

## Fundraiser for Barbara Bush Children's Hospital brings big voices and big hearts

By Melissa Carter

STAFF WRITER

Erik's Church in Windham hosted another successful fundraising event to support MaineHealth Barbara Bush Children's Hospital (MHBBCB) that spanned two days, Tuesday, March 4 and Wednesday, March 5. The shows were presented by Country 99.9 The Wolf and sponsored by the Law Offices of Joe Bornstein and Webster Tree Service.

Country duo LoCash took the stage both nights with performances that had the packed house entertained to the fullest both with their musical talent and their fun, upbeat sense of humor. They of course played their chart-topping hit "Hometown Home." Special guest Randall King opened Tuesday, while Kelsey Hart began the night on Wednesday.

This event, now in its fourth year, with a total of seven shows, has not only brought in some of the best acts in country music to Erik's Church, but has also raised more than \$120,000 for MHBBCB. This event alone raised \$17,966.

Ken Cianchette, the owner of Erik's Church, said that tickets ranged from \$35 to \$250, and 100 percent of proceeds went to the hospital.

"Country 99.9 The Wolf, Erik's Church, and the artists donate their time, airwaves, room, and personnel which is a combined value of about



Event organizers, entertainers from LOCASH, and Barbara Bush Children's Hospital representatives show off the check with the final amount raised throughout the two-day fundraising event at Erik's Church on Tuesday, March 4 and Wednesday, March 5. PHOTO BY MELISSA CARTER

\$70,000 in market price donation," he said.

LOCASH band members Chris Lucas and Preston Brust said giving back by donating their time to help children is what they are all about.

"Being able to contribute to the kids and support the community really fills our cup up and puts life in perspective," said Brust. "We have families of our own and have been fortunate to have good health, but we know not everyone is that lucky. And anything we can do to help these fam-

ilies is our way of paying back for all that we have been blessed with."

Lucas agreed.

"Family for us is our number one priority above all," said Lucas. "They are our biggest supporters and source of inspiration. It's only natural for us to want to support other families where and whenever we can."

Kate Richardson, MHBBCB Senior Philanthropy Manager, said the children's hospital benefits from roughly 36 annual events and programs, not including the many, many

community events that are organized on our behalf each year from lemonade stands to swim-a-thons.

"Our goal is to raise \$2.3 million dollars to support the highest priorities," she said.

In an average year, MHBBCB sees more than 100,000 patient visits from across Maine and the region. On the Wednesday night of the show at Erik's Church, the hospital was almost at max capacity and this is not unusual.

Faye Weir, MHBBCB Vice Presi-

→ see BBCH Page 25

## Town of Raymond Select Board to establish selection process for new town manager

By Ed Pierce

STAFF WRITER

A selection process will be set up by the Raymond Select Board in the coming weeks to identify candidates and interviews for the town manager position.

Raymond Town Manager Sue Look, who has been serving in that role since January 2024 has resigned, citing more than an hour's commute from her home in Richmond.

Look had been working as the Raymond Town Clerk when she was appointed by the Raymond Select Board to replace Don Willard as interim town manager in July 2023. Willard officially retired in January 2024 after being out on Paid Medical Leave and Look took over as permanent town manager at that time.

She had worked as Raymond Town Clerk for more than a decade prior to her serving in the town manager's position. Look was born in Lewiston and has worked for the Town of Raymond since July 2014. She formerly served as the Town Clerk for the Town of West Bath and she was originally hired by Willard to replace longtime



Sue Look, left, has resigned as Raymond Town Manager and will be leaving her position on March 21. The Raymond Select Board has appointed Raymond Parks and Recreation Director Joe Crocker, right, as Interim Town Manager until a new permanent Town Manager can be chosen. FILE PHOTOS

town clerk Louise Lester who was retiring at the time.

The Town Manager is a fulltime position appointed by the Raymond Select Board and is responsible for administering the policies as established by the Select Board and the Town Charter. The Town Manager

serves as the chief administrative officer and head of the administrative branch of the town's government.

The position's duties include executive direction and supervision of the administrative services of the town and overseeing the finances of the town. The town manager also is re-

sponsible for implementing all town policies and providing all Town of Raymond staff with clear and efficient operating procedures necessary to conduct their assigned tasks.

Other duties of the town manager are to attend and participate in all meetings of the Raymond Select Board, work with the Raymond Budget and Finance Committee in developing an annual town budget, and work with the Select Board to meet the process requirements in time for the annual Town Meeting and tax bill preparation.

The Raymond Town Manager creates and submits to the Select Board an Annual Town report to distribute at the Annual Town Meeting in June, develops and updates annually a five-year Capital Improvement Plan for presentation to the Select Board, and stays up to date with changes in Maine state regulations that

→ see RAYMOND Page 11

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# INSIGHT

## Déjà vu thought through

The other night I had a dream in which I was in a dark movie theater watching “The Sound of Music” with my date, Angela Cartwright, who was an actress who appeared in that film as Brigitta von Trapp.

Angela Cartwright was a longtime crush of mine growing up in the 1960s. Along with “The Sound of Music,” she starred as Penny Robinson in the classic television show “Lost in Space” and portrayed the stepdaughter of Danny Thomas on “Make Room for Daddy.”

I never missed anything with Angela Cartwright in it and so it’s interesting that she showed up in my dream 60 years later. But it seems the concept of people coming and going in my life has been a recurring theme for me.

For several years while I was attending college in the 1970s, I worked at a business called American Furniture Company. It was a physically demanding job that only paid me \$2.70 an hour.

My duties were to unpack boxes of furniture delivered on the loading dock, remove the furniture from plastic coverings and ask a store merchandiser where it needed to be displayed on the sales floor. Unpacking and preparing it for display was the easy part, carrying it out to the sales floor was the hard part.

Some of the sofas and large couches were heavy and the store owner would only let us carry the furniture by their arms, thereby protecting them if we bumped into doorways. The merchandisers were tough and demanding, wanting these new pieces of furniture displayed immediately and they were not always kind to dock workers like me.

But one merchandiser was. Jerry Sena was always friendly and good-natured and laughed a lot with the dock workers. He always treated me with respect, and I found out he was an avid tennis player.

During Wimbledon or the U.S. Open, Jerry would pause at the display of televisions on the sales floor to see if Jimmy Connors or Cris Evert was playing in a match that day. If he was directing us to the location where he wanted the sofa or dinette set placed on the sales floor, I knew he was aware of how heavy the load we were carrying was, and he would give us a chance to stop and take a small break at some point.

Eventually I asked for a raise from \$2.70 to \$3 per hour at American Furniture. The store owner told me he would give me a 5-cent raise to \$2.75 but since I had only worked there for two years, his policy was not to pay anyone \$3 an hour unless they had worked for him for five years.

I moved on and eventually enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and following my military experience, I obtained my degree in journalism and started to work for newspapers as a reporter about 13 years after working for American Furniture Company.

One of the jobs I worked at was as a reporter for a twice-a-week newspaper called the Valencia County News-Bulletin in Valencia County, New Mexico.

Not long after being hired there, I was at my desk typing when I heard a voice speaking on the phone in a nearby cubicle and it sounded familiar. For several weeks if I was at my desk in the mornings, I would hear this voice and I racked my brain trying to figure out where I had heard it before.

One day I left my desk and walked over to that cubicle and discovered that the voice belonged to an advertising representative for the newspaper. When I introduced myself as the new reporter for the News-Bulletin newspaper and shook his hand, I realized that it was Jerry Sena.

We worked together for several years there before I moved to Florida, and I would sometimes have dinner with Jerry and his wife Yvonne at their home. To me it was just another example of someone re-entering my life after an absence.

The same can be said of some of my high school classmates, many of whom I had last seen in the early 1970s.

One day in November 2000, I was working for a newspaper in Florida and the phone rang. On the other end of the line was a former high school classmate of mine named Bob Fay.

He told me that I was on a list of missing school classmates, and he was tracking people down so I could be invited to our 30th high school reunion in 2001.

As it turned out, going to that reunion brought many people I knew and had grown up with back into my life after a stretch of more than 30 years. As I re-connected with them, I felt grateful and was happy to learn what had happened to them in their lives.

Through the years, some of my classmates who attended that 30th reunion celebration passed away, so the chance to see and talk to them again is not lost on me.

There’s an old saying I once heard that “people come into your life for a reason, a season, or a lifetime.” In my case, I can certainly attest to that as the truth. <

~ Ed Pierce

*Today in*  
**HISTORY**



**MARCH 14**

**1743 – The first American town meeting is conducted at Boston’s Faneuil Hall.**

**1794 – Eli Whitney receives a patent for his invention called the “cotton gin.”**

**1900 – U.S. currency converts to the gold standard with the ratification of the Gold Standard Act.**

**1914 – Henry Ford announces a new continuous motion method to assemble cars. The process decreases the time to manufacture a car from 12 hours to 93 minutes.**

**1923 – U.S. President Warren G. Harding becomes the first U.S. President to file an income tax report.**

**1947 – The U.S. signs a 99-year lease for naval bases in the Philippines.**

**1950 – The FBI’s “10 Most Wanted Fugitives” program begins.**

**1995 – American astronaut Norman Thagard is the first American to enter space aboard a Russian rocket.**

# ON THE SPOT

**What’s a moment from your life that you will cherish forever?**

“Graduating college at age 28 while also managing a household with two small children.” – Julie Mallett

“The day my son had brain surgery, he’s 5 1/2 years now and seizure free.” – Brenda LaMontagne Minott

“The day I met my cat when she was just a kitten, I was overjoyed!” – Fi Brickel

“Going to Nashville to see the CMAs, won the trip.” – Tommy Matthews

“The day I married my bride.” – Brian Butler

“The birth of my children of course!” – Silver Ann

“My husband and my trip on Route 66.” – Cheryl L. Page

“I was there when my granddaughter was born.” – Deb Poirier Hall McPhail

“When T put her baby in my arms.” – Linda Miller Ladd

“Picking up our adopted border collie Maxine in Connecticut and bonding with her on the drive back to Maine.” – Dean A. Smalley

“Meeting my husband on a blind date.” – Isabella Mongon

“Learning to sew with my grandmother.” – Chris Macklin

“Looking out from the top of the Empire State Building on our honeymoon in 1987.” – Sarah Singer-Miller

“Going to the Super Bowl in 2002 in New Orleans and watching Tom Brady lead the New England Patriots to a win over the St. Louis Rams.” – Jerry Greene

“Going to the movies with my brother and sisters in the 1950s.” – Oscar F. Kellner

“Traveling to China and seeing the Great Wall.” – Mia Potenzio-Ransey

“Fish Frys with my family when I was growing up in Lewiston on Friday nights.” – Anne Glotchshuk

“Graduating from nursing school.” – Deirdre Schulte

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**EDITORIAL POLICY** The Windham Eagle newspaper has a mission to be a Positive and Solutions Based newspaper. As a positive and solutions-based newspaper, we are committed to providing our readers with accurate, informative, and constructive news and information that uplifts and inspires. We recognize that certain content may not align with our mission and values, and therefore reserve the right to not publish certain types of content. For complete details about submissions and our letters policy, visit [thewindhameagle.com/Information.pdf](http://thewindhameagle.com/Information.pdf)





# Newspaper surpasses 12-year anniversary in community

Whoever said newspapers are dead probably hasn't looked at a recent edition of *The Windham Eagle* newspaper.

The newspaper was created by Kelly and Niels Mank and celebrated its 12th anniversary on March 1. With an emphasis on delivering positive and solutions-based news for the communities of Windham and Raymond, the Manks continue to believe their work is essential and remains of benefit to residents.

Its popularity remains strong, as evidenced by the Windham Community Survey last fall which resulted in *The Windham Eagle* being the top source for community news for town residents with 62.39 percent of survey respondents citing the newspaper as the place they go for news, beating the Town of Windham's website, Facebook, email and text notifications, Windham Town Hall, television, radio and Instagram.

Based in Windham at 585 Roosevelt Trail, the newspaper publishes 51 weekly editions every year along with a popular Summer Guide for the Sebago Lakes Region and serves as the host for the annual Eagle Choice Awards recognizing top local businesses every summer.

"When we launched the first edition of *The Windham Eagle* on March 1, 2013, we felt there was a need for a community publication here to tell positive stories about our local residents," Kelly Mank said. "There are so

many negative things about this community that are publicized elsewhere but we feel that having a newspaper that emphasizes positive achievements and solutions-based news is a must for this community and has led to its ongoing success."

As other weekly community newspapers dwindle in size and experience trouble selling advertisements, *The Windham Eagle's* support from advertisers and local businesses is encouraging. In 2024, *The Windham Eagle* produced 116 more pages than it did in 2023 and advertising sales also set records.

"Unlike most other publications, we are very a small staff. We do not have a large team of employees, but we manage to put out more pages on a weekly basis than any other single newspaper in the state of Maine, and I am proud of our work" said Melissa Carter, Advertising Director and Designer for *The Windham Eagle*. "Readers may not realize that 100 percent of the newspaper's revenue comes from supporting advertisers, which is why we ask all our readers to support the local businesses they see in the newspaper. I appreciate the relationships I have built over the years. My advertisers trust me, and that's a huge honor."



The first edition of *The Windham Eagle* newspaper was published March 1, 2013 and 12 years later the newspaper is still relevant in the Windham and Raymond communities and helping local businesses to succeed. PHOTO BY ED PIERCE

She said she is passionate about working with local businesses, new and old, to help them market and brand themselves so they can grow and succeed. As both the advertising director for the newspaper and its designer, Carter says that she can deliver a level of service and expertise not found with other publications.

"Being able to get creative and come up with ideas to contribute to their overall success is challenging and rewarding," she said. "I am not your average 'salesperson.' I went to school for

graphic design and that is where much of my passion lies."

Carter said that *The Windham Eagle* is the only publication in the area that is direct mailed to every home and business in Windham and Raymond, making it an invaluable resource to the community.

"I have been working in the newspaper business for over 20 years and I believe in what I do because I have seen first-hand the results that consistent branding does for local businesses and for event advertising," Carter said.

Lisa DiBiase, a broker and the owner of Landing Real Estate in Windham, said having an outlet like *The Windham Eagle* has been invaluable for her company.

"This platform has served as a powerful channel through which we can reach our target audience and effectively communicate our brand message," DiBiase said. "The *Windham Eagle* provides us with a local presence, allowing us to connect directly with members of our community. This localized approach is crucial for a real estate agency like ours, as building trust and rapport within the community is essential for attracting clients and closing deals."

She said *The Windham Eagle* enhances Landing Real Estate's credibility and visibility among potential clients.

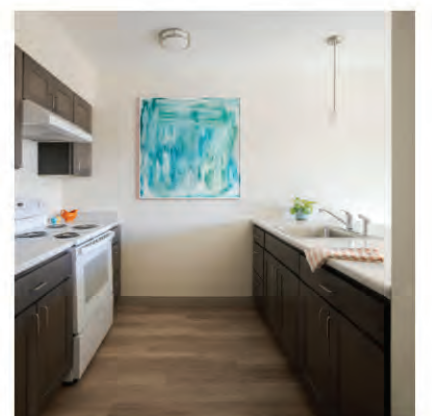
→ see EAGLE Page 6



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# Landry French Construction to serve as General Contractor for Windham Raymond Middle School

By Lorraine Glowczak  
STAFF WRITER

The RSU 14 Board of Directors unanimously voted on Wednesday, March 5 to enter into a contract with the Scarborough-based Landry French Construction as general contractor for the new Windham Raymond Middle School to be built at 61 Windham Center Road.

Building construction is set to begin at the start of April, with the building scheduled for completion for Aug. 1, 2027, and ready to welcome fifth through eighth-grade students in the fall of that year. The project remains on schedule, and the community will soon see visible progress as construction begins.

Landry French has produced many well-known construction projects, such as buildings at the Casco Bay Ferry Lines, the Colby College campus, the Yarmouth Public Safety complex, and the new cancer center on Rock Row in Westbrook. They have excelled in creating first-rate educational facilities, as well, demonstrating their commitment to excellence in every project they undertake.

“Landry French Construction has an impressive portfolio of school and civic projects and is recognized for completing high-quality work on time and under budget,” said RSU 14 Superintendent of Schools Chris Howell. “The company is working to complete the new Skowhegan Elementary School and is currently working on a K-8



Landry French will serve as the General Contractor for the new Windham Raymond Middle School at its location on Windham Center Road. The site is currently being prepared, and materials are being delivered. Construction is expected to start soon and the school could by August 2027. PHOTO BY ED PIERCE

school in RSU 10 in Mexico, Maine.” Also impressive is the fact that the construction is coming in under budget, which is important to lowering the expected budget increase.

“The first-year payments for the project will increase the 2026 school budget by 8 percent, with a little over 6 percent covered by an additional subsidy from the state of Maine,” Howell said. “While this represents a larger-than-usual budget increase due to school-related debt, the additional subsidy will help cover a majority of the new costs.”

The project remains on track and is currently running \$11 million under the original projected budget. The building will include all the features previously discussed with the com-

munity. This means that nothing will be cut, including the much-anticipated 600-seat auditorium and indoor walking track.

As mentioned in a July 26, 2024, article written by Ed Pierce, once the school construction is completed, Windham Middle School and Jordan-Small Middle School in Raymond will be combined into what will be known as Windham Raymond Middle School.

The original Windham Middle School was built in 1977 and was originally intended for a maximum capacity of 483 students. That number has grown in the last few years to exceed 650 students, with sixth graders being housed for some classes at the adjacent Field Allen School, originally constructed in 1949.

Jordan-Small Middle School in Raymond was originally constructed as an elementary school in 1960 and currently has about 180 students.

The RSU 14 plan calls for students in Grades Five to Grade Eight in both Windham and Raymond to attend the

new school.

Windham fifth graders currently attending Manchester School would attend the new school, as would Jordan-Small Middle School students from Raymond.

The maximum capacity for the new school is expected to be about 1,200 students and the building is expected to be viable for at least 50 years.

Howell points out that team teaching will be implemented, creating an atmosphere of a close-knit community.

“The teaming structure will give students the feel of being in a smaller school within the larger school,” he said. “Each team will have spaces that are dedicated to each of the core subject areas,” he said. “In addition, the building will be structured to allow for the integration of some of the applied arts within the team. The development of this team structure will serve to bring the best possible facilities to each team. In contrast, the original Windham Junior High School, now Windham Middle School, was built as a departmentalized Junior High School.”

With the contract now approved, Windham and Raymond residents can look forward to seeing progress on the new school, which promises to be a state-of-the-art facility for students and the community alike. <

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**EAGLE** *Cont. from page 3*

“When individuals see our name and listings regularly in a reputable local publication, it reinforces the perception that we are a reliable and reputable real estate agency worthy of their consideration,” DiBiase said. “*The Windham Eagle* serves as a positive and reliable source of information for community events, news, and developments. By being present in such a publication, we not only promote our business but also demonstrate our commitment to staying informed and engaged with the local community. *The Windham Eagle* has provided us with a platform to effectively promote our business, showcase our listings and agents, and engage with the community. It has been instrumental in driving awareness, generating leads, and ultimately contributing to the success and growth of Landing Real Estate.”

Linda Manchester, the owner of The Good Life Market and Swift River Coffee Roasters in Raymond, says the newspaper has been a huge supporter of her businesses since they first opened, publishing feature stories about them to let the community know what and who we were, and consistently coming

up with creative and beautiful content for their advertising.

“The personal connection we’ve had with the staff at the paper has been amazing, it feels like they are truly in our corner, wanting to see us succeed,” Manchester said. “It’s meaningful that *The Windham Eagle* gives back to the community by doing fundraising ads, and highlighting the achievements of local people, organizations, and businesses. The fact that the paper shows up in every mailbox gives readers an effortless connection to each other, to the community, and to a simpler time, and reminds us that we’re all still here for each other. I love working with your paper, because I know and love this region, and I truly believe *The Windham Eagle* does, too.”

Chris McDonald, the owner of Windham Powersports, says he’s a believer in what *The Windham Eagle* newspaper does for his business.

“You can have the best product in the world and if no one knows about it, it won’t sell,” McDonald said. “*The Windham Eagle* has helped me get my brand out to their huge local audience. Customer service is key in business and Melissa at *The Windham Eagle* has provided top-notch service for me and

my business. She has offered unique and creative advertising on a weekly basis for nearly a decade. Melissa and *The Windham Eagle* are like having an ace up your sleeve, helping you win with sales and customer relationships. Thank you to Melissa, and *The Windham Eagle*, for all you’ve done for Windham Powersports over the years.”

Managing Editor Ed Pierce became the third editor to lead *The Windham Eagle* when he joined the staff in May 2020, following Michelle Libby and Lorraine Glowczak in that role.

Pierce will surpass the 50-year milestone in his career in journalism in May and says working for *The Windham Eagle* is reminiscent of his early days as a reporter for a community newspaper in New Mexico.

“I’ve worked for large daily newspapers and some smaller weekly papers, and I truly enjoy telling stories that might not be published anywhere else,” he said. “Being a veteran myself, I especially like writing about our local veterans and other human-interest articles.”

He said that because the newspaper’s policy is not to cover crime or politics as those issues are covered by other media entities, it allows the newspaper space to tell other stories that wouldn’t otherwise be published.

“The other aspect of the newspaper I love is when we sponsor advertising initiatives specifically intended to raise funds for local nonprofits and various

charitable activities,” Pierce said. “That happens a lot and it truly benefits local nonprofit organizations who are in need of a little help.”

The newspaper’s annual Eagle Choice Awards, where readers cast votes for their favorite and most trusted businesses in the region, remains as popular now as when it started in 2015. Last summer’s Eagle Choice Awards celebration held at Erik’s Church in Windham drew its largest crowd ever and votes cast online set an all-time record.

Kelly Mank said she’s pleased that residents like the newspaper and accept its positive and solutions-based focus.

“Many people were skeptical at first that such a newspaper could be sustainable,” she said. “They told us that newspapers across America are dying, and that positive news isn’t real news and couldn’t work. We wanted to create a publication that all ages could find something of interest in, and that would contain positive articles focused on the communities of Windham and Raymond.”

She thanks the communities for supporting *The Windham Eagle* newspaper through the years.

“The newspaper’s success did not come easy or without debt and sacrifice, however, it has proven to be a positive tool and resource for our towns, schools, families, non-profits, and businesses,” she said. <

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# Windham High senior shares unique capstone project

By Jolene Bailey  
STAFF WRITER

As a graduation requirement, students must complete the Capstone Project at Windham High School.

Capstone Projects are an independent study in which students can delve deeper into topics of interest to them, including potential careers. The students are completely in charge of this work, including choosing their project's topic.

WHS senior Phoebe Bowman is actively working on this project and is addressing a theme of adrenaline. After students design a theme, they are then asked to create a detailed and specific topic question they may ask their project mentors.

Bowman constructed the topic question of "What are the effects adrenaline can have on the body and mind and what are the lasting effects it composes?"

These Capstone Projects also require a minimum of 30 hours of research. Out of those 30 hours, a recommended four hours should be spent volunteering as putting in community service hours is a vital component to the Capstone initiative.

"For the majority of my volunteering hours, I did a lot of random work," Bowman said. "I had helped out with working for the 50-50 raffle at a basketball game and babysitting some family friend's kids."

She said that adrenaline is a hormone that helps with quick reactions when faced upon an exciting, danger-

ous, or stressful situation. This hormone in everyone helps give one the power and energy to cope with sometimes what can be overwhelming feelings in preparation for readying your mind and body.

"A lot of people just think adrenaline is about your fight or flight response, but it is more complicated than that. Adrenaline itself has lasting effects on how you overcome a situation as there are good and bad ways to produce adrenaline," said Bowman.

According to Bowman, an example of "good" adrenaline could be hitting a game-winning shot in a basketball game. Bowman says that she witnessed this first-hand during her research hours.

However, adrenaline can also strike from an intense surge due to a panic attack.

"I have learned a lot more than I started out with when I originally thought about adrenaline," she said. "The experience and knowledge I've gained during this project will forever be in my memories."

Bowman's community contact is Joe Crocker who serves as the Town of Raymond's Recreation Director.

"I think the most difficult part would be the whole starting part, figuring out if I wanted to do a slideshow or post-



WHS senior Phoebe Bowman is actively working on a Capstone Project which involves the topic of adrenaline.

COURTESY PHOTO

er and how to correctly word things," Bowman said. "Finding who could be my community contact was also a challenge."

Bowman is preparing to present her project at the upcoming WHS Capstone Fair.

"I'm looking forward to teaching others everything I've learned," she said.

The annual WHS Capstone Fair is a way for students to share their personal experiences and topic presentations with other students and staff members at the school. Student requirements for presenting at the Capstone Fair include having a

visual which could be in the form of a 3D model, slideshow, poster, or other methods.

The projects stress the importance of making a connection with local mentors from the community and using learning experiences that occur outside of the walls of WHS.

Successful completion of the Senior Capstone Project became a WHS graduation requirement starting in 2018-2019 school year. During the WHS Capstone Fair in the school gym on April 11, all students from every grade at the high school will be able to check out the 2025 WHS Capstone Projects and ask questions of the presenters.

To learn more about WHS capstone projects, visit <https://sites.google.com/rsu14.org/eloandcapstoneprojects/senior-capstone-project>



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# Windham Chamber Singers preparing for 2025 tour dates

By Elle Curtis

STAFF WRITER

The highly anticipated Windham Chamber Singers 2025 tour will kick off next month with a concert in Windham allowing the community to come together and make lasting memories.

After the unfortunate cancellation of last year's tour due to a freak snowstorm in April, this year's tour experience will allow members of the

Windham Chamber Singers to show off their work throughout the year and to leave their lasting mark on the community.

A local performance is scheduled for 7 p.m. April 5 at the North Windham Union Church, 723 Roosevelt Trail, with doors opening at 6:30 p.m. The length of the performance is estimated to run for an hour and a half with general seating available.

Donations will be accepted by the church and put toward the RSU 14 Backpack Program and Maine Needs which strives to provide essentials for individuals and families.

Members of the Chamber Singers say they enjoy giving back to the community as well as performing.

Molly Plati, Windham Chamber Singers president and a senior at Windham High School, says there's not just pressure on their singing ability but on continuing the legacy they are upholding.

"Our group has a reputation, and with that comes the responsibility to be our very best," Plati said. "Not just as singers, but as people and community members."

Preparing for each performance takes hard work and dedication. Hours of practice are spent working on pieces that range from entertaining to more serious while telling a story to the audience.

"The theme of our repertoire is mostly centered around togetherness. Each song carries a message of hope, resilience, and unity," said Windham Chamber Singers assistant conductor and WHS senior Bella Bragdon.

Seniors could choose and put together a piece for the treble and bass voices when deciding on this year's music selections.

"Being part of the process was very exciting, and we got to learn how to select a piece of music to make our voice part sound great," said Plati. "All of our pieces carry a deeper meaning that the singers can connect to, and they

sound outstanding."

This year's tour will mark the return to travel and the full-tour experience, which was previously impacted due to COVID-19 restrictions and precautions.

The tour will see the Windham Chamber Singers traveling to Canada and performing at Laval University in Québec City and the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity.

"This is an amazing experience for everyone in the group," said Windham Chamber Singers vice president and WHS junior Rowan Cummings.

"As a choir, we bond and learn new things about each other, making unforgettable memories," he said.

Whether it is pushing to be their best, or finding community, Windham Chamber Singers offer members a safe and supportive place to do that. Participants have gained real-life skills that go beyond music and singing that will continue to aid them in future endeavors.

"Balancing schoolwork, rehearsals, and other commitments has taught me how to prioritize tasks and manage my time effectively. I've also developed strong teamwork and leadership skills," Bragdon said. "Working closely together with others requires good communication and the ability to listen and adapt. These skills are valuable in any group setting such as school and work."

Tickets for the North Windham Union Church performance are by donation. Seating is first-come first-serve. <

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

## Harken Leavitt-Arnold

**Grade:** First Teacher: Ms. Hamilton  
**Parents' names:** Grace Leavitt and Willis Arnold  
**Favorite subject:** Harken says that her favorite subject is writing because "I just love to write and tell stories! I also like drawing pictures!"  
**Reason for selection:** Harken is a role model and leader in our first-grade classroom. She shows compassion to everyone she encounters, is always willing to help others, and always comes to school prepared and ready to do her best. She never gives up and has a passion for learning. Harken consistently displays our school ICare rules and goes above and beyond to help in any way she can. Keep up the great work, Harken!

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# Faith Lutheran Church to host Luau Mystery Dinner

By Kaysa Jalbert

STAFF WRITER

If you're a sleuther, a mystery solver and you like a tasty dinner, then you may enjoy a night of entertainment and fun at a Luau Mystery Dinner hosted by Faith Lutheran Church next month.

The "Who Dunit" dinner is themed Heist in Hawaii written by Betty McIntyre and will take place on Saturday, April 12. There will be two shows: the first at noon to benefit Maine Needs and the second at 5 p.m. to benefit Sebago Lake Fuller Center.

The cost of the dinner and entertainment is \$25. For tickets, call Melinda at 207-749-9503 or email Beth Shirk at ewynnshirk2@gmail.com. No tickets will be sold at the door; they must be purchased in advance before the deadline.

The last day to purchase tickets will be April 1. This deadline allows the organizers to know how many people to cook for.

The Heist in Hawaii story begins when Magnum Matters invites his friends to his estate to show off the Aloha Crown Jewels, on loan from the National Museum of Hawaii.



However, during the evening's entertainment of ukulele music and jokes, the museum representative discovers that the jewels are "missing, stolen, gone." The guests are asked to solve the mystery.

Guests are invited to wear their favorite Hawaiian shirts or grass skirts and leis will be provided. To add to the fun, a Photo Booth will also be on site. The sanctuary will be decorated in a tropical theme and have posters available with the mission of each charity.

Dinner includes hors d'oeuvres, Hawaiian pineapple coleslaw, Hawaiian chicken served over rice, and a vegetable, followed by a dessert buffet. A vegetarian option will be available to those who request it when

purchasing their ticket. There will be a cash Mocktail Tiki bar to benefit the Essentials Pantry.

The three nonprofits chosen to receive contributions from this event are Maine Needs, Sebago Lake Fuller Center for Housing, and the Windham Essentials Pantry.

Maine Needs is a statewide nonprofit that provides essentials to individuals in need whether it's time and energy through volunteering, material goods, money, skills, or support.

The Sebago Lake Fuller Center for Housing is a local organization and its mission is to help seniors and veterans age safely in place by providing home repairs. Information can be found at [sebago fuller housing.org](http://sebago fuller housing.org).

Profits from the Mocktail Tiki bar will go to the Windham Essentials Pantry, a ministry of Christian hospitality and service to the community, started by Wendy and Dick Rozene, to provide personal and household items not covered by EBT cards. The pantry is open the last Saturday of every month from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

The church has held other Mystery Dinners in the past and they host an abundance of fundraisers for local nonprofits. Last year's "Who Dunit" Dinner was titled "Travel to France" for a Parisian theme. French Cuisine was served, and participants wore old French Fashion. The event last year had a great outcome of attendees, as seen in the videos on the Faith Lutheran Church Facebook Page.

Betty McIntyre serves Faith Lutheran Church as a pianist, choir director and music director. Additionally, she has taught chorus in South Dakota and Maine on and off for over 40 years. While in Maine, McIntyre was the band director at Windham High School for over 30 years and has been working with church choirs for about 25 years.

Faith Lutheran Church is located at 988 Roosevelt Trail, Windham and partners with St. Ann's Episcopal Church, Sebago Lakes Region Fuller Center for Housing, and Wayside food programs. For more details, visit [www.flcwindham.com](http://www.flcwindham.com).

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# Windham Middle School principal instrumental in creating learning environment for students

By Ed Pierce

STAFF WRITER

A school principal plays a crucial role in fostering a positive and productive learning environment and Greg Applestein is certainly proof of that.

Applestein has served as Windham Middle School principal since July 2023 and takes his leadership role seriously.

"Maintaining a good balance between the work I do with the students and the work I do with the staff is one of my biggest challenges," Applestein said. "Anyone who works in education is always working in a world where there are multiple and competing priorities. And on any given day, all of them are just as important as any one of the others. So being able to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate said priorities such that I can act on them in a timely manner, which lead to satisfactory outcomes for all is definitely one of my biggest challenges."

Among his duties as WMS principal, Applestein is tasked with ensuring the safety and security of all students and staff, to continually help WMS improve in our areas of need in all that they do with and for the students, and to be compassionate, responsible, and respectful with and to all students, staff, families, and community members in helping them to achieve their full potential.

Applestein enjoys his work and says interacting with the school's students and staff on a daily basis is the best part of his job.

"Over the past 35 years, I've been in four other schools, in four other districts, in four other parts of Maine and I get to spend my days with the best students, staff, families, and community members in all of Maine," he said.

According to Applestein, the greatest misconception that people may have about his job as WMS principal is that school administrators only meet with the students who are in trouble.

"For me, the more time I can put into developing and maintaining good working relationships with all students proactively, the more positive and upbeat my relationships with students will be," he said. "I spend some time each week meeting with students to let them know how well they are doing and how proud we are of them."

Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Applestein's father served in the U.S. Air Force, so his family moved around



**Greg Applestein has served as the principal of WMS since July 2023 and is dedicated to finding ways to help struggling students and celebrating the successes of WMS students.** PHOTO BY ED PIERCE

a lot when he was in elementary school. When his father retired from military service, the family moved back to Pennsylvania when he started sixth grade and Applestein lived there through college.

He attended Indiana University of Pennsylvania and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in English Education in May 1990. He went on to obtain a master's degree in educational leadership from the University of Southern Maine in May 2012.

Applestein taught English and Video Productions for 22 years at Belfast Area High School and then served for three years at Ellsworth High School as assistant principal and worked for five years as assistant principal at Scarborough High School. Prior to joining Windham Middle School, Applestein was the principal of Bonny Eagle High School for three years.

"I knew RSU 14 had a great reputation due to its students, staff, families, and community members and that was one of the many reasons I applied for this position," he said. "Secondly, I had heard and read about all of the

school renewal which was occurring in this district and the work resonated with me and my core values and beliefs. Thirdly, I have always wanted to work at the middle level as middle level students are energetic, honest, and experiencing rapid growth and development over these three years. I always thought I would like working with this age group, and I am humbled, blessed, and grateful to be serving in this role."

His most memorable moments while working for WMS occur when students are recognized for upholding the school's core values.

"We host a grade level Community Meeting at the end of each of the four marking periods in the year. In our Community Meetings, staff give 'shout outs' to students who did a variety of things well during the marking period," Applestein said. "And the students are recognized for upholding our core values of Compassion, Integrity, Respect, and Responsibility. These have been very memorable moments because our students are recognized, honored, and valued by our staff and students and I've never met a student who couldn't benefit from all of that."

He says the most important thing he's learned while working for WMS is that there's a very palpable feeling of community, collaboration, and a can-do spirit which all permeate the hallways, classrooms, offices, courts, and playing fields of WMS. <

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→ **RAYMOND** *Cont. from page 1*

could affect town ordinances, policies, and budget. The town manager is responsible for submission of applications for state, federal and other grants for the benefit of the municipality, as approved by the Select Board.

To fill in until a new permanent town manager can be hired, the Raymond Select Board has appointed Raymond Parks and Recreation Director Joe Crocker as Raymond's interim town manager.

Crocker, 37, joined the Town of Raymond as Parks and Recreation in February 2020 and essentially built the town's recreation program from the ground up.

He attended Saint Joseph's College, where he earned a degree in Exercise Science and then continued his studies at New England College in

New Hampshire, earning an MBA in Sports and Recreation Management.

Among his many duties as Parks and Recreation Director, Crocker has managed improvements that the Town of Raymond has made to Tassel Top Park and facilities there and providing recreational activities and overseeing a department budget to meet resident needs.

Crocker said he will be a candidate for the permanent town manager position.

"I plan to apply, and if selected, I would be honored to serve the town in this new capacity," he said. "If the Select Board decides to hire externally, I will gladly continue serving the community as the Parks and Recreation Director."

Look's final day with the Town of Raymond will be March 21. <

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**WHAT TO EXPECT:**

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- Opportunity for advancement to leadership positions.

Deadline to apply: Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>

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- 12-15 hours per week
- Paid training in the weeks prior to the start of the program.

Deadline to apply: Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup>

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# RTP welcomes new executive director

By Masha Yurkevich

STAFF WRITER

Regional Transportation Program (RTP) has a simple mission: to provide safe and efficient transportation for disabled, elderly, low-income individuals and the general public throughout Cumberland County.

Jack Deberadinis served as Executive Director of RTP for three decades. After announcing his retirement, RTP's Board of Directors promoted Don Libby to become the organization's new Executive Director.

In his previous position as Manager of Transit Operations, Libby has gained a deep understanding of RTP operations, making him the ideal candidate for Executive Director.

As Executive Director, Libby's role consists of working with many different funding sources and long-range planning for the company.

"No day is ever the same," says Libby. "A lot of my day is revolved around making sure that we have the appropriate funding and personnel coming in to make this place stay via-

ble, which consists of many meetings and dealing with various state agencies to secure funding."

Libby says he approaches his job with a hands-on mindset, wanting to be more involved with people to create a strong team and culture. Not only is Libby more than fit for the position but he says he also loves what he does.

"I love the people and the culture here," he says. "One of the things about this job is that you come to work every day and feel good about what you are doing for the public and when you leave work, you know that you did a lot of good for people today."

RTP transportation includes rides to medical appointments and essential medical services such as: dialysis, cardiac care, day-surgery, and cancer treatments. It also transports riders to programs for developmentally challenged people and pre-school children, along with getting people to work, food shopping, entertainment locations, visitations, and other

life-enriching venues.

The organization also provides transportation on buses, vans, and with volunteer drivers who use their own vehicles.

Designated as a Regional Transportation Program, the agency is committed to offering scheduled weekday public transportation with its "Lakes Region Explorer" operating between the Town of Bridgton and the City of Portland.

"Our biggest challenge is making sure that we have enough funds to do what we need to do," says Libby. "It is an ongoing issue for all non-profits, a new challenge is figuring out how to overcome our low-income funding, something that we have not had in the past. We need more funding for transit in general in this state."

RTP does not belong to a city and because it is regional, it receives very little financial support from the local municipalities other than the Lakes Region Explorer towns — Bridgton, Casco, Naples and Windham while



Jack Deberadinis, left, Executive Director of the Regional Transportation Program which operates the Lakes Region Explorer and other local transportation initiatives, is retiring and will be succeeded by Don Libby, right. SUBMITTED PHOTO

balancing the needs of the public with the funding is a constant challenge.

Established in 1976, RTP was formed by combining the transportation services provided by the Portland Chapter of the American Red Cross, York-Cumberland Senior Services and the Social Services of the Greater Portland Transit District. Today, RTP is an agency that provides low-cost transportation to the elderly, social service agency clients, the economically disadvantaged, and for people with disabilities throughout Cumber-

→ see RTP Page 27

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# Maine's educational leadership is failing our students

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



– Rep. Barbara Bagshaw

I am encouraged that the woeful state of Maine's education system is finally getting some public attention. Sadly, it is negative attention at both the national and state levels. For some time, parents, teachers and many students have been calling for a change in focus and a return to teaching the basics.

Just recently the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) released its' results for 2024. NAEP measures the reading and mathematics proficiency of 4th grade and 8th grade students in American public schools.

It is one of a handful of nationwide standardized tests that can be used by policy makers to evaluate the effectiveness of state public education systems.

Since 2013, Maine spent 71 percent more per pupil, a total of \$26,000 per student. Despite increased spending, the results of the NAEP report are disturbing:

Maine had the biggest drop in reading and math proficiency in the country, falling 10 percentage points since 2019.

Just 33 percent of Maine fourth graders are proficient in math.

Only 26 percent of those fourth

graders were proficient in reading.

Only 25 percent of eighth graders were proficient in math and 26 percent in reading.

To begin to fix the problem, we need to start at the top.

Clearly what Maine is doing as a state is failing our students. We can no longer afford to focus on experimental diversity, equity and inclusion and gender issues at the expense of traditional learning.

That, unfortunately, is not the position of Maine's Commissioner of Education. Before our committee, she stated that "unfortunately academics will have to take the back seat" to social-emotional learning and gender studies.

Our test scores are abysmal, and it seems that the powers that be are satisfied with that. When questioned about our low scores, they stated they see the scores as "neither good nor bad." We are spending the most we ever have on education – with the results the worst they've ever been.

This session, I have sponsored and co-sponsored a number of bills designed to strengthen education and promote school choice bills. Unfortunately, Maine's educational leadership and its focus on everything but student achievement, is failing us.

Through my extensive work with school systems, I've learned that the legal firm Drummond and Woodsum

is running most of Maine's schools – they have a monopolistic grip on school boards across Maine.

School Boards are never given an opportunity to hear any other legal opinions – they are at the mercy of Drummond & Woodsum's interpretation which is always very left leaning. In fact, school board members are told if you have angry citizens come to a school board meeting, listen to them and essentially disregard what they say.

Local school boards and parents need access to as much information as possible in order to make sound decisions that affect our children's future.

As a former art teacher, I understand that social emotional learning is important. Music, teachers and sports coaches also understand the value of social emotional learning. In spite of that, it cannot be at the expense of academics. We have excellent teachers

in the state of Maine. We should give all the new teachers a raise, as well as stepping up the pay of all our seasoned, beloved teachers. This can be done without raising taxes if we prioritize Maine citizens over illegal aliens.

As a member of the Education Committee, I am committed to giving parents a greater voice in their children's education and finding ways to improve student learning. I had the opportunity to go to a School Choice Summit for legislators in Utah last summer. They, in fact, say where there is choice, there is instant improvement in public schools because there is choice.

Maine taxpayers deserve choices.

*It is an honor to represent part of Windham in the Legislature. If there is any way that I can be of assistance, please contact me at [barbara.bagshaw@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:barbara.bagshaw@legislature.maine.gov). My office phone number is 207-287-1440. You can find me on Facebook. To receive regular updates, sign up for my e-newsletter at <https://mainehousegop.org>*



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# WHS Spanish Honor Society hosts Salsa Night Class

By Jolene Bailey

STAFF WRITER

The Spanish Honor Society of Windham High School will host a Salsa class night from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 20 at Manchester School in Windham.

"I wanted to do a salsa night because when we have taken kids to Costa Rica, there is always a salsa lesson and other Latin dances, and the kids really love it, said Elizabeth Bubier, Windham High SHS advisor.

"Salsa isn't a difficult dance, and we can use something in March to brighten our days."

March is often the longest month of the year for students as the school year comes to an end and the long breaks are over. Clubs and extracurricular activities often use this time to re-engage with students.

The Spanish Honor Society is for students who have taken as least two years of Spanish and have succeeded academically. They go through an induction ceremony for their commitment to learning the Spanish lan-

guage.

"Most students continue in Spanish after inductions because they love the language and culture. A Salsa Night fits right in with some of the things we do" said Bubier.

Salsa originally came from Latin America but is large in Spanish cultures. This dance is practiced worldwide typically with a partner yet containing solo

"This is the first time I will have done an event like this. I am hoping it goes well, and we can make it an annual event," said Bubier.

For this event, Monica Sandifer



will help instruct participants in the Salsa dance. She is a former dancer from the National Ballet of Bolivia.

"I really just want people to enjoy the event," Bubier said. "Mónica Sandifer is the nicest, she has so much positive energy and is a gifted dancer."

A big portion of being a Spanish Honor Society member is to help ambitious students in Spanish to reach their educational goals during and outside of high school. It is a recognized achievement that takes great care and hours.

Often members of SHS get the opportunity to help tutor or teach Spanish in the RSU 14 district. They also

plan fundraising drives, help with sales, and other volunteer opportunities for students to be able to fund the expenses for the club.

"I think my favorite memory as the SHS advisor is when we had to do our induction ceremony outdoors because of COVID," Bubier said. "In order to make it more memorable for the students because they had missed out on a lot in the previous months, I invited a few local alpacas to join the ceremony. The kids have been asking for the alpacas to return every year since then."

Students in the Spanish Honor Society at WHS have the opportunity to visit Costa Rica to put their Spanish skills into an extraordinary environment to which most have not been exposed.

This salsa class event is open to anyone, but space is limited to ensure that everyone gets the instructions and attention from the teacher participating that night.

For more details, call Bubier at 207-892-1810. <

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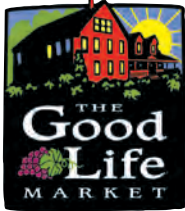
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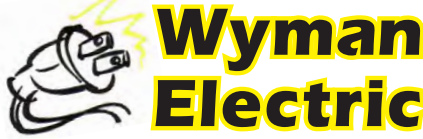
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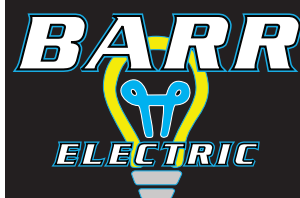
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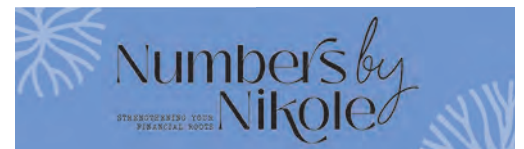
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# Raymond Lions Club honors president with award

By Ed Pierce  
STAFF WRITER

Great leaders inspire and empower individuals to reach their full potential and members of the Raymond Lions Club know that from personal experience.

Club members honored Raymond resident Laurie Wallace, who serves as the Raymond Lions Club president, with the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award at an event on Thursday, March 6.

The Melvin Jones Fellowship Award is associated with humanitarian qualities such as compassion, concern, and generosity. It is the highest form of recognition possible for a Lions Club member and embodies the humanitarian ideals consistent with the nature and purpose of the Lions Club.

Recipients of this award are so honored because of their exemplary ser-

vice to their club and the community in which it serves. The award is named after Melvin Jones, who was the founder and secretary-treasurer of Lions Clubs International.

Raymond Lions Club members say that Wallace has shown her dedication to the club in numerous ways. She has served as the club's president for several years along with serving as the club's secretary at the same time.

Wallace has been proactive in working with the Town of Raymond government, including the Raymond Village Library and the Recreation Department to name a few, the members said. She has also helped at the Raymond Food Pantry in the past and interacts with members of the Windham Lions Club.

Last year, Wallace was at the heart of an effort to halt the installation of a solar farm in a Raymond neighborhood

that is hilly, heavily wooded and filled with vernal pools, critical wetlands and streams that run downhill directly into Thomas Pond.

Citing environmental concerns and the danger of setting a precedent if allowed, Wallace's persistence and attendance at meetings in Raymond eventually led to the solar farm owners to abandon the project after cutting down many trees at the site prior to installing solar panels there.

Wallace also has volunteered in the past at the Raymond Food Pantry and will serve as a member of the Raymond Town Committee determining what to do with the Jordan-Small Middle School property once construction is completed on the Windham Raymond Middle School and the building is vacated.

The club members say that her actions show the core values that Lions International members strive to achieve.

Lions Club International's mission is to empower Lions clubs, volunteers, and partners to improve health and well-being, strengthen communities, and support those in need through humanitarian services and grants that impact lives locally and globally, and encourage peace and international understanding.

Members of the Lions Clubs across the world believe in changing lives by serving the needs of local communities. In all, more than 1.4 million Lions Club members internationally are responding to difficult local and global



Raymond Lions President Laurie Wallace shows the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award she received to her husband, Bob. The award is given to Lions Club members who demonstrate humanitarian qualities such as compassion, concern, and generosity. SUBMITTED PHOTO

challenges with kindness and caring. The Raymond Lions Club was formed in 1995 and is an active group of service minded men and women who want to make Raymond a better place to live by serving the community in a variety of ways. It is a part of the world's largest, and most active service club organization, Lions Club International.

Along with other Lions Club members worldwide, the Raymond Lions Club works with their fellow Lions in more than 170 countries and geographical areas to seek out and help the needy in their own communities, their country, and the world.

The club meets monthly in Raymond and is active in many worthwhile community service projects in the Raymond and Casco areas.

For more details about the Raymond Lions Club or to join the group, call 207-655-2222. <

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➔ **BBCH** *Cont. from page 1*

dent of Patient Care Services said the hospital has 51 beds total for its NICU/CCN floor with 31 for intensive care infants and 20 for intermediate care.

“All rooms can be used for the most intensive needs,” Weir said. “That night, we did have a total of 47 infants and this can vary. To ensure we can accept transfers in from across the state, if we have more infants than beds, we use several steps, so we do not have to go on diversion. We’ll use beds on CFT1 for overflow, move babies to BBI inpatient for additional space, and other steps.

Weir said they are often at 90 percent or greater capacity. The PICU has a total of eight beds, and it is becoming more typical to be at seven children due to the expanding pediatric cardiology surgical program.

“It helps to keep kids local and not to go to Boston for care,” she said. “We are so proud of the work done and the fundraising because it helps us meet the expanding needs of the babies and pediatric patients in Maine.”

According to Richardson each year, unrestricted funds that are raised are allocated to the areas of greatest need within the children’s hospital.

“These determinations are made on an annual basis by our Chair of Pediatrics and additional hospital leadership. We cannot stress enough the value of community support in allowing our care team to respond to the greatest needs as they arise,” she said. “Often these funds are used to support the purchase of new state-of-the-art equipment, to pilot new programs or expand existing ones, to fund education for our care team members and the families of our young patients and to allow our children’s hospital to remain on the cutting edge of pediatric medicine through participation in national research initiatives.”

Frank Harris, the MHBCH Nursing Manager of the BBCH Pediatric Inpatient unit and a Windham resident says the being the only children’s hospital in the state, there is an ultimate goal of being able to expand to a bigger, free-standing hospital someday.

“Portland, Windham, and the surrounding areas are growing so fast,” Harris said. “We’re seeing record numbers of babies being born every year, and as those kiddos grow, we



**LOCASH band members, from left, Chris Lucas and Preston Brust supported the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital fundraising event by donating their time performing for a two-night show at Erik's Church March 5 and 6.** PHOTO BY MELISSA CARTER

know our children’s units are going to need to grow too. We already have to get pretty creative during our busiest times, and while the hospital is awesome about helping us find extra space on adult units, let’s be honest, those just aren’t the best places for kids. There’s a big difference between what adults need and what works for kids and families.”

Richardson and Harris both agree that while the hospital is small, they are mighty and that is thanks to an amazing staff and the fact that the local communities always show up in support of the kids.

“In my travels, there is rarely a week that goes by that I don’t meet someone who has a personal connection the MHBCH, whether it’s a neighbor, classmate, family member, or colleague and everyone knows someone who has been cared for here,” Richardson said. “It’s an organization that means so much to so many people across our state.”

Harris said seeing the way our community rallies around us through events like this one, means the world to hospital staff.

“That support helps us keep doing what we do best – take care of Maine kids,” said Harris.

He says he is so proud of the hospital team.

“They show up every day ready to make a difference. We focus just as much on supporting families as we do the patients, whether that’s through education, emotional support, or just being there during really tough mo-

ments,” Harris said. “There’s nothing better than watching a child get to go home feeling better or knowing we made a difficult time a little easier for a family.”

MHBCH is celebrating their 30th anniversary this year, and during that time has helped thousands of children and families.

“Events like concerts at Erik’s Church bring the community together to transform the care that we’re able to provide for families here in Maine and there is no better example of ‘community’ than a room full of people and business owners who have

shown up to enjoy a great time, but most importantly, to lend their support to our cause,” said Richardson.

Cianchette said that as soon as this year’s event was over, they began to look for an artist or band for next year’s MHBCH event and will usually announce who that artist will be at the start of winter.

Erik’s Church hosts fundraisers throughout the year for many other nonprofit organizations, with their next event scheduled for Thursday, May 22 with the Don Campbell Band appearing to support Veterans Forward.

Organizers of the fundraising event say they are thankful for the contributions, large and small, made to support MHBCH. In the words of Brust and Lucas, “You should be proud to make this hometown home.”

There are many ways you can support MHBCH, from volunteering your time and making a toy or monetary donation, to creating your own fundraiser or even purchasing a MHBCH license plate.

To learn more about the hospital, discover resources, or to find out about the many ways in which your dollars contribute to the hospital’s programs, services, and equipment and get involved please visit [www.mainehealth.org/barbara-bush-childrens-hospital](http://www.mainehealth.org/barbara-bush-childrens-hospital). You may also mail a check to 22 Bramhall Street, Portland, ME 04102. <

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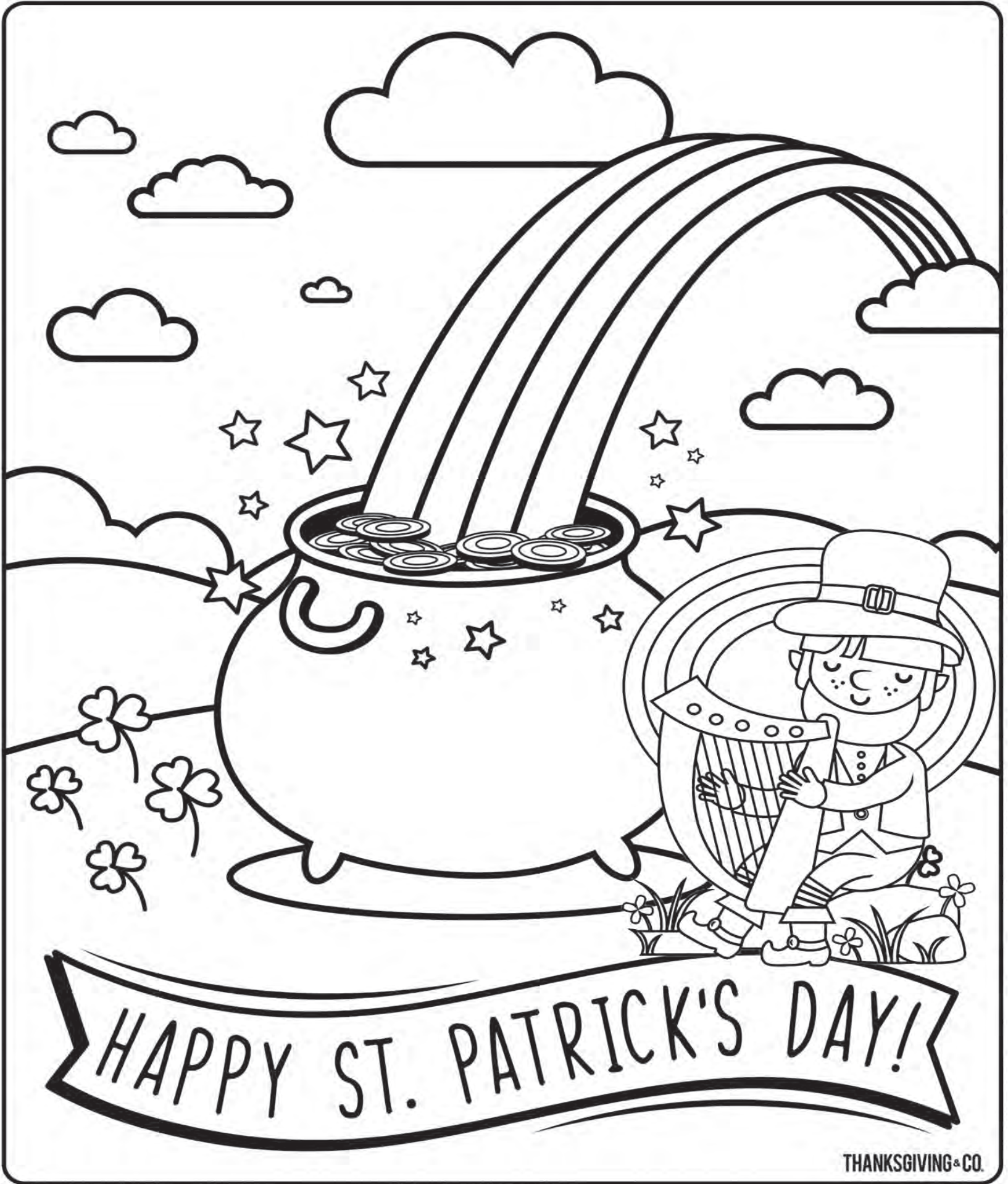
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# St. Patrick's Day COLORING CONTEST



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City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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Contest entries will not be returned. Contest entries may be displayed or published in print and online by this newspaper. Children of newspaper employees are not eligible to win. Decision of judges is final. Winners' parents will be notified by phone and email by April 2, 2025.

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# BRIEFS

## Soup and Song Fest

The First Congregational Church of Gray, UCC, 5 Brown St., is hosting its second Soup and Song Fest from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 14. This family-friendly event features homemade soups, warm bread, and a beverage for just \$5 per person, with children 5 and under admitted free. Soup bowls start filling at 5:30 p.m. FMI, call 207-657-4279 and leave a message.

## St. Patrick's Dinner

American Legion Field-Allen Post 148 is hosting a St. Patrick's Day Dinner at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, March 15 at the Windham Veterans Center, 35 Veterans Memorial Drive. The menu includes Corned Beef and Cabbage, ham, potatoes, carrots, onion, rutabaga and Irish soda bread. There will also be a 50-50 raffle, beverages, and a special cake honoring the American Legion's 106th anniversary. The cost is \$10 and kids under age 12 eat for free. FMI, call 207-892-1306.

## Nuturing Playtime

The Windham Public Library is hosting a Nurturing Playtime session from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. Tuesday, March 18 at the library, 217 Windham Center Road. Join the library and Be the Influence staff for a play group aimed at children up to the age of 36 months and their favorite adults, as well as expectant parents. Each week will start with a short rhyme and song session followed by open play and parent chat. FMI, call 207-892-1908.

## Blood Drive

The American Red Cross will conduct a blood drive from noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 19 at the Windham Veterans Center, 35 Veteran's Memorial Drive. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-733-2767.

## Bridge Club

The Raymond Bridge Club meets every Tuesday from 9 a.m. to noon at the Raymond Village Library, 3 Meadow Road in Raymond for games of bridge. Do you want to learn how to play? One of our members would be happy to teach you. The club is open to all. FMI, call 207-655-4283.

## Aging Matters scholarship

SeniorCare.com continues to bring more awareness to the key issues we face as an aging population. For the 10th consecutive year, it 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. Any existing student or incoming freshman in good academic standing at a 2-year or 4-year accredited college can apply for this scholarship. All applicants can get more info and apply online at this address: [www.seniorcare.com/scholarship](http://www.seniorcare.com/scholarship)

→ RTP *Cont. from page 12*

land County.

Last year, RTP started a micro-transit service in Windham called Quick Ride, which is a less expensive alternative to Uber or taxi. There has been a recent expansion into Gorham and Standish. Libby said other towns are inquiring about RTP expanding into more surrounding towns in the rural area around Windham.

One of Libby's goals is to provide more service to the 302 corridor and said he is looking at Windham as the hub of it all, potentially as a bus stop or transfer station.

He said that he is weighing potentially adding a few more stops to Windham and putting up real bus shelters so that people will be under cover while waiting for the bus. Libby also would like to extend the Windham Quick Ride hours and potentially even weekends.

This would also increase ridership for the Lakes Region Explorer.

"There has always been a need for service in the rural area and with more funding, we are positioned to expand and grow our service," says Libby. "What I am hearing from the people in Windham is that there is a need for public transportation and there is a need for expanding Quick Ride service. We are working on that and are trying to build that rural area to give people what they need."

During the next 18 to 24 months, RTP will be receiving two new Lakes Region Explorer buses and are looking into electric vehicle infrastructure to see if they can use it for real time tracking of buses, adding the Dirigo bus pass to their Lakes Region Explorer line, and also looking at underserved areas to see where they can fit in to help.

RTP serves more than 2,500 people in Cumberland County each year, providing more than 600 rides a day to people who need to get to medical appointments, grocery shopping, work and other important places. <



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# CMP donates children's books as part of its 'President's Pick Book Donation Program'

Central Maine Power is celebrating a beloved Maine tradition and its President's Pick Book Donation Program by donating more than 600 copies of "How to Tap a Maple!" by Maine author Stephanie Mulligan and Maine illustrator Connie Rand to more than 500 Maine public elementary schools and public libraries in CMP's service territory this week, including in Windham and Raymond.



chosen by CMP for the program. She said that she was humbled to have her work included for the program and read by students across Maine.

"I'm honored my book was chosen as the 2025 CMP President's Pick Book Donation," said Stephanie Mulligan of Lincoln, the author of "How to Tap a Maple!"

Mulligan said that the memories of her father-in-law teaching her children how to make maple syrup are treasured, which is why she shared them in this book.

"This story is a wonderful reminder that kids and adults can learn together," she said. "You're never too old to try something new and it's even sweeter when you can pass it on to the next generation."

Artwork for the book was done by Maine illustrator Connie Rand, who also lives in Lincoln.

For more than 20 years, CMP's President's Pick Book Donation Program has supported literacy with tens of thousands of book donations to schools and libraries across the state of Maine. <

For 2025, CMP President Joe Purington chose "How to Tap a Maple!" by a Maine author and illustrator as it celebrates Maine's proud Maple syrup heritage ahead of Maine Maple Sunday weekend later this month.

"We're proud to celebrate both Maine's rich maple syrup tradition and the power of reading by sharing this book with schools and libraries across the state," Purington said. "This is a local story through and through that will inspire a lifelong love of learning. We're proud to support education and our communities, one great book at a time."

Stephanie Mulligan of Lincoln, Maine is the author whose book was

# Fall 2024 college roundup

Elizabeth Savard of Windham has been named to the Fall 2024 Honor Roll for academic distinction at Rhodes College.

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

Reese Merritt of Raymond has been named to the Dean's List for academic excellence at Springfield College.

Brooke Gerry and Riley Parker of Windham and Kelly Gleysteen of Frye Island have been named to the Dean's List for academic distinction at the University of Rhode Island.

Mikayla Linscott, Savannah Desantis, Blake McPherson, and Brady Harvie, all of Windham, have been named to the Dean's List for academic excellence at Plymouth State Uni-

versity.

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

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

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

Matthew Dulac of Raymond and Kyle Stewart of Windham have been named to the Dean's List for academic distinction at Wentworth Institute of Technology.

Dakota Desantis has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Southern Maine for academic excellence. <



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# Eagle SPORTS



## Windham Unified basketball ends season with positivity

By Matt Pascarella

STAFF WRITER

It was a big night for Windham's Unified basketball team, which joins people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team. Monday, March 10 was the last home game of the season and Windham took on Scarborough at home.

It was also Senior Night for the Windham Unified team as Devan Kenne, Talia Campobasso, Colby Schmid and Jacob Smith were presented with a gift to thank them and their parents for their time and dedication to Windham Athletics.

The Eagles started strong and held onto their lead until the end of the game, emerging with a 57-41 victory.

"We did good," said Smith. "Our partners were able to tell us when to not shoot. Talia told me to back down when (it was appropriate). What I saw that went well was we did better at communicating with each other and we did better at helping out our own team. I am so excited that we won that I'll be thinking about it for a couple days."

Windham came out strong and moved the ball well. They rebounded and went hard at the hoop. Schmid got a turnover and a basket. Then it was a parade of Windham athletes scoring; there was solid teamwork. The crowd roared in support for all



(L to R) Windham senior Jacob Smith sinks a three-pointer from the top of the key against Scarborough in a Unified basketball game at Windham on Monday, March 10. Freshman Tristan Stanley regains possession of the ball before making a basket. Freshman Maddi Small makes a basket late in the game.

Unified players.

Windham jumped out to a big lead early. Windham junior Mary Jean had a turnover and scored. Junior Zachary O'Brien hit a three-pointer before the end of the half where Windham led 27-18.

"I went around and scored some baskets from the left (side of the court)," said Windham freshman Tristan Stanley, who scored 12 points.

"It felt pretty great to score so

much; getting good baskets went well," Stanley said.

In the second half, Scarborough closed the gap a bit, but Windham was not letting up. Just a few minutes into the second half, Windham led by over 10 points.

Smith sank a three-pointer, and it was nothing but net. Schmid also hit a three-pointer for Windham and scored 15 points in the game.

Windham's defense kept Scarborough at bay throughout the contest.

WHS Freshman Maddi Small connected for a basket before the final buzzer to end the season on a high note.

"They were really excited for tonight," said Windham Unified assistant basketball coach Connor McNeil. "They were excited for Senior Night. We do usually come out to a pretty good lead; the problem has been holding on to it. They did a really good job

playing with energy today. They really passed the ball pretty well. We saw a couple give-and-goes which we've worked on in practice, that I haven't seen in the game, so we were pretty pleased to see that. It's a great team; they play with a lot of energy, and they have a lot of fun. I think the most important thing about Unified basketball is it brings the community together. We had a big event at school to encourage people to come, we had a good turnout - I think Senior Night means a lot to them for that reason. It's really nice for us to win, so we're really happy to see everybody come out and support us; that means a lot to us and to the players."

McNeil said Unified sports are inspired by a simple principle: training together and playing together is a quick path to friendship and understanding. <

### ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



#### Addison Shanholtz

Age: 16 Team: WHS indoor track and field  
Coach: Jeff Riddle  
Parents' names: Heather Shanholtz, John and Katie Shanholtz

Reason for selection: Shanholtz set school record despite training limitations. As her team's dedicated pole vault enthusiast, she etched her name in school

history by setting a new indoor track and field school record. After years of pursuit to constantly improve, Addi impressively vaulted over 9 feet this season and she now has even loftier goals in mind for her pole-vaulting future this spring with help from Coach Neal. What makes her indoor track and field achievement even more remarkable is that she has had to improve her skills and abilities without a dedicated pole vault pit to train on. Addi brings grit and a positive problem-solving mindset. She's an incredible example of what a student-athlete can achieve through prioritizing goals, putting in time, and overcoming obstacles. Shanholtz's dedication and unwavering focus have paid off, proving that with determination any challenge can be conquered. She is a testament to the power of resilience and her junior year indoor track and field podium finishes and earned medals prove it. Shanholtz qualified to compete in pole vault in the Southern Maine Activities Association and State Championship meets this winter, contributing to both her team's goals and her own.

### Mission accomplished



Members of Windham Youth Basketball Sixth Grade Girls' Travel Team played six games last weekend in the Paper City Classic. On Saturday, Windham was trailing Gardiner by three points with less than 30 seconds to play but Ella Higgins hit a three-pointer to tie the game and send it into overtime. Windham eventually won that game and then played Gardiner again in the championship game on Sunday with Windham winning the Paper City Classic title, 41-34. Team members from left are Annaelle Kawaya, Samantha Wyman, Kelenese Dickson, Ella Higgins, Brinley Sargent, Lily Nickel, Nicole Bonnvie, Natalie Brey, Jasmine Shaw, Ava Ginn, Avary Caiazzo, and Nia Quinn. Coaches are Steve Ginn and Chris Sargent. SUBMITTED PHOTO

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# Four WHS seniors sign college athletic letters of intent

By Matt Pascarella

STAFF WRITER

Four Windham seniors signed their letters of intent at Windham High School on Thursday, Feb. 27.

Stella Jarvais will attend the University of Maine Orono to play soccer, Grace Joly will attend Colby-Sawyer in New Hampshire to play lacrosse, Luke Cunniffe will attend Bates in Lewiston to play soccer and Sarah Inman will attend Wheaton College in Massachusetts and be a member of the swimming team.

## STELLA JARVAIS

“Stella is the rare, dying breed of a three-sport athlete,” said girls’ varsity soccer coach Deb Lebel. “She’s a tremendous player, but an even better person. Teams have an additional coach when Stella’s their teammate.”

While Jarvais is undecided on her college major, she chose UMaine Orono because of the community environment.

She began playing soccer at a young age through travel and recreational soccer.

Jarvais said it was surreal for her to sign a letter of intent. She reminds underclassmen to remember the process is about what you love and not what people expect from you.

She said she would like to thank all her coaches, teachers, family, and friends that have shown her unconditional love and support through the years.

## GRACE JOLY

Joly will major in nursing at Colby-Sawyer College and might eventually work in pediatrics.

She began playing lacrosse when she was 4 because her club coach, Taylor Colangelo, was a referee for her games.

“It’s amazing to sign the letter of intent,” said Joly. “I feel like people wait for this day and it’s a really good feeling to look in the crowd and see all my family and friends, coaches.”

Her advice to underclassmen is to put in the work and make connections at a college before committing.

“We were afraid she was going to get broken the first time she got hit on the lacrosse field,” said girls’ varsity lacrosse coach Matt Perkins. “Right away she had that smile and personality, and she has really brought our program to a place where everybody is involved.”

Joly said she would like to thank WHS lacrosse coaches Perkins, Babb



(Clockwise from top left) Senior Stella Jarvais signs a letter of intent to attend the University of Maine Orono where she will play soccer. Senior Grace Joly signs a letter of intent to attend Colby-Sawyer College in New Hampshire to play lacrosse. Senior Sarah Inman thanks friends and family before signing a letter of intent to attend Wheaton College in Massachusetts where she will be a member of the swim team. Senior Luke Cunniffe addresses the crowd thanking friends, family, coaches and supporters at WHS on Thursday, Feb. 27 before he signs his letter of intent to attend Bates College in Lewiston where he will play soccer. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

and Ludka; Coach Colangelo and her parents for everything they’ve done for her.

## LUKE CUNNIFFE

“He is a student of the game,” said varsity boys’ soccer coach Jeff Neal. “Anyone that’s watched him and what’s he’s done with our program and how he’s carried himself is so heartwarming.”

Econometrics is what Cunniffe will major in at Bates College and he says

that he would like to get a position in finance after that.

Signing a letter of intent was something Cunniffe always saw his friends do and he was grateful to have his mo-

ment.

His interest in soccer began during youth sports. He had tried several sports, and soccer quickly became a good outlet for him. He said soccer keeps him making good decisions and motivates him to work hard and to be a good person on and off the field.

His advice to underclassmen is to keep working; keep pushing and working toward their ultimate goal.

“As long as you’re playing the game for the right reasons, and you have people around you supporting you, and motivating you, it’s great,” said Cunniffe.

Cunniffe said he would like to thank his mom, dad, brother Sean, grandmother and his grandfather Bob Witham.

## SARAH INMAN

Inman says that it felt good for her to sign a letter of intent. She will major in biochemistry at Wheaton College and would like to someday make natural medicine with fewer side effects.

When Inman found swimming, she realized she was naturally born for water. She quickly moved through various swimming groups and pushed herself to do well.

“One of the very few to come through Windham and medal in both the regional championship and the state championship for four years in a row,” said WHS swim coach Peter Small. “She’s an ambassador of the sport and a true leader who approaches everything with grace.”

Her advice to anyone who wants to sign a college athletic letter of intent is to speak the truth and be confident in your choices; do what feels right and know there are people supporting you.

She would like to thank her coaches, teammates and friends who supported her through high school. <

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# The folly of competing with St. Patrick



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



Andy Young, Columnist

Relatively few people are familiar with St. Gertrude of Nivelles, who, when she was 10 years old, rejected her social-climbing, ambitious father's proposal that she marry the son of an influential duke.

Later the selfless young woman ran a monastery that provided care and shelter for travelers, the sick, and the elderly. Worn out by a life of perpetual piety, fasting, and charity, she died at age 33, and was justifiably canonized by Pope Clement XII in 1677, a mere 1,018 years after her death.

I didn't know this until recently. Nor, in all likelihood, did anyone who is reading this. But that's not our fault.

The person responsible for Amer-

ica's collective ignorance on this particular subject is the knucklehead who decided to declare March 17 as St. Gertrude of Nivelles Day. What's dumber than pitting this altruistic woman's "day" against a fellow saint's day of commemoration? And not just any saint, but the one who drove every snake out of Ireland!

Surprisingly though, St. Gertrude's press agent was far from the stupidest publicist of all time.

Few people know March 17 is also Doctor-Patient Trust Day. But given that hardly anyone thinks of anything not green and/or related to St. Paddy that day, it's no wonder so many people currently distrust their doctor(s).

Why would anyone in their right mind choose to commemorate a person or an event on a day that's already universally recognized for something else? If I were in charge of doing pub-

lic relations for doctor-patient trust or St. Gertrude, I'd fire the underling(s) responsible for choosing March 17 for our cause's special day and replace them with someone possessing at least an ounce of common sense.

Trying to draw national attention to a person or organization on St. Patrick's Day is pure folly. But March 17 isn't the only date that's been foolishly chosen by some clueless publicity agent(s).

If you haven't consumed any breadsticks lately, perhaps that's because the morons in charge of making people desire these slender, crisp delicacies chose the final day of October as National Breadstick Day.

The people whose job it is to boost breadstick sales aren't the only imbecilic publicizers who chose Halloween as the one day of the year to call attention to their product or cause.

National Magic Day, National Unity Day, National Knock-Knock Joke Day, National Muddy Dog Day, and Girl Scout Founders Day all fall on Oct. 31, the one date each year where virtually everyone with a pulse is fixated on Halloween.

It's no wonder illiteracy is on the rise, given that both International

Book Giving Day and Read to Your Child Day fall on Feb. 14, a date when most people have romance on their minds. No wonder reading has plummeted from the already-low spot it had previously occupied on the average American's priorities list.

Another worthy cause has chosen Valentine's Day for its annual call for attention, but whoever opted for designating Feb. 14 as National Impotence Day either has an affinity for irony or a mean streak the size of the Grand Canyon.

Unfamiliar with copyright laws? Blame it on the dope who made Jan. 1 Copyright Law Day. And don't expect any dramatic rise in vegetarianism this year, since Independence from Meat Day falls, along with National Hillbilly Day, Jackfruit Day, and Invisible Day, on July 4.

Anyone responsible for promoting a specific cause who willingly chooses the date of a pre-existing national celebration for their annual "Day" clearly has rocks in their head.

Competent publicists, it seems, are rarer than invisible, impotent, breadstick-eating hillbillies who tell knock-knock jokes and trust their doctors. <

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## MEREDA's Forecast Conference highlights Maine's Real Estate Industry

► Submitted by Larry Eliason  
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE



— Larry Eliason  
Butts Commercial Brokers

Nearly 1,000 of Maine's real estate and development professionals gathered at the Holiday Inn By the Bay in Portland on Feb. 27 to learn about the latest trends and outlooks for the development and real estate economy at the Maine Real Estate & Development Association's (MEREDA's) Forecast Conference and Member Showcase.

The Forecast Conference featured a lineup of industry experts – heavy hitters from all corners of the industry. The day kicked off with a presentation from Chris Mallett, EdD, the Chief Administrative Officer at Northeastern University's Roux Institute. His talk was entitled "Partnering for Maine's Next Frontier" and focused on the forces shaping the economy of today and tomorrow in Maine. Mallett spoke about how Maine can continue to be a compelling place for people and business to

move to, outlining the advantages the state has for competing in a global marketplace, as well as Portland's potential for becoming a global tech hub like Seattle or Toronto. With the room full

of real estate professionals, Mallett extolled the audience to think about how to create more professional opportunities for students. He explained that the Roux Institute and other higher ed organizations bring a wealth of diverse talent to the state, but "we need help retaining them." Mallett urged the audience to think about how they can help create more economic opportunities to keep young people here. He then provided an overview of the new Portland campus, an exciting reenvisioning of the historic B&M Beans factory site. He concluded by encouraging more collaboration, saying that when we



work together, "the possibilities are unlimited."

With 86,000 housing units needed in Maine by 2030, Elizabeth Frazier of Pierce Atwood highlighted the legislative roadmap for housing production in

Maine, calling out the need for government processes and capacity to be streamlined. For the upcoming legislative session, she explained that MEREDA will focus on three areas: workforce housing density, historic tax credits, and statutory subdivision review.

James Marple, a Senior Economist from TD Bank provided an economic outlook for 2025.

"It's a difficult time to be an economic forecaster," he began in reference to the current environment of uncertainty. Highlighting how the economy has outperformed expectations in the last two years, Marple

said the recent administration's focus on tariffs and immigration will have an impact on the economy. He predicted that the economy will still grow in the year ahead, but it will likely be slower with some quarterly volatility. On mortgage rates, Marple's expectation was that the Fed will cut rates if we don't see a trade war.

The second afternoon session featured a presentation on Municipal Trends with Mark Adams of Sebago Technics, and Dan Stevenson of the City of Westbrook. Moderated by Gary Vogel, the group examined impediments to development at the municipal level and what some municipalities are doing to support growth.

Adams, whose firm works with many municipalities on about 1,200 projects each year, talked about how staffing shortages and high turnover at the municipal level have impacted the ability to move projects forward. Citing the recent changes in federal funding sources, Stevenson predicted that there will be problems for projects with longer time financing horizons and recommended that

→ see REAL ESTATE Page 36

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## Windham Residents

### TAX PAYMENT REMINDER!

All persons liable to pay Property Taxes in the Town of Windham are notified that the **second installment of taxes will be due Tuesday, April 1, 2025.**

Failure to pay the tax on or before April 1, 2025 will render the tax delinquent, and interest will be charged at the rate of 8.5% per annum from the due date. FMI 207-892-2511

PAYMENT OPTIONS ARE:

- 1.) Mail to Tax Collector, 8 School Rd, Windham, ME 04062 (post marks will be accepted)
- 2.) Make a payment in Town Office: M/W 7-5, Tues 7-6, Th 7-4
- 3.) Use the drop box at the Town Office, available 24/7
- 4.) Online at windhammaine.us under Tax Collection Dept.\*

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Eagle PLEASE NOTE: FOOD AND GAMES FEATURE ALTERNATES WITH MOVIE REVIEW

# FOOD AND GAMES

THE WINDHAM EAGLE'S

## Cooking Corner

By Angela Paris

SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE • JUGGLINGACTMAMA.COM

### Hamburger Potato Casserole

Hamburger Potato Casserole with tender potatoes and a creamy sauce is a hearty meal. This delicious dish makes the perfect cozy weeknight meal. Chances are you already have these basic ingredients in your kitchen which is why it's one of my go-to easy dinner recipes.

Total Prep Time is 20 minutes.  
Total Cook Time is 30 minutes.

#### INGREDIENTS

- 5 small potatoes peeled and thinly sliced
- 1 teaspoon of garlic powder
- 1 small onion diced
- 2 cans of Cream of Potato soup
- 2 pounds of lean ground beef
- 1 1/2 cups of milk
- 2 tablespoons of Worcestershire sauce
- 1 1/2 cups of shredded cheese
- kosher salt and black pepper to taste

#### INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat the oven to 350F.

Lightly spray a 9 x 13 casserole dish with cooking spray. Set aside.

In a large stock pot, boil the potatoes until they are tender when pressed with a fork. Drain and set aside. Cook the diced onions and brown the ground beef in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Season the ground beef mixture.

Drain the excess grease and set aside.

In a large bowl, whisk together the Cream of Potato soup, milk, salt, and pepper.

Into the prepared baking dish, add half of the cooked ground beef mixture, then half the cooked potatoes. Add half of the cheese on top of the potatoes.

Repeat with the remaining ingredients.

Cook at 350F for 30 minutes until the cheese is melted and the casserole is bubbly.

Find the full recipe with variations, tips, and more:  
[www.jugglingactmama.com/hamburger-potato-casserole](http://www.jugglingactmama.com/hamburger-potato-casserole)

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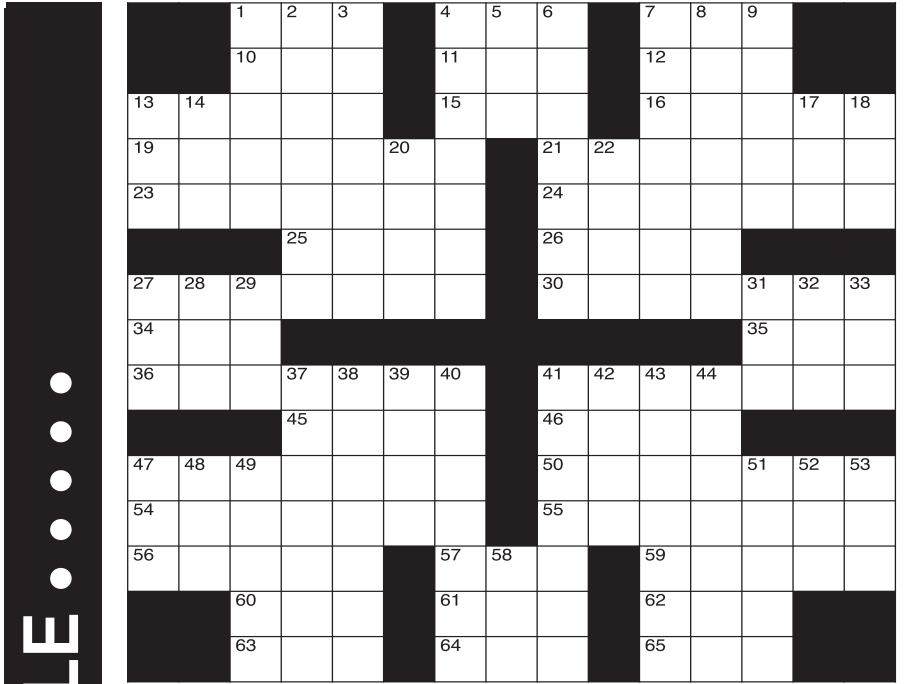
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C	O	H	N	M	A	H	A	N	H	A	R	D	
A	L	A	I	C	R	E	D	O	H	O	B	E	Y
S	L	I	P	F	A	M	E	D	R	I	D	E	
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S	I	L	I	C	O	S	I	S					
A	D	C	S	A	C	M	A	D	H	A	W		
P	A	R	S	E	C	H	A	G	F	A	D	E	
A	R	E	A	S	H	A	S	H	A	N	D	S	
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T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



.....CROSSWORD PUZZLE.....

### CLUES ACROSS

- Power measurement
- Christian hip-hop duo
- Licensed for Wall Street
- Belonging to us
- Anger
- They \_\_
- Ribonuclease
- Former AC/DC singer Scott
- Fate
- Hall of Fame forward
- Omission
- American state
- Not sunrises
- British school
- The boundary of a surface
- Young women
- Sitting
- Canadian cheese
- Aussie TV station

- Resembles rummy
- Baked good
- Gravy is a type of one
- About aviation
- Unit of data size
- Rugged mountain ranges
- With three uneven sides
- Cut or carve
- It can be benign
- One's mother (Brit.)
- Conrad \_\_, American poet
- Midway between northeast and east
- Before
- Originally called
- Former broadcaster Barber
- Not pale
- Not even

### CLUES DOWN

- Surfers need one
- Eskimo dogs
- Bishop
- People of Libya
- In favor of
- Origins
- Ingredients
- Trumpets and trombones
- Large nest
- Baseball stat
- Leavened bread
- Bon \_\_: witty remark
- Belgian municipality
- Reactive structure
- Methaqualone pill (slang)
- Medical practitioner
- Alias
- Someone
- 007's creator

- Martial artists wear one
- Midway between north and northeast
- Edible mollusk
- \_\_ up: quit a substance
- Taiwanese city
- Make an effort
- Fielders
- Restrain
- Herb
- Agonized
- Time zone
- Abandoned European money
- Plays video games
- Hit well in baseball (slang)
- Expresses good wishes
- Congressman (abbr.)
- Small constellation

### HOW TO SOLVE:

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

### LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

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

## SUDOKU

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			4			2	8	
4			7					5





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# BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

With every project it completes, Coastal Construction and Design adds to its reputation for exceptional quality, timeless design, meticulous attention to detail and putting the customer first.

Based in Gorham, Coastal Construction and Design is a full-service construction and design firm offering full General Contractor services for new construction homes or large-scale renovations. It also provides full Interior Design services for larger projects, and it is included in the cost.

“This includes designing all of the furniture that will go into your new home, ordering and installing the furniture for a truly one-stop shop turn-key package,” said Chris and Diana Friedlund, the husband-and-wife team who own and operate Coastal Construction and Design. “We work on new construction, existing family homes, camps, and even historic properties.”

According to Chris, combining construction and design in one company saves customers time and money.

“That makes an enormous difference if a client is looking for a seamless and efficient construction process. It can be emotionally draining when a client is stuck between their builder and their designer,” he said. “Or, in most instances, between their builder and their spouse for example. We cut out that stress. We communicate efficiently, and often since we are under the same roof. We really are a true



## Coastal Construction and Design

‘Maine’ couple that loves building a client’s dream home, and we do it as if it’s our own money. We don’t waste time or money, and we really get invested. We care about the final result from the start right up until the very last day of work.”

He said Coastal Construction and Design is passionate about making high-end style accessible for all.

“We work with you to transform your environment into a comforting, timeless space so you can share it with those you love most,” Chris said.

“Having a custom home builder and designer under one roof keeps the building process efficient and effective. We believe that the best design solutions can only be realized when design and construction go hand in hand. That’s what makes us different.”

Diana says the couple’s ability to bounce ideas off one another and become energized with creativity on ev-



**Diana and Chris Friedlund are the husband and wife team of Coastal Construction and Design.** SUBMITTED PHOTO

ery job they take on creates a worthwhile final result.

“We also strive to have multiple subcontractors on the same page and that makes for smooth projects,” she said.

Best known for large-scale renovations, most Coastal Construction and Design jobs consist of kitchens, bathrooms and mudrooms.

“We focus on high quality specialty features in areas of a home that really wow our clients,” Diana said. “We specialize in problem solving and tackling even the most perplexing layouts. Are you dreaming of a beautifully renovated kitchen or living room that perfectly embodies your style and enhances your everyday living experience? We’re here to give you the home of your dreams, starting with your hardest working rooms.”

As a small company, Coastal Construction and Design can deliver extremely competitive pricing with ex-

ceptional results.

“I am certain our pricing is extremely competitive,” Diana said. “We pride ourselves on encouraging our clients to spend where it matters, and only where it matters. Design features do not have to be pricey. We can get the ‘look for less’ and have a truly magazine-worthy result, with budget-friendly materials like the tile, or the knobs, or sometimes the lighting.”

The couple says that most Maine homeowners can benefit from finding a company that drafts the plans, designs the entire home, builds their home, and then furnishes it, making it more efficient and a less stressful experience.

“That’s where we excel,” Diana said. “We’re not the quickest or the cheapest, but we are honest.”

Chris started his career working for other contractors before deciding to launch his own business in 2014. At the time, Diana was a stay-at-home mom but loved design and helped her husband with ideas on the side all the time.

“So, I asked him ‘why did you put ‘design’ in the name,” she said. “He said it was for me, in the future, when I was ready. Fast forward to 2019 when my daughter started Kindergarten, and I was ready to work full time.”

To learn more about Coastal Construction and Design, call 207-577-1653 or visit [www.coastalconstructionanddesign.com](http://www.coastalconstructionanddesign.com) Find them on Facebook and Instagram. <



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**→ REAL ESTATE** *Cont. from page 33*

municipalities “be careful from this point forward what federal funding you rely on.”

The final group of afternoon sessions included a Financing Trends panel with Steve deCastro of Maine Community Bank, Andrew Silsby of Kennebec Savings Bank, and David Hult of Port 51 Lending. Moderated by Kim Twitchell of NBT Bank. The group discussed the regulatory environment and the impact of the new administration, along with the changing yield curve and how banks review financing requests and talked about how borrowers can educate themselves.

At the end of the day, as MERE-DA members continued to gather in

conversation, it was clear that this is a group that will continue to find ways to work together to develop a responsible and sustainable future for Maine.

*This article was brought to you by Larry Eliason, a Commercial Broker with Butts Commercial Brokers, 1265 Roosevelt Trail, Raymond. He can be reached at 207-415-2112 or by email at LarryEliasonBCB@gmail.com. Visit www.ButtsCommercialBrokers.com <*

If you are a real estate professional or home services business and would like to be a contributing writer for this column, call 207-894-3500 or send an email to: [ed@thewindhameagle.com](mailto:ed@thewindhameagle.com)

**ON CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION C**

# SCAM ALERT

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2. Check the source: If you receive unsolicited cruise offers, investigate the company to verify its legitimacy, ask questions and study the fine print before booking.
3. Pay with a credit card: If you've done your homework and are ready to make the investment, credit cards offer the strongest and most immediate fraud protection.

**Be a fraud fighter!** If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam. Visit the AARP Fraud Watch Network at [www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork](http://www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork) or call 1-877-908-3360.

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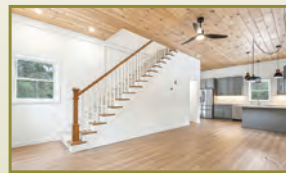
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