

Iconic Babbs Bridge reopens following crash repairs

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

One of the most iconic structures associated with Windham is back open again, six months after sustaining damage when an overloaded truck barreled through its floor crashing into the Presumpscot River below.

Repair work by the Maine Department of Transportation for the covered Babbs Bridge off Hurricane Road linking Windham and Gorham was completed Thursday, Feb. 20 and former State Rep. Gary Plummer of Windham was first to drive across the bridge when it reopened.

"Babbs Bridge is now open to traffic. Yes, I got to be the first vehicle to drive through the newly repaired bridge," Plummer posted on Facebook. "I am beyond elated."

At about 12:45 p.m. Aug. 23, 2024, police say a Ford F750 truck loaded with 36,000 pounds of crushed gravel attempted to cross Babbs Bridge from Gorham east into Windham on Hurricane Road. The truck's excessive weight caused planks on the wooden bridge floor to collapse and sent the truck crashing into the Presumpscot River below.

The posted weight limit for traveling across the Babbs Bridge span is 3 tons, or 6,000 pounds, and police said the truck weighed roughly six times the legal limit for crossing the bridge. The truck was owned by The Driveway Guys Company of Biddeford and was driven by Joshua Polewarzyk of Limington, 37, who was able to free



Former State Rep. Gary Plummer of Windham was the first to drive across the newly reopened and repaired Babbs Bridge connecting Gorham and Windham on Hurricane Road. The bridge had been closed since September when an overloaded truck crashed through the floor. COURTESY PHOTO

himself from the truck in the water and sustained minor injuries in the crash. He was cited for excessive truck weight in crossing the bridge and was fined \$2,500.

Maine Department of Transportation engineers were tasked with evaluating the structural status of the

bridge for public safety and come up with a plan for repairs and restoration of the structure.

MDOT crews began working to restore the bridge in January and the project cost \$110,000. Along with structural and floor repairs, MDOT

→ see BRIDGE Page 10

Raymond Rattlers savor stellar season

By Kendra Raymond
STAFF WRITER

Members of a local snowmobile club know a thing or two about high-octane winter adventures. The Raymond Rattlers are carving up the trails this season, thanks to some recent cold temperatures and heavy snowfall.

Coming in on the tails of some pretty disappointing sledding seasons, the Rattlers are taking advantage of prime trail conditions this year. The enthusiasm is palpable for club members as well as the general public who also utilize the trails.

Raymond Rattlers Membership Committee chairman Larry Wood is encouraged about the favorable environment this year.

"It pretty much came together in the last two weeks," he said. "The conditions the definitely the best so far."

Wood says that there are about 30 miles of trails throughout Raymond. So far, property owners are mostly agreeable and supportive of the trails that cross their land. He is always appreciative of their continued permission.



Several members of the Raymond Rattlers show off the new bridge which was constructed last year to help provide fun and safe snowmobile trails for the Raymond community.

PHOTO BY LARRY WOOD

Alan Plummer is the President of the Raymond Rattlers. He says that this is the first time in nearly three years that the trails in Raymond have been groomed.

"The trails are in phenomenal

shape right now," he said. "The Pipeline is the biggest part of the trail system (in Raymond). And a lot of the trails stem from that."

Plummer chalks up the recent prime conditions to the perfect combination of ice-making on local lakes and ponds as well as some pretty hefty snowstorms.

"We are reliant on lakes being frozen and a good coating of snow afterwards," he said. Plummer explained that the trails cross several bodies of water such as Crescent Lake, Raymond Pond, and Panther Pond, with the latter providing trail access into Windham.

Speaking of neighboring towns, the Rattlers pride themselves on great working relationships with snowmo-

→ see CLUB Page 4

Windham boys' basketball eliminates Edward Little in regional finals

By Matt Pascarella
STAFF WRITER

After knocking out Portland in the semifinals 65-56, the Windham High School Eagles advanced for the third time in recent history to the regional final on Saturday, Feb. 22 at the Cross Insurance Arena in Portland. Second-place Windham took down fourth-place Edward Little, 55-49.

"It means a lot (to head back to the state championship) ... this is an awesome feeling," said Windham sophomore Colin Janvrin. "I'm super excited to get on that state championship floor and ball out again. We weren't really nervous because we've been here before and ... we were ready for this. I think (Edward Little) built up a lot of their team chemistry and they got a lot better throughout the whole season, so props to them. We just stayed through and fought through. AJ (Moody) played great defense on (Edward Little's Maiwen) Diing; he's a great player and AJ shut him down really well. Everybody on the offensive end just moving the ball around and finding whoever's hot - getting it done. I think we just got to move the ball around and find our good shots instead of forcing shots on offense. They were playing really good defense, and we got to work around it."

Edward Little jumped out in front early on. After Windham junior Tyrie James sank a three-pointer, the game got closer. Windham defense went hard after the Eddies.

Windham sophomore Colin Janvrin hit a three-pointer. The game remained tight; not all Windham shots fell. Eagle defense caused several turnovers. Moody had a three-point buzzer beater at the half and Windham led, 23-19.

"It was our best basketball that was needed to win, and, in these games, anything can happen," said Windham boys' basketball coach Chad Pulkkinen. "The guys did a great job holding their composure. I think our team is as united as it's been, which is important especially down the stretch when you miss some foul shots and adversity hits ... all kinds of bad things can happen, and I think our team was ready for those moments. We have great kids who have great experience, it just makes it easy for me as a coach. They were super hungry for it ... we had to come out and match that energy that they wanted revenge; we wanted to make sure we were

→ see BBALL Page 6

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INSIGHT

Rules of the road

Growing up, I always wondered why my mother didn't want to drive.

My father drove us everywhere and he offered to teach her numerous times. For a while when I was about 10, she was enthusiastic about it. That is, until on a certain Friday night in 1964, she drove our family in my father's 1962 teal-colored Chevrolet Impala to the drive-through bank in Pittsford, New York where my father could cash his paycheck.

We had made that same trip many times since that bank had opened just a few years before. As my mother approached the side entrance, she turned on her left turn blinker, checked the oncoming traffic and started to pull into the bank's parking lot. But we suddenly came to an abrupt stop when she hit a newly installed concrete pole intended to divide traffic between entering and exiting turning lanes.

This was before the advent of seat belts so my brother and I who were sitting in the back seat tumbled forward when we hit the concrete pole. My father was in the front seat next to my mother and he immediately jumped out of the car to inspect the damage to the Impala.

The hood was crumpled and there was radiator fluid pooling underneath the car and running out into the street. The drive-through banking teller witnessed the accident and immediately called the police.

A policeman arrived and he helped my father push the car out of the bank parking lot entrance and into a parking spot. The officer spoke with my mother in a calm and reassuring manner and asked if she was injured. She was not.

My father asked the officer if he could drive my mother and us home. He stayed behind with the car and looked for a telephone to call his nephew Pete, who had his auto mechanic shop in a neighboring town.

Later that evening, Pete dropped my father off at our house. They had towed the Impala to his repair shop and the two of them had replaced the radiator. My father said Pete was going to work on the hood on Saturday so he could have the car back to drive to work on Monday morning.

In the meantime, my mother was a nervous wreck. She kept asking why the bank would install the concrete divider pole and not alert the public about it. She insisted that the accident wasn't her fault and that before she even had time to react, the concrete pole was there and even at a turning speed of 10 mph, she would not have been able to avoid colliding with it.

She talked briefly about suing the bank for placing the pole there and my father pointed out to her that it was indeed the bank's property, and that we were under no obligation to turn in there.

She cried a lot and said she was never going to drive again after that experience.

But my father would always ask when we got in the car to go anywhere if my mother wanted to drive that day. She always refused and said he knew why.

It became almost a running joke whenever we were turning in somewhere when driving to "look out for concrete poles." As my mother was really high strung and keenly sensitive to criticism, joking about the accident or her driving just served to make her even more steadfast in her refusal to get her driver's license.

In 1966, my father traded in the 1962 Chevrolet Impala for a 1966 Ford Galaxie 500 and my mother wouldn't even get into the new car unless she was assured that she wouldn't have to drive.

Years later she moved with my father to Florida and began work as a home health aide. She needed a car to get around and so at the age of 55, she practiced for a while and then tested and received her driver's license.

In 2001, when we were visiting our hometown in New York for a wedding, I let her drive the rental car and we drove through Pittsford and past the bank parking lot.

I pointed out the exact location where in 1964 she had struck the concrete lane divider pole. At first, she didn't want to look, but I showed her that it was no longer there and had been removed.

She almost couldn't believe it and told me that the accident was the reason why she didn't want to drive for many years afterward.

As she got older, my mother tried to retire at 65 but never liked sitting around being idle. She took a position as a case manager for a social worker and would visit nursing homes to see patients.

She drove everywhere right up until being diagnosed with macular degeneration in both of her eyes at the age of 84 and forced to forego driving until she passed away at 95 in 2018.

A few years ago, my wife Nancy and I were on vacation in New York, and we drove past that bank parking lot. I mentioned the accident and Nancy said, "you're not going to talk about that again, are you?" < ~ Ed Pierce

Today in
HISTORY



FEBRUARY 28

1759 – Pope Clement XIII allows the Bible to be translated into various languages.

1827 – The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad becomes the first railroad to be incorporated for commercial transportation of people and freight.

1849 – Regular steamboat service to California via Cape Horn arrives in San Francisco for the first time.

1861 – The U.S. territory of Colorado is organized.

1883 – The first vaudeville theater in America opens in Boston, Massachusetts.

1885 – AT&T (American Telephone and Telegraph) is incorporated.

1935 – Wallace Carothers produces the first nylon polymer at the DuPont Experimental Station in Wilmington, Delaware.

1940 – The first televised basketball game is shown and features a matchup between Fordham University and the University of Pittsburgh from Madison Square Garden in NYC.

ON THE SPOT

What life lesson have you learned the hard way?

"When carrying groceries into the house, make two trips."
– Brian Roger Skillings

"Your parents aren't stupid. Listen to the lessons they learned and save yourself the trouble." – Jennifer Harmon

"Never miss a chance to use the bathroom."
– Francesco Paredon

"Trust your gut."
– Connie McInnis Polomski

"A bird in the hand is better than two in a bush!"
– Jeri Brem

"Watch for snakes when walking down hiking trails."
– Rick Seacroft

"Just in case, I always carry a screwdriver in my Jeep's glovebox." – David W. Tettley

"Far too many to count."
– Lisa Becker

"More power, more torque, and more effort are not always beneficial." – William D. Reiner

"That patience truly is a virtue." – Stephen Signor

"Never ask for croutons when ordering a salad."
– Anne Glotschuck

"Always check for electrical lines and water pipes underground before digging."
– Dean A. Smalley

"Make sure that lit cigarettes and campfires are always properly extinguished."
– Chris Macklin

"Don't answer the door when a door-to-door salesman or anyone carrying a clipboard knocks on it."
– Mia Potenzio-Ransey

"Don't expect a take-out food order to be exactly correct every time it's delivered."
– Jude Orestes-Sanchez

"Learning to play the guitar is not easy." – Mitchell Robinson

"Verify references when you let someone babysit your kids and pets." – Tawny Punto

"Share your progress and not your goals and you'll always be motivated." – Isabella Mongon

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Windham High students preparing for One Act Festival

By Jolene Bailey

STAFF WRITER

Windham High School students are preparing to participate in the One Act Festival, an annual event designed to showcase one-act plays and theater productions that typically run 20 to 40 minutes.

This year Windham will be staging "Making Nice" by Alan Haehnel at the festival. This show is about a play within a play about a dress rehearsal that goes wrong when Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) members arrive. OSHA members mandate that no one can leave the theater until the production is rounded into shape and forcing the cast and crew to comply.

The Maine Principals' Association and Maine Drama Council host the One Act Festival every year and bring in new judges and students to be involved. Under One Act rules, each school's One Act skit cannot exceed a 40-minute performance time without facing penalties.

Students compete in categories based upon student population. The Class A competition is for schools with more than 500 students with Class B competition for schools below 500 students. Participating schools create

their own sets that must be reviewed and approved by the regional tech director first.

"The students and I discussed the pros and cons of the show at a meeting back in December and decided it would be a good fit for us this year to bring to the competition," said CJ Payne, Windham's One Acts director.

Payne is in his third year of directing the WHS One Acts group and this will be his 15th One Act Festival of participating with the WHS group.

"I love that it's an interscholastic competition where you get competing schools cheering for each other and giving our drama students a chance to see what other school's drama programs are achieving," said Payne.

He says that the One Act Festival has driven students to achieve higher standards in all WHS performing arts programs.



Windham High School will participate in the One Act Festival at Scarborough High School on Saturday, March 8. WHS students will present 'Making Nice' by Alan Haehnel at the festival.

PHOTO BY JOLENE BAILEY

In addition to the One Act Festival competition, the group will present two preview performances for the Windham community at Windham High School at 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 28 and Saturday, March 1. Admission is free, and donations will be welcomed.

Junior Elise Biggs will be participating for the second time in One Act.

"I am most excited about meeting new people at the festival and traveling," Biggs said. "Last year we hosted at WHS, and it was great but leaving

for the festival gives a good new point of view."

Biggs is an actor's understudy in the part of Mary, and she is also cast as a wolf in this year's One Act production.

She said that no matter if it's in leading or smaller roles, drama and the theater can have a positive impact on students, and a way to discover new areas of interest and develop relationships.

"The One Act has had a positive impact on me as it is a way for me to express myself in a way that the school musical doesn't let me," Biggs said. "The school musical is there for those who can sing and dance as well as act, but the One Acts gives students like myself a way to show off their acting skills and not get overlooked because they can't do it all."

This year's One Act Festival will be staged at 3 p.m. Saturday, March 8 at Scarborough High School. Windham's cast and crew will compete in the festival's Class A division against Scarborough, Noble, South Portland, and Gray New Gloucester High Schools.

In order to be eligible for the festival, all student participants must be in grades 9 to 12. The Windham High School group includes actors and stage crew members. <

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→ CLUB *Cont. from page 1*

bile clubs in the area.

“We work with the Windham Drifters Snowmobile Club who recently held their First Annual Poker Run,” said Plummer. “We also collaborate with the Crooked River Snowmobile Club in Casco.”

Plummer said that the clubs work together to help each other out as much as possible.

“We keep track of what’s going on with them and do what we can to support that,” he said.

In fact, the Rattlers have not had a place to hold regular meetings for the past few years.

“The Crooked River club has a

brand-new clubhouse in Casco, and they offered for us to use the facility to hold our meetings,” said Plummer. “It’s been great! We’ve had two meetings over there so far, and we even got a few new members. The Crooked River club has been really generous to offer that to us. It’s all about the small community - we help them and they help us.”

With trails like “Ballfield, Pipeline, and Rattlesnake Mountain,” who wouldn’t have fun? While trail riding comes with its own sense of adventure, the Rattlers also focus on building a cohesive club that welcomes everyone.

“We typically do a barbecue event at the clubhouse off Pipeline each winter. With no snow the past couple of years, no planning was done (this year) because we were not sure about what we could expect for snow,” said Plummer.

The event sounds like a blast –

snowmobilers ride in and gather to enjoy burgers, hot dogs and all the fixings. Donations are accepted and it serves as the club’s big fundraiser for the year. Wood hopes to organize a barbecue for March this year, weather permitting.

Denise Plummer, local business owner and wife of Alan Plummer said that the season has taken everyone by surprise.

“This year has been hard. The snow came really fast, and it’s been tough to put this all together,” she said. “We like to encourage family sports and focus on the camaraderie. It has been awesome seeing it all happen.”

The Raymond Rattlers Snowmobile Club map was created to provide visual aid for sledders to make safe plans to get around the area trails.

Wood says that they have been available at Sunset Variety in the past, but at present it can be distributed by mail. For those interested in obtain-

ing a map, just message the Rattlers on their Facebook page and they will make sure you receive one.

Wood wants to remind everyone to have fun this season and “ride safe”.

If you are interested in learning more about the Raymond Rattlers Snowmobile Club, there are several options.

Learn about the Raymond Rattlers on the Town of Raymond website by visiting www.raymondmaine.org/content/raymond-rattlers-snowmobile-club or send an email to the Rattlers at raymond.rattlers@gmail.com

Feel free to call Club President Alan Plummer at 207-239-2374.

Check them out on Facebook at: Raymond Rattlers Snowmobile Club (make sure to choose the correct one - you want the one with the “Think Snow” logo.

The Raymond Rattlers are always seeking new members. Currently, the club has 25 families and eight business members. If you’d like to join, simply reach out to Larry Wood at 207-776-5489, or simply join by mail.

Club membership information: Single or family: \$35, Business: \$50 (includes your business name in the Maine Snowmobiler business section)

You can send payment by check made payable to: Raymond Rattlers Snowmobile Club. Mail to: PO Box 994, Raymond, Maine 04071. <



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Windham to restrict public EV charging at town hall

By Ed Pierce

STAFF WRITER

Without objection from members of the Windham Town Council, the town manager's office will restrict public access to the three Electric Vehicle charging stations at the Windham Town Hall.

During Tuesday night's council meeting, Windham Town Manager Barry Tibbetts discussed posting signs and installing locks on the EV chargers after town employees could not charge their municipal EVs because the public was using them.

Tibbetts said that the town obtained grants in 2015 to install two charging stations at Windham Town Hall and added a third one several years later.

Through the years the town has been working to increase its fleet of municipal electric vehicles and decrease its dependence upon gas-powered vehicles, Tibbetts told the council.

He said that as more residents purchase EVs, finding places to charge them has led them to use the charging stations at Windham Town Hall.

"I thought it was important to bring this before the council," Tibbetts said. "When municipal vehicles are unable to be charged because all three stations are in use by the public, we need to do something. It's like in essence that they're getting a free tank of gas."

A high-speed charger typically can add 200 to 250 miles of range per hour to an electric-powered vehicle.

He proposed restricting use of the three EV charging stations at the town hall, posting signage that they are for municipal vehicle use only and securing them with locks.

Assistant Windham Town Manager Bob Burns said a review of the grants used to obtain the EV charging stations does not contain language that the town must make the chargers available to town residents.

"I think the EV system is being abused," Councilor David Nadeau told Tibbetts. "You're right to do something with this."

Other councilors raised the question about public access EV charging

stations in town.

The chargers installed in North Windham at Hannaford in 2021 were funded through a grant from the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program. It provided states with funding to strengthen and improve the reliability of America's electric vehicle charging network.

Using only grant funds derived from the settlement of a federal lawsuit against Volkswagen, Efficiency Maine led the development and installation of high-speed EV chargers (also called "Level 3" chargers or "DC fast chargers") at a number of locations in the state including those at

the North Windham Hannaford in December 2021.

Last year, the State of Maine received a \$15 million federal grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation to 62 Level 3 fast charging ports and 520 Level 2 charger ports at more than 70 sites in 63 Maine cities and towns, including some future charging stations in Windham at Shaw's Plaza in North Windham.

Councilors did not object to Tibbetts' proposal to reserve the Town Hall EV Charging Stations for municipal vehicles only, so Tibbetts said signs and locks will be installed there by March indicating the new policy. <

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Forum to discuss proposed Long-Term Care Insurance rate hikes

The Maine Bureau of Insurance will hold a Public Forum on Monday, March 3 to discuss proposed Genworth Long-Term Care Insurance Rate increases.

More than 3,000 Mainers are expected to be impacted by proposed increases ranging from 1.8 to 233 percent.

Maine Superintendent of Insurance Bob Carey has announced that the Bureau of Insurance will hold a public forum at 10 a.m. Monday, March 3 to discuss proposed rate increases sought by Genworth Life Insurance Company.

The forum is intended to provide affected Genworth policyholders with information on the long-term care insurance market, the rate approval process, and the reasons Genworth is seeking these increases.

Those who wish to attend the forum virtually or in person must pre-register through a form on the Bureau's website at www.maine.gov/pfr/insurance/news-public-notice/public-event-notice or scan the code on this page.

Participants may offer comments and ask questions about the proposed increases. Representatives from both Genworth and the Maine Bureau of Insurance will provide information and answer questions about the rate review process. Written comments as well as questions about registration should be directed to insurance.pfr@maine.gov.

The proposed rate increases range from 1.8 to 233 percent and affect 3,057 Maine policyholders across seven blocks of long-term care insurance. The largest block has 1,274 Maine policyholders and has a proposed increase of 233 percent.

Genworth's filings have been under review since early November 2024. Following the forum, the Bureau will complete its review and determine whether and how much of an increase is actuarially justified. In addition to Genworth's rate filing request, the Bureau will consid-

er policyholders comments made at the forum and submitted in writing. If a rate increase is approved by the Bureau, policyholders will receive another notice from the company explaining the increase and any options available to policyholders to mitigate the increase.

Companies must give 90-days notice before the increase takes effect and may specify a timeframe in which reduced benefit options need to be selected.

"The Bureau will only approve rate increases that are actuarially justified," said Carey. We strive to maintain a competitive insurance market with solvent insurers that can pay claims, while also making sure premiums are affordable. At times it can be a difficult balancing act."

"Though some of these proposed rate increases are quite high, the Bureau generally requires insurers to provide policyholders with benefit

change options, which may lessen the amount of the premium increase. Policyholders should keep in mind that they will receive an additional notice from the insurer with specific information about the approved rate change as well as the date it takes effect," Carey added.

To learn more about potential plan options that may assist with affording long-term care insurance, please consult the Bureau's Long-Term Care Rate Increases FAQs web page at www.maine.gov/pfr/insurance/node/977.

For a general overview of long-term care insurance, please visit the Bureau's Long-Term Care Insurance web page at www.maine.gov/pfr/insurance/consumers/long-term-care-insurance.

Consumers with questions about insurance matters can obtain information and assistance from the Maine Bureau of Insurance by visiting www.maine.gov/insurance, calling 800-300-5000 (TTY call Maine Relay 711), or by e-mailing Insurance.PFR@maine.gov.



If you wish to attend the forum on March 3 in person or virtually scan here to register.

→ BBALL Cont. from page 1

prepared for that. I thought we rebounded the ball really well; I thought AJ played about as good as you can on Diing. AJ is the best defender in the state, and he stepped up to that challenge today, AJ wanted that challenge, and he took it. Diing is an unbelievable player, and AJ is an unbelievable defender, so I just thought that matchup was fun to watch."

Windham senior Braycen Freese hit a three-pointer in the second half. More Windham shots were falling, and they led by 10.

But Edward Little was catching up. Windham senior Joseph Blige picked up a turnover and passed to Janvrin who sank a three-pointer.

As the clock ticked away, the game remained tight in the fourth quarter. Six points separated the teams with 2:38 left. With 34 seconds left, three points separated the teams. Janvrin hit two crucial foul shots to expand the WHS lead.

Windham then held down the Ed-dies until the final buzzer to win their second regional championship.

"It means a lot (to be going to another state championship)," said Moody. "Battling through adversity ... knowing what it takes and executing at practice. I'm proud of us all, I love all my brothers, our community loves us. After a bucket, after a steal, after a rebound, after a timeout, they're there cheering ... you have our whole community roaring when a three-pointer goes up - they're there to support us. What we executed in practice (led to this win); practice is our main focus all the time. I'm proud of these guys - rebounding is a main factor, Diing what a great player he is ... I thought we executed pretty well. (Edward Little) came a long way - what a great team they've become. We just saw that, and we had to take another step, another level to beat this team; we did a great job at that. Boxing out, trying to rebound (went well). We just need to get back on defense ... transition defense, help-side defense, getting to our spots and after that we're golden." <

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WHS soars in Quiz Bowl tournament in Plymouth

By **Jolene Bailey**

STAFF WRITER

On Feb. 8, Windham High School students participated in a Quiz Bowl tournament hosted by Plymouth High School.

“A quiz bowl tournament is an academic competition where students compete in a number of matches throughout the day,” said John Ziegler, who coaches the high school Quiz Team at WHS. “Each match consists of a team of up to four players from one school going against a team of up to four players from another school. Whichever team scores the most points wins the match. At the end of the day, the team that won the most matches wins the tournament. Ties are broken by a total high score.”

For many Quiz Bowl participants,

the most exciting part of every tournament is the first round as it faces the rest of the competition.

“Windham was facing one of the best teams in the tournament, Plymouth,” Ziegler said. “Windham jumped out to a big lead early, as Mason Bragdon was playing really well, and Plymouth’s best player Reagan was having a hard time getting going. However, a couple mistakes by Windham let Plymouth back into the game, and Reagan took advantage. She went on a tear to put Plymouth in the lead going into the last question. Mason again stepped up, nailing the final question to tie the game.”

This gave Windham a chance to win if they scored any one of three bonus questions.

The team missed the first two bonus questions and tensions were high,

but Windham scored on the last bonus question to win and advance.

Students prepare for the quiz bowl tournaments by setting time aside to practice twice a week, Ziegler said.

Every Monday after school the team gathers to work on potential questions and to practice for upcoming Quiz Bowl events. On Thursdays they meet and practice for appearance on the television’s “High School Quiz Show.”

“As a quiz team, we attend two different types of tournaments. One is Quiz Show, a televised program that you can watch, High School Quiz Show Maine, on YouTube, with simple, often pop-culture based questions,” said Delia Tomkus, the cap-

tain of the WHS Quiz Team.

“Quiz Bowl, however, is significantly more academic. Quiz Bowl questions are often longer and more detailed than those on Quiz Show, and they cover a wide variety of topics including, but not limited to, literature, science, pop culture and history.”

During practices the students share a number of resources as Ziegler works to create many Gimkits and other fun games dealing with specific knowledge that often will come up in Quiz Bowl events.

“Being a Quiz Team coach has been one of my favorite aspects of working at WHS. I enjoy watching the stu-

→ see QUIZ Page 9

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Windham Primary School Behavior Specialist thrives on solving problems

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

It's no secret that poor behavior in a classroom can result in lost learning time for children. Windham Primary School is fortunate to have someone on staff to tackle this quickly so that WPS is able to provide high quality teaching to all students.

Laura Record is Windham Primary School's Behavior Specialist and RTI Coordinator and has been serving in the role for three years.

Among her duties at the school, Record works with the Student Support team at WPS comprised of social workers, assistant principal, and a behavior interventionist. She provides social-emotional-behavioral support and interventions to children in and out of the classroom; provides a calm place for students to regulate as needed; and provides in-the-moment support for students with behavior needs.

She analyzes student behavioral data; teaches various whole class lessons as requested by teachers; provides teacher coaching; is part of the school's attendance team; coordinates the WPS "Bus of the Month" program; is a 504 case manager; an IEP case manager; supervises and oversees the Noon Monitors for lunch and recess staff and assists with recess and lunch behaviors; is a Safety Care Trainer; and a member of the WPS Response team.

As RTI (Response to Intervention) Coordinator, Record schedules meetings, is a RTI team member, and manages RTI plans for students.

Record has worked at Windham Primary School since August 2012, serving first as a Kindergarten teacher from 2012 to 2022 when she switched positions to become the WPS Behavior Specialist.

According to Record, the best thing about her job is that no two days are the same.

"It's great to see children making progress," she said. "What may seem as a small step forward to us, usually takes a lot of work and effort from a child."

That's also the most challenging aspect of her work.

"Often my schedule goes out the window when a student is struggling and needs support," Record said. "The biggest misconception people may have about my work is that I only deal with behaviors. I tell children that I'm the 'problem solving' teacher. If they have or had a problem, we can work together to figure out how to solve it or make it right."

The one thing that the public may



Laura Record is Windham Primary School's Behavior Specialist and RTI Coordinator and has been serving in the role for three years. She formerly taught Kindergarten at the school from 2012 to 2022. SUBMITTED PHOTO

not know about her job is that she tries to be proactive as much as possible by putting interventions in place and teaching regulation strategies to children before it becomes a crisis, Record said.

Originally from Upstate New York and then Massachusetts, Record earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from the State University of New York at Albany and then obtained a master's degree in education and her teaching certification in Low Incidence Disabilities (Special Education) at Boston College. She also has earned an early childhood and regular education teaching certificate and an Assistant Principal certificate.

"My husband's job brought him back to Maine as he was born and raised here," Record said. "After a year of him commuting between Maine and Massachusetts, we moved to Maine. With two young children and a newborn, it was great to finally be all together again."

Prior to living in Maine, Record taught Kindergarten in Massachusetts from 2003 to 2012 and was a

developmental inclusion preschool teacher from 1998 to 2003.

Her family is supportive of her work at WPS and because of her they have a greater understanding of the educational system.

"I think they like seeing the other side of a school from a teacher's perspective, especially when they were younger," Record said. "Teachers don't actually live in school. They usually help me set up my room. In the past they've also helped out with different school events like Fall Fest and Popsicles with the Principal."

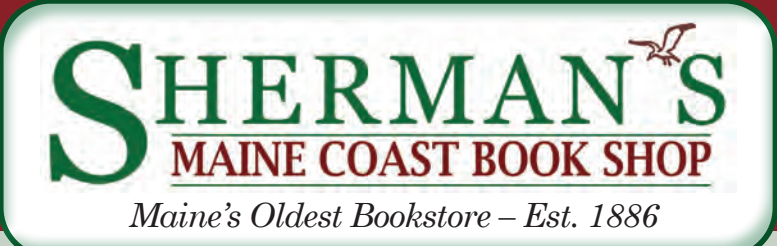
For Record, her most memorable moment while working for Windham Primary School so far is establishing a new program that holds a great deal of promise for the future.

"I am very excited about our new Bus of the Month program that recently began," she said. "It's great to hear the children cheer when I announce it to their bus and see the Bus of the Month magnet on the outside of the bus."

Of everything that she's learned while working for Windham Primary School, one thing stands out above the rest.


"The teachers and staff are child-focused," she said. "We are a team at WPS with a lot of collaboration and problem solving. We all support each other with the best interest of the children in mind." <

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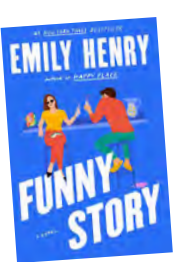
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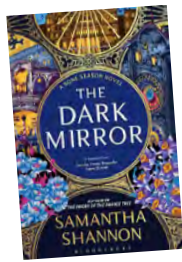


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QUIZ *Cont. from page 7*

dents learn and develop,” Ziegler said. “It’s great when you see a student get a question right that they have missed in the past because they finally got that piece of knowledge ingrained. I also enjoy getting the opportunity to

hang out with students who are genuinely interested in knowledge for the sake of knowledge.”

Being in friendly competition with the underlying desire for learning has helped many students step out of their comfort zone and find their inner strengths.

At Plymouth High School, the WHS team that competed consisted of Tomkus, Chessie Lamonte, Mason Bragdon, and Nick Davenport found smooth sailing, beating all teams except for one taking second place at the tournament and placing first among the other Maine schools that participated.

Tomkus praised Bragdon, who was the sixth-highest scoring player at the tournament.

“Being a part of the Quiz Team has really helped me understand leadership, and how to work together better with other people,” she said.

Quiz Bowl is an extracurricular activity for students and Tomkus said her participation in it has left her with many great memories.

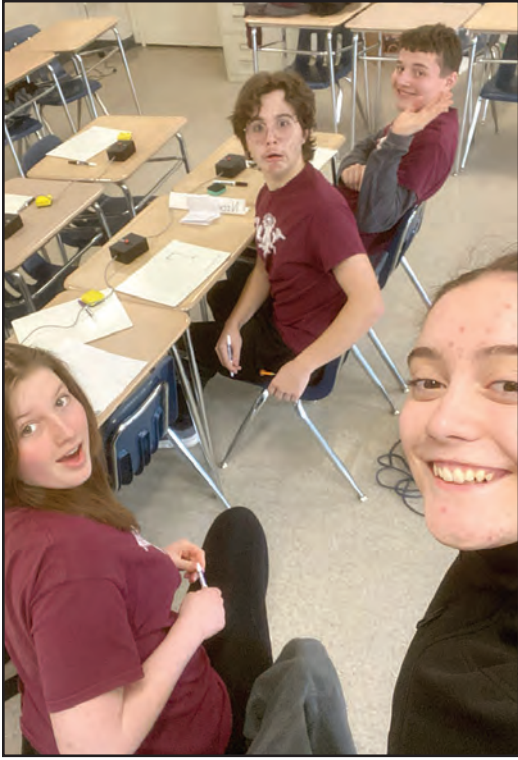
“Probably some of my favorite memories from being on the quiz team are the van rides home,” she said. “All of the stress of playing is gone, and we sing and listen to music. Sometimes, for our farther-away games, we stop to get dinner

together, which is also fun.”

Ziegler said he was pleased with how the WHS team performed at Plymouth High School.

“As a whole, I was very happy with what the team accomplished on Feb. 8,” he said. “To come in second in a

tournament that was stacked with our toughest competition was very impressive and bodes well for our two remaining tournaments of the season at Cony High on March 1, and the state championship here at Windham on April 5.” <



Members of the WHS Quiz Bowl Team, counterclockwise from left, Delia Tomkus, Francesca Lomonte, Mason Bragdon, and Nick Davenport review questions during a practice session at the school on Monday, Feb. 24. PHOTO BY JOLENE BAILEY

STUDENT OF THE WEEK **Samuel Heath**



Grade: 4th Grade
School: Windham Christian Academy
Teacher: Miss Pride **Favorite Subject:** Math
Parents' names: Wayne and Taylor Heath
Reason for selection: Sam always comes into school with an amazing attitude and an amazing willingness to learn. When he doesn't understand something, he immediately comes up to me and asks how he can do it. He's always willing to try new things. He always comes in with a smile on his face. He also has made great connections with classmates and is always willing to help as needed. His favorite class job is classroom cleaner because he loves making sure the classroom is clean and tidy. He is a great friend to others and is always inclusive.

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→ **BRIDGE** *Cont. from page 1*

replaced the deck and the bridge's ornamental doors. Work was performed ahead of schedule as favorable weather conditions for repairs including specially milled lumber from Gorham matching the existing bridge dimen-

sions were available much sooner than expected for repairs to commence.

A previous wooden covered bridge at the site stood for more than 100 years having reportedly been built by local farmers around 1840. The bridge is said to have been originally named for a family living on property nearby

and before its destruction was said to be the oldest covered bridge in Maine.

The original Babbs Bridge was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in America but was burned by unidentified arsonists in 1973. Using donated lumber milled exclusively in Gorham and with work performed by community volunteers, the bridge span was rebuilt as an exact replica of the original Babbs Bridge and re-opened to the public in conjunction with America's Bicentennial celebration in 1976.

It is a single-span queenspost-style truss bridge, with a total structure length of 79 feet and a width of 13 feet, 9 inches. The bridge end portals have a posted height limit of 10 feet and the bridge is covered by a gabled roof, with its side and end walls finished in vertical board siding.

Vandals cut a hole in the bridge's roof in 2014 which was subsequently repaired but damages that were caused by a snowplow truck in 2015 required the bridge to be closed again temporarily. In 2016, MDOT authorized a near-total \$160,000 makeover of Babbs Bridge based upon its original design.

Work performed at that time in-

cluded the installation of cement stone blocks for the bridge abutment. Other renovations in 2016 featured stripping off the bridge's roof and replacing it with rough cut boards and plywood before topping it with cedar shingles. Work was also completed on the bridge's sides and entrances at that time. In 2021, the Windham Town Council announced that the National Register of Historic Places had removed its designation for Babb's Bridge because it is now a replica of the original historic structure.

The historic crossing typically carries more than 360 vehicles per day over the river. During the summer months, the property surrounding the bridge is popular with swimmers and picnickers.

The driver who crashed through the bridge last summer is no longer employed by The Driveway Guys company. Its owner has apologized for the incident and pledged to assist in community efforts to repair or replace the bridge.

For safety purposes, Babbs Bridge is inspected by MDOT at least every two years and the last inspection of the bridge for safety took place in July 2024. <

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Nangle: Pass the Supplemental Budget to protect Maine families

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



— Sen. Tim Nangle

Every two years, the Legislature passes a biennial budget, a long-term spending plan for Maine. But, just like balancing a checkbook, adjustments are often needed. The supplemental budget is how we make those adjustments, allowing us to address emergency needs, funding gaps and changing economic conditions. Whether it's rising health-care costs, shifts in federal funding, or critical investments left unmet in the biennium, the supplemental budget ensures Maine remains on stable and predictable financial footing.

That's exactly where we are today. Maine faces a \$118 million MaineCare shortfall, which threatens health care access for many residents. Half of Maine children and one in three adult Mainers — including seniors and working families — depend on MaineCare. Without funding, hospitals and providers may be forced to cut services and staff, leaving vulnerable people

without care. The shortfall stems from rising health care costs and increased usage of services post-pandemic. If we do not act, Maine's families, seniors, and rural communities will pay the price.

The supplemental budget also provides funding for critical spruce budworm remediation. This destructive pest threatens our forests and, in turn, the livelihoods of thousands of Maine workers. Without intervention, the economic impact could exceed \$794 million, crushing Maine's forest products industry, small businesses and rural economies.

The Legislature took an initial vote on this budget, and some representatives from our area chose not to support it. Their inaction threatens health care access, nursing homes, and hospitals and leaves our rural economy vulnerable.

This is not about politics — it's about keeping Maine families healthy and our economy stable. This funding must be approved by a two-thirds vote to take effect immediately. Otherwise, Maine people will pay the price while we wait months for relief.

Democrats have compromised. We have negotiated in good faith. However, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle keep shifting the goalposts, making unworkable demands. Continued delays of these necessary budget adjustments will hurt the most vulnerable Mainers.

We cannot move forward alone. Contact your legislators and tell them why passing this budget is crucial to

your family and families across Maine. We cannot afford further delays.

Find your lawmakers here: www.maine.gov/portal/government/edemocracy/voter_lookup.php or contact me directly at: Timothy.Nangle@legislature.maine.gov or call 207-287-1515. For the latest updates, follow me on Facebook at facebook.com/SenatorTimNangle, and sign up for my e-newsletter at mainesenate.org.

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- Stacey, Stony Brook, NY

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Giuliano among Cumberland County Teacher of the Year nominees

Sara Giuliano, a second-grade teacher at Fiddlehead School of Arts and Sciences in Gray, has been nominated for Cumberland County's Teacher of the Year. This prestigious honor is particularly meaningful as it comes directly from parent nominations, recognizing the profound impact that Giuliano has upon her students and the school community.

Giuliano, who has been part of Fiddlehead's faculty since 2019, brings a deep love for hands-on learning and child-centered education to her classroom. With a background spanning multiple grade levels and outdoor education, she has created a joyful, engaging, and curiosity-driven learning environment for all her students.

"I'm incredibly honored by this nomination," said Giuliano. "Teaching at Fiddlehead has been such a gift – our students are full of wonder, and I'm lucky to spend my days exploring, questioning, and learning right alongside them. To know that families see and

appreciate the work we do every day means the world to all of us."

At Fiddlehead, teachers are more than educators. They are innovators, designers, and mentors who craft unique, inquiry-based curricula tailored to their students said Jacinda Cotton-Castro, Fiddlehead's Executive Director and CEO.

She emphasized the depth of dedication among the school's faculty.

"Sara's nomination is a reflection of the incredible educators who bring Fiddlehead's mission to life every day," said Cotton-Castro. "Our teachers don't follow a scripted curriculum; they build meaningful learning experiences that are tailored to each child, inspiring creativity, critical thinking, and a deep connection to the world. Sara embodies that approach,



Sara Giuliano, a second-grade teacher at Fiddlehead School of Arts and Sciences, has been nominated for Cumberland County Teacher of the Year. SUBMITTED PHOTO

and we are so proud to see her recognized."

The Cumberland County Teacher of the Year program is part of the Maine Teacher of the Year initiative, which recognizes exceptional educators across the state who make a difference in the lives of their students, schools, and communities. Nominees are selected based on their dedication, creativity, and ability to inspire a love of learning.

Each year, 16 teachers are named County Teachers of the Year, and one is named State Teacher of the Year. These exceptional teachers serve as role models for the profession, advocating for students, communities, and education issues while participating in professional learning and community efforts to improve education.

To be considered for this honor, teachers must have at least five years of teaching experience, including three years in Maine. They must hold the appropriate professional certification for their position, be actively teaching at least half of the workday, and they must maintain their teaching position and remain in the county for which they are selected.

Giuliano graduated from the University of New England in 2012 and started her teaching career in Scarborough for Grades 1 and 2 and later for sixth grade science. After taking a few years off to work as an associate director at a summer camp in Raymond, she discovered Fiddlehead School of Arts and Sciences, and said it seemed to be the combination of all things she loved about teaching and the outdoors.

She started as the Teaching Assistant in the school's fourth and fifth grades, then taught third grade the following year, and has since found her home teaching second grade. <

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BRIEFS

Free breakfast

The Youth Group of the First Congregational Church of Gray, 5 Brown Road, invites the public to a free pancake and sausage breakfast at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, March 1. Blueberry, chocolate chip, gluten-free, and "just plain pancakes" will be on the grills. Regular and vegetarian breakfast sausage, fresh fruit, juice, and hot beverages will also be served. At 10 a.m., the annual Pancake Flipping Challenge and a variety Mardi Gras games begin. Donations to benefit the Youth Group will be accepted at the door. FMI, call 207-657-4279.

Saturday concert

The first Saturday Noontime Concert with Phil 'N The Blanks! will be at noon Saturday, March 1 at the Raymond Village Library, 3 Meadow Road. The concert is free and open to all ages. FMI, call 207-655-4283.

Job Search Workshop

Windham Raymond Adult Education is offering a one-hour workshop from 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 5 for job seekers of all backgrounds who are unemployed, underemployed, or looking for a new job. To reserve a spot for the workshop, visit Windham

Raymond Adult Education at 406 Gray Road (behind WHS) or call 207-892-1819. Find them online at windham.maineadulted.org

Story Time

The Windham Public Library will host Story Time from 10:30 to 11 a.m. Thursday, March 6 at the library, 217 Windham Center Road, Windham. Story Time is for children up to age 5 and their parents/caregivers are invited to join in. This interactive program includes stories, songs, fingerplays, dancing, and more. FMI, call 207-892-1908.

Haddock Dinner

The Knights of Columbus are offering a Haddock Dinner from 5 to 6 p.m. Saturday, March 8 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, 919 Roosevelt Trail, Windham. Dinner includes fresh baked haddock, mashed potatoes, carrots, rolls and butter, homemade coleslaw, coffee, tea, fruit punch, and a homemade dessert buffet. There will also be a 50-50 raffle. The cost is \$14 for adults and \$6 for pizza or a kids' dinner. Meals will also be available to go. FMI, call 207-892-8288.

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Eagle SPORTS



Trail Blazers falter in regular-season hockey finale

By Matt Pascarella

STAFF WRITER

The Windham/Bonny Eagle/Westbrook Trail Blazers took on Saint Dominic Academy in their final game of the regular prep hockey season on Wednesday, Feb. 19 at the University of Southern Maine in Gorham and although the Trail Blazers fought hard, they came out on the wrong end of a 2-0 score.

It was Senior Night and Windham's Ben Shaw, Erik DuPont, Sam Foley, Philip Traina, Shaun Traina, Cole Heansler and Bonny Eagle's Massimo Massaro and Shep Howard were recognized for their time and dedication to the sport of hockey throughout their high school careers.

"We've come off kind of a winning streak," said Heansler. "We started to get comfortable expecting wins instead of working for them, so we came out pretty slow and ended up going down and it was just a struggle to recover; we weren't able to generate any offensive plays. We all kind of worked our hardest, especially in the last few minutes of the third (period). I don't feel like we're the team that starts losing and gives up, I think we worked until the end there - it just didn't work the way we wanted to. I think our breakouts were doing pretty good, we were able to get it out of the zone pretty easily. We did have shots on net; I think we need to start working the puck a little more in the offensive zone, especially up to our defensemen. (We need) movement and getting more shots on net; we need it to be a team rotation of all five guys."

Trail Blazers came out strong with



(L to R) Windham senior Phillip Traina checks his opponent in the final game of the regular season for the Trailblazers against Saint Dominic Academy. Senior and team captain Sam Foley of Windham takes a shot on goal. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

a shot on goal in the first 45 seconds. They were working to be first to the puck. Saint Dominic Academy led 1-0 after one period.

In the second period, Trail Blazers worked hard to score. They were aggressive and battled. Saint Dominic Academy scored again, but the Trail Blazers weren't discouraged. They had solid puck movement and really pressured toward the end of the period.

"It's just not really what we're looking for," said DuPont. "We had a lot of guys sick; that's definitely part of it. There's not really a specific factor - we win as a team; we lose as a team. Definitely when we were working pucks low to high, that works well - we just got to get back to that, I guess. Better puck movement was working ... move our feet more, move pucks faster, get our heads up (needs work);

collectively get better chemistry together and get ready to work at that playoff level speed."

The Trail Blazer defense kept Saint Dominic Academy scoreless during the third period, and Trail Blazer offense were first to the puck and had several solid shots on goal, but didn't score.

"What went well was our goalie played really, really well," said Trail Blazer coach Bobby Fothergill. "We've asked a lot of him this year and he's delivered; he's worked really hard to get better and better before each game. We had glimpses of good offense zone time - I never ques-

tion their effort, their effort is always there, it was more just poor execution. When we did execute ... working pucks low to high, high to low, getting the d(efense) involved, we had 12 good minutes this whole game."

As Fothergill looks to the postseason, he said the team needs to play their game and play with intensity, passion and love of the game. He said he doesn't want his players to make things bigger than needed and to just play hockey.

The Trail Blazers will play Thornton Academy in the playoff quarterfinals at the Biddeford Ice Arena at 5:40 p.m. Saturday, March 1. <



(Clockwise from top) Trailblazers senior and assistant captain Erik DuPont of Windham works to move the puck behind the goalie. Senior Cole Heansler of Windham maneuvers toward the goal. Bonny Eagle senior Shep Howard passes the puck in time for the Trailblazers.



ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Alexis Pelletier

Age: 15
Team: WHS indoor/outdoor track and field, cross-country
Coach: Jeff Riddle
Parents' names: Selena and Kyle Pelletier
Reason for selection: Alexis is what coaches hope for in a student-athlete. Her enthusiasm is contagious, and she always gives her all. She's a true team asset. Alexis competes in challenging events (hurdles, triple, high jump, sprints, and relays). She is a testament to the power of a positive attitude and hard work. She's optimistic, energetic, and seizes opportunities. She models the spirit, tenacity, and perseverance needed to succeed. She isn't just a participant; she's a contributor who inspires teammates with her fun-loving approach and work ethic. She competed in the Southern Maine Activities Association and State Championship meets this winter.

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Second consecutive state title in sight for WHS basketball

By Matt Pascarella

STAFF WRITER

For the second year in a row, the Windham boys' varsity basketball team is headed to the AA state championship with a record of 17-4 where they will take on South Portland with a record of 16-5. The Windham community couldn't be prouder and more excited for this game.

But this is a different matchup. The South Portland coach is Kevin Millington, who teaches social studies at Windham High School, and also coached varsity boys' basketball at Windham for 18 years.

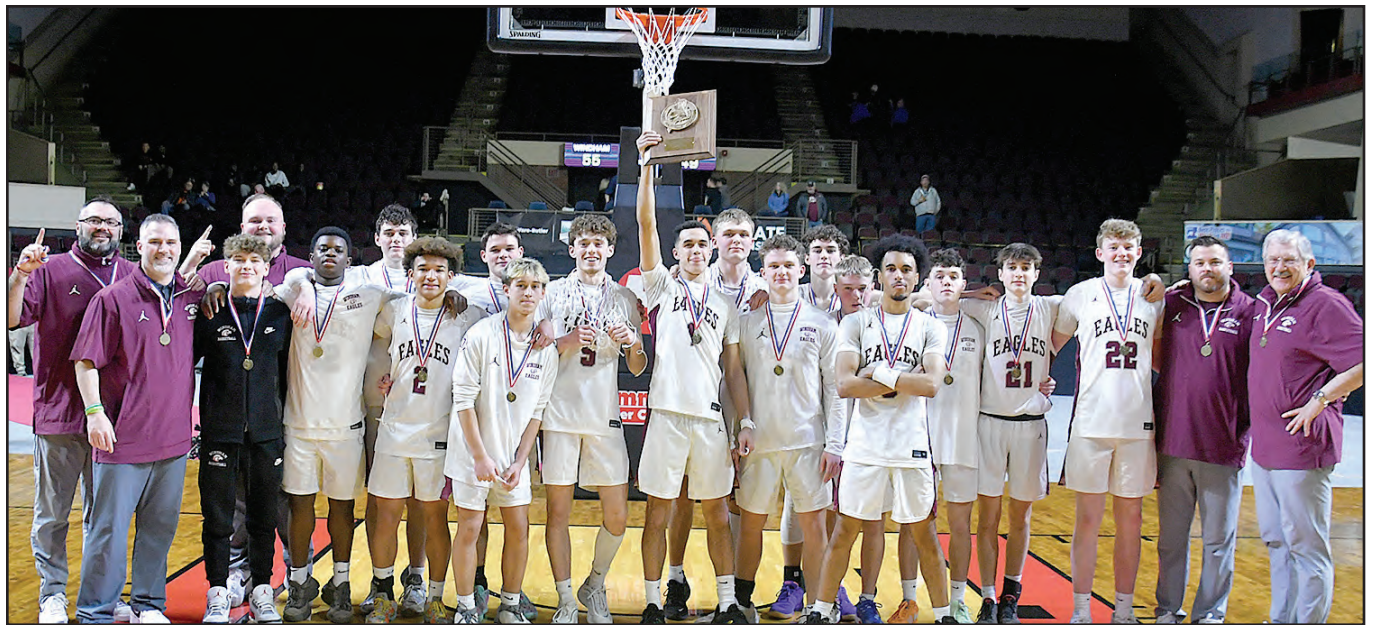
South Portland edged Windham 55-54 in just the third game of the season, but Eagles coach Chad Pulkkinen says that he welcomes the opportunity to face a team that got the best of WHS. Windham's team belief is unwavering.

"True strength within a team is revealed through adversity – how you face challenges and overcome them together," said Pulkkinen. "We've certainly had our share of those moments, and our guys have done an incredible job of regrouping, learning, and growing from them ... their resilience, hunger, and commitment to representing Windham as student-athletes set them apart."

Windham was the team to beat since the start of summer ball. Teams went hard and wanted to beat the champions. Windham had to be ultra prepared; they needed to remain hungry and play like they were the underdogs.

Team members say that they are incredibly grateful for the unwavering support of the community. The passion and energy brought to every game – home and away – fuel the players and make a lasting impact. Windham's team extends their appreciation to high school staff and administrators for providing student-athletes with the opportunity to proudly represent Windham.

For Windham senior Levi Hayman, going after another Gold Ball means a lot. He said the kids are like brothers to him and to witness their determination



Windham junior AJ Moody holds up the regional final championship winning plaque at the Cross Insurance Arena in Portland on Saturday, Feb. 22 surrounded by the entire team and coaches after defeating Edward Little 55-49 as Windham advances to the state championship for the second consecutive year.

PHOTO BY MATT PASCARELLA

and chemistry is astonishing. They are great role models for underclassman and youth of the community.

The late Pat Moody has been an inspiration for the team and his presence is felt without anyone saying anything. Moody is looking down, watching this team succeed. It's tough not having Moody here, but Pulkkinen leads the team that he and Moody love. Moody continues to inspire the team after making Windham basketball what it is; Pulkkinen is lucky enough to lead the team and encourages his players to play with joy.

"As a parent it's not just about the victory on the court," said Sherma Moody. "It's about all the hard work, dedication, coaches support and teamwork that have led to this point. One of Pat's greatest joys was watching his son play. There's a sense of pride in knowing how much they've overcome to get here, and excitement for what's

to come. It's a proud moment for our family, and one that we'll hold close to our hearts, especially knowing how much joy it brought to Pat."

Longtime Windham announcer and resident Bob Witham said he thinks that it's absolutely fantastic that the boys are going for their second straight Gold Ball.

"The past two years have been unbelievable in Windham High School's gym; always packed with excitement from the crowd," he said. "It's so much fun to watch this team; you can tell how much they care about each other, Windham High School and the community."

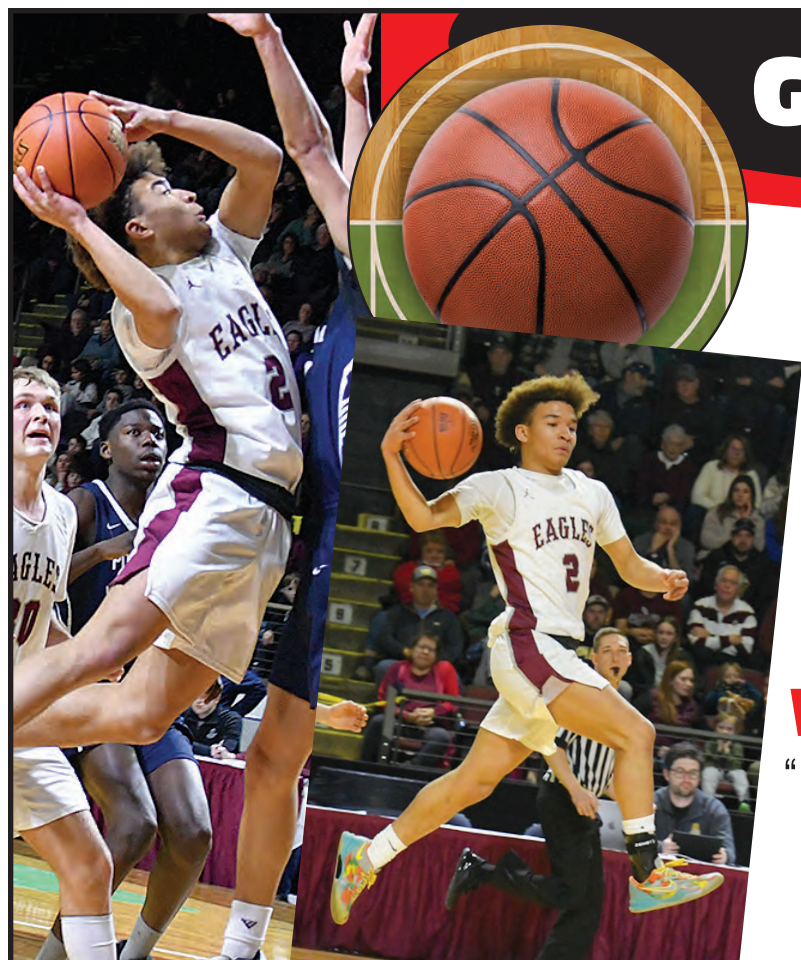
Windham's varsity boys' basketball coaches want their players to be mentors to the younger kids. They want to develop a culture in Windham of basketball done right. They tell their guys, "There are people watching you; there are kids watching you, so act right. Do the right thing, be the right kid on the

court and off the court."

WHS Students are proud of how this team represents them. "As a fan and a person apart of this unreal and supportive community, I think it would be thrilling knowing those boys were able to bring home a Gold Ball for a second year in a row," said Windham senior Stella Jarvis. "The pride this community and the fans already have for this team is unmatched to any other community I've seen. There isn't a selfish player out there, and you can tell by watching them play. They know what it takes to get another Gold Ball."

The Maine Class AA Boys' Basketball Championship Game tips off at 7:45 p.m. Saturday, March 1 at Cross Insurance Arena in Portland with Windham facing South Portland. The game will be televised live on Maine Public Television and streaming on mainepublic.org. <

See next 16 pages for season highlights and good luck messages from local businesses!



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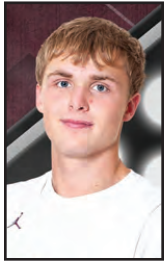
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- ★ The only WHS player to every surpass 500 rebounds in a high school career



TRYIE JAMES

- ★ AA North First Team
- ★ WMTW Hoops 8 All Tourney Team for AA North



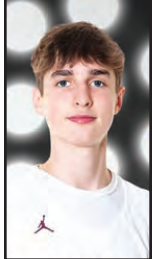
AJ MOODY

- ★ AA North Second Team



COLIN JANVRIN

- ★ AA North Rookie of The Year
- ★ SMAA Rookie of The Year
- ★ AA North All Defensive Team
- ★ AA North All Rookie Team
- ★ WMTW Hoops 8 All Tourney Team for AA North



BRAYCEN FREESE

- ★ Maine McDonalds All-Academic Team



CHAD PULKKINEN

- ★ MABC AA North Coach of The Year

TEAM HEADSHOT PHOTOS BY FOTOGENYX USA



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SPECIAL SHOUT OUT TO Creighty and Tyrie for first team selection and AJ for second team selection!!

SPECIAL SHOUT OUT TO Collin for four rookie selections and to all the other players for your dedication & hard work!

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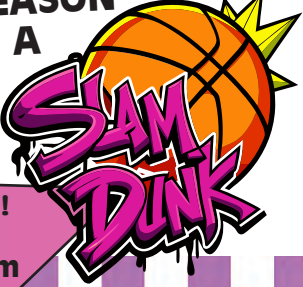
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WHS VARSITY BASKETBALL *Season Statistics*

2024-2025 Season: Record 17-4

REGULAR SEASON

- Creighty Dickson - 15.8ppg / 7.2 Rpg / 3.1 apg / 54% fg / 1.8spg
- Tyrie James - 14.1ppg / 4.6rpg / 3.6 apg / 47%fg / 38%3p / 2.9 spg
- Colin Janvrin - 9.1ppg / 4.4rpg / 1.8apg / 2bpg
- AJ Moody - 8.6ppg / 3.6rpg / 2.8 apg / 3spg
- Braycen Freese - 8.6ppg / 1.7spg
- Conor Janvrin - 7.5ppg / 3.8rpg/3.3apg/ 1.7spg
- Jospeh Blige - 4.2ppg / 1.3spg

POST SEASON

- Creighty Dickson - 14.7ppg / 4 Rpg / 4 apg / 55% fg / 1.7spg /
- Tyrie James - 13.7 ppg / 7rpg / 7.3 apg / 54%fg / 50%3p / 1.3 spg
- Colin Janvrin - 9.3ppg / 5rpg / 2.7apg / 1.3bpg
- AJ Moody - 9.3ppg / 5rpg / 4.3 apg / 3.3spg
- Braycen Freese - 5ppg / 1.3spg
- Conor Janvrin - 6.3ppg / 2.7rpg/ 1spg
- Joseph Blige - 4.7ppg / 2spg

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GOOD LUCK



Top row (L to R) Creighty Dickson, Conor Janvrin, James Ammons
 Bottom row (L to R) Grant Coppi, manager Nick Morey, AJ Moody, Landon Wyman, and Luke Drottar

2024-2025 ROSTER

| # | Name | Grade | Position |
|-----|------------------|-------|----------|
| 1 | AJ Moody | 11 | G |
| 2 | Tyrie James | 11 | G |
| 3 | Joseph Blige | 12 | G |
| 4 | Lukas Hammond | 12 | F |
| 5 | Conor Janvrin | 12 | G |
| 12 | Esa Antonio | 12 | G |
| 13 | James Ammons | 12 | F |
| 15 | Luke Drottar | 10 | F |
| 20 | Grant Coppi | 12 | G |
| 21 | Braycen Freese | 12 | G |
| 22 | Colin Janvrin | 10 | F |
| 23 | Landon Wyman | 10 | G |
| 24 | Sean LeBel | 9 | G |
| 30 | Creighty Dickson | 12 | G |
| 33 | Boston Krainis | 9 | G |
| MGR | Nick Morey | 11 | MGR |

Pat Moody was Windham High School Basketball's greatest coach. He was a member of The Moody Foundation, which is a non-profit 501c3 with a focus on youth sports and activities, especially in areas of youth sports and activities, and supporting community-focused student-athletes. TO REACH THE FOUNDATION, CONTACT PAT MOODY AT PO Box 972, Windham, ME or by email at info@patmoody.com



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K, EAGLES!



es "Bailey" Ammons, Braycen Freese, and Joseph Blige.
Morey, Tyrie James, Esa Antonio, Colin Janvrin,
kas Hammond. PHOTO BY FOTOGENYX USA

BASKETBALL 2024 - 2025



| | | |
|---------|---|-------------------------------|
| Dec. 6 | W | Windham 85, Lewiston 54 |
| Dec. 10 | W | Windham 75, Gorham 67 |
| Dec. 17 | W | Windham 78, Edward Little 56 |
| Dec. 21 | W | Windham 56, Portland 49 |
| Dec. 27 | W | Windham 59, Cheverus 55 |
| Dec. 30 | W | Windham 75, Oxford Hills 55 |
| Jan. 2 | W | Windham 78, Gorham 48 |
| Jan. 4 | W | Windham 68, Bangor 38 |
| Jan. 7 | L | South Portland 55, Windham 54 |
| Jan. 9 | W | Windham 68, Marshwood 62 |
| Jan. 11 | W | Windham 73, Scarborough 70 |
| Jan. 14 | W | Windham 75, Falmouth 72 |
| Jan. 17 | W | Windham 81, Bangor 65 |
| Jan. 21 | L | Oxford Hills 70, Windham 65 |
| Jan. 24 | L | Cheverus 66, Windham 51 |
| Jan. 28 | L | Lewiston 49, Windham 46 |
| Jan. 31 | W | Windham 57, Scarborough 45 |
| Feb. 7 | W | Windham 68, Deering 56 |
| Feb. 12 | W | Windham 76, Bangor 40 |
| Feb. 20 | W | Windham 65, Portland 56 |
| Feb. 22 | W | Windham 55, Edward Little 49 |

supporter. His passing in November 2024 led to the creation
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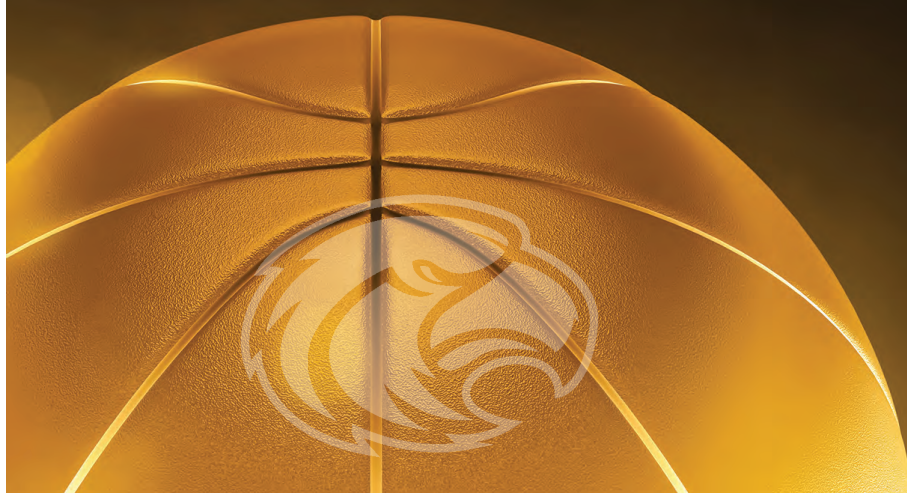
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– Chris Matakas, The Tao of Jiu Jitsu





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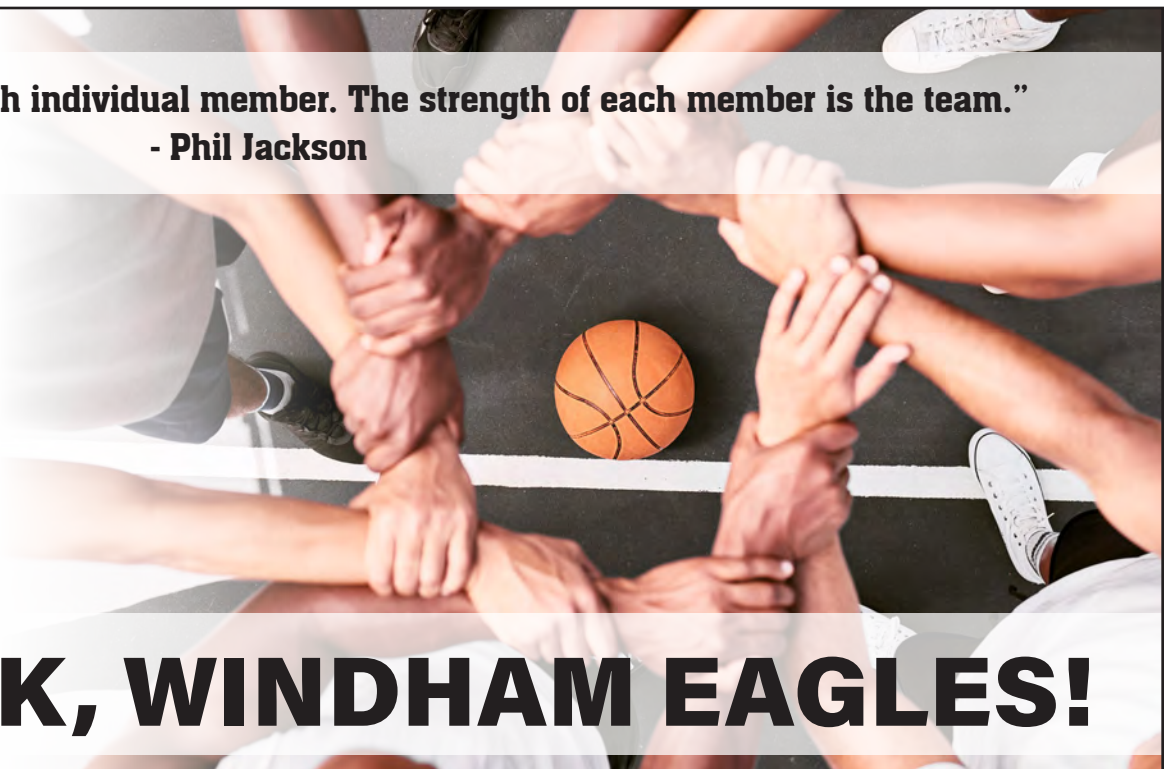
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- Phil Jackson



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"No challenge can stop you if you have the courage to keep moving forward in the face of your greatest fears and biggest challenges. Be courageous." -Jon Gordon

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Her Mainely Girl Adventures: The curse of the Sunday buck

► **By Staci Warren**
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE



Staci Warren, Columnist

I have been hunting for 16 years now, and although I've gotten my Grand Slam, I still don't have a Big Buck Club patch. In fact, I've never harvested a deer bigger than 8 points. As many hunters do, I dream about shooting a big buck, but I've yet to figure out the secret to being at the right place at the right time. I scout. I hunt the wind. I try to be scent-free. I use buck lure and calls and try to be as quiet as possible. And when that doesn't produce, I change it up by not using any call or lure at all. I hunt every morning and afternoon that my schedule allows, including sitting in the rain.

I watch deer all season but the last three years, deer seemed to disappear

as soon as rifle season started. The rut season seemed almost non-existent, with a handful of does moving early mornings and evenings.

Last year, three smaller bucks sporadically showed up on my cameras. I really thought there were no big bucks where I was hunting. With no intention on shooting a little buck, I started calling the curled spikehorn, Loki, and the young buck with a tall-webbed antler, Crab Claw. I had not seen Big Guy, the ten-point buck that had been in area for the last three years, until September and then I didn't see him again all season. After seeing more big bucks than ever, tagged at the nearby store and posted on Facebook, I assumed Big Guy was one of them.

Prior to the season, I had moved over stands. I moved cameras so that deer wouldn't try to avoid them. Then once the season started, I bow-hunted and



Staci Warren captures images of big bucks on her trail cam on Sundays last fall - the one day of the hunting season in Maine when hunting is not permitted.

then rifle-hunted moving to different spots miles apart when I felt like I was over-hunting a spot. It didn't seem to matter. All I ever saw were a few does, and spikehorn bucks.

Then came the first Sunday sighting. My husband, John, was checking his beaver traps. On his way back he spotted a big buck just staring at him. All he could do was watch him walk away. No rifle as it was Sunday.

The second Sunday buck arrived right after a rainstorm. A big eight-pointer with no brow tines showed for one day, during prime morning shooting hours when I would be sitting in my stand had it

not been Sunday. He was a monster, and it was the first and last time I saw him on my camera.

Two weeks later, a small buck showed up 6:40 a.m. - when I'd be sitting in my stand had it not been Sunday. It ate acorns for a good half hour. That same morning, a big wide ten-point buck had strolled right by my stand at 6:04 a.m., before legal shooting hours.

Rifle season ended with no deer. I purchased a muzzleloader permit and spent the next two weeks chasing the dream of a big buck. Every time a buck showed up, I would be so excited that when the alarm went off at 4:30 a.m. it was like the first day of hunting season all over again.

The next Sunday a buck chasing a doe filled my camera, which was also the first real rut action I had seen all season. I continued to see deer on my camera, but now they were strictly night images.

My season ended with seeing eight doe, two spikehorns, and a tall eight-pointer that I saw from my four-wheeler while checking traps. And of course, the bucks came back

→ see ADVENTURES Page 36



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TOWN OF RAYMOND, MAINE

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING

Broadcast Studio - 423 Webbs Mills Road
and Via ZOOM

Wednesday, March 12, 2025 • 7:00 PM

You are hereby notified that the Raymond Appeals Board will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. to hear information on the following application for Reconsideration:

APPLICANT: Todd Roma & Jessica Dobson

LOCATION: 141 Raymond Hill Road;
Map 13/Lot 29 Zone RR

DESCRIPTION: Request for Reconsideration of Administrative Appeal Decision dated February 3rd, 2025 of Notice of Violation dated October 29, 2024 Land Use Violation

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/89938129866?pwd=zKFTshllK2OPtgevmKSaumDH4OKpkc.1>

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Homeowner's guide to spring home maintenance

► **Compiled by Jonathan Priest**
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE



— Jonathan Priest

OUTDOOR SPRING CLEANUP

• **Roof & Exterior:** Do a ground-level inspection of the roof and home exterior to check for signs of winter weather damage. If you spot problem areas, you may need to schedule a professional inspection.

Look for:

- Loose or broken shingles
- Cracks or signs of wear on the chimney
- Damaged wood around windows and doors
- Signs of animal/pest intrusions or nesting

Although a home exterior is designed to withstand exposure to the elements, periodic cleaning can improve the appearance and, in some cases, prolong the life of siding and other exterior details, according to the National Association of Home Builders.

• **Lawn Mower:** Before firing up your mower for the first time this spring, inspect the blade. If it needs sharpening, have a professional sharpen it. Set the blade height at 1.5 inches to 2 inches for the first cutting. (Cutting more than one-third of the leaf blade when mowing can “shock” the lawn and cause browning.) After the first cut, set the blade height to 3 inches, which can help promote grass color and root growth.

• **Gutters:** Carefully remove debris that can clog gutters. Water overflow from a clogged gutter can damage fascia boards and the foundation, as well as cause leaks across walls and ceilings.

• **Deck:** Hammer or tighten nails or screws that have popped from deck boards. Look for loose/cracked boards

and repair as needed. Wash wooden or composite decks with a cleaning solution designed for the material.

• **Pool:** Inspect valves, filters and equipment for signs of wear or damage, and change or clean as needed. Or schedule an opening date with a pool service.

INDOOR SPRING CLEANUP

• **Kitchen:** Even with the best range hood, grease can build up on the tops (and fronts) of kitchen cabinets. Feel around for stickiness and use a good degreaser on the surfaces.

– Freshen up the garbage disposal by grinding ice cubes (even better, lemon/vinegar ice cubes or rock salt and ice cubes), then flushing with hot water and baking soda.

– Vacuum dust buildup from refrigerator coils to restore its efficiency. Clean seals and change the water filter.

– Clean the range hood; clean filters (if you can, remove and run them through the dishwasher).

• **Attic:** Attics need a post-winter once-over to check insulation for dampness (replace any that’s wet) and seal cracks and leaks. Look for mold, insects or animals that may have crept in. Assess the area around vents to ensure nothing is blocking vents before summer heat builds.

• **Basement:** Dampness loves a dark, underground space. Look for moisture and mold around the bottom

of the foundation and seal any cracks. Check for excess humidity (consider a dehumidifier if needed). Open vents. Look for evidence of insect tunneling in any wooden framing.

• **Heating & Cooling:** The heat has been running all winter and the air conditioner needs to be ready to go. Replace HVAC filters and check the drain pan to make sure it is draining and hoses are sound and connected. (Or schedule a biannual checkup/servicing.) If you use window air conditioners, it’s time to install them.

• **Plumbing:** The most common type of water damage to homes isn’t caused by hurricanes or floods. It’s caused by the dishwasher, hot water heater and other appliances or plumbing. Spring is a good reminder to give toilets, sinks and connecting pipes and hoses a good once-over for signs of cracks, leaks or dampness. Replace anything that appears worn or loose.

– Check ceilings for telltale water stains and track leak.

– Fix drippy faucets and showerheads and replace worn toilet flappers.

• **Electrical:** Check all outlets and cords for frayed wires, loose outlet

covers or cracked plugs. Make sure extension cords and outlets aren’t overloaded. Put surge protectors where needed to protect electronics.

• **Appliances:** Draining the hot water heater to remove sediment can help prolong its life. If you have a water pressure gauge, test the temperature/pressure relief valve. Most plumbing codes state that the maximum water pressure in a home should be 80 PSI or less (ideally between 50 and 60 PSI).

With snow melting and spring rains starting, it’s a good time to run the sump pump through its paces. Clean out any debris. Pour in water and make sure it starts. Check the outflow hose.

• **Chimney:** Even if you don’t regularly use your fireplace, an annual chimney inspection can ensure the flue is clear and sound, according to the Chimney Safety Institute of America.

This article was brought to you courtesy of Farmers Insurance agent, Jonathan Priest, with an office at 57 Tandberg Trail, Suite 7, Windham and StaySafe.org. Call him at 207-893-8184 or send him an email at jpriest1@farmersagent.com <

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FOOD AND GAMES

THE WINDHAM EAGLE'S

Cooking Corner

By Angela Paris

SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE • JUGGLINGACTMAMA.COM

Slow Cooker Italian Wedding Soup

Italian Meatballs, spinach, and carrots come together with al dente pasta in the slow cooker for an easy comfort food meal the whole family will love. This soup is delicious with garlic bread or a loaf of crusty Italian bread. It's also yummy with breadsticks.

Prep Time: 10 minutes

Cook Time: 7 hours, 30 minutes

INGREDIENTS

- 4 large carrots, peeled and sliced
- 1 large diced sweet onion
- 4 cloves of fresh garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons of olive oil
- 28-ounce package of frozen Italian meatballs (about 55 meatballs)
- 32 ounces of chicken stock
- 4 cups of water
- 3 cups baby spinach, chopped
- 1 bay leaf
- 2 cups of uncooked orzo, pastina, or other small pasta
- salt and black pepper, to taste
- Parmesan cheese for serving

INSTRUCTIONS

- Sauté the carrots, onions and garlic in the olive oil over medium heat, for about 8 to 10 minutes, until softened.
- Add all ingredients except the uncooked pasta to a slow cooker and mix well.
- Cover and cook on low for 7 hours.
- Turn off the slow cooker and add your uncooked pasta, stir and let sit for 30 minutes.
- Remove the bay leaf; discard. Serve the soup topped with freshly grated Parmesan cheese.

Find the full recipe with variations, tips, and more:
www.jugglingactmama.com/slow-cooker-italian-wedding-soup

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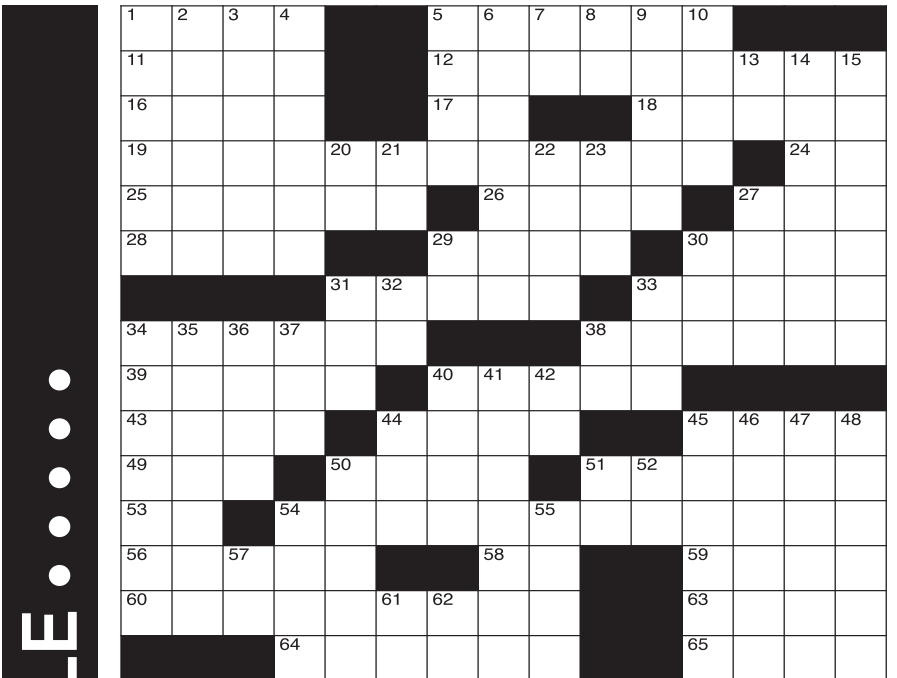
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..... CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Narrow piece of wood
- 5. African desert
- 11. Waxy covering on birds' beaks
- 12. Sour
- 16. Infrequent
- 17. Former AL MVP Vaughn
- 18. Policemen wear one
- 19. Out of the question
- 24. Used to chop
- 25. Symptoms
- 26. Not moving
- 27. Folk singer DiFranco
- 28. Comedian Armisen
- 29. Quantitative fact
- 30. Incline from vertical
- 31. Scottish musician
- 33. Rooney and Kate are two
- 34. Positioned
- 38. A very short time
- 39. Tropical American shrubs
- 40. Yemen capital
- 43. Spanish municipality
- 44. Medical professionals
- 45. Fibrous material
- 49. Confined condition (abbr.)
- 50. Without covering
- 51. "Mad Men" honcho Don
- 53. Hockey position
- 54. Taste property
- 56. Fertile spots in a desert
- 58. They precede C
- 59. "Requiem for a Dream" actor Jared
- 60. Try a criminal case
- 63. Liberal rights organization
- 64. Spoke
- 65. Insect repellent

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Unshaven facial hair
- 2. More thin
- 3. Show up
- 4. Seethed
- 5. Ancient Greek city
- 6. Poisonous plant
- 7. Hello
- 8. College sports official
- 9. Monetary unit of Russia
- 10. Wings
- 13. Take too much of a substance
- 14. A citizen of Uganda
- 15. Most appealing
- 20. Atomic #18
- 21. Global investment bank (abbr.)
- 22. Jewish calendar month
- 23. Popular sandwich
- 27. Swiss river
- 29. Incorrect letters
- 30. Popular entree
- 31. Foot (Latin)
- 32. A driver's license is one form
- 33. Extinct flightless bird
- 34. Appetizer
- 35. After battles
- 36. It neutralizes alkalis
- 37. Beverage container
- 38. Partner to "Pa"
- 40. Gray American rail
- 41. Salt of acetic acid
- 42. Canadian province
- 44. Dish made with lentils
- 45. Narrative poem of popular origin
- 46. For each one
- 47. Come to terms
- 48. Test
- 50. More dishonorable
- 51. Unit of loudness
- 52. The Ocean State
- 54. Monetary unit in Mexico
- 55. Lying down
- 57. Thus
- 61. Where LA is located
- 62. Western State

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.

SUDOKU

| | | | | | | | | |
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LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| 3 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 5 |
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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

If all goes according to plan, a new recreational facility will be opening locally in March where golfers can tee off year-round. Big Swing Golf Sim will feature sophisticated golf simulators and other golfing-related activities for residents of Windham and the surrounding area.

Located at 765 Roosevelt Trail Unit 100 in Windham, Big Swing Golf Sim is owned by Connor Dufour, who says he's excited to provide a fun place for golfers to work on their game year-round or just gather with friends in a comfortable and relaxed setting.

"With the latest and greatest golf simulator software, Big Swing Golf Sim will provide high quality fun and top of the line accuracy to improve their game," Dufour said. "Our tracking system not only records your swing and the strike for you to play back and review, it also will provide accurate specifics of ball movement."

The Big Swing Golf Sim offers five 16-foot advanced golf simulator bays with high-definition graphics that have more than 1,000 courses around the country. Customers will also be able to switch the big game onto the bay projector to really feel immersed in the game. The simulators offer unmatched realism with dazzling 4K graphics, ultra-realistic ball physics and ultra-fast response times.

No matter if you're playing solo, teaming up with your friends or families, and regardless of age or skill level,



Big Swing Golf Sim

Big Swing Golf Sim delivers maximum fun.

"Our bays will be outfitted with cable access so you can watch the big game and golf at the same time," Dufour said. "A sixth bay will be introduced shortly after opening. On top of that, the facility will offer other activities such as darts, a putting green, cornhole, and shuffleboard. Big Swing Golf will also be serving both soft drinks, and a wide variety of beer."

They welcome all ages and skill levels to come enjoy the space. Dufour said the best thing about the new business is what it is going to mean for the community.

"It's going to be a great relaxing and fun place to go," he said. "There will be something here to appeal to everyone."

Featuring competitive pricing, Dufour said that Big Swing Golf Sim will offer convenient memberships which



Connor Dufour is preparing for the grand opening of Big Swing Golf Sim in Windham. SUBMITTED PHOTO

will save frequent consumers money the more that they stop by to play.

Drop-ins will be offered as available at a rate of \$50.00 per hour for up to 4 people. Day membership cost is \$125.00 a month for half off golf sim play Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and an anytime pass will be available for \$175.00 per month for half of anytime golf sim play.

"Although our focus is to provide high quality golf simulators, we also want to create a sports environment that can also be interactive," Dufour said. "Bring your friends, play some golf, throw some darts or bags, and enjoy yourself."

As Big Swing Golf settles in, Dufour envisions recreational leagues launching and becoming a popular place for birthday celebrations or a

great place to have a party.

"Each bay can be converted into a big screen television, and you'll still be able to golf at the same time," he said. "The simulators will have an arcade function which can be used for kids' parties."

Dufour attended college in this area and says he craved a place where he could join his friends to enjoy a beer but also to interact with them in fun activities.

"I didn't want to settle for going to Portland to achieve this or travel 30 minutes away," he said. "Windham is a friendly, beautiful, and developing town that deserves to have a place for its residents to enjoy remaining active during the evening while enjoying their favorite beer."

To become a successful business, Dufour said that Big Swing Golf Sim will be responsive to customer needs.

"It all comes down to providing a service that our customers can really get behind," he said. "We want to be able to receive feedback from our customers and to build a great product and are able to upgrade and adapt as we go along."

They will open daily 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. or later on Fridays and Saturdays. To learn more about Big Swing Golf Sim and for updates on website launch and grand opening follow them on Facebook under Big Swing Golf Sim or on Instagram under big_swing_Golf <

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ADVENTURES Cont. from page 32

for a show once the season ended...on Sunday and every day after, of course.

Although I may not have harvested a buck, I've learned a lot about deer behavior—that they really do know when we aren't in the woods. Since Sunday hunting probably will never happen, I can only hope that someday I'll be able to outsmart a buck, or as others say, luck out. One thing's for sure. There are big bucks where I hunt, at least on Sundays! My 2024 buck still didn't get me my Big Buck Club patch, but it's a beauty, and filled my freezer with meat for the next year, thankfully in time for the upcoming recession.

Congratulations to all of you who were successful in harvesting a deer this season.

This article was brought to you by columnist Staci Warren. She is a freelance writer whose blog, My Mainely Girl Adventures, is about a woman hunting, fishing, trapping, foraging and living in the Maine outdoors. She also loves camping, star gazing, wildlife watching, and hunting for fossils. She's an active member and board member of the New England Outdoor Writers Association and is a monthly columnist and feature writer for The Maine Sportsman Magazine. In her free time, she enjoys mentoring women hunters and trappers. <

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