

The Hermon CONNECTION

Vol. 32 Issue 1 - January 2025

Updates • News • Events • Information

Hawk Battalion Cadets Selected As School Board Representatives

Article and photo submitted by:
Cadet 2LT Mackenzie Oiler



The Hermon Hawk Battalion Command Sergeant Major Michael Rene and Alpha Company First Sergeant Aubrey Searway have been selected as student representatives to the Hermon School Committee. Every year one student is selected from the junior class to represent the student body for two years. Michael is going into his second term as a student representative, while Aubrey is serving her first term.

As student representatives, Michael and Aubrey report out about student activities to the school committee and community members. Additionally, they report out about club activities like JROTC, Key Club, Student Council, sports, and other individual graduating class and club events. When asked why he wanted to be a student representative, Michael responded "I wanted to be able to make a difference in my community and help the student body." Aubrey further said, "What made me really want to be a student representative was because I wanted to be that reliable student who cares about the student body to act as the bridge between our school and the committee."

So far, Michael and Aubrey have helped to establish policies for the school. However, they look forward to helping and representing their fellow students. We would like to congratulate both Michael and Aubrey for their achievement and look forward to seeing what they will achieve in the future.

Town of Hermon
Stephen Fields, Town Manager
333 Billings Road, Hermon, ME 04401
Tel: 207-848-1010 Fax: 207-848-3316
sfields@hermonmaine.gov
www.hermonmaine.gov

If you have a news story or article for publication in the next edition of The Hermon Connection, please send it to: ouellettel@hermonmaine.gov
Deadline for submissions: February 21, 2025
Next Edition will be published mid-March

Message from the Town Manager

Happy New Year! As I reflect on the past six months of being your Town Manager, I am proud to be part of this amazing team of employees taking care of your community. With each new year, individuals make resolutions to better themselves and at times succeed or need further encouragement to keep that resolution. My resolution is to continue transparency and work to improve town operations while meeting the needs of the Council and Citizens. I am fully engaged with the departments in preparing the next fiscal year capital improvement plan and budget. The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) will be presented on January 16th and town operating budget will be presented on March 13th to the Council.

May you continue to stay safe and enjoy the wonderful community of Hermon in this great State of Maine.

Stephen Fields, PSHRA-SCP
Town Manager

DOG LICENSES: 2025 DOG TAGS ARE AVAILABLE



Residents who need vet care or rabies for their animals should make their appointments NOW for 2025 licensing. Information has been communicated by the State Vet Association that they are experiencing a vet shortage / lack of remote clinics and resources.

Please license your dog before January 31. The State of Maine demands a \$25.00 late fee for any dog renewal license after 1/31/2025.

Go to <http://bit.ly/3UWzln4> to license a previously registered dog or a new dog online from October 15, 2024 to January 31, 2025.

If you no longer have a dog to license, please let us know here at the Town Office at 848-1010 #3.

**\$25 LATE FEE PER DOG WILL BE
IN EFFECT AFTER 1/31/2025!**

New Legislature is in session

The 132nd Legislature was officially sworn in December 4 and committee assignments have been made. I will be returning to the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. I will also again serve as Ranking Member on the Marine Resources Committee.

The Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee has jurisdiction over the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife; inland fisheries and wildlife research and management; hunting; fishing; trapping; hunter safety; fish hatcheries; game wardens; guides; taxidermist licensing; ATVs; snowmobiles; watercraft registration and boater safety; and whitewater rafting.

The Marine Resources Committee has jurisdiction over the Department of Marine Resources; Marine Patrol; commercial and recreational marine fisheries management, licensing and enforcement; marine science and research; shellfish sanitation and management; and aquaculture.

As you can see from the official committee descriptions, these two committees will be very busy this session. In addition to my committee responsibilities, I am most interested in finding ways to lower our energy bills. Maine consumers are overpaying for energy and it is hurting Maine citizens. We need to help make Maine affordable again for working families and prevent more employers from going out of business.

The Legislature is reviewing a proposed two-year budget from Governor Mills. Updated revenue projections are slightly better, but still show a substantial deficit in 2026/2027. This needs to be addressed in order to meet the Maine Constitution's balanced budget requirement.

There are many important issues that I am interested in going forward. I look forward to hearing from during the next two years on state issues of interest to you, or matters concerning state agencies. Please contact me at Jim.Thorne@legislature.maine.gov if I can be of assistance. I appreciate the opportunity to represent you in Augusta.

Sincerely, Rep. Jim Thorne



Seeking Participants for Hermon Cemetery Project

Submitted by: Kristen Cushman

The Town of Hermon is seeking one or two dedicated individuals to assist with a special cemetery project that has been five years in the making. We are nearing completion but need help documenting the headstones and flat stones in three of Hermon's cemeteries.

The task involves taking clear, detailed photographs of gravestones and flat markers, helping us preserve the history and legacy of those resting in our community. This effort is part of a larger initiative to create a comprehensive record for future generations.

If you have a passion for history, photography, or community service we would love to hear from you. No prior experience is necessary—just a willingness to help.

For more information, please contact Kristen Cushman at cushmank@hermonmaine.gov or 207-848-1010 #3. Join us in honoring Hermon's history by helping us complete this meaningful project!

Hermon awards Boston Post Cane to 98-year-old

Article written by: Jodi Hersey, originally published 1/9/25 on [foxbangor.com](https://www.foxbangor.com)

Photo submitted by: Kristen Cushman



Garrett Lovett lived on the Bond Road in Hermon for decades. He and his wife had nine children. Now the 98-year-old is at Winterberry Heights Senior Living in Bangor but the change in address didn't prevent Hermon's Town Manager from awarding Lovett with the Boston Post Cane. It's a tradition that was created back in 1909 by the publisher of the Boston Post Newspaper to honor the town's oldest citizen.

"As the town manager of Hermon, I'm representing the council and we're giving you the recognition from of the town of Hermon. This certificate is a symbolic representative to Garrett Lovett Senior as the oldest citizen in the town of Hermon," said Stephen Fields, Hermon's town manager.

"Well, I'm an exception. I feel like an exception because not everyone gets something like this and I'm surprised and happy," said Lovett.

Lovett said one of his grandsons really wants him to turn 100 years old. He's got just two years to go until he reaches that milestone.

2025 UPCOMING ELECTIONS

March 3

Nomination papers available for Town Council and School Board

April 1

Nomination papers are due no later than today for Town Council and School Board

May 12

Absentee Ballots are available for voters – Municipal Election

June 10

Election Day – Municipal

Tuesday – Polls open 7:00am to 8:00pm, proposed new location, Hermon High School Gym (pending Secretary of State approval)

June 12

Annual Town Meeting

Thursday – 6:00pm at the Hermon High School Auditorium

52nd annual Dysart's Snowmobile Ride-in Weekend to benefit Pine Tree Camp

It's time to rev your engines! The Dysart's Snowmobile Ride-in Weekend is just around the corner.

Thursday, January 30: Live WABI-TV5 Telethon and Dysart's Spaghetti Supper

Friday, January 31: Live and Silent Auction at Morgan Hill Event Center at 6pm

Saturday, February 1: Pine Tree Camp Celebrity Egg Ride and Poker Run

Sunday, February 2: Radar Run at Penobscot Snowmobile Club

This year's roster of Celebrity Egg Riders includes local hometown heroes:

- Major Marcel Fortier, Hermon High School JROTC
- First Sargent Rob Jenkins, Hermon High School JROTC
- Troy Morton, Penobscot County Sheriff
- Cody Sullivan, Hermon Fire Chief
- Austin Witham, Penobscot Snowmobile Club

Follow this link to check out the full line up and donate to your favorite rider:

<https://pinetreesociety.org/egg-ride-2025-celebrity-riders/>

BIG NEWS!

Maine Cabin Masters Jedi and Dixie are hosting the auction. Get ready to place your bids! You will love all the items that are in store for you, including: An Origami Kayak, a chance to see how world-class Brant & Cochran axes are forged by hand, gift cards and getaways to your favorite spots and, of course, Momo's Gourmet Cheesecakes.

Not one, but TWO raffles...

Don't miss your chance to win big at Dysart's! Visit their Hermon or Broadway locations for an exciting opportunity to win a kids' riding lawn mower or a kids' ATV! The winner will be drawn at the live auction at Morgan Hill Event Center at 6pm on January 31st.

You can get involved and support Pine Tree Camp by:

- Donating a silent or live auction item
- Volunteering
- Becoming a sponsor

Contact:

Michaela Collins

207-386-6033

mcollins@pinetreesociety.org



About Pine Tree Camp: Pine Tree Camp is an American Camp Association-accredited camp for people with disabilities. Every year, hundreds of Maine children and adults with disabilities experience freedom and independence by actively participating in outdoor activities thanks to Pine Tree Camp's 285-acre, fully-accessible campus on North Pond.

Since 1945, no camper has ever been turned away due to their ability to pay. All proceeds from the Ride-in Weekend directly benefit Pine Tree Camp's Open Door Fund.



Hermon Rec

Upcoming Events



February '25

FEB

3

Senior's Breakfast Club

Join our monthly breakfast date at Chase's Family Restaurant, 9:30am
Please call 848-8014 to RSVP so we save a seat for you!

FEB

5

Toddler Story Time & Craft

9:30am, Hermon High School Library, D-5 Entrance

FEB

5-26

POUND & Stretch Fusion Class

Wednesdays from 6-7pm at Patricia A Duran Cafeteria
Sweat. Sculpt. Rock. Make Noise! \$40 for session or \$12 per class.

FEB

8

Parents Night Out

5pm-9pm, Patricia A Duran School, Grades K-6th welcome!

FEB

16

Annual Daughter Dance

Two sessions offered: 3-5pm or 6-8pm, Morgan Hill Event Center.
Registration is required, no tickets are sold at the door!

FEB

18-21

February Vacation Camp

6:30am-6:00pm, Patricia A Duran School, Grades K-6, Themed days and a
field trip to Bangor/Brewer Bowling Lanes!

FEB

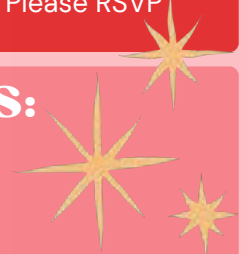
27

55+ Monthly Luncheon

12:30pm, Hermon Town Office, Shepherd's Pie, Salad, Dessert. Please RSVP

UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS:

Summer Camp Info, Family Open Gym Nights, Zumba,
Children's Yard Sale, Community Yard Sale & more!



→ FOR MORE INFO, VISIT HERMONREC.COM OR CALL 207-848-8014



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WEDNESDAYS, 6PM - 7PM
MARCH 12 - APRIL 16



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WEEKLY MENU



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OR

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Lindsey Ouellette @ (207) 848-8014

HEALTH | MEDICARE | SMALL GROUP | LIFE | SUPPLEMENTAL

Hermon Rec Program Sparks Imagination with Recycled Drawings



Article submitted by: Jessica Murphy, Photos submitted by: Julie Nadeau

The Town of Hermon's Recreation Program has a new spark of creativity, thanks to the generosity of several local businesses. The Code Enforcement office and the Recreation before/after program extends heartfelt gratitude to the following people and companies for their generosity for donating their old construction and engineered drawings:

- Curt Bartram P.E. - Consulting Engineer
- Randy Gardner - Gardner Construction Enterprises LLC
- Ryan Bragg - Sargent
- Bert Ingraham - Vaughn D. Thibodeau II
- Scott Braley P.E. - Plymouth Engineering
- Colie Spencer - Alan Dorr Construction
- Jason Stutheit - C.E.M./DP Porter Contractors, Inc

Often referred to as "town office papers" by the rec kids, these recycled materials are finding a second life in the hands of Hermon's young creators. From coloring to designing imaginative projects, the kids in the Recreation Program have embraced the opportunity to transform these drawings into unique artistic creations. This thoughtful contribution has not only supported sustainable practices by recycling materials but has also provided a fantastic outlet for the creativity of our youth. We are so grateful for the generosity of these businesses in fostering both environmental consciousness and artistic expression within our community.

The donated drawings offer a hands-on opportunity for children to learn, imagine, and create, showcasing the ways local businesses can play an integral role in enriching community programs. Thank you to all the donors for helping make this initiative a success!

For more information on the Hermon Recreation Program or to get involved, contact the Town of Hermon Recreation Department.

The Patricia A. Duran School: Celebrating a Season of Giving and Joy!

Article submitted by: Melissa Davis, Ed.D.

As the recent holiday season unfolded, our school community came together to create memorable and impactful events for all ages. Here's a recap of the recent festivities and activities that have warmed our hearts and brought us closer as a school community:

Thanksgiving Cards for Local Veterans

In honor of Thanksgiving, students in grades PreK through 4th came together to create and send heartfelt cards to local veterans. These notes of appreciation expressed gratitude for their service and sacrifice, reminding our veterans how much they are valued in our community.

Coin Drive for the Food Pantry

To support local families in need, our school community participated in a coin drive to benefit the Oasis Community Food Pantry, which serves families in Hampden and surrounding towns (including Hermon). Thanks to everyone's generosity, we were able to donate \$1617.18. This money will go a long way in ensuring that families have food on their tables during the winter and holiday season.

Helping Hands Christmas Gifts for Kids in Need

Our annual "Helping Hands" program has been a success once again. Through donations and community support, we collected Christmas gifts for children in need, spreading joy and making this holiday season brighter for young members of our community. Through the generosity of the Hermon community, we were able to help 15 families ensure that their children had presents under the tree this Christmas season.

Holiday Crafts for Grades Pre-K Through 4

Students in grades Pre-K through 4 enjoyed hands-on holiday craft sessions. From ornaments to holiday cards, they created special items to share with family and friends, expressing their creativity while getting into the holiday spirit.

We want to thank everyone who has participated and contributed to these events, including the Patricia A. Duran School Parent Teacher Association (PTA) who donated the crafts for this event. Together, we were able to spread warmth, kindness, and holiday cheer throughout our community.

Polar Express and Cookie Decorating for Pre-K

Our Pre-K students had an enchanting time with a "Polar Express" holiday tradition. Children came dressed in pajamas, enjoyed a reading of The Polar Express, visited the high school and middle school, and decorated cookies. We love that we have a tradition that students in all three schools can look forward to.

PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

THE ASSESSING HAS MAILED THE ANNUAL BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY DECLARATION FORMS (706-A REQUESTS)

The State of Maine has two business equipment property tax relief programs designed to reduce the burden of personal property taxes that businesses pay. The programs vary based on the date the property was placed in service in the state.

Business Equipment Tax Exemption Program (BETE):

For property placed in service after April 1, 2007, the Business Equipment Property Tax Exemption (BETE) program applies; commonly referred to as the "BETE" program. The exemption applies to most depreciable business equipment; however, certain items are excluded, such, vehicles subject to excise tax, office furniture, lighting, gambling equipment, and property located at a retail sales facility and used primarily in a retail sales activity. Retail equipment will continue to be covered under Maine's Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement program, (BETR) as discussed further below.

A BETE application **MUST be filed ANNUALLY** with the tax assessor by April 1 of each year, but an extension to May 1 is automatically granted. Further extensions beyond May 1 may be requested in writing to the local assessor. Filing the BETE application on time is critical, as property will be disqualified from the exemption for any year the report is not considered to be timely filed. The exemption application **MUST LIST ON THE APPLICATION** all eligible exempt property purchased after April 1, 2007, *each year*, not only in the year of purchase. There is no time limit on the number of years the exemption may be claimed, but the business or business owner must apply annually with a completed application and itemized list of personal property requesting exemption on.

Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement Program (BETR)

The BETE program described above is in addition to the Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement referred to as (BETR) program. This program applies to eligible equipment first placed in service in Maine after April 1, 1995 and on or before April 1, 2007. Certain retail equipment excluded from the BETE program continues to be eligible for the BETR program (retailers should consult Maine Revenue's Guidance Document mentioned above).

The BETR eligible personal property definition is essentially the same as for BETE, and can be claimed at 100% of the assessed amount for 12 years. Beyond 12 years the reimbursement rate is reduced to 75% or less of the assessed tax.

There is a two-part process for receiving reimbursement under the BETR program.

Part 1: Form 801A (for the first 12 years) or 801B (for subsequent years) must be filed with the local assessor. The assessor has 60 days to complete the form.

Part 2: Form 800, Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement Application, is filed by the taxpayer with the State along with the completed Form 801. The State releases these forms August 1st of each year. The reimbursement program is for taxes paid in the prior year, which means payments made in 2025 will be reimbursable between Aug. 1st through December 31st, 2026. Form 800 must be filed with the state by December 31, 2025.

Please contact our office at 207-848-1010 Option #1 or email us at

Assessor@HermonMaine.gov for more information on the above programs or help with declaring your Business's Personal Property.

JOIN HERMON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2029!

SNOW DATE
THURSDAY
MARCH 6TH
SAME TIME

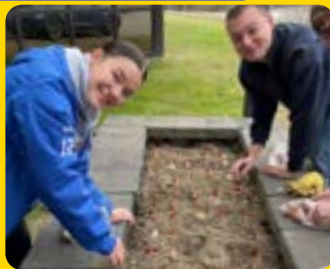
**FOR
STUDENTS!**
**WEDNESDAY
MARCH 5TH, 2025
9:00AM-11:00AM**

Your introduction to elective courses and activities. Learn about our program of studies, athletics, and many clubs at HHS!

Tour will start at 6:00pm. Administration's presentation will follow in the auditorium.

School tour and presentation by administration and school counselors. See your future school and hear about expectations, curriculum, and more!

**FOR PARENTS
& STUDENTS!**
**WEDNESDAY
MARCH 5TH, 2025
6:00-8:00PM**



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For more information about our Step-Up events or registering with Hermon High School, please contact the Guidance office at 848-4026.



**HERMON
RECREATION**

Daughter DANCE

SUNDAY

2.16.25

MORGAN HILL EVENT CENTER

TWO TIME SLOTS

3 - 5 PM

6 - 8 PM

REGISTRATION REQUIRED - LIMITED SPACE

PREK-8TH GRADE

REGISTER FROM:

JAN 1ST - JAN 31ST

REGISTER ON HERMONREC.COM

\$30
RESIDENTS

\$40
NON-RES



Before the Dance

If you would like to save money and "shop" for a gently worn dress for the upcoming Daughter Dance, then come to our FREE Formal Dress Exchange!

DATE: Friday, January 31 TIME: 6pm-8:30pm
LOCATION: Hermon Town Office - Council Chambers

Winter Hours
SAT & SUN 12 - 5 PM
Effective Nov. 1, 2024

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