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2026 Shriner's Lobster Bowl



The 36th annual Maine Shrine Lobster Bowl Classic took place on July 18, 2026, at Don Roux Field at Lewiston High School, where the West team defeated the East team 28-26. Colin Moran threw an 8-yard touchdown pass to Kai Turner with just 1:27 left in the fourth quarter. The fourth quarter featured four lead changes before the West secured the final comeback win.

Bill Van Tassel photos

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MOVIE REVIEW *by Lucas Allen*

THE ODYSSEY [2026]

After winning two Academy Awards with “Oppenheimer,” writer/producer/director Christopher Nolan returns to grand-scale filmmaking with an epic story that’s three thousand years in the making. Based on Homer’s ancient poem, “The Odyssey” may have been faithfully and loosely adapted in the past, but never in such a Hollywood big-budget, ambitious fashion as this. It is worth noting that Nolan and cinematographer Hoyte van Hoytema shot the entire movie with IMAX film cameras, which is a sign that you are not just watching a movie; you are becoming part of the experience.

Many years after the end of the Trojan War, Odysseus (Matt Damon) on his way home to Ithaca is stranded on an island without any memory of how he got there. His only companion is the beautiful and obsessive Calypso (Charlize Theron), who nursed him back to health by feeding him lotus flowers. Eventually, he can recall leading his Greek army under the command of Agamemnon (Benny Safdie) to overtake the city of Troy from the Trojans but then faces many obstacles on the journey back, including a giant cyclops, the vengeful witch Circe (Samantha Morton), a trip to the underworld, and the wrath of the gods.

Meanwhile, Queen Penelope (Anne Hathaway) is still waiting for her husband’s return, though a large group of suitors led by the slimy Antinous (Robert Pattinson) are vying for her hand in marriage. However, her determined son Telemachus (Tom Holland), with the help of half-blind Eumae-

us (John Leguizamo), sneaked out of the kingdom to sail with Mentor (Ryan Hurst) to find his father. On a stop to Sparta’s kingdom of Menelaus (Jon Bernthal), the king tells him he does not know if his father is still alive but can recall fighting alongside him in the fall of Troy before marrying Helen (Lupita Nyong’o). As Odysseus finds his way back to his wife and son, Antinous conspires with the other suitors to take the Queen and the kingdom by force.

Those who know the story will tell that it had to be condensed for the entirety of this three-hour film, including minimizing the role of the goddess Athena (Zendaya) to simply being Odysseus’ spiritual guide. Still, the main core of the poem remains, and Nolan does a very good job keeping a tight and concise focus on the journey itself, especially with his habit of going back-and-forth with the timeline. There are just enough necessary side characters to use, so that the film wouldn’t feel too overstuffed. The writing and directing are once again in full display in a top-notch manner that it’s an unquestionable success.

Thanks to its IMAX photography, every frame looks astounding and easily comes right out of the screen. It also makes great use of its stunning locations, bringing a more exotic flavor to this ancient tale. Since the director likes to bring more practicality to his filmmaking, there’s definitely some careful attention to both the cinematography and the special effects to help complement the story.

There’s also a nice balance between dialogue scenes and intense action sequences that are wonderfully placed together to keep the flow of the story moving. The tone is very consistent between the emotional drama and the battle scenes, which brings home a thrilling experience for the big screen. Everything naturally comes together in the climactic fight scene between Odysseus and the suitors that becomes a well-choreographed battle to the death.

Like in his other films, Nolan put together an astonishing all-star cast, who each give it their all successfully. Damon may be playing the ancient hero equivalent of Jason Bourne, but he’s still a very capable lead actor honoring his character’s journey. Holland is equally at his very best, as is Hathaway, giving a powerful performance. Even Pattinson isn’t afraid to go a little extra mad in his villainous role no matter what his scenes call for. But while all their roles are small, Zendaya, Nyong’o, and Theron each still bring a touch of elegance and emotion to their portrayals.

Christopher Nolan has certainly made another winner with “The Odyssey,” not just for the box office, but also for the hearts and minds of filmgoers around the world. Whether or not it will take home awards history like “Oppenheimer” remains to be seen, though he still made quite a near-perfect masterpiece of cinematic proportions.

THE MOVIE’S RATING: R (for violence and some language)
THE CRITIC’S RATING: 4 Stars (Out of Four)



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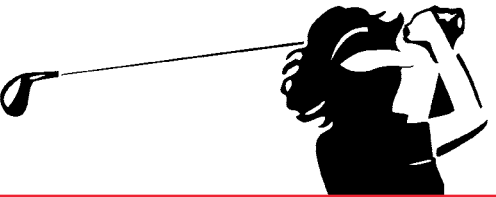
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STUDENT NEWS

Arianna Morse, of Gorham, named to Lasell University Spring 2026 Dean’s List

Newton, MA – Arianna Morse, a Lasell University student from Gorham, was named to the Dean’s List for their academic performance in the Spring 2026 semester. To be named to the Dean’s List, Lasell students must complete at least 12 credits as a full-time student and achieve a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher.

More than 2,800 University of Rhode Island students named to Spring 2026 President’s List

Kingston, RI - The University of Rhode Island is pleased to announce that several area students have been named to its Spring 2026 President’s List. Among them are: Alyvia Caruso of Gorham
Brooke Gerry of Windham

Amanda Morin named to Spring 2026 Dean’s List at Hofstra University

Hempstead, NY – Amanda Morin, of Gorham, excelled during the spring 2026 semester at Hofstra, achieving a GPA of at least 3.5 to earn a spot on the Dean’s List. Amanda’s major is Forensic Science.

Greta Paulding of Windham named to Dean’s List at Grove City College

Grove City, PA -- Greta Paulding, a junior Marketing major at Grove City College from Windham, has been named to the Dean’s List with High Distinction for the spring 2026 semester. Students eligible for the Dean’s List have a GPA of 3.40 to 3.59; for the Dean’s List with Distinction a GPA of 3.60 to 3.84 and for the Dean’s List with High Distinction a GPA of 3.85 to 4.0.

Nazareth University Dean’s List Spring 2026

Rochester, NY– Nazareth University students named to the spring 2026 Dean’s List. Lauren Bachner of Gorham
Madeline Downey of Gorham
A student’s grade point average must be at least 3.5, and they must complete 12 credit hours of graded work that semester to be included on the Dean’s list at Nazareth.

Rockhurst University announces Spring 2026 Dean’s List

Kansas City, Mo. - Rockhurst University named Alicia Boser, of Windham, to the Dean’s List for the spring 2026 semester. This honor recognizes students who have achieved a grade-point average of 3.5 or above.

Roger Williams University announces Spring 2026 Dean’s List

Bristol, RI - Select students have been named to the Spring 2026 Dean’s List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I. Full-time students who complete 12 or more credits per semester and earn a GPA of 3.4 or higher are placed on the Dean’s List that semester. Lucy Hatch of Windham
Ashton Leclerc of Gorham

Ella Novak named to Spring 2026 Chancellor’s Honor Roll at the University of Mississippi

University, MS – Ella Novak, of Windham, was named to the University of Mississippi’s Spring 2026 Honor Roll list. Novak, in the B.M.D.S. in multi-disciplinary Studies program, was named to the Chancellor’s Honor Roll, which is reserved for students who earn a semester GPA of 3.75-4.00.

More than 4,000 University of Rhode Island students named to Spring 2026 Dean’s List

Kingston, RI - The University of Rhode Island is pleased to announce that several area students have been named to its Spring 2026 Dean’s List. Among them are: Alex Bolland of Gorham, Abigail Houpp of Gorham, Quinn Lachance of Gorham, Riley Parker of Windham and Ava Wardwell of Windham.

Audrey Day of Windham named to the Spring 2026 Provost’s List at Hofstra University

Hempstead, NY – Audrey Day, of Windham, achieved a perfect 4.0 GPA during the spring 2026 semester, earning a spot on the Provost’s List at Hofstra University. Audrey’s major is Mechanical Engineering.

Maine students honored at Annual SkillsUSA Workforce Development Event

Atlanta, GA - A career and technical student in Maine won one of the nation’s highest awards at the National Leadership & Skills Conference (NLSC), held June 1-5 in Atlanta. An all-time high of 7,000 students competed in the 2026 SkillsUSA Championships at NLSC, which is the largest gathering of the future skilled workforce. The following students from your area are Skill Point Certificate recipients: Dylan Armer, from Windham and a student at Portland Arts & Technology High School (Portland), was awarded a Skill Point Certificate in Automotive Maintenance and Light Repair.

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2026 Shriner’s Lobster Bowl High School Cheerleaders



These Western School Cheerleaders are getting to know each other and their Lobster Bowl routines during the Shriner’s Lobster Bowl week in July. They practiced at Central Maine Community College.

Bill Van Tassel photos



A few of the Shriner’s Lobster Bowl High School Cheerleaders from the West Division: L to R: Ava Ciriello - Edward Little, Avery Oliver - Mt. Blue, Gwendolyn Howard - Windham, Cassidy Perry - Brunswick, Evey Hall - Oxford Hill



A group of eight Maine high school cheerleaders chosen for the West Division, Shriner’s Lobster Bowl football game on July 18. L to R: Aryanna Carlson - Oak Hill, Alyssa Meikie - Gardiner, Aubrey Daigle - Gardiner, Brady Knight - Lisbon High School, Kennedy Minich - Oak Hill, Adalynn Peterson - Lake Region, Reese Kulow - Lisbon, and Alivia Saunders - Lisbon.

★

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2026 Maine Election

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