

The Hermon CONNECTION

Vol. 30 Issue 5 – September 2023

Updates • News • Events • Information

Young Entrepreneurs

Article by: Jodi Hersey

A pair of Hermon 10-year-olds tapped into their entrepreneurial spirit this summer to gain some on-the-job experience while earning their own money. Liam Garland woke up early this summer to tend his garden and pick vegetables for his family's business called The Back Seven farm stand. From their homemade wooden structure 10-year-old Liam and his older brother Braden offer Hermon residents and motorists passing through town produce like zucchini, beans, carrots, and potatoes. "In the winter, I looked at the seed catalogs and decided which ones I wanted and what vegetables I wanted to grow," Liam explained. His mother Andrea Garland said they've tried gardening in the past, but this is the first year their efforts have truly paid off. "There's nothing like fresh vegetables," Andrea said. "And the kids work really well together taking care of the stand. They are harvesting everything. They are setting everything up and we are completely uninvolved in that part of it." Liam decided to invest any profits he makes right back into the farm business.

Meanwhile, his fellow classmate, 10-year-old Jameson Walker, has been just as busy spending some of his summer afternoons working at his family's food truck called JJ's Jerk Shack. The Walker's food truck, which sells jerk chicken sandwiches, rice bowls and other specials, is parked across from Sprague's Nursery in Bangor. "I take the orders and get the drinks for people," said Jameson. "The best part about working is around lunchtime when I get to have my sandwich. It's better than making myself a hotdog at home." Jameson gets paid in tips for his work on the food truck. "Obviously at 10-years-old we are right there with him, kind of holding his hand, but teaching him those values and life skills at the same time," explained Whitney Walker, Jameson's mother. Both boys' parents say they are more than happy to support their young sons entrepreneurial efforts. "This is one way we can teach them to take care of themselves," said Andrea. "They can grow their own food and figure out how to feed themselves and their families."



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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: October 20, 2023

The Return of Summer Sizzler

Article by Lindsey Ouellette, Photos by Todd Douglass

We were pleased to bring back the well-loved Summer Sizzler to our community this year. The day started with a fun slime run for both kids and adults, we had over 70 participants get doused with slime! Later, we hosted a car cruise-in that featured an impressive display of classic and modern vehicles. The rest of the day was spent with bounce houses, inflatables, a corn hole tournament, a variety of food trucks and vendor booths. We ended the night with a live band and an amazing fireworks display. We anticipate an even bigger event next year on 8-17-24!



History lessons

WWII veteran shares his memories with Hermon brothers

Article & Photos by Jodi Hersey

While most kids were enjoying camp or the beach this summer, a pair of brothers from Hermon spent their vacation learning about history from 102-year-old World War II dive bomber pilot, Ed Hendrickson of Brewer.

Ten-year-old twins Don and Frankie Veneziano, of Hermon, first met Hendrickson at this year's Bangor Brewer 4th of July parade. The brothers proudly carried the WWII banner in the parade while Hendrickson was pushed in a wheelchair close behind them donning a bright tied-dye colored shirt and his WWII veteran hat. The trio enjoyed each other's company so much that Hendrickson invited the brothers and their parents over to his apartment so he could show them black and white photos from his time spent in the Pacific.

Hendrickson, who flew a Curtis SB2C Helldiver in WWII, served four years in the Navy. "I remember the night a torpedo went underneath our ship. We all were told to go to our battle stations. We would have to take turns flying patrol looking for submarines," he described in detail to the boys before continuing, "I spotted something way up in the air, a plane. And I thought there wasn't supposed to be any planes in this area. At that time, there was always one dive bomber and one fighter that fly together. The fighter is there for protection and the dive bomber is there to look around and see if there are any other planes that shouldn't be there. When the plane got in front of me, I could see the big red circle. So I went after the guy. I tailed right behind him. I fired and I could see the plane I shot down, and I could see the parachute was covered in blood, so I know he was killed and I thought that's too bad, someone is going to miss him."

He shared pictures and stories of happy times as well during his military service. "My mom sent me a chocolate cake with white frosting when I was in the Pacific. Do you know I have no idea how long it took to arrive, but it was still good," he reminisced.

Both Veneziano boys, who love history, said meeting Hendrickson was exciting. "It was a great learning experience," said Don. "We'd love to have the chance to do it again."

"It was neat to see his black and white photos and it was a great history lesson from a veteran," added Frankie.

The three are planning to reunite again during the Veterans Day Parade in Bangor in November.



LD 290 "Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens" has been repealed by State Legislature

The LD 290 "Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens" program, enacted in August 2022, was repealed by the Maine Legislature on July 6, 2023. This program allowed Maine seniors 65 and older, who owned a permanent residence in Maine for at least 10 years and were receiving (or eligible for) a homestead exemption, to freeze taxes at the previous year's amount, regardless of income.

What does this mean for me?

If you are currently enrolled in the Property Tax Stabilization program, your tax bill you receive this fall will be "frozen" at the same amount as last year, unless the new tax bill is lower, in which case you will be taxed at the smaller amount.

There is **no reapplication** going forward. The repeal of LD 290 means that this program will not be available after this year. Your tax amount next year will revert to an amount based on the current mil rate and your assessed value (minus any property tax exemptions such as the homestead, veteran, or blind person).

What replaced LD 290?

Two existing State programs are being expanded:

The Property Tax Fairness Credit now allows eligible Mainers to take a \$2,000 income tax credit and loosens limits on the program in a way that allows the benefits to remain constant for a Mainer whose spouse passes away. Note: ***This program is not administered by the Town of Hermon***; to claim the credit, you must file a Maine Tax Return (Form 1040ME and Schedule PTFC/STFC) for the tax year during which the property tax or rent was paid. For help, call 207-624-9784. For more info, please visit: <https://www.maine.gov/revenue/taxes/tax-relief-credits-programs/income-tax-credits/property-tax-fairness-credit>.

The State Property Tax Deferral Program, is a program that allows eligible Mainers to defer (postpone) payment of the property taxes on their homesteads until they pass away, move, or sell their property. During the period when the taxes are being deferred, the State reimburses the municipality for the deferred taxes. The deferred tax, plus interest, is then required to be repaid to the State by the individual or their estate when they pass away, move, sell the property, or move the property (if mobile or floating home) out of Maine. For more info please visit: <https://www.maine.gov/revenue/taxes/tax-relief-credits-programs/property-tax-relief-programs/deferral-program>.

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Welcome Back to School!

By Melissa Davis, Ed.D.

Educators at the Patricia A. Duran School were excited to welcome students back for the 2023-2024 school year. We kicked off the back to school celebration with a "Sneak-a-Peek" on August 30th. Students and families were invited to drop by and view the classroom and meet their teachers. This was also a great opportunity for families to learn about before and after school care through the Hermon Rec. Department. The Darling's Ice Cream Truck also made an appearance and provided some sweet treats with proceeds going toward the Duran School's PTA. We were all very excited to see our students and to hear all about their summer adventures. We are looking forward to the new adventures this school year will bring.

Want to contribute to the *Hermon Connection*?

Have something you want to share with the community? If you have an item of interest pertaining to the Town of Hermon we want to hear about it! Submitting an article in the Hermon Connection is a good way for residents and organizations to share stories of interest with the community. If you would like to submit an article, please email it to Lindsey Ouellette at ouellettel@hermonmaine.gov. In order for Hermon residents and/or organizations to submit articles to be published in the Connection, the following criteria must be met:

1. The person submitting the article must be a resident of the Town of Hermon.
2. The organization submitting the article must be location within Hermon's geographic boundaries.
3. The organization has a lawful purpose which does not pose a threat to public order, to the safety of the public, or to the safety of any individual.
4. The organization does not have as its primary purpose marketing products of services or making a profit.

Please be aware that any articles and notices submitted by community members and community organizations may not contain offensive language, slander, advocate violence or unlawful activity, or pose a threat to public order or to persons or their reputation. When determining whether or not to submit an article, please be aware the deadlines for submission are approximately the 20th of February, April, June, August, October and December.

Once you have submitted your article, Town staff will be in contact with you to let you know if the article you submitted will be published. We look forward to hearing from you!

Seniors may be eligible for tax refunds, even if they aren't required to file Maine tax returns

The Legislature is adjourned until January 2024. Unfortunately, it did so without lowering income taxes, despite voting to spend \$10.3 billion of our money. The budget that was passed eliminated the senior property tax stabilization program. Because the budget does not address the needs of all Mainers, especially those struggling to pay bills, I voted against it. The Legislature was also unable to complete its work in a timely fashion, so many bills are being held over until next session.

This month, I want to focus on a possible way to help seniors and those living on a fixed income. Some Maine residents may still benefit from filing a Maine tax return, even if they are not required to!

Maine residents who filed to claim the \$850 checks last year learned that they'd been missing out on the **Property Tax Fairness Credit** and the **Sales Tax Fairness Credit** by opting not to file a Maine tax return.

The **2021 Property Tax Credit** was worth up to \$1,500 for qualified applicants, if filers file returns for up to 3 back tax years to claim the **Property Tax Fairness Credit** and the **Sales Tax Fairness Credit**.

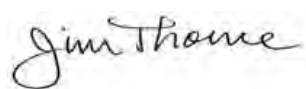
Going forward they would likely continue to qualify for the **Property Tax Fairness Credit** and the **Sales Tax Fairness Credit**. I am helping to spread the word about the **Property Tax Fairness Credit** and the **Sales Tax Fairness Credit**, offering some consolation to folks who didn't file by the deadline to receive the \$850 and \$450 checks issued last year by Maine Revenue Services.

Obviously, this message does not apply to most readers, but maybe you know someone that can benefit from this?

Follow this link to Maine Revenue's Information about **Tax Credits and Programs**:
<https://www.maine.gov/revenue/taxes/tax-relief-credits-programs>

Please feel free to contact me at Jim.Thorne@legislature.maine.gov or call 207 287-1440 if you are a Senior citizen and would like to assistance. Thank you for the opportunity to represent you in the Maine House. I love hearing your thoughts and concerns, and appreciate your input!

Sincerely, Rep. Jim Thorne



Youth Football Schedules



Home Games @ HES

Hermon 7/8 Tackle Football Game Schedule

September 5th	@ Nokomis	4:00 PM
September 12th	@ Belfast	4:30 PM
September 20th	V. Old Town	4:00 PM
September 27th	@ Brewer (Doyle Field)	5:00 PM
October 4th	V. Medomak	4:00 PM
October 11th	V. Oceanside	4:00 PM
October 18th	@ Hampden	4:00 PM
October 25th	V. Bangor	6:30 PM



Home Games @ HHS

5/6 Tackle Football Game Schedule - PARSONS (HERMON 1)

BLUE

WEEK 1 (9/3)	V. Winslow	3:30 PM
WEEK 2 (9/10)	@ Brewer	2:00 PM
WEEK 3 (9/17)	V. Medomak Valley	2:00 PM
WEEK 4 (9/24)	@ Oceanside	2:00 PM
WEEK 5 (10/1)	V. Belfast	2:00 PM
WEEK 6 (10/8)	@ Dover-Foxcroft	2:00 PM
WEEK 7 (10/15)	V. Hampden	2:00 PM
WEEK 8 (10/22)	@ Bangor	TBD
WEEK 9 (10/29)	@ Lincoln	2:00 PM



Home Games @ HHS

3/4 Tackle Football Game Schedule - NASON (HERMON 1)

BLUE

WEEK 1 (9/3)	V. ATHENS	1:30 PM
WEEK 2 (9/10)	@ Brewer	12:00 PM
WEEK 3 (9/17)	V. Medomak Valley	12:00 PM
WEEK 4 (9/24)	@ Oceanside	12:00 PM
WEEK 5 (10/1)	V. Belfast	12:00 PM
WEEK 6 (10/8)	@ Dover-Foxcroft	12:00 PM
WEEK 7 (10/15)	V. Hampden	12:00 PM
WEEK 8 (10/22)	@ Bangor	TBD
WEEK 9 (10/29)	@ Lincoln	12:00 PM



Home Games @ HHS

5/6 Tackle Football Game Schedule - WALKER (HERMON 2)

GOLD

WEEK 1 (9/3)	V. Dover Foxcroft	11:00 AM
WEEK 2 (9/10)	@ Medomak Valley	2:00 PM
WEEK 3 (9/17)	@ Belfast	2:00 PM
WEEK 4 (9/24)	V. Nokomis	2:00 PM
WEEK 5 (10/1)	@ Brewer	2:00 PM
WEEK 6 (10/8)	V. Lincoln	2:00 PM
WEEK 7 (10/15)	@ Old Town	2:00 PM
WEEK 8 (10/22)	@ Bangor	TBD
WEEK 9 (10/29)	V. Fairfield	2:00 PM



Home Games @ HHS

3/4 Tackle Football Game Schedule - MCLELLAN (HERMON 2)

GOLD

WEEK 1 (9/3)	V. Dover Foxcroft	9:00 AM
WEEK 2 (9/10)	@ Medomak Valley	12:00 PM
WEEK 3 (9/17)	@ Belfast	12:00 PM
WEEK 4 (9/24)	V. Nokomis	12:00 PM
WEEK 5 (10/1)	@ Brewer	12:00 PM
WEEK 6 (10/8)	V. Lincoln	12:00 PM
WEEK 7 (10/15)	@ Old Town	12:00 PM
WEEK 8 (10/22)	@ Bangor	TBD
WEEK 9 (10/29)	V. Fairfield	12:00 PM

HS Varsity Home Games

9/8 – 7 PM v. Oceanside
 9/22 – 7 PM v. Medomak
 10/6 – 7 PM v. Old Town
 10/20 – 7 PM v. Nokomis



HS JV Home Games

9/4 – 5 PM v. Brewer
 9/18 – 5 PM v. Foxcroft
 10/16 – 5 PM v. Hampden

Come support your local football teams this fall!

HERMON SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

Special Education Child Find Notice

The Hermon School Department is in compliance with federal and state regulations regarding the delivery of services to all children with special needs. Federal statutes (I.D.E.A.) requires that the School Department identifies, locates and evaluates all children with disabilities, ages 3-20, residing within the school district. Residents who believe that their child is in need of special education services, whether attending public or private school, should contact Cindy Badger, Director of Student Services, 31 Billings Road, Hermon, ME 04401, Tel. (207) 848-4000, X 6004.

Annual Notice of Student Education Records and Information Rights

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") provides certain rights to parents and eligible students (18 years of age or older) with respect to the student's education records. A copy of the Hermon School Department's policy statement and administrative procedure is available in each school.

Inspection of Records

Parents/ eligible students may inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of making a request. Such requests must be submitted to the Superintendent or building administrator in writing and must identify the record(s) to be inspected. The superintendent or building administrator will notify the parent/eligible student of the time and place where the record(s) may be inspected. Parents/eligible students may obtain copies of education records at a cost of ten cents (\$0.10) per page copied.

Amendment of Records

Parents/eligible students may ask the Hermon School Department to amend education records they believe are inaccurate, misleading or in violation of the student's right to privacy. Such requests must be submitted to the Superintendent or building administrator in writing, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the superintendent or building administrator decides not to amend the record as requested, the parent/eligible student will be notified of the decision, their right to request a hearing and information about the hearing procedure.

Disclosure of Records

The Hermon School Department must obtain a parent/eligible student's written consent prior to disclosure of personally identifiable information in education records except in circumstances permitted by law.

Directory Information

The Hermon School Department designates the following student information as directory information that may be made public at its discretion: name, participation and grade level of students in officially recognized activities and sports, height and weight of student athletes, dates of attendance in the Hermon School Department, and honors and awards received, and photographs and videos of student participation in school activities open to the public (except photographs and videos on the Internet). Parents/eligible students who do not want the Hermon School Department to disclose directory information must notify the Superintendent in writing by September 15th or within thirty (30) days of enrollment, whichever is later.

Military Recruiters / Institutions of Higher Learning

Military recruiters and institutions of higher education are entitled to receive the names, addresses and telephone numbers of secondary students, and the Hermon School Department must comply with any such request, provided that parents have been notified of their right to request that this information not be released without prior written consent. Parents/eligible students who do not want the Hermon School Department to disclose this information must notify the Superintendent in writing by September 15th or within thirty (30) days of enrollment, whichever is later.

School Officials with Legitimate Educational Interests

Education records may be disclosed to school officials with a "legitimate educational interest." A school official has a legitimate educational interest if he/she needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his/her professional responsibility. School officials include persons employed by the Hermon School Department as an administrator, supervisor, instructor or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); members of the Hermon School Committee; persons or companies with whom the Hermon School Department has contracted to provide specific services (such as attorneys, auditors, medical consultants, evaluators or therapists); and parents, students and volunteers serving on an official committee (such as a disciplinary or grievance committee) or assisting a school official in performing his/her professional responsibilities.

Health or Safety Emergencies

In accordance with federal regulations, the Hermon School Department may disclose education records without prior written consent in a health and safety emergency to any person whose knowledge or the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals.

Other School Units

As required by Maine law, the Hermon School Department sends student education records to a school unit to which a student applies for transfer, including disciplinary records, attendance records, special education records and health records (except for confidential health records for which consent for dissemination has not been obtained).

Other Entities / Individuals

Education records may be disclosed to other entities and individuals as specifically permitted by law. Parents/eligible students may obtain information about other exceptions to the written consent requirements by request to the Superintendent or building administrator.

Complaints Regarding School Department Compliance with FERPA

Parents/eligible students who believe that the Hermon School Department has not complied with the requirements of FERPA have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education. The office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington D.C.

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