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April 11, 2025

TV drama 'Hearts of New England' plans season premiere in Windham

By Ed Pierce

If success is the result of hard work, opportunity and talent, Justin Fortin has all of those and more.

Fortin is the creative mastermind behind "Hearts of New England," a television drama based in Maine and filmed using Windham locations with an all-New England cast. The series is about to debut a third season on Amazon Prime later this year and has drawn rave reviews for its authenticity and depiction of life in the Pine Tree State.

"Hearts of New England" is created, written, and directed by Fortin and he also stars as a soldier who returns to his Maine home after serving in a war, only to become embroiled in a war at home as he learns that his father is deeply connected to the mob. He's also caught in a love triangle between characters played by Caitlynn McCauley and Kris Salvi, and it seems like his quest for peace in his life turns out to be a never-ending war.

Married and the father of five children, Fortin was born in Lewiston and attended high school in Poland. He started acting professionally in 2016 after auditioning and landing a role in the film "Paper City Burnout." In 2018, Fortin came up with the idea to create



Cast members of the television series 'Hearts of New England' gather after filming a scene for the show at Windham Billiards on April 6. The third season of the series, which is based in Maine and features local actors, will premiere with a mob scene at Windham a special 'Meet the Cast' party at Smitty's Cinema in Windham this summer. Billiards," Fortin said. "We SUBMITTED PHOTO

"Hearts of New England" produced by his company Maine Event Films. He has also appeared in leading roles in several other films and has directed a vampire film called "My Co-Worker is

When not filming "Hearts of New England," Fortin works as the Assistant Director for Shaw's Supermarket in Windham and formerly worked for the Windham Walmart as a manager. "We film in Windham all the time.

Local businesses here in Windham have been very good to us," Fortin said. "Filming here honestly feels like returning home. I have lots of friends here between the Walmart in Windham that I previously worked for, and the Windham Shaw's I currently work for."

Those familiar Windham and throughout the Lakes Region will recognize many locations used in the television series. Previous seasons included filming at sites around Sebago Lake including at beaches in both Windham and Raymond, and a scene at the Windham Barber Shop on Roosevelt

"Most recently we filmed also filmed a scene at the

Pats Pizza in Windham that will be airing in the Season 3 premiere episode."

Many of the actors appearing on "Hearts of New England" are ones who've done theater and community → see **SERIES** Page 4

PowerServe 2025 a lasting community tribute

By Ed Pierce

Perhaps our greatest legacy in life is what people remember about us and do in our memory when we're gone. For Shane Donnelly, his legacy is one of love for his community and the inspiration for an annual event that continues to help neighbors and the town years after his death.

Shane Donnelly was just 16 and a sophomore at Windham High School when he passed away unexpectedly in May 2015. His family says that he cared deeply about his community and to show their love for him, his family helped organize the first PowerServe in 2016, an event where volunteers served area organizations and individuals who needed assistance by performing various tasks ranging from painting to yard work to household repairs and major projects benefiting the town.

The first PowerServe was supposed to be a one-time event in Shane's memory but following an outpouring of volunteers willing to donate their time to help, it evolved into an annual event growing to include hundreds of volunteers and dozens of projects each year.

"Since that time, we have done hundreds of service projects for the community and residents in need with the help of over 150 volunteers each year on our PowerServe day," said Shane's mother Kim Donnelly.

This year the PowerServe event will be held on Saturday, April 26.

"For this year, we have 160 volunteers signed up so far and 34 projects scheduled to work on," Kim Donnelly said. "We are looking for more volunteers to meet the need. The day is truly about students and adults in our community giving back to help those here in Windham while serving together."

PowerServe brings Windham students, coaches, educators, business leaders and residents from all walks of life together to help neighbors, friends and family in Windham on this one day of giving back to our community and those in need who live here.

The volunteers are organized into teams that go out from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to work together doing projects to help residents and organizations in the community.

"Everyone meets back to share stories at the free barbecue at the Windham Historical Society grounds," Kim Donnelly said. "This gives everyone time to share their experiences. It is a great opportunity to come together to help their neighbors and to meet new people from all ages and walks of life



Student volunteers work on a project at the 302 Rotary during a previous PowerServe in Windham. The 2025 PowerServe is being held Saturday, April 26 with volunteers helping local organizations and individuals who need assistance by performing various tasks. COURTESY PHOTO

here in Windham."

According to his mother, Shane loved the peace and beauty of the outdoors. She said he was a good student, a gifted athlete, a kind young man and a loving son.

"When he passed away unexpectedly at the age of 16, it was not only a shock to our family, but to the community and students at school," Kim Donnelly said. "Nothing can fill the

void from Shane's passing. However, being able to materially see the impact that this event has had on the students, individuals and our larger community does help to feel that he left his mark on this world. Having past classmates of Shane's and current students come back to Windham to support one another and our neighbors is so heartwarming. The projects that we do mean that our volunteers are working outside together to do good. It's wonderful to see these students volunteer alongside local business teams, church members, teachers, friends, and families. It truly shows that Windham residents support one another."

For 2025, PowerServe has 34 projects lined up at this time, the most since it started in 2016. For the larger Windham community, this year volunteers will be doing work at Dundee Park, moving the performance pavilion, building a stage and an overall spring clean-up. They will also build bridges and perform a trail clean-up at Black Brook Preserve.

Past projects performed by PowerServe volunteers include work on the community basketball courts/

→ see **SERVE** Page 10

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Gone but not forgotten

Not long ago, I wrote about people who unexpectedly re-entered being a part of my life after a prolonged absence and that got me to thinking. What about those people who unexpectedly left being part of my life and never returned?

In some of these situations, I probably will never find the answers about what happened to them as too much time has passed and despite being resourceful, I'm afraid I will never know.

Airman First Class James Smith served with me in the U.S. Air Force in Germany from 1977 to 1979. He was without a doubt the wittiest and funniest individual I've ever known. "Smitty" as we called him was from Los Angeles, and was a radio operator for our unit. From the first time that I met him, I liked him, and he made me laugh heartily. His humor wasn't the type that made fun of other people's looks, appearances or physical traits, instead he found laughter in everyday situations.

He was adept at pointing out humorous aspects of daily life and as many of us, including me, had recently completed Air Force Basic Training in Texas, and he often found humor in the lingo or expressions used by Air Force Training Instructors at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas.

Almost 50 years later, I can remember "Smitty" telling me a story about learning to march in formation with his fellow recruits during basic training. When he missed a step, "Smitty" caught the attention of the Training Instructor. He said

> he told the instructor "I'm sorry." The Training Instructor then growled at him saying "I know you're sorry. That's why I'm screaming at you!"

> "Smitty" made everyone laugh, from the unit commander to the lowliest airman, and he uplifted us all during a time when we were far from home and needed something to smile about.

> On the day he was departing back to the United States as his tour in Germany was up, he stopped by my office in his dress blue uniform and shook my hand for the final time. He told me that he needed to go back to the radio operator's trailer for a second because he had left something there that he wanted to take on the plane with him. While in the radio trailer, another radio operator grabbed a fire extinguisher and sprayed it over his dress uniform as a joke.

> The last time I ever saw "Smitty" he was frantically brushing white fire retardant off his uniform before catching his flight home. I never saw him again after that incident in October 1979 and I left Germany myself for an assignment at The Pentagon in Washington, D.C. the very next month.

> I've tried looking for "Smitty" as best I could, but James Smith is one of the most common names in America and it's like searching for a needle in a haystack.

> Rick Walsh was in my first- and second-grade classes at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School in Brighton, New York in 1959 and 1960. He was quiet and reserved but a good student and his desk was across the aisle from me. We both liked reading comic books and playing kickball. Rick also happened to be the first kid I knew who had a crew cut with his head shaved except for a small tuft remaining in the front of his scalp.

> He always took a place in front of me in line when we were going to the school library, outside for recess, or to the school lunchroom. We both brought our lunches every day from home and sat together every day during lunchtime.

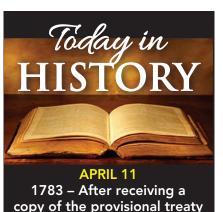
> We were each advanced readers and in third grade in 1961, Rick and I were both reading Hardy Boys mystery books. When I finished one, I'd pass it on to him to read. After each of us finished a book, we would sit in my garage and discuss it and talk about who should play the part on television. Walt Disney had made some of the first Hardy Boys books into a serial presentation for TV's "Mickey Mouse Club" in the 1950s but had stopped doing that by the time we were in third grade.

> I would tell him that I thought Paul Petersen, the young actor from "The Donna Reed Show" should portray Frank Hardy if they ever made a new "Hardy Boys" series. Rick disagreed, saying it should be Tim Considine from "My Three Sons," who had played the role in Disney's 1950s adaptation.

> One day in January 1962, our third-grade teacher, Mrs. Wahl, told our class that Rick had suffered a severe diabetic attack and that he was in the hospital. The class all made Get Well cards for Rick, and I was elected to take them to his bed-

> > side at the hospital. My father drove me there and we found Rick was in bad shape. Rick's father said that he would not be able to return to school and that he would require insulin injections for the rest of his life.

I never saw Rick again and to this day, I don't know what became of him. We lost touch, but he's not forgotten. < ~ *Ed Pierce*



copy of the provisional treaty on March 13, the U.S. Congress proclaims a formal end to the Revolutionary War with Great Britain.

1921 – The first live sports event on radio airs on KDKA radio in Pittsburgh and is coverage of a boxing match between Johnny Ray and Johnny Dundee.

1945 - During World War II, American soldiers liberate the Nazi concentration camp of Buchenwald in Germany.

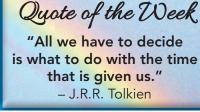
1947 – Jackie Robinson of the Brooklyn Dodgers becomes the first black player in Major League Baseball.

1948 – The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in Israel is announced.

1970 – The Apollo 13 spacecraft blasts off on a mission to the moon that is disrupted when an explosion cripples the spacecraft.

1980 – The U.S. Equal **Employment Opportunity** Commission issues regulations specifically prohibiting sexual harassment of workers by supervisors.

Inspirational Quote of the Week "All we have to decide is what to do with the time





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What meal are you most confident cooking?

"Chicken Françoise or a good steak." - William D. Reiner

"Grilled Ham, Cheese, and Pepperoni sandwich on sourdough bread! Extent of my cooking." – Pamela Brown

"Fried rice with stir fry veggies and sliced pineapple teriyaki favored sausage."

Tommy Matthews

"Macaroni and cheese." - Cheryl L. Page

"Chicken pot pie!" – Stacy Theriault Davis

"Spaghetti with chicken thighs." – Deirdre Schulte

"Grilled lamb chops with sauerkraut, pickled pears, sweet potatoes, asparagus and a tossed salad." – Dean Smalley

"Shrimp Scampi with linguini." Chris Macklin

"Chicken Tortellini or Ham and Potato Soup. I've been cooking them both for 55 years and have the recipes memorized by heart." - Anne Glotchshuk

"Turkey chili, lasagna, chicken fajitas or pot pies." Mia Potenzio-Ransey

"Cucumber soup and grilled cheese sandwiches." – Louise V. Snider

"Beef and Broccoli Stir Fry." – Isabella Mongon

"Tabbouleh salad with parsley and curry or in a pinch, my oven-roasted Greek potatoes. I love making them." – Lois Fuller

"Crispy Parmesan Chicken with Lemon Pasta ranks right up there among my favorites. Second would be Peach Pepper Wings." – Jerry Greene

"My family knows that I'm at my best when I'm making sliders, be it of the Cuban, Meatball, or Ham and Swiss kind. I also am pretty good at making baked spaghetti too." - Audrey Marmol

"Mexican meals are my specialty, especially tacos and enchiladas." – Jude Orestes-Sanchez

"Apple Pie, Blueberry Cobbler, **Chocolate Chip Cookies** and cornbread muffins.

Sarah Singer-Miller



Area student exhibits photography at Windham Library

By Masha Yurkevich

STAFF WRITER

The interest in photography for Matteo Sandora, a Windham High School senior, began during the COVID pandemic.

"On social media, I saw how people used their phones for beautiful photography and thought I would give it a try," said Sandora. "We have a trail behind our house, and I decided to talk a walk and snap some photos with my phone."

From there, his interest in photography has grown into a passion and has given him the opportunity to display his work at the Windham Public Library, which can be seen on the second floor throughout the month of April. He is selling his photography at the library and all funds will be going towards Sandora's photographic uses.

At WHS, Sandora found a photography class, led by Alissa James, who taught Sandora how to use a camera and many other tips and tricks, elevating his photography.

"I have known Matteo since he started at the high school during the fall of 2021 when he took my photography class," said James. "One of the first things I noticed about Matteo was his excitement about photogra-



An exhibit of photographs taken by WHS student Matteo Sandora is now on display at the Windham Public Library. He plans to become a professional photographer as a career after graduation. PHOTO BY ALISSA JAMES

phy. He immediately took to the art form. He was unique as a student because of how much he enjoyed practicing photography outside of the classroom. He began checking out the equipment I have available for students - Digital SLR Camera and tripods – and really took what he was learning in class to a place of personal interest and fulfillment. As a teacher, I strive to help students see and celebrate the areas of their learning and life, where they feel successful. I have continued providing Matteo guidance on his photography throughout his time as a student."

Through an Extended Learning Opportunity working with Lorraine Glowczak at WHS, Sandora had the chance to display his photography at the Windham Public Library. Glowczak helped organize the plan, reaching out to the library and requesting an exhibit of Sandora's photographs.

"This year, Matteo began an ELO to investigate the profession of being a photographer,"

James. "I have worked closely with

Lorraine Glowczak to create a professional experience for Matteo; finalizing, printing, framing and pricing an art show, as well as learning to correspond with likely display locations, is a necessary step on the journey to being a professional artist and I really wanted Matteo to gain that experience before he graduates."

Sandora prefers to photograph nature and cars and chose some of his best nature photography for his public display. For the exhibition, he decided to show black and white photos and eight colored photos, which he then color-coordinated with each

All of Sandora's displayed photos were captured locally in the beautiful

> see **PHOTOS** Page 11

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SERIES Cont. from page 1

plays before and over the years, the cast has grown from six speaking roles in the first season to dozens now.

"But in filming year-round as we do for this series, a lot of people have jobs and it's tough to get them during the week," Fortin said. "We try to film whenever we can and accommodate their schedules."

He says the third season of the series will bring in some new additions to the cast who will be helpful to the show.

"Recently I recruited one of the most talented actresses that I know from New Hampshire, KJ Traynor. I also recruited three women to play detectives in Caral Rose Dubois, Kayla Fanum, and Megan Salisbury, as well as adding actors Adam Griswold and Corey Wells and expanding David Wells' role as Mickey. They all bring something special to the team," Fortin said.

According to Fortin, the "Hearts of New England" series has been very popular with Maine viewers since its inception, originally airing on Great Falls TV on YouTube, and now has found a nationwide audience when it was selected to air on Amazon Prime in 2023.

"I'm glad we are still standing, especially after COVID," Fortin said. "A lot of productions fell apart during that time, but I refused, and we managed to make it happen. I would have never thought the show would win over 160 awards or that I would be a 91-time award-winning filmmaker. It's very rewarding to see the progression of starting with five people to now working with close to 200 people. There is nothing more rewarding than watching the progress from Season 1 to Season 3 because there is so much more experience now from when we started, making it much better."

A total of five seasons of 10 episodes each are planned for "Hearts of New England."

The length of time required to complete an episode of the series depends on several factors.

"It varies on how complex the scene is because we don't film in episode order, we film based on the people and location we have on said days," Fortin said. "Technical stuff has gotten a lot better. Especially with the addition of Christopher Fyfe. He is a genius, and the show transformed night and day with his expertise. Filming in Maine is good because most businesses are very supportive, especially right here in Windham. The biggest thing that can be problematic in Maine is the weather. It can be nice out, and then it snows but we've worked around that pretty well."

Friends, family and coworkers are very supportive of the show, Fortin said

"It's funny because they often say they can barely recognize my character. My persona in the show is very different from the real me," he said. "This series has a very good following in New England. I always wanted to act and started as a kid doing skits with my best friend Joshua Harris, but I got my first real opportunity in a movie called 'Paper City Burnout' and since then I've been grinding. Filming is my happy place. None of which could be done without my amazing behind the scenes team of Christopher Fyfe and Stephen Conicelli."

Maine Event Films has booked Smitty's Cinema to debut the Season 3 premiere episode on the evening of July 19. The show will start at 7 p.m. and cast members will be on hand at 6 p.m. to meet the public and fans. It is open to the public, and tickets are currently on sale on Eventbrite. Tickets can also be purchased on the Maine Event Films Facebook page.

"The public should attend to support all New England especially considering 80 percent of our cast is Maine talent," Fortin said. "They will see people they know and businesses they've been to or restaurants that they've eaten at. It's a good way to support the arts and meet a lot of local talent. The show is on the rise and in the future, you will want to say you attended this premiere and got to meet all these talented people." <





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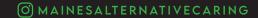
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The Windham Eagle Page 5

Nangle bills aim to protect Maine consumers

Two recent bills introduced by State Senator Tim Nangle, D-Windham, look to protect consumers and discourage predatory practices by out-of-state corporations.

In late March, Nangle introduced legislation to protect Maine consumers from hidden fees and ensure transparent pricing when booking short-term lodging or purchasing live event tickets.

His bill LD 992, "An Act to Protect Consumers from Hidden Fees and Ensure Transparent Pricing for Live Event Tickets and Short-term Lodging," received a public hearing in the Legislature's Housing and Economic Development Committee.

"Too often, what starts as a seemingly fair price ends as a frustrating surprise," Nangle said. "A \$100 advertised room becomes \$160 by the time you reach the final screen. A \$50 ticket jumps to \$75 – not because the product changed but because the price wasn't honest to begin with. This bill is about restoring trust. It's about fairness, plain and simple. Mainers work hard for their money. They deserve straight answers, not fine print and hidden fees."

The LD 992 legislation would require that the full cost, including any

\$5.00 for Tattered **United States Flag** when purchasing new U.S. Flag 3'x5' or larger. MAINE FLAG & BANNER 824 Roosevelt Tr., Windham, 893-0339

mandatory fees, be clearly disclosed whenever a price is advertised or displayed. It applies to two rapidly growing sectors where deceptive fees are particularly common: short-term rentals and live event ticketing. The bill empowers the Attorney General to enforce the new standards and allows consumers to take legal action if they're harmed by noncompliance.

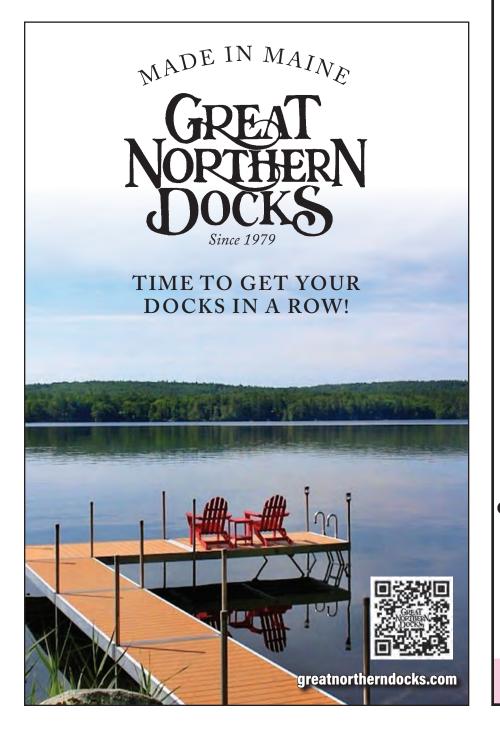
While the Federal Trade Commission has finalized a similar national rule, Nangle said during the bill's public hearing that LD 992 reflects Maine's core value of fairness and creates a state-level standard that is resilient against future federal policy

It now faces further action in committee.

Nangle also introduced legislation earlier this month to protect residents of mobile home parks from predatory practices by out-of-state corporate investors and ensure fair treatment during park sales or landuse changes.

His bill LD 1145, "An Act to





Protect Residents Living in Mobile Home Parks," received a public hearing before the Legislature's Housing and Economic Development Com-

"For many Mainers, mobile home parks are critical sources of affordable, stable housing," Nangle said. "Too often, private equity firms swoop in solely for profit, drastically raising rents and destabilizing communities. This bill ensures residents are treated fairly and have a meaningful opportunity to preserve their homes and communities — it's a step toward a Maine where stability, dignity and community well-being are valued over corporate profit."

The LD 1145 bill addresses key issues faced by residents of mobile home parks by:

**Requiring mobile park owners to provide written notice to residents when they intend to sell.

**Extending the waiting period

CLOTHES

→ see BILLS Page 24



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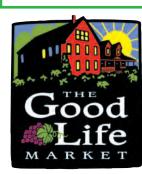
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Director of RSU 14 School Nutrition positively impacts student health and lives

By Ed Pierce

It's no secret that good nutrition creates improved health in all areas of our existence and all parts are interconnected. It's a philosophy that Jeanne Reilly has taken to heart.

Reilly serves as RSU 14's Director of School Nutrition and her duties are crucial to student success and overall well-being.

She plans school breakfast and lunch menus in compliance with all state and federal regulations for RSU 14 and provides oversight over all aspects of the district's school nutrition program. Reilly ensures compliance, manages RSU 14's procurement of food and supplies, staffs school kitchens, trains kitchen staff, manages the district's school nutrition budget and markets the school meals program.

"The best part of the job is ensuring that all children in RSU 14 have access to healthy and delicious breakfast and lunch every school day," Reilly said. "Hungry kids can't learn, but because Maine has Healthy School Meals for All legislation, we have the opportunity to fuel every child for success. We love that we are not only feeding students breakfast and lunch but that we also have opportunities to use the 'Cafeteria as a Classroom' teaching kids lessons about cooking, healthy eating, farm to school and nutrition."

Starting her job during the 2009 school year, Reilly's position was originally shared between Westbrook Windham, but in 2012, she became a full-time employee of RSU 14.

According to Reilly, the most challenging part of her duties is to keep RSU 14 school kitchens fully staffed at all times.

school meals haven't every month. SUBMITTED PHOTO changed over the years.

"In fact, we are preparing nearly 70 percent of our menu items from scratch, offering students choices, fresh fruits and vegetables and Maine milk," she said. "We are focused on partnering with local farmers and producers to bring local food to school meals, and we have a fulltime chef on staff to support our team in creating fresh and delicious menu options that are in compliance with federal school nutrition guidelines."

The other thing that has changed



Director of School Nutrition in today's economy, In looking at her Jeanne Reilly has been a fullwork, Reilly said time employee of RSU 14 since she thinks the $\mathrm{big}\text{-}$ 2012 and oversees school gest misconception kitchens in Windham and ey." people may have Raymond which serve 65,000 about her role is that breakfasts and 78,000 lunches New Jersey, Reil-

> when she was in middle school. She earned a degree in Dietetics from Southern Maine Community College and then another in Food Systems Management from the University of New Hampshire. She's been working in the food service industry for her entire life, serving with the Women Infants and Children program, hospital dietetics departments, and in longterm care as a Director of Food and Nutrition. She began her career working for schools in Westbrook and her

> passion for nutrition expanded in her

in the last few years job with RSU 14. is that all students

can get breakfast and

lunch at school at no

reduced the stigma

ated with school

meals," she said.

"Now, it is not un-

common for almost

every child in the

school to be eating

a school lunch. And

why not? School

meals can save fam-

ilies time and mon-

ly moved to Maine

Growing up in

"This has greatly

associ-

cost," Reilly said.

previously

One thing that the public may not know about her job as RSU 14 Director of School Nutrition is that the school district serves between 65,000 and 78,000 meals, total breakfasts and lunches, each month depending on how many school days they are in session.

It's difficult for Reilly to pinpoint one moment that stands out from all the rest in her career with RSU 14.

"The best moments are when I hear from students and families about how the school meals that we serve have positively impacted their lives," she said. "Parents often ask us for the recipes that we make because their child loves the (fill in the blank) that we serve at school, and they would like to recreate the same menu item at home. Often, parents comment that their child tried something for the first time as part of school lunch and now they love it. I recently had the pleasure of meeting with a young professional who is a Food Corp Member working in Westbrook. This young woman attended Windham Primary School the first few years we celebrated National Nutrition Month by Eating Our Way Through The Alphabet - Fruits and Vegetables A - Z. She remembered trying both kiwi and jicama for the very first time and loving them. Hearing her reminisce on how it impacted her life really helped our team feel that all of the hard work is worthwhile." <

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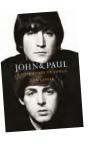
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'Evening of Global Jazz' coming to Hawthorne House

By Kaysa Jalbert

Spotlighting its new role as a community and cultural arts center for the Sebago Lake area, Nathaniel Hawthorne's Boyhood Home at 40 Hawthorne Road in Raymond will showcase an "Evening of Global Jazz" with the McCoy Mrubata/Gary Wittner Duo at 7 p.m. Friday, April 18.

South African saxophonist/composer McCoy Mrubata and his friend, guitarist Gary Wittner, have been performing together since 2006. Mrubata is a recent recipient of the South African Music Association's Lifetime Achievement Award and the Kennedy Center International Arts Gold

> Medal. He was a member of the legendary Hugh Masekela's band in the 1990s and has released more than 20 albums that combine jazz and elements of traditional South African music.

> Gary Wittner has performed on continents, representing the U.S. as a Kennedy Center Jazz Ambassador, a Ful-

with numerous jazz luminaries and has released seven albums as well as the popular book Thelonious Monk for Guitar. He is a music faculty member at the University of Southern Maine School of Music and at Bowdoin College.

Admission is \$25 per person, pay-

bright Specialist, and a US Embassy

Outreach Artist. He has performed

able at the door in cash or with a check payable to "Hawthorne Community Association." Space is limited to 50 people, so the Hawthorne House strongly suggests that the public RSVP at info@hawthorneassoc.com or by calling Becky at 207-329-0537.

For more details, please visit www. hawthorneassoc.com or send an email to info@hawthorneassoc.com. <



'An Evening of Global Jazz' featuring the McCoy $\,_{\rm five}$ Mrubata/Gary Wittner Duo will be performed at the Hawthorne House, 40 Hawthorne Road in Raymond at 7 p.m. Friday, April 18 and tickets are now on sale for the event. COURTESY PHOTO

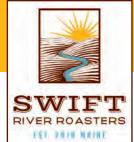






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Fundraiser Dinner

Jordan-Small Middle School eighth graders are holding a Pasta Fundraiser Dinner from 5:30 to 7:30 Friday, April 11 at JSMS 423 Webbs Mills Road in Raymond. The menu includes two pasta choices, Caesar salad, bread, dessert and drinks. Cost is \$10 for ages 13 and up, and \$8 for kids 12 and under, under 4 eat for free. Proceeds support the JSMS eighth-grade field trip and grad activities. FMI, call 207-655-4743.

Drive-Through Food Pantry

Windham Food Pantry, 377 Gray

Road, is conducting a drive-through food pantry event from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 16 ahead of Easter. Residents in need can pick up monthly food baskets that day. To sign up or FMI call 207-892-1931.

Blood Drive

American Legion Field-Allen Post 1148 is conducting a blood drive for the American Red Cross from noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 16 at the Windham Veterans Center, 35 Veterans Memorial Drive. To make an appt. to donate blood, call 1-800-RED-CROSS or go to www.redcrossblood.org



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Editor,

Hi, my name is Ella, and I am in sixth grade. For my project, I want to talk to you about our water pollution and how all Mainers need to keep the water clean. I want people to hear about this problem.

Clean drinking water is something many Mainers need to think about. Do we really want unhealthy water? Many people need healthy water! I want to say to everyone in Maine to use best management practices.

Rain barrels, pervious pavement, paths and walkways, vegetated buffers, rain gardens, and erosion control are all tools we should use to protect our water. We want to stop feces, salt and sand, litter, oil, pesticides, herbicides, and so much more from getting into our water. I think everyone in Maine should use these practices. We want to have clean water for drinking and cleaning and so much more!

And to the people of Maine, I say everyone should know about the best management practices to keep our community safe and healthy. I am signing off by saying do your part in our water community to help our ecosystem. You may think what is in it for me? I guarantee it will help you be a better water protector of Maine.

~ Ella Jacobson, Raymond





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The Windham Eagle Page 9

Windham PTA supports school culture through fundraisers

By Elle Curtis
STAFF WRITER

The Windham PTA continues to strive to create an environment where students can thrive, with a goal of enhancing the educational experience for all students. Through the PTA, connections can be built among families, teachers, and local businesses leading to community engagement.

Throughout the year, Windham PTA members organize a variety of fundraisers and community events such as Spirit Nights and events with the Maine Mariners professional hockey team. Community events include the Family Fun and Fitness Festival and the Windham Primary School Fall Festival.

They focus on building a strong relationship between families and schools, offering programs and events that encourage parent involvement and community engagement.

"These events create opportunities for everyone to engage in the school community, whether it's through family-friendly activities, learning about future career paths, or simply enjoying time together. By working together to organize and participate in these events, we strengthen the bond between the schools and the community, showing how vital it is to support our students and their education," said Windham PTA President, Tiffany Sinclair.

Exciting events like Glow Night and the K-8 Career Fair provide opportunities for students to explore potential ca-



Members of the Windham Parent Teacher Assoc. work the concessions stand at a recent Maine Mainers hockey game as a fundraiser for the organization. SUBMITTED PHOTO

reers and build connections with local professionals.

Funds raised at these events play an instrumental role in supporting our schools, Sinclair said. Funds go toward purchasing classroom supplies, providing educational resources, and funding extracurricular programs in addition to providing enriching opportunities for students to grow both academically and personally in a dynamic and supportive learning environment.

Windham PTA aims to create an environment where every student excels, and they work to provide teachers and staff with the resources they need to succeed.

"We've been working hard to revitalize our efforts post-COVID and ensure we remain visible in the community. However, continued involvement from parents and community members is essential to ensure that every student has the opportunity to reach their full potential," said Sinclair.

Strong participation goes toward ensuring students have the support they need when striving to reach their full potential, she said.

"The PTA is powered by volunteers, and the more people we have involved, the more we can do for our schools and students," Sinclair said. "When community members volunteer, they not only contribute to the success of the PTA but also help create a more vibrant, supportive school culture. Volunteering is a great way to connect with other parents, teachers, and staff, while also showing our students the importance of giving back."

Volunteer support assists Windham PTA in providing grants to classrooms, teams, specialists, and grade levels to help support their needs. It additionally goes toward extracurricular activities and awards two \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors looking to further their education. Staff Appreciation Days and conference dinners are

organized as well for teachers across all schools by Windham PTA, helping to recognize and support local educators. Sinclair says more than 2,700 students and 400 staff members are impacted by these efforts.

FMI visit www.windhammainepta. org or check their Facebook page. <

IN MEMORY OF STEPHEN MCKENNEY



who was suddenly and tragically taken from us on April 12, 2014 Not a day goes by that you are not in our thoughts and prayers.

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Joseph Andrew Martin, 61



WINDHAM - Joseph Andrew Martin, 61, of Windham, ME, passed away peacefully at his home on April 2, 2025, after a brief illness.

Joe was born in Worcester, MA on July 6th, 1963 and was a graduate of Bartlett High and Central New England College. He grew up on Webster Lake and loved fishing and golfing. He worked for ZaJac LLC for 31 years as the Director of Packaging. Joe made a big impact in the recovery community and was proud of the work and connections he made along the way.

Joe is survived by his wife of 34 years, Grace Martin, and their sons, Mike Moore (and wife Jill Sinagra Moore), and Matthew Martin (and fiancee Kayci Mero), and daughter Tricia Lesniewski (and husband Ian Lesniewski). He is also survived by his four loving sisters, Denise Powiliatis (and husband Gerry Powiliatis), Terry Gingras (and husband Tom Gingras), Kathy Nelson, and Debbie Lucier (and husband Jonathan Lucier). Joe leaves behind six grandchildren and several beloved nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his father, Leo Martin, mother Patricia Martin, and brother Michael Martin.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, April 12, 2025 at 2p.m. at Cornerstone Church, 48 Cottage Road., Windham, ME.

Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Cornerstone Church http://cornerstoneme.org

PATRICIA "PATTY" SAUNDERS December 29, 1949 – March 19, 2025



Patricia "Patty" (Kelley) Saunders, age 75, passed away peacefully at her home in Crystal River, FL in the early morning hours of March 19, 2025, following a brief struggle with metastatic breast cancer. In her final months, it was both a joy and a blessing for her sons, grandchildren, and siblings to surround and provide hands-on care for her, in what may have been the most meaningful and prayerful experience of their lives.

Patty was born to Richard and Alice (Blackburn) Kelley on December 29, 1949 in Portland, ME, the

4th of 8 children. She raised her family in Windham on Sebago Lake and was beloved by her family and many lifelong friends.

Festive holiday celebrations and decorations were a large source of joy for her throughout her life. For decades, the Saunders/Kelley clan gathered for bountiful feasts at Patty's home. Her welcoming heart was always open to the 'widows and orphans' among us, and the Saunders' home often felt like a Bed & Breakfast to friends from far and wide. She was an administrative assistant at St. Joseph's College of Windham, ME and at Spurwink (a nonprofit special education school) in Casco, ME. Much of her life was spent volunteering with various social and religious organizations. She spent a year living abroad in Harrogate, England with her family and made many wonderful friends and memories, including family time traveling in a Narrowboat on England's rivers and canals as well as a trip across the Channel to France and Germany. She loved to read and listen to Christian music. As time went on she developed a joy in gardening. More than two years ago, she moved to warm Crystal River, FL near one of her sisters; where she became an active member of the Meadowcrest community, and her love of manatees grew by the day through her volunteer work. She found joy in the beautiful relationships she created.

Patty's passing is sadly mourned by all her loving family and friends.

Patty was predeceased by her parents, her sister Margaret (Kelley) Pizzo, and brother Joseph Kelley. Patty is survived by: 3 loving sons Paul Saunders of Harpswell, Joshua (and wife Kristen) Saunders of Otisfield, and Michael Saunders of Windham; 4 beautiful grandchildren: McKenzie Saunders of Leicester, MA, Gabriel Saunders of Olney, MD, and Ruby & Emberlynn Saunders of Windham; siblings Carol (Kelley) Westmoreland, Richard (and wife Sharon) Kelley, Edward (and wife Karen) Kelley, Michael (and wife Laurie) Kelley, Elizabeth "Buffy" (and husband Don) DeMatteis, sister-in-law Alice (Tanous) Kelley, and many adoring nieces and nephews.

A small gathering was held in Crystal River for her neighborhood friends.

There will be a graveside service at the Kelley Family plot at Calvary Cemetery in So. Portland, ME on July 18th at 11:00 AM, with a Celebration of Patty's life following.



skate park, building conduits for the 302 Rotary holiday lights, at the Historical Society Community Gardens, on RSU 14's Cross Country trails, at Manchester School and plantings at WHS.

"The majority of our projects are for

Windham residents who are in need of spring clean-ups, outside light stain or painting, spring plantings and mulch, power washing, and more," Kim Donnelly said. "These are people with disabilities, sickness, who are elderly, an educator or public servant that we want to show our thanks for or just

don't have the help and support needed to take care of these projects around their homes. Each year we go out to the town, community, and local businesses requesting nominations for projects for Windham residents to help with."

As a lifelong volunteer, and Shane's mother, Kim Donnelly said that in volunteering, you come to understand that simple actions can have a big impact.

'The old adage 'it is better to give than receive' or 'the more you give, the more you get,' holds true," she said. "There are many opportunities to volunteer in Maine. PowerServe gives us as Windham residents the opportunity to give back to our own neighbors in need, alongside other Windham residents of all ages. Of course, for me and my family, this is an act of love in memory of Shane, who is remembered by students, teachers, coaches, friends and family for being a kind, loving young man who was accepting of all."

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"Volunteering offers invaluable life lessons, a sense of purpose and gratitude for our own life," Kim Donnelly said. "For our youth, it may take you outside of your comfort zone, but it can develop leadership, communication skills, confidence, and new relationships. This event was originally created in memory of one of our community's young people. Its success is driven by student involvement in the Planning Committee, outreach to the high school teams and student groups and ultimately the pride our youth feel giving back to their community the day of the event. I would be remiss in not thanking those community members who continue to volunteer year after year. It gives you an amazing feeling of giving back to the community and those around us. You will also meet some wonderful people in your community who are volunteering alongside you." <

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We welcome online submissions via the committee application found at www.windhammaine.us/376/Committee-Vacancies.

A printable PDF form is also available on this page. Please call our office at 892-1907 if your preference is to have an application faxed, e-mailed, or mailed to you.

APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED ONLINE OR IN THE TOWN MANAGER'S OFFICE UNTIL ALL POSITIONS ARE FILLED.

Forms should be submitted to the Town Manager's Office at 8 School Road or by email to: tahodgman@windhammaine.us.



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The Windham Eagle Page 11

PHOTOS Cont. from page 3

state of Maine.

"If someone would have told me at the beginning of my senior year that I would be having my photography displayed at the Public Library, I would have thought that you are crazy," said Sandora. "Having this opportunity is absolutely amazing; I post a lot on social media, but I think it is much cooler to have your work displayed in a real setting."

For Sandora, photography is very therapeutic. He often goes for a walk on a trail, taking photos along the way.

"If I am not feeling too well mentally, I will grab my camera and go for a walk to calm myself down," he said.

Sandora considers art a very important part of his life.

"Through photos, you can show many different types of emotions without having to speak to someone," he said. "You can convey so much emotion through art that you cannot necessarily convey through words."

He hopes to pursue photography later in life, turning it from a hobby into a career. He would like to get into street photography and automotive photography.

"A dream of mine is to work for National Geographic,' said Sandora.

After his Windham Public Library



Sandora captured this photo of a black-capped chickadee bird while on a walk in Windham. This is one of the several images on display at the Windham Public Library now.

exhibition, Sandora hopes to do more art shows in local shops, hoping to sell his work and be able to improve his equipment, enhancing his photography.

Sandora's work can be found on Instagram at doggosgg.media and can also be viewed on Facebook at Matteo Sandora. <

Nell Dugan



School: Raymond Elementary School Grade: Second Teacher: Mrs. Childs

Parents' names: Dakotah Dugan and Michael Dugan Favorite subject or activity in school: Nell says that her favorite subject is Math because "I love to learn new things! Number lines, three-digit addition and subtraction, everything that I'm learning that's new."

Reason for selection: Nell is the perfect combination of kind, graceful, smart, and curious. She is a true leader

in our classroom and has a great sense of humor. She is helpful to all her classmates and teachers. She always comes to school excited for whatever the day brings and ready to learn. Nell is always willing to try new things with a growth mindset. Keep shining bright, Nell!

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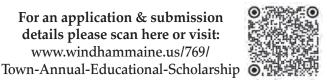


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This scholarship would support someone pursuing education at a university/college, 2-year college/technical school, or a trade school.

All applicants must submit a completed application including a high school transcript, and a one-page document indicating your future educational and career objectives and why you feel you deserve this scholarship.

For an application & submission details please scan here or visit: www.windhammaine.us/769/



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Car Care Guide

SPRING VEHICLE MAINTENANCE TIPS FOR MAINERS

As the harsh Maine winter fades, spring offers a perfect opportunity for residents to give their vehicles some much-needed attention. Cold temperatures, ice, road salt, and potholes can take a toll on cars, so it's important to perform some post-winter maintenance to ensure your vehicle stays reliable and safe. Here's what Maine drivers should prioritize as the snow melts and the weather warms up.

1. Wash away the winter

Winter roads in Maine are often treated with salt and sand to improve

traction, but this can lead to corrosion—especially on the undercarriage. A thorough cleaning, including a professional underbody wash, helps remove corrosive buildup and protect the frame, exhaust, and suspension components from rust.

2. Check tire condition and pres-

Cold weather can cause tires to lose

pressure, and spring is a good time to inspect for uneven wear or damage from potholes. If you use winter tires, it's also time to switch back to all-season or summer tires. Make sure the tread is adequate and inflate all tires (including the spare) to the recommended PSI.

3. Inspect the brakes

→ see **SPRING TIPS** Page 15

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The Windham Eagle Page 13



WHY CABIN AIR FILTERS MATTER IN YOUR VEHICLE

When it comes to vehicle maintenance, the cabin air filter is often overlooked—but it plays an important role in keeping the air inside your car clean and comfortable. If you've noticed musty odors, reduced airflow from your vents, or worsening allergy symptoms while driving, it might be time to have your cabin air filter

Here's what you need to know about what the cabin filter does, why it's important, and how often it should be replaced.

What is a cabin air filter?

A cabin air filter is designed to clean the air that enters your vehicle's interior through the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system.

It captures:

- Dust
- Pollen
- Mold spores
- Pollution
- Road debris
- Odors (in the case of carbon-activated filters)

The filter is usually located behind the glove box or under the dashboard, depending on your vehicle's make and

Why replacing the cabin filter is

important:

- Keeping your cabin air filter clean
- Improve air quality for you and your passengers
 - Reduce allergens inside the vehicle
 - Eliminate musty odors
- Maintain proper airflow and HVAC system performance
- Prevent strain on components like the blower motor

If the filter becomes clogged, it can restrict airflow and lead to poor heating or cooling performance, foggy windows, and unpleasant smells inside

How often should it be replaced?

Most manufacturers recommend replacing the cabin air filter every 12,000 to 15,000 miles, or once a year-whichever comes first. However, this can vary depending on driving conditions. You may need more frequent replacements if:

- You regularly drive in dusty or heavily polluted areas
- You live in an area with high pol-
- You or your passengers have allergies or sensitivities
- Your vehicle's owner's manual will list the recommended interval for

your specific model.

Signs that your cabin air filter Needs to be replaced:

It's a good idea to have your filter checked by a service technician if you

- Reduced airflow from the vents
- A persistent musty or stale odor
- Foggy windows that take longer
- An increase in allergy symptoms while driving

During routine maintenance or

seasonal service, many garages will inspect the filter and recommend replacement if needed.

Replacing your cabin air filter is a simple but important part of keeping your vehicle comfortable and healthy. If it's been a while since yours was last checked—or if you're experiencing any of the symptoms above—consider having it inspected during your next visit to the garage. A clean cabin filter helps keep the air fresh and your HVAC sys-



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Car Care Guide

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU SEE RUST ON YOUR VEHICLE

Rust is every vehicle owner's enemy—especially in areas with snowy winters, salty roads, and humid conditions. Once it starts, it can spread quickly, compromising your car's structure, safety, and resale value. If you've started to notice rust forming on your vehicle, don't ignore it.

There are three main types of rust:

- Surface rust: Appears as small bubbles or orange-brown spots on paint or exposed metal.
- Scale rust: Forms when surface rust is left untreated and begins to pit the metal underneath.
 - Penetrating rust: Advanced corro-

sion that eats through metal, creating holes—this stage is often irreversible without serious bodywork.

What to do when you first see rust

- 1. Don't ignore it: Even a small rust spot can grow. Rust spreads underneath paint and can compromise nearby panels, making repairs more expensive the longer you wait.
- 2. Inspect the area: Look around wheel wells, under doors, near trim, and on the undercarriage—these are common problem areas. Also check for bubbling paint, which often signals rust beneath the surface.
- 3. Determine the severity: Scale rust may require sanding, priming, and repainting the affected area. Penetrating rust typically needs professional repair or panel replacement.

When should you fix rust?

Immediately—if you catch it early, you'll save time and money.

Fixing small rust spots quickly can:

- Prevent further corrosion
- Maintain your vehicle's value
- Improve safety and appearance *Delaying repairs can lead to:*
- Structural damage
- Costly bodywork
- Failed vehicle inspections

If rust compromises structural areas like the frame or brake lines, it's a serious safety risk and should be addressed by a professional right away.

When to see a professional

- The rust has penetrated through the metal.
 - It covers a large area.
- It's near structural parts or safety-critical systems.

A body shop can grind out rust, replace damaged panels, and respray the area to factory quality.

How to prevent rust

- 1. Wash your vehicle regularly: Especially during winter and after driving on salty roads. Pay special attention to the undercarriage.
- 2. Apply a protective wax or sealant: Wax helps create a barrier between your paint and moisture. Consider applying it before and after winter.
- 3. Use undercoating and rust protection treatments: Many service centers offer undercoating sprays or rust-proofing treatments that help protect your frame and body panels.
- 4. Keep drains clear: Clogged sunroof, door, or trunk drains can lead to water collecting inside panels, leading to hidden rust.
- 5. Fix paint chips immediately: Use touch-up paint to cover exposed metal before rust can take hold.

Rust is a common problem, but it doesn't have to be a death sentence for your vehicle. <







Car Care Guide

SPRING TIPS Cont. from page 12

Salt and moisture can cause brake components to rust or stick. If you notice squealing, grinding, or a soft brake pedal, have your brakes inspected. Even if everything feels fine, a quick checkup is a smart preventative step after winter driving.

4. Replace wiper blades

Wiper blades take a beating during icy winters and may be cracked or worn out. Spring showers require good visibility, so replace any blades that leave streaks or don't clear the windshield properly.

5. Top off and replace fluids

Check your vehicle's fluids—especially windshield washer fluid, coolant, brake fluid, and oil. Cold weather can thicken fluids or cause small leaks. If your next oil change is due, consider a spring oil change to start the season fresh.

6. Check the battery

Batteries work harder in cold weather and may have taken a hit

during the winter. Test the battery's voltage or have it checked at an auto shop. Corrosion on the terminals should be cleaned to maintain a good electrical connection.

7. Examine the sus-

pension and alignment

Maine's frost heaves and potholes can do a number on your car's suspension and alignment. If your vehicle pulls to one side, the steering feels loose, or you notice uneven tire wear, have the alignment and suspension checked.

8. Inspect belts and hoses

Rubber belts and hoses can become brittle in cold weather. Look for cracks, fraying, or soft spots, and replace any that show signs of wear. This small step can prevent bigger issues like overheating or breakdowns.

9. Clean the interior

Winter often means muddy boots, sand, and road salt make their way into your vehicle. A good vacuum, carpet shampoo, and dashboard wipedown can improve comfort and prevent long-term wear or odor.

10. Restock your emergency kit

With the season change, adjust your vehicle's emergency kit. Replace winter items like blankets with

spring-friendly essentials like rain ponchos, a flashlight, snacks, jumper cables, a fire extinguisher and a tire pressure gauge.

Spring car care is all about reversing winter damage and pre-

paring for Maine's warmer months. A few hours of maintenance now can save you money and stress down the road—literally. Whether you do it

yourself or visit a trusted mechanic, taking care of your vehicle this spring ensures smooth driving through mud season and beyond. <





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Car Care Guide

HOW TO DETAIL YOUR VEHICLE LIKE A PRO

Detailing is more than a simple car wash—it's a deep clean that restores your vehicle inside and out. Here's how to do it step by step:

Exterior Detailing Tips

- Start with a Pre-Rinse
- Hose down the car to remove loose dirt and debris. Use a pressure washer if possible, especially around the wheel wells and underbody.
 - Use the Two-Bucket Method
- One bucket for soapy water, one for clean rinse water. This prevents scratching your paint with dirty wash
 - Use a pH-Balanced Car Shampoo
- Avoid dish soap. It strips wax and harms the paint. Use microfiber mitts for gentle but effective cleaning.
- Dry with Microfiber Towels Avoid air-drying, which causes water spots. Blot, don't drag, for best results.
- Clay Bar Treatment
- Use a clay bar with lubricant to remove embedded contaminants. The surface should feel glassy smooth af-

terward.

- Polish and Wax
- Polish: Restores paint clarity and removes fine scratches or swirl marks. Use a dual-action polisher for best re-
- Wax or Sealant: Adds a layer of protection and shine. Spray waxes are easy but less durable than paste or liquid waxes.
- Clean the Wheels and Tires Use a separate brush and cleaner for wheels. Don't forget to dress the tires with a protectant for a deep black fin-

Interior Detailing Tips

- Remove Trash and Floor Mats
- Shake out mats and vacuum thoroughly. Rubber mats can be washed with soap and water.
 - Vacuum Every Crevice
- Use crevice tools to get under seats, between cushions, and inside cup holders.
 - Steam Clean or Shampoo Uphol
 - see **DETAILING** Page 17



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The Windham Eagle — Page 17



Car Care Guide

DETAILING Cont. from page 16

- For fabric seats and carpets, use a fabric-safe cleaner or a steam cleaner. For leather seats, use a dedicated leather cleaner and conditioner.

- Wipe Down All Surfaces
- Use an interior detailer spray and microfiber cloths. Be careful with screens—use electronics-safe cleaners.
- Clean Windows and Mirrors Last Use an ammonia-free glass cleaner and a clean microfiber towel to avoid streaks.
 - Deodorize

Use an odor eliminator or activated charcoal for lingering smells—not just a spray that masks them.

When & how to use a professional detailing service

Sometimes, it makes more sense to leave it to the pros. Here's how to get the most out of professional detailing: When to Consider a Pro

- Your vehicle hasn't been deepcleaned in over 6 months.
- You're prepping your car for sale or return from a lease.
- The interior has tough stains, pet hair, or strong odors.
- You want paint correction, ceramic coating, or engine bay cleaning.

 How to choose the right service

- Look for certified detailers with good reviews, especially on local Facebook groups, Google, or Yelp.
- Ask about their products—do they use high-end, safe chemicals? Are they eco-friendly?
- Get clear pricing up front, and ask what's included in each package.
- Mobile detailers can come to you, which is convenient—but check if they need water or power access.

Tips for the best experience

- Remove personal belongings before your appointment.
- Take before photos, especially if paint or upholstery damage is involved.
- Ask for post-detailing care tips, especially if you're getting coatings or treatments.
- Schedule during dry weather if possible—especially if they'll be washing it outside.

DIY detailing can be rewarding and cost-effective, while professionals offer convenience and expertise, especially for heavy-duty jobs. You don't have to choose one over the other—many car owners do light detailing themselves monthly and get a pro job once or twice a year.

Detailing a car properly can take several hours. Hiring a detailer saves you time and energy, especially if you want more than just a quick wash. Also, the level of cleanliness and finish from a professional detail is usually far superior—think glossy paint, spotless interiors, and that "like-new" feel and smell.

Using a car wash is beneficial when you need a quick, convenient, and affordable way to keep your vehicle clean. It's perfect for removing surface dirt, pollen, and salt, especially during winter or after driving through dusty areas. Drive-through or self-service car washes are time-saving and help maintain your car's appearance between more in-depth cleanings. Investing in a full detail periodically is ideal for long-term maintenance and to keep your car looking and smelling like new. <





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Car Care Guide

WHAT TO DO IF YOU'RE INVOLVED IN AN ACCIDENT

No one plans to be in a car accident, but knowing what to do in the moment can make a stressful situation a lot easier to manage. Whether it's a minor fender-bender or a more serious crash, staying calm and following the right steps can help protect you legally, financially, and physically.

Here's a step-by-step guide on what to do after a vehicle collision:

1. Check for injuries

Safety comes first.

Check yourself and your passengers for injuries.

If anyone is hurt, call 911 immediately.

Even if injuries seem minor, it's still important to get medical attention—some symptoms can appear hours or days later.

2. Move to a safe location (if possible)

If the accident is minor and the vehicles are still operational:

Move to the side of the road or a nearby parking lot to avoid further risk

Turn on your hazard lights to alert other drivers.

If the vehicles can't be moved or the collision is severe, stay where you are and wait for emergency services.

3. Call the Police

Even in minor accidents, it's a good idea to involve the police. A police report can help with insurance claims and protect you if there's a dispute later.

Stay at the scene until an officer arrives.

Be honest and stick to the facts when giving your statement.

Ask how you can obtain a copy of the report.

4. Exchange information

Get the following details from the other driver(s):

Name and contact information

Insurance company and policy number

Driver's license number

License plate number

Make, model, and color of the ve-

→ see **ACCIDENT** Page 19



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The Windham Eagle Page 19



Car Care Guide



Also collect contact info from any witnesses if possible.

Document scene

Use your phone to take clear photos of:

Damage to all vehicles involved

The surrounding area and road conditions

License plates

Any skid marks, road debris, or traffic signs

This documentation can be crucial when filing your claim or if there are legal ques-

Even if you think you may have caused the accident, do not admit fault at the scene. There may be factors you're unaware of, and insurance companies or investigators will determine responsibility.

7. Notify your insurance company

Report the accident to your insurance provider as soon as possible.

Provide all the information you gathered.

Follow their guidance on next steps.

Some policies require reporting even if you're not at fault.

Delaying this step could affect your cover-

8. Seek medical atten-

Medical records will also support any claims for injuries.

9. Follow up on repairs

Once your claim is started, your insurance company may recommend repair shops in their network, or you may choose your own.

Ask for an estimate in writing.

Keep all receipts related to the ac-

10. Stay organized

Keep a folder or digital file with: The police report

Insurance claim number and con-

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Medical records (if applicable) Repair estimates and receipts Photos from the scene

This can make the claims process go more smoothly and help protect you in case of disputes.

Being in an auto collision is never convenient, but knowing what steps to take can help you stay safe, protect your rights, and minimize the stress of the situation. Preparation is key consider keeping a printed checklist in your glove box just in case. <



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Car Care Guide

HOW TO CHOOSE A LOCAL REPAIR SHOP

When your vehicle needs maintenance or repair, finding a trustworthy auto repair shop can feel overwhelming. With so many options—big chains, dealerships, and independent garages-how do you know which one is right for you? Whether you're facing an unexpected issue or looking for a shop for routine service, here are some tips to help you choose a local auto repair shop that's reliable, skilled, and honest.

1. Ask for recommendations

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Start by talking to family, friends, neighbors, or coworkers. Word of mouth is one of the most reliable ways to find a reputable shop. People you trust can offer insight into their experiences—both good and bad—and help you narrow down your options.

2. Check online reviews

Look up shops on Google, Yelp, or Facebook and pay attention to customer reviews. Consistent positive feedback about service quality, communication, and turnaround time is a good sign. Don't let one or two negative reviews deter you—but look for patterns in the comments that might raise red flags.

3. Look for Certifications

Certifications show that a shop meets certain industry standards. Look for:

- ASE (Automotive Service Excellence) certification for technicians
- AAA Approved Auto Repair des-
- Manufacturer certifications (if you drive a specific brand and prefer brand-specific service)

These credentials indicate a higher level of training and professionalism.

4. Ask about warranties

A reputable shop will stand behind their work. Ask if they offer warranties on parts and labor—and for how long. A solid warranty not only protects you in case something goes wrong, but it also reflects the shop's confidence in their workmanship.

5. Look for clear communication

A good shop should be transparent about what your vehicle needs, what it will cost, and how long it will take. If a technician or service advisor is willing to explain repairs in simple, honest terms—and provide a written estimate—that's a positive sign.

Avoid shops that pressure you into unnecessary repairs or won't take the time to answer your questions.

7. Start with a small job

If you're unsure about a shop, consider bringing your vehicle in for something simple like an oil change, tire rotation, or inspection. This gives you a chance to evaluate their customer service, pricing, and professionalism without committing to major work right away.

8. Compare pricing—but don't choose on price alone

It's smart to get estimates from more than one shop, especially for large repairs. However, the cheapest option isn't always the best. Quality parts, experienced technicians, and excellent service might cost a bit more but they're worth it in the long run.

9. Consider convenience

A shop close to home or work can make dropping off and picking up your car much easier. Bonus points if the shop offers shuttle service, loaner cars, or after-hours drop-off.

Choosing a local auto repair shop doesn't have to be stressful. There are many in the Windham/Raymond area that are reputable and trustworthy. <







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"My truck was in some rough shape and Mel made it look like it was fresh off the dealer lot. Definitely recommend the detailing service. Commitment to quality is what I took away from my experience." - Peter P.

"They just detailed my Jeep. It looks brand new! This is the best detail work I've ever had done. I would not hesitate to give them our vehicles again. Great work!" - Jennifer L.





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Car Care Guide

TIPS FOR BUYING A VEHICLE

Whether you're eyeing a shiny new ride or a reliable used car, buying a vehicle is a big decision. Here are key tips to guide you through the process:

- 1. Set a Budget: Determine what you can afford, including taxes, registration, insurance, and potential maintenance. Don't forget to factor in monthly payments if you're financing.
- 2. Do your research: Know what type of vehicle fits your needs-consider fuel efficiency, size, reliability, and features. Use trusted sites to compare makes, models, and prices.
- 3. New vs. used: New cars come with full warranties and the latest tech but depreciate quickly. Used vehicles are more affordable but require careful inspection and may have limited warranties. Typically with a used vehicle you will get more features for the money.
- 4. Check vehicle history (used cars): Always get a vehicle history report using services like Carfax or AutoCheck. Look out for accident history, service records, and ownership details.
- 5. Get pre-approved for financing: Shop around for loan rates before vis-

iting a dealer. Pre-approval gives you leverage and a clear idea of your bud-

- 6. Inspect and test drive: Whether new or used, test drive the vehicle to assess comfort, handling, and functionality. For used cars, have a trusted mechanic inspect it.
- 7. Think long-term: A vehicle is a big investment. Think about:
- Depreciation: Some brands and models hold value better than others.
- Reliability: Research long-term reliability scores from trusted sources like Consumer Reports.
- Resale value: If you plan to trade in or sell in a few years, some vehicles depreciate much slower.
- 8. Read the fine print: Review all contract terms before signing, especially for financing, warranties, and return policies.

Buying a new vehicle doesn't have to be stressful. With a little homework, a clear budget, and a confident attitude, you can find a car that fits your lifestyle and your wallet. Take your time, ask questions, and never feel pressured. <





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Girls' lacrosse wipeout Massabesic in preseason scrimmage

By Matt Pascarella

STAFF WRITER

The Windham High varsity girls' lacrosse team played their first preseason match against Massabesic in Waterboro on Monday, April 7. WHS jumped out to a strong start early and commanded the field in the first half, where they scored over a half-dozen goals. Their defense held back the Mustangs to earn a 13-5 win.

The Lady Eagles open the regular season on Thursday, April 17 against Kennebunk.

"It was our first scrimmage against somebody else, which was great," said Windham girls' lacrosse head coach Matt Perkins. "You really don't know; we've been on half field, we've been in the parking lot, so to have a full field ... for the first time, I thought they played hard, played well. Definitely the effort was great, the hustle was great and even when we dropped the ball, kids hustled to get after it, they didn't hang their head, that's encouraging. We could do a better job passing the ball on the edges and not taking chances and throwing it away. I love the effort and the attitude has been phenomenal."

Within a matter of seconds of the preseason matchup, Windham senior Grace Joly scored. Then junior Neve Ledbetter found the back of the net. Windham had control of the field, and their defense kept back Massabesic.

Windham was first to the ball and scored again and again throughout the first half. Freshman Brooklyn Roy scored, then junior Abby Trainor found the back of the net. Junior Olivia McPherson scored before the end of the first quarter and WHS led, 5-0.

Trainor said the team had worked on wall-ball during the winter as well





as spent time in the weight room. This had improved their chemistry while uniting and strengthening skills before the start of preseason. Trainor said their transition went really well; they connected on passes and moved the ball down the field, seeing those open players to pass to.

The second quarter saw a procession of WHS players who found the back of the net. Windham led 9-2 halfway through the game.

"We definitely put in the work through the preseason, we were work-



(Clockwise from top left) Windham junior Olivia McPherson fires a shot at the goal in a preseason scrimmage against Massabesic in Waterboro on Monday, April 7. Junior Neve Ledbetter concentrates as she gets closer to the goal moments before taking a shot and scoring. Freshman Brooklyn Roy makes her way by Massabesic opponents. PHOTOS BY JIM STANKIEWICZ

ing hard every single day; that showed

today and will put us in a good place for the upcoming games," said Roy. "The hard work we've put in in the past week enabled this win. Everyone has been showing up and putting in the effort. I thought our transitions were really good. We got the ball down the field really fast and that helped us score goals more."

Windham pressured at the start of the second half. Their defense remained strong, and they continued to move the ball quickly.

Massabesic's defense improved in the second half, and it made a small comeback, but it was not enough as Ledbetter scored again. McPherson and Trainor did as well toward the end of the game. Windham's defense remained excellent right up until the final buzzer.

"We've been working extremely hard over the past week of preseason," said Ledbetter. "We come out really hard, step right on that field and we are completely in that lacrosse mindset. It definitely shows for the rest of the season that we can come out and win and be powerful as a team and have each other's backs. Our defense really stepped up; we're learning new stuff all the time ... we rose to the occasion and played extremely well." <

THE WEIGHT OF THE WARK



Darius Bean

Age: 12 **Team:** Windham Middle School Swim team **Coach:** Anne Fougere

Parents' names: Cara and Mike Bean

Reason for selection: Darius has certainly found a passion for swimming, and it shows in and out of the pool. A strong backstroke swimmer, he always gives his best effort and has embraced every opportunity

to improve this season. What sets Darius apart is his enthusiastic support for his teammates, cheering loudly from the deck and keeping the spirits up with his positivity. His encouragement of others has created a welcoming environment that has led to a focus on sportsmanship on this team. During the last meet of the season for WMS, Darius swam hard and fought to stay in the Top 5 overall in each of his races while being a leader on the pool deck.

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WHS grad Gerry continues to show softball skills at URI

By Matt Pascarella

STAFF WRITER

An impressive pitcher since she was young, Windham High School 2024 graduate Brooke Gerry left quite a mark on the field. She achieved 500 career strikeouts, helped Windham win their first state championship in 2023, and was named 2024 Miss Maine Softball – just to name a few of her accomplishments.

Now a freshman at the University of Rhode Island majoring in psychology with plans to become a sports psychologist, she is playing Division I softball and has spent a fair amount of time in the circle early in her college career.

"URI has a strong team, and we are going to be competing every game to end the season on a positive note," said Gerry. "College is a whole different level of softball, especially at the Division I level. The hitters are a lot better, and the umpire's strike zone is definitely tighter. The college level is a lot more fun, however. My teammates are supporting me in every pitch, and I know they have my back."

So far, Gerry has had the opportunity to start a game during her first collegiate preseason softball tournament at Western Carolina University in North Carolina. She likes that she's been able to take the field with URI teammates who want to compete and play for a purpose.

"I was very excited to see Brooke come in as a freshman and help contribute in the circle for our team," said teammate and URI senior Emily Power. "I love the amount of fresh energy and determination she instantly brings. Coming into her first year of college softball, this role has made her not only stronger but a leader on our pitching staff. The other freshmen in



(Left) Windham High graduate Brooke Gerry winds up to pitch for the University of Rhode Island during a college softball game against the University of Dayton on Sunday, March 23 in Kingston, Rhode Island. (Right) Gerry, a freshmen at URI of Windham signals her catcher during a game. PHOTOS BY JAY RUZICKA

her class look up to Brooke, and know she is someone they can count on, on and off the field. She is the type of pitcher who wants the ball in her hand and wants to come in and shut batters down."

Power said that by the time Gerry is a senior, she will uplift the program and create an excellent culture for the future of URI Softball.

At the age of 4, Gerry began playing softball and by 6 she was in the circle. She comes from a softball family where both her mom and sister played. Her family has supported her throughout her entire career.

"Growing up around softball has given me a lot of relationships that give me support no matter what," said Gerry. In college these relationships have helped me because I know how much support I have behind me no matter how far away from home

that I am."

Gerry said being coached by Fred Wilcox at the national level is what best prepared her to play collegiately. At the travel-ball national level, she was exposed to high-level competition and learned the adjustments she had to make to succeed at that level.

While Gerry played for Windham High varsity softball coach Darcey Gardiner, she learned to stay within yourself, and to not listen to what others say about her or her performance.

This summer, Gerry will be coaching for the New England Elite travel team. Her sister will be coaching a 12-under team, while Gerry and her

mom will coach a 14-under team along with Fred and Ella Wilcox.

According to Gerry, success is not about how much money you make, or awards won. She says that success is feeling accomplished within yourself and feeling proud of what you've done in life, whether it be in the classroom or on the field.

"One thing I know about Brooke is she is a competitor and holds herself accountable when she is in the circle," said URI softball coach Michael Coutts. "She also works very hard and knows that she has things she can be better at. She is very unselfish and is willing to do whatever we need from her." <









BILLS Cont. from page 5

from 60 to 90 days, giving residents more time to respond.

**Establishing a clear "right of first refusal," enabling residents to match and purchase their park if they choose.

**Clarifying that park owners are not required to complete a sale if residents cannot secure financing within 90 days. ** Introducing protections when park owners intend to discontinue park use entirely, including mandatory relocation assistance funded by the owner and restrictions preventing eviction until residents are safely relocated.

During LD 1145's public hearing, Nangle shared his family's personal experience managing a mobile home park in Massachusetts for over 70 years, emphasizing the value of community-focused ownership versus the detrimental impacts of profit-driven corporate acquisitions. He highlighted that Massachusetts law allowed residents of his family's park to successfully purchase the community themselves, preserving affordability and stability.

Speaking in support of LD 1145, Nora Gosselin, the Director of Resident Acquisitions at the Cooperative Development Institute, shared similar insights drawn from her extensive experience assisting resident communities:

"The Opportunity to Purchase statute has been an essential stepping stone, a proof of concept," Gosselin said. "Under this statute, two coop-

eratives successfully purchased their properties within the last year for \$26.3M and \$8M respectively, showing that residents can indeed pull off these transactions on competitive timelines and at competitive price tags. The law needs to be strengthened into a Right of First Refusal to build upon an effective model, in an environment with so many aggressive, deep-pocketed, out-of-state corporations, amid an affordable housing crisis."

LD 1145 will now undergo further review and discussion in the committee.

Nangle represents Maine State Senate District 26, which includes Windham, Raymond, Casco, Frye Island, and part of Westbrook. <



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Refresh your home for spring in Maine

► By Theresa Bouchard SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE



the chill of winter begins to fade, spring in Maine brings a renewed sense of possibility. After months of cold temperatures and snown

As the days

grow longer and

Theresa Bouchard TS Staging & Design tures and snowy landscapes, it's the perfect time to refresh your home and prepare it for warmer, sunnier days. Here are a few simple yet effective ways to give your home a fresh start as spring arrives.

1. Deep Clean to Banish Winter's Traces

Winter in Maine can leave behind salt stains, dust, and grime, especially from all the time spent indoors. Spring is the perfect time to give your home a deep clean. Start by wiping down windows, cleaning light fixtures, and vacuuming or washing floors. Don't forget to dust ceiling fans and baseboards, areas often overlooked during regular cleaning. If your carpets or upholstery have seen better days, consider professional cleaning to refresh them. A clean home immediately feels more inviting and ready for the new season.

2. Swap Heavy Fabrics for Lighter Ones

As the weather warms up, it's time to transition from heavy winter fabrics to lighter, more breathable materials. Swap your thick wool throws and flannel bedding for cotton or linen alternatives. Choose lighter colors—soft blues, greens, and pastels—that evoke a sense of freshness. Changing your curtains to lighter fabrics or colors can also help flood

your rooms with natural light making them feel more open and airy.

3. Declutter and Organize

After spending months indoors, winter often leads to clutter. Spring is the perfect time to declutter and create a more organized, functional space. Start by sorting through closets, drawers, and shelves, and get rid of items you no longer need. In Maine, where space is sometimes limited, optimizing your storage can make a big difference. Tidy up high-traffic areas like the entryway or mudroom to create a welcoming first impression. Organize your outdoor gear and shoes so your home feels neat and inviting from the moment you walk in.

4. Bring the Outdoors In

Spring in Maine is all about embracing the outdoors as the snow melts and nature begins to bloom. Incorporating plants, flowers, and nature-inspired decor into your home can help reflect this seasonal change. Houseplants like ferns or ivy, or fresh-cut flowers like daffodils and tulips, add color and life to your space. If you're lucky enough to have a garden now is the time to start planting or bring in flowers to place in vases. Nature-inspired decor, like floral prints or landscapes, can also lift the atmosphere of your home.

5. Refresh Your Walls

Winter can leave your walls feeling dull and drab, especially in Maine's gray months. Consider brightening your walls with a fresh coat of paint or new artwork. Lighter, softer colors like pale blues, greens, or even warm neutrals can open up your rooms and make them feel more inviting. If you want a simple update, swap out framed pictures for spring-themed artwork or photos of local Maine

landscapes to bring the beauty of the outdoors inside.

6. Tackle Outdoor Spaces

Maine homeowners know that outdoor spaces are just as important as the indoors. As temperatures rise, it's time to freshen up your yard, porch, or deck. Start by cleaning outdoor furniture or repainting it if needed. If your lawn or flower beds need attention, now is the time to trim bushes, plant spring flowers, and clean up any debris left behind from winter. Even small outdoor spaces like balconies or patios can benefit from a few new plants or cozy seating arrangements.

7. Reevaluate Your Lighting

With longer daylight hours, it's important to rethink your home's lighting. Swap out dim or harsh lightbulbs for energy-efficient options that mimic natural light. Consider using smart lighting systems that allow you to adjust the brightness throughout the day. Adding candles with fresh spring scents like lavender or citrus can also enhance the atmosphere of your home, making it feel even more inviting.

8. Prepare for Seasonal Changes

Maine's weather can still be unpredictable in early spring, so it's important to ensure your home is ready for the seasonal shift. Replace air filters in heating or cooling systems, and check for drafts around windows and doors. Adding insulation or sealing gaps will help keep your home comfortable as the temperature fluctuates.

Why Refreshing Your Home

Matters for Spring—Especially if You're Selling

The tips shared in this article aren't just about making your home more comfortable for the season; they also help you get your property ready for the spring real estate market. A refreshed home – clean, organized, and full of light – appeals to potential buyers who are looking for a space that feels welcoming and well cared for. By decluttering, brightening up your decor, and enhancing both your indoor and outdoor spaces, you're not just preparing for a fresh start yourself – you're making your home stand out in a competitive market.

For those looking to go the extra mile, TS Staging Design is here to help. Their expert team specializes in preparing homes for sale by creating inviting, beautifully staged spaces that allow potential buyers to envision themselves in your home. With their professional eve for design and market trends, TS Staging Design can help you showcase your home's best features, whether it's adding stylish furnishings, arranging furniture to maximize space, or enhancing curb appeal. Their services can make a significant difference in how quickly and profitably your home sells.

This article was brought to you by Theresa Bouchard, the owner and designer of TS Staging and Design. Contact her at 207-400-9393 or by email at info@tsstaging.me. Check them out on Facebook, Instagram or at www.tsstaginganddesign.com. <



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By Angela Paris

SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE • JUGGLINGACTMAMA.COM

Garlic Butter Shrimp

Need a quick and easy meal that feels a little fancy but takes barely any effort? This garlic butter shrimp is the answer! It's loaded with rich, buttery, garlicky goodness and comes together in minutes and it is perfect for busy weeknights when you want something delicious without the stress. Prep Time: 5 minutes, Cook Time: 10 minutes

INGREDIENTS

1 tablespoon of olive oil 1pound of large shrimp peeled and deveined (tails on or off, depending on

your preference) 3 cloves of minced garlic 3 tablespoons of lemon juice

Red pepper flakes (optional, but recommended) Salt and black pepper to taste ¼ of a cup of butter Fresh parsley, chopped, for garnish (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS

In a mixing bowl, combine the dry ingredients for the chicken. In a large skillet over medium-high heat, add the olive oil. Once the oil is hot, add the shrimp, the garlic, and the lemon juice. Season with salt and pepper to taste and add red pepper flakes if using them.

Cook the shrimp until it's pink on both sides, about 6 minutes. Add the butter to your skillet and allow it to melt. Spoon the melted butter over the shrimp. Serve garnished with parsley, if desired, and a drizzle of the pan sauce over top. Serve it with rice, noodles, or steamed veggies for a complete meal.

Find the full recipe with variations, tips, and more: www.jugglingactmama.com/garlic-butter-shrimp



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- 13. Pop
- 14. Wakes a sleeper
- 15. Not light
- 17. 13-19

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- 18. Sets of statistics
- 19. Ultimate image
- 20. Rescued by payment of money
- 22. Vowel sound
- 23. River in Florence
- 24. European money
- 26. Electronic data processing
- 27. Carriage for hire 30. Not out
- 31. Bird homes
- 33. Helps little firms
- 34. Challengingly approaches
- 38. Taxis
- 40. 007's creator

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Time in the central U.S.
- 2. Garden digger
- 3. The content of cognition 4. Indian shot lily
- 5. Pop star Ciccone
- 6. "1836 siege" of U.S. 7. Murdered by Manson
- 8. An equal exchange
- 9. M M M
- 10. Insures bank's depositors
- 11. Indication of superior status
- 12. Large groups
- 16. Chip stone with sharp blows
- Lanka
- 22. Fat for birds
- 25. The brain and spinal cord
- 27. Reciprocal of a sine
- 28. Goat and camel hair fabric
- 29. Founder of Babism
- 32. Strategic Supply Chain
- 35. Former OSS
- 36. Feline mammal

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- 50. Yemen capital
- 52. Atomic #89
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- 55. Kilocalorie (abbr.)
- 56. Ed Murrow's home
- 58. A braid
- 60. Czech writer Karel
- Examines in detail 66. W. Rumania city on the
- Muresel
- 67. A citizen of Oman
- 68. Cain's brother
- 70. Add alcohol beverages 71. N. Swedish lake & river
- 72. Furv
- 73. Prohibition
- 74. Birthday sweet 75. Frozen rain
- 37. Smallest whole number
- 39. Brunei monetary unit
- 42. Public promotions
- 43. Tap gently
- 44. The woman
- 46. Terminate someone's job 47. The bill in a restaurant
- 48. Rushes out to attack
- 50. Divine Egyptian beetle 51. Llama with long silky fleece
- 53. A coral reef off of S. Florida 55. 1000 calories 57. A S. Pacific island group
- 58. A special finish for velvet
- 59. Former Russian rulers 61. Home of Adam & Eve
- 63. Informer (British)
- 64. Israeli politician Abba 65. Lily flower of Utah
- 67. Securities market
- 69. Soul singer Rawls

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

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The Windham Eagle Page 27

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The mission of O'Shea Builders remains as basic as it did when the company was founded 20 years ago and that is to foster lasting relationships with clients through transparency, quality craftsmanship, and community focused values.

Warren O'Shea created O'Shea Builders as a residential remodeling-only company, and it offers comprehensive design and whole-house remodeling. The company is known for personalized solutions, integrity, and consumer advocacy.

"Very few companies are remodeling only," O'Shea said. "I come from the hospitality industry which is built upon customer service, attention to detail, and customer satisfaction. At one time, I was the youngest member of the New England Innkeepers Association. Our most-sought qualities are trust and communication. Almost all our vacation home remodels have owners who are out of state. Keeping them informed and engaged is of the utmost importance."

With decades of experience in remodeling, O'Shea says the company's expertise lies in transforming and revitalizing our clients' living spaces efficiently and effectively, with a primary focus on providing quality kitchen, bathroom, and whole home renovations.

"Over the last 20 years we have developed not only procedures, but systems to ensure unparalleled customer



service," O'Shea said. "We are like a personal chef, and we don't offer a drive-up window service. We strive to make the client feel exclusive. We do not put signs in their yards, we have no truck lettering, and we don't post their project on social media without their expressed permission. I do not want the client to feel that we are using their project as a springboard for prospecting new projects in the neighborhood. Their project is their business, and their privacy is mine. When we perform as designed, the work inquiries will come organically. We have a pre-existing NDA within our company for all O'Shea Builders employees and have performed under NDA's as well."

Without reservation, O'Shea credits his employees for the company's longevity and business success.

"O'Shea Builders is nothing without them and they are our biggest fans," he said. "If you have the good fortune to meet any one of them, they will tell you that they feel valued, supported, engaged, challenged and well-compensated. Our benefits package is as robust as a company four times as large. My goal is to

have each and every one of them be so stable and confident in their position that they do not consider working anywhere else."

The company has more 5-star reviews than any contractor in Maine and is the top-rated remodeling services provider in the state. O'Shea attributes this to an emphasis on not only pleasing customers but a sincere desire to seek more.

"Our goal is not merely just customer satisfaction but exceeding expectations," O'Shea said. "The basis of the positive feedback we receive is flatly, customer service," he said. "The individual parts of customer service are knowledge, transparency, flexibility, and communication."

That focus has resulted in long-lasting relationships with clients who continue to praise O'Shea Builders on social media.

"Responded quickly to inquiries and changes made during process. His team completely renovated two rooms in an ancient house without a single level board in the place, and they did an outstanding job. They also built a great set of stairs leaving the building. Highly recommend Warren for whatever your needs." ~ Angeline M.

"O'Shea Builders were instrumental in helping us sell our house. On multiple occasions, they came in with very little notice and fixed various problems that came up when our house was on the market. Once under contract, we needed to replace a large section of the wood floors in our kitchen. For a very affordable price and without notice, they did a beautiful job on the repair which included matching new flooring to an old/worn wooden floor. We can't wait to get started with them in our *new house!*" ~ John W.

"Wish we could give Warren and O'Shea Builders 10 stars. They were very responsive and professional. They not only did the repairs in a timely fashion, but they also made great sug*gestions for future repairs.*" ~ Karen B.

Serving most of Southern Maine and the Coastal and Lakes Region, O'Shea Builders has earned a stellar reputation through the years for quality, exceptional craftsmanship, thinking differently and responsiveness but O'Shea says its underlying core value

"It's about creating relationships with our clients and being intuitive to their needs," O'Shea said. "We get to know them to help them find their dream."

For more details about O'Shea Builders LLC, visit www.buildwithoshea.com. Find them on Facebook under O'Shea Builders LLC. <

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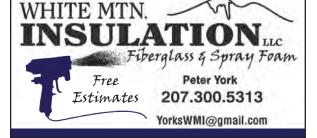
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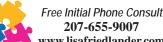
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