Bonny Eagle/Westbrook Trail Blazers

Coach: Bobby Fothergill

Parents' names: Lauri and Brooks Traina

Reason for selection: A points-leader for the Trail Blazers from last year, Philip is tough to defend. He gives everything he has and is a good two-way hock-

ey player. Another quiet leader, he fights tooth and nail. During the Lewiston game, he fought three guys three-on-one to keep the puck out of the net and to try and keep his team in the game. He works hard, he's a good person, he takes younger players under his wing, he plays with passion, and he loves the game – and he's a great goal scorer. When he shoots the puck, he's deadly; exhibiting effort and the grit, he plays the game the right way.

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Windham High players boost girls hockey team to victory

By Matt Pascarella STAFF WRITER

An early goal and strong defense from the Cheverus/Windham/Medomak girls' hockey team made a real difference during a late-season game against Yarmouth/Falmouth. Cheverus/Windham/Medomak were able to keep their opponent scoreless and posted a 1-0 win on Thursday, Jan. 30 at the William B. Troubh Ice Arena.

"I thought we were playing a really good third period and we made some adjustments to our forecheck, until we took that penalty with about five minutes to go," said the Cheverus/Windham/Medomak coach Scott Rousseau. "I thought we handled the last two minutes well; it's always hectic ... but a great learning experience. We managed the puck well, we did not panic and not take icings and in the last minute I don't think they really got a scoring chance. We only have four players back and I really hope these eight first-year players are ready for what's coming; the playoffs are even more intense than this. If you interview (Yarmouth/Falmouth's) coach, we made each other look bad, it was 1-0, it's what good teams do to each other. We kind of took some of their strengths away, they took some of our strengths away. At the end we did show a lot of heart and character and find a way to win - and that matters."

Cheverus/Windham/Medomak hit the ice with strong defense as these two teams were very evenly matched. Cheverus/Windham/Medomak moved the puck well and had intensity the entire game.

Cheverus sophomore Caroline Rousseau scored roughly halfway through the first period. Windham freshman Taylor Lucas had a solid check before the first period buzzer. It was 1-0 Cheverus/Windham/Medomak after one period.

In the second period, Cheverus/ Windham/Medomak's intensity remained, and their defense made sure to cut off scoring opportunities for Yarmouth/Falmouth. Cheverus goal-





(L to R) Cheverus junior Ellie Skolnekovich keeps a close eye on the puck as her opponents move closer to the goal during a prep girls' hockey game against Yarmouth/Falmouth. Cheverus junior Ashley Cloutier of Windham goes after the puck. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

ie Ellie Skolnekovich had super-fast hands and kept a lot of pucks away from the back of the net.

"I see it as just another game," said Skolnekovich, who had 21 saves during the game. "That's my hometown – I get fired up when I play them, and I know their roster. It's a 0-0 game in my head the whole way through and it's really great. I think from the top

down, we played really well; we played well as a team. We're together ... and I think the biggest thing is I can't thank my defense enough; I cover a puck and they're right there to get people out of the way, I cover the puck, and they are right in front of me not letting anybody get to me and that's really, really what builds our team up. I think we can pass the puck more and I think we

can make less mental mistakes in the last two minutes of the game. I think we had a lot of adrenaline going and since it was a 1-0 game, it got a little bit intense at the end and I think that we can just build from there. I play a 0-0 game; my adrenaline was going, and I just played my game."

Tensions built in the third and final period as both teams worked hard to

put something up on the scoreboard. A block by Skolnekovich with a little over a minute left coupled with Cheverus/ Windham/Medomak's defense only amplified this team's tenacity. They kept back Yarmouth/Falmouth until the last buzzer.

"I think our forecheck was able to set it up differently so we can contain their better players," said Lucas. "Our goalie played amazing tonight; she saved us. We had some good forechecks towards the beginning of the third period that went well. I think that we just need to work on getting the puck out faster in ... the defensive zone and move our feet." <



(L to R) Cheverus sophomore Caroline Rousseau moves the puck while keeping it away from Yarmouth/Falmouth defenders. Cheverus freshman Taylor Lucas of Windham fights for the puck.





Unified basketball falls to Portland/Deering by one point

By Matt Pascarella
STAFF WRITER

In a hard-fought game where Windham's Unified basketball team gave their all, the clock wound down and Portland/Deering edged Windham, 40-39, on Wednesday, Jan. 29 at Windham High School.

Windham took several solid shots that just did not land late in the game.

"I think we did very well this game," said Windham senior Colby Schmid. "We did better at getting inside (the paint). My buddy Zach and I struggled with the three-pointers. I think we did great at scoring, and I think we do need to work on passing."

There were a lot of positive aspects shown during this game, including Windham players giving other players an opportunity to move the ball or go in to take a shot. Windham had several stellar opportunities they took full advantage of with Mary Jean, Maddi Small, Zachary O'Brion, Tristan Stanley, Colby Schmid, Jacob Smith and Jack Shirley showing true sportsmanship.

Windham moved the ball well and soon they were on the scoreboard. The Eagles had a small lead to start, but after some time the game was tied.

Portland/Deering took the lead, then Windham snatched it back; this was a very tight game. Windham defense worked hard to limit scoring opportunities for their opponent.

O'Brion had a nice turnover, and the game was tied 14-14 with less than four minutes left in the first half.





(Clockwise from top left) Windham junior Mary Jean shoots and scores during a Unified basketball game against Portland/Deering on Wednesday, Jan. 29. Senior Colby Schmid rises above his opponents to make a one-handed shot. Junior Zachary O'Brion takes a shot at the basket. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

Midway through the game, Portland/Deering led, 18-16.

At the start of the second half, O'Brion hit a three-pointer; a few moments later he did it again. This remained a very close game. Windham rebounded and continued to work

Schmid sunk a three-pointer. The game was tied at 24-24.

Portland/Deering took the lead. Windham tried very hard to flip the score, but time ran out.

It felt good for O'Brion to sink his two three-pointers he said. This was a very tough loss and Windham was so close. They need to work on defense and rebounds.

"A ton of rebounds (during this game) we're hitting the board so much better," said Windham Unified basketball coach Anne Blake. "Our problem is we're not moving in to do the close,

confident shots; we're (attempting) too many three-pointers. The

rebounds have improved and the team's playing with a lot more unity. I just think all the partners and athletes worked really well together; we played in a festival last weekend, and this is our third game for the season, so I think we've really improved since our practice with the festival. I think the team is starting to improve and the teamwork is showing. Layups (need work)."

Unified Sports joins people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team. It was inspired by a simple principle: training together and playing together is a quick path to friendship and understanding. <



LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF RAYMOND, MAINE

PLANNING BOARD MEETING & WORKSHOP

Broadcast Studio - 423 Webbs Mills Road and Via ZOOM

Wednesday, February 12, 2025 • 7:00 PM

You are hereby notified that the Raymond Planning Board will hold a Meeting and Workshop at the Raymond Broadcast Studio and via Zoom on **Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 7:00 pm** on the following matters:

PUBLIC HEARING ON WORKSHOP THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS:

- LUO \$300-9.27 & SLZ \$350-5.4 Solar
- SLZ DEFINITIONS add definition of DOCK

WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS:

• Amendment to Open Space Subdivisions

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

JOIN ZOOM MEETING

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82409994238?pwd=CQOAWk75jNKF8sq9J YG5qfSVbha1QP.1 Meeting ID: 824 0999 4238 Passcode: W6z2Tk

ONE TAP MOBILE

Meeting ID: 824 0999 4238

Passcode: 828635

Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kyMZP8lr

TOWN OF WINDHAM, MAINE PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Monday, Feb. 10, 2025 • 6:30PM Town Hall, Council Chambers, 8 School Road

- #24-26 Monique Drive Subdivision
 Tax Map: 11: Lots: 49D, 49D-3, 49D-5 -Lisa & Jules Drives.
 **This application will not be heard at this meeting.
- Public hearing for #25-02 Amendments to the Code of the Town of Windham, Chapter 120 Land Use Ordinance, Article 4 District Standards, relative to Streets in the C1, C2, WC, and VR Districts, and Outdoor Recreational Facilities in the I district.
- Public hearing for #24-33 Beaulieu Drive Subdivision Tax Map: 5: Lot: 22B – Beaulieu Drive.
 Reapproval of minor subdivision plan and private road upgrade.
- 24-29 Camping World Expansion
 Tax Map: 15, Lot: 1A Roosevelt Trail
 Site plan review for construction of a 20,500 square foot RV sales and service addition and associated site improvements.

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.

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Smart home tech you can expect in 2025

By Carrie Colby SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE



tasks, seamlessly integrating into our most common tools and appliances.

Through small yet powerful updates,

Artificial

telligence (AI) is

revolutionizing ev-

eryday household

AI enhances convenience, prevents potential disasters, and optimizes home efficiency. Here's how AI is set to transform home living in 2025.

AI is Making Laundry Day Smarter

AI-powered washing machines and dryers are already making a significant impact. Modern washing machines now use advanced sensors to detect fabric types and load sizes, automatically selecting the optimal cycle and adjusting water usage accordingly. This ensures efficiency, conserves water and minimizes the need for excessive hot water.

Similarly, AI-enabled dryers detect the weight and moisture level of clothes, adjusting drying times and heat settings to prevent over-drying and fabric damage. These intelligent adjustments help save energy and extend the lifespan of clothing, making laundry day more efficient and

cost-effective.

AI Can Prevent Costly Home Disasters

One of the most valuable AI-powered smart home innovations is the water flow detector. This device attaches to a home's main water supply, learning unique water usage patterns and monitoring for anomalies. If it detects unusual flow – often a sign of a leak – it automatically alerts the homeowner and can even shut off the main water supply to prevent damage.

When paired with smart faucets, these systems can also purge pipes to relieve pressure or prevent freezing during cold weather. Given that water damage accounts for roughly a quarter of all homeowner insurance claims, this AI-driven prevention can save thousands of dollars in repairs.

AI Advances in Home Security

AI is revolutionizing home security, offering smarter, more efficient monitoring. Modern smart home cameras now feature object detection and recognition, helping homeowners stay informed about relevant activity while filtering out routine movements, such as a passing pet or family member.

Smart locks are becoming more sophisticated, incorporating tracking technology and built-in screens that function as digital peepholes. Video doorbells are also advancing, with dedicated displays providing instant visual access to visitors, enhancing security and convenience.

AI is Making Homes More Energy-Efficient

Smart thermostats have evolved far beyond simple programmability. Devices like the Google Nest Learning Thermostat now analyze daily habits and automatically adjust temperatures based on user preferences. For instance, if you prefer cooler temperatures at night and warmer conditions during the day while working from home, AI adapts to maintain optimal comfort.

Using geofencing technology, these thermostats can detect when residents leave the house—either through smartphone location tracking or motion sensors—and adjust the temperature accordingly. Additionally, AI-powered thermostats can connect to other smart devices, including HVAC systems, air purifiers, smart fans, and even solar panels, further optimizing energy usage.

Many smart thermostats are also compatible with utility companies' virtual power plant programs, helping homeowners contribute to energy conservation efforts while lowering electricity costs. Though not the flashiest gadget, a smart thermostat is one of the most impactful AI innovations, reducing energy consumption, cutting utility bills, and shrinking a home's carbon footprint.

The Future of Smart Homes

AI-powered home technology is making everyday life more convenient, efficient, and secure. From optimizing laundry routines and preventing costly water damage to enhancing security and reducing energy waste, these innovations are shaping the future of smart homes. As AI continues to evolve, we can expect even more intelligent integrations that further streamline household management and improve overall quality of life.

This article was brought to you by Carrie Colby, a Broker with Allied Real Estate, 909 Roosevelt Trail in Windham. Contact her at 207-232-5497. <





Contact Leasing Agents Erin Levesque & Jillian Gumb

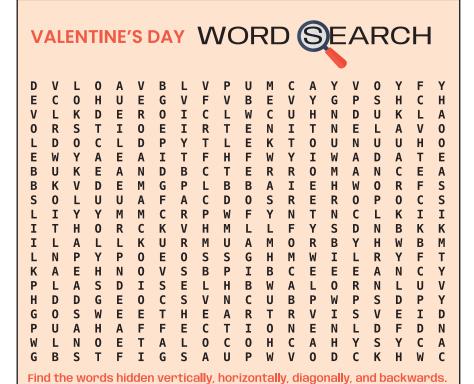
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Solve the code to discover words related to Valentine's Day. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 3 = R)

23 14 3 18 16 A.

Clue: Greetings

16 В. 3 9 **16 20**

Clue: Popular flowers

20 C. 24 23 19 14

Clue: Strong feeling of attraction

Clue: Second month

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

			G	0	Α		Α	F	G	Н	Α	N		
			R	В	С		Ρ	Α	R	0	L	Е		
Н	1		0	Т	С			O	Α	R	L			
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10 11 12 13 16 18 22 26 35 37 38 39 41 43 42 **CLUES ACROSS** 1. Racquet sport group (abbr.) 25. Baby's dining accessory 26. Canadian beer distributor

- 4. Norse god of thunder
- 8. Russian industrial city
- 10. What's good for the ___
- 11. Round-ish shape
- 12. Baltimore MLBer
- 13. French modernist painter
- 15. Burned with water
- 16. Intestinal issue
- 17. Take the lead
- 18. Prove oneself worthy
- 21. None
- 22. Tax collector
- 23. Swiss river
- 24. Gymnast Raisman

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Type of bomb
- 2. Polynesian island country
- 3. Heavenly body
- 4. Hard workers
- 5. Covered

Answers: A. cards

B. roses C. romance

Ō

- 6. Johns Hopkins Hospital founder
- 7. Plant of the grass family
- 9. Island person of the Bering Sea
- 10. Storehouse
- 12. Scarlet-flowered desert shrub
- 14. A pituitary hormone
- 15. Female sibling
- 17. Monetary unit of Afghanistan
- 19. Empowering

34. More expansive

27. Iconic American tourist

35. Alert

destination

- 36. Popular boots Doc ___
- 37. Showings
- 38. Conclusion
- 39. Share a common boundary
- 40. Shooting sport
- 41. Popular side dish
- 42. Global energy firm
- 43. Chronicles (abbr.)
- 20. Space station
 - 23. Disorder
 - 24. State of fuss
 - 25. Footwear for babies
 - 26. Nuclear reactor (abbr.)
 - 27. Droves
 - 28. Affirmative
 - 29. Male parent
 - 30. Utter obscenities
 - 31. Type of verse
 - 32. Unpleasant person
 - 33. One who settles down
 - 34. Founder of source-based history

 - 36. A way to snarl

SUDOKU

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8	3			7		4		9

HOW TO SOLVE:

Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9; each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9; and each set of 3 by 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

6	done	4	3	7	2	8	5	9
9	2	7	8	5	work	4	3	6
5	3	8	6	9	4	7	week	2
2	7	5	9	3	6	Anna	8	4
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Accomplished financial services advisors Kevin Monroe and Zack Conley bring invaluable experience and an innovative mindset benefiting clients to the Monroe & Conley Financial Group.

With locations in Raymond and Alfred, Monroe & Conley offer wealth management, retirement planning, legacy planning, life insurance and annuity products. They help advise their clients about disability and long-term care situations, along with giving recommendations regarding estate planning attorneys to work with as they believe this fits hand in hand with a solid financial future.

"The most significant aspect of our business is the relationship we have with our clients," Conley said.

Monroe has been in business since 1992 and has many clients who have been with him since the start. Conley, 28, has been in business since 2016. They are accepting new clients and book by appointment only.

"It allows our clients to have continuity with their finances and they get the best of both worlds," Monroe and Conley said. "They get an older more experienced advisor. Yet they also receive a younger advisor with a new perspective on business and the world of economics. Our clients also know that with this set up, God willing, they likely won't have to hire another advisor as Zack has 30-plus years ahead of him."



The most important thing that Monroe and Conley want their clients to know is that as independent advisors they act as a fiduciary, meaning they don't have any products or services that they "have" to sell.

"We always say, 'tell us your story' and always start with a blank sheet of paper. This allows us to not have any agenda," they said. "We believe that a true advisor should listen more than talk. As an independent firm we are not beholding to any one company. This allows us the ability to work with any company we deem fit for our clients. We truly 'price out' different companies and 'shop' what we feel is best for our clients. This allows us to make recommendations with nothing but our client in mind. Another important thing is that when you call our office you aren't calling an 800 number. You get to know our staff and it creates a long-lasting relationship with not just our advisors, but with our awesome office staff."

Both Monroe and Conley previously worked for a national firm for many years. Over the past few years, landscape began changing in the financial services industry and in September 2024 they decided to go fully independent and open Monroe & Conley Financial Group. They believe that this move was in the best interest of their clients, allowing them to continue to offer objective advice and service. When Monroe started his career in 1992, he was focused on the importance of life insurance. As the business evolved, he moved into the wealth management business which quickly took off. When Conley started in 2016, he and Monroe quickly connected, and now as an independent firm, they plan to continue to maintain exceptional service for their clients.

"We fell in love with the business due to our love for helping others," they said. "We felt this was what we were called to do and since starting we've never looked back. We take each client and situation one at a time and slowly build respect and gain trust from our clients. Over the years, the products and services have evolved, yet our commitment to the people we serve has maintained the same.

We treat others the way we want to be treated. We have always strived to put ourselves in our client's shoes. With the knowledge we have compiled over the years, we look to do what they would do if it were their mom, dad, brother, sister or grandparents sitting across from them. This has created the family environment our clients have grown to love and enjoy."

For the future, Monroe and Conley are excited to expand their team of advisors and office staff.

"The thought is that as the book of business continues to grow, we will find advisors who fit our culture and way of business," they said. "This will allow us to ensure that each client gets the time and respect that they deserve as choosing a financial advisor is more than just a transaction, it is a decision that typically lasts for years and grows into a friendship. We are excited to find new advisors and if any advisors are interested in making the shift to be part of an independent firm or team, they are welcome to reach out."

For further details about Monroe & Conley Financial Group, call 207-490-3495 or visit www.monroeconleyfg. com. Find them on Facebook page under Monroe & Conley Financial Group. <

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AARP Maine is thrilled to announce that the 2025 AARP Community Challenge grant program is now accepting applications. We hope that all eligible nonprofits and government organizations will apply for this oncea-year opportunity.

The AARP Community Challenge grant program is part of the nationwide AARP Livable Communities initiative, which supports the efforts of

communities to become great places for people of all ages, especially people 50-plus. The grants fund quick-action, innovative projects related to public places, transportation, housing, digital connections, community resilience, and more. Here in Maine, we've seen tangible, long-term results from previous grantees. Recent local projects have included disaster preparedness initiatives, transportation improvements, community park and open space enhancements, and much more.

We encourage eligible organizations to apply by the March 5, 2025 application deadline. For more information, to submit an application or view past grantees, visit www.AARP. org/CommunityChallenge. 2017, AARP has invested \$20.1 million toward 1,700 projects - including 70 projects in Maine. Apply now and make sure your local project is considered for a grant this year.

> ~ Jane Margesson, AARP Maine Communications Director

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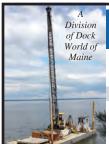
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