

Voters to decide in November if Windham Town Clerk job remains elected position

By Ed Pierce

STAFF WRITER

Just when residents thought the controversy surrounding the Town Clerk position in Windham was settled, a new development will have voters determine in the November election if the job is to remain an elected one or is appointed by the Windham Town Council.

During the Windham Town Council meeting on Aug. 20, comments were received from the public and a motion was discussed by councilors to place a referendum on General Election ballot for Nov. 5 to change the town clerk position from elected by voters to an appointed position by town councilors. A portion of the proposed referendum would have included language to amend the Windham Town Charter to grant councilors the ability to appoint and remove the Town Clerk on a vote of five members and to remove the Town Clerk position from provisions related to elected officials, essentially making the position by appointment of the council without a residency requirement. Councilor Jarrod Maxfield was not present for a vote about the issue on Aug. 20, and councilors deadlocked, 3-3, effectively killing the

issue going to a referendum for the time being.

But per council rules, a councilor can petition the Town Council chair to bring up an issue again if there is a substantive change from its original language. Council Chair Mark Morrison said that this was done, and a special meeting was requested to be held prior to the Sept. 5 deadline to include a referendum on the November ballot.

"All obligations were met, and rules of process followed per Windham Council Rules," Morrison said. "Ample notice was given to the public and council. All steps taken in support of holding this special meeting were reviewed by Windham counsel and determined to be in full order per attorney Mark Bower of Jensen, Baird, Law Firm."

Morrison said the issue has come up upon the recommendation of longtime elected Windham Town Clerk Linda Morrell, who sent a memo to the council detailing why she supports changing



The Windham Town Council has authorized a referendum on the Nov. 5 ballot to let voters decide if the Windham Town Clerk position should be elected or by appointment of the council. Windham Town Clerk Linda Morrell has served in the position for more than two decades. SUBMITTED PHOTO

the position to one that is appointed. "The Town Clerk's position should have someone who has clerk ex-

perience and who can be dedicated to this full-time position, including night meetings, and working evenings and weekends during election time. As an appointed position you can advertise and have the ability to choose the best qualified candidate," Morrell wrote in the memo. "If the clerk is elected, anyone in town is able to run, and you may only have one person running who could absolutely have no experience or have any idea of what goes on in the clerk's office. You cannot require qualifications when electing a clerk. This position has many responsibilities and involves several different jobs, most of which are state-mandated. Learning these jobs requires going to classes and workshops and repeating those classes due to laws and regulations continually changing. It takes two to three years to feel comfortable and knowledgeable in this position

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Maine author of historical fiction novel for teens eager to promote book in Windham this Saturday

By Ed Pierce

STAFF WRITER

The author of a new historical fiction novel set in Maine and containing a powerful message for teens will be in Windham on Saturday to meet the public and promote her book "Sophie's Gifts."

Shirley Ericson was born in Bangor, grew up in Eddington, graduated from Brewer High School and earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Southern Maine. She spent two and a half years researching and writing "Sophie's Gifts," located in rural Maine in 1933. In her novel, the 10-year-old Protestant protagonist is best friends with an Irish Catholic immigrant and that creates significant conflict.

In "Sophie's Gifts," trouble quickly settles in the Glidden home and the community once Sophie's parents discover that Sophie has a rosary. While searching for answers about why many adults in the fictional Kittington, Maine town are biased against Catholics, Sophie uncovers secrets about the church that she attends, and she finds a skeleton in the family closet.

Reviewers have called the novel "a powerful message with so much history and information about the time weaved in" and "a fast-paced story that



Author Shirley Ericson will be at Sherman's Maine Coast Book Shop in Windham on Saturday, Sept. 7 to promote her new book 'Sophie's Gifts,' a powerful historical fiction story set in Maine and intended for teen readers. SUBMITTED PHOTO

takes us on an exciting ride through history, weaving together action and suspense."

Although Ericson wrote this book for students, it is also an engaging adult read.

"All of the characters are fictitious. However, Mrs. Weymouth is a combination of three people from my life," Ericson said. "They were all snoops and one in particular was not fond of children. I came up with the name Weymouth one day while driving through Saco. I saw a street sign with the name and decided it was the perfect New England name for a character in my book."

During the time that she was creating the book there were periods when Ericson did not feel like writing.

"I put the manuscript in the drawer, worked on other things, and did not think about the book," she said. "When I returned to it, my eyes were fresh, and my mind was clear, making it easier to be objective and catch what wasn't working. Sometimes, I did not work on 'Sophie's Gifts' for as long as a month, especially if I was stuck. Usually, though, I set it aside for a week or two."

When she was writing, it was in the afternoon most of the time.

"But once in a while, I woke up at night, and ideas flowed, so I got up and wrote for as long as two to three hours some nights," Ericson said. "My favorite season to write is winter, but I write year-round."

The inspiration for her book came

from an experience in her own life.

"Thirty-five years ago, my husband served the Second Christian Congregational, United Church of Christ in Kittery, Maine," Ericson said. "During his pastorate there, I had an eye-opening conversation with a parishioner. Charlie was in his 80s at the time. He told me that when he was a boy, he sat up on Rogers Road and watched the KKK march by the parsonage and the church right down Government Street. I was surprised. Charlie explained to me there had been considerable discrimination against immigrants, especially Irish Catholic immigrants, when he was growing up. I did some research and was stunned by what I learned. I knew I wanted to write a book and weave the history of Klan activity in Maine into the story. While teaching, I didn't have time to write or do all the research needed. Now, in my retirement, I have met my goal."

According to Ericson, readers are captivated by the history they learn in the "Sophie's Gifts" book.

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INSIGHT

Man on a mission

I was watching a baseball game last weekend when a special guest in the broadcast booth completely changed my opinion of him and made me think about what he had to say.

During the fifth and sixth innings of Sunday's game between the visiting Baltimore Orioles and the host Colorado Rockies in Denver, former U.S. Olympian Michael Phelps joined broadcasters Kevin Brown and Ben McDonald for a light-hearted discussion about Phelps' connection to Baltimore, his Olympic career, and how closely he follows the Orioles.

I wasn't aware that Phelps was born in Baltimore and grew up in nearby Towson, Maryland. His mother enrolled him in youth swimming at the age of 7 after his two sisters did well in the sport. He said that he only took swimming lessons initially because his mother, who was a middle school principal, insisted that he do so. At first, Phelps was just an average swimmer but when his parents divorced when he was 9, swimming became an outlet for him. He struggled in school and by age 11, he was diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) while in sixth grade.

One of his teachers then turned his life around by telling him that "he would never amount to anything." That's when he poured his heart and soul into swimming and began to train at the North Baltimore Aquatic Club under Coach Bob Bowman, a former collegiate swimmer whose approach to swimming was as Phelps puts it "exactly like a drill sergeant."

He could not train under Bowman if his grades were poor, so during the school year, Phelps hit the books and then spent hours of training sessions in the pool. His work ethic and desire to win were so strong that he never missed a day of swimming training under Bowman's direction for more than 20 years.

By age 15 in 2000, Phelps became the youngest swimmer to ever qualify for the U.S. Summer Olympics team. He didn't win a medal in those games but finished fifth in the 200-meter butterfly. With an eye on the 2004 Olympics, he became the youngest swimmer to set a world record for the 200-meter butterfly during the World Championship Trials for the 2001 World Aquatic Championships at the age of 15 years and 9 months.

During the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens, Greece, Phelps captured six gold medals in six different events and two bronze medals in two others. In the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing, China, Phelps competed in eight events and brought home another eight gold medals.

Competitors and doubters in the media suggested that Phelps might be on drugs, and continuing to win gold medals because of steroid use. Phelps responded by passing every drug test that was administered to him throughout his entire career. He said he never let negative remarks bother him and that he attributes his success to always working harder than anyone else.

"While others were doing something else or celebrating the holidays, I was working and training," Phelps said. "I never missed a day, and nobody was going to outwork me, and it helped me to achieve what I did."

In the 2012 Summer Olympics in London, England, Phelps won four more gold medals and two silver medals. Following the games, he was ready to retire and done with swimming after racking up 18 gold medals and being honored as the winningest Olympian of all-time.

Yet less than two years later, Phelps decided to unretire, and set out to convince Bowman that he wasn't trying to show anybody up or to prove anything. "I wanted to swim for myself and to enjoy the journey," he told the Orioles broadcasters.

At the 2016 Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Phelps was the U.S. flag bearer for the Opening Ceremonies and then shattered his incredible Olympic medal total by winning five more gold medals and a silver medal, before retiring from competitive swimming for good.

Now married and the father of four children, Phelps lives in Paradise Valley, Arizona where he volunteers as an assistant coach under Bowman for the Arizona State Swimming Team. Now 39, he covered the recent Summer Olympic Games in Paris, France as a broadcaster for NBC Sports.


In retirement, he founded the Michael Phelps Foundation, the Michael Phelps Swim School, and helped to develop a national pilot swimming program for the Boys and Girls Clubs of America. He says his goal is to teach children the importance of being active and healthy by focusing on swimming.

During his career in competitive swimming, Phelps established 39 world records, and he amassed a total of 28 Olympic medals, with 23 of them being gold medals, which is the most ever for an Olympic athlete.

He said that his teacher's comment inspired him all those years ago and that he believes his dedication to training propelled him to his monumental accomplishments in swimming.

Until Sunday's baseball game, I never knew what made Phelps the fantastic swimmer that he was and I came away from listening to him with a greater appreciation of what it takes to reach the pinnacle of Olympic success and then stay at the top after getting there. < ~ Ed Pierce

Today in
HISTORY



SEPTEMBER 6

1620 – The Pilgrims sail from Plymouth, England on the Mayflower to settle in North America.

1819 – Thomas Blanchard of Massachusetts patents an industrial machine, the lathe.

1873 – Regular cable car service begins in San Francisco.

1876 – The Southern Pacific rail line from Los Angeles to San Francisco is completed.

1899 – The Carnation Company processes its first can of evaporated milk.

1909 – American explorer Robert Peary sends word that he has reached the North Pole.

1916 – The first supermarket opens in America in Memphis.

1978 – James Wickwire and Louis Reichardt reach the top of the world's second largest mountain, Pakistan's K-2 and are the first Americans to reach the summit.

1988 – Crippled Soviet spacecraft Soyuz TM-5 lands safely with two cosmonauts aboard.

ON THE SPOT

Who was your favorite teacher in school and what class was that?

"Dave Small, WHS Physics."
– Ethan Petty

"When I came back to the teaching profession in 2004, Diane Wallace Leavitt was my mentor who taught me so much about this wonderful profession." – Bill Keller

"Mrs. Leavitt and Mr. Regan. Mrs. Leavitt was a sweetheart and actually cared about letting kids explore and learn in a pretty carefree environment. I used to think Regan was grumpy, but I realized later in life we were just annoying kids who always got into trouble, but I'd have a beer with him now. Funny guy." – Stratton Berry

"Ms. Altomari. She taught various science classes."
– Mandy Lavallee

"Richard Harris, shop class."
– Andrew Frank

"Tie... Pam Mallard in Science or Charlie Haddock as Vice Principal. Charlie was so kind to me when I was acting out once, and Pam was just overall phenomenal."
– Kam Berry

"Desert Reams, Faubion Grade School, Portland Oregon."
– Julie Mallett

"Peg Brown for 6th grade - absolutely amazing teacher."
– Adam Manzo

"Mr. Christy 11th grade History, Mr. Dudley 11th grade English."
– Caryn Bicknell

"Karen Petcher! Wonderful teacher and great life guidance. All around amazing person!" – Charlie Michael

"Mr. Bob Parmakian. Senior topics in mathematics. Not only was his sense of humor unmatched, he cared if you understood what he was teaching. He'd stop and make sure you did." – Michael Nadeau

"Mrs. Petcher. She works tirelessly in and out of school going the extra mile to make sure her students are prepared to excel in math and beyond. Her perseverance and dedication are exceptional! I wouldn't have gotten through high school math without her."
– James Mannette

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Referendum questions, field of candidates for elections in Windham and Raymond finalized

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

The names on the ballots have been finalized, and the candidates are ready to convince residents they should be elected as voters across Windham and Raymond will head to the polls on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

Ballots will be cast to fill seats in local and state races and determine the outcome for five statewide referendum questions.

In Windham, there are three individuals running for two Windham Town Council seats. Incumbent William D. Reiner is unopposed in seeking a three-year term representing the town's West District. Competing for an At-Large council seat for a three-year term are incumbent David Nadeau and former town councilor Clayton Haskell.

Four candidates are vying for two seats in Windham on the RSU 14 Board of Directors for three-year terms. The top two candidates in this race receiving votes will earn seats on the board. Candidates include Frances Etheridge, Virginia Woodman, Jessica Bridges and Kathleen March.

All seats on the RSU 14 Board of Directors and the Windham Town Council are non-partisan.

For Maine State Senate District 26 representing Windham, part of Raymond, Casco, Frye Island, and part of Westbrook, incumbent Tim Nangle of Windham, a Democrat, will be opposed by Republican challenger Kenneth J. Cianchette of Windham.

Two candidates are seeking the Maine House of Representatives District 106 seat representing part of Windham. Incumbent Barbara Bagshaw of Windham, a Republican, is running for re-election and is opposed by Democrat challenger Doris Poland of Windham.

Three candidates are running for the Maine House of Representatives District 107 seat representing part of Windham. Incumbent Democrat Jane Pringle of Windham is opposed by Republican challenger Mark Cooper of Windham and Independent challenger and former State Representative Patrick Corey of Windham.

Only two local candidates are on the ballot in Raymond and are vying for the Maine House of Representa-

tives District 86 seat, representing part of Raymond, part of Poland, Casco and Frye Island. Longtime incumbent Jessica Fay, a Democrat, is term limited and instead two Raymond residents are seeking the position. Republican Rolf A. Olsen is challenged by Democrat Craig Messigner in the race.

For the Cumberland County Commissioner District 1 seat, former State Representative Tom Tyler of Windham will challenge Democrat Jean-Marie Caterina of Scarborough. Tyler is unenrolled, meaning he has no party affiliation at this time.

The five statewide referendum questions on the November 2024 General Election ballot include:

QUESTION 1: *An Act to Limit Contributions to Political Action Committees That Make Independent Expenditures. Do you want to set a \$5,000 limit for giving to political action committees that spend money independently to support or defeat candidates for office?*

QUESTION 2: *An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Research and Development and Commer-*

cialization. Do you favor a bond issue of \$25,000,000 to provide funds, to be awarded through a competitive process and to leverage matching private and federal funds on at least a one-to-one basis, for research and development and commercialization for Maine-based public and private institutions in support of technological innovation in the targeted sectors of life sciences and biomedical technology, environmental and renewable energy technology, information technology, advanced technologies for forestry and agriculture, aquaculture and marine technology, composites and advanced materials and precision manufacturing?

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AUTHOR *Cont. from page 1*

"Only a few people, including Mainers, know the history that is revealed," she said. "It is important to learn history. It cannot be swept under the carpet. If we learn something about our ancestors that we don't like, we should not scratch their names off our family trees. Instead, we should celebrate the growth that has taken place over time between them and us. We should look for ways to advocate for justice today, as Sophie did in her time."

Ericson said that when she was writing "Sophie's Gifts" she was sensitive to the fact that there might be people sitting in the pews at Second Christian Church in Kittery who are descendants of Ku Klux Klan members.

"Therefore, I did not use the names of any parishioners or the church's name in my writing, and I invented Kittington, Maine as the community's name for the book's setting," she said. "The story does not take place in Kittery or any other community. I drew from several places and memories when I created scenes. The kinds of events that took place in South-

ern Maine with the KKK occurred throughout the state, all the way up through Aroostook County."

She currently lives in Hershey, Pennsylvania with her husband and is now working on a new book which will also be set in Maine.

"My husband has constantly supported me from the first words I put on paper," Ericson said. "Now, he goes with me to signings and other book events. All of his coffee buddies at the neighborhood café and the staff have bought and read 'Sophie's Gifts.'"

The "Sophie's Gifts" book is published by the Newman Springs Publishing Company and expects to have an audiobook available by early winter 2025. Ericson is also writing a study guide for teachers who might want to incorporate "Sophie's Gifts" for their class.

Ericson will be at Sherman's Maine Coast Book Shop in Windham from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 7 to meet the public and discuss "Sophie's Gifts." Copies of the book will be available for purchase. It is also available in paperback, hardcover, and eBooks through Apple iTunes, Amazon, and Barnes and Noble. <

Maine CDC launches mobile app for immunization record

The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) has partnered with a new, free, mobile application, Docket, to allow Maine people to opt in to easily, quickly, and securely access their vaccine records through their smartphones and other mobile devices.

Once an individual's identity has been verified through the Docket app, Docket searches Maine's Immunization Information System (IIS) using basic demographic information (name, date of birth, and sex) to display immunization records on a mobile device for that individual.

"Docket can be used to share immunization records with health care providers, for school or childcare registration, or as a reminder for Maine people about vaccinations that they are due to receive," said Maine CDC Director Dr. Puthery Va. "This new app makes it easier and faster for Maine people to put their hands on their up-to-date vaccination records

right when they need them."

The Maine CDC has seen an increasingly high demand for access to vaccination records in recent years, which were previously processed by mail. So far this year, the Maine CDC has received over 3,000 requests for immunization records and between 2020 and 2023, nearly 10,000 requests were made. For comparison, in 2019, the Maine CDC received 111 requests for vaccination records.

To use the Docket app, you must be 18 years of age. Parents and guardians will be able to access vaccine records on behalf of minors in their care. The app is free and available for download in Apple and Android app stores.

Those without access to a smartphone or mobile device may use the Docket website to verify their identity and access their immunization records. Hard copies of immunization records may still be requested via a health care provider's office.

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→ **CLERK** *Cont. from page 1*

because there are so many things to learn and become familiar with. Elections are one of the most important things a clerk has to oversee, and you need to know what you are doing.”

Morrell has said that she will retire someday and that the job is tremendously challenging, and she only wants to ensure continuity and consistency when she does depart the job.

The council’s special meeting was held on Tuesday, Sept. 3, although Councilor John Henry, who had voted against creating a referendum on Aug. 20, had a prior commitment and was unable to attend the meeting. Both Councilor Bill Reiner and Vice Council Chair Nick Kalogerakis spoke during the special meeting, but

each left before a vote to advance the referendum was taken.

At the onset of the special meeting, a public hearing was conducted to allow for public comment regarding the matter.

In all, a total of 14 Windham residents spoke during the public hearing, including three former town councilors, and two current clerk deputies serving under Morrell in the Windham Town Clerk’s office. Of those voicing their opinion, 11 speakers opposed sending the proposed change to a referendum, one said she didn’t like the method used in bringing the issue to another vote, and two spoke in favor of sending it to a referendum. Of the emails received by the town regarding the matter, Kalogerakis said those were overwhelmingly against

making the Town Clerk an appointed position.

Because language added to the proposal differed substantially from the one previously voted on that did not include a residency requirement and possible waiver of that by the council. According to the town attorney’s opinion, the issue could be voted on again at the special meeting.

But Reiner disagreed with that assessment.

“The reason I don’t support it is I don’t believe it’s a substantive change,” he said.

Kalogerakis said that he not only opposed the original initiative, but he also believes calling for the special meeting after the issue wasn’t moved forward on Aug. 20 sets a bad precedent for the council.

“This is a strange meeting because we all know the outcome,” he said. “We’re being told the sky is falling and that concerns me because my point of view is very different. The town must be prepared for when department heads leave or retire. I want my vote and that’s what I’m fighting for. The majority of emails and speakers at both public hearings don’t want

this. It’s nuts, it’s embarrassing. I’d like to know how it will be worded on the ballot.”

He said what troubles him is the council voting a second time on something that wasn’t passed the first time.

“What’s got me the most is a council vote is a council vote,” Kalogerakis said. This stinks and I don’t know how the four voting for this can feel positive about this. When this passes, all I can tell you is fight it at the polls because they’ll have to respect it then.”

Maxfield said he understands the concerns about this, but he believes the voters need to be able to have their say about this issue.

“What’s ironic is that all of us with this group are arguing for literally the exact same thing but on different sides of the coin. We’ve been presented with logical issues by our current clerk that deserve consideration by more than seven people. The people of Windham should have the best option for whoever comes into the job.”

Morrison said in doing research about this issue he found that 24 of 28 nearby towns in Southern Maine had appointed town clerks and Morrell brought this to the council’s attention and she supported the possible change.


“This is Linda’s recommendation. Who better knows what’s best for our town and we need to take it seriously.”

Morrison, Maxfield, and Councilors Brett Jones and David Nadeau then voted 4-0 to create a referendum on the Nov. 5 ballot asking voters if they supported keeping the Town Clerk position as elected or taking the step to change the Town Charter to make the position an appointed one. <

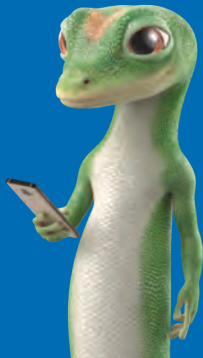
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Camp Sunshine to receive Compassionate Leadership Award grant from TramutoPorter Foundation

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

The TramutoPorter Foundation, a non-profit organization co-founded in 2001 by author and philanthropist Donato Tramuto and Jeffrey Porter, has announced its 2024 Compassionate Leadership Award recipients and local nonprofit Camp Sunshine has been honored as a grant recipient for this year.

The Maine-based TramutoPorter Foundation maintains an unwavering commitment to making the world more compassionate and kinder by making resources available globally to individuals and communities in need. Award Grants will be presented during National Compassionate Leadership Week, Sept. 8 to 14.

"Our 2024 award recipients exemplify the spirit of compassionate leadership that the TramutoPorter Foundation stands for," said Donato Tramuto of Ogunquit, co-founder of the TramutoPorter Foundation. "By supporting these outstanding individuals and organizations, we are not only recognizing their remarkable efforts but also reinforcing our commitment to fostering a kinder, more compassionate world. Each of these recipients has shown incredible dedication to making a difference in their communities, and we are proud to help them continue their vital work."

Established last year, the 2024 Compassionate Leadership of The Year Award grant is awarded to organizations that not only help to solve challenges in business, education,

politics, and within families, but also have demonstrated leadership with compassion and kindness.

Camp Sunshine in Casco was just one of five applicants to receive a Compassionate Leadership Award grant this year and will use it to launch a camp session for families who have a child who has experienced hearing loss due to a life-threatening illness.

In 2024, Camp Sunshine celebrates 40 years of providing hope, joy and community through unique experiences for children with life-threatening illnesses and their families. Its year-round program is always 100 percent free for families and a transportation stipend is provided.

Since 1984, more than 60,000 ill children, siblings, parents, and caregivers from all 50 states and 27 countries have come to Camp Sunshine. It provides retreats combining respite, recreation and support, while enabling hope and promoting joy, for children with life-threatening illnesses and their families through the various stages of a child's illness.

Camp Sunshine is genuinely a place for all seasons; families from all over the United States, Canada, and other parts of the world make the trek to our unique retreat on beautiful Sebago Lake in Casco. Greeted by vol-



Camp Sunshine in Casco has received a Compassionate Leadership Award grant from the TramutoPorter Foundation and will use it to launch a camp session for families who have a child who has experienced hearing loss due to a life-threatening illness. COURTESY PHOTO

unteers in yellow shirts and mascots Sunny, Chip Chip, and Lupi, family members enter through one of Camp Sunshine's three yellow doors. Right away, they know that we have each family member's needs in mind.

With decades of dedication and expertise, staff and volunteers or about 75 in each session put families at ease. Families can set their worries aside knowing that there is a physician on site. Camp Sunshine is a place where families can really relax and let staff and volunteers take care of every member of the family.

Meeting other families who face the same issues, large and small, is a unique benefit of the Camp Sunshine experience. While attending one of the year-round sessions offered at Camp Sunshine, families have the opportunity to enjoy a wide range of activities with up to 40 other families. Whether it's reaching the top of the climbing wall, swimming in the lake, or enjoy-

ing a horse-drawn wagon ride during a winter session, there is fun for every member of the family.

Because of its emphasis on families and showing kindness toward everyone is a strong reason why Camp Sunshine was chosen for this honor.

"These awards highlight the incredible potential for compassion to drive positive change," said Jeffrey Porter, co-founder of the TramutoPorter Foundation. "We are investing in a future where compassion and kindness are the foundations of strong communities and impactful solutions."

About TramutoPorter Foundation
Since 2001, the Tramuto Foundation and its subsidiary program, Health eVillages, has helped scores of people across the globe realize the mission of creating a brighter future through student scholarships, health access, as well as financial grants to organizations worldwide whose vision is to help right the wrong and make this world a better place for all. The Foundation has served as a voice in creating partnerships that have a sustainable and measurable impact in making the world more compassionate and kinder. FMI go to: tramutofoundation.com.

For more details about Camp Sunshine, visit www.campsunshine.org

Dolby, Blais & Segee Funeral Chapel DIANA JEAN NOACK MILLS, 74



WINDHAM -Diana Jean Noack Mills died August 24, 2024 at age 74 at Gosnell Memorial Hospice House. She was a resident of Windham, Maine. Diana was born in Celina, OH on July 15, 1950. She was the daughter of Robert and Esther Fickert Noack. Esther died at Diana's birth. Robert later married Lucille Hines Noack, who was a loving mother and raised Diana.

She graduated from Celina High School, attended Adrian College, Wright State University, and received her BA from Cleveland State University. She taught elementary school for MSAD 15 (Gray and New Gloucester Maine) and later taught many years in MSAD 6, at Edna Libby School in Sebago Lake Village. After retiring, she was president of Mills & Co. in Windham, Maine. She was an active and dedicated member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Westbrook, Maine.

Diana met her husband Robert (Bob) Mills while attending Adrian College. They were married June 12, 1971 and lived in Ohio until Diana finished her degree at Cleveland State University. They moved to Maine in the summer of 1973, living in Buxton and then in Windham for 41 years.

She was predeceased by her parents and by a sister, Patricia Linn. Surviving in addition to her husband, Bob Mills of Windham, are her sons R. Bryan Mills, his wife Heidi of Windham, and two children Mark and Bria; John Mills, his wife Isabelle of Rochester, MN, and two children Lillian and Amelia; Daniel Mills, his wife Lauren of Freeport, and three children Brody, Marian, and Charlotte, with twins on the way.

Our family thanks the Windham Rescue, Maine Medical Center, New England Rehab, and the Gosnell Memorial Hospice House for the loving care that Diana received.

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Windham Cancer Support Group honors memory of active member and volunteer Rachel Phinney

► **By Jeanne Curtin**
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE

The first time Rachel Phinney attended the newly formed Windham Cancer Support Group (WCSG) back in 2006, she wore a silk scarf around her head. Though she was gaunt and slight of build, it became evident that she was made from a special type of fabric. She had a strong sense of loyalty, love, and determination that would inspire others.

Being a consistent member of the group, Phinney formed friendships. The cancer support group is a welcoming place where people gather to share their hardships, challenges, and successes. Strong bonds often form.

Phinney became one of six Sistahs that grew out of that group. The others consist of Janet Copp, Rosie Jarry Hebert, Connie Hodgdon, Kim Murray, and Mary Toppi-Beane.

In describing this special bond, Murray says, "Despite all our struggles and our worries, we know we have a core group of Sistahs to rely on through good times and bad."

Hebert said, "We lift each other up."

With Phinney's strength of character and devotion to the group, it was not surprising that in 2009, when the need for a new WCSG leader came to be, she accepted the responsibility. She ran the meetings, scheduled speakers, held fundraisers, attended the Relay for Life and Making Strides rallies.

She also checked in on those who



Windham Cancer Support group members gather to show their solidarity in overcoming cancer. Back from left are Connie Hodgdon and Janet Copp. Front from left are Mary Toppi-Beane, Rosie Jarry Hebert, Kim Murray, and the late Rachel Phinney. SUBMITTED PHOTO

had missed meetings to make sure all was okay.

Phinney's initial diagnosis was breast cancer. That later returned with ovarian cancer that spread to her intestines. And though the going was rough, she put her head down and charged forward.

Her license plate which read NVRKWT (never quit) and spoke volumes.

Allan Phinney, Rachel's husband of 54 years, was her primary caregiver.

"She was handed a lot of awful things, and she handled it with grace

and dignity," he said. "She was the toughest, bravest person I've met." Murray agreed.

"Despite being as sick as her body was, Rachel rarely complained or let it show," she said. "She hated the attention on her and wanted us to assist others."

In addition to running the Windham Cancer Support Group, Rachel was known for volunteering extensively in the Windham community and was a long term member of the Sebago Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce member.

After 18 years of struggling, Rachel Phinney lost her battle to cancer on Aug. 13.

Members of the Windham Cancer Support Group feel that although her loss creates a huge void, her memory serves as an inspiration for all.

In lieu of flowers, Rachel instead requested donations for the Windham Cancer Support Group, 45 Whites Point Road, Standish, ME 04084 or for donations to be made to the Maine Lab Rescue, 10 Tamarack Lane, Windham, ME 04062.

About the Windham Cancer Support Group:

The Windham Cancer Support Group welcomes all those experiencing any type of cancer and their caregivers. The group meets at the Windham Public Library on the last Tuesday of each month from 6:30 to 8 p.m. In addition to being a supportive group, the group is there to help in many other ways. According to member Mary Toppi-Bean, the group has cleaned homes, made meals, and raked yards to assist families of those experiencing cancer.

There is also a caregiver group that meets separately at the Windham Public Library. The next three meetings are scheduled for Mondays on Sept. 16, Oct. 21, and Nov. 18. These meetings are typically scheduled as needed.

Want more information? Contact: Mary at 207-776-9674. <

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WINDHAM, MAINE

Residents cherish local ice cream shops as fall approaches

By Kendra Raymond

STAFF WRITER

I don't know about you, but for our family, the final days of summertime can only mean one thing: ice cream! Businesses in the Lakes Region are ready, willing, and able to support our habit, offering a profusion of creamy goodness right at our fingertips. This works out great, so no matter in what direction we venture, most any trip can include ice cream.

So how do we explain this special place held in the hearts of many Mainers? Perhaps it is the sheer joy that winter has ended, or the abundance of dairy farms? Is it part of the local culture to have a locally owned ice cream shop in most every community?

The Visit Maine website says: Ice cream lovers throughout the state are rising to the challenge to make the best, freshest, homemade ice cream. Maine now boasts an abundance of special ice cream, from traditional to innovative.

The answer is obvious – no one knows.

Windham's Ice Cream Dugout owner Cheyanne Gagnon offers her thoughts on the subject.

"I feel like ice cream is such a big thing in Maine because we wait so long through a cold, awful winter," she said. "Once we get the first sign of spring, people are excited to get out and try some ice cream."

Now that we have the "scoop," let's debunk a few ice cream semantics mysteries:

Frappe vs. milkshake

So here is a good debate – what is the difference between these equally delicious beverages?

The American Heritage College Dictionary defines a milkshake as a beverage that is made of milk, ice cream, and often flavoring and is blended or whipped until foamy. Also called shake; also called regionally cabinet, frappe, velvet. In New England it is a beverage made of milk and flavored syrup, whipped until foamy.

There we have it – in New England a milkshake has only syrup and milk, and a frappe includes syrup, milk, and ice cream. But everywhere else, a milkshake is a milkshake and there is no frappe. This is as clear as mud!

At her ice cream establishment, Gagnon says that a frappe and a milkshake are one and the same.

"I am not sure about other shops, but people can order one whichever way they'd like," Gagnon said.

Jimmies vs. Sprinkles

Have you ever traveled outside of New England and ordered "jimmies" on your ice cream, only to be met with a perplexed expression by the server?

Evidently, this is a commonplace source of confusion. The confection was purportedly named after employee and machine operator Jimmy Bartholomew of the Just Born Candy



An official taste tester samples a cool treat earlier this summer at The Ice Cream Dugout in Windham. PHOTO BY CHEYANNE GAGNON

Company in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania in the 1930s. The term is only recognized in New England and Philadelphia.

Gagnon weighs in again here offering her expert opinion saying, "We call them both names interchangeably."

Parlor vs. Stand

This one is fairly clear, maybe.

An ice cream parlor is an old-fashioned term referring mostly to a sit-down themed establishment, often served by waitstaff. Conversely, a stand can encompass any sort of takeout, walk up, or drive through ice cream business. With so many options, there is something to fit everyone's taste.

Gagnon says that she is committed to kids and the community at her business, frequently holding fundraisers where a portion of the day's proceeds benefit organizations such as local sports teams and scout groups.

The Maine Ice Cream Trail is an online directory featuring over 300 ice cream establishments located all over the state. The website provides an interactive map, trip planning tool, and listings of creameries, farms, and stands and establishments serving fresh Maine-made ice cream.

Like the Peanuts song Happiness says, "Oh, happiness is two kinds of ice cream..."

Why not get out there and get some of the good stuff – all while supporting local business.

Learn more about the Real Maine Ice Cream Trail at: www.realmaine.com/seasons/summer/real-maine-ice-cream-trail



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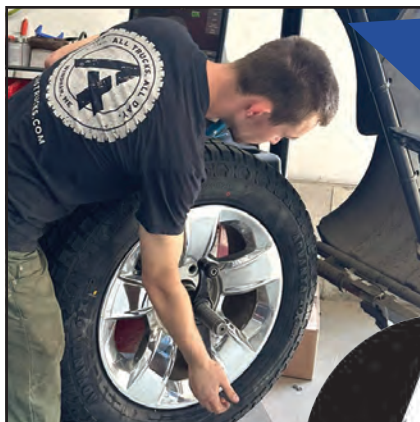
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Lakes Region Community Chorus welcomes new singers

Anyone who loves to sing and has a passion for creating beautiful music with fellow choral music lovers is encouraged to join the Lake Region Community Chorus for its 2024 Winter Session.

This singing group is made up of about 60 members from 12 surrounding towns in the Lake Region. The first rehearsal for the chorus will be on Monday, Sept. 9 in the Twitchell Chapel at Bridgton Academy in North Bridgton. There are no auditions but some experience in choral singing would be helpful.

The LRCC will be conducted by Jan Jukkola and Susan Stockwell and accompanied by Patrick Speckamp. The chorus welcomes Sopranos, Altos, Tenors, and Basses. Its performances are made up of a variety of pieces from many musical genres and styles. There is something for everyone and we want to make sure our singers and audiences have a very enjoyable time at rehearsals and performances.

Rehearsals are scheduled from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Monday evenings. Registration begins at 5:45 p.m. Sept. 9, and there is a \$25 registration fee to help cover the cost of the music. The



Registration opens for the Lakes Region Community Chorus in the Twitchell Chapel at Bridgton Academy in North Bridgton on Sept. 9. The group is open to everyone residing in the Lakes Region and the group will be preparing for two winter concerts in December. SUBMITTED PHOTO

chorus will also register members on Sept. 16.

The Community Chorus concerts are scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8.

The chorus is a vibrant and dynamic non-profit organization providing choral programs for the Lakes Region of Maine community. Its history is short because it's a relatively new organization. The chorus had its first meeting in February 2013 to discuss the possibility of forming a choral group in the Lakes Region.

It was amazing how quickly every-

thing seemed to come together, and with Laurie Turley as its original conductor, chorus members performed their first concert in June 2013.

Since then, the original group of 36 singers has grown with each season, and last year had 60 members representing 14 communities, including Bridgton, North Bridgton, Naples, Sebago, Harrison, Waterford, Stoneham, Raymond, Casco, Windham, Denmark, Lovell, Hiram and Fryeburg.

The LRCC is a community of voices joined together in song and its purpose is to provide an opportunity for individuals with an interest in singing to share their love of choral music through regularly scheduled rehearsals that will culminate in community and outreach performances. It also strives to enhance each member's ability to sing by teaching vocal exercises and techniques and to enrich their choral experience by providing a wide variety of musical selections that

will increase their knowledge and appreciation of choral literature.

Each year the Lake Region Community Chorus performs two concerts with one falling in early December and featuring holiday music while the other is a springtime concert generally falling in mid-May.

With the generous support of Bridgton Academy, concerts are performed in the Twitchell Chapel on the Bridgton Academy campus in North Bridgton. Rehearsals are held on Monday nights at Twitchell Chapel.

All of the chorus members would like to thank the Bridgton Academy for their help and support and providing them with rehearsal space and a concert venue. They would also like to thank their enthusiastic audiences and local sponsors for making this such a worthwhile experience.

Each concert is free but donations to help cover the expense of music and operating costs will be gratefully accepted.

If interested, come and join the Lake Region Community Chorus as they lift their voices and sing, sing, sing. This year's concert is sure to be remembered long after the final chords are sounded.

Contact Jan Jukkola for more details by email at musicsix@cox.net or call 207-647-2584 or visit the Lake Region Community Chorus website at lakeregioncommunitychorus.org



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Public comment welcome for revised Paid Family Medical Leave

The Maine Department of Labor has reviewed more than 1,000 comments submitted by nearly 300 state residents regarding the proposed rules for Maine's new Paid Family and Medical Leave Program, and it has now released updated rules - www.maine.gov/labor/rulemaking/ for public comment.



comments can be submitted online at www.maine.gov/labor/rulemaking/. Comments can also be submitted to the Paid Family and Medical Leave Program via mail sent to 50 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0050.

For those who are unable to provide comments through the above ways, the Department will also receive comments in person at 9 a.m. Sept. 17, in the Maine Department of Labor's Frances Perkins Room at 45 Commerce Drive, Augusta. Those who wish to listen, but not offer comment, can listen through the Department's rulemaking site given above.

American Sign Language interpreters will be available. If you require other accommodations, please reach out to the Department with that information at 207-623-7900 or at www.maine.gov/labor/contact/ under "General Inquiries."

The new public comment period for Paid Family and Medical Leave rulemaking will end at 5 p.m. Sept. 30, 2024. Comments made by mail must have a postdate of Sept. 30, 2024, or earlier. On July 11, 2023, Maine Gov. Janet Mills signed an historic budget that includes the creation of a paid family and medical leave program, making Maine the 13th state to establish one.

Beginning in 2026, eligible workers in the private and public sector will have 12 weeks of paid time off available to them for family or medical reasons including illness, to care for a relative, or for the birth of a child.

The Maine Department of Labor will continue to update its Paid Family and Medical Leave website whenever new information is available at www.maine.gov/paidleave

The public can submit comments through a link on the department's website or mail through Sept. 30, 2024.

"Thank you to everyone who submitted feedback during the first public comment period," said Luke Monahan, Director of Paid Family and Medical Leave. "Your valuable input was taken into consideration, and the department has modified the proposed rules as a result. Please review the changes that have been made and provide further comments if needed."

The updated rules are posted, and

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BRIEFS

Bald Pate 10K race

The Bald Pate 10K race will be held starting at 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 7 at Five Fields Farm in Bridgton. This is the second of three trail running races in the Loon Echo Race Series, the Bald Pate 10K will start and end at Five Fields Farm. The race will take place on a rugged course that features everything a trail enthusiast could ask for, all packed into 10 kilometers and 1,800 feet of elevation gain with technical single-track, steep climbs, bombing downhill, mud, and scenic vistas. Sign up at left.org/race-series.

Meet candidates

There will be an informal "Meet and Greet" for local candidates from 10 a.m. to noon on Sunday, Sept. 8 at the Windham Community Park, next to the Public Safety Building on Gray Road. Meet some of the candidates, including Franny Etheridge, Dave Nadeau and Doris Poland, with the opportunity to ask questions and familiarize yourself with their platforms.

Author appearance

Local author David Florig will visit the Raymond Village Library at 5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 12 to discuss his new book "The Shattered Curling Stone." The book is a work of historical fiction, centered around young Ailsa Maclaren, who takes up curling at a time when women were neither encouraged, nor often permitted, to play the game. Set in late-1800s Scotland, it tells Ailsa's story as she journeys from novice to the Scottish Women's Championship, and the World Championship. "The Shattered Curling Stone" is steeped in the history of women's curling, both real and fictional. The Raymond Village Library is at 3 Meadow Road in Raymond. FMI, call 207-655-4283.

Pot Roast Supper

Raymond Village Community Church, 27 Main St. in Raymond is hosting a Pot Roast Supper on Saturday, Sept. 14. Orders will be taken for pickup between 5 and 6:30 p.m. The menu features pot roast and gravy,

potatoes, green beans, carrots, a roll, and a brownie for \$10. Meals are take-out only and will be hot and ready to take home. To order your meals please call the RVCC office at 207-655-7749 before noon on Sept. 14 and leave a message with your name, number of meals and time that you will pick up the meals. Or if you prefer you can send an e-mail to office@rvccme.org with the information.

WVA Meeting

The Windham Veterans Association (WVA) will hold its annual membership meeting open to all American Legion Post 148, VFW Post 10643 and DAV members associated with the Windham Veterans Center at 6 p.m. Monday, Sept. 16. As members of these organizations, you are also members of the WVA and are a voting member at the annual meeting. Meeting topics include establishing goals for 2024-2025 and the election of WVA Officers for the coming 2024-2025 cycle. This community notice is required by the WVA bylaws.

Blood Drive

The American Red Cross will conduct a blood drive from noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 18 at the Windham Veterans Center, 35 Veteran's Memo-

rial Drive in Windham. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-733-2767.

Used Book Sale

The Friends of Feral Felines is holding a used book sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 21 at the Westbrook Community Center, 426 Bridge St. in Westbrook. Friend of Feral Felines is a nonprofit supporting abandoned cats in southern Maine with veterinary care, food, and housing. Sales help both the homeless cats and the community by reducing the numbers through trapping, neutering, and homing. FMI, visit www.feralfelines.net

Bridge Club

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

Suicide Support

The Alternatives to Suicide Support Group meets at 2 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month at the Lake Region Recovery Center, 2 Elm St., Bridgton. FMI, call 207-803-8707.

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Maine on track to fulfill goals for Greenhouse Gas reduction

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection has released its Tenth Biennial Report on Progress Toward Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goals, which provides a comprehensive and thorough analysis of Maine's greenhouse gas emissions by specialists in the fuel source and economic sectors.

The report found that as of 2021, gross GHG emissions in Maine were 30 percent lower than 1990 levels. This surpasses the State's medium-term goal of reducing gross GHG emissions to 10 percent less than 1990 levels by Jan. 1, 2020.

The report shows statewide gross GHG emissions increased from the initially measured levels in 1990, reaching a peak in 2002. By 2009, gross GHG emissions fell below 1990 levels, reaching a low in 2012 before rising again slightly from 2013 to 2015 and trending downward again through 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic led to a dip in 2020 GHG emissions, followed by a slight rebound in 2021.

With continued progress in reducing gross GHG emissions, the re-

port indicates Maine is well-positioned to meet its goal of carbon neutrality by 2045, which was added to state law in 2022.

Maine also has statutory goals to reduce gross GHG emissions by 45 percent from 1990 levels by 2030 and 80 percent by 2050, which were signed into law by Gov. Janet Mills in 2019 with bipartisan support of the Maine Legislature.

The report also found that:

- 94 percent of gross GHG emissions in Maine result from energy consumption, and carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from combustion of fossil fuels account for 65 percent of Maine's 2021 gross GHG emissions. Annual energy emissions have been reduced by 41 percent since the high in 2002 and 30 percent since 1990.

- Maine is approximately 91 percent of the way toward carbon neutrality, which means 91 percent of gross GHG emissions are offset by



sequestration in the environment. This progress is primarily the result of a decrease in gross GHG emissions since 2016, an increase in carbon storage in wood products and Maine forestland since 2016 and also a recent change in the way the U.S. Forest Service calculates carbon in the forests.

- Annual CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion in the electric

power sector have decreased by 79 percent since they peaked in 2002 largely by replacing high carbon fuels with lower carbon energy sources, primarily natural gas and renewable sources.

- Total emissions from the transportation sector were 9 percent lower in 2021 than 1990; however, proportionally, the transportation sector was responsible for 49 percent of Maine's CO₂ emissions from the combustion of fossil fuels in 2021.


- Maine GHG continues to decline in relation to its gross domestic product (GDP). GHG emissions per million dollars of state gross domestic product (GDP) were 59 percent less in 2021 than in 1990. GHG emissions from energy also declined, as GHG emissions per billion Btu (Btu) of energy consumed in Maine in 2021 were 14 percent less than the highest GHG intensity recorded in 1997. <

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THE ROOKIE MAMA

THE ADVENTURES OF MOTHERHOOD



SPENDING TIME OVER MONEY – THE MOST FANTASTIC CURRENCY

► **By Michelle Cote**
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE



– Michelle Cote, Columnist

We've turned that curve toward summer's end – It's 'round the bend amid stacks of school supplies; color-coded folders and one-subject notebooks.

And that's one subject for which I wish I could have procrastinated when August hit, but alas – It was go time.

Perhaps there's no better time than now, in this season of transition, to remind ourselves to stay still when we can, in spite of constant motion and hair-on-fire parking spot searches coming in hot to soccer practice. (Guilty, on all counts).

Teeny, peaceful moments – the in between – can, and do exist.

Soak in moments, even though opportunities to soak sunlight's slowly drawn its seasonal late-day curtain.

My family and I traveled to Quebec right before August's intense ramping up of school-supply-shopping commenced into high gear, and I reminded myself silently to let points in time permeate a bit. To really live in the moment.

To not think ahead to school days and golden rule days, but to rather let these golden days rule.

Of our whole crew, I'm often the most destination-focused; we get to

our point of disembarking, snap the photo with my right selfie-stick-style arm and inadvertently crop part of my head, then it's go, go, go – Trek on. Next stop.

During this venture, I endeavored to mentally capture moments, remember the smells, the sights, the feelings, the sounds, the inevitable impromptu moments unscripted we'd all laugh about later, arm in arm with my husband and linked with our sweating, joyful children.

Quebec's motto, 'Je me souviens', means 'I remember,' after all.

But what have I historically truly remembered beyond photographed evidence?

Upon returning home, I caught part of a video that upped this challenge ante – To not leave the house, even for a simple, mundane errand, without at least one child in tow.

Theoretically, solo focused time spent with one of your children allows for intentional conversations that wouldn't otherwise take place at home with the whole herd – I have four children, and individualized, focused dialogue is a rarest luxury.

Speaking in complete sentences – What is this?

None of us are immune in a crew of six.

I tested this focused-time theory one recent afternoon as I shepherded



my two middle guys up to camp for a quick luggage drop off. The otherwise totally un-glamorous task of unloading swim towel totes and Donettes into our camper was strikingly more memorable with the little ones than if I were solo, indeed.

They each had space to share stories and thoughts and opinions on life without being sandwiched figuratively and literally, conversational oxygen depleted and valiantly fought for.

I took notice of and thanked them for their helpful behaviors.

They loved the attention; I loved the assistance.

These moments – whether the intentional soaking up memories as my family trekked all over French-Canadian territory, attempting cringe-fully to speak French, poutine gravy dripping constantly in hand – or deliberate conversation with my little humans during an otherwise unremarkable errand – are important.

Small moments are lost if we only hold out for the grand.

And we only have 18 years with each of our little guys.

It's easy to keep busy, and this autumn season gives us all the reasons to be.

But I've been trying to be smarter about the busy-work – Buying groceries more in bulk, planning ahead, stocking up on school snacks and organizing them in our downstairs pantry during quiet times where I'm not

accompanied by my kiddos.

My own little haul of fame, if you will.

So live in the meaningful, cherishable moments as they roll out with your little ones – tiny as the moments may be – and strategize your meal planning and bulk shopping list buys around this so your future self may thank you.

Spend more time, less money.

But buy the French poutine to share.

And to all you soccer mamas – I hear you, and I see you.

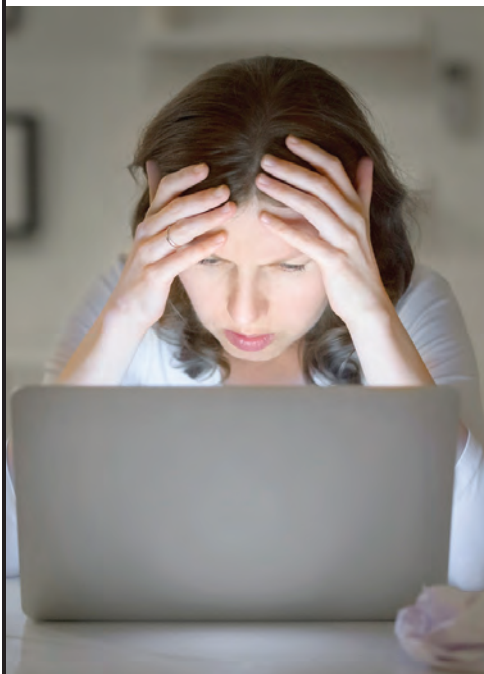
Let's do this, September. I'll see you on the other side!

Columnist Michelle Cote lives in southern Maine with her husband and four sons, and enjoys camping, distance running, biking, gardening, road trips to new regions, arts and crafts, soccer, and singing to musical showtunes – often several or more at the same time! <

THE ROOKIE MAMA COLUMN PROUDLY SPONSORED BY MAINE OPTOMETRY

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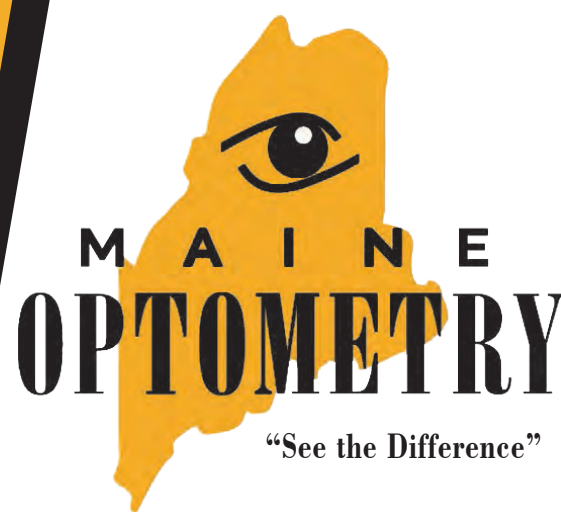


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Medicare Savings Program expansion will help older Mainers

► **By State Rep. Jane Pringle**
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE



— Jane Pringle
are struggling to make ends meet. They're worried about affording to age in their own homes, paying for groceries and keep-

Everyone wants to be able to age with dignity. But when I speak with many older constituents in our community, I often hear from people who are struggling to make ends meet. They're worried about affording to age in their own homes, paying for groceries and keep-

ing up with their monthly bills. One of the biggest concerns I hear from folks is about the high prices of the medication they need.

In the Legislature, we've made it a priority to do everything we can to provide relief and lower these costs. This included passing legislation to expand eligibility for the Medicare Savings Program (MSP), which helps older people with lower incomes pay for some or all of their out-of-pocket costs for Medicare premiums, de-



ductibles and copayments. It can also pay for the Part B premium, which is usually deducted from Social Security – putting real money back into people's pockets.

This expansion is expected to affect more than 45,000 Mainers. While the amount of the benefit varies depending on the individual, it typically averages around \$7,300 – which has the potential to be a lifeline that provides substantial relief. It won't solve all of the concerns about costs, but it can

hopefully help alleviate some of the anxiety that some older people are experiencing.

Making these changes to MSP was more than just good policy – it was simply the right thing to do. To learn more, you can reach all of the local Area Agencies on Aging by calling 1-877-elders-1 or 1-877-353-3771.

State Rep. Jane Pringle is serving her second, non-consecutive term in the Maine House and is a member of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services. <





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WINDHAM PARKS & RECREATION

September
through
December
2024

HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS & COMMUNITY EVENTS:

- ★ FAMILY TRIVIA NIGHTS
 - Halloween Trivia - Friday, October 25
 - Holiday Trivia - Friday, December 13
- ★ TRUNK OR TREAT – Saturday, October 26
- ★ HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST
 - Enter by Thursday, November 7
- ★ WINDHAM TRAILS PASSPORT
 - Enter by Thursday, November 14
- ★ HOLIDAY CELEBRATION – Sunday, December 1
 - Will be accepting registrations for parade entries beginning Monday, October 18
- ★ NORTH POLE HOTLINE – December 11 & 12



DISCOUNTED TICKETS & PASSES:

- ★ CROSS INSURANCE ARENA
 - Hot Wheels Monster Trucks - Sales END Wednesday, Sept. 11
 - Disney On Ice - More info coming soon!
- ★ PLEASANT MOUNTAIN SEASON PASSES
 - More info coming soon!

PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAMS:

- ★ CREATIVE KIDDIE CRAFT TIME
 - September 17
 - October 15
 - November 12
 - December 17
- ★ CREATIVE MOVEMENT
 - Fall Session 1:
Wednesdays, September 25 – October 30
 - Fall Session 2:
Wednesdays, November 6 – December 18
- ★ KIDDIE GYM
 - Tuesdays & Thursdays, October 1 - May 1



YOUTH PROGRAMS:

- ★ TENNIS IN THE PARKS
 - Sundays, September 8 - October 20
- ★ KARATE FOR GRADES K-5
 - Fall: Tuesdays, September 10 – November 20
 - Winter: Tuesdays, December 3 – March 11
- ★ HIGH TOUCH HIGH TECH FOR GRADES K-5
 - Safari Series – Wednesdays, September 11 – October 2
 - Power of Light Series - Wednesdays, October 2 - November 1
- ★ DISCOVERY SCIENCE FOR GRADES K-5
 - Wednesdays, October 9 - December 18
- ★ NO SCHOOL REC DAYS FOR GRADES K-5
 - October 11 – Pumpkin Valley
 - November 27 - Urban Air
 - December 30 - PJ Day & Smitty's
 - December 31 - New Year's Party & Trip TBD
- ★ BABYSITTING CLASS FOR AGES 12-17
 - Tuesday, October 15
- ★ PARENTS NIGHT OUT FOR GRADES K-5
 - Friday, December 20

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAMS:

- ★ WMS EARLY RELEASE DAYS
 - Thursday, October 10 – Disc Golf at Pineland
 - Wednesday, December 11 – Round 1 Bowling
- ★ WMS AFTER SCHOOL OPEN GYM
 - Thursdays, November 7 - May 8

ADULT SPORTS:

- ★ ADULT PICKLEBALL - Reserve a time in the Town Hall Gym, that best suits your & your partner's schedule. Please call or log in to our website to reserve the court.
- ★ ADULT PICKLEBALL LESSONS
 - Saturdays, Beginning September 7 - Location TBD
- ★ COACHED PICKLEBALL PLAY
 - Saturdays, Beginning September 7 - Location TBD
- ★ MEN'S 4X4 BASKETBALL LEAGUE
 - Thursdays, Beginning September 12
Town Hall & Manchester Gyms
- ★ ADULT PICK-UP BASKETBALL
 - Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays, September 16 - May 2
Windham Primary School
- ★ SUNDAY OPEN GYM – Sundays, November 10 - May 12
 - Basketball: 8:00-10:00am
 - Volleyball: 10:00am-1:00pm

OTHER INFORMATION:

For the most up-to-date ways to learn about our programs, check our website, opt into our email notifications, request to receive our Senior newsletter by mail & follow us on Facebook.

Questions? Email us at: parcs&recreation@windhammaine.us



UPCOMING PROGRAMS/EVENTS

FMI & TO REGISTER FOR ANY OF THESE PROGRAMS, GO TO:

WindhamRecreation.com, call 892-1905, or visit us at Town Hall, 8 School Rd

NOTE: There are registration start & end dates for many of our programs. Registration will be allowed after the registration deadline if space allows, however, a late fee may be applied.



GRADES K-3

October 16
October 23 – December 4

GRADES 4 & 5

GRADES K-5

13 & UP

GRADES K-5

PROGRAMS:

Pineland Farms
Arcade & Maine Mall

M

at our indoor court, located
near our teammates' schedules.

times vary

times vary

E

October 16 - December 19

September 17 - April 27



ADULT/SENIOR OUTINGS

★ SEPTEMBER

- Pineland Farms Equestrian Center & Lunch – Thurs. Sept 12
- Afternoon Tea – Tues. Sept. 17
- Remick Country Dr. Museum & Lunch – Thurs. Sept 19
- Apple Picking Wallingford's – Mon. Sept. 23
- The Price is Right, Portland – Wed. Sept. 25

★ OCTOBER

- Fryburg Fair – Tues. Oct. 1
- Fort Knox Observatory & Lunch – Tues. Oct. 8
- Damariscotta Pumpkinfest – Sat. Oct. 12
- Conway Scenic Railway & Lunch – Thurs. Oct. 17
- Maine Maritime & Lunch – Mon. Oct. 21
- Oxford Casino – Wed. Oct. 23
- Ghosts & Graves Tour Windham & Lunch – Wed. Oct. 30

★ NOVEMBER

- Tacos & Trivia – Tues. Nov. 5
- Maine Military Museum & Lunch – Thurs. Nov. 7
- Thanksgiving Lunch – Fri. Nov. 15
- Antiquing & Lunch South Paris/Oxford – Thurs. Nov. 21
- Lighting of Nubble Lighthouse – End of Nov. TBD
- Xmas shopping N. Conway & Lunch – Mon. Nov. 25

★ DECEMBER

- Christmas Light Tour Westbrook – Mon. Dec 2
- Cirque Dreams Holiday at Cross Insurance Arena – Thurs. Dec. 12
- A Christmas Carol Lewiston Theatre & Lunch – Sat. Dec. 14
- Mystery Holiday Lunch – Tues. Dec. 17
- The Snow Queen Portland Stage – Sat. Dec. 21



ADULT/ SENIOR MONTHLY PROGRAMS:

★ BINGO – Two Mondays a month from 1:00pm – 2:30PM

- September 9 & 23
- October 7
- November 4 & 18
- December 2 & 23



ADULT/ SENIOR WEEKLY PROGRAMS:

★ FITNESS FOUNDATION CHAIR EXERCISE

- Every Monday and Wednesdays from 10:00am – 11:00am

★ MAHJONG

- Every Thursday, beginning September 12 from 2:00pm – 4:00pm

★ POKER – Transportation to Lake Region Senior Center

- Every Tuesday from 8:30am – 12:00pm





LETTERS to the editor

Submit letters by Tuesday at Noon to:
editor@thewindhameagle.com
or mail to: 585 Roosevelt Trail, Windham, 04062

Editor,

I am writing this email in support of Frances Etheridge for School Board. I have known Franny and her family for a few years now and find her to be a caring, honest, honorable mother, wife and friend. Her values and concerns about the school system align with my own as we move forward into this next election cycle. She is a voice of reason during a time in which we may feel divided within our district. She has excellent communication skills, is a strong leader, is passionate about learning and works well with others. I feel she will be a great addition to our school board and will represent students, parents and the community as a whole to keep us working together for a better future.

~ Natalie Corson, Windham

Editor,

We're writing to you to express our support for Frances "Franny" Etheridge, who is running for our local school board. She is exactly the kind of leader our schools need right now.

Franny is dedicated to our children's success and well-being. She genuinely cares about ensuring that every student has the opportunity to thrive. Her passion for education and her commitment to our community are evident in everything she does.

What makes Franny stand out is her reliability and openness to diverse ideas and opinions. She's not tied to a single agenda but is instead committed to listening to everyone and finding the best solutions for our schools. She understands that improving our school system requires collaboration,

innovation, and a willingness to explore new ideas.

We have no doubt that Franny will work tirelessly to better our school system and be a true advocate for our children, teachers, and families. She's a strong, compassionate, and thoughtful leader who will bring a fresh perspective to our school board.

We hope you'll join us in supporting Franny in the upcoming election. Together, we can help create a brighter future for all our kids.

~ John and Michelle Bell,
Windham

Editor,

AARP has released a report that shows an estimated 12,700 Mainer on Medicare prescription drug plans will see savings thanks to a new out-of-pocket cap that starts Jan. 1, 2025. The savings are made possible by a provision in the 2022 prescription drug law that AARP championed which caps out-of-pocket prescription drug costs every year, beginning at \$2,000 next year, for America's 56 million Medicare drug plan enrollees.

The AARP report analyzes the number of enrollees who will benefit from the cap by state, age, gender, and race between 2025 and 2029. The findings indicate that Medicare drug plan enrollees nationwide who reach the new out-of-pocket cap will see average savings of roughly \$1,500, or 56 percent, in 2025 for their prescription drugs.

AARP fought hard for the prescription drug law of 2022 because we knew it would provide crucial relief for Medicare enrollees here in Maine and across the country by lowering drug prices and out-of-pocket costs. Knowing they won't pay a dime over \$2,000 next year - maximum - for prescription drugs they get at the pharmacy gives Maine seniors on Medicare drug plans some peace of mind as they struggle to keep up with rising costs for other everyday essentials like housing, groceries and utilities. Visit aarp.org/me to learn more.

~ Noël Bonam
AARP Maine State Director

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TOWN OF RAYMOND, MAINE

PLANNING BOARD

PUBLIC MEETING

Broadcast Studio - 423 Webbs Mills Road and Via ZOOM

Wednesday, September 11, 2024 • 7:00 PM

You are hereby notified that the Raymond Planning Board will hold a Meeting at the Raymond Broadcast Studio and via Zoom on **Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at 7:00 pm** on the following matters:

SITE PLAN REVIEW & PUBLIC HEARING
APPLICANT: Ross Bachelder / Peter Bernier
LOCATION: Map: 006 Lot: 43 Zone RR
 29 Lookout Lane
DESCRIPTION: Site Plan – 360' Extension of Lookout Lane to Create additional Lot

The meeting will be streamed in real time from the local Government channel. This live stream is also hosted on YouTube (www.raymondmaine.org/content/live-video-streaming), so make sure your computer or router/firewall does not block YouTube content.

Copy of the submitted applications are available for review on the town website (www.raymondmaine.org/content/planningboard-agenda) after September 1, 2024, or at the Town Office (401 Webbs Mills Road) by appointment during regular business hours.

JOIN ZOOM MEETING
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86980349408?pwd=21YKGqYmQ2pod8NdQPg4faaPGRz8Zs.1>
 Meeting ID: 869 8034 9408
 Passcode: vYP4FA

ONE TAP MOBILE
 Meeting ID: 869 8034 9408
 Passcode: 818826


Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86980349408>

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TOWN OF WINDHAM, MAINE

PLANNING BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Monday, September 9, 2024
6:30 PM

Town Hall, Council Chambers, 8 School Road

- Public hearing for 20-21 Nelson Meadows Subdivision Tax Map: 13, Lot: 14-18 – Hayfield Lane. Second amendment to revise the primary conservation building setback on Lot 18.
- 24-25 Andrews School Redevelopment Tax Map: 37, Lot: 24 – High Street. Subdivision and site plan review for mixed-income senior housing apartments

FMI go to windhamweb.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx or contact (207) 894-5960 ex. 2. Written comment may be submitted to the Board at PlanningBoard@windhammaine.us.
 Please notify us if you need accessibility accommodations.

Early fall enrollment rises for Maine's community colleges

Early fall enrollment is up 9 percent at Maine's community colleges, putting the seven colleges on track for another historic high enrollment this year.

Enrollment has been boosted by a Free College Scholarship that covers 100% of tuition and mandatory fees for recent high school graduates, an increase in the number of high school students taking early college courses, expanded hours with more nights and weekend classes, and increased capacity in popular academic programs that traditionally had waiting lists. The colleges are also seeing more returning and continuing students from last year's record-breaking historic fall enrollment of 19,477 students.

As of Tuesday, early fall enrollment was 16,670 students, compared to 15,334 students on the same date last year.

"All of these factors are playing a role in ongoing strong enrollment at the colleges, and we couldn't be more pleased that we're able to offer more low- or no-cost educational opportunities to more students," said David Daigler, president of the Maine Community College System (MCCS). "It's also a reminder that the clock is ticking on the Free College Scholarship: The high school class of 2025 is the last graduating class that qualifies for the free college scholarship, so we strongly urge all high school seniors to plan for a tuition-free college experience at Maine's community colleges."

The Free College Scholarship,



which started in Fall 2022, was intended to re-engage people whose high school and early college experience was disrupted by COVID, particularly since most community colleges serve higher percentages of first-generation and lower-income students. Since it launched, MCCS has enrolled a total of 12,625 Free College-eligible students.

New this fall are seamless transfer agreements with both public and private Maine colleges. Under these new agreements, Maine's community college graduates are guaranteed admission to 13 four-year colleges in Maine. Over the summer, MCCS signed new transfer agreements, one with the University of Maine System guaranteeing direct admission – without having to fill out application forms, write essays, or pay application fees – to all seven universities in the University of Maine System, and individual agreements with six independent colleges guaranteeing admission to certain programs.

As more students complete their associate degrees at Maine's community colleges, the number of transfer students going to four-year colleges is expected to increase. Already this fall, the University of Maine System is reporting a 39% increase in undergraduate transfer students.

Early fall enrollment figures do

not include short-term workforce training students at Maine's community colleges. More than 26,000 students have taken short-term workforce training classes since January 2022. Some of the students from those programs continue in certificate and degree programs, adding to the fall enrollment numbers.

Official fall enrollment figures are calculated on October 15.

This is the third academic year with the Free College Scholarship, which

was proposed by Maine Gov. Janet Mills in early 2022 and enacted by the Maine Legislature a few months later. In July 2023, the scholarship was extended to the Classes of 2024-2025. Graduates in the Class of 2022 must enroll at a community college in the 2024-25 academic year, graduates in the Class of 2023 must enroll no later than the 2025-2026 academic year, the Class of 2024 must enroll no later than the 2026-2027 academic year, and this year's high school seniors – the Class of 2025 – must enroll no later than the 2027-2028 academic year. <

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SPORTS

Windham varsity boys' soccer holds off Yarmouth

By Matt Pascarella
STAFF WRITER

In a complete reversal from when the Windham High varsity boys' soccer team lost to Yarmouth 1-0 during the summer season, the Eagles turned it around on Thursday, Aug. 29 at Yarmouth where they earned a 1-0 win and kept the Clippers' offense at bay during this preseason matchup.

"Every year we go through growing pains," said WHS senior Luke Cunniffe. "I feel like we're still going through them right now; it seems this year we're getting through them earlier and people are buying in earlier. Now we're developing a style of play and a culture within our team. Today's win was honestly just work rate, especially defensively, when kids lost the ball, they worked as hard as they could to win it back right away. I think that's what helped us get through picking up marks and helped us play as a team and playing for each other. This game shows Yarmouth is no slouch, they are one of the best teams, but this just shows we can compete with the big dogs, and we're one of them."

The Eagles showed their adjustment and improvement from their previous summer season game with the Clippers when Windham senior Sam Rogers scored during the first half.

Windham defense was aggressive, and players went hard after the ball. Windham's offense had several shots at goal, but Yarmouth defense was also strong.

"I think as a team we play better defensively than offensively," said Rogers. "I think it all comes down to the formation with the players we have. Getting the ball out of the box went well. We did do good communi-



(L to R) Windham senior Luke Cunniffe holds back a Yarmouth player as he goes after the ball during a preseason soccer match at Yarmouth High School on Thursday, Aug. 29. Senior Sam Rogers focuses on the ball as he heads toward the goal. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

cation-wise. We didn't do great connecting passes."

According to Rogers, they are starting to click as a team and once the regular season starts, they'll take it from there.

At the start of the second half, Windham senior goalie Lukas Hammond had a solid stop.

"We came in here and I feel like we matched their energy well," said Windham junior Tyrie James. "We played our positions well; we played our formation well. We moved the ball well; and on defense everyone gave 110 percent the whole time - everyone was just going, going, going - marking their man, playing their position, playing their role. Yarmouth's a great team and we beat them, so it shows that we can compete with some of the good teams."

Windham offense fired multiple shots at goal and its defense kept Yarmouth from finding the back of the net. Windham sophomore goalie Jackson Goodwin recorded a great



Junior Tyrie James looks to pass while staying ahead of his opponent.

save to prevent a tie toward the end of the half.

"There's still some pieces of the puzzle that are starting to lock in a little bit," said Windham varsity boys' soccer coach Jeff Neal. "This was about playing the toughest teams we can in the preseason in regard to technical ability and physical prowess too and see how we match up. Windham is more comfortable with the formation we played today. The formation we played today helped out in keeping players in-position and not having to run as much as the previous formation. The work rate was good, and communication was exceptional today. They played a solid match whistle to whistle." <



Senior Carter Engelman heads the ball.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Maria Rosetti

Age: 13
Team: WHS Field Hockey Youth Clinic
Coach: Cory DiDonato
Parents' names: Phil and Sara Rosetti
Reason for selection: Maria had been a part of the WHS field hockey youth program since the beginning. She does every summer and fall program and it has been amazing watching her grow up. One of the coolest things for coaches is to see them all through youth and then having the opportunity to coach them once they reach high school! Coaches look forward to having Maria in just one more year.

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WHS field hockey overpowers Noble in preseason match

By Matt Pascarella
STAFF WRITER

As the start of the fall season gets closer and closer, Windham's varsity team hosted Noble High on Wednesday, Aug. 28 at Windham High School. The Lady Eagles started strong and kept up their intensity to end the game with a 4-2 victory over the Knights.

Based upon this early contest, Windham is gearing up to have an incredible field hockey season.

"They read the field better, they saw the passes, they made passes to someone, and they weren't afraid to pass back to create more space," said Windham varsity field hockey coach Cory DiDonato. "They communicated, figured out where they need to be to support each other to be an option, they just stayed spread out and were able to make some good passes today. I'm super excited; feel great about the team. All summer I said it to (Windham), we're going to be a top five team. I think we'll battle really tough teams and it'll be a good game. If they come injury free and are ready to play, I think it's going to be a great season - I feel good about it."

Against Noble, the Lady Eagles stayed with the ball and had strong defense. They were aggressive and fought hard.

Shortly into the first quarter, Noble's goalie laid on the ball for more than 5 seconds. This counts as a stroke and entitled Windham to a penalty shot, which senior Zoe Dries took and rocketed the ball into the goal.



(L to R) Windham senior Zoe Dries fires a penalty shot that gets past the goalie during a preseason field hockey game against Noble on Wednesday, Aug. 28. Senior Grace Joly keeps focus as she goes to hit the ball toward a teammate. Sophomore Morgan McLain charges after the ball. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

"Today was a good representation of how our season's going to go," said Dries. "It's going to be a good season for us; I thought our passing looked really good and our spacing looking really good and we got some goals in. We have a lot of new players, we're still working with those new players, but I think it looked really good today."

Dries scored again very early in the second quarter. Windham had solid communication and moved the ball well. Their defense kept the ball away from Windham's goal and limited Noble's chances to score.

Before the end of the half, Windham freshmen Mia Kri sent the ball past the goal to give the Lady Eagles a 3-1 lead at the half.

"I think our teamwork was really

good," said Kri. "The varsity team was really welcoming and ... they all connected together as a team - communication and passing was really good. Cheering each other on, even if it's on the field or off the field was really good too. We're still trying to get used to playing together because there are a lot of new people on varsity."

Windham kept up their intensity in the second half. Their defense remained very strong. Offense made good contact with the ball. Before the final buzzer, Windham senior Grace Joly scored.

It's clear Windham is beginning to gel as a team and could have a promising season ahead. <



Freshman Mia Kri keeps the ball away from Noble, moments before she scores.

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Local colleges recognize outstanding achievements

Olivia Mora of Windham has earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Roger Williams University.

Evan Glicos of Windham has earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from Bates College.

Monica Agneta of Windham has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Maine for the 2024 Spring Semester.

Kathleen Denslow of Windham has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Maine Fort Kent for the 2024 Spring Semester.

Molly Hodgkins of Windham has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Maine for the 2024 Spring Semester.

Katherine Lydon of Windham has been named to the Dean's List at the



University of Maine Fort Kent for the 2024 Spring Semester.

Kalala Tshabu of Windham has been named to the Dean's List at Northern Maine Community College for the 2024 Spring Semester.

Molly Cochrane of Raymond has been named to the Dean's List at the University of Maine for the 2024 Spring Semester.

Annemarie Andrews of Windham has been named to the Dean's List at High Point University for the 2024 Spring Semester.

Riley Shaw of Windham has been named to the Dean's List at Endicott College for the 2024 Spring Semester.

Mikayla Linscott of Windham, has been named to the President's List at Plymouth State University for the Spring 2024 semester. <

ALERT

WORK FROM HOME JOB SCAMS

With work-from-home jobs increasing in popularity and employment scams on the rise, now is a great time to review the warning signs of a shady job posting. Beware of any job that offers a large income with little to no training or experience. Likewise, avoid any position that requires you to pay in advance for certification, training, or equipment. Business offers guaranteed to "pay off quickly" or "double your investment" are also highly suspicious. Make sure to check the job sites specializing in remote work to screen the openings and companies listed, and don't assume a position is genuine just because it was posted on a legitimate job board. It could still be a scam. Furthermore, it's important to be cautious of online testimonials; work-at-home sites are full of fake personal stories of people claiming to make thousands of dollars a month because they took advantage of this "amazing opportunity."

Be a fraud fighter! If you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam. AARP Fraud Watch Network™ is a free resource for all. Learn how to proactively spot scams or get guidance if you've been targeted. Visit aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork or call to speak to a fraud specialist at 877-908-3360.

ABUTTER NOTICE

TOWN OF RAYMOND, MAINE

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS SITE WALK

Saturday, September 14, 2024 • 9:00 AM

You are hereby notified of the Raymond ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS Site Walk at the following location **Saturday, September 14, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.** regarding the information on the following application:

APPLICANT: Karen and Bill Burke
LOCATION: 36 Murch Landing Road; Map 74/Lot 6
 Zone LRR2
DESCRIPTION: Administrative Appeal of Shoreland Zone Permit #2024146 for New Dock

PUBLIC HEARING

Broadcast Studio - 423 Webbs Mills Road and Via ZOOM

Tuesday, September 24, 2024 • 7:00 PM

You are hereby notified that the Raymond Appeals Board will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, September 24, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.** to hear information on the following application:

APPLICANT: Karen and Bill Burke
LOCATION: 36 Murch Landing Road; Map 74/Lot 6
 Zone LRR2
DESCRIPTION: Administrative Appeal of Shoreland Zone Permit #2024146 for New Dock

The meeting will be streamed in real time from the local Government channel. This live stream is also hosted on YouTube (www.raymondmaine.org/content/live-video-streaming), so make sure your computer or router/firewall does not block YouTube content.

JOIN ZOOM MEETING
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 Meeting ID: 812 5742 4530
 Passcode: pAmP9n

ONE TAP MOBILE
 Meeting ID: 812 5742 4530
 Passcode: 856784

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81257424530?pwd=xMzkDLK8FRmYTYhbRS21ZWsgaIqIKX.1>

ABUTTER NOTICE

TOWN OF RAYMOND, MAINE

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS SITE WALK

Saturday, September 14, 2024 • 10:00 AM

You are hereby notified of the Raymond ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS Site Walk at the following location **Saturday, September 14, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.** regarding the information on the following application:

APPLICANT: Sheena Jo Randall
LOCATION: 32 Shore Road; Map 78/Lot 10
 Zone LRR1
DESCRIPTION: Administrative Appeal of Notice of Violation dated August 7th, 2024 for Installation of a Dock and Shed without Permits

PUBLIC HEARING

Broadcast Studio - 423 Webbs Mills Road and Via ZOOM

Tuesday, September 24, 2024 • 7:00 PM

You are hereby notified that the Raymond Appeals Board will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, September 24, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.** to hear information on the following application:

APPLICANT: Sheena Jo Randall
LOCATION: 32 Shore Road; Map 78/Lot 10
 Zone LRR1
DESCRIPTION: Administrative Appeal of Notice of Violation dated August 7th, 2024 for Installation of a Dock and Shed without Permits

The meeting will be streamed in real time from the local Government channel. This live stream is also hosted on YouTube (www.raymondmaine.org/content/live-video-streaming), so make sure your computer or router/firewall does not block YouTube content.

JOIN ZOOM MEETING
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 Passcode: pAmP9n

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Ben and Wayne's recipe for a fruitful school year

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



- Andy Young, Columnist

The most significant date on a high school's annual calendar isn't graduation day, the open house, the homecoming football game, or prom night. And it certainly isn't any of the ones when students take a battery of standardized tests that allegedly evaluate their aptitude and/or achievement, but actually just measure who's best at taking standardized tests.

For better or worse, the most important day of the 2024-2025 school year for students, educators, and parents/guardians is the very first one.

That's because the best chance for teachers to plant the seeds of interest and curiosity in their students is

on the inaugural day of class. And by happy coincidence, that is precisely the same day on which students get their first and only opportunity to make a good initial impression on the person(s) who'll be standing at the front of their classrooms for the remainder of the school year.

Like every other teacher, I need to prepare for Day One, since according to amateur philosophers ranging from Benjamin Franklin to Wayne Gretzky (www.youtube.com/watch?v=wW_qtpPo-DU), "By failing to prepare, you're preparing to fail."

Like everyone else, young people appreciate honesty, so each year on the first day of classes I inform my incoming 12th graders that "College Prep English" is in reality "Life Prep English." Not every senior will opt to continue their formal education af-

ter high school, but regardless of what comes next, they'll need to be effective communicators. Once they accept that, impressing upon them the need to hone their reading, writing, listening, speaking, and thinking skills on a daily basis is an easy sell. I tell them that if they're open-minded and willing to work hard they'll get significant benefit from their final high school year. However, giving less than their best effort will be a waste of both their time and mine.

I'll explain how they'll be evaluated, since while I much prefer teaching to grading, part of my job involves assessment. And as is the case in "real life," they won't get credit for work they don't do, or for classes they don't attend.

I'll let them know I insist on students treating one another with respect. That means no belittling or disparaging of anyone, and listening thoughtfully to what others have to say. In short, they'll need to live by "The Golden Rule."

I'll encourage them to treat every written assignment like it's vitally important, recommending they approach it like they would a college application, or for an unusually attractive employment opportunity. A job worth doing is worth doing right, so if they have to perform a task anyway, why not do their best job the



first time? After all, there aren't always second chances outside of high school. That's why proofreading everything they author meticulously and out loud is essential. I'll suggest they approach each written assignment like they're preparing a letter to their parent(s) asking for a later curfew, or an important note to a significant other.

I'll also truthfully inform them that the first impression I get of each individual student on Day One is accurate about ninety percent of the time. That's a nice way of saying I'm dead wrong the other ten percent of the time, which is why I'll advise them that while it's okay to inwardly make initial judgments, it's imperative to avoid acting on them, or sharing them with others.

If Day One's plan goes well, I'll know for sure that the coming school year will be a successful one for all concerned parties.

That is, assuming I can come up with a decent plan for Day Two. <

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Programs available to reduce property taxes

► **By Lisa DiBiase**
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE



— Lisa DiBiase, Broker/Owner
Landing Real Estate

Reducing monthly expenses is a goal many of us strive to achieve, and property taxes are often one of the biggest expenses that homeowners face. Fortunately, for Maine residents, there are several programs available that can help lower these costs. By taking advantage of these property tax relief programs, homeowners can save a significant amount of money each year. Here are some of the key programs that can help Maine residents reduce their property tax bills:

Homestead Exemption: The Homestead Exemption is a popular program that offers property tax relief to individuals who have owned homestead property in Maine for at least twelve months and use that property as their permanent residence on April 1st. Eligible homeowners can receive a reduction of up to \$25,000 in the assessed value of their home for property tax purposes. This reduction can

result in substantial savings, especially over the long term.

To take advantage of the Homestead Exemption, homeowners need to apply. The application process is straightforward. Simply visit www.maine.gov, click on the "Property Tax" From there, you can learn more about the Homestead Application and download the form, complete it, and submit it to your local assessor's office. It's a quick and easy step that can lead to significant savings.

Veteran Exemption: Maine offers additional property tax savings for veterans through the Veteran Exemption. This program is designed to honor and assist those who have served our country. Veterans who served during a recognized war period and are 62 years or older, or those receiving 100% disability or who became 100% disabled while serving, may be eligible for a \$6,000 exemption on their property taxes.

The process to apply for the Veteran Exemption is similar to the Homestead Exemption. Veterans can visit the same section on www.maine.gov to find the Veteran Exemption Application form. By completing this form

and providing the necessary documentation, veterans can benefit from this well-deserved tax relief.

Tree Growth Tax Program: Maine's Tree Growth Tax Program offers property tax reductions for landowners who manage their land for timber harvesting. To qualify, homeowners must have at least 10 acres of forestland. This program taxes land based on its current use—timber production—rather than its market value, which can result in significant tax savings.

Participating in the Tree Growth Tax Program not only helps landowners reduce their tax burden but also promotes responsible land management and sustainable forestry practices. This program is a win-win for property owners and the environment, ensuring that Maine's forestland is preserved for future generations.

Farmland Tax Program: Similar

to the Tree Growth Tax Program, the Farmland Tax Program provides property tax reductions for land actively used for agricultural purposes. This program helps preserve Maine's valuable farmland by reducing the tax burden on farmers and those who maintain agricultural land. By assessing the land based on its agricultural use rather than its market value, the Farmland Tax Program makes it easier for farmers to continue operating and maintaining their land.

To qualify, landowners must demonstrate that their land is used for agricultural purposes, such as growing crops or raising livestock. This program is vital for maintaining Maine's agricultural heritage and supporting local farmers.

Additional Property Tax Relief Programs: In addition to these programs, Maine offers other property

→ see REAL ESTATE Page 28

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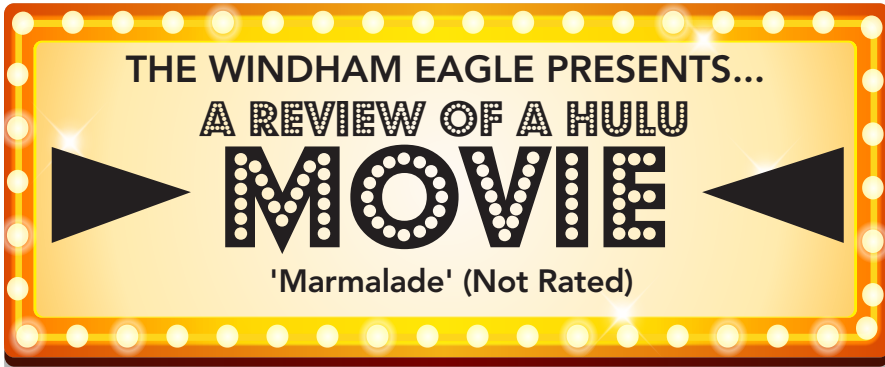
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ENTERTAINMENT



By Matt Pascarella

STAFF WRITER

Runtime: 1 hour, 39 minutes

This movie definitely gives off some “Forrest Gump” vibes early on. A man, Baron, from rural America meets Marmalade, an outgoing woman who’s not from his town. He falls for her almost instantly. Baron’s mom is sick, and the price of her prescription drug just went up. After Baron loses his job with the U.S. Postal Service, he and Marmalade decide to rob a bank. Ultimately, this lands Baron in jail, but who can be trusted?



While this movie dragged a little in the beginning, the ending took me by surprise – which was a good thing.

“Marmalade” stars Joe Keery, Camila Morrone, Aldis Hodge, Amy Warner, Ozioma Akagha, Hans Christopher, and Susan Brava.

The movie opens with Baron (Keery) stepping out of his house and apologizing before being tackled by the police.

He is taken to jail where he tries to convince his cellmate, Otis (Hodge), he needs to escape. Otis says he might be able to make that happen but wants to hear how Baron ended up there.

Baron has \$250,000 cash and just wants to be with his girlfriend, Marmalade (Morrone). If Otis helps him escape, the money is his.

As a postal employee, Baron liked getting a peek into other people’s worlds. When he loses his job for refusing to cut his hair and the price of his sick mother’s medicine goes up, he finds himself in need of money fast.

He suddenly meets Marmalade, and they become inseparable. She suggests they rob a bank in order to correct the system that failed Baron and his mom. Marmalade seems to know a little too much about robbing banks, but Baron goes along with it anyway.

They go to a bank two towns over and come up with a multi-step plan.

“Marmalade had her own set of rules for everything,” said Baron.

It doesn’t take long before Baron falls for Marmalade. He learns she’s had a hard life. She convinces him robbing the bank is the only way they can be together. She says it’s him and her against the world.

When the bank robbery goes sideways, Baron takes the fall, with half of the money. However, he and Marmalade are supposed to meet again in the future.

Otis agrees to help Baron after learning more and more about his situation.

When I chose this movie, I thought it would be full of action and comedy. “Marmalade” has a joke or two peppered here and there, but generally wasn’t that funny. Now, as previously mentioned, it is a bit slow to start, but once I was deep into the story, I was hooked and had to see what happened. As for the action portion of the movie, let me say it was not what I expected, but that’s not always a bad thing. Otis was my favorite character. If you have the patience to deal with a less-than-exciting start to this movie, I thought it was worth the wait. I’ll go as far as to say this is a hidden gem. While not overly violent, it is a bit heavy on the language.

Steve Harrington gives it two thumbs up.

Now streaming on Hulu and available to rent. <

LAST WEEK’S ANSWERS

T	E	G	G		M	T	V		T	R	A	M					
A	B	O	U	T		A	H	A		H	E	B					
T	A	B	L	E	T		R	U	M		E	L	I	S			
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					T	I	M	E	P	I	E	C	E	S			
H	I	P	B	O	N	E		E	R	R	E	D					
A	D	A	P	T	E	D		D	E	E							
H	O	L	L	A						S	E	L	M	A			
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					C	L	E	P	E		H	A	P	L	E	S	S
					Q	U	A	R	A	N	T	I	N	E			
S	U	B	S		C	I	A			G	L	A	D	E	S		
P	I	A	S		H	A	P			S	A	F	A	R	I		
A	N	N	E		E	L	I			S	A	R	A	N			
S	E	S	S		S	S	R			R	I	S	E				



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 Investing in entrepreneurship • Nurturing a sense of community
 Supporting the environment by conserving energy

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13	
14					15								16		
17					18								19		
20						21							22		
23						24			25			26			
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38					39				40				41		
42				43			44				45				
				46			47				48				
49	50								51			52	53	54	
55					56		57	58	59		60				
61					62						63				
64					65							66			
67					68							69			

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Separate with an instrument
- 5. State clearly
- 11. One-time MLB speedster Gordon
- 14. Broad in scope
- 15. Lacking social polish
- 16. Amount of time
- 17. Frame
- 19. Automobile
- 20. Caps
- 21. High school dances
- 22. Utilize
- 23. Checked
- 25. One-sided
- 27. Having an extreme greed for wealth
- 31. Potted plants
- 34. We all have one
- 35. Lake north of the Kalahari
- 38. Unidentified flying object
- 39. Aging persons
- 41. Small amount
- 42. Mother of Perseus
- 44. Ornamental waist box
- 45. Officials
- 46. Uncertain
- 49. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
- 51. Extensive, treeless plains
- 55. Your consciousness of your own identity
- 56. Consumer advocate Ralph
- 60. Notable Spanish sports club
- 61. Body part
- 62. One’s responsiveness
- 64. Woman (French)
- 65. Ready and willing to be taught
- 66. Muslim ruler title
- 67. Unhappy
- 68. Gradually disappeared
- 69. Able to think clearly

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Brushed
- 2. Water sprite
- 3. Ones to look up to
- 4. Monetary units
- 5. We all have one
- 6. Marine invertebrate
- 7. One who institutes a legal proceeding
- 8. Outer
- 9. Parallelograms
- 10. Uncomfortable feelings
- 11. Cross to form an X
- 12. Remove
- 13. Some pages are dog-__
- 18. Capital of Ukraine
- 24. A citizen of Denmark
- 26. Eighth month (abbr.)
- 28. Hindu queens
- 29. Acids structurally related to amino acids
- 30. Rider of Rohan in Tolkien
- 31. Wet dirt
- 32. Russian city
- 33. Observed
- 36.irate
- 37. Travelers need them
- 39. Musical composition
- 40. Auction
- 43. Form of “to be”
- 45. Women
- 47. Inspire with love
- 48. Think Japanese ankle sock
- 49. Appears
- 50. Old World lizard
- 52. The lead dancer: __ ballerina
- 53. Protein involved in motion
- 54. Rosalind Franklin biographer
- 57. Popular 1920s style art __
- 58. __ Blyton, children’s author
- 59. Abnormal breathing
- 63. A place to rest

SUDOKU

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

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

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



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NONPROFIT SPOTLIGHT

As Maine's population ages, more seniors are looking for ways to remain independent in their own homes. But with mobility and safety concerns increasing as we grow older, staying put isn't always easy. In Windham, an innovative solution is on the horizon.

Age-Friendly Windham, a town-supported volunteer group that focuses on a multi-generational healthy community, will offer an informational session on Nesterly, a nationwide home-share program that the Maine State Legislature passed last spring.

This information session and Afternoon Tea will be held from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 17 at the Town Hall Gym, 8 School Road in Windham. Senior Director of Government Relations & Communications Erik Jorgensen will lead the session.

Jorgensen explained that the Legislature passed a resolution, authored by Saco Rep. Maggie O'Neil, to provide a web-based home-share pilot program that would help to match older residents with compatible adults in need of affordable housing.

"Though this is not a government program, MaineHousing was asked to conduct a request for proposals and that led us to Nesterly, which is a social enterprise based on the West Coast. We are currently part way through this one-year pilot program," he said.

Every potential host and guest goes through a comprehensive background



check.

"The background check report includes a National Criminal Search, a Sex Offender Registry, and a Global Watch list Search. It also includes an Address History Search and Social Security Verification," Jorgensen said.

In addition, hosts and guests must be interviewed by a member of Nesterly's social worker-led team to better understand their particular goals for the home share before making any placements.

The Nesterly staff look at issues of compatibility, they confirm that potential guests have a job or another source of regular income, and they spend some time getting to know the guest and the guest's needs.

"The host has absolute discretion over whom to rent to," Jorgensen said. "The host sets the rent amount and house rules. In many cases, the host and the guest can agree to a certain amount of work around the household (shoveling snow, lawn mowing, cleaning, etc.) in exchange for a reduction in the rent. The hosts can then meet potential guests over the Nesterly platform – they

don't have to reveal any personal information or the location of their home until they are ready to do so. If a host does not feel like a potential guest is a good fit, the conversation ends there."

The leasing process is handled through the Nesterly platform using standard documents based on the length of the anticipated stay. Nesterly home shares must last for a minimum of 30 days, so they are not considered "short-term rentals."

The benefits of using the Nesterly program are many.

"If you put an ad in Uncle Henry's or Facebook, you may get potential renters and you may find the perfect renter," Jorgensen said. "However, Nesterly is free to use, though a \$95-195 booking fee is deducted from the first month's rent and 2.5% of the rent is deducted each month to help pay for the services."

Jorgensen also said that hosts never have to ask for rent, as payments are deducted automatically from the guest's bank account at the end of the month and transferred to the host, less a 2.5 percent service fee. Nesterly also provides extensive support.

"Every month during a home share, Nesterly staff reach out separately to both the host and the guest to check in and see how the home share is going," Jorgensen said.

Nesterly puts a great deal of emphasis on compatibility and security before a home share begins. Nesterly's rental agreements can be canceled for any reason by either the host or the guest with 30 days' notice.

Nesterly has been successful in greater Boston and several metros outside of New England.

If you're interested in learning more about how Nesterly could help you or someone you know to age in place, don't miss the informational session hosted by Age-Friendly Windham on Sept. 17. It's an opportunity to ask questions, enjoy tea, and explore the benefits of home sharing.

Window Dressers, a nonprofit organization that creates and installs insulating window inserts to help Maine residents save money on heating bills and Sebago Lakes Fuller Center for Housing, a local nonprofit that focuses on home repairs for aging adults and veterans in need so that people can stay in their homes safely, will also be at the event.

To register for the event, RSVP at WindhamRecreation.com, or contact Erica Bell-Watkins, Age-Friendly Windham Coordinator via email at: eabellwatkins@windhammaine.us or call 207-892-4649. <

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Nesterly

Faith In Action
Sebago Lakes Region
Fuller Center for Housing

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Window Dressers
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Please RSVP at: WindhamRecreation.com or call 207-892-4649

➔ REAL ESTATE *Cont. from page 25*

tax relief options that homeowners may find beneficial:

Blind Exemption: Homeowners who are legally blind may qualify for a property tax exemption, providing up to \$4,000 off the assessed value of their property.

Renewable Energy Equipment Exemption: Homeowners who install renewable energy systems, such as solar panels or wind turbines, may be eligible for a property tax exemption on the value of the equipment, encouraging the use of clean, renewable energy.

Working Waterfront Tax Program: This program offers tax reductions for owners of waterfront land used for commercial fishing activities, supporting Maine's traditional fishing industry.

For us Maine residents, taking ad-

vantage of these property tax relief programs can lead to some great savings. Whether you're a homeowner, veteran, farmer, or someone looking to manage your land responsibly, there are options available to help reduce your property tax burden.

When it comes to navigating these programs and maximizing your property investments, having a knowledgeable team of professionals by your side can make all the difference. As I have said before, please call a local Realtor® for all your real estate needs no matter how big or small. We are trained professionals here to make your life easier.

This article was brought to you Lisa DiBiase, the Broker/Owner for Landing Real Estate. For all your real estate needs contact Lisa at lisa@landingshomaine.com or call 207-775-SOLD. <

➔ ELECTIONS *Cont. from page 3*

QUESTION 3: An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Restore Historic Community Buildings. Do you favor a \$10,000,000 bond issue to restore historic buildings owned by governmental and nonprofit organizations, with funds being issued contingent on a 25% local match requirement from either private or nonprofit sources?

QUESTION 4: An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Promote the Design, Development and Maintenance of Trails for Outdoor Recreation and Active Transportation. Do you favor a \$30,000,000 bond issue to invest in the design, development and maintenance for nonmotorized, motorized and multi-use trails statewide, to be matched by at least \$3,000,000 in private and public contributions?

QUESTION 5: An Act to Restore the Former State of Maine Flag. Do you favor making the former state flag, replaced as the official flag of the State in 1909 and commonly known as the Pine Tree Flag, as the official flag of the State?

Local voters can request absentee ballots through their respective town clerk's office. Maine law allows voters to request ballots up to three months before Election Day. Absentee ballots will be issued to voters who have requested them in October and available 30 days prior to Election Day. <



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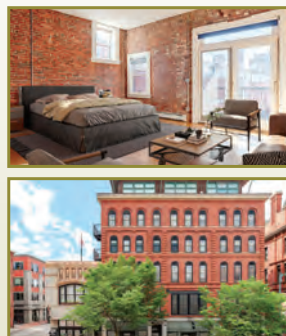


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